

dency and a temptation to spend the whole of it, which would lead to extravagance and favoritism. On the other hand, exigencies might occur which would make the sum fixed entirely inadequate, and thus, much inconvenience might be produced. There is but little danger of collusion between the Executive and the Legislature, in order to sanction extravagance in the former; and the liability to account for these expenditures in detail, is a sufficient check on abuses. Such has always been the practice, and it has led to no evil result.

The question was then stated to be on the amendment of Mr. SPENCER.

Mr. SPENCER withdrew it.

The question then recurred and was taken on the amendment of Mr. RIDGLEY, and it was agreed to.

And the question recurring on the section as amended,

On motion of Mr. SPRIGG, said section was further amended by adding, at the end thereof, the following :

“And the Governor shall report to the Legislature at each session, the amount expended and the objects and purposes for which said amount was incurred.”

And the section, as amended, was then adopted.

The twentieth section was read, as follows :

*Sec. 20th.* No divorce shall be granted by the General Assembly, nor any tax or other burden be levied on the persons or property of the people, for the support of any religious sect or denomination.

No amendment having been offered, the section was adopted.

The twenty-first section was read, as follows :

*Sec 21st.* No loans shall be made upon the credit of this State which are not redeemable at the pleasure of the State, except such as may be authorized by an Act of Assembly, passed at one session and ratified and confirmed at the next succeeding regular session of the General Assembly.

Mr RIDGELY explained that this section together with some other subjects, were referred to the committee on municipalities, and they had deliberated on it, and come to an agreement to report some propositions to the Convention. As it was thought the object of the committee could be as well accomplished, by proposing their resolutions in the form of amendments to the legislative report, as by making a separate report, he would now move their adoption as a substitute to the amendment now under consideration.

Mr. RIDGELY moved to amend said report by striking out the twenty-first section and substituting in lieu of it the following:

“The credit of the State shall never be given or loaned in aid of any person, association, municipality or corporation, nor shall the legislature contract any debt, which shall singly, or in the aggregate exceed a half million of dollars, for which purpose a vote of three-fourths of all the members elected to both branches of the General Assembly shall be necessary, provided that the State may contract debts exceeding that amount,

to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, and if threatened, to provide for the public defence.”

Mr. GEORGE offered as a substitute for said section and substitute, the following:

*Article 1.* The amount of debts, hereafter contracted by the legislature, shall never exceed one hundred thousand dollars, except for the defence of the State, unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal of such debt within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same. And the taxes laid for this purpose shall never be repealed, or applied to any other object, until the said debt and the interest thereon shall be fully discharged.

*Art. 2.* The assent of two-thirds of the members elected to each branch of the legislature, shall be requisite to every bill appropriating the public money, or pledging the public faith, for local or private purposes; and the legislature shall not have the power to make appropriations, loans, or subscriptions to any work of internal improvement.

A motion was made to adjourn;

But withdrawn to enable,

Mr. DONALDSON to suggest that gentlemen who had amendments to offer, should now offer them, that they might appear upon the journal.

Mr. HODSON gave notice that he should offer at the proper time, the following as a substitute for the twenty-first section:

“Nor shall the legislature borrow money for internal improvements, without first taking the sense of the people through the ballot box; and any county or the city of Baltimore, who may cast a majority of votes against the proposition, shall be exempt.”

Mr. TUCK, gave notice, that he should offer at the proper time, the following as a substitute for the twenty-fourth section:

“No senator or delegate of the assembly, if he shall qualify as such, shall hold or execute any office of profit, or receive the profits of any office exercised by any other person during the time for which he shall be elected.”

Mr. DENT said:

We have adopted the twentieth section of this report, rather hastily I think. It reads thus: “No divorce shall be granted by the legislature, nor shall any tax, or other burden be levied on the persons or property of the people, for the support of any religious sect or denomination.” The section embraces two subjects, so very distinct and dissimilar, that they should in my opinion, be provided for in two sections.

If in order, I therefore move a reconsideration of the vote on this section.

The motion not being now in order,

Mr. DENT gave notice that he should move a reconsideration of the vote on to-morrow.

Mr. D. said, the subjects embraced in the section had no connection with each other.

The motion was entered on the journal.

Mr. WEEMS gave notice that he should offer at