

Mr. THOMAS. The gentleman from Kent, (Mr. Hollyday) across the way, did converse with me frequently upon the subject.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman must state concisely the reasons for his vote.

Mr. THOMAS. I am stating my reasons.—The reason that induced me to move this reconsideration is that I do not think it is fair to give Kent county a delegate in addition to the one she already has, and not give Baltimore county an additional delegate for the large number of voters she has. I then vote "aye."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I now move to amend this section by striking out "seventy-nine" and inserting "eighty," to make it correspond with this action.

The PRESIDENT. If there is no objection that will be done.

Mr. ABBOTT. I object.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Then I move to suspend the rules, so that the section can be so amended.

The motion to suspend the rules was agreed to, and the section amended accordingly.

Mr. BELT. Before we adopt this report finally, before we present to the people of Maryland, this merely arbitrary system of representation, as a test question I will move that the rules be suspended, so as to enable me to again present to the house the proposition that I and my colleague (Mr. Clarke) formerly presented: that the basis of representation shall be the entire population of each county; and the State shall be districted into as many districts, as there may be members of the house of delegates.

The immediate effect of that proposition will be to give to Baltimore city twenty-nine members—I think that was the calculation; twenty-eight or twenty-nine: to Baltimore county eight members, while it leaves the small counties as they stood before.

I wish to say in reference to a remark which was made in the course of the debate when this subject was up before, and which I then had no opportunity to answer, that this proposition was not drawn by us as any catch, or threat, or anything of that sort. But it is the view I have always held; I have never held any other, as my colleagues can testify. It is in opposition to the views held by a great many gentlemen in my own county. I maintain it now as I have always maintained it, in the face of all opposition. I say it is the correct doctrine, and I want it to be recorded here upon the record of debates, that I have offered this proposition in good faith. I do not want it said that I came in here and offered anything that I did not heartily endorse, and truly and sincerely approve of. I do regard it as the true theory upon which this matter ought to be settled; to have the whole State represented upon the basis of the total population, and have each county and the city of Baltimore, divided into as many

districts as they may respectively be entitled to delegates in the legislature; so that no man in Baltimore county shall vote for six members, and in Baltimore city for six or seven, while I can vote for but one or two.

If there is any question in regard to its popularity before the people, I shall be most happy to meet the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands,) or any other gentleman before the people anywhere upon a question of this sort. Because there is not a county in this State, let alone the city, where there has not been a sufficient degree of the influence of the court-house clique in the county town to disgust the people, and lead them to want to have the county districted, in order to get rid of it. It is so in all the counties; it is so with us. And it will prove to be so when you bring this question to a practical test before the people.

The question was then taken upon the motion of Mr. BELT to suspend the rules for the purpose of amending the report, and it was not agreed to.

The report having been read the third time was then adopted, by yeas and nays (under rule forty-three,)—yeas 48, nays 14—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Abbott, Annan, Audoun, Baker, Barron, Carter, Cunningham, Cushing, Daniel, Davis, of Washington, Dellinger, Earle, Ecker, Farrow, Galloway, Greene, Hebb, Hoffman, Hopkins, Hopper, Keefer, Kennard, King, Lash, Markey, Mayhugh, McComas, Mullikin, Murray, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Pugh, Purnell, Ridgely, Russell, Sands, Schley, Scott, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Worcester, Stirling, Stockbridge, Swope, Sykes, Thomas, Todd, Wooden—48.

Nays—Messrs. Belt, Billingsley, Bond, Briscoe, Brown, Chambers, Clarke, Dent, Duvall, Horsey, Lee, Miller, Parran, Wickard—14.

Mr. SCOTT, when his name was called, said: I was not here when this report was under discussion on its second reading. If I had been here at that time, I should have moved to amend it by substituting a proposition to divide the whole State into representative districts, each district to elect one member, which I consider the proper and the only correct and republican system of representation. But as this is the plan which has been decided upon by the convention, I shall vote "aye," as being the best I can get.

Mr. WICKARD. I seldom rise to explain my vote, and I do not think I shall do so now. When I return to my constituents, and they ask me in a respectful and proper manner, I will take occasion to tell them why I vote as I do. I vote "no."

On motion of Mr. STIRLING, the convention then took a recess until 8 o'clock, P. M.