WASHINGTON.

Full Text of the Constitution Submitted to the People's Judgment.

An Elaborate Document Containing Many Admirable and Few Objectionable Features.

The Perplexing Question Involving the Tide Lands Left to the Courts.

Careful Provision Made for the Preservation of the Public School Resources.

The Location of the Permanent Seat of Government Left to the People.

The Question of Constitutional Prohibition Submitted in Like Manner.

The constitution of Washington, as fully completed and finally adopted by the convention at Olympia, was signed by all the delegates August 22, and is now before the people for their careful consideration and ratification or rejection at the polls. Following is the full text of the document:

We, the people of the state of Washington, grateful to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for our liberties, do ordain this constitution.

ARTICLE I.

BILL OF RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. All political power is inherent in the people, and governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, and are established to protect and maintain individual rights.

SEC. 2. The constitution of the United States is the supreme law of the land.

SEC. 3. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.

SEC. 4. The right of petition and of the people peaceably to assemble for the common good shall never be abridged.

SEC. 5. Every person may freely speak, write and publish on all subjects, being responsible for the abuse of that right.

SEC. 6. The mode of administering an oath, or affirmation, shall be such as may be most consistent with and binding upon the conscience of the person to whom such oath, or affirmation, may be administered.

SEC. 7. No person shall be disturbed in his private affairs, or his home invaded, without authority of law.

SEC. 8. No law granting irrevocably any privilege, franchise or immunity shall be passed by the legislature.

SEC. 9. No person shall be compelled in any criminal case to give evidence against himself, or be twice put in jeopardy for the same offense.

SEC. 10. Justice in all cases shall be administered openly and without unnecessary delay.

SEC. 11. Absolute freedom of conscience in all matters of religious sentiment, belief and worship, shall be guaranteed to every individual, and no person shall be molested or disturbed in person, or property, on account of religion, but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace and safety of the state. No public money or property shall be appropriated for or applied to any religious worship, exercise, or instruction, or the support of any religious establishment. Neither shall any preference shall be required for any public office, or employment, nor shall any person be incompetent as a witness, or juror, in consequence of his opinion on matters of religion, nor be questioned in any court of justice touching his religious belief to effect the weight of his testimony.

SEC. 12. No law shall be passed granting to any citizen, class of citizens, or corporation other than municipal, privileges or immunities which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens, or corporations.

SEC. 13. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended, unless in case of rebellion or invasion the public safety requires it.

SEC. 14. Excessive bail shall not be required, excessive fines imposed, nor cruel punishment inflicted.

SEC. 15. No conviction shall work corruption of blood nor forfeiture of estate.

SEC. 16. Private property shall not be taken for private use, except for private ways of necessity, and for drains, flumes, or ditches on or across the lands of others for agricultural, domestic or sanitary purposes. No private property shall be taken or damaged for public or private use without just compensation having been first made, or paid into court for the owner, and no right of way shall be appropriated to the use of any corporation other than municipal, until full compensation therefor be first made in money, or ascertained, and paid into the court for the owner, irrespective of any benefit from any improvement proposed by such corporation, which compensation shall be ascertained by a jury, unless a jury be waived as in other civil cases in courts of record, in the manner prescribed by law. Whenever an attempt is made to take private property for a use alleged to be public, the question whether the contemplated use be really public shall be a judicial question, and determined as such without regard to any legislative assertion that the use is public.

SEC. 17. There shall be no imprisonment for debt, except in cases of absconding debtors.

SEC. 18. The military shall be in strict subordination to the civil power.

SEC. 19. All elections shall be free and equal, and no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

SEC. 20. All persons charged with crime shall be bailable by sufficient sureties, except for capital offenses when the proof is evident, or the presumption great.

SEC. 21. The right of trial by jury shall remain inviolate, but the legislature may provide for a jury of any number less than twelve in courts not of record, and for a verdict by nine or more jurors in civil cases in any court of record, and for the waiving of the jury in civil cases where the consent of the parties interested is given thereon.

SEC. 22. In criminal prosecutions the accused shall have the right to appear and defend in person and by counsel, to demand the nature and cause of the accusation against him, to have a copy thereof, to testify in his own behalf, to meet the witnesses against him face to face, to have the compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses in his own behalf, to have a speedy public trial by an impartial jury of the county in which the offense is alleged to have been committed, and the right to appeal in all cases; and in no instance shall any accused person before final judgment be compelled to advance money or fees to secure the rights herein guaranteed.

SEC. 23. No bill of attainder, ex post facto law, or law impairing the obligation of contracts shall ever be passed.

SEC. 24. The right of the individual citizen to bear arms in defense of himself, or the state, shall not be impaired, but nothing in this section shall be construed as authorizing individuals or corporations to organize, maintain, or employ, an armed body of men.

SEC. 25. Offenses heretofore required to be prosecuted by indictment shall be prosecuted by information, or by indictment, as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 26. No grand jury shall be drawn to summoned in any county, except the superior judge thereof shall so order.

SEC. 27. Treason against the state shall consist only in levying war against the state, or adhering to its enemies, or in giving them aid and comfort. No person shall be convicted of treason unless on the testimony of two witnesses to the same overt act, or confession in open court.

SEC. 28. No hereditary emoluments, privileges, or powers shall be granted or conferred in this state.

SEC. 29. The provisions of this constitution are mandatory, unless by express words they are declared to be otherwise.

SEC. 30. The enumeration in this constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny others retained by the people.

SEC. 31. No standing army shall be kept up by this state in time of peace, and no soldier shall in time of peace be quartered in any house without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war except in a manner prescribed by law.

SEC. 32. A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles is essential to the security of individual right, and the perpetuity of free government.

ARTICLE II.

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

SECTION 1. The legislative powers shall be vested in a senate and house of representatives, which shall be called the legislature of the state of washington.

SEC. 2. The house of representatives shall be composed of not less than sixty-three nor more than ninety-nine members. The number of senators shall not be more than one-half nor less than one-third of the number of members of the house of representatives. The first legislature shall be composed of seventy members of the house of representative and thirty-five senators.

SEC. 3. The legislature shall provide by law for an enumeration of the inhabitants of the state in the year 1895 and every ten years thereafter; and at the first session after such enumeration, and also after each enumeration made by the authority of the United States, the legislature shall apportion and district anew the members of the senate and house of representatives, according to the number of inhabitants, excluding Indians not taxed, soldiers, sailors and officers of the United States army and navy in active service.

SEC. 4. Members of the house of representatives shall be elected in the year 1889 at the time and in the manner provided by this constitution, and shall hold their offices for the term of one year and until their successors shall be elected.

SEC. 5. The next election of the members of the house of representatives after the adoption of this constitution shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, 1890, and thereafter members of the house of representatives shall be elected biennially and their term of office shall be two years; and each election shall be on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November, unless otherwise changed by law.

SEC. 6. After the first election the senators shall be elected by single districts or convenient and contiguous territory, at the same time and in the same manner as members of the house of representatives are required to be elected, and no representative district shall be divided in the formation of a senatorial district. They shall be elected for the term of four years, one-half of their number retiring every two years. The senatorial districts shall be numbered consecutively, and the senators chosen at the first election shall be divided by lot into classes in the odd numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the first year; and the senators elected in the even numbered districts, shall go out of office at the end of the third year.

SEC. 7. No person shall be eligible to the legislature who shall not be a citizen of the United states and a qualified voter in the district for which he is chosen.

SEC. 8. Each house shall be the judge of the qualifications and elections of its own members, and a majority of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business; but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day, and may compel the attendance of absent members, in such manner and under such penalties as each house may provide.

SEC. 9. Each house may determine the rules of its own proceedings, punish for contempt and disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all the members elected, expel a member, but no member shall be expelled a second time for the same offense.

SEC. 10. Each house shall elect its own officers; and when the lieutenant-governor shall not attend as president, or shall act as governor, the senate shall choose a temporary president. When presiding the lieutenant-governor shall have the deciding vote in case any such vote shall be equally divided.

SEC. 11. Each house shall keep a journal of its proceedings and publish the same, except such parts as require secrecy. The doors of each house shall be open except when the public welfare shall require secrecy. Neither house shall adjourn for more than two days, nor to any place other than that in which they may be sitting, without the consent of the other.

SEC. 12. The first legislature shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in November, A. D., 1889. The second legislature shall meet on the first Wednesday after the first Monday in January, A. D., 1890, and sessions of legislature shall be held biennially thereafter, unless special is convened by the governor, but the times of meeting of subsequent sessions may be established by the legislature, but the first legislature the sessions shall not be for more than sixty days.

SEC. 13. No member of the legislature, during the term for which he shall be elected, shall be appointed or elected to any civil office in the state, which shall have been created, or the emoluments of which shall have been increased, during the term for which he was elected.

SEC. 14. No person, being a member of congress, or holding any civil or military office under the United States or any other power, shall be eligible to be a member of the legislature; and if any person after his election as a member of the legislature be elected to congress, or be appointed to any other office, civil or military, under the government of the United States or any other power, his acceptance thereof shall vacate his seat; provided, that officers in the militia of the state who receive no annual salary, local officers and officers whose compensation does not exceed $300 shall not be ineligible.

SEC. 15. The governor shall issue writs of election to fill such vacancies as may occur in either house of the legislature.

SEC. 16. Members of the legislature shall be privileged from arrest in all cases except treason, felony and breach of the peace. They shall not be subject to any civil process during the session of the legislature nor for fifteen days next before the commencement of each session.

SEC. 17. No member of the legislature shall be liable in any civil action or criminal prosecution whatever for words spoken in debate.

SEC. 18. The style of the laws of the state shall be: "Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Washington." And no law shall be enacted except by bill.

SEC. 19. No bill shall embrace more than one subject, and that shall be expressed in the title.

SEC. 20. Any bill may originate in either house of the legislature, and bills passed by one house may be amended in the other.

SEC. 21. The yeas and nays of the members of the legislature shall be entered on the journal on the demand of one-sixth of the members present.

SEC. 22. No bill shall become a law unless on its final passage the vote be taken by yeas and nays, the names of the members voting for and against the same be entered on the journal of each house, and a majority of the members elected in each house be recorded thereon as voting in its favor.

SEC. 23. Each member of the legislature shall receive $5 per day for his for each day's attendance during the session, and 10 cents for every mile he shall travel in going to and returning from the place of meeting of the legislature, on the usual road to the place of holding the session.

SEC. 24. The legislature shall never authorize any lottery or grant any divorce.

SEC. 25. The legislature shall never grant any extra compensation to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered or the contract entered into, nor shall the compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished during his term of office.

SEC. 26. The legislature shall direct by law in what manner and in what courts suits may be brought against the state.

SEC. 27. In all elections by the legislature the members shall vote vive voce, and their votes shall be entered on the journal.

SEC. 28. Special legislation.

The legislature is prohibited from enacting any private or special laws in the following cases:

1. From changing the names of persons, or constituting one person the heir at law of another.

2. From laying out, opening or altering highways, except in cases of state roads extending into more than one county, and railroads or roads to and from coal mines of which lands shall have been or may be granted by congress.

3. From authorizing persons to keep ferries wholly within this state.

4. From authorizing the sale or mortgage of real or personal property of minors or others under disability.

5. From the assessment or collection of taxes, or from extending the time for collection thereof.

6. From granting corporate powers or privileges.

7. From authorizing the apportionment of any part of the school fund.

8. From incorporating any town or village or to amend the charter thereof.

9. From giving effect to invalid deeds, wills or other instruments.

10. Releasing or extinguishing in whole or in part the indebtedness, liability or other obligation of any person or corporation to this state or to any municipal corporation therein.

11. Declaring any person of age or authorizing any minor to sell, lease or encumber his or her property.

12. Legalizing, except as against the state, the unauthorized or invalid act of any officer.

13. Regulating the rates of interest on money.

14. Remitting fines, penalties or forfeitures.

15. Providing for the managent of common schools.

16. Authorizing the adoption of children.

17. For limitation of civil or criminal action.

18. Changing county seats; locating or changing county seats; provided, this shall not be construed to apply to the creation of new counties.

SEC. 29. After the 1st day of January, 1890, the labor of convicts on this state shall not be let out by contract to any person, copartnership, company or corporation, and the legislature shall by law provide for the employing of convicts for the benefit of the state.

SEC. 30. The offense of corrupt solicitation of members of the legislature, or of public officers of the state or any municipal division thereof, and any occupation or practice of solicitation of such members or officers to influence their official action, shall be defined by law, and shall be punished by fine and imprisonment. Any person may be compelled to testify in any lawful investigation or judicial proceeding against any person who may be charged with having committed the offense of bribery or corruption, or any violation of such solicitation, and shall not be permitted to withhold his testimony on the ground that it may criminate himself or subject him to public infamy, but such testimony shall not afterwards be used against him in any judicial proceeding—except for perjury in giving such testimony—and any person convicted of either of the offenses aforesaid, shall, as part of the punishment for his crime, be disqualified from ever holding any position of honor, or, trust or profit in this state. A member shall have a private interest in any bill or measure proposed or pending before the legislature, shall disclose the fact to the house of which he is a member, and shall not vote thereon.

SEC. 31. No law, except appropriation bills, shall take effect until ninety days after the adjournment of the session, at which it was enacted, unless in case of emergency (which emergency must be expressed in the preamble or in the body of the act) the legislature shall otherwise direct by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house; said vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered on the journal.

SEC. 32. No bill shall become a law until the same shall have been signed by the presiding officer of each of the two houses in open session, and under such rules as the legislature shall prescribe.

SEC. 33. The ownership of lands by aliens other than those who in good faith have declared their intention to become citizens of the United States is prohibited in this state, except where acquired by inheritance, under mortgage or in good faith in the ordinary course of justice in the collection of debts, and all conveyances of lands hereafter made to any alien, directly or in trust for such alien, shall be void; provided, that the provisions of this section shall not apply to lands containing valuable deposits of minerals, metals, iron, coal or fire clay, and the necessary land for mills and machinery to be used in the development thereof and the manufacture of the products therefrom. Every corporation, the majority of the capital stock of which is owned by aliens, shall be considered an alien for the purposes of this prohibition.

SEC. 34. There shall be established in the office of secretary of state, a bureau of statistics, agriculture and immigration, under such regulations as the legislature may provide.

SEC. 35. The legislature shall pass necessary laws for the protection of persons working in mines, factories, and other employments dangerous to life or deleterious to health; and fix pains and penalties for the enforcement of such laws.

SEC. 36. No bill shall be considered in either house unless the time of its introduction shall have been at least ten days before the final adjournment of the session, and unless the legislature shall otherwise direct by a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, said vote to be taken by yeas and nays and entered upon the journal, or unless the same be at a special session.

SEC. 37. No act shall ever be revised or amended by mere reference to its title, but the act revised or the section amended shall be set forth at length.

SEC. 38. No amendment to any bill shall be allowed which shall change the original purpose and object of the bill.

SEC. 39. It shall not be lawful for any person holding public office in this state to accept or use a pass or to purchase transportation from a railroad company, or other corporation, other than as the same may be purchased by the general public, and the legislature shall pass laws to enforce this provision.

ARTICLE III.

THE EXECUTIVE.

SECTION 1. The executive department shall consist of a governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and a commissioner of public lands, who shall be severally chosen by the qualified electors of the state at the same time and place of voting as for the members of the legislature.

SEC. 2. The supreme executive power of this state shall be vested in a governor who shall hold his office for a term of four years, and until his successor is elected and qualified.

SEC. 3. The lieutenant governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, attorney general, superintendent of public instruction, and commissioner of public lands, shall hold their offices for four years respectively, and until their successors are elected and qualified.

SEC. 4. The returns of every election for the officers named in the first section of this article shall be sealed up and transmitted to the seat of government by the returning officers, directed to the secretary of state, who shall deliver the same to the speaker of the house of representatives at the first meeting of the house thereafter, to be by him opened, published and declare the result thereof in the presence of a majority of the members of both houses, the person having the highest number of votes shall be duly declared elected, and a certificate thereof shall be given to such person, signed by the presiding officers of both houses, but if any two or more shall be highest and equal in votes for the same office, one of them shall be chosen by the joint vote of both houses. Contested elections for such offices shall be decided by the legislature in such manner as shall be determined by law. The terms of all officers named in the first section of this article shall commence on the second Monday in January after their election until otherwise provided by law.

SEC. 5. The governor may require information in writing from the officers of the state upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices, and shall see that the laws are faithfully executed.

SEC. 6. He shall communicate at every session by message to the legislature the condition of the affairs of the state, and recommend such measures as he shall deem expedient for their action.

SEC. 7. He may, on extraordinary occasions, convene the legislature by proclamation, in which shall be stated the purposes for which the legislature is convened.

SEC. 8. He shall be commander-in-chief of the military and naval forces, except when they shall be called into the service of the United States.

SEC. 9. The pardoning power shall be vested in this governor under such regulations and restrictions as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 10. In case of the removal, resignation, death or disability of the governor, the duties of the office shall devolve upon the lieutenant-governor, and in case of a vacancy in both the offices of governor and lieutenant-governor, the duties of governor shall devolve upon the secretary of state, who shall act as governor until the disability be removed or a governor be elected.

SEC. 11. The governor shall have power to remit fines and forfeitures, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, and shall report to the legislature at its next meeting such cases of fine or forfeiture or pardon granted, and the reasons for granting the same, and also the names of all persons in whose favor remission of fines and forfeitures shall have been made, and the several amounts remitted and the reasons for the remission.

SEC. 12. Every act which shall have passed the legislature shall be, before it becomes a law, presented to the governor. If he approves he shall sign it; but if not, he shall return it, with his objections, to the house in which it shall have originated, which house shall enter the objections at large upon the journal and proceed to reconsider the bill. If, upon reconsideration, two-thirds of the members present shall agree to pass the bill, it shall be sent, together with the objections, to the other house, by which it shall likewise be reconsidered, and if approved by two-thirds of the members present it shall become a law; but in all such cases the vote of both houses shall be determined by the yeas and nays, and the names of the members voting for or against the bill shall be entered upon the journals of each house respectively. If any bill shall not be returned by the governor within five days, Sundays excepted, after it shall be presented to him, it shall become a law without his signature, unless the general adjournment shall prevent its return, in which case it shall become a law unless the governor, within ten days next after the adjournment, Sundays excepted, shall file such bill, with his objections thereto, in the office of the secretary of state, who shall lay the same before the legislature at its next session in like manner as if it had been returned by the governor. If any bill presented to the governor contains several sections or items he may object to one or more sections or items while approving other portions of the bill. In such case he shall append to the bill, at the time of signing it, a statement of the section or sections, item or items to which he objects and the reasons therefor, and the section or sections, item or items so objected to shall not take effect unless passed over the governor's objection, as hereinbefore provided.

SEC. 13. When, during a recess of the legislature, a vacancy shall happen in any office, the appointment to which is vested in the legislative assembly, or when at any time a vacancy shall have occurred in any other state office, for the filling of which vacancy no provision is made elsewhere in this constitution, the governor shall fill such vacancy by appointment, which shall expire when a successor shall have been elected and qualified.

SEC. 14. The governor shall receive an annual salary of $4000, which may be increased by law, but shall never exceed $3000 per annum.

SEC. 15. All commissions shall issue in the name of the state, shall be signed by the governor, sealed with the seal of the state and attested by the secretary of state.

SEC. 16. The lieutenant governor shall be presiding officer of the state senate and shall discharge such other duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of $1000, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed $3000 per annum.

SEC. 17. The secretary of state shall keep a record of the official acts of the legislature and executive department of the state, and shall, when required, lay the same, and all matters relative thereto, before either branch of the legislature, and shall perform such other duties as shall be assigned him by law. He shall receive an annual salary of $2500, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed $3000 per annum.

SEC. 18. The legislature shall direct by law in what manner and in what courts suits may be brought against the state.

SEC. 19. The treasurer shall perform such duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of $2000, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed $4000 per annum.

SEC. 20. The auditor shall be auditor of public accounts, and shall have such powers and perform such duties in connection therewith as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of $2000, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed $3000 per annum.

SEC. 21. The attorney general shall be the attorney and counsel for the state, and shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of $2500, which may be increased by the legislature, but shall never exceed $3500 per annum.

SEC. 22. The superintendent of public instruction shall have supervision over all matters pertaining to public schools, and shall perform such specific duties as may be prescribed by law. He shall receive an annual salary of $2500, which may be increased by law, but shall never exceed $4000 per annum.

SEC. 23. The commissioner of public lands shall perform such duties and receive such compensation as the legislature may direct.

SEC. 24. The governor, secretary of state, treasurer, auditor, superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of public lands and attorney general shall severally keep the public records, books and papers relating to their respective offices, at the seat of government, at which place also the governor, secretary of state, treasurer and auditor shall reside.

SEC. 25. No person except a citizen of the United states and a qualified elector of this state shall be eligible to any state office, and the state treasurer shall be ineligible for the term succeeding that for which he was elected. No person shall be eligible to any office to which his salary or emoluments shall be increased or diminished during the term for which they shall have been elected. The legislature may in its discretion abolish the office of lieutenant-governor, auditor and commissioner of public lands.

ARTICLE IV.

THE JUDICIARY.

SECTION 1. The judicial power of the state shall be vested in a supreme court, superior courts, justices of the peace, and such inferior courts as the legislature may provide.

SEC. 2. The supreme court shall consist of five judges, a majority of whom shall be necessary to form a quorum and pronounce a decision. The supreme court shall always be open for the transaction of business except on non-judicial days. In the determination of causes all decisions of the court shall be given in writing, and the grounds of the decision shall be stated. The legislature may increase the number of judges of the supreme court from time to time, when it may provide for separate departments of said court.

SEC. 3. The judges of the supreme court shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state at large at the general state election at the times and places at which state officers are elected, unless the place of holding shall be changed by the legislature. The first election of judges of the supreme court shall be at the election which shall be held upon the adoption of this constitution, and the judges elected thereat shall be classified by lot, so that two shall hold their office for the term of three years, two for the term of five years and one for the term of seven years. The lot shall be drawn by the judges, who shall for that purpose assemble at the seat of government, and they shall cause the result thereof to be certified by the secretary of state and filed in his office. The judge having the shortest term to serve, shall hold the office until the election and qualification of his successor, and until the organization of the supreme court herein provided, and shall take place at the next succeeding general election, and the judge so elected shall hold office for the remainder of the unexpired term. The terms of office of the judges of the supreme court, first elected, shall commence as soon as the state shall be admitted into the Union, and shall continue for the term herein provided, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The judges of the supreme court shall elect one of their number to preside as chief justice, who shall hold his office for the period of three years, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified, unless sooner removed by the judges of the supreme court, or his term of office of all superior judges in this state shall be for four years from the second Monday in January next succeeding their election, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The first election of judges of the superior court shall be at the election for state officers next succeeding the adoption of this constitution. If a vacancy occurs in the office of judge of the superior court, the governor shall appoint a person to hold the office until the election next succeeding the time when the vacancy shall happen, which election shall be at the next succeeding general election, and the judge elected shall hold the office for the remainder of the unexpired term.

SEC. 6. The supreme court shall have original jurisdiction in habeas corpus, and quo warranto and mandamus as to all state officers, and appellate jurisdiction in all actions and proceedings, excepting that its appellate jurisdiction shall not extend to civil actions at law for the recovery of money or personal property when the original amount in controversy shall not exceed, or the property does not exceed the sum of $200, unless the action involves the legality of the tax, impost, assessment, toll, municipal fine or the validity of a vote; and the supreme court shall also have power to issue writs of mandamus, review, prohibition, habeas corpus, certiorari and all other writs necessary and proper to the complete exercise of its appellate and revisory jurisdiction. Each of the judges shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus to any part of the state upon petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody, and may make such writs returnable before himself, or before the supreme court, or before any superior court of the state or any judge thereof.

SEC. 5. There shall be in each of the organized counties of this state a superior court for which at least one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the election next succeeding the time that until otherwise directed by the legislature one judge only shall be elected for the counties of Spokane and Stevens; one judge for the counties of Lincoln, Okanogan, Douglas and Adams; one judge for the counties of Walla Walla and Franklin; one judge for the counties of Columbia, Garfield and Asotin; one judge for the counties of Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat; one judge for the counties of Clarke, Skamania, Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum; one judge for the counties of Thurston, Chehalis, Mason and Lewis; one judge for the county of Pierce; one judge for the county of Sehome; one judge for the counties of Jefferson, Island, Kitsap, San Juan and Clallam; and one judge for the counties of Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish. In any county where there shall be more than one superior judge there may be as many sessions of the superior court at the same time as there are judges thereof, and whenever the governor shall direct a superior judge to hold court in any county other than that for which he has been elected there may be as many sessions of the superior court in said county at the same time as there are judges thereof assigned to duty therein by the governor, and the business of the court shall be distributed and assigned by law or in the absence of legislation thereof, by such rules and regulations as the judges may prescribe and secure the convenient and expeditious transaction thereof. The judgments, decrees, orders and proceedings of any session of the superior court held by any judge or more of the judges of such court shall be equally efficient as if all the judges of said court presided at such session. The first superior judges elected under this constitution shall hold their offices for the period of three years, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified for the remainder of the term of office of all superior judges in this state shall be for four years from the second Monday in January next succeeding their election, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The first election of judges of the superior court shall be at the election for state officers next succeeding the adoption of this constitution.

SEC. 6. The supreme court shall have original jurisdiction in all cases in equity, and in all cases involving the legality of any tax, impost, assessment, toll, municipal fine, or the validity of a vote; and the supreme court shall also have power to issue writs of mandamus, review, prohibition, habeas corpus, certiorari and all other writs necessary and proper to the complete exercise of its appellate and revisory jurisdiction. Each of the judges shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus to any part of the state upon petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody, and may make such writs returnable before himself, or before the supreme court, or before any superior court of the state or any judge thereof.

SEC. 7. There shall be in each of the organized counties of this state a superior court at least one judge shall be elected by the qualified electors of the county at the election next succeeding the time that until otherwise directed by the legislature one judge only shall be elected for the counties of Spokane and Stevens; one judge for the counties of Lincoln, Okanogan, Douglas and Adams; one judge for the counties of Walla Walla and Franklin; one judge for the counties of Columbia, Garfield and Asotin; one judge for the counties of Kittitas, Yakima and Klickitat; one judge for the counties of Clarke, Skamania, Pacific, Cowlitz and Wahkiakum; one judge for the counties of Thurston, Chehalis, Mason and Lewis; one judge for the county of Pierce; one judge for the county of Sehome; one judge for the counties of Jefferson, Island, Kitsap, San Juan and Clallam; and one judge for the counties of Whatcom, Skagit and Snohomish. In any county where there shall be more than one superior judge there may be as many sessions of the superior court at the same time as there are judges thereof, and whenever the governor shall direct a superior judge to hold court in any county other than that for which he has been elected there may be as many sessions of the superior court in said county at the same time as there are judges thereof assigned to duty therein by the governor, and the business of the court shall be distributed and assigned by law or in the absence of legislation thereof, by such rules and regulations as the judges may prescribe and secure the convenient and expeditious transaction thereof. The judgments, decrees, orders and proceedings of any session of the superior court held by any judge or more of the judges of such court shall be equally efficient as if all the judges of said court presided at such session. The first superior judges elected under this constitution shall hold their offices for the period of three years, and until their successors shall be elected and qualified for the remainder of the term of office of all superior judges in this state shall be for four years from the second Monday in January next succeeding their election, and until their successors are elected and qualified. The first election of judges of the superior court shall be at the election for state officers next succeeding the adoption of this constitution.

SEC. 8. The supreme court shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus, and quo warranto and mandamus as to all state officers, and appellate jurisdiction in all actions and proceedings, excepting that its appellate jurisdiction shall not extend to civil actions at law for the recovery of money or personal property when the original amount in controversy shall not exceed, or the property does not exceed the sum of $200, unless the action involves the legality of the tax, impost, assessment, toll, municipal fine or the validity of a vote; and the supreme court shall also have power to issue writs of mandamus, review, prohibition, habeas corpus, certiorari and all other writs necessary and proper to the complete exercise of its appellate and revisory jurisdiction. Each of the judges shall have power to issue writs of habeas corpus to any part of the state upon petition by or on behalf of any person held in actual custody, and may make such writs returnable before himself, or before the supreme court, or before any superior court of the state or any judge thereof.

SEC. 9. The judges of the supreme court shall be ineligible to any other office or public employment than a judicial office or employment during the term for which they shall have been elected.

SEC. 10. Judges shall not charge juries with respect to matters of fact, nor comment thereon, but shall declare the law.

SEC. 17. No person shall be eligible to the office of judge of the supreme court or judge of a superior court unless he shall have been admitted to practice in the courts of record of this state or for the territory of Washington.

SEC. 18. The judges of the supreme court shall appoint a reporter of the decisions of that court, who shall be removable at their pleasure. He shall receive such annual salary as shall be prescribed by law.

SEC. 19. No judge of a court of record shall practice law in any court of this state during his continuance in office.

SEC. 20. Every cause submitted to a judge of a superior court for his decision shall be decided by him within ninety days from the submission thereof; provided, that if within said period of ninety days a rehearing shall not have been ordered, then the period within which he is to decide shall commence to run from the cause is submitted upon such a rehearing.

SEC. 21. The legislature shall provide for the speedy publication of opinions of the supreme court, and such opinions shall be free for publication by any person.

SEC. 22. The judges of the supreme court shall elect one of the judges of court who shall be removable at their pleasure, but the legislature may provide for the election of the supreme court, and prescribe the term of office thereof. The clerk of the supreme court shall receive such compensation by salary only as shall be provided by law.

SEC. 23. There may be appointed in each county by the judge of the superior court having jurisdiction therein, one or more court commissioners, not exceeding three in number, who shall have power to perform like duties as a judge of the superior court at chambers, subject to revision by said judge, to take depositions and to perform such other business connected with the administration of justice as may be prescribed by law.

SEC. 24. The judges of the superior courts shall, from time to time, establish uniform rules for the government of the superior courts.

SEC. 25. Superior judges shall, on or before the first day of November in each year, report in writing to the judges of the supreme court such defects and omissions in the laws as their experience may suggest, and the judges of the supreme court shall, on or before the first day of January in each year, report in writing to the legislature such defects and omissions in the laws as they may believe to exist.

SEC. 26. The county clerk shall be, by virtue of his office, clerk of the superior court.

SEC. 27. The style of all process shall be "The State of Washington," and all prosecutions shall be conducted in its name and by its authority.

SEC. 28. Every judge of the supreme court and every judge of a superior court shall, before entering upon the duties of his office, take and subscribe an oath that he will support the constitution of the United States and the constitution of the state of Washington, and will faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of judge to the best of his ability, which oath shall be filed in the office of the secretary of state.

ARTICLE V.

IMPEACHMENT.

SECTION 1. The house of representatives shall have the sole power of impeachment. The concurrence of a majority of the members shall be necessary to an impeachment. All impeachments shall be tried by the senate, and when sitting for that purpose the senators shall be upon oath or affirmation to do justice according to law and evidence. When the governor or lieutenant-governor is tried the chief justice of the supreme court shall preside. No person shall be convicted without a concurrence of two-thirds of the senators elected.

SEC. 2. The governor, state officers, and judicial officers, except judges and justices of courts not of record, shall be liable to impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors, or malfeasance in office. Judgment in such cases shall extend only to removal from office and disqualification to hold any office of honor, trust or profit under this state. The party, whether convicted or acquitted, shall nevertheless be liable to prosecution, trial, judgment and punishment according to law.

SEC. 3. All officers not liable to impeachment shall be subject to removal for misconduct or malfeasance in office in such manner as may be provided by law.

ARTICLE VI.

ELECTION AND ELECTIVE RIGHTS.

SECTION 1. All male persons of the age of 21 years or over possessing the following qualifications shall be entitled to vote at all elections: They shall be citizens of the United States, provided that Indians not taxed shall never be allowed the elective franchise; they shall be citizens of male persons who at the time of the adoption of this constitution are qualified electors of the territory of Washington; they shall have lived in the state one year, and in the county ninety days, and in the city, town, ward or precinct thirty days immediately preceding the election at which they offer to vote.

SEC. 2. The legislature may provide that there shall be no denial of the elective franchise at any school election on account of sex.

SEC. 3. All idiots, insane persons, and persons convicted of infamous crimes, unless restored to their civil rights, are excluded from the elective franchise.

SEC. 4. For the purpose of voting and eligibility to office no person shall be deemed to gain a residence by reason of his presence or lost it by reason of his absence while in the civil or military service of the United States, while a student at any institution of learning, nor while kept at public expense in any poor-house or other asylum, nor while confined in public prison, nor while employed in the service of the waters of this state or of the United States, of the high seas.

SEC. 5. Voters shall in all cases except treason, felony and breach of the peace be privileged from arrest during their attendance at elections and in going to, and returning therefrom. No elector shall be required to do military duty on the day of any election except in time of war or public danger.

SEC. 6. All elections shall be by ballot. The legislature shall provide for such method of voting as will secure to every elector absolute secrecy in preparing and depositing his ballot.

SEC. 7. The legislature shall enact a registration law, and shall require a compliance with such law before any elector shall be allowed to vote; provided, that this provision is not compulsory upon the legislature except as to cities and towns having a population of over 500 inhabitants. In all other cases the legislature may or may not require registration as a pre-requisite to the right to vote, and the same system of registration is not to be applied for both classes.

SEC. 8. The first election of county and district officers not otherwise provided for in this constitution shall be on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1890, and thereafter all elections for such officers shall be held biennially on the Tuesday next succeeding the first Monday in November. The first election of all state officers not otherwise provided for in this constitution, after the election held for the adoption of this constitution, shall be on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1892, and the elections for such state officers shall be held in every fourth year thereafter on the Tuesday succeeding the first Monday in November.

ARTICLE VII.

REVENUE AND TAXATION.

SECTION 1. All property in the state, not exempt under the laws of the United states, or under this constitution, shall be taxed in proportion to its value, to be ascertained as may be prescribed by law. The legislature shall provide by law for an annual tax sufficient, with other sources of revenue, to defray the estimated ordinary expenses of the state for each fiscal year, and for the purpose of paying the state debt, if there be any, the legislature shall provide for levying a tax annually, sufficient to pay the annual interest and principal of such debt within twenty years from the final passage of the law creating the debt.

SEC. 2. The legislature shall provide by law a uniform and equal rate of assessment and taxation on all property in the state, according to its value in money, and shall prescribe such regulations as shall secure a just valuation for taxation of all property, so that every person and corporation shall pay a tax in proportion to the value of his, her or its property, provided that a reduction of debts from credits may be authorized. Provided further, that the property of the state, counties, city, town, state, counties, school districts and other municipal corporations, and such other property as the legislature may by general laws provide, shall be exempt from taxation.

SEC. 3. The legislature shall provide by general law for the assessing and levying of taxes on individual property.

SEC. 4. The power to tax corporations and corporate property shall not be surrendered or suspended by any contract or grant to which the state shall be a party.

SEC. 5. No tax shall be levied except in pursuance of law; and every law imposing a tax shall state distinctly the object of the same, to which only it shall be applied.

SEC. 6. All taxes levied and collected for state purposes shall be paid into the state treasury.

SEC. 7. An accurate statement of the receipts and expenditures of the public money shall be published annually in such manner as the legislature may provide.

SEC. 8. Whenever the expenses of any fiscal year shall exceed the income, the legislature may provide for levying a tax sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the deficiency, as well as the estimated expenses of the ensuing fiscal year.

SEC. 9. The legislature may vest the corporate authorities of towns and villages with power to make local improvements by special assessment, or by special taxation of property benefited. For all corporate purposes, municipal or otherwise, they may be vested with authority to assess and collect taxes, and such taxes shall be uniform in respect to persons and property within the jurisdiction of the body levying the same.

ARTICLE VIII.

STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL INDEBTEDNESS.

SECTION 1. The state may to meet casual deficits or failures in revenue, or for expenses not provided for, contract debts, but such debts, direct and contingent, singly or in the aggregate, shall not at any time exceed $100,000, and the moneys arising from the loans creating such debts shall be applied to the purpose for which they were obtained or to repay the debt so contracted, and to no other purpose whatever.

SEC. 2. In addition to the above limited power to contract debts the state may contract debts to repel invasion, suppress insurrection,