

know the reasons which induced them to insert the year 1864 instead of 1865, in this section. It appears to me that it is taking time very much by the forelock. It is calling upon the people of Maryland to elect a governor next fall who is not to go into office until 1866; to elect him a year ahead of the time. He might be a very good Union man this fall when elected, but a very bad Union man when he comes to take office. When I vote for a man I want to know whom I vote for; and I do not want to run the risk of such changes as I have seen in the last three years. I have seen a great many men who were rebels on the 19th of April, 1861, who pretended to be good Union men now; and *vice versa*. I do not trust such men.

Now, I should like to know why this committee selected this time for the election of governor, because my knowledge of those reasons may influence me in my vote. Gentlemen tell us that the same time has been designated in other reports. I think they are mistaken. To be sure there is to be an election of the legislature this fall. But that is because the new legislature is to meet on the first of January next; and there is some reason for electing them this fall. But there can be no reason for the election of an officer this fall who is not to go into office until a year from next January. And it is so close too, upon the State election which we are to have upon the adoption of this constitution. It appears to me that it will be, too precipitous and will be bad policy.

Mr. STIRLING. It strikes me that the suggestion made by my friend from Howard (Mr. Sands,) whatever force there may be in it, does not apply any more to this provision than to a half dozen others that we have acted upon. We have already fixed this particular day for the election of several important officers, particularly for the election of an entirely new legislature. And there is no particular reason now to urge this objection. If there is anything in it, and it should appear hereafter that it will be impossible, because of the constitution not being submitted to the people, to carry this programme out, we can turn back and alter it. It is too late to raise any such objection as that now.

I certainly think that the suggestion made by the committee in this report is perfectly proper, if we intend to adhere to what we have already done. We have deliberately decided, after consideration, that we would provide for the election of general State officers this fall, and the election of county officers next fall. And there is certainly no propriety, after we have had all the trouble of a canvass for State officers this fall, in carrying the election for governor over to the fall after that. It may be a little strange to elect an officer so long beforehand. But it all arises from the fact that we must do it, or bring the election out of the time of the election of

other State officers. It is the disposition of the convention to retain in office until the expiration of their terms all the present State officers. And to preserve the common purpose which we have already indicated in regard to the day of the general election, it becomes necessary to elect this officer this fall. I really can see no difficulty about it, no objection to it. It is perfectly certain that the issues to be decided this fall will be the same as next fall. It seems to me that we better settle these questions and have one election for it, and not have them come up again next fall. I see no objections to this course, and I see very strong reasons in favor of it. I sincerely hope that what the committee have considered as the proper time, after very careful consideration as I know, will be adopted by this convention.

Mr. SANDS. I do not suppose the committee on the executive department undertook to fix the time when this constitution should be submitted to the people, and I do not suppose anything reported by them in regard to the day of election is so binding upon this convention that we must conform all our ideas of the propriety and necessity of the election of governor to what they have reported.

Mr. STIRLING. I do not say that. We must do either one of two things; leave this blank, or go back and reconsider all the reports we have acted upon.

Mr. SANDS. I think we better reconsider.

Mr. STIRLING. That would be a great deal of trouble.

Mr. SANDS. There are a great many of us who have the success of our work here as much at heart as any other consideration.

The PRESIDENT. If the constitution is submitted to the people on the 15th of October, will there be sufficient time, under the code, to give notice of the election of State officers?

Mr. STIRLING. If this constitution shall be adopted by the people, it will be above the code. If this constitution says that the election under this constitution shall be held on a given day, then the people by adopting it fix the day of election.

Mr. SANDS. There is this to be said: that there are very urgent and grave considerations for having the people vote upon this constitution at the time of the presidential election. And upon the other hand, as to the difficulty of going back and reconsidering a few votes, if that be such a great difficulty, then I think we who have spent months here, at great expense and labor, ought not to mind the little trouble of going back and wiping out "the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1864," if thereby we can secure thousands of votes for this constitution.— This is a matter which I suppose will be very gravely debated between gentlemen holding different views on this subject. Therefore I suggest the propriety of leaving the time of election in this section a blank. That will