

"The canal board shall consist of the commissioners of the canal fund, the state engineer and surveyor, and the canal commissioners."

Mr. DANIEL. I will say that the governor does not vote; he appoints the directors, and they vote.

Mr. STIRLING. He has to attend the meeting of the company in order to do that. I have a great notion to add the attorney general to my amendment, as I hope the convention will provide for such an office.

The question was then taken upon the motion of Mr. STIRLING to add the lieutenant governor and commissioner of the land office to the board of public works, and it was not agreed to.

Mr. BROWN. I move to amend that portion of this section which provides the times of meeting of this board, by striking out the words, "on the first Monday," wherever they occur. We are imposing additional duties upon important functionaries of the State who have already important duties to perform, and I would therefore not confine them to any particular day. I have belonged to bodies where we were required to meet on particular days, and we could never meet in July because the members were then busily engaged in other matters.

Mr. DANIEL. The great object of putting in these days was that everybody might know the days when this board would meet.

Mr. BROWN. I will withdraw my amendment.

Mr. BOND. I move to strike out the word "has," and insert the words, "may have," in the clause which now reads, "in every railroad or canal company in which the State has the legal power to appoint the directors," &c. A portion of these works may be sold hereafter; and I think the words "may have" will be much more appropriate.

The question being taken, the amendment was rejected.

Mr. SYKES moved to amend that portion of the section fixing the times of meeting on the first Monday in January, April, July, and October, by striking out "Monday," and inserting "Wednesday."

The question was taken, *viva voce*, upon the amendment, but before the result was announced,

Mr. SANDS said: I do not think members really understand the importance of the amendment of my colleague (Mr. Sykes.) If this board is to meet on Monday, those people who desire to meet the board will have to be here on the Saturday before, or else to travel on Sunday. I think it would be much more convenient to all concerned for the board to meet on Wednesday.

The question was then taken on the motion of Mr. SYKES to strike out "Monday" and insert "Wednesday," and it was agreed to.

No further amendment was offered to the first section.

COMMISSIONER OF THE LAND OFFICE.

The second section was then read as follows:

"There shall be a commissioner of the land office, elected by the qualified voters of the State, on the _____ day of _____, in the year _____, who shall hold his office for the term of six years from the first day of January next after his election. The returns of said election shall be made to the governor, and in the event of a tie between any two or more candidates the governor shall direct a new election to be held, by writs to the sheriffs of the several counties, who shall hold said election after at least twenty days notice, exclusive of the day of election. He shall perform such duties as are now required of the commissioner of the land office, and shall be keeper of the chancery records. He shall receive a salary of eighteen hundred dollars per annum, to be paid out of the treasury, and shall charge such fees as are now or may be hereafter fixed by law. The said commissioner of the land office shall make a semi-annual report of all the fees of his office to the comptroller of the treasury, and shall pay the same semi-annually into the treasury.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move to amend this section by striking out the words—"the _____ day of _____, in the year _____," and inserting the words—

"Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-nine."

The amendment was agreed to.

The PRESIDENT. I have been requested by the commissioner of the land office to state to the convention that the salary fixed in this section does not amount to what he actually receives at the present time. I think he said the amount he now receives was not less than two thousand dollars. I make this statement for the consideration of the convention at his request.

Mr. BARSCOW. Does that include the compensation he receives for performing the duties of keeper of the chancery records?

The PRESIDENT. My understanding was that it applied to both offices.

Mr. DANIEL. He referred a petition to us on that subject, asking that his salary be fixed, instead of giving him fees. I wish to say further that I think the report of the commissioner of the land office shows that some years his compensation has gone down as low as \$1,500 or \$1,600; on other years it has gone up as high as \$2,700 or \$2,800. It shows that his fees are now decreasing, and in a few years they will doubtless not amount to as much as \$1,800. That consideration influenced the committee to fix his salary at some reasonable sum, and they considered that \$1,800 was about a fair compensation under all the circumstances.