

my recollection is that there was a special provision, by resolution or otherwise, in reference to the Governor.

Mr. PUGH. If there is any doubt at all about the matter, I should think that the order should be passed; for it is very important that there should be no doubt about it.

Mr. BELT. I will suggest to the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Hebb) that a portion of his order appears to conflict with the order offered by the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. King) and rejected. That order contemplated the continuance of persons holding office in their offices, and the Convention refused to refer it or consider it at all. The order of the gentleman from Allegany assumes that certain persons are to be retained in office. There is an incongruity, it seems to me, between the two orders. I am in favor of the principle stated in the order of the gentleman from Allegany; for I do not think there ought to be any discrimination in favor of or against persons retained in office. They ought to stand upon precisely the same qualification as those elected. There can be no doubt about that.

The order was adopted.

RULES OF ORDER.

On motion of Mr. STIRLING, the Convention proceeded to the consideration of the order of the day, being the report of the Committee on Rules; and it was read and amended as follows:

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE moved to fill the blank in Rule 4, with the number "seven."

Mr. BAKER moved to fill the blank with "five."

The question was stated upon insertions "seven," the longest time.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I will give my reason for naming seven days in preference to a shorter time. Some of the adjournments of this body have been quite long. By an order adopted yesterday, we are to-day to adjourn until Wednesday next. If by any contingency the President should not be present at that time, any member whom he may to-day have named would not be qualified, under the motion of the gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Baker) to take the chair at that time. I named seven days, so that in case such a contingency should occur we might not be without a presiding officer.

Mr. STIRLING. I have great respect for the Chair, but I think this is giving rather a large privilege to any presiding officer to enable him to be gone out of the chair for a week. The House is surely able to put somebody in the chair, in case there is nobody there. This is only intended to give the President the privilege of leaving his chair from time to time for the purpose of making it more comfortable for him than to stay here all the time during the session. Other members have the right to get up and go out; but the President, without this provision, has no such op-

portunity. It is not intended that he should be absent day after day and put somebody else in the chair. I see no necessity for such a long period of time.

Mr. KENNARD. The rules of the House of Delegates say seven days. The committee thought it better to leave it blank and let the Convention determine. For myself, I am not particular about it.

Mr. STIRLING. There are two or three of the Rules of the House of Delegates that I always thought were very extraordinary; and this is one of them.

The motion to fill the blank with "seven" was lost—yeas 28; nays 29.

Mr. GREENE moved to fill the blank with "five."

The motion was agreed to—yeas 41; nays not counted.

Rule 15th, having been read,

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county, said: "Every report from a committee containing articles or sections proposed to be made part of the Constitution, shall receive three readings in the Convention, on three different days of the session, previous to its adoption," &c. That might be construed to mean nine readings. I move to substitute the words "be read to the Convention on three different days of the session."

Mr. SCHLEY. It does not say "three readings on each of three different days." Three readings on three different days cannot be nine readings on three different days.

Mr. CLARKE. It conforms with the reading of the rule of the House of Delegates with reference to bills:

"Every bill shall receive three readings in the House on three different days of the session previous to its passage," &c.

Mr. BRAY, of Baltimore county, I only want to make it plain, and remove the ambiguity.

Mr. MILLER. The construction can be rendered certain by the modification, "three readings in the Convention, one on each of three different days of the session."

Mr. HEBB. I would suggest that we use the language of the Constitution with reference to bills; that they shall "be read on three different days of the session."

Mr. BERRY, of Baltimore county, modified his amendment, so as to strike out "receive three readings in the Convention," and insert "be read," so as to conform to the language of the Constitution.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. CLARKE. I move to amend the following clause of the same rule by striking out "a majority" and inserting "three-fourths." This amendment will be found on page 58 of the Journal, immediately following the Rules. This Rule corresponds with the 39th Rule of the present House of Delegates, merely substituting for the word "bill," the word "report."