

make the exchange, you get rid of that much interest which the State is bound to make up annually; of course that is desirable.

Again, as to the proper persons to constitute the board to make this sale. The governor is the first officer in the State. The comptroller and the treasurer are the bonded and sworn financial agents of the State, who are perfectly conversant with these matters, and know them perfectly well, and who alone are competent to make this exchange profitably to the State. And this can be done without any additional expense to the State, by raising, as this convention ought to do, properly the salaries of the comptroller and the treasurer. Then this additional work can be done without any additional expense.

And it is infinitely better that this question be settled, and the public mind be relieved, than to leave it open and throw it over to the legislature. Now, what will be the effect of leaving the question open to the legislature? What has been the effect of bringing this question into the legislature of the State of Maryland, in times past? This building has been surrounded by swarms of lobbyists, in the interest of those who wish to make profit out of any legislation which will grow out of this subject. And if you leave this question over to the legislature, will you not have this thing repeated? Will you not have any number of men here, who will use any power that any amount of money can bring to bear, in order to control the character of the board which will have the power to sell under legislative action? They will be here just as certain as that two and two make four, in any number, and by every means to operate upon the legislature, to indicate, and I believe they will succeed, the character of the men who are to constitute this board. Now it is better that this question be settled at once and forever.

In regard to this subject of restricting the legislature, and this matter of corrupt influences operating upon the legislature, I would wish to read a short extract from a paper in regard to the Pennsylvania legislature. It is as follows:

"The people of Pennsylvania voted yesterday on three amendments to the constitution of the State of an important character:

1. "To permit the soldiers from that State to vote at elections; Mr. George W. Woodward having, as judge of the supreme court, declared that volunteers, by crossing the State line, forfeit their elective franchise.

2. "To prevent the legislature from passing any law embracing more than one subject. This is to defeat "omnibus bills" and other swindles. There is a similar provision in the constitution of New York already, relating to private and local bills; but it has been practically annulled by judicial constructions.

3. "To forbid the legislature from passing any law changing the decision of courts. The wholesomeness of such a provision is self evident.

"While the first amendment confers a right, too long withheld upon citizen soldiers, the latter two are salutary in restricting the powers and scope of a professional lobby, under which the legislation of the State has become notoriously a matter of bargain and sale. Neither Albany, Trenton, Springfield nor Indianapolis, with their acknowledged corruptions, have so bad a reputation as Harrisburg."

I think they might as well have included Annapolis in that category. That is the fact. And in making the declaration, I do not mean to impugn any man's integrity. I only speak of it as a fact in the history of the day, that is beyond the power of contradiction. I assert it as a fact, which is acknowledged all over this country, that it is not good policy to leave these things to the legislature. Where a convention has the power and ability to settle this question, let it do so.

And besides, I am in favor of consistency. The gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Schley) came into this body and reported a constitutional provision for the sale of the public works. And now he signs a minority report from this select committee against a constitutional provision for such a sale.

Mr. SCHLEY. What I objected to in the majority report, was the provision for the special submission of this question to the people.

Mr. NEGLEY. Well, I believe the gentleman has changed now, and come over to his original ground. Now, I do not choose to travel up the hill and down again; I do not choose to go up a pole on one side in favor of a measure, and down the pole on the other side against it. My mind was made up upon this question, and I mean to stick to it. I am honestly of the opinion that it is for the interest of the State of Maryland that this sale be made; I am sure the people generally think so, and that they will hail with pleasure a provision that disposes of this question. I am satisfied of that. Therefore I will support that report, whether with the amendment of the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Clarke) or without it. I am in favor of disposing of this question.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I would like to inquire of the chairman of this select committee (Mr. Negley,) whether this section, as reported by them, includes in its terms the \$3,000,000 of preferred stock in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, as well as about \$900,000 of regular stock?

Mr. NEGLEY. I presume that the section is broad enough to cover the whole. It says explicitly, that whenever the board can exchange the State's interest in the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for an equal