

vision of the city into three counties of the State, induces the hope that hereafter the mercantile, the manufacturing, and the mechanical interests will all be represented upon this floor as separate and distinct classes. While the men of the State outside of the city of Baltimore are producers, and come here in a solid body for their interests, and advocate their interests, the city of Baltimore has had two at one time, and finally ten representatives upon this floor, and they have only represented the interests of the mercantile and monetary community.

I hope that the system which has been established here will not be disturbed. Although there may be but one member for some counties, these counties, particularly after the adoption of certain sections in the constitution prohibiting local legislation, will not suffer the inconvenience they have heretofore if their delegate is not here to represent them. I think that the report ought to remain as it is, in order that all parts of the State may have a fair representation.

Mr. NOLAN. I hope the convention will not disturb this report. If the majority of the house by whom it has been carried heretofore disturb it now, you will have to reorganize the entire thing; because not a single feature in it will be applicable to it when once disturbed. The whole theory is based upon what it is now; and the nature of the provisions for future additions in the representation of the State will be entirely destroyed, and you will have to refer the whole thing back to another committee, or will have to go into committee of the whole to reconsider and reorganize and reform the entire plan. Have not we spent time enough over this? Have not we considered it fully? There is no system at all that you can possibly form, containing so many elements of compromise as this one system which was maturely and deliberately considered by the committee, and by the convention, upon its second reading. If it be disturbed at all, we come back to first principles, and we must reorganize it from its foundation. And where shall we end? The temper of the house is not such as to be able to take up such a question and act upon it with deliberation, as when it was before us upon its second reading. We are just on the eve of adjournment. We are all in a hurry, anxious to get away; and the danger will be that if we disturb this report, we shall make it infinitely worse than it is now before we can agree upon it. I think we would better stand by the report as it is.

Mr. BARRON called for the previous question.

Mr. BRISCOE. I understand my proposition to be before the convention, as I have sent it to the table.

The PRESIDENT. The previous question does not apply in this case.

Mr. STRONG. This is a question indepen-

dent of the question of adopting the report; and upon that the previous question is called.

The PRESIDENT. The previous question applies to the entire report.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I rise to a question of order. I find by the rules and orders that a motion to amend may be made at the third reading as well as at any other time. The chair has ruled several times that that is not the order of proceeding, but that the question should be, shall the article be opened for amendment. I do not find anything about opening it.

The PRESIDENT. It is the fifty-third rule.

Mr. CHAMBERS. That rule is as follows:

Rule 53. "After a report of any committee (embodying proposed provisions for the constitution) has passed through its second reading, the question shall then be put by the president of the convention, 'Shall this report be engrossed for a third reading?' After any report of a committee has passed to a third reading, it shall not be in order to amend the same, except by the consent of the majority of the members elected to the convention."

But by the consent of that majority it may be amended; and the question of amendment is just like any other amendment, I take it.

The PRESIDENT. No, sir.

Mr. CHAMBERS. My colleague moves to amend this report. That motion cannot prevail except by the consent of the majority of the members elected to the convention; but it is a proper motion.

The PRESIDENT. I will remark to the gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers,) that under the parliamentary rule a report upon the third reading cannot be amended. That is a general principle of parliamentary law, and of course there must be a motion to dispense with that rule of parliamentary law before the convention can get at the provision in this rule.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The fifty-third rule controls that, and expressly says that it may be amended on the third reading.

The PRESIDENT. The convention is to be consulted whether, upon a consideration of the entire report they will permit that amendment to be introduced. If the convention permits the amendment to be introduced then it will be in order to submit the amendment.

Mr. BARRON. Has there been any question before the house for the last two hours?

The PRESIDENT. Yes, sir; the simple question whether the convention will order the report to be opened for an amendment. Under the general principles of parliamentary law, the report could not be opened upon the third reading. It is the question whether the convention will open it.

Mr. SANDS. I would like to say a single word by way of appeal to our friends in this house. It will be very brief, and if members