

section being under consideration, and the pending question being on the amendment of Mr. Archer to make the term of the judges fifteen years instead of during good behavior.

On motion of Mr. Jones, the Convention resolved itself into committee of the whole, Mr. Dent, of St. Mary's, in the chair.

The committee then took up the third section of the judiciary report.

Mr. Jones took the floor in advocacy of the section as reported by the committee on the judiciary.

Mr. Brown also followed in support of the section as reported. During his speech Mr. Brown remarked that the general opinion from experience was that the administration of justice had deteriorated since the adoption of the new system.

Mr. Vansant said that was an argument against the whole elective system.

Mr. Brown said the question of election was not now before them, but he would say that he believed the whole system of election to be vicious, but that in the present temper of the people it was probable that good judges would be selected. Mr. Brown then proceeded to argue the whole subject at issue.

Mr. Peters followed in reply to Mr. Brown. He expressed his entire dissent from the views that independence and impartiality were to be secured only by a life tenure. He had occupied a seat on the bench himself, and had very important questions affecting life, property and honor before him for adjudication, and in his decisions had not been swayed for one moment by any desire for re-election, and this he believed would be the case with other judges. As stated by his able colleague (Mr. Ritchie) yesterday, this was a matter which rested with the individual judge. Mr. Peters concluded by expressing his preference for a term of eight years, but would be willing to vote for ten.

Mr. Maulsby said that there was no doubt much diversity of opinion on this subject in different parts of the State, and different degrees of interest, but he could