Governor's messages, Coke to Ross (Inclusive), edited by and for the Archive & History Department of the Texas State Library, 1916; p. 67.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, STATE OF TEXAS,

AUSTIN, May 2, 1874.[28]

To the Honorable Senate of the State of Texas:

Gentlemen—I respectfully return joint resolution No. 331 without my approval. This bill provides for delivery by the late State Printer to the Secretary of State of two thousand copies of the General Laws of the Thirteenth Legislature, printed in the German language, and for paying him for the same.

Section five, article twelve, of the Constitution reads as follows:

"The Legislature shall provide by law for the compensation of all officers, servants, agents and public contractors not provided for by this constitution, and shall not grant extra compensation to any officer, agent, servant, or public contractor after such public service shall have been performed, or contract entered into for the performance of the same, nor grant by appropriation or otherwise any amount of money out of the treasury of the State to any individual on a claim, real or pretended, when the same shall not have been provided for by *pre-existing* law." It will be seen by reference to the House Journal of the Thirteenth Legislature, page 1375, that an effort was made to pass a law through that body authorizing the general laws of the Thirteenth Legislature printed in the German and Spanish languages, but that it failed to pass. The late State Printer of course knew that no law authorized that printing to be done, for he printed the journals, which show affirmatively and clearly the defeat of the effort to pass the law. His claim, then, against the State for payment of which this bill makes provision is expressly forbidden by the section of the Constitution just quoted, because not provided for by a *pre-existing* law.

Believing the bill manifestly unconstitutional, I respectfully ask its reconsideration.

Very respectfully,

RICHARD COKE.

[28]*Senate Journal*, 565.