

the Governor by the person making it, or if such death occur during the legislative recess, and more than ten days before its termination, it shall be the duty of the Governor to issue a warrant of election to supply the vacancy thus created, in the same manner the said Speaker or President might have done during the session of the General Assembly," &c.

I think this portion is clumsily expressed, but the evident meaning of it is clear. But the committee are not responsible for this phraseology, for they have copied it from the present Constitution.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I move to amend this section by striking out the words "making it" and inserting the words "so resigning or refusing to act;" so that it will read: "and in case of such resignation or refusal to act, being communicated in writing to the Governor by the person so resigning or refusing to act."

The question being taken upon the amendment, it was adopted.

Mr. STIRLING. I would suggest a verbal amendment of this portion of the section Change "or if such death occur" to "or if such death occurring."

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles. I move to strike out the word "ten" and insert the word "five" in the clause fixing the time of notice of election, so that that clause will read, "of which election not less than five days notice shall be given." My reason for that is, that the sessions of the Legislature are to be very short, and the probability is that some counties will be reduced to one member; and if ten days notice of an election is required, there will be a delay of time, and a great part of the session will be over before a new member can be returned.

The question was then taken upon the amendment, and it was not adopted.

No further amendment was offered to the twenty-seventh section.

Section twenty-eight having been previously considered—

PUBLICATION OF LAWS.

Section twenty-nine was read as follows: "No law passed by the General Assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next after the session at which it may be passed, unless it be otherwise expressly declared therein; and in case any public law is made to take effect before the said first day of June, the General Assembly shall provide for the immediate publication of the same."

Mr. RIDGELY. I move to strike out the word "public" in the clause which now reads—"and in case any public law is made to take effect before the said first day of June, the General Assembly shall provide for the immediate publication of the same."

Mr. CHAMBERS. What is the advantage of publishing all private laws?

Mr. RIDGELY. Public rights may be affected as well by private laws as by public laws; and the public should have notice of them. There are very many private laws which have a direct effect upon public interests. If the object of giving publicity to laws is to give the people notice of them and to give them an opportunity to vindicate their rights, and the notice should be given as well in case of private laws as public laws. There are very many instances of laws affecting corporations, such as railways, turnpikes, &c., which are private laws and which often affect the public interest; and the public should have notice and warning of the passage of such laws as of bills exclusively public in their character. That is the object of my motion.

Mr. MILLER. I would like to understand from the chairman of the committee what is meant by the publication of laws. Does it mean the mere publication in book form, for the same phraseology is used when that publication is provided for.

Mr. SCHLEY. It refers to the publication of each particular law.

Mr. MILLER. I would suggest that the words "in the newspapers" be inserted after the word "publication."

Mr. SCHLEY. The mode of publication is left to the General Assembly.

Mr. DENT. It seems to me that this amendment if adopted would be involving the treasury of the State in a very heavy expense. The legislation hereafter should be of the character of that which has been adopted by previous Legislatures. I do not know how far we shall be restricted in the character of our legislation by the provisions of the Constitution which it is proposed to adopt. There is an amendment now pending to this article, submitted by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge,) which has been passed over informally, which, if adopted, will restrict the Legislature to a considerable extent in regard to all private acts. And if you require the publication of every corporation act, every local bill, every private act, such as have been heretofore passed by the Legislature, it will be a very heavy tax upon the State, and I think a very useless expense upon the public. I think the word "public" should be retained.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. It does not occur to me that the practical difficulty will exist which seems to be apprehended by the gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Dent.) The amendment is to require the Legislature to provide for the publication of these private acts. Now, the Legislature may enact that no private act shall have validity or force unless the person to be benefitted by it causes it to be published in a certain manner. It does not necessarily involve the State in expense.

Mr. DENT. I was influenced by the lan-