

tablish throughout the State a thorough and efficient system of free public schools, and shall provide, by taxation or otherwise, for their maintenance.”

Section 2 was read, as follows:

“The system of public schools as now constituted shall remain in force until the end of the said first session of the General Assembly, and shall then expire, except so far as adopted or continued by the General Assembly.”

Mr. Franklin moved to amend, by striking out all after the word “and,” and insert “shall expire when the system provided for in the first section shall have been adopted.”

Mr. Brown hoped this article would remain as reported by the committee. He thought the abrupt suspension of the present system, unwise as he considered it, would be very injudicious.

Mr. Farnandis said the members of the committee had severally prepared an article embodying their views, and had instructed him to prepare the report based upon them. The reasons which actuated the committee in making this report were that the school year ends on the 30th of June, and the contracts for the ensuing school year will then be made, under constitutional authority, with which this Convention cannot interfere, as its work cannot be done before that time. It was an important matter, to be impressed on the Legislature, as this subject engrosses the attention of the whole community, to enforce upon the Legislature the necessity of immediate action at its first session, and he did not think they would be apt to neglect it. The contracts for the new year, the employment of teachers and superintendents will necessarily be attended to before their work can be accomplished. It is also rather difficult to say where the school funds are, and as this may be a matter of legislative inquiry, it was thought better not to embarrass that body by naming any particular day when this system shall expire. It is not believed that it was ever legally put upon the State, and there exists no doubt of its abrogation.

Mr. Maulsby had intended to offer an amendment, but after the clear explanation of the chairman of the com-