

general assembly; provided, that the report of the State superintendent shall be in conformity with the provisions of this constitution.

Section 6. The general assembly shall levy at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, an annual tax of not less than ten cents on each one hundred dollars of taxable property throughout the State for the support of the free public schools, which tax shall be collected at the same time, and by the same agents as the general State levy, and shall be paid into the treasury of the State, and shall be distributed under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, among the counties and the city of Baltimore, in proportion to their respective population between the ages of five and twenty years; provided, that the general assembly shall not levy any additional school tax upon particular counties, unless such county express by popular vote its desire for such tax; the city of Baltimore shall provide for its school tax as at present.

Section 7. The general assembly shall further provide by law at its first session after the adoption of this constitution, a fund for the support of the free common schools of the State, by the imposition of an annual tax of a not less annual amount than three hundred thousand dollars, the proceeds of which tax shall be known as the school fund, and shall be invested by the treasurer, together with its annual interest, until such time as said fund shall, by its own increase and any additions which may be made to it from time to time, together with the present school fund, amount to six millions of dollars, after which time the principal shall remain forever inviolate and shall only be further increased by such means as the legislature may determine; and the annual interest of said school fund shall be disbursed for educational purposes only, as may be prescribed by law.

J. M. CUSHING, Chairman,
B. A. CUNNINGHAM,
T. P. JONES,
A. C. GREENE,
J. L. RIDGELY,
E. J. HENKLE,
T. J. HODSON.

COUNTIES.

Mr. HEBB. I submit the following report from the committee on the rights, duties, divisions and sub-divisions of counties. In presenting this report I desire to state that the committee could have presented it two months ago. But as the convention had sufficient before it, and as it was supposed that during the progress of the convention, some new matter might arise which would be referred to the committee, the committee refrained from making their report until the present time.

This report is signed by all of the members

of the committee but two; who, if they desire to submit a minority report, I hope may be allowed to do so.

The report, as follows, was read the first time and ordered to be printed:

"The committee on the rights, duties, divisions and sub-divisions of counties, respectfully submit the following report, to be embodied in a separate article in the constitution:

ARTICLE —

Counties and Townships.

"Section 1. The general assembly shall provide for organizing new counties, locating and removing county seats, and changing county lines, but no new county shall be organized without the consent of a majority of the legal voters residing within the limits about to form said county, nor shall any new county contain less than four hundred square miles, nor less than ten thousand white inhabitants, nor shall any county be reduced below that amount of square miles, nor below that number of white inhabitants.

"Section 2. The general assembly may provide by general law for dividing the counties into towns or permanent municipal corporations in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits, and confiding to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns, and whenever the organization of these township corporations shall be perfected all officers provided for in this constitution, but whose official functions shall have been superseded by such organizations, shall be dispensed with, and the affairs of such towns, and of the counties as affected by the action of such town, shall be transacted in such manner as the general assembly shall direct.

HOPEWELL HEBB,
JOHN SWOPE,
JASPER ROBINETTE,
JAMES SYKES,
J. D. CARTER."

AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE—

The convention proceeded to consider the report of the committee on future amendments of the constitution, which was on its second reading.

The first section was read as follows:

"Section 1. Either branch of the general assembly may propose amendments to this constitution; and if the same shall be agreed to by three-fifths of the members elected to each house, such proposed amendments shall be entered on the journals, with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and shall be published in two newspapers in each county in the State, where two are published; and in three newspapers in the city of Baltimore, one of which shall be German, for three months preceding the next election for sena-