

full vote cast, it would be utterly impossible to take the vote of those districts in one day if every voter is to be sworn.

Mr. PUGH. So far as I am concerned, I am perfectly willing to vote for whichever plan the majority of the convention may deem most advisable. But at the same time I wish to state that unless it is as stated by the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Greene,) and the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely,) that they have a very large vote to poll, I should be opposed to extending the time over one day, for several reasons. One of them is to a certain extent based upon my experience in this respect. I have seen elections extended over one day. In the progress of elections, as gentlemen are very well aware, there is always considerable excitement. And if the election is carried over to the second day, the excitement is sure to be increased during the intervening night. In the district represented by my colleague (Mr. Scott,) the ballot-box and all in it might disappear during the night. And except for the very serious objections stated by the gentleman from Allegany and the gentleman from Baltimore county, I should object to extending the election over one day; extending the excitement over that much more time, and increasing by that extension the chances of disturbances at the polls, and the chances of not getting a correct expression of the sentiments of the people throughout the State.

I would ask gentlemen if the business could not be expedited by swearing a dozen, or fifteen, or twenty voters at one time? In my district we do not poll so large a vote as in the district represented by the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Greene,) and the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely.) Therefore we are not in a position to state properly what would be our opinion in regard to this matter, provided we had a large vote to poll. I am perfectly satisfied that in the district I represent we can poll our entire vote in one day. And I am also satisfied that if it be possible to poll the entire vote of the State in one day, it would certainly be wise to do so.

Mr. SCHLEY. In answer to the inquiry of the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge,) I would state that on my visit home on Saturday last, this very subject was a matter of conversation and discussion among many gentlemen of my acquaintance there. The general impression was that the entire vote could not be taken in one day, unless the convention made some provision for administering the oath in a different manner than at the polls. I am convinced that in the election district in which I reside, where there are some eighteen hundred votes, and only two voting places—at one of which there is a much larger number of voters than at the other—the vote cannot be taken in one day. I am glad that the subject has been

brought to the consideration of the convention, and trust that some remedy may be provided.

It has occurred to me—I merely throw out the suggestion for what it is worth—that the judges of election might be directed, by some provision in this schedule, to administer the oath in advance of the day of election, on the day before, or some other day. If that cannot be conveniently done, there is an evident necessity for holding the election on two days, for I do not believe the full vote of the State can be polled in one day.

Mr. PUGH. The judges of election have a discretion in the matter. They know how many votes they have to poll in each district, and they can arrange matters accordingly. They can provide beforehand for administering the oath to a dozen or twenty-five, or as many as they can get together at a time. There would be no difficulty about it if the judges would make that arrangement.

Mr. PURNELL. When this proposition was first introduced, I felt very much inclined to favor it, because I thought I saw some necessity for it. But upon reflection, I am disposed to think that in the county I have the honor in part to represent, although it is a very large county, and polls a very large vote, it can all be polled in one day. We have sometimes polled as high as six hundred votes in the district in which I reside. But I think that with a little diligence, and swearing a number together in the manner proposed by the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Pugh,) the vote can all be polled within the hours prescribed by law.

However, I am inclined to yield to whatever the majority of the convention may deem necessary in the matter. But it is my impression that not only in the county I represent (Worcester county,) but also in the adjoining counties, where they do not poll so many votes as in the county of Worcester, the vote can all be taken in one day. I think there is some danger, in protracting the time, that the results might ensue which have been apprehended by some gentlemen who have taken part in this discussion.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I move to change the time from six o'clock P. M., to five o'clock P. M., for closing the polls in the counties where two days will be occupied in the election.

Mr. HEBB. Inasmuch as the committee have reported in favor of keeping the polls open for two days, I think it would be far preferable to close the polls at five o'clock in the afternoon, for if there is any disposition to riot it will be very apt to be manifested from five to six o'clock. I am therefore in favor of the amendment of the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers.)

Mr. NEGLEY. The district in which our town (Hagerstown) is situated, polls nearly eleven hundred votes, and I doubt if we shall be able to swear all the voters and get in all the