

any particular objection to the motion of my colleague (Mr. Stirling,) except that it seems to me that it is raising the question here about the lieutenant governor, which would come up more properly in the report of the committee on the executive. Perhaps it would be better to delay this matter until we have fully determined whether we are going to have a lieutenant governor or not.

Mr. KING. What would be the effect if we adopt this amendment, and then determine to have no lieutenant governor?

The PRESIDENT. The convention would have to reconsider and modify this section.

Mr. DANIEL. I think we better determine first the question about the lieutenant governor.

Mr. STIRLING. If this amendment is adopted it will go far to determine that question. I have understood that the committee have about determined upon that subject.

Mr. BRISCOE. It seems to me that the reason why the committee designated the officers named in this section was the fact that the duties of the governor, comptroller and treasurer relate particularly to the financial affairs of the State, and they are therefore better prepared to consider these matters. The commissioner of the land office has other and particular duties to perform. The labors upon this board being without compensation, it is very likely that he will not be very desirous of encumbering himself by taking upon himself the performance of these duties. I do not see any particular reason why he should be placed upon this board, while I do see some reasons why the officers named in this section should have the immediate discharge of these important duties. I shall vote against the amendment upon that ground.

Mr. MILLER. I was not aware that the executive committee had decided in favor of having a lieutenant governor. If that is the determination of the committee I should have no objection to placing that officer upon this board.

Mr. DANIEL. I think we better not change this section now. The duties of the officers named here, as has been well said, is to investigate and understand the financial matters of the State. If we have a lieutenant governor, it remains to be seen what shall be his duties. It is a new office in this State, and certainly the determination of a question of so much importance deserves more consideration than will be given to it by simply adding this amendment to this section. If we should determine not to have a lieutenant governor, then we would have to come back to this section and strike this out again. I think it is about as well as it is. These large bodies do not work so well as the smaller ones. I think these duties can be safely intrusted to this board. I am opposed to any alteration.

Mr. NEGLEY. There is a solid and substantial reason why the governor, comptroller, and treasurer should constitute this board. The governor is the chief officer of the State, and therefore a higher responsibility attaches to the proper discharge of his duties than to those of any other officer. In the next place the comptroller and treasurer are the sworn and bonded financial officers of the State. They understand all the finances of the State, and therefore they are the proper officers to take this matter into consideration. Put any other man on that board, and he will be controlled, as the governor will be to a great extent, by knowledge obtained from the comptroller and treasurer. If they want to understand anything about the finances or the public works of the State, where do those officers go? where does the legislature go? to whom do the people look but to the report presented to them by the comptroller and the treasurer? They are the proper officers; within their cognizance come all the financial operations of the government of the State. They have before them continually the operation of our public works; they know all about them, just as the merchant knows the goods upon his shelves, or the banker knows the accounts in his books. They are the only parties in the State that are perfectly cognizant of these matters; therefore there is peculiar wisdom in constituting them the board. I do not care if you multiplied the number of the board a thousand times, they must depend upon these two sworn and bonded officers for the information they act upon.

Mr. STIRLING. I lay no particular stress upon this matter. In answer to what the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Negley) has said in regard to the governor, I will merely say that there is one reason why he should not be a member of this board. Some of the duties which this board will have to perform will put the State in the position of an individual, upon an equality with other individuals. The State is a stockholder in public works, and goes there to vote upon an equality with other stockholders; and the governor of the State is to wait upon the company in order to cast his vote as a member of this board. You will find in the constitution of the State of New York that the governor is excluded from this board, probably on the ground that the place was too undignified for his governor. That constitution provides:

"The lieutenant governor, speaker of the assembly, secretary of state, comptroller, treasurer, attorney general, and state engineer and surveyor, shall be the commissioners of the land office.

"The lieutenant governor, secretary of state, comptroller, treasurer, and attorney general, shall be the commissioners of the canal fund.