

mitted to the people without any canvass either for or against it. There was no political party, no organization that took any interest in it. There was no organization for the purpose of distributing copies of the constitution. The whole thing was left to take its course.

We are now about to submit this constitution on the eve of a presidential election. We are about to submit it with party influences and organizations, on the one side and the other, in every county in the State, besides our central organization. We have meetings organized all over the State in reference to this constitution and the presidential election. These copies can all be distributed at these public meetings, and by the action of independent special committees who feel an interest in this matter. There are none too many. A certain amount will be wasted, of course; we cannot help that, and you need not try. In order to guard against that, you must have a certain number in excess. I am satisfied, from what I have heard, that those who are interested in the adoption of this constitution, have already taken measures by which these copies will all be distributed.

Mr. MILLER. I will merely say that I voted for the order for publishing and distributing these sixty thousand copies of the constitution. I am also in favor of the proposition of the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Negley) or some similar proposition, by which this constitution can be published in our county papers, and in the papers in the city of Baltimore. There are a great many people in the State who are deeply interested in this subject, who would like, before they vote upon this constitution, to have its provisions before them so that they can read them. I know farmers who would like to take their county paper, with this constitution in it, and read it over by their firesides at night in the presence of their families, and discuss its provisions. Many of those people will be reached by the county papers. A fair and impartial judgment ought to be expressed upon this constitution by those who are entitled to vote upon it. It is but right and just that it should be made as public as possible. The time allowed before we are to vote upon it is limited. I do not think we should consider the additional expense of a few hundred dollars for publishing it in the papers.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I had but one purpose in offering the order which was adopted; and that was to secure the circulation and distribution of this constitution as widely as possible throughout the State. I suppose that many of the county papers, being small, if they were to publish this constitution, would contain nothing else; it would fill up their papers entirely. And I thought the publishers of those papers would be very

glad to be able to furnish it, without additional expense to themselves, to their subscribers in addition to their usual matter. If the contract with the Baltimore American should be made by the committee, this constitution will certainly appear in that paper within the next two or three days. By that arrangement alone, without any expense whatever, there will be struck off about fifty thousand copies to be circulated far and wide throughout the State. There will then be published the sixty thousand copies called for by this order, the expense of which will be far less than publishing it in forty or even twenty papers throughout the State. I therefore do not see the utility of having it so published, and am satisfied it will be attended with great expense.

I am satisfied also, that these "extras" can without any difficulty be distributed everywhere through the means of public meetings. For instance, the members from Washington county will have twelve hundred copies for them to distribute in that county. And then by distributing other copies at the public meetings which are already announced for that county, it seems to me this constitution will reach every household in that county. If it can be done in that way, and this very considerable item of expense saved, I would be glad of it. I would be glad to see it published in every county newspaper, if it could be done without too great expense to the State. I would be glad to save any unnecessary expense, and not have it added to the \$10,000 or \$12,000 we have already this morning unnecessarily imposed upon the State.

Mr. NEGLEY. The sole object I have in going for this publication at all is to bring this constitution to the notice of the people. The plan proposed by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) is a good one, I admit, if it will work; if the object it proposes can be attained, it is a good one. I know that twelve hundred copies will be sent to my county; I will have two hundred of them; I know we can distribute them among our people. But there is a large number of our people who do not come out to our political gatherings; they only come out to vote. They are a reflecting and reading and thinking people. How will you reach them? If you trust to these copies, you will have to get a colporteur in each county, put him on horseback, and send him out to distribute them. We have six thousand voters in our county. I know that the only means by which you can reach our people is by publishing this constitution in the papers.

Now, let us have a reasonable number of these "extra" copies. But if the object be to bring this constitution before the people, there is no mode so effectual as to publish it in the county newspapers. There is a large class of agriculturists in our county, and this