(Mr. Spencer.) Let the annual sessions continue until the people themselves should call for a change. Let a provision to that effect be inserted in the Constitution, and no injury could result.

Mr. Merrick said, that as the amendment indicated by the gentleman from Prince Goorge's, [Mr. Sprigg,] struck him, [Mr. M.,] as very appropriate, and as better than his own, he would withdraw his amendment, and accept that as a modification.

Mr. Weber said, that he rose to make a few remarks in explanation of the vote he intended to give. Hitherto, as a representative in the General Assembly, and as a citizen at the polls, he had voted against the change in the Constitution which substituted biennial for annual sessions. He had done so, because, in the first place, he regarded the proposed change as calculated, if not intended, to postpone and protract the call of a Convention to revise the organic law of the State. And secondly, because he believed in the policy and necessity of frequent elections, in order that the people might hold their representatives to a proper accountability. But the people themselves had removed the grounds of his objections. They had removed the first, by calling this Convention—whether for better or for worse, remained yet to be seen. They had removed the second ground by defining at the polls, what they intended should be understood by the term, "frequent elections," so far as related to elections for members of the legislature. They had defined it to mean "every two years." He held that the people, having all power in themselves, had a right to declare and define the principles of their government. In the words of the declaration, adopted a few days ago, that they "ought to have the sole and exclusive right of regulating their internal government." The people had determined to have biennial sessions, and that was the interpretation which they desired their representatives here, to put on the term, "frequent elections." As one of those representatives, he took this position; although a small majority of his immediate constituents had voted against the change. But he looked to the voice of a majority of the people of the State, and felt, that, as an agent of their's, he was to be governed by their voice.

He was also constrained to adopt this course by the consideration that, during the contest which took place among the people in regard to the call of a Convention to remodel the organic law, he had never heard, in his own county, or seen it stated in the newspapers of any other county in the State, that one of the reforms desired by the people, was the change now advocated. He believed that the position assumed by the people was to be attributed in a great measure, to the fact set forth by the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) yesterday—that they were satisfied that there was two much legislation.

Again. The people not only desired reform, but they asked also for retrenchment in the expenditures of the Government; and although he did not stand here as the advocate of a cheap government without reference to the fact whether it was to be good or bad; yet he was satisfied in his own mind that it was his duty, if he believed a good Government could be obtained cheaply, to prefer it to a good Government costing much.

The difficulty had been presented that, for two, four, six, or perhaps eight or ten years, after this Convention should have closed its labors—and in the event of the new Constitution being adopted by the people—annual sessions of the Legislature would be necessary; and it was proposed by those who advocated them, to restrict the term for which the Legislature was to remain in session. He was satisfied, from what little experience he had himself had, in legislative life, and from the admission of the gentleman from Carroll, (Mr. Brown,) that much time was loss at the commencement of every session in the organization of committees and in the proper distribution and arrangement of business. If then it was necessary that important measures should be matured to carry out the provisions of the new Constitution, he thought that the great object in view was more likely to be accomplished efficiently and economically if the sessions were for a longer term, rather than by annual sessions of short duration; because, in the latter case, the local business pressing upon the Legislature would prevent, or greatly impede, the formation and adoption of such laws as might be necessary to carry on the new system of Government. If this principle was adopted, the Legislature, at the first session, might attend to the local business, and would then be much better able to form the necessary laws than Legislatures newly assembled and with all the local legislation of the State to attend to. He objected, however, to any amendment which would look to both annual and biennial sessions. He desired that the Constitution should contain a provision declaring that the meetings of the Legislature should be either annual or biennial—one or the other, not both.

Mr. Biser said he was about to make a motion which he would preface with a brief remark or two. The gentleman from Kent, had partly made a convert of him, when he showed that in the last five days of the session of the last Legislature, one half of all the bills of that session were passed—that the half of five hundred and sixty-one bills, making two hundred and eighty, were disposed of in that time. He was happy also that he and his honorable colleague, (Mr. Thomas,) from whom he differed yesterday, were drawing a little nearer together. Now he, (Mr. B.,) was a strict economist, when the public interests required retrenchment; and he found, on looking into the matter, that the expenses of two annual sessions could be so reduced, by lessening the duration of the sessions, as to be less than those of one protracted biennial session, he presumed that the same could be done in an annual session. There would, therefore, be no necessity for making the session extend to fifty days, and when, in order, he would move to strike out fifty and insert thirty days.

Mr. Biser then moved to strike out "fifty" and iusert "thirty."