

second reading. Remember that two hours have passed simply in the discussion of the proposition to admit one amendment. The amendment itself, if admitted, may be debated for the Lord knows how many hours more. Then comes another proposition which may take two hours more. We would better have no second reading of a report at all, if when the house has upon the second reading of a report decided by a unanimous vote of the majority of the house that the report shall stand as it is, it can be brought before the house again and leave asked to open the report and change it upon the third reading, because the yeas and nays take up time, and if the matter meets with any opposition we may spend two hours or more upon the simple question whether the report shall be opened for amendment. If reports which have been before the house for weeks, and which have finally gone through, are to come up again, and have the whole question opened, every report we have gone through may be taken up in the same way. If a proposition is made to this house which meets the view of the majority, I think the better way is to refer it to the committee on revision, and let the question be decided at once and without debate. Then let the committee on revision report the amendment back to the house.

I want to apologize to the house for being a member from the city of Baltimore. After the eloquent remarks of the gentleman from Calvert (Mr. Briscoe,) I think if the report should be opened by the convention for amendment, the convention would better take away the eighteen members allotted to the city of Baltimore and give them to Calvert county, so that the State may be well ruled, and one given to Baltimore. I never was so ashamed of anything in my life, as I am of having come here from the city of Baltimore, after the eloquent remarks of the gentleman from Calvert. I am led to believe that there is no virtue, nothing to benefit the State, which the counties can expect from Baltimore, that the counties have built up Baltimore, while she has done nothing but devour them; and I am exceedingly sorry that I should have been placed in the position of being a member from so contemptible a place. I wish to apologize to the convention for it, and to assure them that it was not my fault. I should have preferred to have been from among the agricultural people of the State, down in Calvert county.

Mr. HOLLIDAY. I hope my motion will not be prejudiced before the convention by any amendment to that now offered. I would not have offered it, had not Kent county been so near the number that is required by the report for two members; and I thought it would meet the sense of the convention today to give that number to the county. I would greatly desire, if the convention would do so, that two representatives should be

given to every county; so that if one member should be unable to attend, the county should not be entirely unrepresented. It will be remembered that a member of this convention was sick and unable to be here for three months; and the same thing might occur in any of the small counties; and then they would have no representative at all.

In Kent county, as I said before, we pay a tax more than equal to Caroline; and we are paying an income tax of one thousand dollars more than Caroline, I believe. I hope the convention in consideration of these matters will give us two members.

Mr. SCOTT. I happen to have some business acquaintance with our neighbors of Kent county; and I hope that as a matter of justice two representatives will be allowed to her. I have no doubt from the thrifty and enterprising character of her people, and the number of men necessary to carry out her various improvements, and particularly in preparing timber, that she has now more than the additional number, if a census were to be taken to-day, which would entitle her to an additional delegate. I know it has acquired a vast influx of white labor to get all the timber which comes from that county, and there are other pursuits also requiring additional labor. I think it would be no injustice, but perfectly in accordance with the principles laid down in the report.

Mr. ABBOTT. I desire to say one word, being chairman of the committee. Like my colleague (Mr. Cushing,) I feel that I ought to apologize to the convention, after the views that have been expressed here, for being a member from that great sore and ulcer upon the body politic, disfiguring the State.

I believe, sir, that we have four separate and distinct classes of people that make up the great mass requiring representation. First, is the producing, the working class; the farmers and miners; all that produce anything, or cause anything to be produced from the earth. Next is the mechanic; next the manufacturer; and next the merchant. These constitute the four great quarters of our political community; they are the ones to be legislated for, and who should be represented. I never dreamed that the city of Baltimore, where a large portion of the inhabitants of the State are congregated, ought to be subdivided, and made as so many adjoining counties. It seems to be supposed here that the city of Baltimore will be represented by one separate and distinct class of people. We have heard a great deal upon this floor about the mercantile interests of Baltimore and the producing interests of the State. Day after day has passed, in which the name of mechanic or manufacturer has never been heard in these halls. They are two equally important branches of our community, and equally require representation. They are congregated mostly in the city of Baltimore. The subdivi-