

that he had been guilty of official neglect of duty. Mr. Randall states that he has never neglected his duty, and is ready to meet any investigation which may be ordered; that, in addition to his official duties performed in his office, he has attended State cases in Anne Arundel, Howard and Montgomery county Circuit Courts, in the Court of Appeals and in the Supreme Court of the United States; that in the State cases where he has not appeared he had either been employed as counsel before his election or the Governor had appointed other counsel.

On motion of Mr. McCormick, it was

*Ordered*, That the committee on the tenure of office be directed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing the office of the commissioner of the land office, and of designating some other officer to perform the duties required of that officer.

Mr. Howison, from the committee on accounts, made a report in favor of the claims of the parties engaged in fitting up the hall for the use of the Convention, and of Messrs. Cushing & Medairy and J. W. Bond & Co. for stationery furnished for the use of the Convention.

The unfinished business, being the report of the committee on the usury laws and the rates of interest, was then taken up, the question being on the motion of Mr. Merrick to strike out the whole article.

Mr. Groome argued at length against the policy of usury laws.

Mr. Pleasants said that, as a member of the committee, he would say that the report was the result of contract. He had presented a memorial from the Board of Trade of Baltimore, asking that the rate should be placed at seven per cent., and in this he cordially concurred—that is, in the absence of contract. He had never been able to see why the people who borrowed money should be the special wards of the State, and was satisfied that the abolition of the usury laws would abolish the usurer. He knew that capital was constantly leaving the city of Baltimore to go to New York to procure the higher rates of interest, and the object should be to retain this money in Baltimore. He knew now, of his own personal experience, that the presidents and cashiers of banks in Baltimore sat in