

nette, Russell, Sands, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Dorchester, Smith, of Worcester, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Thomas, Thruston, Todd, Valliant, Wickard—54.

The journals of Friday and Saturday last were then read and approved.

PETITION—COURT OF APPEALS.

Mr. TODD submitted a petition from George M. Russell and others, citizens of Caroline county, praying that provision be made for a session of the court of appeals at Easton; which was read.

Mr. ABBOTT moved that the petition be laid upon the table.

Mr. TODD. I was going to move that this petition accompany the judiciary report, so that it will come up for action when that report is taken up for consideration.

Mr. PURNELL. I do not think it is exactly respectful to these petitioners to lay their petition on the table. As this subject is not disposed of, I think it would be more respectful to let the petition accompany the report of the committee on the judiciary department.

Mr. ABBOTT. I moved to lay the petition on the table, because the judiciary committee had made their report. The gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd) can submit an amendment to that report at any time that it is under consideration.

Mr. TODD. It is not necessary to lay the petition on the table, in order to enable me to do that. I can submit a motion to amend without that.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. The committee on the judiciary have virtually reported on that subject, and have reported negatively. It is not worth while to refer the matter to them again.

Mr. STIRLING. It is a common parliamentary practice, after a committee has reported upon any subject, to lay all petitions in relation thereto, upon the table, to accompany the report. It is perfectly respectful and proper.

The motion to lay the petition upon the table was agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE.

On motion of Mr. PURNELL,

The convention took up the following resolution submitted by Mr. PURNELL, on Thursday last:

“Resolved, That this convention will adjourn *sine die*, on Wednesday, the 31st inst., unless adjourned at an earlier day in consequence of having finished the business for which it was called.”

The question was upon the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT. I move to lay that resolution on the table.

Mr. PURNELL. Will the gentleman with-

draw his motion for a moment, so that I can have an opportunity of explaining my reasons for submitting this resolution?

Mr. SCOTT. I will withdraw the motion at the request of the gentleman.

Mr. PURNELL. My object in offering this resolution was to obtain some expression of opinion on the part of this convention, in regard to the time when our deliberations will probably be brought to a close. This seemed to me to be the most practical way of doing so. There are but one or two reports now before this body unacted upon. How long it will take to mature them, I am not prepared to say. But I should think it would not require over a week at the farthest. That being the case, it does not seem to me that there is any impropriety in the convention indicating the time when its labors will probably be terminated. If the reports are matured and acted upon, and the business of the convention completed before that time, we can adjourn sooner, as a matter of course. If not, then it will be an easy matter to rescind the resolution, and no harm would be done. It seems to me that is proper, and in accordance with precedents in all deliberative bodies, to indicate the time when we will probably adjourn, in order that such preparatory arrangements may be made by members as will best suit their convenience, in reference to the separation which will soon take place. I think it is certainly proper that the convention should indicate some time when it will probably be prepared to terminate its labors, and adjourn *sine die*. It was for that object and none other that I offered this resolution.

Mr. KING. It seems to me that the time for us to adjourn is when we shall have got through our work here. As soon as ever we are done our work we should adjourn. If we fix the time, and then have not our work completed when that time arrives, the public will think we are doing something wrong, if we even take another half a day. I renew the motion to lay this resolution upon the table.

Mr. STIRLING. I hope this resolution will be adopted. It seems to me that there is no reason why we should not adjourn on the first of August. If we find that we are mistaken in our calculations, we can easily postpone the adjournment. If a resolution of this sort is not adopted, it only means that this convention means to sit longer than that time; it necessarily follows in effect, so far as our action is concerned, that we mean to say that the thirty-first of August is too soon a day to be fixed. Now, as I do not believe it is too soon a day, and as I believe this convention should fix some day, as an intimation to the people of what we are about to do, and as a guide to ourselves, I shall heartily support this resolution. I think it is wise to adopt a measure of this sort, because it