

and of calmness, so far as it is possible in the especial matter which is now before the convention: With the view that we may have a fuller house—with the view also that we may fully understand the proposition—that we may have it before us in a printed form, open to amendment or suggestion, I most respectfully request that this section may be informally passed over this morning.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I desire to make an inquiry of my colleague, who proposed this amendment. It is impossible in a single reading to gather the full force of such an amendment as this; but it occurred to me that the oath which he would prescribe is almost identical with that imposed in the law under which this convention is assembled, and which was taken by all its members. I wish to learn whether that is not the case.

Mr. STIRLING. It is identical with it—that is, it includes that; but it goes further than that, and adds some other proposition to it. I will state that I wish to do nothing that is not well considered by others as I have myself considered what I have proposed to the convention. I have no objection whatever to allowing this matter to go over long enough to have these entirely new matters printed on the journal, if there is any other business to take up, so that it may be seen in print before it is put into the constitution.

Mr. SANDS. Having been absent yesterday, when the first portion of this report was acted upon, having heard none of the views expressed then, and having simply heard the amendment offered by the gentleman from Baltimore city read, I do not myself feel prepared to act upon it. Although I may differ in some of my views from the gentleman from Somerset (Mr. Jones,) I think it would be wise to postpone this matter for a careful, deliberate consideration. I will move that this section be informally passed over, in accordance with the suggestion of the gentleman from Somerset, and shall be glad to have that suggestion complied with.

The PRESIDENT. Reports for the minority of a committee are never printed in bill form except by special order. If no such order is made it will merely be printed upon the journal.

Mr. STIRLING gave notice that when the section was again considered, he would submit the following amendment:

Amend by adding at the end of the section:

“And every person holding any office of trust or profit under the late constitution who shall be continued in office under this constitution, shall within thirty days after this constitution shall have gone into effect, take and subscribe the oath or affirmation above set forth, and if any such person shall fail so to do, his office shall be *ipso facto* vacant.”

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE gave notice that when the

section was again considered, he would submit the following amendment:

Amend by inserting after “given,” in line fourteen:

“Nor have been guilty of voting illegally, nor concurred in any fraud, force, surprise or bribery, nor has any other person with my privity, consent or procurement, been guilty of or accessory to any illegal voting or fraud, force, surprise or bribery in procuring my own or any other nomination or election to any office.”

The motion to pass over the fifth section informally was agreed to.

CRIMINALS AND LUNATICS.

The sixth section was read, as follows:

“Section 6. That no person above the age of twenty-one years, convicted of larceny or other infamous crime, unless he shall be pardoned by the executive, shall ever thereafter be entitled to vote at any election in this State, and no person under guardianship as a lunatic, or a person *non compos mentis*, shall be entitled to vote.”

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE submitted the following amendment:

Strike out the word “that,” in the first line.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CUSHING submitted the following amendment:

Strike out all to the words “no person,” in the fifth line.

Mr. CUSHING said: I will give my reasons for that motion. If a man is convicted of any crime, and is sentenced, that sentence is decided by the law to be a sufficient punishment for the crime of which he is convicted; and I see no reason why there should be added to that a disfranchisement for all time, debarring the man for all time of all chance of reform, and all opportunity of becoming again a good and respectable citizen.

Mr. STIRLING. I cannot agree with my colleague in the theory he has expressed, and I cannot support his amendment. I should have no objection to an amendment to allow the legislature power to restore a man to the right of voting; should he subsequently become a good man. But I do not think he should be restored simply because he has served out his time in the penitentiary, without any alteration in his conduct.

Mr. SANDS. I agree with my friend, that the criminal should suffer the full penalty of the law; but these crimes have a double penalty—a constitutional and a statutory penalty.

Mr. CUSHING. I wish to strike out the constitutional penalty.

Mr. SANDS. The penalty the law prescribes is disfranchisement; and whatever term of imprisonment may be allotted under the statute. I believe the idea is a good one, to hold wide open the door of reform, and I do