

to be according to the population endowed with the elective franchise;

Mr. BELT submitted the following resolution which was laid over under the rule:

Resolved, That if the principle contained in the resolution of the gentleman from Washington county, be correct, in asserting that, under a republican system, population is the true basis of representation, excluding all classes not endowed with the right of suffrage, then the authors of the Constitution of the United States were uninformed of the principles of republicanism, in that they admitted all free persons, and even a large proportion of slaves, as within the basis upon which the States are represented in the Federal Congress.

ORDERS OF INQUIRY.

Mr. NYMAN submitted the following order:

Ordered, That the Committee on the Legislative Department inquire into the propriety of abolishing the clause in our present Constitution disqualifying any minister or preacher of any denomination from being eligible as Senator or Delegate.

Mr. BERRY of Baltimore county. I think an order of that kind is unnecessary because as a matter of course that subject will come before that committee for inquiry, that being one of the matters in the present Constitution which will come before them for consideration. I have no particular objection to this particular order. I merely throw out the suggestion to avoid further orders of like character.

The order was agreed to.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE submitted the following:

Ordered, That the Committee on the Rights, Duties, Divisions and Sub-divisions of Counties, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of dividing the several counties of the State into Wards or Townships, in place of the present Election Districts; such Wards or Townships to be permanent political incorporations, and vested with all powers necessary for their local government.

Mr. BAKER. I should like to hear an explanation of this order.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The purpose of this order is to call the attention of that Committee to what I conceive to be in some respects a defect in the local government of the State. Three quarters of a century ago, Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, and large numbers who acted and thought with him, made a most determined effort in that State to establish sub-divisions in the several counties, to be vested with powers of local government. The same thing was attempted and successfully accomplished in many of the Northern States, and has been for more than a century in operation in some of them. The counties are divided into townships and wards, the inhabitants of each town assembling in town meeting and there in the form of a pure democracy transacting local business,

and having entrusted to them the management of the roads within their own limits, the public schools, and local taxation for these purposes, and various similar matters, which in this State are somewhat cumbersome, being turned entirely into the hands of the State Legislature. Any gentleman who has observed the course of events in our Legislature from year to year, knows that there are always brought up here a large number of matters of purely local concern of which the members of the other counties know nothing and care nothing. Such measure occupy sometimes more than three-fourths of the time of the Legislature. They are presented and usually referred to the delegation of the county as a committee. That delegation has been elected without any special reference to this particular matter and they act upon it, and their action, wise or unwise, is scarcely even reviewed or reversed by the Legislature. Matters with reference to roads, the location of school houses, and subjects of this sort, are acted upon without any notice being given to the persons directly and greatly interested in them, and they learn of the matter for the first time after it has become a law of the State. I am not prepared to say that any existing system of which I have any knowledge is exactly adapted to the wants of the counties of this State. It has occurred to me, between, that it might be possible for this committee, to initiate some measure or system of measures which might result in giving this State Legislature relief from discharging year after year business which it is unqualified to perform. I have therefore asked that this Committee be instructed to inquire into this subject; and if they can prepare a proper system, I trust that they will do so.

The order was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. PURNELL,
The Convention adjourned.

NINTH DAY.

TUESDAY, May 10th, 1864.

The Convention met.

Prayer by the Rev. Mr. McNamar.

The proceedings of yesterday were read.

SPECIAL COUNSEL.

The PRESIDENT laid before the Convention the following communication from the Comptroller,

Which which was read and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary Department, and ordered to be printed on the Journal.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE,
ANNAPOLIS, May 10th, 1864. }

To the President of the Convention:

SIR: In obedience to an order of the Convention, adopted on the 4th instant, requiring the Comptroller of the Treasury to report "a statement of the aggregate amount