

words "in the year eighteen hundred and fifty-four."

And the pending question was on the adoption of the said amendment.

BIENNIAL SESSION.

Mr. DIRICKSON, (to the President.) Is it now in order for me to make the motion, of which I yesterday gave notice, to reconsider the vote heretofore taken on the second section,

The PRESIDENT. It is in order.

Mr. DIRICKSON. I make the motion.

The PRESIDENT. What is the precise motion of the gentleman?

Mr. DIRICKSON. I desire to move a reconsideration of the vote of the Convention adopting the amendment of the gentleman from Queen Anne, (Mr. Spencer,) to the second section of the report.

Some conversation followed between the Chair and Mr. DIRICKSON, as to the mode by which the object could be attained, when

Mr. DIRICKSON moved to reconsider the vote of the Convention adopting the second section of the report.

The question was taken, and by ayes 32, noes 20, the vote was reconsidered.

Mr. DIRICKSON then moved to reconsider the vote by which the amendment of Mr. SPENCER had been adopted, (i. e. the amendment submitting to the people the question of annual or biennial sessions.

The question was taken, and the vote was reconsidered.

And the question then being on agreeing to Mr. SPENCER'S amendment,

Some conversation followed on a point of order.

Mr. SPENCER expressed his desire to withdraw the amendment.

Some conversation followed on the point of order.

The PRESIDENT then expressed his opinion that under a liberal construction of the sixteenth rule, the gentleman from Queen Anne, (Mr. Spencer,) might withdraw his amendment

Mr. SPENCER thereupon withdrew the amendment.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the section.

Mr. WELLS moved to amend the said second section, by adding at the end thereof the following:

"And the sessions of the General Assembly shall be annual"

Mr. WELLS asked the yeas and nays on the said amendment, which were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Chapman, President, Morgan, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Merrick, Buchanan, Welch, Constable, Chambers, of Cecil, McCullough, Sprigg, Shriver, Biser, Gwinn, Brent, of Baltimore city, Sherwood, of Baltimore city, Ware, Anderson, Ege, Shower and Brown—22.

*Negative*—Messrs. Ricaud, Chambers, of Kent, Mitchell, Dalrymple, Bell, Ridgely, Lloyd, Dick-

inson, Sherwood, of Talbot, John Dennis, Williams, Hicks, Hodson, Phelps, Miller, Bowling, Spencer, George, Wright, Dirickson, Hearn, Jacobs, Thomas, Gaither, Annan, Stephenson, McHenry, Magraw, Nelson, Carter, Stewart, of Caroline, Stewart, of Baltimore city, Schley, Fiery, Neill, Harbine, Davis, Brewer, Waters, Weber, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke and Cockey—45.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. PARKE moved to amend said second section by adding at the end thereof, the following proviso:

"Provided, That the Delegates shall be elected for one year and the Senators for three years, (one-third of the latter annually, as near as may be,) as soon as a majority of the legal voters of the State, at some general election shall have decided in favor of a change from biennial to annual sessions of the Legislature; and the General Assembly shall have the power to provide by law for taking the sense of the people as aforesaid, and for making all arrangement necessary to carry such change into effect, should a majority of the legal voters determine in favor thereof."

Mr. PARKE said he did not desire to interpose any delay. He was in favor of biennial sessions at present, but that there should be the power in the Legislature, to change the time so soon as the people could be relieved from direct taxation. This, he was inclined to believe, would accord with the feelings of the people themselves.

The question was taken, and the amendment was rejected.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the said section, as amended.

Mr. PHELPS demanded the previous question.

Mr. McHENRY enquired of the chair, whether the action of the Convention would be final, or whether it would again be in order to move a reconsideration.

The PRESIDENT said that, under the rule, it had been the practice to reconsider more than once.

The call for the previous question was then seconded.

The main question was ordered, and having been taken, the section, as amended, was adopted.

The Convention now resumed the consideration of the motion of Mr. THOMAS, to amend the fifth section, as amended, by striking out, in the second line, the words, "in every," and inserting in lieu thereof, the words, "in the year 1854, and on the same day in every second year."

Mr. THOMAS made some explanatory remarks as to the effect of the amendment which he had offered, which was intended to make the bill consistent throughout, stating that it was rendered necessary by the amendment to the fifth section which had been engrafted in it on the motion of the gentleman from Queen Anne, (Mr. Spencer.) He briefly showed what would be the effect of the adoption of the fifth section as it had been amended, without the amendment he (Mr. T.) had now proposed, and then consistency would