

gent importance to Baltimore. My colleague's wife has been waiting there these two days on a matter of business of a domestic character but quite important. Other gentlemen are absent very unexpectedly on important business; and who would be sorry to be denied the privilege of being present. But we can only make known our wishes. If they are disregarded we cannot help it. I must say that I shall regard it as an act of oppression to refuse such a request as this.

Mr. SANDS. I cannot be still and hear myself, as one of the members of this house, charged with oppression. I cannot sit still patiently, and hear the house lectured for oppression; when evidently the complaint upon the other side is that their own members are not in their seats. What do they ask of us? To wait until their members are in their seats? Have we forced them out of their seats? Whose act is it by which they are not here to-day, but their own? Because they are not here in their places to-day, where their constituents who intrusted them with their interests commanded them to be, we are charged with oppression if we continue our work. The twenty-fifth rule of this body, one of our standing rules, is in this language:

"Rule 25. No member shall absent himself from the service of the convention unless he have leave, or be sick, or unable to attend."

That is the duty of gentlemen; and when they absent themselves without leave, it is in violation of a standing rule of the convention. They are absent to-day. The majority are here in force as full as ever, fifty to fifty-three members voting with us. Yet we are to be told that we are oppressors solely because these gentlemen of the minority are out of their seats. I cannot myself express the sentiments with which I listen to scoldings of this sort. It is time that they be ended. This house is here; we are here; I am here to discharge the duty my constituents sent me here to discharge. I am not going to pause in that duty because somebody else is absent, or sit still and be scolded because other people are not here.

Mr. CHAMBERS demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was—yeas 42, nays 12—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Brooks, Carter Cunningham, Cushing Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Kennard, Markey, McComas, Mullikin, Negley, Parker, Purnell, Ridgely, Russell, Sands, Schlosser, Scott, Smith, of Worcester, Suary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Todd, Valliant, Wickard, Wooden—42.

Nays—Messrs. Brown, Chambers, Dent, Duvall, Hollyday, Horsey, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Miller, Morgan, Turner—12.

The convention accordingly proceeded to

the second reading of the report on the schedule, and the first section was read as follows:

Section 1. Every officer of the State, the entire amount of whose pay or compensation received for the discharge of his official duties, shall exceed the yearly sum of three thousand dollars, except wherein otherwise provided by this constitution, shall keep a book in which shall be entered every sum or sums of money received by him, or on his account, as a payment, or compensation for his performance of official duties, a copy of which entries in said book, verified by the oath of the officer, by whom it is directed to be kept, shall be returned yearly to the treasurer of the State, for his inspection and that of the general assembly of the State, and each of said officers, when the amount received by him for the year shall exceed three thousand dollars, shall yearly pay over to the treasurer of the State, the amount of such excess by him received subject to such disposition thereof as the general assembly may direct. Any such officer failing to comply with this requisition, shall be deemed to have vacated his office, and be subject to suit by the State, for the amount that ought to be paid into the treasury.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE submitted the following amendment: strike out "officer," in line one, and insert "person holding any office created by or existing under the constitution or laws."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE said: The term "every officer" of the State seems to be definite; but the history of the past is that there have been persons under that, holding office and receiving large salaries, who have not made any return at all.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I am aware that this section is an exact copy of the old constitution; but still there is a mistake in it. I move to strike out the word "treasurer" in the ninth line, and to insert the word "comptroller."

Mr. RIDGELY. The committee intended to make that amendment and forgot it.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. RIDGELY. I wish to call the attention of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) to the amendment he first offered. I am afraid it goes very much beyond what my colleague intends. The expression "every person holding any office created by, or existing under the constitution or laws of the State," includes all the municipal officers of the city of Baltimore, I think. If the city of Baltimore choose to pay them more than three thousand dollars it is no business of ours. If the city of Baltimore pays a man four thousand dollars out of his pocket and put it into the State treasury? It puts a restriction upon the city of Baltimore, that it shall not pay the city clerk or any other officer a higher salary than three thousand dollars. That is