

guage of the section as it now stands. It reads—"The General Assembly shall provide for the immediate publication of the same,"—that is of the law. Suppose that the Legislature is required to provide for the publication of all laws; they may also provide that the expense of that publication shall be paid by the State.

Mr. RIDGELY. The gentleman from St. Mary's (Mr. Dent) has overlooked the fact that the amendment I have suggested has reference only to that class of laws which are to take effect before the first of June. And it is very well known by persons who are at all familiar with the proceedings of our Legislature, that the proportion of laws taking effect before the first of June is comparatively limited. In addition to what has been said by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) that the Legislature may provide that in the case of private laws the expense of publication may devolve upon those who are interested in them; in addition to that I will say, as I said before, that there are very many private laws which affect public interests very seriously, and it is proper that the public should have notice of the passage of such laws. In very many instances they are now carried into effect without the knowledge of the people, of those who are particularly interested in them. If there is any reason why a law public in its nature should be published, the same reason exists where a private law has an immediate effect upon the public interests or the public at large.

Mr. DENT. In reply to a portion of the gentleman's argument, I would remark that if he will refer to the acts of the Legislature to which I had reference—acts of incorporation, private and local bills of all classes, he will find that invariably the last section provides that "this act shall take effect from and after its passage." And it is the publication of that class of laws to which I objected.

The question being taken upon the motion of Mr. RIDGELY, to strike out the word "public," it was not agreed to.

Mr. BELT. In order to test the sense of the Convention upon a practical method of publication that will reach the people, I move to add: "in at least two newspapers in each county and the city of Baltimore."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. May I ask if there are two newspapers in every county of the State?

Mr. SCHLEY. I hope that amendment will not pass. I think it is better to leave it to the discretion of the Legislature. There may not be two newspapers in each county; and there may be laws of such importance as to require their publication in every newspaper of the State. I hope we shall not restrict the Legislature by the adoption of this amendment.

Mr. BELT withdrew the amendment.

The 30th section was read as follows:

"Sec. 30. The General Assembly shall pass laws for the preservation of the purity of elections, by the registration of voters, or by such other means as may be deemed expedient, and to make effective the provisions of the Constitution disfranchising certain persons, or disqualifying them from holding office."

Mr. BELT moved to amend by adding the following:

"But no law shall be passed disfranchising any persons or disqualifying any persons from holding office, except such persons as may be duly convicted under the laws of this State or of the United States, before the proper judicial tribunals of the same, of some crime of the degree of felony."

Mr. BELT demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was—yeas 16, nays 34—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Belt, Chambers, Dail, Davis, of Charles, Dennis, Dent, Edelen, Harwood, Henkle, Hollyday, Johnson, Jones, of Somerset, Lee, Mitchell, Miller, Morgan—16.

Nays—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Audoun, Barron, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Earle, Ecker, Galloway, Hatch, Hopkins, Hopper, King, Larsh, Markey, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Ridgely, Russell, Sands, Schley, Scott, Stirling, Stockbridge, Sykes, Wickard, Wooden—34.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move to strike out "or" in line three, and insert "and." The purpose is to make the registration obligatory, and not to leave any alternative whatever. It is the only mode of preserving the purity of elections.

The amendment was adopted.

Mr. DAVIS, of Charles, moved to strike out all after the word "elections" in line two.

The amendment was rejected.

The 31st section was read as follows:

"Section 31. Every bill, when passed by the General Assembly and sealed with the great seal, shall be presented to the Governor, who shall sign the same in the presence of the presiding officers and chief clerks of the Senate and House of Delegates. Every law shall be recorded in the office of the Court of Appeals, and in due time be printed, published and certified under the great seal to the several courts, in the same manner as has been heretofore usual in this State."

Mr. MILLER. I move that that section be passed over informally, for the reason that the chairman of the Executive Committee is not present, and the report of the Executive Committee relating to the veto power, may require a modification of this section.

The motion was agreed to.

Sections 32, 33, and 34 were read, and no amendments offered.