

disposed to sustain it in the first instance, he could not possibly vote for it in the modified form it had now assumed. If he understood the language of the amendment, the effect of it would be that if there should be half a dozen persons holding the stock of the State of Maryland, due in the year 1890, and who refused, before that time, to sell out to the agent of the State, who had charge of the sinking fund, not one dollar of the half million of money which we might be receiving annually for twenty or twenty-five years, could be appropriated or used for any purpose, until this handful of obstinate stock-holders should be paid. It seemed to him that the Convention should not adopt any such constitutional provision. It might have the effect of placing beyond the control of the Legislature, some ten or fifteen millions of dollars, which they could not touch. Although the State might have money enough before the years '63 or '4, to pay off every dollar of debt which she owed, and was willing to pay it, yet from that time to the year 1890, the money must remain in the treasury idle and useless, and could not be appropriated to any purpose whatsoever. If there was any meaning in language, this was the meaning of the amendment. He must, therefore, vote against it. Gentlemen would perceive, that it placed the subject in a very different point of view from that in which it stood under the amendment of the gentleman from Harford, (Mr. McHenry.) It would be unreasonable thus to tie up the hands of the Legislature.

He, (Mr. D.), was in favor of the substitute of the gentleman from Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield.) As he, (Mr. D.) understood that proposition, the money, after the payment of the debt, might be appropriated, and he could readily suppose a case, where such an appropriation might be requisite and proper. He instanced the case of the opening of the channel of a river, &c.

He thought that the Convention was disposed to show, by its action, an entire want of confidence in the Legislature, to regard them as possessed neither of intelligence, patriotism, nor honesty, and to leave them the power to do nothing, either for good or for evil.

Mr. Brown remarked that the discussion on this question had, in his judgment, lasted long enough. And he gave notice that hereafter, on all occasions, when he thought the discussion had been ample, he should test the sense of the Convention, as he now did, on the demand for the previous question.

The question "will the Convention second the demand for the previous question," was then taken, and decided in the negative.

So there was not a second.

The question then recurred on the amendment as amended.

Mr. SPENCER said, that however great his respect might be for the ability of the distinguished gentleman from Anne Arundel, (Mr. Dorsey,) who had made the criticism on his, (Mr. S.'s,) amendment, as accepted by the gentleman from Harford, he could not subscribe to the correctness of that gentleman's construction. He, (Mr. S.) held that it embodied no such proposition as

the gentleman had indicated. He should not, however, discuss it. He held that his amendment looked to the payment of the public debt, and allowed the Legislature to appropriate money in any way, either by the creation of a sinking-fund or by any other process, looking to the extinguishment of the debt. But it restricted the Legislature from appropriating the revenues for any other purpose.

Inasmuch, however, as there was a diversity of opinion on the subject, he would, in order to relieve the question from all embarrassment offer a modification of his proposition which would dispose of the objection, and which his friend from Harford had agreed to accept.

As regarded the substitute of his friend from Somerset, (Mr. Crisfield,) he, (Mr. S.) was opposed to it for several reasons. In the first place, it invited the State to engage in these works of internal improvement; and he, (Mr. S.,) was not willing to put into the hands of the Legislature any power of that character. In the second place, he was opposed to it; inasmuch as the Legislature would possess the discretion, under the amendment as it now stood, to appropriate money for public schools.

Mr. McHENRY moved to amend the amendment by adding at the end thereof, the following: "Or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt."

The amendment was agreed to.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the substitute of Mr. CRISFIELD.

Mr. BROWN asked the yeas and nays, which were ordered, and being taken, resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Ricaud, Lee, Chambers of Kent, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Sellman, Crisfield, Sprigg, McCubbin, and Davis—14.

*Negative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't., Blakistone, Dent, Hopewell, Weems, Dalrymple, Bond, Sollers, Jenifer, Bell, Welch, Ridgely, Lloyd, Colston, Dashiell, Hicks, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Chambers of Cecil, McCullough, Miller, Bowie, Bowling, Spencer, Grason, George, McMaster, Fooks, Thomas, Shriver, Gaither, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, McHenry, Magraw, Thawley, Hardcastle, Gwinn, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Pressman, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Michael Newcomer, Weber, Hollyday, Slicer, Parke, Ege, Cockey, and Brown—55.

So the substitute was rejected.

The question then recurred on the adoption of the amendment as amended, and it was decided in the affirmative.

So the amendment as amended, was adopted.

The question then recurred on the amendment of Mr. GEORGE, as the twenty-first section of the report, as amended, and was decided in the affirmative.

So the amendment of Mr. GEORGE, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. BLAKISTONE then moved to amend said report by inserting as an additional section, the following: