

Mr. Rider took the floor in support of the amendment, and spoke at some length.

The amendment was lost—yeas 29, nays 59.

Section 26, which had been passed over informally, was then again taken up and slightly amended.

Sections 31 and 32 were read and passed over.

Section 33 was read:

“The General Assembly shall pass no law nor make any appropriation to compensate the masters or claimants of slaves heretofore emancipated from servitude, but may distribute any appropriations made by the United States for that purpose.”

Mr. Lee moved to strike out the entire section, and maintained that the State was jointly liable with the United States for the slave property taken from the State. The Congress of the United States had, in its joint resolution, pledged the United States to co-operate with any State in extinguishing slavery, not to bear the entire expense.

Mr. Jones said he still entertained the convictions he had expressed in the Convention of 1864, but in obedience to an inexorable political necessity, he must vote against the motion. It was a forgone conclusion that this Convention could not have been called had there been any prospect of the insertion of a provision looking to State compensation, and the Legislature, in the act calling this Convention, had, by a two-thirds vote, prohibited it, and, in good faith, he must adhere to their mandate.

Mr. Rider would vote aye, because he was opposed to tying up the hands of the Legislature for all time. He had no idea of ever receiving any compensation from the United States, and the people must look to the State.

Mr. Stoddert said the act by which the people had been deprived of their property was one of the greatest felonies ever committed. Mr. Schley had shown Governor Bradford that the constitution now fastened upon us was defeated, but the Governor said he could not go behind the returns of the election judges.

The motion to strike out was lost by yeas 26, nays 62.