

The amendment submitted by Mr. PURNELL was rejected.

Mr. TODD. I move to amend by striking out "five," and inserting "six," in line six; renewing the amendment of the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Schley,) which was withdrawn; so that the election shall take place in 1866 instead of 1865.

Mr. STIRLING. I will call the attention of the convention, as there does not seem to be much attention paid to it, to this important matter. I have no interest in the matter myself, for I do not vote for county commissioners. If the report stays as it is, the election of State officers will be in the even years, and the election of the county officers will be in the intervening years. If you want them to come in different years, you will vote against the amendment. The amendment of the gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd) extends to a term of three years the tenure of gentlemen who have been elected for two.—It does not seem to me that that is a wise thing to do. This is a very important matter, and I should like to hear some expression of opinion about it. If we provide that the county commissioners shall be elected at a separate election, we should provide for the election of all the county officers at the same time, it seems to me.

Mr. SCHLEY. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd) is identical with one presented by myself yesterday and subsequently withdrawn. It occurred to me at the time, and I then stated, that it would be a saving of expense, and avoid an unnecessary repetition of elections, to adopt the amendment as then proposed. But upon a hasty conference with a number of gentlemen around me, I became impressed with the belief that it was generally desired throughout the counties, to separate their local elections from the time of holding the general State elections.

I also understand that that matter was fully canvassed in committee, and that the committee came to the conclusion that it would be very much better to hold this election at a separate time, notwithstanding the expense. Moved by these considerations, I withdrew the amendment last night. Being still of opinion that they possess force, I shall therefore vote against the amendment.

Mr. TODD. The object of this amendment is to prevent unnecessary frequency of elections, both as a matter of finance and as a matter of morals. I think it is desirable that all these county officers who are by the terms of this report to be elected at all, shall be elected at the same time with the general State election. There are other reasons, but it is unnecessary for me to elaborate them.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. This is a question affecting a large number of officers. It is not the office of county commissioners alone, but

I believe that of sheriffs throughout the State, the county clerks of some counties, the governor of the State, the comptroller of the State—a large number of these offices have terms expiring at that time. Perhaps this is the best time to settle that question. Here are a large number to be provided for. If we make this modification here upon the theory that there is to be no election in the intervening year, we shall have to provide some mode of disposing of the office of governor, and all these other officers of the State. In a previous section of the constitution, where this question came incidentally before us, I think it was the general understanding that there were so many officers, whose term of office expire at that time, that it would be essential, necessary, and the simplest manner of disposing of it, to provide for elections at that time. If the convention thinks otherwise, this would be as good a time to dispose of the question as any. It seems to me that it will be necessary to have an election in the fall of that year.

Mr. TODD demanded the yeas and nays, but they were not ordered.

Mr. STIRLING. I do not know whether it is well to fill this blank at all. What my colleague (Mr. Stockbridge) has said, is a matter of very serious consideration. We do not know what we want until we fix upon our policy for some other offices. I think the best plan may be to let it be a blank to be filled afterwards. It is impossible to settle the question now, without going into a discussion about the governor and all those other officers. I suggest the propriety not only of rejecting this amendment, but of striking out the filling of the blank, leaving it still blank. I am not ready to vote upon it.

The amendment submitted by Mr. Todd was rejected.

Mr. SCOTT. By passing on to the fifth section, it will be observed that road supervisors and constables are to be appointed by the county commissioners. It is by no means certain what will be the action of the convention on that subject. They may be appointed or they may be elected as at present. If they are to be elected, I should prefer that it should be at a special election. I therefore move that we pass over informally the fourth section until we arrive at some conclusion with regard to the other offices.

Mr. PUGH. If we pass over that informally, we cannot get rid of this article at all.

THE PRESIDENT. After considering the other sections, the convention will return to the consideration of this.

Mr. PUGH. We shall not be out of the difficulty suggested by my colleague until we act upon the report of the judiciary committee.

Mr. SCOTT. My object is, that if we are to elect road supervisors and constables, the