

court residing in that district; because it is strictly and properly a judicial office, and the court can appoint better than any one else. But with regard to road supervisors, leave that entirely to the legislature. If he prefers that, I will consent to it with pleasure.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I wish to suggest that there is another report to be acted upon by the convention, which I apprehend, if adopted, will essentially modify all this, and render it of very little account how this matter is disposed of, as it will be a temporary arrangement. I refer to report No. 8, on the rights, duties, divisions and subdivisions of counties. The second section of that report provides:

"Section 2. The general assembly may provide by general law, for dividing the counties into towns or permanent municipal corporations in place of the existing election districts, prescribing their limits, and confiding to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns, and whenever the organization of these township corporations shall be perfected, all officers provided for in this constitution, but whose official functions shall have been superseded by such organizations shall be dispensed with, and the affairs of such towns, and of the counties as affected by the action of such town, shall be transacted in such manner as the general assembly shall direct."

Roads are included among the public local concerns of the townships. It will then become necessary to have a system precisely like that which my colleague has indicated, when the supervisor will have charge, not of the roads of a whole county or a wide election district, but of a neighborhood, and will be elected by persons resident in the neighborhood whose interest it is to have good roads in their neighborhood, and who will necessarily, for their own protection, and their own comfort, hold him to a rigid accountability in the discharge of his duties. If the convention will act favorably upon that report, this matter of road supervisors will be but a temporary affair, and that will supersede entirely the present arrangement, and provide for all these public local concerns. I am sure if this system is once inaugurated, these petty local offices will cease to be cared about in this way.

Mr. BELT. Although there may be another report to supersede in some respects the present, it is our duty as we go along to perfect so far as we can what we act upon. I desire to say, also, with reference to the suggestion of the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands,) that I will so far modify my proposed amendment as to insert the words "or election." If we are going to establish the principle that each of the counties shall regulate its own affairs, some of them may wish to elect, and if any do, I prefer that they should elect. Others may wish to appoint, and I am willing to give the largest liberty to the counties.

Mr. PUGH. If that amendment is adopted all the rest of the section will have to be stricken out.

Mr. SANDS. I shall support the proposition as modified by my friend from Prince George's (Mr. Belt,) for the very reason that I supported the elective feature for these minor offices, because it leaves to the people of each county the question whether they will have their officers elective or appointed. I think we all want the largest liberty to be guaranteed to our people. I am sure that the people of Howard, if they want to elect their officers, are perfectly satisfied that the people of Prince George's shall appoint their officers. It is just to give the people of each county the right to regulate their own county affairs. I shall support that with a great deal of pleasure.

The question being taken upon the amendment moved by Mr. DELLINGER, it was rejected.

Mr. BELT submitted the following amendment:

Insert after the word "appointment," in line second, the words "or election," and strike out all after the word "counties," in the third line.

Mr. SCHLEY. I will move to amend the amendment by adding "and the city of Baltimore."

Mr. STIRLING. We do not want road supervisors in the city of Baltimore. I suggest that we strike out constables, and provide for them in the judiciary article.

Mr. BELT. Finding that the city of Baltimore was not mentioned in the clause, I omitted to refer to it. I thought they knew their own interests better than I did.

Mr. SCHLEY withdrew his amendment.

Mr. DAVIS, of Washington, submitted the following amendment to the amendment:

Amend by striking out the words "and constables," in the second line, "and constables," in the fourth line.

Mr. DANIEL. It seems to me that a practical difficulty will arise from a provision we have already adopted here. We have said that there shall be no special legislation with reference to roads. On the motion of my colleague of Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge,) that was adopted. The idea that they may be elected in one county and appointed in another is in direct conflict with that, which says it must be by general law.

Mr. PUGH. Not at all. The legislature is bound to pass a general law to meet this very case.

Mr. DANIEL. The legislature is bound to provide for their "appointment or election," if we adopt this amendment, one or the other. Gentlemen have argued it that they may provide for an election in one county if the people prefer it, and for appointment in another, if the people prefer it. I say that is inconsistent with what we have already adopted; for we have said there shall be a general law upon this subject. I conceive that the legislature may say that they shall be appointed in every