

not see how the people of the State could so regard it. If this section was left in, every principle of the Declaration of Rights was violated. The law of the land is that no man's private property shall be taken for public use without compensation, and yet it is proposed to put in this constitution a provision prohibiting at any time, no matter how remote, the Legislature from making this due compensation. Could they know what was proper to be done fifty years hence? It was a policy without parallel.

Mr. M. reviewed the sections of the bill of rights, and maintained that the section was violative of the principles enunciated in many of them.

The following substitute was offered by Mr. Lee for the entire section:

"The Legislature shall pass necessary and proper laws to distribute to the claimants any fund that may arise from the co-operation of the United States with the State, as pledged by the joint resolution of Congress of April 10, 1862, to compensate the owners of slaves that have been emancipated by the State."

Mr. Jones submitted the following as a substitute: "After 'law,' in the first line, insert 'providing for payment by this State for slaves emancipated from servitude in this State, but they shall adopt such measures as they may deem expedient to obtain from the United States compensation for such slaves, and to receive and distribute the same equitably to the persons entitled.'"

Mr. Jones said the aspect of affairs had been changed very much since 1864. Subsequent to that time slavery was abolished all over the country by constitutional amendment, and laws had been passed to suit the altered condition. However much he regretted what had occurred, and however wrongfully it had been accomplished, he was in favor of obeying the laws. The radical party had charged that it was their intention to do this thing and to obstruct the laws of the United States, and he thought it was better to act so as to avoid all cavil. He hoped this agitation would not be reopened; it would be very dangerous, and he hoped the question would remain as it was.

Mr. McKaig had always looked upon this matter as high-handed robbery. Men had come into this hall in 1864, and