

ment there will be no difficulty about reconsidering the previous section.

The PRESIDENT overruled the point of order.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I should think the best way would be for the House to pass on informally to the fifth section, which is one that regulates several others. The first thing I should presume, to enable us to act with any sort of effect, would be to decide the main question. Are we to have biennial or annual sessions?

Mr. BE T. I will adopt that suggestion and withdraw my amendment.

Mr. MILLER. I move to reconsider the vote by which the second section was adopted.

Mr. STIRLING. As I understand the motion to reconsider to be as good a way to test the sense of the Convention as any other, and as I am opposed to reconsideration, I call for the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was—yeas 20, nays 34—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Abbott, Belt, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Carke, Dent, Edelen, Hollyday, Hopper, Lonsdale, Larsh, Miller, Morgau, Peter, Ridgely, Swope, Thomas, Wickard—20.

*Nays*—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Annan, Baker, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Earle, Ecker, Galloway, Hatch, Hebb, Hopkins, Jones, of Cecil, Keefer, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Noble, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Russell, Sands, Schley, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Sykes, Todd, Wooden—34.

As their names were called,

Mr. BRISCOE said: In order to get the sense of the House, and not as a test question, I vote 'aye.'

Mr. CLARKE. I vote "aye." I do not regard it as a test question at all.

Mr. MILLER. I vote "aye," because I am in favor of annual elections and annual sessions of the Legislature. I look upon it as a test vote. The Bill of Rights requires the election of the Legislature to be free and frequent as one of the great safeguards of liberty.

Mr. SANDS. I am in favor of annual sessions and biennial elections. This section reads:

"Section 2. The members of the House of Delegates shall be elected by the qualified voters of the counties and city of Baltimore respectively, to serve for two years from the day of their election."

This does not at all involve the question of annual sessions, and I shall therefore vote "no."

So the Convention refused to reconsider. The fourth section was read as follows:

"Section 4. Immediately after the Senate shall have convened, after the first election under this Constitution, the senators shall

be divided by lot into two classes, as nearly equal in number as may be—the senators of the first class shall go out of office at the expiration of two years, and senators shall be elected on the first Wednesday of November, eighteen hundred and sixty-six, for the term of four years to supply their places; so that, after the first election, one-half of the senators may be chosen every second year. In case the number of senators be hereafter increased, such classification of the additional senators shall be made as to preserve, as nearly as may be, an equal number in each class."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move that this section be passed over informally; and I will state the reason for that motion. The report of the committee on the apportionment of the representation has not yet been acted upon. That provides for more than one senator for at least one of the places named. If that should be adopted, it might be necessary to modify this article immediately.

The motion was agreed to.

The fifth section was read as follows:

"Section 5. The General Assembly shall meet on the first Wednesday of January, eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and on the same day in every second year thereafter, and at no other time, unless convened by the proclamation of the Governor."

Mr. THOMAS moved to strike out the words "in every second year" and insert "annually."

Mr. MILLER demanded the yeas and nays on the amendment, and they were ordered.

Mr. BELT. I understand the effect of this amendment to be this: Those who vote to sustain the amendment vote for annual sessions. That will not deprive us of the opportunity of voting for annual elections afterwards.

Mr. PETER. It seems to me that we have already virtually decided the question of annual elections, in refusing to reconsider the second article. If we are to have biennial elections I am opposed to annual sessions. Why should the same Legislature meet here for two years, and put the State to an additional expense? If we can have annual elections, I am in favor of annual sessions of the Legislature; but without an election, for the same persons to come here again, and put the State to an additional expense I am opposed to. I believe that the people of the State should be represented as often as practicable, say every year, that we may get at the true feeling and sentiment of the people. I think their interests would be advanced by annual sessions, provided we could have annual elections; but I am not willing that the State should incur the additional expense of their assembling every year when they are elected every two years.

Mr. CHAMBERS. It appears to me a perfect contradiction of the theory of republican