

the 2d section, 1st line, and inserting in lieu thereof the following:

"Shall be composed of seventy-three members, to be apportioned among the several counties and the city of Baltimore, according to the ratio herein provided, and to their several numbers, (as shown by the last census of the United States,) which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, three-fifths of the slaves, and allowing to each county one additional delegate for a fraction exceeding three-fourths of the ratio, but each county shall be entitled to at least two delegates. The ratio shall be one delegate to every six thousand of said population in said counties and city, until the number of the House of Delegates, shall be sixty-nine, and thereafter the ratio shall be one to every thirty-two thousand."

Mr. F. stated that the result of this distribution, would be as follows:

Counties,	Population,	No. of Deleg's.
Allegany,	22,584	4
Anne Arundel,	20,871	3
Baltimore county,	40,082	6
Carroll,	20,220	3
Caroline,	9,370	2
Calvert,	7,824	2
Cecil,	18,601	3
Charles,	12,329	2
Dorchester,	17,162	3
Frederick,	37,419	6
Harford,	18,498	3
Kent,	10,608	2
Montgomery,	13,815	2
Prince George's,	16,946	3
Queen Anne's	12,776	2
Saint Mary's,	11,359	2
Somerset,	20,224	3
Talbot,	12,158	2
Washington,	30,108	5
Worcester,	17,490	3
Baltimore city,	167,830	10
Howard,	12,000	2
Total,		73

Mr. FIERY said it was not his intention to accompany his amendment with any remarks.

Mr. SCHLEY moved as a substitute for said amendment, to strike out all after the words "the House of Delegates," in the first line, second section, and insert in lieu thereof the following:

"Shall consist of sixty-nine members, to be apportioned among the several counties, according to the following rates: Every county shall elect one delegate for every six thousand souls, federal numbers, it may contain, and for any fraction above three-fourths of said number, there shall be allowed to every county having such excess one additional delegate. The city of Baltimore shall be entitled to the same number of delegates as the county which shall be entitled to the largest representation, and no county shall have less than two delegates."

Mr. S. said that the printed statement on the tables of the members, would show the ratio under this amendment to be as follows:

Counties.	Basis 6000 and excess over three-fourths
Allegany,	4
Anne Arundel	3
Howard	2
Baltimore city	6
Baltimore county	6
Carroll	3
Caroline	2
Calvert	2
Cecil	3
Charles	2
Dorchester	3
Frederick	6
Harford	3
Kent	2
Montgomery	2
Prince George's	3
Queen Anne's	2
St. Mary's	2
Somerset	3
Talbot	2
Washington	5
Worcester	3
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Mr. MERRICK said he supposed that under the general interpretation given to the rule, it was competent for the friends of the section to amend or perfect it before the question was taken on striking out.

The CHAIR, (occupied *pro tem.* by Mr. Brown,) concurred in the opinion of the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick.)

Mr. MERRICK. So I supposed. With that view I shall offer one or two amendments.

The CHAIR now intimated his opinion to be, that the question must first be taken on the second substitute, and that then it would be in order for the gentleman from Charles, (Mr. Merrick,) to move his amendments.

Some conversation followed on the point of order.

Mr. MERRICK said he thought that upon reflection, the Chair would perceive that the decision which had been given, would lead to some confusion. The original spirit of the rule undoubtedly was, that before any question was taken on striking out and inserting a substitute in lieu of the original proposition, the friends of that proposition had a right to amend or perfect it. After that, came the contest between the original proposition and the substitute.

The CHAIR said that the gentleman and the Chair differed only in one particular. Before any matter was adopted as a substitute for an original proposition, its friends had a right to perfect it. But it seemed to the Chair, that the first question was on the second substitute. If that was amended or adopted, it was still a substitute, and then the gentleman could offer his amendments.

Some further conversation followed.