

Mr. Firor reported a bill entitled, an act to abolish the board of inspectors for primary schools in Frederick county, and invest their powers in the levy court of said county;

Read the first time and laid on the table.

Also, a bill, entitled, an act, relative to public roads in Frederick county;

Read the first time and laid on the table.

Also, a bill, entitled, an act authorising the levy court of Frederick county, in their discretion to levy a sum of money to build a bridge over Fishing Creek, at or near Lewistown, on the road leading from Mechanicstown to Frederick;

Read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Mason reported a bill, entitled, an act to repeal an act, passed December session, 1820, chapter 210;

Read the first time and laid on the table.

Mr. Mason, chairman of the committee on elections made the following report:

The committee on elections and privileges beg leave to

REPORT:

That they have had under consideration the returns from Calvert county, in the case of the special election, held on the 8th February last, to fill the vacancy in the delegation from that county, occasioned by the tie at the annual election in October, between Messrs. Stevens and Allnutt; and that they believe that a majority of the legal votes were cast for Francis Stevens.

Your committee discover some informalities in the return of the judges in this particular case. The number of votes received by neither of the candidates is given in the return—it merely announces that Francis Stevens has received a majority of votes, and he is thereby declared duly elected.

And further, it appears to your committee that in district No. 2, neither the judges nor clerks were sworn, as required by the election laws of the State. If the vote of this district is rejected, James G. Allnutt is elected, by a decided vote over Francis Stevens, by a majority of fifty-eight votes.

Notwithstanding, however, these irregularities and informalities, your committee being satisfied that Francis Stevens received a majority of votes, do hereby declare him duly elected.

The committee cannot recognise the power of the judges of elections, either through corruption or ignorance to defeat the will of the people. When clearly ascertained, as they believe it is in this instance, the will of the people is paramount to the decision of the judges. It is an inherent right of the people to participate in the legislature, by empowering them to elect from among themselves their own agents to represent them here and elsewhere. The right of suffrage is secured to the people by the Constitution. It is in vain though that this right is thus secured to the people, if it be competent for any set of men to deprive them of it by fraud or ignorance. It being therefore clear to the minds of your com-