

Mr. BUCHANAN. What will be the whole number of which the House of Delegates will be composed?

Mr. MERRICK. One hundred and two.

I had intended, continued Mr. M., to make some general remarks. But the Convention is not full, and I will reserve them to a more appropriate occasion.

Mr. THOMAS made a suggestion in regard to the form of the report, which led to some conversation between that gentleman, Mr. MERRICK, and Mr. HOWARD.

Mr. DIRICKSON enquired of Mr. MERRICK, by what rule he assigned to Dorchester and Worcester five representatives, and to Somerset six?

Mr. M. again read that portion of the report and explained.

Mr. HARBINE rose to state, that as a member of the committee, the report which had been read by the Chairman (Mr. Merrick) had not his concurrence. He was opposed to the ratio of four thousand, and still more opposed to duplicating that ratio for every additional member above five. That would work injustice to the large counties. Again, in reference to the very large number of which it was proposed that the House of Delegates shall consist, he differed with the Chairman. Sixty or seventy, at the highest, would be amply sufficient. As stated by the honorable Chairman, a majority of the committee were unable to agree upon any basis, and as a matter of courtesy due that gentleman, consented that he should report his own views, reserving to themselves the right to act as each deemed best. No one of the reports now proposed to be made embodied his opinions, or the opinions of a majority of the committee. Having accomplished his object in rising, he would not now go further into the subject.

The President announced that the hour had arrived for taking up the orders of the day.

Mr. HOWARD moved that the consideration of the orders of the day be postponed for the purpose of disposing of the pending question.

The question was taken and decided in the affirmative.

So the orders of the day were postponed.

Mr. LLOYD then rose and said, that he desired, as a member of the committee to present a report; but that as it was not exactly in form, he should hereafter ask leave to withdraw it temporarily, in order to put it in proper form.

The report was received as follows:

RULE OF APPORTIONMENT.

Section 1st. The Senate shall be composed of twenty-one members, for the election whereof, each of the counties of the State and the city of Baltimore shall be one Senatorial District, and elect one Senator.

Sec. 2d. The House of Delegates shall consist of eighty-one members; until the number of sixty-six delegates be attained, every six thousand inhabitants in each of the counties, and the city of Baltimore, shall be entitled to one delegate; and thereafter, twenty-five thousand inhabitants in

each of the counties and city of Baltimore shall be entitled to one delegate.

Sec. 3d. If in any of the said counties, according to the present population thereof, there shall be over the said ratio of six thousand, a fraction exceeding three thousand; in that case the said counties shall be entitled to a delegate for said fraction.

RESULT:

Section 1st. The Senate shall consist of twenty-one members whereof the several counties of the State and the city of Baltimore shall elect one Senator.

Sec. 2d. The House of Delegates shall consist of eighty-one members whereof Allegany county shall elect four, Anne Arundel county shall elect five; Baltimore city shall elect twelve; Baltimore county shall elect seven; Carroll county shall elect three; Caroline county shall elect two; Calvert county shall elect two; Charles county shall elect three; Cecil county shall elect three; Dorchester county shall elect three; Frederick county shall elect seven; Harford county shall elect three; Kent county shall elect two; Montgomery county shall elect three, Prince George's county shall elect four; Queen Anne's county shall elect two; St. Mary's county shall elect two; Somerset county shall elect four; Talbot county shall elect two; Washington county shall elect five; Worcester county shall elect three members.

Which was read.

Mr. CHAMBERS said:

He would submit in the form of a minority report, the views which he held in common with two of his colleagues on the committee, (Messrs. Kent and Dennis.) It was the plan adopted in 1836, and then made part of the Constitution, in all respects, except that it adopted the aggregate population as a basis instead of that of federal numbers. By the arrangement of 1836, the present representation was to remain unchanged until after the census of 1860, but this report anticipates the period for its commencement, and proposes its adoption at once. The report would show the instances in which the fractions exceeded one half the number which by the rule adopted would entitle the county to an additional representative, leaving it without advice, for the House to dispose of the question of fractions as it might deem proper.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, a member of the committee, then presented and read the following report:

The undersigned, a minority of the committee on representation, beg leave to report the following as a proper basis, being the same which was arranged by compromise in 1836, and then made part of the Constitution, with the exception only that the plan now proposed is based upon the gross amount of population instead of federal numbers. The arrangement was designed to go into effect after the census of 1860. The undersigned recommend its adoption at this time as a fair adjustment of a subject which this Convention has indicated as one proper for compromise.