

voters. The committee propose to number it as the fourth instead of the second section.

The oath as referred by the convention to the committee reads thus :

"I do swear or affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have never given any aid, countenance or support to those in armed hostility to the United States, that I have never expressed a desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States and support the constitution and laws thereof as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of any State to the contrary notwithstanding, and will in all respects demean myself as a loyal citizen of the United States, and I swear this without any reservation or evasion."

The committee recommend alterations in this oath ; as altered, it will read :

"I do swear or affirm that I am a citizen of the United States, that I have never given any aid, countenance or support to those in armed hostility to the United States, that I have never expressed a desire for the triumph of said enemies over the arms of the United States, and that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the United States, and support the constitution and laws thereof as the supreme law of the land, any law or ordinance of any State to the contrary notwithstanding ; that I will in all respects demean myself as a loyal citizen of the United States. And I make this oath or affirmation without any reservation or evasion, and believe it to be binding on me."

The committee propose to make the third section of this article as adopted by the convention, the fifth section. It relates to bribery, and provides, "that any person who shall give or offer to give directly or indirectly any bribe, present, or reward, or any promise or any security for the payment or delivery of money or any other thing to induce any voter to refrain from casting his vote, or forcibly to prevent him in any way from voting, shall on conviction in a court of law, in addition to the penalties now or hereafter to be imposed by law, be forever disqualified to hold any office of profit or trust or to vote at any election thereafter." The same provision is made in the present constitution, and the members of the committee are of the opinion, that this section should be so modified as to embrace all cases which may have arisen under that provision ; they therefore recommend that the first part of this section be amended to read thus :

"Section 5. If any person shall give or offer to give directly or indirectly, or since the fourth day of July, eighteen hundred and fifty one, hath given or offered to give, any bribe, present, or reward," &c.

In the last line of this section, the committee recommend that the words "an election" be changed to read "any election."

The committee have no material change to recommend in the sixth and seventh sections of this article, and which were the fourth and fifth sections of said article as adopted in convention.

In the sixth section, they propose that the words "in the first article of the constitution" be stricken out, and the words "in this article" inserted. In the second line of the seventh section, they recommend that the words "this constitution" be substituted for "the constitution."

The eighth and last section of this article reads as follows :

"Section 8. Every person holding any office of trust or profit under the late constitution, or under any law of this State, and who shall be continued in office under this constitution, or under any law of the State, shall within thirty days after this constitution shall have gone into effect, take the oath or affirmation set forth in the fifth section of this article, and if any such person shall fail to take said oath his office shall be *ipso facto* void."

"The fifth section" above referred to having become the seventh section, the appropriate change should be made.

And the committee recommend as an addition to the end of the eighth section, the following :

"And every person hereafter elected or appointed to office in this State, who shall refuse or neglect to take the oath or affirmation of office provided for in the said seventh section of this article, shall be considered as having refused to accept the said office, and a new election or appointment shall be made as in case of refusal to accept or resignation of an office. And any person swearing or affirming falsely in the premises, shall, on conviction thereof in a court of law, incur the penalties of wilful and corrupt perjury, and thereafter shall be incapable of holding any office of profit or trust in this State."

This closes the report of the committee on the elective franchise.

They respectfully recommend that the proposed changes be concurred in by the convention.

GEORGE EARLE, Chairman.

When the second section reported by the committee was read,

Mr. STIRLING said : That section embraces an amendment which was submitted by myself when the report was under consideration in the convention. The committee on revision has united it with another section of the report, and put it together in a much better form than it was originally.

Mr. EARLE. The second section is composed, in part, of the first section as originally adopted by the convention, and of the seventh section which was proposed by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling.) That