

against betting on elections; and all deposits of wagers on elections, were to be paid to the treasurer of the Western Shore for the benefit of the school fund,⁸⁰ the fines collected from persons violating the oyster laws were also appropriated to the same purpose.⁸¹

On the 25th of February, Mr. Smith, of Allegany county, chairman of the committee on education submitted a majority report. The report recommended to the legislature to establish a permanent and adequate school fund, so soon as the financial condition of the State should justify it. The fund was to be securely invested, and remain perpetually for educational purposes. The legislature was also to establish a uniform system of public schools throughout the State. The report also provided for the establishing of a State Normal School, and for the election of a state superintendent of public schools.⁸² The consideration of the committee's report, after several attempts to have it taken up by the convention, was postponed indefinitely, and no final action was taken on the subject.

The question of public education was discussed in the convention when the report of the committee on the legislative department was considered. The original bill as reported by this committee provided that no loans should be made upon the credit of the State, except such as may be authorized by an act of the General Assembly passed at one session; and be confirmed at the next regular session of the General Assembly.⁸³ Mr. Constable, of Cecil county, moved an amendment to this article by inserting a provision which would authorize the legislature to impose taxes for the establishment of a uniform system of public schools throughout the State, adequately endowed to educate every white child within its limits.⁸⁴ This amendment was rejected. The extravagance of the legis-

⁸⁰ Act 1839, ch. 392, sec. 2.

⁸¹ Act 1833, ch. 254, sec. 5.

⁸² Debates, vol. i, p. 339.

⁸³ Debates, vol. i, p. 124; Committee's Report, sec. 21.

⁸⁴ Debates, vol. i, p. 395.