

sooner give him my political rights than take his from him. I mean to have all he has; and the more he has the more I shall have.

Mr. PUGH rose, but yielded the floor to

Mr. KENNARD, who submitted the following amendment:

Add to the end of the first section as follows:

"Which said districts shall be called the 1st, 2d and 3d legislative districts of Baltimore city."

The amendment was agreed to.

No further amendment being offered,

The second section was read.

Mr. BELT. I wish to make a motion which I have reduced to writing. I have under preparation a report which, before the final vote is taken upon this subject, I propose to offer as an amendment by way of substitute, in which the views I expressed this morning shall be fully carried out. Not having been able to complete it to-day, I make this motion, which will give the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh) an opportunity to discuss my proposition along with this. I move as a test question that the report on the basis of representation be recommitted to the committee on that subject, with instructions so far to alter the same as to provide for the division of Baltimore city and every county into as many electoral districts as each shall be entitled to members of the house of delegates, so that the people of each of such districts shall elect one member; and that said committee report by 1 o'clock on Friday.

Mr. PUGH. I do not propose to make any remarks—

Mr. PURNELL. If the gentleman will give way I will move that the convention take a recess. We have two sessions a day. We sit here until three o'clock and meet again at eight.

Mr. PUGH. I am a ten minute man. I can finish what I have to say now.

The motion to take a recess was rejected.

Mr. PUGH. Mr. President—

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman must confine himself to the motion to recommit. He cannot discuss the general merits of the question under this motion.

Mr. PUGH. I am sorry to hear that decision, but I will abide by it, although other gentlemen have spoken here constantly upon that subject when it was not before the house.

Mr. BELT. I will withdraw my proposition if the gentleman desires it.

Mr. CLARKE. Is it not in order upon a motion to recommit to allude to the imperfect provisions in a report as a reason for recommitting it?

The PRESIDENT. Certainly; but the general merits of the report are not open to discussion.

Mr. RIDGELY. The proposition is to recommit with specific instructions. I shall

vote against that proposition, because I believe the object sought to be attained to be wholly impracticable. The instructions are that the committee shall report the proposition so amended as to break up the counties into election districts. That proposition involves work which it is utterly impossible for that committee to perform. It involves the geographical and topographical arrangement of the various counties; which can only be performed by surveys. In no other mode whatever can the end be attained, except by proper separations of these contiguous districts. It is therefore wholly impracticable, and I shall vote against it.

Mr. CLARKE. I understand that the instructions are, not that the committee shall divide up the counties, but shall provide that it shall be done. They can provide that it shall be done by legislative action as well as by the action of this convention.

Mr. RIDGELY. Even in that view it is utterly impossible that it should be done before the period prescribed for the election in November next. It is utterly impossible.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I suggest the following, that immediately after the adoption of this constitution, and before any election under it, the mayor and common council of the city of Baltimore, and the commissioners of the several counties, shall proceed to lay off the several districts, so that there may be as many districts of compact contiguous territory in each county as the number of delegates such county shall be entitled to send.

The motion to recommit was rejected.

Mr. SCHLEY. I move to pass over the second section of this report informally for this reason, that the third section embraces the basis of representation and the apportionment, in connection with the provision prescribed in the first section.

The motion was agreed to.

The third section was read as follows:

"Section 3. The white population of the State shall constitute the basis of representation in the house of delegates, and the apportionment of the delegates among the several counties and districts of the city of Baltimore shall be as follows: For every five thousand persons, or a fractional part thereof above one-half, one delegate shall be chosen until the number of delegates in each county and district of the city of Baltimore shall reach five. Above that number, one delegate shall be chosen for every fifteen thousand persons, or a fractional portion over one-half thereof, until the whole number of delegates from each county and district of the city of Baltimore shall reach ten. Above that number, each county and district of said city shall elect one delegate for every forty-five thousand persons, or fractional portion thereof above one-half. Upon this principle, and until the next federal census,