

Mr. CRISFIELD moved to amend the amendment of Mr. BRENT, by inserting after the word "law," "within twenty days next before the recess of the Legislature."

The question was then taken and decided in the affirmative, ayes 27, noes 25.

So the amendment of Mr. CRISFIELD was agreed to.

The question recurred and was taken on the amendment of Mr. BRENT,

And it was agreed to.

And the thirteenth section, as amended, was then adopted.

The Convention then resumed the consideration of the fourteenth section.

On motion of Mr. DORSEY,

Said section was amended by striking out the word "and," in the first line.

And the section, as amended, was adopted.

Mr. SPENCER rose to an explanation. On page 164 of the register of debates, he is reported in the following words :

"Mr. SPENCER explained that he, as chairman of the committee of ways and means, recommended a compliance with the opinion of the Governor, but the committee did not agree with him."

He was not understood by the reporter. He did not say the committee did not agree with him. He said that the Legislature would not sustain him. *But* a majority of the committee were willing to go with him.

The fifteenth section of the report was then read, as follows:

Sec. 15. All civil officers appointed by the Governor and Senate, shall be nominated to the Senate within fifteen days from the commencement of each regular session of the Legislature; and their term of office shall commence on the first Monday of May next ensuing their appointment, and continue for one year, (unless they are sooner removed from office,) or until their successors respectively, qualify according to law.

Mr. GRASON moved to amend the section by striking out, in the fifth line, the words "one year," and inserting in lieu thereof, "two years."

The question was taken, and the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. GRASON moved further to amend the section by striking out, in the last line, the words "according to law."

Some conversation followed on the part of Messrs. GRASON and DORSEY.

The question was then taken on the amendment.

But no quorum voted.

The question was again taken, and the vote stood, ayes 46, noes 6.

So the amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, suggested to the chairman of the committee (Mr. Grason,) to insert the words "unless otherwise provided for."

The section, Mr. C. said, was drawn upon the theory that all officers were appointed by the President and Senate, and were to hold their offices for two years. But there might be an office

the term of which would be longer; and to provide for such a contingency, he suggested that the words he had designated should be inserted.

Some conversation followed.

Mr. GRASON had no objection, he said, to the amendment, but submitted to the gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Chambers) whether the word "biennially," inserted after the word "appointed," in the first line, would not answer the purpose?

Mr. CHAMBERS assented.

On motion of Mr. GRASON, the said amendment was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. DORSEY,

Said section was amended by striking out in the fifth line, the word "or," and substituting the word "and"

On motion of Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent,

Said section was further amended by striking out in the fifth line, the words "they are."

Mr. DORSEY moved further to amend said fifteenth section, by adding at the end thereof, the following:

"Unless the appointment be made to fill a vacant office, when the appointee's term shall commence as soon as he shall have qualified."

Which was read.

Mr. DORSEY withdrew said amendment.

The said fifteen section was then adopted as amended.

The sixteenth section of the report was then read as follows:

Section 16. The Governor may suspend or arrest any military officer of the State, for disobedience of orders, or other military offence, and may remove him in pursuance of the sentence of a court martial; and may suspend or remove any civil officer whose tenure of office is not placed beyond his control by some other provision of this Constitution.

Mr. GRASON moved to amend said section by adding at the end thereof, the following: "or the law creating the office."

Mr. CHAMBERS would enquire of the chairman, what was in contemplation of the committee, when in this sixteenth section they say, the Governor may remove all civil officers whose tenure of office is not placed beyond his control by an express provision of the Constitution.

If it was intended to introduce here, or to countenance the practice of removal from office for political opinion, he should regret the success of any such design. He had not anticipated any attempt to insert a provision, which could imply the right of the executive, to remove from office, without just cause, officers who received their appointment from the joint action of the Governor and Senate. He was unwilling to make those who were thus deliberately appointed, and who should prove themselves competent, and faithful, dependent upon the breath of the Governor. A power to cut short the political existence of a meritorious officer, in the midst of the term for which he was appointed, by the mere *ipse dixit* of a party Governor, was a dangerous incentive to maladministration. It should be controlled.

It was said the same power had been given in the new article introduced into the Constitution