

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, submitted the following as a modification of the order:

"Ordered, That a committee to consist of nine members of the convention, be appointed by the president to wait upon his excellency, Governor Bradford, and respectfully request him to ascertain from the proper authorities, and report to this convention at his earliest convenience, the number of recruits, both white and black, that have been received into the service of the United States from the city of Baltimore and several counties in the State respectively, since the beginning of this war, also the number that have been credited to the said city and counties respectively, and if possible to have the enrolment so revised and corrected, as to give the said city and several counties a credit for all the recruits furnished by them as aforesaid, also take such steps as may be necessary, to have credited to said city and counties all persons who may have been enlisted by military officers in the employ of the United States, under the pretended authority of the government, and transferred by them and credited to any of the States of the Union."

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's, said: The object is first of all to furnish data to the convention before they act upon the resolutions offered by my colleague, as to how many have been received into the service of the United States in the various counties and the city of Baltimore, and to see whether they are correctly credited to the several counties from which they came or have been enlisted. The other inquiry is to ascertain how many have been taken and enlisted in the State of Maryland for other States in the Union, and to try to have the draft credited, or the enrolment list so revised and corrected as only to require of Maryland her proper quota. At the time the enrolment was made in my county, there were at least 4,000 or 5,000 capable of bearing arms more than there are at the present time. The quota to be furnished by my county, and I take it for granted that the same principle applies to nearly all the other counties of the State, is predicated upon the old draft of 1862. Since that time more than one-half the able bodied persons of our county—I speak particularly of the colored persons of our county—have been either taken away and enlisted by officers of the United States service, or have gone away, and their masters have not been able to reclaim them. They therefore do not form a part of our population. To do justice to our county, or to any other county of the State, the quota ought to be fixed upon the present inhabitants capable of bearing arms. It is with that view that I add that portion of the order which differs from the order which I submitted yesterday.

I have made the committee to consist of nine members to be appointed by the chair, with the view that we may to-morrow go and see

the governor and converse with him freely; and I am sure he will give us all the information now in his possession; and if necessary he will go to Washington and claim the right there to procure such information as may be necessary to place before the convention before it acts upon the resolution of my colleague. This was admitted on all hands yesterday to be necessary before we could act intelligently upon the subject. I cannot imagine how any gentleman can oppose the passage of this order, because it is a mere inquiry which I am sure the governor of the State will be very happy to answer; and I am sure it will facilitate in every way the proposed apportionment of the draft among the several counties of the State and the States. But it is no more than an inquiry for information I am sure he will willingly give us.

Mr. BERRY. I wish to state in connection with the proposition of my colleague, what action has been taken by the authorities in our section of the State in reference to the draft. I will mention one instance, as an illustration how the matter was arranged with us. About last November there came into our county, whence I have not been able to understand, or by whose authority, a detachment of forty soldiers, under the command of an officer, to the county seat, Upper Marlboro'. They located themselves in a house that did not happen to be occupied, where they remained until near the time for the meeting of this convention. They succeeded by various inducements, in getting away to Baltimore and other districts, almost every able-bodied man. Great efforts were made by our leading citizens, by approaching the military authorities of Baltimore and Washington, to throw some light upon the question by whose order these men came there; but no military man was able to inform us. They did not know they were there, who sent them, or for what purpose.

They stayed, and succeeded in robbing the whole county of its able-bodied labor. Where did they go? It was not credited to the county or the State. We were willing, if we could get the credit of these two or three thousand able-bodied men, after the county was free, to let the rest go to the credit of the whole State, to relieve the white population. Not so. The truth finally leaked out, not in the way of absolute, demonstrative, legal proof, but with sufficient moral evidence to satisfy us about the fact, that these men were sent there by the colonels of their regiments, and came there to recruit negroes, and were paid for doing it, in order to relieve certain parts of the States of New York and New Jersey. And one of the moral evidences of the fact, was that fifty and one hundred dollar New Jersey bills were just as common as leaves on the trees, in the hands of these soldiers. That is one of the abuses