

rency for which the faith of the United States Government is pledged, will injure this Constitution before the people of Maryland; that is an argument of which I never dreamed, until I heard it asserted upon the floor of this house. I had supposed that anything we could do in this Convention to strengthen the hands of the Government, to improve our own currency, to better the condition of the people of Maryland, would certainly aid the Constitution. Yet we are here gravely told that an attempt to introduce a national currency into this State would array against this Constitution the influence of the country banks. Now I do not believe all the banks in the city of Baltimore, if banded together, could control ten votes in the city of Baltimore against this Constitution. The people know that the banks do not want a national currency, and therefore they will not be controlled by them. But if your banks in the country can control votes against the Constitution, although we do not affect one particle of their vested rights, or any interest that they possess; but only provide that when their charters shall expire, if they wish to continue to issue paper money, they must issue national paper money—if the country banks can array votes against the Constitution on that ground, then you better abolish every one of your country banks, and come together and form national banks. If your country banks can control votes against the Constitution on that ground, then they must be rotten, and the sooner you get rid of them the better; you are exhibiting an unsound condition of affairs among yourselves at home, which I am sorry to have present to this Convention, and which I am loth to believe really does exist.

Mr. SANDS. I am, of course, very much obliged to my friend from Baltimore city (Mr. Cushing) for his lecture, and for his assurance that my share in the work of this Convention is unsound. I will just remind him that what are the real interests of the State in his views may not be the real interests of the State in other people's views, and having acted upon this matter, and there being nothing to which the remarks of the gentleman might apply—

Mr. CUSHING. I beg the gentleman's pardon. The amendment of the gentleman from Frederick (Mr. Schley) is before the Convention.

Mr. SANDS. The remarks of the gentleman applied to the action of the Convention in reconsidering this matter. That was the object of his censure. He said he was sorry to hear it said upon this floor that it was not for the interest of the State of Maryland to have a national currency. Well, sir, who said that? I have not heard that language here. If the gentleman has, he has heard what I have not. I say it is my conviction, it is the conviction of every man here that it is for the interest of Maryland to have a na-

tional currency; and I believe we are getting it just as rapidly as possible, and we are getting it in the very best possible way, under the act of Congress in relation to such matters.

Now, I would ask any gentleman upon this floor, what harm is done to the national currency by the existence of State banks? I know that premiums in State bank currency have been paid for national currency, and gentlemen know that too. They give you more dollars in State currency than they demand of you in national currency. Is it the practice among our people in the country, who have food, clothing, anything which the country wants, when the agents come to buy it and say—"here is the national currency"—is it the habit of our people to say—"no, we do not want your national currency, we prefer our State currency?" No, sir, but the contrary. Even in our money markets, when you want to exchange State currency for national currency, you must pay a premium in State for the national currency. We have a national currency in Maryland; it is for our interest to have it.

But, as I say to my friend, we must all remember that different individuals take different views of the same question, especially where their immediate interests are concerned. Our country banks are not generally in the hands of disloyalists. In many cases they are in the hands of the very best union men we have, and those union men may believe that their interests are imperilled by our action here to-day, whether my friend believes it or not. Those union men, presidents, directors, stockholders, billholders, and other creditors and debtors of the banks, may all believe that their interests are imperilled by our action here, whether my friend believes it or not. If they do so believe, then if we run that far counter to their belief in regard to their own interests, to that extent we array them against our Constitution.

Mr. CUSHING. Did the gentleman ever hear a union President of a bank say so?

Mr. SANDS. I will answer that question.

Mr. CUSHING. A simple "yes" or "no" is all I want.

The PRESIDENT. There is too much interruption in this Convention on the part of members. There is constant interruption, and consequently constant delay and protraction of debates. Hereafter the Chair will rigidly enforce the rule: when a member wishes to interrupt another, he must rise and ask permission of the member speaking to do so; otherwise the Chair will not allow him to proceed.

Mr. SANDS. I am glad my friend has asked me the question. And I will tell him that I have heard no union president of any bank express any opinion upon this subject; nor have I heard any other individual express any opinion until this matter was sprung upon us here yesterday, without any opportunity