

tion has adopted the principle of electing county officers on alternate years to the election of State officers. It would be very odd to elect clerks and registers on general ticket for State officers one year, and the next year on the ticket for county officers. I think my amendment is the proper one.

The question being then taken upon the amendment of Mr. STIRLING, it was adopted.

Mr. DANIEL. In the sentence which now reads "until his successor is elected and qualified," I move to strike out the words "elected and." We provide in the section that the register may be removable for cause, and another appointed to fill the vacancy thus created. We ought not therefore to say "until his successor is elected and qualified," but "until his successor is qualified." I therefore move to strike out the words "elected and."

Mr. STIRLING. How can he come in any other way than by election?

Mr. DANIEL. By appointment to fill a vacancy.

Mr. STIRLING. This clause is to fix the term of office for a man elected by the people, which is to be for six years, and until his successor is elected and qualified. If he dies or is removed that takes the matter out of that provision entirely, and it comes under the next provision.

The question being taken on Mr. DANIEL'S amendment, it was rejected.

No further amendment was offered to the section.

NEGRO APPRENTICESHIP.

Mr. TODD. Before we pass from this part of the report I wish to call the attention of the convention to an amendment, of which I gave notice several days ago, and which I think would properly come under the part relating to orphans' court. I desire to move an additional section to come in before the section last adopted. It escaped my notice at the time, and I therefore offer it now. It is as follows:

"Sec. —. It shall be the duty of the orphans' court of the several counties and the city of Baltimore, to duly apprentice to some business all negroes emancipated by the adoption of this constitution, who are minors, subject to such regulations as are now or may hereafter be prescribed by law; and in all cases the preference shall be given to their masters while in a state of slavery, when in the judgment of the said courts they are suitable persons to have charge of them."

Mr. STIRLING. I would suggest that it would be better to put this off until we get through with the organization of the courts. This breaks right in upon our work in that respect.

Mr. PUGH. I think we might as well take action on this matter now as at any other time.

Mr. TODD. I propose to modify my amendment by striking out the words "masters while in a state of slavery," and insert the words "former masters."

The amendment was modified accordingly.

Mr. PURNELL. I move to amend the clause which now reads "duly apprenticed to some business" by striking out the words "some business" and inserting the word "labor." I offer this amendment because as it now stands it might confuse the orphans' court in binding out this class of people; they might suppose it their duty to bind them out to artisans.

Mr. STIRLING. I move to postpone informally the further consideration of this proposed section.

Mr. MILLER. I hope that motion will not prevail. If we are to have any such provision as this, this is the proper place for it. It imposes a certain duty on the orphans' court, and we have those courts and their organization now under consideration. We have had from time to time promises given that some such amendment as this should be introduced. It was first proposed to be put in the article on the legislative department, but the objection was raised that the report on the judiciary department was the proper place for it. And now when it comes up as an amendment to the judiciary report it is moved to postpone it until some other department is considered, or until we get through this. I think this is the proper place and now is the proper time to consider and determine whether or not such a provision is to be inserted.

Mr. TODD. I do not see what is to be gained by postponing the consideration of this matter. It appears to me that we are as well prepared to act upon it to-day as we will be at any other time. The motion to postpone will only tend to delay the business of the convention. I hope the convention will act upon this matter now, and if they are disposed to vote it down, let them do so and have the matter settled.

The question being then taken upon the motion to postpone, it was not agreed to.

The question recurred upon the motion of Mr. PURNELL, to strike out the words "some business" and insert the word "labor."

Mr. TODD accepted the amendment, and the proposed section was modified accordingly.

Mr. SCHLEY. I move to amend by inserting after the words "in all cases the preference" the words "with the consent of the parents or next friend of such minor."

The question being taken, the amendment of Mr. SCHLEY was rejected.

Mr. GALLOWAY. I move to amend by striking out the words "duly apprenticed to labor" and insert "bind out, until they arrive at the age of twenty-one years for males, and eighteen years for females."