

transact the business before them. There had been two plans proposed, but it seemed to him that a middle course might be pursued which would be satisfactory to all. The Convention as a whole must settle the subject, but it could not as a whole consider in detail all the branches to be dealt with. If all the business was entrusted to committees, there would, for time at least, be nothing for the Convention to do, and there would be danger of members losing interest in the proceedings and separating, which contingency was to be deplored. He would, therefore, propose that the constitution be referred to committees and that the bill of rights be taken up by the Convention and acted upon article by article. It would take but a short time to adopt such a bill of rights as would be acceptable to the people. At the proper time he would propose the following:

Resolved, That this Convention will proceed, in committee of the whole, on — next, to adopt a bill of rights; and that to facilitate proceedings, copies of the bills of rights and constitutions of 1851 and 1864 be printed in the form of bills for the use of the members.

Mr. Jones said if the plans proposed by his friends from Baltimore were adopted, it would be like going back to the times before railways and telegraphs were in operation. All his legislative experience tended to the conviction that the work of all deliberative bodies could only be perfected properly in committees. Mr. Jones argued at some length in favor of appointing committees to prepare the work.

Mr. J. quoted from Cushing's Law and Practice of Legislative Assemblies, part 7, of committees and their functions: "Committees form a most important, and in modern times, an indispensable part of the machinery of parliamentary procedure." Sec. 1,851. * * * "The functions of select committees, as of the House itself, are to inquire, to think and to act. Committees are sometimes said to be the eyes and ears of the House for certain purposes; also they are its head and hands. By means of committees of this description a legislative body consisting of many members is enabled to do many things which, from its numbers, it would otherwise be unable to do—to accomplish a much greater quantity of business by dis-