

of Dorchester, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Wickard, Wooden—56.

The journal of yesterday was read and approved.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE submitted the following:

Ordered, That the report of the committee on the basis of representation, be made the order of the day, immediately after the conclusion of the second reading of the Article on the Legislative Department."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE said: I will give my reason for offering this order. The article which we are now considering, was taken up unexpectedly, I believe, to all the members of the convention. Gentlemen had not had their attention called to it, and therefore had not examined it and prepared amendments to it. I am satisfied, therefore, that the convention has not moved as rapidly as it would have done otherwise. And I have offered this order, in order that we may understand distinctly what is to follow the article now under consideration. I selected the report of the committee on the basis of representation, because it has an intimate connection with the report of the committee on the legislative department, now under consideration, and it may be well to finish all questions relating to the Legislature, before we take up a new subject.

The question being then taken, the order was adopted.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll, gave notice that at the proper time, and in the proper place and connection, he would move the following, as an additional section to the article upon the legislative department.

Section — The Legislature shall make no appropriation, gift or endowment, directly or indirectly, in aid of, or for the use, benefit or advantage of the State Agricultural College, or of its professors, agents or employees, or any of them."

EVENING SESSIONS.

Mr. STIRLING submitted the following:

Ordered, That the convention hereafter hold evening sessions at 8 o'clock, on the evening of every day on which the convention shall be in session, except on Saturdays.

Mr. STIRLING said: I merely wish to say, in explanation of this order, that I offer it after consultation last night with a large number of members of the majority of this house. They came to the conclusion, that it would be proper to present this subject to the convention for its consideration at this time, and at the present stage of its business.

I do not wish to argue it. I will simply present one or two facts to the consideration of members, and then leave the subject to their judgment and their responsibility for

decision. We have now been in session since the 27th day of April; within one week of three months. We have nearly passed two articles of the constitution. We have yet to consider and pass, exclusive of two small articles, which may be left out of consideration, three more articles of the constitution. Now, at the rate we have been proceeding, if it takes three months to pass two articles, it is simply a matter of calculation as to how long it will take us to pass three other articles. And if we continue to sit here, holding but one session a day, it is a matter of absolute certainty, that the sessions of this convention will not terminate before the first day of November next.

Now, I know it is the general understanding among most of the friends of this constitution, that it must be submitted to the people either on the day of the next presidential election, or on some day anterior to that date. We have already placed in the constitution, provisions which make it absolutely necessary that the constitution shall be submitted to the people, at least on the day of the presidential election. We have provided for a State election on that day, and I submit that if we do not hold more than one session a day, it is by no means probable that we will conclude our labors in time to submit this constitution to the people, even on that day. Now, this is a mere matter of calculation, and the calculation can be made in five minutes.

Every legislative body, the Congress of the United States, the General Assembly of this State, and the Legislatures of other States—each one, after it has got its reports from its committees, and has finished its outside work, invariably holds more than one session a day. Our legislature has always held three sessions a day towards the close of the session. Now, if we hold an evening session, we can sit here for two hours. And two hours a day, for five days, make ten hours a week; and ten hours a week for one month, make forty hours. Now, if gentlemen are willing to lose that much time, they can say so. But those who were consulted about the matter last night, are of the opinion that is a matter of absolute necessity, that we should do something. We have lost now, by means of the late raid, and the adjournments which we have taken, nearly three weeks, and something must be done to make up that time.

I have nothing further to say. I merely wished to state the matter to the Convention, and leave it to their judgment to decide.

Mr. BARRON. I have not so much objection to two sessions a day, if gentlemen want to assemble here at night merely to get rid of some of their speeches. But I would suggest to my colleague (Mr. Stirling) that if he will reduce speeches here to five minutes in length, we can do a great deal of work in four hours and a half each day. We will do more in