

The pending question was upon the motion of Mr. BELT to amend the section by adding thereto the following :

" Provided, however, that no votes of soldiers cast at any one polling place or camp shall be valid or taken into account in any case where the total number returned shall exceed the numbers of record in the office of the adjutant general."

Mr. MARBURY. My colleague (Mr. Belt,) who offered this amendment, is not here now. I therefore move to postpone the further consideration of this section until to-morrow.

Mr. AUDOUN. I hope this convention will not postpone the consideration of this section until to-morrow. There is no reason why we should not go on and close up the work of the convention. We have been here long enough, rather too long, I think; at any rate longer than I have been willing to remain here. If gentlemen have absented themselves from the convention to-night it is their own fault and not the fault of the majority, who are here ready to transact business. I hope, therefore, the convention will refuse to postpone the consideration of this section.

Mr. MARBURY. My colleague (Mr. Belt,) who offered this amendment is detained from the convention by very important business, or I would not ask to have this section postponed.

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

The question was then taken upon the amendment of Mr. BELT, and it was rejected.

No further amendment was offered to the section.

The next section was then read, as follows :

"Section 3 The judges shall, as soon as possible, transmit said returns, with the tickets so strung, to the governor, who shall receive the returns of the soldiers' vote, and shall cast up the same, and judge of the genuineness and correctness of the returns, and may recount the threaded tickets, so as to satisfy himself, and the governor shall count said vote with the aggregate vote of the State on the adoption or rejection of this constitution, and shall wait for fifteen days after the day on which the State vote is taken, so as to allow the returns of the soldiers' vote to be made, before the result of the whole vote is announced. The governor shall receive the returns of the soldiers' vote on said election for State officers, presidential electors, and members of congress, and shall count the same with the aggregate home vote on State officers, and the aggregate home vote in each district respectively for members of congress."

Mr. DUVALL. I move to amend this section by striking out the words "may recount the threaded tickets," and insert "shall recount or have recounted the threaded tickets."

The question being taken upon the amendment of Mr. DUVALL, it was rejected.

Mr. TODD. I move to amend by inserting the words "and county" after the word "State" in the following sentence of this section: "The governor shall receive the returns of the soldiers' vote on said election for State officers," &c. It would seem from the wording of the section that there was some doubt as to whether the soldiers would be authorized to vote for county officers.— My object in offering this amendment is to place that matter beyond doubt, and give them the right to vote for county as well as State officers.

Mr. CUSHING. That would necessitate that every man's residence should be registered in the district in which he lives; a thing almost impossible to be done in the army. It would be almost impossible for soldiers to vote for county officers.

Mr. STIRLING. The chairman of this committee (Mr. Ridgely) is absent. The committee on the schedule I know had this matter under consideration. The chairman of the committee had a conversation with me about it. The provision as here reported was determined upon advisedly, because it was impossible to make any provision by which soldiers could cast their votes for county officers, without going into an extensive series of provisions, which would encumber the constitution to an extent which would be manifestly improper. We have proposed to let them vote for State officers, because all that would be required of them would be to show that they are residents of the county, and there will be but one return to be sent to the governor. But if they are allowed to vote for county officers, then the judges of election in the camp would have to make out a return of the votes for every single officer voted for in the county. We have certainly gone as far as we can, in providing for the vote to be taken on the day of the presidential election. And we must trust to the legislature to make provision for the future. Besides, the only officers to be elected in 1864 are State officers and members of the general assembly; there are no county officers to be elected in 1864.— The committee were unable to provide, consistently with the length of a provision in the constitution, for soldiers to vote upon county officers.

Mr. TODD. The remarks of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling) have satisfied me of the difficulty of any attempt to make provision for soldiers voting for county officers. And as the legislature can provide for that, I will withdraw my amendment.

The amendment was accordingly withdrawn.

No further amendment was offered to this section.

The next section was then read as follows :
"Section 4. The governor shall make