

Can they not report on anything they please? May they not make a majority and minority report upon every section of the whole article?

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. They may be instructed to report upon that article and nothing else.

Mr. MILLER. I have prepared an order that will obviate the difficulty, that a select committee be appointed by the President to take into consideration the propriety of selling the State's interest in the works of internal improvement and in banking corporations and report thereon.

The PRESIDENT. The legislative article is before the convention and must be disposed of. It can be passed over informally.

Mr. SANDS. What is the utility of referring to a committee of five a proposition which has already been passed upon by a regular committee of nine members of this body? Is it to be supposed that the report of the committee of five is to be conclusive upon members of the convention? Not at all. The same discussion, the same divergence of views will follow the report, and the whole debate will be repeated.

Mr. NEGLEY. I withdraw the resolution and offer the following order:

*Ordered,* That a select committee be appointed by the President to take into consideration the propriety of selling the State's interest in the works of internal improvement and banking corporations, and report thereon.

The PRESIDENT. That is not in order.—Nothing can be considered by the convention until they dispose of the pending amendment, either by voting upon it, postponing the report informally, or by some other motion which will dispose of the report of the legislative committee.

Mr. ABBOTT. I move to informally pass over the 39th section.

Mr. DANIEL. I hope that motion will not prevail. I think we ought to meet this question, and can meet it just as well now as at any other time. We have already had several days' discussion upon it. I really think we are uselessly consuming the time of the convention upon this question. The more we hear upon this subject among members of the convention, the more diversity of opinion we find we are coming to. Instead of approaching a definite conclusion, we are varying wider and wider, every speech that is made. When this proposition was up on Saturday for discussion, I voted for the proposition of the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely,) believing that the better proposition of the two, in comparison with the report of the legislative committee. I still believe that if either is to be adopted, I would prefer that. But after grave consideration I have come to the conclusion that it is better to let this whole thing alone, and let it stand just where it stood in the old constitution. I am pre-

pared therefore to take a different ground from what I took there.

I find there is great diversity of opinion in the community. I find that this subject has been agitated before the legislature. I find in the city of Baltimore among the largest business men, those who are very largely interested in the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, who are stockholders in the company, they are very much opposed to our interfering at all with this question. I think upon a question of this sort, when the convention is so little aware of the practical effect of interfering with these great financial measures, we would better let them alone, and go on with our legitimate business before the convention, and end this protracted discussion. If we have a committee that very committee may be influenced by private—I will not say corrupt—influences, and perhaps every member of that committee will have some peculiar views derived from influences in the community; and when their report comes before the convention, members will have their peculiar views, and you will find it just as difficult to reconcile conflicting views or to come to any conclusion upon that report, as upon the report of the committee of nine which has already had the subject under consideration and upon whose report we have had days upon days of discussion, varying wider now than we did when the subject first came up.

As my colleague (Mr. Thomas) put the argument from the comptroller's report, I do not see how we can get over it. I do not see why, in the face of the fact that we have more money now from the sinking fund than we know what to do with, as reported by the comptroller, we should throw all these works of internal improvement into the market, and increase that amount of money, with this depreciation of currency, not knowing whether we can buy up this interest or not. I think it would be a very hazardous arrangement for us to undertake. The comptroller has told the convention that we have more now than we can invest, while stocks are high; and yet you are asked to sell out the whole, and invest the money you know not how. I say that until we can see how we can make a more profitable investment for the State, it would be better to let this remain as it is. I am therefore in favor of putting into this constitution the same proposition as we now have.

Mr. STIRLING. I shall vote against informally disposing of it, for I think we may as well dispose of it now. If it is not postponed I intend to call the previous question and bring the house to a vote upon the pending propositions. I think it very dangerous not to decide upon this matter definitely and settle our policy at this time. The reason why I acquiesced in this report of the committee, though I had nothing to do with preparing this section, was that it prescribed the general