

The question was then put, Shall the said bill pass? Resolved in the affirmative.
The house adjourns until to-morrow morning 9 o'clock

WEDNESDAY, February 9. 1825.

The house met. Present the same members as on yesterday. The proceedings of yesterday were read.
The bill relative to the inspection of salted fish, was sent to the senate.

Mr. Merrick delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the petition of Daniel Schnebly, of Washington county, have had the same under consideration, and being of opinion that it is reasonable and ought to be granted, recommend the passage of the following resolution:

Resolved by the general assembly of Maryland, That the treasurer of the western shore pay to Daniel Schnebly, of Washington county, or order, the sum of twenty one dollars and twenty five cents.

By order,

J. B. LATIMER, Clk.

Mr. Howard delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the memorial of the members of the Baltimore Bar, praying an increase of the salary of the judges of the sixth judicial district, have had the same under consideration and beg leave to report unfavourably thereon.

Which was read and concurred with.

Mr. Millard obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, An act for the relief of Ann Dorsey of Saint Mary's county. Ordered, That Messrs. Millard, Kilgour and Hawkins, report the same.

On motion by Mr. Tingle, the following order was read:

Ordered, That hereafter, in addition to the present hours of sitting, this house sit, from 6 o'clock P. M. till 9 o'clock for the transaction of public business.

Mr. Peackle moved the following as a substitute:

Whereas much valuable time has been consumed by debates protracted from an early period of the day until the hour established for adjournment, to the postponement and consequent rejection of many matters of general interest; And whereas it is believed that the business of legislation may be conducted and expedited, and that the public welfare may be greatly promoted by amending the system of proceeding, therefore Ordered, That the following be added to the rules of this house 1 Immediately after the reading of the proceedings of the day preceding, the clerk shall announce the bills ready for a second reading, and the orders of the day 2 The speaker will then proceed to announce petitions and memorials in succession 3 That orders, leaves to introduce bills, and resolutions, will be received. 4 That reports of committees are in order 5 To announce bills reported for a first reading 6 That the second readings of reports, orders, resolutions and bills, shall be taken up and considered in due order 7 That the order of the day shall not be taken up until 12 o'clock, unless all the ordinary business shall have been disposed of.

Mr. Duvall moved to strike out the preamble? Resolved in the affirmative.

Mr. Duvall moved to strike out 12 to insert 11 o'clock, in the last rule. Determined in the negative.

The question was then put on the substitute? Determined in the negative.

Mr. Lee moved the following as a substitute? Ordered, That this house sit from 9 A. M. till 5 P. M. for the despatch of public business.

Mr. Wootton moved to strike out 5 and insert 4? Determined in the negative.

Mr. Patran moved to strike out 5 to insert 6? Determined in the negative.

The question was then put on the substitute offered by Mr. Lee? Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Peackle the question was put, That the order proposed by Mr. Tingle, be so amended as to read "sit till, 12 o'clock, and that committees shall sit during the residue of the night?"

Determined in the negative.

On motion by Mr. Dennis, the order was so amended as to confine the house to local business.

The order was then assented to

On motion by Mr. Duvall, Ordered That the orders of the day be taken up at 10 o'clock each day.

The report of the committee of ways and means, authorizing the state's agent to sell a tract of land called 'Now or Never,' was read the second time, the report concurred with, and the resolution assented to, and sent to the senate

The resolution reported by the committee of ways and means, authorizing the state's agent to secure for the state a tract of land belonging to Gustavus Scott, was read the second time, assented to, and sent to the senate.

Mr. M. Mahon from the committee of grievances and courts of justice delivers the following report:

The committee of grievances and courts of justice, in obedience to an order of this house requiring them to report to it their opinion upon the constitutionality of the law passed at the last session taxing certain offices in this state, beg leave to submit the following report—In complying with this order, the committee have had cause to lament, that the order itself did not specify the grounds upon which the notion of the unconstitutionality of this law rests, or that it did not at the least furnish some clue to the arguments by which it is sustained. As this opinion has been asked with regard to a law already in operation, a tax manifestly deemed constitutional by the last legislature, and a tax already imposed, the order implies a doubt of its constitutionality, or rather a belief of its unconstitutionality in the mind of its mover, and with a view to the removal of this doubt or belief, the reasons upon which it was based ought to have been disclosed. If the question were one of new impression, it might perhaps have been proper to throw the whole subject before the committee, and to ask at their hands an examination of all its bearings and tendencies; but as the question was involved in, and must have been decided by, the law passed at the last session, that decision ought to be regarded as so far entitled to respect, that if the propriety of it were questioned, it should have been for specified reasons. Under the vague terms of the present order, the committee are left to grope in the dark, and having been unable to find any reasons at all satisfactory to themselves, which might induce them to believe it unconstitutional, they are called upon to imagine the reasons, or the semblances of reasons, which may exist in the breasts of others; they are asked to conjure up, what to them, seem imaginary difficulties, merely that they may lay them.