

and treasurer of the State, are hereby authorized and directed conjointly or any two of them, to sell at the earliest practicable period to the highest bidder for cash, in lawful money of the United States, the State's interest in the works of internal improvement, whether as stockholder or creditor, except the State's interest in the Washington Branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, which shall be and hereby is reserved and excepted from the sale hereby authorized and directed, and to apply the proceeds arising from such sale towards the payment of the public debt of the State, and after the public debt shall have been fully paid off, or the sinking fund shall be equal to its liquidation, the excess of such sale shall be set apart as a permanent fund for the support of public education.

"Provided however, that the stock held by the State in the main stem of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, shall not be sold for less than its par value in lawful money of the United States; and provided further, that the interest held by the State in the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, shall not be sold for a less sum than five millions of dollars, and under such regulations as the legislature may prescribe."

Mr. McCOMAS gave notice that at the proper time he would submit the following amendment to section 39, of said report:

Add to said section the following:

"Provided however, that prior to any of said sales having been effected, that notices of the powers conferred by this section and the amount of said interests, shall have been published at least three times in two newspapers supposed to have the largest circulation in Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, Cincinnati, Chicago, St. Louis, Liverpool, London and Paris, and that they shall receive sealed proposals for the same, for at least ——— months after the ratification of this constitution by the people of the State, and reserving to themselves the right to reject or accept any or all proposals thus made."

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

The convention then resumed the consideration of the report of the committee on the legislative department, which was on its second reading.

SUPPORT OF EMANCIPATED SLAVES, &c.

The pending question was upon adopting the following additional section proposed by Mr. MILLER:

"Section —. The legislature shall provide by law, and make appropriations from the treasury, if necessary, for the comfortable support and maintenance of such slaves manumitted by the adoption of this constitution as may, by reason of age or other cause, be unable to support and maintain themselves."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. If in order, I would like to offer a few observations upon this pro-

posed section. The question before the convention raised by this proposed section, is a very different one from any which has been before the convention, and been acted upon since we have been assembled as a convention. We have already acted upon the question whether slavery shall continue in the State; and upon the question, after having decided that in the negative, whether or not those who have heretofore held slaves shall be compensated by the State, and that also has been decided in the negative.

Mr. SCHLEY. I would ask if the yeas and nays had not been ordered upon this very question last night, and if they had not been taken, and failed to be consummated only by the want of a quorum?

The PRESIDENT. Such is the fact.

Mr. SCHLEY. Then is the subject open for discussion now?

The PRESIDENT. The chair thinks it is.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. If it is the desire of gentlemen to proceed to take the vote upon this question, I will waive the privilege of addressing the convention.

Mr. SCHLEY. I have no desire of the kind. I am very anxious to hear the gentleman. I merely wish to have our proceedings in order.

The PRESIDENT. The yeas and nays having been ordered, and the roll having been called, and there not appearing to be a quorum voting, it is just the same as if the roll had not been called. The gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) is in order, and will proceed.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I should not have purposed to address the convention, but for the direct personal allusion which, in the course of the discussion, has been made to me, and which seems to call for some few words in reply.

I have just remarked that the question before the convention differs essentially from either of those upon which the convention has acted. We have decided that slavery shall not continue in Maryland. We have decided that the legislature shall not make appropriations to compensate the claimants of slaves for those that may be set free by the action of this convention, or by the people in ratifying its proceedings.

The question now before us is in regard to the maintenance of superannuated slaves, the providing for those not able to take care of themselves. It is proposed to incorporate a provision here which shall supersede the action of the legislature heretofore, which in my humble judgment is full and adequate upon this subject. We have full legislative provision made already for the maintenance of superannuated slaves, in the sixty-sixth article of the code: and also for the maintenance and care, and prevention of the nuisance of vagrant free negroes. Both of these are fully and adequately provided for in the code.

But gentlemen seem to apprehend that