

the 15th article: That the levying of taxes by poll is onerous and oppressive, and ought to be prohibited; that paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of the government, but every person in the State owning property, and every person holding property therein, ought to contribute a just proportion of public taxes for the support of the government; yet fines, duties or taxes may properly and justly be imposed or laid with a political view for the good government and benefit of the community.

After some discussion, the substitute was rejected.

Mr. Keating then withdrew the substitute offered by him on Friday, providing that every elector in this State shall contribute to the support of the government, &c.

No further amendments being proposed, article 16 was read, and the Convention then, at 3 P. M., adjourned.

## SIXTEENTH DAY.

ANNAPOLIS, TUESDAY, MAY 28, 1867.

Convention met at 11 o'clock. Prayer by Rev. Mr. Henderson.

Mr. Pleasants presented a memorial from the Board of Trade of the city of Baltimore, praying that the legal rate of interest be fixed at seven per cent.

The Chair presented a communication from Rev. L. Van Bokkelen, State superintendent of public instruction, in response to the order of the Convention of the 16th instant, relative to cost of books, in which Mr. Van Bokkelen states that the whole amount paid by the State board from September 1, 1865, when the schools were organized, until May 27, 1867, twenty-one months, is \$82,149.47, exclusive of the amount paid for text-books and stationery used in the public schools in the city of Baltimore, which, for the year ending December 31, 1866, was \$34,349.42.

The city school commissioners do not purchase their books through the State board of education. The annual report of the State superintendent and the schedule of prices of books as furnished to the Legislature and