

read. [It requires a two-thirds vote of each house to pass a bill over the veto.]

Mr. Rider offered a substitute providing that any bill shall become a law, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor, if approved by a majority of the members present of each house.

Mr. Rider was in favor of the veto power being given to the Governor, but it was a new and untried thing in our legislation, and he was not in favor of making it so absolute a power, and thought a majority of the members should be sufficient to pass a bill over the Governor's objections.

Mr. Carter concurred with the views of the gentleman from Somerset, (Mr. Rider,) but thought a majority of the members present should not be sufficient. He would therefore move to amend by providing that a majority of the members elected to each house shall be necessary to enact a law over the Governor's veto, and that a bill shall become a law if not returned by the Governor within five days after it has been presented to him.

Mr. Nicolai fully concurred in the views of the gentleman who had just spoken.

Mr. Rider then accepted the amendment of Mr. Carter.

Mr. Stoddert opposed the amendment. The section as reported by the committee was a literal transcript from the constitution of the United States.

Mr. Dent was not satisfied that it would be judicious to confer this additional power upon the Executive, but he desired merely to express his opposition to the amendment, and to call the attention of the Convention to the section of the legislative department, as reported by the committee, which provides that a majority of all the members elected shall be necessary to pass a bill and thus the amendment now pending placed no additional checks on legislation.

Mr. Garey understood that the great object of the veto power was to protect minorities against the oppression of grinding majorities. The veto power had been the salvation of the country. Men could look back and see where the veto had stayed trouble and ruin.