

On motion of Mr. BAKER,

It was ordered to be entered on the journal, that if Mr. Baker, of Frederick county, had been present when the vote was taken upon the order submitted by Mr. Schley, on the 19th instant, and the order submitted by Mr. Sands, on the 20th instant, and the resolutions offered by Mr. Stirling, on the 20th instant, and also upon the adoption of section 40, of the report of the standing committee on the legislative department, he would have voted in the affirmative in each case.

On motion of Mr. CUNNINGHAM,

It was ordered that it be entered on the journal, that Mr. Schlosser, of Frederick county, is detained at home by sickness.

Mr. BELT submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the special committee on the 39th section of the legislative department be requested to consider the following:

"Section —. The general assembly shall have power to pass all laws that may be necessary to authorize the counties of Allegany, Washington, Frederick and Montgomery, or any of them, to create a debt by the issue of bonds or otherwise, so as to enable them, or any of them, to become the purchaser of the State's interest in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, whenever the same shall be offered for sale under authority of law."

LIMITING DEBATE.

Mr. PUGH submitted the following order:

Ordered, That during the consideration of the report of the committee on basis of representation, each speaker shall be limited to ten minutes, and the time shall in no case be extended excepting upon a concurrence of two-thirds of the members present.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I hope such an order will not be adopted. I notice a disposition which I am sorry to see exhibited in this body. When I came here I thought the convention were desirous of having a fair, free, and full discussion of subjects brought before the convention; and they so declared. The gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh) said that he wanted a free, full and fair discussion. But on yesterday, I was not permitted to submit three remarks upon a question of importance before this body, a courtesy which I claimed of the members of this body as gentlemen. I am sorry to see such an exhibition upon the part of the majority here. Do they mean to choke off debate? Do they mean to stifle us in debating questions of such vital importance to the interests of the people of this State? If they do, it is time for us on the part of the minority to leave this body, and let the majority take the responsibility of their course. I have no idea of remaining in the body where debate is stifled, where men are not treated with proper courtesy; and I shall characterize such a course as it deserves on all occasions when it may arise.

Mr. PUGH. I would suggest to the gentleman from Prince George's that this order is only the expression of my own desire. Ten minutes is all I want, although I could take up a longer time than that. If the gentleman thinks that ten minutes is not sufficiently long, let him offer an amendment. I wish it understood that such an order is absolutely necessary. It has occurred to every member of this house. I do not refer particularly to gentlemen of the opposition. The gentleman very much mistakes in so understanding me. There are a great many gentlemen who occupy a rather longer time, where debate is unlimited, than in my judgment seems necessary for the discussion of subjects before this body. We have been here three months.

There has been great latitude allowed in debate. I think that under this order, if adopted by the convention, there will still be great latitude in debate. I do not think there ever was assembled in this State or in any other State a deliberative body in which the latitude of debate has been so indefinitely fixed as it has been in this body. We should never get through. No body which has as much to perform as this convention, can get along at all without having some such rule. There are upon all sides of the house gentlemen who wish to make remarks upon any subject before us. I have no objection myself to listening to them, but there is, or there ought to be, a limit to discussion.

We have been here three months. Upon almost every question upon which it was supposed we had thoughts, we have had an opportunity to express our thoughts. This subject, in this particular phase, has not been before the convention, but it has been canvassed. I have had a great deal of conversation with members throughout the house, in the house and out of it, in committee and out of committee, and I think it is pretty thoroughly understood.

I submit that it is the proper course for gentlemen to pursue under the existing circumstances, to try to condense what he has to say within the limit of ten minutes, out of courtesy to the other members of the body. It is a question of courtesy. I submit whether there is not some little courtesy to be extended to listeners in this hall, as well as to those who feel called upon to explain their views. I ask if we are not entitled as listeners to some little courtesy, and to demand that every gentleman who undertakes to enlighten the house upon this subject, shall at least endeavor to the utmost to condense his remarks out of consideration for the other members of this body, and courtesy towards them?

Mr. SANDS. I have an amendment to offer.

The PRESIDENT. The chair is in doubt whether this is in order, there having been a rule adopted by the convention on this subject.