

tee which might consider and report upon them with such care as they really deserve. I think it desirable that we should have a standing committee on that subject, and I therefore move the following amendment of the original order :

Ordered, That a standing committee to consist of seven members, be appointed by the President of the Convention, to be styled "A Committee to consider and report upon the Colored Population of the State."

Mr. HEBB. I think the Committee on the Declaration of Rights, and the Legislative Committee are sufficient to take charge of the subject; and in order to test the sense of the Convention, I move that the order be laid upon the table.

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. CLARKE. Gentlemen have various propositions. Are we to understand that the Committee on the Declaration of Rights and the Committee on the Legislative Department have these various branches under consideration?

Mr. STIRLING. I think I can very safely say, without arrogating anything to myself, that that is the understanding, that those two committees embrace the subject.

Mr. DANIEL. When any proposition is before the House, it will be competent to consider to what committees that proposition may properly go; and if it is proper the House may refer it to any other standing committees, or even to a new committee. I think it is best to wait until the proposition arises, and then to determine what is the most appropriate committee.

Mr. BERRY of Prince George's. I think it desirable that the inquiry should be made as to what part of this subject is to be considered by the Legislative Committee and what part by the Committee on the Declaration of Rights; and I make that inquiry with this view: We shall in a probability be receiving petitions, and we want to know to which committee it is most appropriate to refer these petitions or communications on this subject. I would therefore ask the chairmen of those two committees what branch of the subject it is contemplated shall be acted upon by each.

Mr. STIRLING. I think I have sufficiently answered, so far as the question can be answered. Each one of these committees necessarily possess the right to report to this Convention any subject matter which naturally belongs to it; and the committees have also, by resolution of the Convention, the power of conferring among themselves as to their respective duties. It certainly was my understanding of the order offered by my colleague, that the committees should decide this matter for themselves. I can only say to my friends from Prince George's that if they have any proposition upon the subject of emancipation to introduce to this Convention, we will, when they are offered, refer them to appropriate committees.

Mr. CLARKE. I will only say in reply to the gentleman from Baltimore city that my object has been fully accomplished. I wished to know what committee had charge of this subject, and I now understand that it is in the hands of two committees.

Mr. HEBB. I think I distinctly stated that the other day, when the gentleman offered his order, that it was in the hands of two committees which I named.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Mr. NEGLEY submitted the following resolution, which was read and laid over under the rule :

Resolved, That the true theory of representation in popular Governments, is that of representation according to population, except in such cases where a portion of the population is denied the exercise of the right of suffrage, in which case representation ought to be according to the population endowed with the elective franchise.

Mr. DANIEL submitted the following order :

Ordered, That a copy of the Rules of the House of Delegates be furnished by the Librarian to each member of this Convention.

Mr. BERRY of Baltimore county. I doubt whether the Librarian has them on hand, and it is hardly necessary to go to the expense of printing them. The Committee on Rules will report in a very few days, and then we shall have our own rules.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I apprehend that most of the members have copies already. They were handed round very generally on the first day of the session. I found one laid upon my desk, which I have.

The order was rejected.

On motion of Mr. BERRY of Baltimore county,

The Convention adjourned.

SEVENTH DAY.

SATURDAY, May 7; 1864.

The Convention met.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Owen.

The roll was called, and 50 members answered to their names.

The President stated that there was nothing before the Convention to be acted upon.

OFFICIAL REPORTING.

Mr. STIRLING. There is a subject perhaps not of great importance which I will mention. The last clause of the 3d section of the Act under which this Convention meets, is as follows :

"It shall be the duty of the Speaker of the House of Delegates, and of the President of the Senate, to provide a Reporter of the Debates and Proceedings of said Convention, who shall act until the said Convention shall provide its own officers."

I suppose the proper construction of this provision is that until the Convention shall provide its own reporter, the reporter already