

made a few days before, had contained the provision (section 40) that "The General Assembly shall pass no law, nor make any appropriation to compensate the masters or claimants of slaves emancipated from servitude by the adoption of this Constitution."⁶⁴ A minority report proposed a provision especially giving this power,⁶⁵ but it was voted down when introduced as an amendment.⁶⁶ Mr. Brown here again attempted to introduce an article providing for the maintenance of the emancipated slaves unable to support themselves,⁶⁷ but the majority defeated it, urging that the counties rather than the state should care for the local poor, and that the regular laws of the state dealing with this subject would be sufficient.⁶⁸ A motion to strike out the above section of the committee report failed, and it was adopted on July 25 by the vote of 38 to 13.⁶⁹ Mr. Briscoe of Calvert on August 31 made the last attempt of the minority to obtain state compensation by shrewdly offering an amendment to the provisions for the taking of the vote on the Constitution, which provided that at the same time there should be a separate vote on this question. This was promptly defeated with no debate of any consequence, the "previous question" being used.⁷⁰

The minority doggedly turned next to the question of national compensation, and with slight success, for the majority members, although rather generally opposed to this as well, might have been put in an embarrassing position had they openly come out against it. It will be at once remembered that one of the great traits of the Unconditional Union party, to which most of the latter belonged, had been uncompromising support of President Lincoln's entire policy, and that necessarily included his offer of national compensation for the slaves in the border

⁶⁴ Proc., 193.

⁶⁵ Proc., 209.

⁶⁶ Proc., 304.

⁶⁷ Proc., 306.

⁶⁸ Deb., ii, 954, 957; Proc., 309.

⁶⁹ Proc., 309-10, Article 3, sec. 36, of the Constitution.

⁷⁰ Proc., 669-70.