

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county. The reason why I object to the proposition of the gentleman from Howard was because the Convention having adopted the rules of the House of Delegates, the appointing power rests with the President. The 45th rule says "The following standing committees, each to consist of so many, shall be appointed by the Speaker at the commencement of the session." If the committee is to be increased, I desire that the President of the Convention should increase it. No doubt he would consider the suggestion of the gentleman from Howard.

The PRESIDENT. The Convention having determined to act upon the rules of the House of Delegates, it would be proper to repeal the 45th rule, before adopting the order. But so far as the President is concerned he would waive any objection of that kind if the Convention choose to adopt the order.

Mr. ABBOTT. The Convention has determined the number for the committees, and I find that it takes nearly every member of the House upon some one of them. As suggested by the member from Anne Arundel (Mr. Bond) any increase of one committee takes members away from other committees.

The PRESIDENT. Every gentleman has been assigned to some particular duty by the President.

Mr. CHAMBERS. In referring this matter to the committee it seems to me that the Convention are taking very unnecessary trouble. When a committee shall come to the conclusion that their numbers are too few to perform the duties assigned to them, it is charity to presume that in the discharge of their duty they will so inform the House, and ask for an increase of their number. It seems to me a reflection upon the committee to say to them, if you have not got enough members to do your duty you ought to tell us so. I think the committees are sufficiently aware of the propriety of their position to do that thing without the spur being applied. The committee have not, as the House might reasonably suppose from the action of one of its members, asked for an increase. I move that the whole subject be laid upon the table.

The motion was agreed to—ayes 35; noes 33.

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL OFFICERS.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the following order submitted by Mr. CLARK on Tuesday last:

Ordered, That a Standing Committee, to consist of seven members, be appointed by the President of the Convention, to consider and report respecting the appointment, tenure of officers, duties and compensation of all civil officers not embraced in the duties of other Standing Committees.

Mr. CLARK. I will merely state in explanation of this order that when the various Standing Committees were appointed it was suggested, in reply to the gentleman from

Cecil, I think, upon an order for the appointment of the committees, that it would facilitate the business of the Convention if the substitute of the gentleman from Baltimore city were adopted. At the same time an intimation was thrown out that if there should be a necessity for an increase in the number of Standing Committees, such orders could from time to time be adopted. I do not understand therefore that the various committees necessarily embrace all the subjects before the Convention. A similar Standing Committee to this was appointed by the last Convention; and upon looking at the Constitution I think the necessity for such a committee is very evident. In article 7, Sec. 1, page 63, the Constitution provides for a Commissioner of Public Works. Now I know of no committee to whom that would properly belong. In Sec. 6, there is a provision for Lottery Commissioners. I presume their duties are now entirely gone. Then in Sec. 8, there is a reference to County Commissioners. I know of no committee to whom that subject would properly go,—how they should be appointed, whether elected or appointed by the Governor, or the various provisions in connection with it. Sec. 9 refers to Road Supervisors, Sec. 10 to Surveyors, and Sec. 11 to Wreck-Masters. All these various officers are appointed under the present Constitution, and they do not properly belong to any Committee yet appointed. It may be desirable that other officers should be provided for in this present Constitution.

Before the last Legislature there was a question of collecting, upon a recommendation from the Governor and Comptroller, appointing officers to come more directly under the supervision of the Comptroller, to secure greater uniformity. There was also the question of the County Treasurer. Some denied that the Collectors should pay directly to the County Treasurer, and that the County Treasurer should pay directly to the State Treasurer; and various provisions were considered to make that system uniform, instead of buying as now in some counties, County Treasurers, and in others no such officer.

I will not take up other subjects that might be suggested. I think I have said enough to show that it is advisable and well that we should have such a Committee.

The order was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT announced the following committee in accordance with the above order: Messrs. Clarke, Billingsley, Thruston, Daniel, Baker, Purnell and Davis.

OMNIBUS COMMITTEE.

Mr. OSBORN submitted the following order: Ordered, That a Standing Committee of seven be appointed by the President to consider and report upon all subjects brought before the Convention, which have not been provided for in the duties assigned to the committees already appointed.