

order at the present time. The question now is upon the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely.)

Mr. MILLER. Before the vote is taken upon the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely,) I desire to state that I would vote for it if this section is to stand as it has been amended. But if the section is to be restored to its original condition, I would vote against the pending amendment, and I cannot vote understandingly until that question is determined.

The PRESIDENT. It is not within the province of the chair to determine what action the Convention will take upon any question.

Mr. MILLER. If the section is to stand as it was amended yesterday on motion of the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Schley,) then it is but a matter of justice that provision should be made to have this restriction upon banking go into effect equally upon all the banking institutions in the State. If it is the understanding of the Convention that this amendment shall be voted down for the purpose of restoring the section as it originally stood, then I will vote against this amendment.

The question being then taken upon the amendment submitted by Mr. Ridgely, it was rejected.

Mr. SANDS moved to reconsider the vote by which the Convention, on yesterday, adopted the following amendment submitted by Mr. SCHLEY:

Insert in section forty-two after the words "liabilities upon bill, note or otherwise," the words—

"and on the further condition that said charter, or renewal of such existing corporation, shall not authorize the issue of paper money as a circulating medium, so long as the United States shall provide by law a national paper currency."

The question was upon agreeing to the motion to reconsider.

Mr. ABBOTT. I hope that amendment will not be reconsidered. It appears to me that this section is now in just the condition in which we ought to leave it. It does not affect existing banks now, and will not affect any of them at any time until their charters expire. And as they expire at different periods, running through a period of eighteen or nineteen years, one or two banks going out of existence next year, or the year after, cannot affect the currency of our State, especially since the Government of the United States has made provision for a currency throughout the United States.

The section as it now stands simply makes provision for our banks to go into operation under the United States banking law, whenever their charters shall expire, or before if they see proper. Now, if we leave it discretionary with the Legislature to go on chartering as many banking institutions in this State as they please, then we will all the

time have a currency conflicting with that of the United States.

I recollect very well the time when we had a United States Bank, and you could go with its notes to any part of the world as well as you could go with gold and silver. Now I want to see the time again when we shall have a uniform national currency, and not the currency of these little State institutions, which are good for the amount on their face only within fifty or one hundred miles of where the banks are located.

I do not desire to interfere with any of the banks as they now exist. But if some bank charters expire within one, three, or five years, and others are to continue for ten or twenty years, I do not think it a matter with which this Convention has anything more to do than it has with the difference in age of the people who are to live under this Constitution. These institutions have been chartered for a given period of time, and have thereby acquired vested rights which cannot be taken away from them. But it is within the power of this Convention to say to the Legislature that they shall not re-charter them when their present charters have expired. That is all this section provides for as it now stands; and I look upon it as one of the best sections which have been passed by this Convention.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll. I hope the motion to reconsider will prevail. The gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Abbott) who, I suppose is interested in city banks, has said that the circulation of country banks is not available fifty or a hundred miles beyond their location.

Mr. ABBOTT. I did not say country banks; I said State banks.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll. Now, I state that the banks in the county from which I come are quite as good and quite as reliable as the banks of the city of Baltimore, and their circulation passes quite as current in the State and outside of it, as the circulation of the Baltimore city banks. I look upon the action of the Convention on yesterday as an attempt upon the part of the city of Baltimore, to put out of existence all the country banks, and consolidate all the moneyed interests of the State in the city of Baltimore. That I think is entirely wrong.

In our county almost every man is interested in the bank there. As was stated in debate here yesterday, men who had no money, but had characters for ability, integrity, and honesty, have been aided and assisted by these county banks, and enabled to make fortunes. Then, what is the use of our trying to strike down these banks? Let them operate according to their own judgment; let the officers of those banks use their discretion in this matter; and let them, when their charters expire, or before, determine