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STATE CONVENTION.

DEBATE.

Wednesday, June 17. chis on of the debate on the resolution Mr. Wilson, of Perquimons, proposing point a committee to report what ratio leral population will give to the House Commons the several numbers, 90, 100,

enlarge its powers. Government been compared to the Screw in. chanic -- a screw that turns only way: it gains all the power it can, never loses any. These secret nges, which are constantly going on Government, he admitted were al-"from better to worse." Inere likewise another description of nge, which is always for the worseis, open usurpations. 'I he efforts sever, which the people occasionalmake to change back, to regain what lost or stolen from them, either by et encroachment, or open usurpa-, that is, the efforts which they e to reform the Government, are erally for the better. If history es any thing, it proves this. England, was the MAGNA CHARTAnext was the BILL OF RIGHTSthird was the REVOLUTION of 38, and the last was the great reentry, for our forefathers received position to obtain them, and that a ir ideas of liberty from England, change must act against us.

Now, it appears to me, that there is Constitution you will never more hear repeated on this floor, that if the Senate of this objection—it is al-

together imaginary. Indeed, of all distinction will be forgotten; will the humbers within the range of our selection, this one of one hundred and a new division of parties will rise and a new division of parties give way to the State, where the small counties are generally located. As regards this expectation of power, of which, we have stronger excitements which grow out the stronger excitements which grow out the stronger excitements which grow out to the action of the Ecleral Givernment. In other words, local parties, that gentlemen had not examined it in ment. In other words, local parties, and a different light. It is not for ment. In other words, local parties, and the state of the action of the excited parties of the country.—

Performed the propose of this state, but will show that the West contenda—it is for a system that for parties of the country.—

Performed the propose of the state and a parties of the country.—

Performed the propose of the state and a new of the state and the propose with the state of the have a right to claim, that the Constiard 120, &c]

FISHER said, he was aware
he was about to address the Comthe was about to address the Comthe under rather unfavorable cirstances. Already the discussion
been extended to a considerable
th, and signs of impatience for the
in began to show themselves.
In began to show themselves.
In the should have a right to claim, that the Constitution.

They were no think that the contine of the large in it. I will answer. Yes,
there is a design in it. I will answer. Yes,
we contend for 120, and we have a design in
the vector of the counties than my or mice than 100 will be the equally for it. We go for 120 because that number will be security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the should be admitted that no acts of real oppression or injustice have occurred unthe should have been make less derangement in the counties than
the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the minority; certain checks and balances should be interpreted to arrest the security of the should be interpreted to a considerable to a considerable to a considerable to a considerable the and stantant should be interpreted to arrest two boths are should not seen that the sum of the security which the should asked the condition of the stream of the security which the security which the security which the should ask and should

sions. The East has the majority in 100. liberty has been preserved by a Roanoke, the Cape Fear the Pamptico Commons was fixed at 120, the relative entitled to it without asking, and be admits the session of these changes or reform, ping themselves to the changes of interests, never can pull well together how will almost a pull together themselves to the changes of calculation which he adoped to ascertain pulling down our ancient and beautiful together. The first great reform in ways exist. Now, the West, in this the result in the Senate. It was this: Take fabric of Government, for the redress of the many be said that as freemen, they were may be said that as freemen and they were them as a said that as freemen and they were may be said that as freemen and they were them. It was the may be said that as freemen and the said that respect, is more homogeneous and acts the gross amount of taxation a delivide it by imaginary evils? He did not pretend to respect, is more homogeneous and acts the gross small state of taxation necessary deny that defects existed in the Constitution, more in unison. To these causes may be attributed the results in the Electron of taxation necessary deny that defects existed in the Constitution, but they are not of that nature which justify would fall East of a certain line, while 23 its destruction. tions for the great offices in this State would be West of it. This, I think, the

F. F. Said, the history of all other Again, sir, if power be our object, I 100 will be much more favorable to the r. F. Said, the history of all other Again, sir, it power of the West than 120. Now, he wondered, if such wernments, where the spirit of liber- cannot see how we can gain it by ta- West than 120. Now, he wondered, if such ever breathed, would prove the king the number one hundred. If the remaining zeal to fasten on us the number ne thing. From the foundation of twenty, instead of one hundred. If me to the usurpation by Augustus, there be any truth in figures, one gentleman for this new discovery.

In the first place, let it be remembered. sich time there were eleven impor- to the West than another. Take any said Gen. S that assume what basis we will at changes in that Government, on number you please, from ninety, the each county has to be supplied with a mem t changes in that Government, on number you please, from the smallest number, 90 werage, one in about every sixty minimum, to one hundred and twenty, which will give a ratio of tederal population werage, one in about every sixty meaning. and if you work out the of 7,084 After giving to each county one at all these changes were for the bettionate. The East can receive no
be divided according to federal population,
The East can receive no
be divided according to federal population,
Now, West of this ideal line, there are 28
urpations; but he would say that more than what its population and taxtonate. urpations; but he would say that more than what its population and taxcounties, which having received each one
ation entitle it to, and the West no
avement among the people, it was for
which population
which population e better. The expulsion of the Tarthat take what numbers you may, and divided by the 7, 84, will give 19 representins was certainly for the better, and the East will have a majority in the uins was certainly for the better, and the East will have a majority in the tatives, which will, in all give to the West ost essentially so was the creation of Senate, and the West in the House. e Tribunitian power. But, said Mr. Now in all legislation, the two Housmy intention is not to go at length es act by concurrent votes, and one is maintained, that if the East were to content to a discussion on this subject. I a complete check on the other. If the for what was equal and right, this is the listed merely to express my dissent. West forces through the Commons a ished merely to express my dissent. West forces through the Commons a willing to act magnanimously—they are a few observations from the remark bill bearing unequally on the East, willing to act up to the compromise, and the venerable President—that 'all when it goes to the Senate, the Eastern take one hundred, which the gentleman from hanges in Government are from bet- majority at once rejects it. It is only Buncombe will see gives the West a majorir to worse;" and, having done so, I on joint ballot, that the majority com ty of 6, 110, by the same rule, will give them on joint ballot, that the majority com ty of 6, 110, by the same rule, will give them a majority of 10 sill now proceed to the question imbediately before us.

The great objection that gentlemen to gain by changing our position as retained to gai

in the Senate would be 50 and the Commons

re changes for the better, and not This gentlemen must see, if power the worst; and without these rems but little of liberty could now that we now stand in the best possible found in England, or even in this doors, and very ungenerously endeavors to convince the Committee that the number 120-We are surely much indebted to the

an equal division on joint ballot. Now, he commons consist of one hundred and wenty members, is that it will give to have majority as remainded and wenty members, is that it will give to have majority as remainded and wenty members, is that it will give to gards local division, is idle—it is noted that it will give to have heard it more than once the wenty members, is that it have in the constitution you will never more hear repeated in this floor, that if the Senate wenty members to make the constitution you will never more hear repeated in this floor, that if the Senate was that if the Senate will not be so great as to destroy the hope of a controlling influence in the fermions.

or making and past, it this general control was any past, it this general control was any past, it this general control was an any past, it this general past, it this general past, it is to act together. The majority does of preventing justice being done to the dark of preventing institutions will bear a shappy people and a prosperous people and a happy people and a prosperous people and a happy people and a prosperous people for them to rally. They move in of representation, while the East should not mighty inequality which gentlemen seemed phalanx, and take the antagonist posi- be entirely sacrificed. In view of this, he so fond of reiterating? Had the small counphalanx, and take the antagonist posi-tion, and a very small defection in the ranks of the majority enables the minor-(Gov Swain) exhibited what he conceived Wes? It had been said by the gentleman Look at the emigration from other ity candidate to succeed. If this be true would be the result, or rather the effect of from Buncombe, that much the largest ex in general, it is particularly so in N. this most gracious compromise, assuming penditures of the public disbursements were Carolina in reference to our local divi- as the fact that the basis of representation in the East; but that gentleman had not explained to his satisfaction how it came to pass. Look at all our Officers! Two-thirds the Legislature, but in the East there , The gentleman from Buncumbe, however, of them are in the West; and what has the are several local interests, which will had endeavored to convocer his statement, west asked for, that they did not get? It always prevent very close union. The by stating that even if the basis in the may be said that as freemen, they were

> Gen S. said, that in the remarks heretofor that it is a conservative principle or feature in all well organized Governments, to give property a prepondering influence in the one branch, over that of population in the other. These checks sive as vitally necessary to the maintenance of all tree Governments, as food and clothing are not only that the wealth of the State should have a controlling influence in the Senate, but that i chould be fixed on such a basis as would not adnit of fluctuation. The West ought to be wil ling to give us a Senator for each county, and, in return, we ought to agree that they should be represented in the House of Commons according to free population. Not that he would ever aban don or love sick. don or lose sight of federal population in the Federal Government, nor even here, but for the sake of compromise. But, sir, soid Gen. S the tion is, what numbers are most appropriate for the two Houses respectively? His own opinion was, that fifty should constitute the Senate and one hundred the House of Commons. Were we now a new State, and he was colled on to mould a Constitution, he might be induced to select a number between which there is a greater disparity than those he had named. But, as he ad already stated, we ought to frame the a mendments so as to produce as little shock as He was for giving no more power to he West in the Commons, than to the Past is he Sente. He had no idea of so framing the Constitution as to put the East completely at the mercy of the West, though towards that section of the State he had no unkind feelings. But he of the State he had no unkind feelings. But he had lived long enough to know, that power of the forgets right, and while the East had it, he was not disposed to give it in such a manner as would put it in the power of the West to oppose them. He never pretended to deny the justice of some of the claims of the West to a Convention, and could the single isolated question of representation have been presented to the purple, unalonged or unfettered with any of

of the West are open, men of enter. This state of society will be found to Luck at the emigration from other sive privileges and rights, to nobles, emigration from our sister State to the south of us has far exceeded us.

True said Gen. S. I am aware that is not strictly applicable to the ques- civil slavery; and yet those who are tion now under consideration. As it has thus deprived of the enjoyment of ebeen referred to by the gentleman from qual rights, are freemen and are re-Wilkes, I will make a remark or two cognized as such by the Constitution in addition to what I have already of the country. I do not, therefore said. From his remarks it might be think, that much strengh of argument inferred that the East were opposed is derived from the fact that they are to Internal Improvements; such how-ralled freemen, abstractly considered ever is not the fact, nor has their past from their rights as such. The genconduct evinced it. He believed tleman further remarks, that they some of the warmest friends of that served long and faithfully in the Resystem have come from the East, and volutionary War, this argument would in all plans which had had for their apply with equal force and pertinency object a judicious expenditure, the to our slaves, many of whom, the histernal Improvements have hitherto ces," in that trying and momentous mutual jealousy all over our State, not lutionary armies; but the force and only between the Bast and We t, but effect of this argument is much dimindependence, though we have it in our merely permissive, and unless there is power greatly to improve our con-dition. Should he ever have the honor cannot be demanded as right; the hisof again being a member of the Legis- tory of our country informs us, that all lature, he intended to bring forward a the coloured population were original-plan and the only one which can improve our condition, viz. a rail-road been made into Virginia in the year one from Beaufort to Newbern and one thousand six hundred and twenty; and from Favetteville to some central point it is now a matter of curious and interesting inquiry, how those who were

in the West. The former would give to the East subsequently emancipated, acquired facilities for reaching one of the best the political rights of freemen harbors on the southern coast, while

down by him. It is true that in several of the Northern States, the Senate is comparatively small; yet they are not regarded as merely a legislative branch of the Government; they have certain supervisory powers & area court of dernier resort, possessing the highest powers of any in the State. But in a majority of the States, south of the Poamac, the very principles for which

the objections which had been brought forward against the adoption of his a-ment. It only remained for him to perform the solemn but painful duty of he East. He had expressed himself with some feeling, but more in "sorother frelings than those of friendship,

The committee then rose, reported

Saturday, June 13.

The order of the day being the Report of the enamittee of the Whole, on the 4th resolution, which had reported a resolution in the following

Mords, viz:

Headwest, That free Negroes and Mulattors within four degrees, shall not be allowed to vote for Members of the Schate or House of Commons of this State.

Mr. BRVAN remarked, that the difficulty for had suggested to the gentleman from Halifes (Jadge Daniel,) had not been, to his mind, ant-(Jadge Ihniel,) had not been, to his mind, entidectorily removed by that geotherson; and that he would briefly submit to the committee, his views on this subject. It is remarked by a tisstinguished author, while the Constitution of a State may be tree, and the subject not so—the subject free, and not the Constitution. The free negro who does not enjoy an equality of rights with the white man, although he may be tree to a certain extent, is subject to creat since. exist under almost every Government; or other privileged orders of society. you degrade, enslave and diminish the rights of others, who are excluded from a participation in them, and thus the subject of Internal Improvements in a measure, produce a system of East have been as liberal as the West. tory of our country informs us, sidid He could tell the gentleman why In- the State great and important serviproved ineffetual in this State. It is period, and fought man ully and bravelamentable fact, that there exists a ly in the embattled ranks of our Revobetween the Cape Fear, the Neuse, the ished also, by the fact, that at the se-Roanoke, &c. And the consequence cond Congress of the United States, s, whenever any improvement is pro- an act was passed excluding them from posed in one section, an opposition a- bearing arms in the militia. Honorarises in another, and resort must be ble gentlemen have appealed to our had to that o lious system, known by magnanimity, and endeavored to exthe name of log-rolling, to carry any cite our sympathy in their behalf-to. point. The idea of ever raising up a my mind their lot and condition is a own in North Carolina like New York, miserable one, and far surpasses the Philadelphia, Charleston or Norfolk, nondescript situation of the ancient was to his mind, perfectly visionary, Helots and Villiens, or the ignoble and no genuine friend of Internal Im- condition of the oppressed peasantry provements will ever preach up such a of Poland, or the equivocal freedom of doctrine. From these insurmountable the European Swiss. This is to my impediments and obstructions, which mind, a nation of white people, and the nature has thrown in our way, we are enjoyment of any civil or social rights. doomed, in many respects to a state of by a distinct class of individuals, is