

Which were severally read the first time and ordered to lie on the table.

Mr. Ford, chairman of the committee on the constitution, delivered the following report:

The Committee appointed to consider and report such amendments as are necessary to be made in the Constitution and Form of Government of this State, have had the subject under consideration, and beg leave to report:

That a large majority of the committee are of opinion that certain amendments to the Constitution should be made in regard to the basis of representation in the House of Delegates, and the basis of representation and mode of electing the Senate, and the manner of electing the Governor, and of appointing to Civil Offices of Executive appointment. These amendments with various other amendments of an incidental character, are embodied in a Bill, entitled, "An Act to amend the Constitution and Form of Government of the State of Maryland," which they beg leave to submit to the consideration of the House.

This Bill is the fruit of a spirit of compromise which must always be invoked when important changes are proposed to be made in the organic law of a Republic.

Considered in the abstract, and without reference to the existing circumstances of this State, it might be difficult to sustain every distinct feature of the Bill upon strict principle. It is believed however, that the concessions made by the smaller and least populous counties of the State will be accepted as substantial evidences of their disposition to gratify the reasonable demands of those sections which are at present excited on the subject of reform.

It will be observed that the bill reported by the committee, provides for future additions to the representation of the larger counties in the House of Delegates. As the power of reapportioning the representation is thus given to the Legislature to be exercised by a single act, it is by no means to be treated as illusive; on the contrary, it affords to every portion of the State a guarantee that any irregularities which may be supposed to exist in the present apportionment of representation, will be remedied within a term not far distant. A gradual change in the constitution of our General Assembly is desirable.

Your committee believe that further improvements may be made in the constitution—some propositions they have at this moment under consideration, and design, with permission of the House, to set from time to time, and report such amendments as they may hereafter mature.