

The amendment to the order was accordingly agreed to.

The question recurred upon the order as amended.

Mr. BRISCOE submitted the following amendment:

Strike out all after the word "that" in first line, to the word "the" in the ninth line, and insert the words "the governor and adjutant general of this State be requested, in conjunction with a committee of the members of this convention, to be appointed by the chair, to proceed to the war department, and after conference with the proper authorities to obtain."

Mr. BRISCOE said: My own view is that even if the order is adopted by the convention and sent to the governor, it will result in no practical good, at least to us in that section of the State in which I live. It would merely indicate a disposition on the part of our friends to protect the citizens of that part of the State in which I reside. But I am fearful, and really think from what has taken place in the past with reference to this whole system of drafting, that it will accomplish very little good. My own idea is this: that all the evils and the injustice that have been heaped upon our section of the State have resulted from that system which has been inaugurated by the government of the United States, and recommended by the President of the United States, in calling out directly by authority emanating from the central government, all the forces of this country, to carry on this war. The view we take of it is that these requisitions should have been made by the States. The States alone should have controlled that; and if that mode of proceeding had been adopted by the government at first, it would have tended more to accomplish the purposes for which the administration were conducting this war.

It is not necessary for me to go on and give in detail the manner and character of the operations of the government in that section of the State which the gentleman from Prince George's and myself represent with regard to this whole matter. We know very well that the governor of Maryland is as helpless as a new-born infant; that this convention is helpless; that there is no authority within the State of Maryland, unless it be by the concession of the authority at Washington, that can bring any relief to us, so long as this system operates as it has in the past. We know very well that we have been compelled to characterize that proceeding as a usurpation of power upon the part of Congress and the government, and on the part of the President. We denounce it now, and we will continue to do it as long as this oppression is upon us. As to the details, as to the manner in which these things have been carried on, I have only to say that there are now hovering around the limits of my own

county nefarious bands of ruffians who have mounted their gunboats, and armed themselves, and are passing through our section of country, stealing, breaking our jails, and stealing from us our property, under the pressure of this draft, for the relief of the city of Baltimore and other parts of the State. We know that to be a fact. It has occurred within our own midst within the last week.

Not expecting myself that it will lead to any great practical good, I have offered this amendment simply with the desire and the hope that if this is adopted, some step will be taken by the executive of Maryland, weak as it may be, insignificant as the State of Maryland may be in this condition of affairs, that if anything can properly be done, it may be accomplished by the proposition I have offered. With this communication the information can be got from the governor of Maryland and after having it, it seems to me that this committee, composed of three gentlemen of the convention in conjunction with the governor and the adjutant general, will convey to the department in Washington all the information they require on the subject, if there is any mode of conveying to them the extent and the actual condition of outrages heaped upon us. That will be the most efficient mode of doing it, if it is done at all; and I hope the amendment will be adopted.

Mr. HENKLE. I sincerely hope something will be done by the convention in this matter. It will come with more force and authority, if it comes from the convention. There is a great defect in one particular with regard to the draft of the State, and I want to call the attention of the convention to it particularly, as my attention has been called to it; and that is in regard to the enrolment of the State as it now exists. I see that a meeting has been recently called in Baltimore county in the vicinity of Towsontown, where they have appointed a committee to wait upon those in authority to revise their enrolment and perfect it. There are many names on the enrolment list which should not be there; some men who are away, others already in the service, and others over age; and in our section of the State particularly great numbers have absconded, because the enrolment embraced all the slaves of Maryland who were here in the beginning of the war; whereas in my section of the State nearly all the slaves of the military age have left. So the enrolment, as it stands in my county, and I believe in every county of the State, contains a number of names vastly greater than it should be, containing those in the federal army, many over age, and others whose names for other reasons should not be there.

For that reason there is a great necessity that the enrolment list should be revised, and that the attention of the authorities should be called to this matter before the coming draft