

would there be a doubt that the candidate receiving the 35,000 votes would be elected governor, he receiving a majority of the votes cast for that office? And if so in the case of governor, would it not be precisely so in the case of an amendment to the constitution? The law of the State provides that blanks shall not be counted. It would be precisely the same, I apprehend, in reference to an amendment to the constitution, as in reference to an election to any office. Still I have no objection to the change in this section, if any person has any doubt upon the subject.

Mr. CHAMBERS. Respectable persons do doubt; I doubt, and the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling) doubts.

Mr. EARLE. Will these words remove the difficulty? After the expression "a majority of the qualified votes cast at said election," insert "on the proposed amendment or amendments."

Mr. CHAMBERS. That is right.

Mr. EARLE. That part of the section will then read, "And if it shall appear to the satisfaction of the governor, from the returns of said election made to him by the proper authorities, that a majority of the qualified votes cast at said election, on the proposed amendment or amendments, were in favor of the said proposed amendment or amendments, he shall, by proclamation, declare said amendment or amendments to be part of the constitution of the State."

The report of the committee of revision, in relation to the article on "amendments to the constitution," was then concurred in.

VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. RIDGELY. In connection with the subject of the committee on revision, I have an order which I wish to submit to the house. It is as follows:

Ordered, That the committee on revision be instructed so to modify that part of the schedule which provides for the taking of the vote on the constitution on the 12th day of October, 1864, so as to extend the said time for two days, including the 13th day of October, 1864."

I offer that for this reason: the provision in the schedule requires that the oath shall be administered to every voter. It has been thought by a great many persons that it would be impossible to take the vote in one day in some of the counties, where the districts are large, and there are many voters.

Mr. HEBB. I am not prepared to vote upon that question just now. I move that it be passed over until the committee on revision get through making their reports.

The PRESIDENT. As the committee on revision are now engaged in making their reports, this order cannot now be received except by unanimous consent.

Mr. RIDGELY. I have no objection to

having it laid over until the committee get through their reports.

SUNDRY OFFICERS.

Mr. EARLE, from the committee on revision, made the following report on the article on "sundry officers."

The first section of this article, as referred to the committee by the convention, reads as follows:

"The governor, the comptroller of the treasury and the treasurer shall constitute the board of public works, who shall exercise a diligent and faithful supervision of all public works in which the State may be interested as stockholder or creditor, and shall appoint the directors in every railroad or canal company in which the State has the legal power to appoint directors, which said directors shall represent the State in all meetings of the stockholders of every railroad or canal company in which the State is a stockholder; said board of public works shall require the directors of all said public works, from time to time, and as often as there shall be any change in the rates of toll on any of said works, to furnish said board a schedule of such modified rates of toll, and shall use all legal powers which they may possess to obtain the establishment of rates of tolls, which may prevent an injurious competition with each other, to the detriment of the interests of the State, and so to adjust them as to promote the agriculture of the State; the said board of public works shall keep a journal of their proceedings, they shall hold regular sessions in the city of Annapolis, on the first Wednesday in January, the first Wednesday in April, the first Wednesday in July, and the first Wednesday in October in each year, and oftener if necessary, at which sessions they shall hear and determine such matters as affect the public works of the State, and the general assembly may confer upon them the power to decide; they shall at each regular session of the general assembly make a report to the general assembly and recommend such legislation as they shall deem necessary and requisite to promote or protect the interests of the State in the public works, and perform such other duties as may be hereafter prescribed by law; and a majority of them shall be competent to act. The governor, the comptroller of the treasury and the treasurer shall receive no additional salary for the services rendered as members of the board of public works."

This section is very long, and somewhat confused in expression. The committee recommend that it be modified, though not changed in substance, and that it be divided into two sections, which shall read as follows:

Sec. 1. The governor, the comptroller of the treasury, and the treasurer, shall constitute the board of public works in this State;