

from the people who resided without the limits. The friends of this measure had expected to encounter this opposition, and they had come here prepared to dispel the mists of error which it would be sought to throw around the question. He contended that the principle which had heretofore guided the formation of new counties had been adhered to in the proposition before them. Mr. R. quoted from statistics, and claimed that the population of the two counties had increased in a sufficient ratio since 1860 as to give them the minimum number of white inhabitants prescribed by the constitution for each county, and replied at length to the arguments of Mr. Page. He was in favor now of this new county because it would preserve the balance of power throughout the State, and he commended this particularly to every county man. He was glad to find that their friends from Baltimore went for this, because they knew that Wicomico county would always send a Democratic senator and delegates to these halls to serve as an additional barrier against the encroachments of radicalism. He did not believe the taxation would be increased one dollar by the creation of this new county. He stated as a fact that the money to erect all the necessary public buildings would be raised in Salisbury.

Mr. Jones said one of the chief complaints against this movement was that it took the people of Somerset and Worcester completely by surprise. They had no idea that it was to be agitated before this Convention. There had been no memorials or petitions of late years, although an effort had been made in this direction some years ago.

Mr. Rider said it had been discussed in the papers of Princess Anne and Salisbury.

Mr. Jones said there might have been some fugitive newspaper articles, but no memorial had come up to the last Legislature, and the town of Salisbury was then represented by a very competent gentleman. His colleague's assumption of the increase of population was entirely conjecture, and would, probably, not be borne out by the facts. In regard to the petitions sent to this Convention, there was very little difference in the number for and against, and he had noticed several duplications of signatures in the memorials in favor, and it was impossible to