

or State enumeration of inhabitants, the house of delegates shall consist of eighty-two members, distributed as follows:

Alleghany, five members; Anne Arundel, two; each of the three districts in Baltimore city, seven; Baltimore county, six; Calvert, one; Caroline, two; Carroll, five; Cecil, four; Charles, one; Dorchester, two; Frederick, six; Harford, four; Howard, two; Kent, one; Montgomery, two; Prince George's, two; Queen Ann's, two; Saint Mary's, one; Somerset, three; Talbot, two; Washington, five; Worcester, three."

Mr. ABBOTT. I ask that the section be divided after the word delegates, in the second line. The first clause embraces a proposition distinct in itself, that "the white population of the State shall constitute the basis of representation in the house of delegates."

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. No vote, I believe, has been taken upon the first section, and I should like to have the sense of the house upon the proposition I indicated, and which I intended to move as an amendment. I move that the first section be again taken up.

The PRESIDENT. It was substantially the same proposition embraced in the motion to recommit with instructions.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. That was refused on the ground that it was impracticable. In the mode I introduce, the impracticability may be avoided. I should like an opportunity to test the sense of the house upon that subject.

The motion to return to the first section was rejected.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, moved that the convention take a recess.

The motion was rejected.

Mr. SCHLEY submitted the following amendment:

Section 3. Amend by striking out all after the word "for" in the eighth line, and insert:

"The next twenty thousand persons or a fractional portion over one-half thereof in each county and district of the city of Baltimore; above that number, each county and district of said city shall elect one delegate for every eighty thousand persons, or fractional portion thereof above one-half. Upon this principle, and until the next national census or State enumeration of inhabitants, the house of delegates shall consist of seventy-nine members, distributed as follows: Alleghany, five members; Anne Arundel, two; each of the three districts in Baltimore city, six; Baltimore county, six; Calvert, one; Caroline, two; Carroll, five; Cecil, four; Charles, one; Dorchester, two; Frederick, six; Harford, four; Howard, two; Kent, one; Montgomery, two; Prince George's, two; Queen Ann's, two; Saint Mary's, one; Somerset, three; Talbot, two; Washington, five; Worcester, three."

Mr. ABBOTT. Was not the motion to divide in order?

The PRESIDENT. After the section is perfected, it will be divided.

Mr. PUGH. I said when I was upon the floor before, that I was in favor of the ten minute rule. I intend to advocate the adoption of such a rule to-morrow; and I intend to confine my remarks, if I possibly can, within that limit. I think if we would each of us to take some particular branch, and stick to it, and say what we have to say upon that branch, we should get along much more rapidly.

There has been a great deal said here about the white population of the State constituting the basis of representation. It is only to that portion of this controversy that I wish to direct the attention of this convention. It has been charged by the gentleman from Prince George's that there is no principle involved in this. He has arrived at the conclusion, I have no doubt honestly, that the committee who passed this report were actuated by no other motive and imbued with no other spirit than a spirit of hatred towards the slaveholding portion of the State. Inasmuch as I was a member of that committee, I felt it my duty to say something upon this subject. It was a question constantly canvassed in the committee; and I announce that the feeling of the committee was directly the reverse. It was because we wanted to be governed in our action in framing this report by sound principle, a principle upon which we could come into this convention and advocate the adoption of that report, and could go before the people of the State and advocate the adoption of the constitution, claiming that this report was established upon a sound principle—it was for that reason that I favored it in committee, and it is for that reason that I favor it now.

Who are the governing people of this State? Who are the rulers of this country? I do not care if it is a new idea. New ideas may occur in this generation, as they have in the days that are passed. It is nothing whatever against an idea that it is new. All that you can say against an idea is something that shows its fallacy. I admit that the slaves of this country have been represented in the national house of representatives. I admit that the slaves of this State have been represented in this State. At the same time I claim, with the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands,) that they never have been as they should have been represented, for the simple reason that they did not belong to the governing class in this country or in this State. They are not the ruling race in this country or in this State.

It is claimed as an offset to this statement, that the women and children do not vote, and therefore they ought not to be represented. There is nothing in that idea. The women and children belong to the governing, ruling class; and they rule men rather more effectually than men rule each other. The