Ordered, That the Committee, (required under 24th Section of 3rd Article of the Constitution,) when appointed, be instructed to inquire the cost of printing for the General Assembly of Maryland since the Session of 1865, and to report in full thereupon,

Respectfully submit the following as the result of their investigation:

By examination of the books of the Comptroller we find that the contract for printing for the Legislature of 1865 was awarded to H. P. Bailey and amounted in the aggregate, (for 90 days,) to the sum of...................................... $45,006 09

For the Session of 1866, (30 days,) to Haverstack & Longnecker, costing....................................... 21,400 32

For the Session of 1867, (90 days,) to Henry A. Lucas, costing.. 63,445 89

For the Session of 1868, (90 days,) to William Thompson of R., costing.................................... 48,500 00

For the Session of 1870, (90 days,) to. William Thompson of R., costing................................... 40,000 00

For the Session of 1872, (90 days,) to S. S. Mills and L. F. Colton, costing....................................... 38,000 00

For the Session of 1874, (90 days,) to Mills & Colton, for the House.............................. 48,509 30

To Wm. T. Iglehart & Co., for the Senate.......... 20,927 00

For the Constitutional Convention of 1864, to H. P. Bailey for printing the proceedings........ 17,372 45

To C. C. Fulton for publishing Constitution....... 2,707 00

For the Constitutional Convention of 1867, to George Colton for printing proceedings and publishing the Constitution........................ 9,879 07

It further appears by examination and comparison that the largest amounts which the printing cost were for the sessions in which the contracts were made by the page, while the smaller sums were the result of having the work done for a specified sum, and it is the opinion of your Committee, that while it would seem equitable to have the work done by the page, it would be more economical to contract for a specified amount, and we fully concur in an order passed by the House of Delegates, looking to the matter of regulating the Public Printing, and recommend that the Joint Committee on Printing introduce a bill regulating the mode and manner of contracting in the future, and fixing a maximum limit be-