

On motion of Mr. McPherson it was

*Ordered*, That the committee on public works be instructed to inquire into the expediency of legislation to effect a pro rata rate of charges per mile for freight and passengers within the State of Maryland on all railroads therein.

The report of the committee on the treasury department was then taken up, read the second time and, on motion of Mr. Dent, was passed over informally.

The consideration of the Bill of Rights was then proceeded with, article 2 being under consideration. The article is as follows:

Art. 2. The constitution of the United States and the laws made or which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all treaties made or which shall be made under the authority of the United States, are and shall be the supreme law of the State; and the judges of this State and all the people of this State are and shall be bound thereby, anything in the constitution or laws of this State to the contrary notwithstanding.

The question pending was on the motion of Mr. Mitchell to strike out the article entire, which was decided in the negative by a vote of 82 to 21.

Mr. Nelson submitted the following as a substitute for the second article:

“That the government of the Union and the governments of the States are supreme within the sphere of their delegated and reserved powers, respectively; and that any infraction or modification by either of the powers or rights of the other is a violation of the compact upon which the union of the States was founded.”

Mr. Nelson argued in favor of his substitute. The article inserted by the convention of 1864 was a political heresy of political heretics. The article now proposed to be inserted was claimed to be an antidote to the poison, but it was nothing but diluted poison, and it should meet the condign condemnation of upright, truthful, honest, manly democrats. He did not propose to bow to the behest of traitors, either in or out of Congress. He did not scruple to stand here and avow himself a State's