

*Ordered*, That the Reverend Messrs. Davenport, Patterson, McNamar and Owens, be requested to be present alternatively, at each of the sessions of this Convention, and open the same with prayer.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE submitted the following order:

*Ordered*, That the President of this Convention be requested to increase the Committee on the Judiciary Department, by adding thereto two members;

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE states he had offered this order under the direction of the committee:

The order was agreed to.

The President appointed Messrs. Thruston and Daniel, in accordance with the above order.

Mr. SNEYDY submitted the following order:

*Ordered*, that the Treasurer of the State of Maryland, upon the order of the President of this Convention, pay to Alfred Miller, who has been temporarily discharging the duties of Page, the per diem and mileage allowed to the permanent Pages, for the number of days of service which he may have rendered;

Which was adopted.

Mr. PURNELL submitted the following order:

*Ordered*, That the Committee to consider and report respecting the Elective Franchise, be instructed to inquire into the expediency of incorporating into the Constitution an article extending the right of suffrage to soldiers, drafted or enlisted from this State into the service of the United States, and who may be out of this State, and in the service of the United States at the time of any election in this State, and that the Legislature at its next session provided by law for the holding of an election in the regiments to which such soldiers may belong, under such restrictions and regulations as may be deemed necessary to guard the purity of the ballot-box.

Mr. SANDS stated that the Committee already had that subject under consideration.

The order was adopted.

Mr. MARKEY submitted the following order:

*Ordered*, That the Committee on the Judiciary inquire into the expediency of giving to the Orphans' Courts of the several counties and the city of Baltimore, jurisdiction over the real estate of persons dying intestate where the valuation thereof does not exceed the sum of three thousand dollars.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I have no objection whatever to the order which is proposed if it be understood that they shall not be precluded from giving the Orphans' Courts jurisdiction when the amount is larger than \$3,000, if they see fit.

The order was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. M'YHUGH,

*Ordered*, That the Committee on the Legislative Department be directed to inquire into the expediency of providing for the disposal of the incorporate stocks of the State.

On motion of Mr. RIDGELY,

*Ordered*, That the Committee on the Judiciary, consider whether by abolishing the fees of office, and the substitution of some other mode of compensation, or otherwise, the character of the office of Justice of the Peace, may not be elevated and the administration of the office to be made more efficient and faithful.

#### BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

The Convention proceeded to the consideration of the following resolution submitted by Mr. BELT on Monday last:

*Resolved*, That if the principle contained in the resolution of the gentleman from Washington county be correct, in asserting that, under a republican system, population is the true basis of representation, excluding all classes not endowed with the right of suffrage, then the authors of the Constitution of the United States, were uninformed of the principles of republicanism, in that they admitted all free persons, and even a large proportion of slaves as within the basis upon which the States are represented in the Federal Congress.

Mr. BELT moved that this resolution be referred to the Committees on the Basis of Representation.

Mr. RIDGELY. It strikes me, sir, that that proposition is not strictly in order. It does not present any subject for the consideration of this body, for inquiry or for legislation. It is the mere argument of the gentleman who proposed it; and it is submitted to the body as an argument, in its form, and not as a question to be considered by the committee—not as a matter for the substantive legislative action of the Convention. It is a mere isolated independent abstract inquiry, in no way connected with the deliberations of this body on any subject before it. I respectfully suggest therefore that it is not strictly in order.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I hope my friend from Prince George's will withdraw his resolution.

Mr. BELT. I had supposed that any proposition made here in good faith would at least receive the courtesy of a nominal reference to a committee. Whether it is a substantive principle or not, it carries with it something by way of principle, and is a proposition for the consideration of the committee. If there is the least objection to it, of course I will not press it.

Mr. RIDGELY. Before it is withdrawn allow me to say, at once and in advance, that I trust I shall ever be controlled by the nicest sense of courtesy and delicacy towards my brethren here in the whole course of my action in this body. I have not been influenced in the most remote degree, by any feeling inconsistent with this, but made the suggestion simply to relieve this body, in the press of its business, from a subject not legitimately for its consideration.

Mr. BELT withdrew the resolution.