

The PRESIDENT. Three years.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The next election is in 1865.

No amendment was offered to this section.

Section two was read as follows:

"The first election for governor under this constitution shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, and on the same day and month in every fourth year thereafter, at the places of voting for delegates to the general assembly, and every person qualified to vote for delegates shall be qualified and entitled to vote for governor; the election to be held in the same manner as the election of delegates, and the returns thereof, under seal, to be addressed to the speaker of the house of delegates, and enclosed and transmitted to the secretary of State, and delivered to the said speaker at the commencement of the session of the legislature next ensuing said election."

Mr. MILLER. I move to strike out this section, and to insert the one reported by the minority of the committee on the executive department, which is as follows:

"Section 2. The first election for governor, under this constitution, shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and the second election shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, eighteen hundred and sixty-eight, and on the same day and month in every fourth year thereafter, at the places of voting for delegates to the general assembly, and every person qualified to vote for delegates, shall be qualified and entitled to vote for governor; the election shall be held in the same manner as the election of delegates, and the returns thereof, under seal, to be addressed to the speaker of the house of delegates, and enclosed and transmitted to the secretary of State, and delivered to the said speaker at the commencement of the session of the legislature next ensuing said election."

Mr. MILLER. This is the same as the section reported by the majority, with the exception that it provides that the first election for governor shall be held on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1865. According to both reports the governor first elected under this constitution holds his office for three years. The second election for governor will occur on the day of the regular State election for other State officers in 1868, and so on every fourth year thereafter.

The only difference between the two reports is this; the report of the majority provides that the first governor elected under this constitution shall be elected fourteen months before he is to go into office. In reference to such a high officer as the governor of the State, an officer to be elected by the people, the opinion of the minority of the committee, which I hope will be concurred in by the

convention, is that the people should elect him as nearly as possible at the time when he is to take his office; so that he may represent the sentiments of the people as nearly as possible at that time. The election of such a high officer as this, a year before he is to take upon himself the duties of his office, is an anomaly that I have not been able to find in the constitutional provisions of any other State. We all know that under the present constitution the governor is elected just before he takes his office, and the people then vote for the man who best expresses their views. It was urged that because we had adopted some provisions of the constitution requiring the comptroller and perhaps other officers to be elected in 1864, that should govern us in relation to the election of the governor. I do not think that it should. I think that in the present condition and circumstances of the country, the election for the first term of governor under this new constitution, which will be one of the most important elections we shall have, may very well be put off, and ought to be put off until just before the time when the term of the present governor shall expire, that is, until November, 1865, instead of November, 1864. It is true there will then be no other State officers to be elected. But if he is elected this fall, at the time the members of the general assembly are elected, he still cannot go into office with the legislature elected at the same time; he will have to wait until the term of the present incumbent expires. And I think that the inconvenience of having a special election for governor is not so great as the importance of the certainty of having the officer elected as nearly as possible at the time when he is to take office. These are the views which have induced the minority of the committee to report this section.

Mr. SANDS. I wish to suggest to the convention something that has occurred to me very forcibly. We have not yet determined when this constitution shall be submitted to the people for their ratification. There are very grave considerations which ought to be carefully weighed before that question is determined. The day named in the majority report is the day for our presidential election. We have not determined whether we will call an extra election by the people before that time or not. I will not at present state my views upon this matter. I will only say that it is something about which this convention should very gravely consider before they set the day for this election. My own impression is that the proper time for the submission of this constitution to the people will be at the time of the presidential election.

Mr. THOMAS. If any of the committee on the executive department are in the convention to-day, I should like very much to