

move to amend it by striking out the words, "the present fund for the support of free and common schools" in the third line of the first section, and the word "heretofore," and inserting the words "hereafter to be," in the sixth line of said section.

The PRESIDENT stated that two amendments being pending, the amendment of the gentleman was not now in order.

The question was then taken on the amendment of Mr. EGG, and it was not agreed to.

Mr. DAVIS moved to amend the report by striking out in the sixth line the word "heretofore," and inserting in lieu thereof, "hereafter to be," which amendment was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. DAVIS,

Said report was further amended, by striking out in the third line, first section, these words, "the present fund for the support of free and common schools."

The question being on agreeing to the amendment of Mr. BISER,

Mr. RIDGELY moved to postpone the further consideration of the report indefinitely.

Mr. DAVIS demanded the yeas and nays on the motion, which were ordered.

Mr. THOMAS made some remarks, which will be published hereafter.

Mr. BISER agreed with his colleague in every word he had uttered; but it became necessary for him to say a single word in regard to the amendment, which he (Mr. B.) had offered, the effect of which would be, if carried, to distribute the school fund equally throughout the State, according to the white population, a doctrine which he had ever advocated. He was not disposed to disturb the school system; he was perfectly willing to let it remain as it was. The county of Frederick had been active in her operations in regard to the school fund. They now paid an annual tax of \$8000, to keep up the school system in said county, in addition to the school fund. He could not speak of the school system being as perfect in his county as the gentleman from Queen Anne's (Mr. Spencer,) spoke of the perfection of the system in his (Queen Anne's,) county.

He (Mr. B.) had made careful estimates, and found that every free white citizen in the county of Queen Anne's, received at the rate of thirty-five cents from the school fund; and that in his (Mr. B's.) county, they only received at the rate of eleven cents. If a new system was to be adopted, he was determined to make an effort to bring about a nearer equality. He was willing to vote for a postponement, and leave the matter as it now stood; but if there was to be a general supervision, he thought that Frederick county should come in for a proper share. Not only was Queen Anne's receiving this large amount over and above what Frederick, Washington, and Allegany counties were receiving, according to white population; but in other counties in the State, whose population was even smaller than that of Queen Anne's, the disproportion was still greater.

It was for this reason he had offered his amendment. It was white population alone by which this fund should be disbursed, for it was only that

class who derived benefit from it. The late period of the session—time being very precious—prevented him from saying more on this all absorbing question; it was a matter in which he had ever felt a deep and abiding interest. If the subject was acted on, he hoped his amendment would pass, so as to deal out justice to all. It being a common fund, it should be fairly disbursed.

Mr. DAVIS said he desired to reply to the extraordinary remarks just fallen from the gentleman from Frederick, [Mr. Thomas.] The gentleman, for effect, and to create prejudice against this school system, raises the bug-bear of taxation. He cannot consent, he says, that additional taxes shall be imposed upon the people. Does not the gentleman know—he certainly ought to know—that the school fund is derived from other sources than taxation; that the interest upon the surplus revenue received from the United States, and an annual bonus from the banks of the State, constitute the present fund?

Mr. BRENT, of Baltimore city, rose to a point of order.

Mr. DAVIS hoped no difficulty about points of order would be interposed to prevent the reply which ought to be made to the gentleman from Frederick.

Mr. BRENT insisted that the debate was out of order; but afterwards withdrew his point of order.

Mr. DAVIS insisted upon his right to proceed. The gentleman from Frederick not only raised the bug bear of taxation, but objects to the election of a general superintendent, upon the ground that the people in one section of the State are not capable of judging of the fitness and qualification of a person for that office in another part of the State. He asks, how can the people on the Eastern Shore judge of the qualifications of a candidate for that office, residing on the Western Shore? This is, indeed, an extraordinary objection, coming from the gentleman from Frederick. How long since he thought the people on the Eastern Shore capable of judging of the qualifications of a candidate for the important office of Governor of the State, residing on the Western Shore? since he told the people of Worcester that they were capable of judging of the qualifications of a candidate for Governor, residing in Frederick? and how many days is it since he advocated the election of a Board of Public Works by the people? since he said, by his votes and his speeches, that the people of Harford were well qualified to judge of the fitness of a candidate for that office, residing in Allegany?

Why, the gentleman completely stultifies himself; contradicts and denies his own course in this Convention. If the gentleman would take the trouble to examine the mass of information which has been, by order of this Convention, collected and referred to the committee on education, he would see that from Maine to Alabama, without an exception, this office of general superintendent, which he now opposed, because the people, as he says, are not capable of selecting the officer, was the foundation, was held to be