

now came into office entirely unacquainted with the business of their office and the duties they had to perform, which was the cause of much embarrassment and confusion, and he proposed the amendment in order that a portion of the board who understood all the business should hold over.

Mr. Walsh said this was one of the new-fangled ideas of 1864, and he hoped it would not be adopted. He should prefer that these county commissioners should be elected every year. They had a great deal of power—levied taxes on the people pretty much as they liked, built bridges, &c. He saw no necessity for any of them holding over.

Mr. Stoddert opposed the amendment.

Mr. Mackubin said that in matters of finance the county commissioners bore the same relation to the people as the mayor and council of Baltimore bore to the people of that city, and as the Legislature did to the people of the State at large, and they should be held to as strict an accountability to the people by frequent elections. In Howard county they had felt the effects of this provision which was in the constitution of 1864, and which the gentleman from Washington, (Mr. Syester,) wished to continue, and they desired to have the opportunity of passing upon the conduct of those who administered their affairs. The taxes in Howard county had risen from 60 cents to \$1.15 in the hundred dollars. The State taxes were but a bagatelle as compared to the county taxes.

Mr. Stoddert said if the county commissioners of Charles county did not stop they would bankrupt the county. They gave out contracts to further their own interests, and not those of the people.

Mr. Syester thought the amendment was proper, but he did not care particularly about it. The county commissioners possessed no legislative powers; they had a semi-judicial jurisdiction, but they could only levy taxes according to law. He did not see how the taxes were to be reduced by shortening the term of the county commissioners. The gentleman from Allegany, (Mr. Walsh,) called this a new-fangled idea, and thought it ought to be kicked out because it emanated from the radical party; but he had always thought the gentleman was willing to