

that doubt that seems to haunt the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Belt) of my qualifications as a member of this body; not a particle. If I had, all I have to say is this: if I had a shadow of doubt about the matter, I should immediately resign, at once refund all my *per diem* to which I would have had no claim at all, and go home. I vote "aye."

Mr. SCHLEY said: The resolution submitted by the gentleman from Prince George's (Mr. Belt,) who, I am sorry to see is not in his seat, does not take me by surprise in any aspect of the case. The question that is involved here is one that presented itself to my mind for inquiry antecedent to my nomination to the seat I now hold, and of course prior to the election. I desire to say that I have never had a shadow of doubt, since taking competent legal advice upon the question, that I am fully entitled to the seat I occupy upon this floor, and therefore I have no difficulty in voting as I am about to vote, and have no motive for asking to be excused from voting. Like the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands,) if I felt even an uncertainty about my perfect right to a place upon this floor, I should not be here, and I should never have been here. I have no doubt about my right; and until I shall be excluded by a vote of this convention, I intend to assert and maintain it. I vote "aye."

Mr. TODD said: Like my friend from Charles (Mr. Edelen,) I have to say that my nomination to a seat in this body was entirely unexpected to myself. When it was first proposed, the objection which has been raised against my occupying a seat here, presented itself to my own mind. I however took the advice of legal gentlemen, who I supposed understood the subject thoroughly, and all my doubts upon that subject were set at rest. Since that period I have never had the first shadow of doubt with regard to my eligibility as a member of this body. Had my mind been haunted by the difficulties that seem to have thrown themselves around the mind of the gentleman from Prince George's, who is the author of the resolution offered on Saturday (Mr. Belt,) my conscientious convictions of duty as an honest man would have compelled me to resign my seat, or never have submitted to come here. But, believing as I do, that I have as good a right to a seat in this body as any gentleman upon this floor, I, without any difficulty or hesitation on the subject, vote "aye."

The report was accordingly concurred in.

The convention then proceeded to the consideration of the resolution submitted by Mr. Belt, which had been postponed until the report of the committee on elections should be acted upon.

Mr. DELLINGER moved that the resolution be indefinitely postponed.

Mr. EDELEN. I think it is but justice to the mover of this resolution that it should

be postponed until such time as he shall be again present in the convention. I believe he obtained leave of absence until Wednesday. Of course the sense of the house has been already taken, and the subject effectually disposed of; but I ask that it be merely postponed until Friday.

The motion to postpone indefinitely was agreed to.

MILITARY COMMITTEE.

Mr. PUGH. I wish to call the attention of the convention to the position in which the committee on military affairs stands. That committee has not made any report, and I see no prospect of its ever making a report. I am a member of that committee. The chairman (Mr. Berry, of Baltimore county,) has not been here for a long while. I saw him very early in the session of the convention and conversed with him with regard to it, but he said it was not necessary at all then to have the committee called together; and since that time, it is well known to members of the convention he has not been present. He is engaged in his duty to the State government; and I suppose he cannot attend and probably will not attend our sessions for some time. I am informed by my colleague that he is very sick now at home. I only wish to suggest to the convention, as we are getting along very rapidly towards the completion of our labors, that that committee is not in a condition to report.

The PRESIDENT. The President is informed that the Adjutant General (Mr. Berry, of Baltimore county,) is very sick. In the absence of the chairman of the committee, the next member takes his place as chairman.

Mr. PUGH. The member from Allegany (Mr. Thurston) came next, but he asked to be excused, and was withdrawn.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Barron) comes next on the list, and will act as chairman. Mr. Wickard, of Allegany, was appointed upon the committee to take the place of Mr. Thurston.

Mr. PUGH. I am informed that the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Barron) will be here to-morrow.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE,

The convention proceeded to the consideration of the report of the committee on education, which was upon its second reading.

The first section was read as follows:

Section 1. The governor shall, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, appoint within ten days after the ratification by the people of this constitution, a State superintendent of public instruction, who shall hold his office for four years, receive an annual salary of three thousand dollars, exclusive of office and travelling expenses, report to the general assembly within thirty days after the commencement of its first session under this constitution, a uniform sys-