

SENATE.....No. 13.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

IN SENATE, FEB. 2, 1832.

The Committee on so much of the Governor's Message as relates to an Amendment of the Constitution for the purpose of reducing the number of the members of the House of Representatives, and who were directed, by the order of the Senate of January 23d to report an amendment embracing certain principles therein specified, respectfully report the following

RESOLVE :

Resolved, by both Houses, the same being agreed to by a majority of the Senators, and by two thirds of the members of the House of Representatives present and voting thereon, that it is expedient to amend the constitution of this Commonwealth by adopting the subjoined

Article of Amendment, and that the same, as thus agreed to be entered on the journals of the two houses, with the yeas and nays taken thereon, and referred to the General Court, next to be chosen, and that the same be published, to the end, that, if agreed to by the General Court next to be chosen in the manner provided by the Constitution, it may be submitted to the people for their ratification, in order that it may become a part of the Constitution of this Commonwealth.

ARTICLE OF AMENDMENT.

The members of the House of Representatives shall be elected in the following manner :

The several cities and towns in this Commonwealth shall be divided into Representative districts in such manner, that no town or city shall be divided ; that no district shall be so large as to elect more than four Representatives, except when composed of a single town or city ; and that each county in the Commonwealth shall have at least one Representative :—and in forming such Representative districts, regard shall be had to the number of inhabitants in the cities and towns composing such districts, so that, as nearly as may be, the same proportion may be maintained between the number of Representatives and the number of Inhabitants in each Representative district. And the whole number of Representatives to be elected shall not be less than two hundred nor more than three hundred ; and it being determined what number of inhabitants shall be assumed as the number to give one Representative.

such districts shall be formed of single towns or of two or more adjoining towns, containing as nearly as may be such assumed number of inhabitants, which may elect each one Representative, or containing twice such number of inhabitants to elect each two Representatives, or containing three times such number of inhabitants to elect each three Representatives, or containing four times such number of inhabitants to elect each four Representatives. And in all cases smaller districts shall be preferred to larger when they can be formed without too great a departure from the principle of equality.

And it shall be the duty of the General Court, at their first session after the ratification of this amendment, by a law made for that purpose, to divide the Commonwealth into Representative Districts upon the foregoing principles, regard being had for the number of inhabitants, in each town and city to the then next preceding census, taken under the authority of the United States;—and such districts shall by law be formed anew conformably to the rules abovementioned, after each census so taken. And it shall be the duty of the General Court to make from time to time, such other laws and regulations as may be necessary and proper for carrying the above provisions into effect.

The meetings for the choice of Representatives shall be held on the second Monday in October of each year; and in case of a failure to elect the required number of Representatives at such meeting, the second meeting for that purpose shall be held on the second Monday of the November following; and in case of a failure to elect the required number of Representatives at such second meeting, the third meeting for this purpose shall be held on the second Monday of the following December.

The members of the House of Representatives shall be paid out of the Public Treasury of the Commonwealth for their travel and attendance on the General Court.

All the provisions of the existing Constitution inconsistent with the provisions herein contained, are hereby annulled.

All which is respectfully submitted.

By order of the Committee.

A. H. EVERETT.