prepare false and fraudulent accounts and vouchers, to conceal the traces of their frauds. We know numerous instances in banks and other moneyed institutions, in which these frauds have been completely covered over, and concealed by such false vouchers.

It is generally on change or in the street we get the first intelligence of these defalcations. Those who are guilty of them generally make investments—usually for speculation—and according to the trite saying, "ill-gotten gain never benefits its owner," their reckless speculations usually fail, and suicide or flight is most frequently the first intimation of their guilt. He held that the first and great security for the State must be found in the well earned character of the officer, for high moral integrity. Discard considerations of party service and select your man, from a long and intimate knowledge of his virtue and his merit. The next reliance must be on the pecuniary indemnity into which competent sureties have entered for the faithful discharge of his duties. Let no partiality or favoritism prevent a due observance of strict duty by those entrusted with this important branch of service.

The Legislature, as a body, was no match in the contest with a defaulter, in the effort on the one hand to detect, and on the other to evade detection in a course of official malversation. A committee was equally impotent.

He could not then perceive in either of these reasons a ground to annul the deliberate action of the people, who had most deliberately and decidedly expressed their wishes in relation to this particular question, some three years since.

Not a gentleman on this floor has been able to say he has heard the first whisper of discontent, or any desire for change in this respect. Every voter in the State knows we are here engaged in re-modelling the Constitution, and all sorts of suggestions have been made during our three months session, but no voice has reached us advising a return to annual sessions. He believed the judgment passed upon the subject was as much influenced by the belief that excessive Legislation was pernicious as by considerations of economy. For himself, he was much of the opinion very often expressed by an old friend now no more, a former Attorney General of the State. The experience of a long life actively occupied in the business affairs of the world, had induced his strong-minded friend to conclude that it was of much more importance to have the law settled than to have it this way or that—to know what the law was, rather than why it was. He doubted whether the State would suffer by curtailing the usual quantum of legislation to one-half of what it had been.

Mr. Sprigg rose to give notice of an amendment which he desired to offer, as follows:

Amend the said section by striking out all after the word "term," in the second line, where it secondly occurs, and insert in lieu thereof, the following:

"Of one year from the day of the general elections, the General Assembly may continue its first session after the adoption of this Constitution, as long, as in the opinion of the two Houses, the public interests may require it, but all subsequent regular sessions of the General Assembly shall be closed on the fiftieth day from their commencement, unless the same shall be closed at an earlier day by the agreement of the two Houses."

Which was read.

Mr. Brown said it had been repeatedly urged as an argument against annual sessions of the Legislature, that nothing was done for the first three or four weeks of each session. He had had some experience in these matters, and thought that gentlemen were mistaken in the views they had expressed. In the House of Delegates there were but few members who were what might be termed old politicians. They were generally strangers to each other. On the meeting of the Legislature, a Speaker had to be elected, and committees appointed—the latter being a duty imposing much responsibitity, because of the necessity of a judicious selection. This took a week. In the meantime, the members were becoming acquainted with each other, and everything was done, that could be done, to set the machinery of legislation into operation. These delays which could not be avoided in any deliberative body; and for this Convention, more especially, to complain of the waste of time thus caused, seemed very much like Satan rebuking Sin. The committees then went to work, and some two or three weeks might be taken up in maturing important bills for the action of the body. They were then taken up and discussed.

Mr. B. then proceeded to show, in reply to the remarks of Mr. Chambers, of Kent, that bills, which had been acted upon by the lower House, went to the Senate, and it was not until they came back again to the House, that a date was given to them. So that, in fact, many of the bills, which, from their dates, seemed to have passed on the last few days of the session, might have passed long before. He cited the instance of the law calling the Convention, in respect to which, a proposition had been introduced at the commencement of the session, even before the usual messages had been interchanged between the two Houses.

One word as to the treasury. He did not suppose that any gentleman intended to say that the House of Delegates guarded the treasury. He certainly did not intend to say so. But we had established a large system of taxation. It might be necessary that changes in that system should be made, in consequence of injury to some particular interest which it might be proper to relieve. The crops might fail, or some other calamity befal us. If we continued prosperous, no such necessity would arise. But did gentlemen mean to say, that if the necessity come, the relief should not be afforded?

In regard to conferring upon the Governor the power to call the legislature together, he, [Mr. B.,] had only to say, that he never knew any benefit grow out of extra sessions, either under the general or State governments.

He thought it would be better to adopt the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne's,