

"For the punishment of crimes and misdemeanors, regulating the practice of courts of justice, or authorizing or directing the trial of any case in any court;

"For the assessment and collection of taxes for State or county purposes, or extending the time for the collection of taxes;

"Providing for the support of public schools, the preservation of school funds, the location or the regulation of school houses;

"Granting divorces;

"Changing the names of persons;

"Conferring the rights of citizenship upon minors or foreigners;

"Relating to fees or salaries;

"Relating to the interest on money;

"Providing for regulating the election or compensation of State or county officers, or designating the places of voting;

"Providing for the sale of real estate belonging to minors or other persons laboring under legal disabilities, by executors, administrators, guardians or trustees;

"Giving effect to informal or invalid deeds or wills;

"Refunding money paid into the State treasury, or releasing persons from their debts or obligations to the State;

"Or establishing, locating or affecting the construction of roads."

As the Convention will observe, the amendment which I have offered includes a large number of cases. As it will be difficult to understand them in all their bearings, by a single reading, in order that my amendment may be acted on intelligently by the Convention, I move that this section with the pending amendment be informally passed over until some time hereafter, when the amendment will have been printed in the journal, and the Convention can then take it up and act upon it understandingly.

The question being then taken upon postponing the further consideration of section nineteen for the present, it was agreed to.

STATE INDEBTEDNESS.

Section twenty was then read as follows:

"No debt shall hereafter be contracted by the General Assembly unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same, and the taxes laid for this purpose shall not be repealed or applied to any other object until the said debt and interest thereon shall be fully discharged, and the amount of debts so contracted and remaining unpaid shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars. The credit of the State shall not in any manner be given or loaned to, or in aid of, any individual, association or corporation, nor shall the General Assembly have the power in any mode to involve

the State in the construction of works of internal improvement, or in any enterprise which shall involve the faith or credit of the State, or make any appropriations therefor, and they shall not use or appropriate the proceeds of the internal improvement companies, or of the State tax now levied, or which may hereafter be levied to pay off the public debt, to any other purpose, until the interest and debt are fully paid, or the sinking fund shall be equal to the amount of the outstanding debt; but the General Assembly may, without laying a tax, borrow an amount never to exceed fifty thousand dollars, to meet temporary deficiencies in the treasury, and may contract debts to any amount that may be necessary for the defence of the State."

Mr. STROCKBRIDGE. I move to amend this section by striking out the words,

"And the amount of the debts so contracted and remaining unpaid shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars."

I make this motion, because the section as it now stands seems to me to be vague. I would like before voting on it to have some explanation from the committee that reported it. As it stands now, it seems to me that even for the purpose of maintaining the credit of the State, and to meet the interest upon the State debt, we cannot impose an amount of debt to exceed one hundred thousand dollars. If this section does not mean that, then I am at a loss to know what it does mean. I hope that the committee will give us some explanation of it so that we may act understandingly.

The question being then taken upon the amendment, it was agreed to.

No further amendment was offered to section twenty.

EXTRA COMPENSATION TO OFFICERS, &C.

Section twenty-one was then read as follows:

"No extra compensation shall be granted or allowed by the General Assembly to any public officer, agent, servant or contractor, after the services shall have been rendered or the contract entered into. Nor shall the salary or compensation of any public officer be increased or diminished, during his term of office."

Mr. MILLER. I move to amend the last clause of this section by striking out the words "increased or," so that it will read, "nor shall the salary or compensation of any public officer be diminished during his term of office." I will briefly state the object of this amendment. I know this has been the provision of the present Constitution, and is perhaps in the constitutions of several of the States. But the circumstances of the times are now such, the depreciation of the currency is so great, that it is almost impossible to say what will be its condition a short time from now. And when we fix the salary for an officer of the State at the time he is elected at