

Mr. Farnandis, from the Committee on Education, made the following report:

EDUCATION.

Section 1. The General Assembly, at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, shall, by law, establish throughout the State a thorough and efficient system of free public schools, and shall provide, by taxation or otherwise, for their maintenance.

Sec. 2. The system of public schools as now constituted shall remain in force until the end of the said first session of the General Assembly, and shall then expire, except so far as adopted or continued by the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. The school fund of the State shall be kept inviolate, and appropriated only to the purposes of education.

DECLARATION OF RIGHTS.

The unfinished business, being the consideration of the Declaration of Rights, was then proceeded with, the question being on the motion of Mr. Ritchie to strike out the 24th article, which is as follows:

“Slavery shall not be permitted in this State.”

Mr. Jones submitted the following as a substitute for the article:

“Article 24. That slavery shall not be re-established in this State, but having been abolished under the policy and authority of the United States, compensation in consideration thereof is due from the United States.”

Mr. Page advocated the retention of the article as originally reported by the committee. He had been home among his constituents and had learned the views of the people. They wanted quiet and rest—wanted relief from the strifes and emotions consequent upon the discussion of this subject.

Mr. Peters argued against the adoption of either the substitute or the original.

Mr. Stoddert defined his position on what he considered this grave question. The people of all that portion