

Section 4 was read and passed over.

Section 5 was read, providing for a uniform system of registration.

Mr. Mitchell moved to strike out the entire article. There had never been any registration law in Maryland until provided for by the Convention of 1864. The people did not want any registry; they had enough experience of this iniquitous law. In his county (Charles) the judges of election were ample and knew all the voters. The great expense attending the registry was also a great objection—it would all have to be gone over again, and had cost nearly \$1,600 in his county.

Mr. Jones said there was no doubt that the registry provided for in 1864 was for grossly partisan purposes, but the idea was not original with the radical party; registry laws had existed for years in others of the States. Besides, if this was stricken out, it would necessitate changes in other articles of the constitution, which had been framed with reference to the registry laws. The annual expense would be limited, as the registry was already made, and only additions and alterations would have to be made. A complete system of registration was very necessary; it would prevent the colonizing of voters which had prevailed in Baltimore.

Mr. Maulsby moved to amend by providing for registration only in Baltimore city and Baltimore county.

Mr. Wickes said the committee had representatives from Baltimore city and from the larger counties, and the committee had also consulted with other members of the Convention, and the general impression seemed to be in favor of the registry law, and the section had been reported as a consequence. Representing one of the small counties, (Kent,) he could say they did not want it, and he left the whole subject with the Convention.

Mr. Wethered thought a registry law absolutely necessary to the purity of the ballot-box. Baltimore city and county absolutely needed it, and, in fact, all the northern tier of counties needed it. It was true that this law had been made by the radicals to subserve their own partisan ends, and to exclude the majority of the people of this State from the ballot-box, and this Convention