

on the part of the convention upon this question for the benefit of the executive committee. If the house will give that, and my amendment is adopted, I will move a reconsideration of the vote adopting it, and withdraw the amendment altogether. I merely want an expression of opinion on the part of the house as to the propriety of conferring the veto power upon the Governor.

Mr. BURR. I would suggest that the gentleman by general consent can introduce an order instructing the committee to report a provision giving the Governor the veto power.

Mr. STIRLING. If you put in the provision proposed by my colleague (Mr. Cushing,) you still leave the first part of the section to stand as it now reads. But as I understand it, the signature there provided for is only for the purpose of verification. The Governor can certify as before, after he has approved the bills. This provision is merely for the purpose of evidencing the laws, and therefore I would suggest to the president that there will be no inconsistency.

Mr. MILLER. The section now reads:—"Every bill when passed by the legislature, shall be presented to the Governor, who shall sign it," &c.

Mr. STIRLING. The gentleman leaves out one important provision—"when sealed with the great seal."

Mr. CUSHING. I ask leave to withdraw the amendment I submitted to this section, and offer the following:

"Ordered, That the committee on the executive department be instructed to report a provision to be incorporated into the constitution, conferring the veto power upon the executive of this State."

No objection being made, the amendment was withdrawn, and the order received.

The question was upon agreeing to the order.

Mr. DANIEL. I hope we will hear this order discussed. If it is to be taken as the sense of this house, and to embody instructions to the committee on the executive department, I think we should have the reasons for and against it. I am like the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Negley,) I have not made up my mind about this matter. I do not want, after I may vote to give certain instructions to a committee, to change my vote after the committee has reported in pursuance to those instructions. If we are to vote now, I want to have our vote consistent with the one we shall give after the report of the committee is received. I would prefer to hear at this time the reasons for and against this veto-power.

Mr. STIRLING. I do not think there is any necessity for discussing this proposition now. The change ought certainly not to be made, unless there is a general concurrence of the convention in favor of it. If this order shall

pass by but a small majority, then I suppose the committee will not report this change in the constitution.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I do not agree to the suggestion made by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling,) that we are to give expression now without much regard to very decided opinions. This is not an order instructing the committee to inquire into the expediency of a proposition to be hereafter submitted to the convention for discussion. If we vote these instructions to the committee, we are pledged to adopt the proposition when submitted by the committee; or else we will place upon our journal decidedly contradictory votes. A motion to instruct is considered by all parliamentary usage as committing the body to the adoption of whatever report is made in pursuance to those instructions. To order the committee to do a thing, and then repudiate their work when done, is not consistent.

I say this is the proper time to discuss these instructions. If we instruct the committee to do so and so, they have no discretion. They must bring in their report in pursuance of those instructions, like every other agency. The committee is our agent; and if the principal instructs his agent to do a particular thing, the agent must do it.

I think, myself, that the proposed change is very unnecessary. We have never had any such power in this State. I have never heard any word of complaint from any quarter, from politician or anybody else, of our present system. Our business in the legislature is not the kind of business in Congress. The time and attention of our legislature is naturally devoted to local affairs. There are very few highly important abstract political questions which come before our legislature for action. And I should certainly regret to see any such encroachment upon the usages and practice of this State. And I would admonish my friends on all sides not to commit themselves to this proposition, unless they are prepared to accept it when reported by the committee.

Mr. CUSHING. While I shall vote for the instructions I am utterly indifferent whether the governor has the veto power or not; and I shall not consider myself bound for one instant to vote for it. Nor do I consider that any member voting for these instructions will consider himself bound to vote to give this power to the governor, if upon reflection he shall deem it inexpedient to do so. I merely wish to ascertain the sense of the convention. I shall vote for the instructions, holding myself ready, should the argument convince me that it is inexpedient, to vote against granting any such power to the governor.

Mr. RIDGELY. Under that view of the subject we are certainly frittering away our time in considering a subject, when it makes