

incapable of voting otherwise than he believed to be right, and that he would sustain the faith of the State. But unless he was able to stem the torrent of popular sentiment, which was somewhat problematical, his assurances, however sincere, could not remove the danger, and was insufficient security against it. While repeal and reform continued to be the watch cry of the city councils, we cannot safely trust to mere personal pledges. If the gentleman from Carroll was right, in his opinion, that the Treasurer ought not to buy any stocks above par, the sinking fund would remain inert and valueless; it would, in fact, in the ordinary acceptance of the term, cease to be a sinking fund. We cannot extinguish the debt, when above par, as our six per cent. stock shares, will be under our present revenue system, because the Treasurer can only purchase stock at par. The fund, therefore, could never accumulate, by making interest capital, bearing interest as it should do, and the investment would be a loss. He should vote for the proposition as it stands. The people of Maryland are willing to pay the public debt, and look with anxiety and pleasure, to the period when they will be released from all taxation on account of it; and they, ere long, will be relieved, if we restrict the Legislature from creating new debts, and leave the Treasurer at liberty to use his own discretion in the management of the sinking fund. He should be at liberty when our own stock cannot be obtained on reasonable terms, to purchase other stocks of other States of the Union, whose willingness and ability to pay is as indubitable as our own, when he can do so at a fair price.

Mr. JACOBS declined to withdraw the amendment.

And, pending the question,

The Convention adjourned until to-morrow at ten o'clock.

THURSDAY, February 27, 1851.

The Convention met at 10 o'clock.

Prayer was made by the Rev. Mr. GRIFFITH.

The roll was called and the journal of yesterday was read and approved.

THE COLORED POPULATION.

Mr. GAITHER presented a petition of sundry citizens of Frederick county, praying that an article be inserted in the new Constitution, compelling all free persons of color, annually, to give bond, with responsible security, to the State of Maryland, for their good behaviour, and in default thereof to leave the State.

Mr. MICHAEL NEWCOMER. I should like to have that petition read.

The petition was read, and

On motion of Mr. GAITHER, was referred to the committee on the colored population.

Mr. BISER presented the petition of William H. Shield and forty-seven other citizens of Fred-

erick county, praying for the erection of a new county, composed of Hauvers, Catoctin, Middletown, Petersville and Jefferson districts of said county, and the seat of justice to be decided by a majority of the legal voters of the contemplated county;

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. BISER,

Referred to the committee on new counties.

Mr. SHRIVER presented a petition of one hundred citizens of Catoctin district, in Frederick county, protesting against the creation of a new county from parts of Frederick and Washington counties, &c.;

Which was read, and

On motion of Mr. SHRIVER,

Referred to the committee on new counties.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Mr. NEILL rose and offered the following resolution:

Ordered, That the committee on Representation be instructed to report articles for the Constitution, giving to each of the counties of the State, and to the city of Baltimore, a right to elect one Senator to compose the Senate of Maryland, and making a House of Delegates, to consist of sixty-one members, to be apportioned among the several counties, according to their population, and to the city of Baltimore a representation not larger than that given to the largest county.

The resolution having been read,

Mr. NEILL said:

It is obvious, Mr. President, that this question of representation is one which has engrossed the meditations of every member of this Convention from the time of its first organization. We have had full, free and frequent communication with each other in regard to it. The course which every gentleman will take, seems to be pretty well understood. We have now been in session upwards of one hundred days. And upon this, the most grave and exciting subject that is to engage our attention, nothing has been done, unless the reports of individual members of the committee on representation, various and conflicting as they are, may be deemed something.

It is not my purpose to make any remarks calculated to draw forth the protracted debate which I know the subject will produce. Believing that the mind of every member of this body is made up, and believing it to be both right and necessary that there should be some expression of the opinion of the Convention in relation to this question, I demand the previous question on the adoption of the resolution.

Mr. BUCHANAN. I second the demand.

Mr. PRESSTMAN. Do I understand that the resolution *instructs* the committee to report this project?

Mr. NEILL. Yes, sir.

Messrs. BUCHANAN and BLAKISTONE called the yeas and nays on the adoption of the resolution; which were ordered.

Mr. CHAMBERS, of Kent, called for a division of the amendment.