

Mr. CHAMBERS. And more than ever has been done yet.

Mr. NUGLEY. I cannot vote for this section as offered. What does it propose? It proposes to appoint two commissioners to do the work for which the people of Maryland elect the legislature. That is, they are to go to work to prepare laws; and when the next legislature comes here they are merely to ratify those laws. Is there not enough intelligence in the legislature of Maryland, and is there not enough discrimination among the voters of Maryland to send competent persons here and frame laws in accordance with the new order of things brought about by the constitution which we hope may be adopted? Has it come to this, that we must send here two men as guardians, as intelligent and legal guardians of the legislature of Maryland? It is an imputation upon the legal knowledge of the profession to which the gentleman belongs, and upon the general knowledge of the people of Maryland. I certainly cannot support any such proposition as that, that we are to put the legislature under guardianship.

Besides that; you pass this section, and appoint these commissioners. What is the history of the commission under the last codification of our laws? We have hardly a limit to the expenses to which this commission will go. They will linger and continue, and they will consume a year or eighteen months in doing that which I am certain the coming legislature will do as well and as thoroughly. And when the new legislature assembles again, they go to work and appoint a committee to do the very work which has been already done by the commissioners. Is it to be presumed that there will not be any legal ability in that legislature? Is it to be presumed that the committee will not have the time and capacity to do the work? I cannot think so, and therefore I cannot vote for it.

The question being on the first branch of the amendment, as follows:

"Sec. 10. It shall be the duty of the governor immediately after the adoption of this constitution, to appoint two "commissioners of revision," whose duty it shall be to prepare and present to the general assembly at its first session thereafter, drafts of all bills which the general assembly are required by this constitution to pass, or which may be necessary to carry into effect its provisions."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE demanded the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question being taken, the result was—yeas 22, nays 40—as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Abbott, Annan, Aqudoun, Brooks, Daniel, Dellinger, Farrow, Greene, Hatch, Hebb, Jones, of Cecil, McComas, Ridgely, Russell, Sands, Schley, Scott, Stockbridge, Sykes, Thomas, Todd, Valliant—22.

Nays—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Baker, Barron, Belt, Briscoe, Brown, Carter, Chambers, Clarke, Crawford, Cunningham, Cushing, Davis, of Washington, Dent, Duvall, Ecker, Galloway, Henkle, Hollyday, Horsey, Kennard, King, Lansdale, Lee, Marbury, Miller, Morgan, Mullikin, Negley, Parker, Purnell, Schlosser, Smith, of Carroll, Smith, of Worcester, Sneary, Stirling, Swope, Turner, Wickard, Wooden—40.

The first branch of the amendment was accordingly rejected.

The question recurred upon the second branch of the amendment, as follows:

"The commissioners of revision shall also proceed with all reasonable despatch, to revise the Code of the State, embodying in it all existing laws not now incorporated therein, omitting all superfluous words and enactments, and all such as have ceased to affect existing rights, condensing the whole into as concise a form as is consistent with a full and clear expression of the law, and suggesting any errors or omissions which may be found to exist therein, and the best mode of rectifying the same.

"They shall report the Code so revised to the general assembly for its approval, and while the bills so prepared, and the Code so revised by them, shall be under consideration, shall be entitled to seats upon the floor of the senate or house of delegates, and to take part in the discussions thereof, but without the right of voting thereon."

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE withdrew the second branch of the amendment:

The next section was read as follows:

VOTE ON THE CONSTITUTION.

"Section 1. For the purpose of ascertaining the sense of the people of this State, in regard to the adoption or rejection of this constitution, the governor shall issue his proclamation within five days after the adjournment of this convention directed to the sheriff of the city of Baltimore, and to the sheriffs of the several counties of this State, commanding them to give notice in the manner now prescribed by law, that an election will be held in the city of Baltimore and in the several counties of the State, at the usual places of holding elections in said city and counties, for the adoption or rejection of this constitution, on the twelfth day of October, in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-four, which election shall be held between the hours of eight o'clock, A. M., and six o'clock, P. M., and the judges of election of said city, and of the several counties of the State, shall receive at said election the votes only of such electors as are qualified according to the provisions of this constitution, who may offer to vote at such election, and the said sheriffs shall also give notice on or after the twelfth day of October, eighteen hundred and sixty-four, for all elections pro-