

Mr. Alvey moved to amend article 1 by inserting after the word expedient, "provided it be done according to prescribed forms of law."

Mr. Alvey advocated his amendment as one the propriety of which could not be questioned. It could not be contended that the people had a right to change their government in defiance of law, and cited the decision of the Supreme Court in the celebrated Dorr case, in Rhode Island, where it was held that the majority of the people had no right to change their organic government without taking due course of law.

Mr. Seyster moved as a substitute to insert after the word expedient "according to the mode prescribed in the constitution."

Mr. Seyster believed in the right of this generation to bind succeeding generations in the manner in which the organic law should be changed by the people. He had no idea of leaving it in the hands of this or that political party to call a convention to form a constitution every three or four years.

Mr. Jones said this Convention was now assembled under a construction of the constitution that it was in the power of the majority of the people to change their organic law. It was better not to attempt to restrict this power of the people. The principle and test should be that it could be done by any plan which met the assent of the existing government. As to the fears of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Seyster) of political parties attempting to frame constitutions, there could be no danger of the existing government of this State being overthrown if the government at Washington was faithful to its constitutional obligations. If the threat of certain parties to form a constitution and elect State officers had been carried into effect, they could not meet with any success at Washington, as the Dorr case, which had been cited, settled a precedent which could not be overlooked. A bill was before the last Legislature to provide pains and penalties for such attempts, but it had not been reached, for want of time; but there were sufficient safeguards now, and this was well known. He hoped the article under discussion would not be changed. He wished