

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. There may be a great deal of force in what fell from the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Schley,) that this convention would not be in a condition to vote upon this subject properly, until we had the statistical information. And if it meets the views of my friend (Mr. Marbury,) as we seem to be at a loss for this information, I will submit a motion that the further consideration of this resolution be postponed, to be called up at any time when we have obtained the necessary information, and then I will submit a motion that a committee be appointed to correspond with the proper authorities and obtain the information desired.

Mr. PETER. Permit me to add a few remarks before I close. Suffering as I have been for some time with an affection of the throat, I may not be able to attend the sittings of the convention; or if I do, I may not be able to speak. I have arisen here to-day to discuss this subject as a matter of justice to my people. And I would ask any man in this convention to go to my county and view the situation of our people there as it is at present. And I think if he will honestly take a view of that portion of our county bordering on the Potomac river, and extending out from nine to twenty miles from the river, he will say—"in all conscience do not oppress this people any more; the scourge of war has already devastated them sufficiently; do not put any more burdens upon them; let them at least be spared any further oppression of any kind from this war." As to this postponement, I think myself that we better first investigate and ascertain all statistical information as to what numbers have gone, and how they are credited.

Mr. THOMAS. I move to amend the preamble by inserting after the word "population" the following:

"By the incursions and raids of those in arms against the United States, and by the wholesale desertion of men of said counties to the confederate armies."

That portion of the preamble will then read:

"And whereas, the upper counties of this State have been so entirely laid waste and so depleted of their population, by the incursions and raids of those in arms against the United States, and by the wholesale desertion of men of said counties to the confederate armies, that they have scarcely men enough left," etc.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I now move that the further consideration of this preamble and resolution be informally postponed.

Mr. STIRLING. That was the motion I was about to make. But I thought the gentleman was to accompany that motion with a motion to appoint a committee.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I will do that afterwards.

Mr. STIRLING. I am opposed to the appointment of a committee. I am perfectly willing to have this matter laid over until we get the necessary information. But I think we can get it without a committee. I think there is great liability that we may be taking a leap in the dark about this matter. I know that the State has suffered a great deal, and that it has never received full credit. But I am very much inclined to think that the State has never been called upon for the full number of troops the government had a right to demand of it. And if we call for justice, we may be told that we shall have it, and be called upon for more men than we may be ready to furnish.

Mr. BILLINGSLEY. We want only justice in our section. I understand that a difficulty has occurred between the national and the State governments, in relation to this matter. All we want is to be credited with such a number of our population as have been enlisted in the army, and been mustered into the service of the United States. That return has not been made by the proper officer. I understand there is a difficulty between the State government and Colonel Bowman, in relation to this matter. And I think it would be but an act of mere justice to the people of the lower counties of Maryland, if this draft is to go on, that they should receive full credit for those who have gone into the army from those counties. That cannot be done until the proper returns are made by Colonel Bowman. I understand there is a negotiation going on between the State government and the government of the United States, to have this correction made. And if there is shown a disposition on the part of the convention to do us justice, I do think the government of the United States will afford us some remedy.

Mr. CUSHING. I merely wish to say that while I have no objection in the world to justice being done to all the counties of this State, yet, as the coming draft will probably take place on the 5th of September, and as it would be impossible for the United States government to revise the quotas for the different States before the fifth of next month, so as to make good any allowance for Maryland, this will practically result merely in an obstruction in the way of raising the troops now absolutely needed. I think it would be much better for those counties that have been "oppressed," to do as other counties in the State have done, raise their quotas by offering bounties for volunteers, and then get the credits that may be due them allowed on the next draft.

I agree fully with my colleague that if all the troops raised in Maryland, be put down to her credit, it will be found that she has not furnished to the armies of the United States, the number of able-bodied men which her population would require. Nor do I think there would be any practical justice in credit-