

ventions, called by the voters of any State for that purpose subject to their ratification, ought to be submitted to the legal voters of such State for their ratification or rejection before such constitution or any part thereof should go into operation, and any attempt by a convention to adopt and put in force a constitution or any part thereof in violation of promises to the people, that the constitution to be framed should be submitted to them, would be a breach of faith, and any convention acting in such manner as above described ought to forfeit the confidence of the people.

Which was read the first time.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Mr. NEXLEY. I submit the following order:  
*Ordered*, That the committee on publication be directed to have the constitution published in one or more newspapers in each county, and the city of Baltimore once a week for three successive weeks before the day of its ratification or rejection.

I really think that it is of the utmost importance that this convention should make provision for the publication of this constitution in the newspapers of the counties. I know from experience that it is utterly useless to have a large quantity of constitutions printed and sent to the counties for distribution. They will, just as certainly as anything in the world, never reach the destination designed for them, but will be allowed to lie around, and be used as wrapping paper by those in whose hands they are left. The newspapers will not distribute them; there is no doubt about that. The proprietors of the county papers will not put them in their own papers, and distribute them in that way. If they are distributed at all, it must be in some other way; and if it is done in some other way it will not be done as it was before. Would it not be infinitely better to decrease the number to be printed in the way proposed by the order already adopted; say twenty thousand in the English language and five thousand in the German, and then have it published in the different papers in the counties? It would be gratifying to the editors of those papers, and would enlist them in behalf of the constitution. And I am certain this constitution will not reach the eyes and come to the observation of numbers of the people who get no papers at all, except their country papers. You cannot reach them in any other way. I think this convention will be very remiss in bringing this constitution before the people, if they do not adopt this joint system of publication and distribution.

Perhaps I better withdraw this order for the present, and I will do so.

The order was accordingly withdrawn.

Mr. NEXLEY. I move to reconsider the order directing the printing of sixty thousand copies of the constitution. I do so for the

purpose of submitting a motion to decrease the number.

The question being then taken upon the motion to reconsider, it was agreed to.

The question recurred upon agreeing to the order, which was as follows:

*Ordered*, That the chair appoint a committee of three to contract with the Baltimore American or some other newspaper or newspapers, for the publication of the constitution entire in extra newspaper form, ten thousand copies in the German language and fifty thousand in the English, to be distributed as follows: two hundred copies to be furnished to each member of the convention, and the remainder to be equally distributed by said committee among the various county newspapers and postmasters who will promptly distribute the same among the people, the copies to be furnished by the contractor for printing the same within one week after the final adjournment of this convention.

Mr. NEXLEY. I move to amend the order by striking out the words "ten thousand" and inserting "five thousand;" also by striking out the words "fifty thousand" and inserting "twenty thousand."

Mr. STIRLING. I should like to have time to consider this matter. I think it will be a very good thing to make some provision for publishing the constitution in the newspapers. But even if we do that, I think we would do well to carry out the order we once adopted. For I think we can distribute the copies published in that way. There are some counties in which the county newspapers are hardly read at all. The gentleman from Worcester, over the way, remarked to me just now that so far as his county was concerned, the county newspapers have no circulation at all, and all the distribution the constitution will get in his county, would be in the way provided by this order. There are some counties in which there are no newspapers at all. I should like to hear first what is to be the expense of publishing these sixty thousand copies.

The PRESIDENT. The president thinks it would cost a great deal.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I think that perhaps two hundred dollars a paper would cover all the expense in the counties.

Mr. STIRLING. I was asking what would be the expense of publishing these sixty thousand copies under the order as we adopted it; not in regard to the newspapers.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I had hoped that this matter would not be called up until tomorrow, by which time I hope to be able to give some definite statement as to the cost of this publication. I made repeated efforts on last Saturday to obtain an estimate, but was unsuccessful. I wrote this morning about it, and I presume the return mail of to-night will bring some reply. At this time I am entirely in the dark in regard to the matter.