

rangement of this kind is necessary in order to keep up a competent and efficient board of county commissioners.

The question being taken upon the motion to suspend the rules, it was agreed to.

Mr. HEBB moved to amend section four of the report by striking out the words "on Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, in the year 1865, and on the same day in every second year thereafter," and insert in lieu thereof the following :

"An election for county commissioners shall be held on Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, 1865; as nearly one-half as may be of said commissioners shall hold their office for two years, and the other half for four years, and at the first meeting after their election and qualification, or as soon thereafter as practicable, they shall determine by lot which of their number shall hold his office for two and four years respectively, and thereafter there shall be elected as aforesaid, at each general election for county officers, commissioners for four years to fill the places of those whose term has expired."

The question being taken, the amendment was adopted.

The remaining sections of the report were then read, but no other amendments, except some verbal ones, were made to the report.

The report having been read the third time, the question was upon its final passage.

The question was then taken by yeas and nays, under rule forty-three, and the report was adopted—yeas 41, nays 22—as follows :

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Baker, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Ecker, Farrow, Galioway, Greene, Hebb, Hoffman, Hopkins, Hopper, Keefer, Kennard, Laish, Markey, Maybugh, McComas, Mullikin, Negley, Parker, Purnell, Ridgely, Russell, Sands, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith of Worcester, Suary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Todd, Valiant, Wooden—41.

Nays—Messrs. Billingsley, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Dent, Duval, Hodson, Hollyday, Horsey, Johnson, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Miller, Parran, Peter, Smith, of Dorchester, Wilmer—22.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. Does not the rule require that every article on its final passage shall receive the votes of a majority of the members elected to this convention before it shall be declared adopted?

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Daniel.) The rule was altered so as to require only the affirmative votes of a majority of the members present.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. So that a minority of this body can pass any provision they think proper.

The CHAIRMAN (Mr. Daniel.) Certainly,

if they constitute a majority of the members present.

EDUCATION.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE,

The convention then proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee on education, which was on its third reading.

Sections one and two were read, and no amendments offered thereto.

Section three was read as follows :

"Sec. 3. There shall be a State board of education, consisting of the governor of the State, the lieutenant governor, the president of the senate, the speaker of the house of delegates and the State's superintendent of public instruction, which board shall perform such duties as the general assembly may direct."

Mr. STIRLING. I move to strike out the words "the president of the senate."

Mr. THOMAS. Suppose the lieutenant governor should become governor, then the president of the senate could act upon this board.

Mr. STIRLING. That is a contingency that might arise, it is true. But then this should be put in the alternative—"the lieutenant governor, or the president of the senate." However, I will withdraw my amendment.

The remaining sections of the report were then read, and no amendments offered thereto.

Mr. HOPKINS. I offer the following as an additional section :

"The legislature shall foster and encourage moral, intellectual, scientific and agricultural improvement; they shall, when it may be practicable, make suitable provision for the blind, mute and insane, and for the organization of such institutions of learning as the best interests of the State may demand."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I suppose no member of the convention can have any objection to the proposition of the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Hopkins.) But it has probably slipped his memory, for it has been some time since we acted upon it, that we have adopted precisely his idea, and almost his very language, in the declaration of rights. The forty-third article of the declaration of rights reads as follows :

"That the legislature ought to encourage the diffusion of knowledge and virtue, the extension of a judicious system of general education, the promotion of literature, the arts, science, agriculture, commerce and manufactures, and the general amelioration of the condition of the people."

That would seem to cover the very proposition of the gentleman, and part of it is in the very language of his proposition; and will probably obviate any necessity for incorporating his proposition in this report.