

system we may not get anybody to take care of the roads at all. I vote "no."

The amendment was accordingly rejected.

Mr. PUGH. I move to amend by striking out the words "and constables" in the second line, and all after the word "counties" in the third line. My reason for offering that as an amendment, is to meet the views of the gentleman from Harford (Mr. Galloway,) with which views I heartily coincide. I think there is not, at least so far as my experience has gone, any road system which needs improvement so much as the road system of the State of Maryland. My amendment is simply to provide for the appointment of road supervisors. The section will then read simply:

"Section 5. The general assembly shall provide by law for the appointment of road supervisors in the several counties."

Mr. DANIEL. I rise to a point of order; that we have just passed upon the question of striking out "constables," upon the motion of the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Davis.)

The PRESIDENT. That was an amendment to an amendment, and was therefore a different proposition.

Mr. HEBB. I ask for a division of the question. I am in favor of striking out "and constables" and opposed to striking out the latter part of the section.

The question being taken on the first branch of the amendment, to strike out the words "and constables" in the second line, the first branch of the amendment was agreed to.

The question being taken on the second branch of the amendment, to strike out all after the word "counties" in the second line, the third branch of the amendment was rejected.

On motion of Mr. HEBB,

The words "and constables" were also stricken out in the 4th line.

Mr. BELT. I think one of the abuses of the present system can be avoided by omitting all reference to the election districts. I know that in some election districts the roads require more care than in others. I move therefore to strike out the words "in the several election districts," in the 4th line.

As the section now stands the number of supervisors in the several election districts is to be determined by the county commissioners, with the further condition that their powers and duties shall be similar throughout the State. The question might arise, in the minds of these local authorities whom we call county commissioners, whether they ought not to appoint the same number in every district. I wish to give them the power of appointing whatever number the wants of the county require, and let the people of the counties take care to have them properly apportioned. I wish to avoid the necessity that election districts having little

necessity for these officers, should have the same number as others that require them.

The amendment was rejected.

Mr. SCHLEY. I move to amend the section by striking out the words "throughout the State," at the end of the section.

Mr. EDELEN. I suggest to the gentleman to strike out all after the word commissioners, in the sixth line. The evident sense of the convention is to permit this whole subject with reference to the roads of the several counties, and the several county boards, to come under the direction and supervision of the legislative department of the State. I think the latter clause of this section conflicts with the general idea the convention seems to entertain on the subject. If the design and intention is to allow the legislature through the instrumentality of the county boards to create one system for Charles county, and another system for Frederick county, it seems to me that we should leave the legislature free and untrammelled to regulate all the details upon this subject, because it will be apparent to anybody that a system good for my county perhaps will not answer for Frederick or Allegany, or some counties on the Eastern Shore.

Mr. SCHLEY. I will accept the amendment, because I think that language is superfluous, and move to strike out all after the word "commissioners," in the sixth line.

Mr. VALLIANT. What is the objection to the words "but the tenure of office shall be uniform?"

Mr. SCHLEY. They are unnecessary.

Mr. EDELEN. If we are not going to have a general law, why not have a system in Talbot county, and one in Charles county, differing in all these details? What will be the advantage or necessity of having the tenure of office uniform, if we are not going to have a similar system in other respects for the whole State?

Mr. SCOTT. The amendment of the gentleman from Charles (Mr. Edeleu) is so similar to one I had drawn up myself, that I am not disposed to vote against it. There is no impropriety in making the tenure of office uniform throughout the State; and I will offer my proposition as an amendment to his, to strike out all after the word "uniform," in the seventh line.

Mr. SCHLEY. What does the gentleman mean by the expression that the tenure of office shall be uniform? Does he mean uniform as to its duration?

Mr. SCOTT. That is all it can mean.

Mr. SCHLEY. Uniform as to duties?

Mr. SCOTT. No, sir; powers and duties are embraced afterwards; and I propose to strike that out. The propriety of my motion will appear to anybody who considers the variety of soil and pursuits in different parts of the State. Some places are so level, and are travelled so little, that roads can be easily