

stop the pay of all members. Now any one can get up, at any time, and move to stop the pay after a certain day. The Convention cannot indefinitely postpone the whole subject. They can only indefinitely postpone the order before the Convention; and then anybody can offer another at any other time. I do not see that any practical effect is to be accomplished by an indefinite postponement.

Mr. BARRON. I can see the effect. But I do not care a great deal about it either way, myself—not a great deal. But then, here is this journal of debates that is going to be handed down, with all these orders entered in them—won't it look splendid, twenty or thirty years from now, to see all this stuff in it—I want to get rid of the whole thing. I am free and frank to say that I do not think I shall be able to get here every day during the Convention. But every time I am absent I do not want to be whipped around for it, and for that reason I would like to get rid of the subject some way or other. I would like to have a fair expression of this Convention upon it whether we are to be all the time bothered this way about our per diem. I am willing to vote our per diem and our mileage, too, to any institution in the State, or to all the institutions. But I don't want to have it entered on the journal that Mr. so and so did so and so to keep us in our places.

Mr. CLARKE. In reference to the motion I made, if it is not the disposition of the house to reconsider this matter now, but have it brought up at some other time I have no objection. But as I said the other day, I say now that I do think that since this Convention commenced its session, more time has been taken up in discussing the question of adjournment from here to Baltimore city, and questions of adjourning over, and per diem, and deducting five dollars a day from the pay of absent members, &c., than would have enabled us to pass several reports now lying on our tables.

Mr. BARRON. That's so; you can't rub t out.

Mr. CLARKE. The only rea on I had for making the motion to reconsider, was that this Convention might in some way or other pass upon the question whether, during the entire sessions of this body, our time is to be taken up with such propositions as this. They are not offered for any real purpose, any real object, or any real good. They are made by gentlemen on this floor simply to get into the papers and go out to their constituents, in order that when they are read at home, some one may say: "Our representative wants to save five dollars; our representative wants to relieve us of quite a little item of taxation; or, 'this is a most economical member; he is doing all he can to save the people of the State

from taxation." And they hope, by reason of these little things, to draw the attention of the people away from the heavy taxation which they one day will be called upon to meet.

One word more in reference to this subject and then I hope to be done with it. This is the second time I have been upon the floor upon this subject, and the other time for about three minutes. Now, I have a higher appreciation of the members of this body than to suppose that the threat of deducting five dollars a day from their pay if they are absent, will make them attend this Convention when they would not otherwise do it. Why, sir, we are sent here, and it is our duty to those who sent us here, to stay here and attend to our duties; and we do not discharge our duties if we are not present here. It so happens that sometimes members are necessarily called away by important business. There may be important private business to be attended to, and members may think that that business may override for a few days the demands of the public business upon them. But I say this: that any member of this body who does not feel sufficiently impelled by a high sense of his duty to discharge the purposes and objects for which he was sent here, and to give his time and attention to this body, whether he receives his five dollars a day or not, will not be brought here in order to save his five dollars a day; or, if he is, then he is an unworthy member of this body, and an unworthy representative of his constituents at home.

Believing, therefore, that all these propositions are introduced here for purposes which, in my view, are unworthy to take up the time and attention of this body, and believing that they do take up more time than we should properly give to them, I want the whole subject finally disposed of. If the Convention do not desire to reconsider this subject, and do something definite with it, I will withdraw my motion to reconsider. I am willing, if the Convention desire it, to sit here and listen to all these propositions which may be offered. But I shall vote against them, believing that members are entitled to receive their per diem, and that they ought to come here and discharge the duties they were sent here to perform.

Mr. HEBB. From what has fallen from the gentleman from Prince George's, (Mr. Clarke,) one would suppose that these orders were introduced here particularly for the purpose of making capital with our constituents.

Mr. CLARKE. I do not say this order, but a number of the orders.

Mr. HEBB. This order was introduced in good faith, because I believed its adoption would bring more members to attend here