

imously adopted, several of the minority leaders heartily endorsing it.⁴⁸ The order in the Convention had been exceptionally good.⁴⁹

The sessions of the Convention had lasted four months and ten days, and the average daily attendance had been about sixty. The largest number present on any one day was ninety-one, on June 1, and the smallest was seven, on July 18, at the close of the period of Early's invasion. There was numerous attempts to compel the attendance of members, to publish the names of absentees, or to deduct pay for unexcused absence, but they all came to nothing, being usually tabled by good majorities.⁵⁰

As stated above, there was no inducement for the minority to attempt to delay proceedings by absenting themselves from the Convention, as the majority were numerically large enough to transact business without any aid from their opponents, after the rules of order had been modified to permit the adoption of a provision by a majority of the members present.

After some vacillation and delay, showing that there must have been some compunctions of conscience on the part of several members, the Convention followed the example of the preceding legislature (1864), and by a small majority, voted themselves \$100 extra mileage.⁵¹ They based this action on the clause in the Convention Bill allowing them the same mileage as the Legislature, and thus threw on the other body any blame for an illegal proceeding. This action was entirely non-partisan, the leading members of both sides dividing into opposing groups on the question.

It should be added, that in compliance with the Convention Bill the debates and proceedings of the Convention were well reported, and in point of excellence far exceed many of the other state documents and reports of that time.

Having taken this survey of the sessions of the Conven-

⁴⁸ Proc., 709; Deb., iii, 1852.

⁵⁰ Proc., 78, 89, 157, 162-3, 183, 286, 498.

⁴⁹ Deb., iii, 1757.

⁵¹ Proc., 707, 715-8.