

cept it be approved by a majority of the voters in said district; and

Mr. GAITHER presented a petition of sundry citizens of Frederick county of similar import. Which were severally read, and

Referred to the select committee already appointed on that subject.

BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Mr. THOMAS gave notice that when the Report of the committee, No. 14, creating a Board of Public Works, should come up for consideration, he should offer as a substitute for said report, the following, which he desired should be entered upon the Journal and printed:

"At the first general election of Delegates of the General Assembly after the adoption of this constitution, four commissioners shall be elected, as hereafter provided, who shall exercise a diligent and faithful supervision on all public works, in which the State may be interested, as stockholder or creditor; and shall represent the State in all meetings of the stockholders, and perform such other duties as may be prescribed by law, and shall each receive a salary to be fixed by law, which salary shall not be increased or diminished during their continuance in office.

"That one of these commissioners shall be a resident at the time of his election, and shall have been a resident at least years next preceding his election in a district to be composed of the counties of Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll and Baltimore; one of these commissioners shall be a resident and shall have resided at least years next preceding his election in a district to be composed of the counties of Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel, Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles and Prince George's; one of these commissioners shall reside at the time of his election, and shall have been a resident at least years next preceding his election, in a district composed of the city of Baltimore; and the other commissioner shall reside at the time of his election, and shall have been a resident at least years next preceding his election, of a district to be composed of the counties of Harford, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester.

"Art. 3. The said commissioners shall be elected by the qualified voters of their several districts respectively, the returns of their election shall be returned and certified to the Governor, who shall, by proclamation, declare the result of the election. Two of said commissioners shall hold their office for years, and he other two for years from the first Monday in December next, succeeding their election; and at their first meeting after their election, or as soon thereafter as practicable, they shall determine by lot, who of their number shall hold their offices for years respectively, and thereafter then shall be elected as aforesaid at each general election of Delegates two commissioners for the term of years, to be taken from the district respectively wherein the two commissioners resided at the time of their election, whose term of service has expired, and in case

of a vacancy in the office of either of said commissioners by death, resignation or otherwise, the Governor, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, shall fill the same until the next general election; and in case of an equal division in the Board of said commissioners, on any subject committed to their charge, the Treasurer of the State shall have power, and shall be called upon to decide the same."

FREE NEGRO POPULATION.

Mr. JACOBS, chairman of the Committee on the Free Negro Population of this State, submitted the following

REPORT:

The select committee, raised by order of the Convention on the 4th December last, to whom was referred the subject of the free colored population of this State, were also required to report specifically "their actual numbers in the State, at the several censuses of the United States down to, and including that just returned; their annual increase; the numbers that have been colonized in Africa; the amount of colonization taxes, and to what purposes applied; together with such laws as had a particular reference to that class of our population."

They were also required to submit to this Convention, "some prospective plan, looking to the riddance of this State, of the free negro and mulatto population thereof, and their colonization in Africa."

Although more than three months have elapsed since that committee was raised, the nature and importance of the subject committed to their charge, was of such peculiar character as to forbid any hasty report; and the delay has been occasioned more by the difference in mode than the object sought to be secured. It will readily appear that the duties of the committee were those of no sinecure office.* For, while to obtain the necessary information asked for in the order, they had to wade through a labyrinth of statistics, diffused through a lapse of 60 years; they had to meet, also, the more difficult task of recommending to the Convention some feasible plan, by which to consummate the ultimate design of colonization, viz—the riddance of and settlement in Africa, the free colored population of this State.

The first point to which the attention of the committee was called, was the actual numbers of said population at the several censuses, &c.

By the census of 1790 the free negro population of this State amounted to	8,043
By census of 1800 they amounted to	19,587
do. 1810	do. 33,927
do. 1820	do. 39,730
do. 1830	do. 52,938
do. 1840	do. 62,029
do. 1850	do. 73,158

*The committee take pleasure in returning their thanks to Jno. H. B. Latrobe, Esq., of Balt. city, for his kindness, in furnishing much of the statistics and other data contained in this report.