

appointed by the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House of Delegates shall act. But there might possibly be the construction placed upon it that the expression "until the said Convention shall provide its own officers" refers to the selection of other officers, at which time it would be necessary for the Convention to select its reporter. If it meets the approbation of the Convention I will offer an order that the gentleman appointed under the provisions of this act, shall be the reporter of the Convention.

Mr. STROCKBRIDGE There is a Committee on Reporting and Printing; and it may be better perhaps for that Committee to consider and report upon this.

Mr. STIRLING. I am willing that the order should be referred to that Committee. I have had no conversation with the reporters about it, but I rather think they would feel more comfortable in their position if some action were taken. I submit the following order:

Ordered, That the Stenographer appointed by virtue of the third section of the Convention Bill, is hereby appointed the permanent Stenographer of the Convention.

On motion of Mr. BERRY of Prince George's

The order was referred to the Committee on Reporting and Printing.

The Convention adjourned.

EIGHTH DAY.

MONDAY, May 9, 1864.

The Convention met.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Patterson.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the following resolutions submitted by Mr. Clarke on Friday last:

Resolved, That it is inexpedient, in the organization of the House of Delegates, or the Senate, to adopt a system of representation based exclusively upon population.

Resolved, That the Committee to consider and report upon a basis of representation in the two Houses of the General Assembly, and a proper apportionment of representation in the same, inquire into the propriety of limiting the number of members of the House of Delegates to eighty, apportioning them among the several counties of the State, according to population of each, allowing to Baltimore city four more delegates than are allowed to the most populous county, and providing that no county shall be entitled to less than two members.

Resolved, That in the organization of the Senate, each county in the State and the city of Baltimore shall be entitled to elect one Senator who shall serve for six years from the time of election.

On motion of Mr. CLARKE, the resolutions were amended by adding at the end of the second resolution the following:

"Or in case the said Committee shall determine that it is expedient, in the organization of the House of Delegates, to adopt a principle more nearly approximating representation according to population, (Baltimore city inclusive,) then the said Committee shall inquire whether a provision ought to be inserted in the Constitution dividing the city of Baltimore into districts, each district to elect two members of the House of Delegates, and as the purity of elections is the best safeguard of republican institutions and providing for the passage by the Legislature of a registry law for the whole State."

Mr. CLARKE also submitted the following statement: