

so, then I would vote for it. Now, I think all these matters should be delegated to the local authorities. But you take away the power from the legislature, and do not give it to any other authority. Let that be done first, and then let this matter come up afterwards. I think it is a doubtful question, if you say that the legislature shall not pass any local laws, whether you do not mean to say that you shall have uniform legislation, and that you can have no local legislation, or that you cannot invest the local authorities with power over the matter. Now, if the legislature has no right to say that the constables in one county shall be allowed more fees than in another county, it can have no right to authorize the local authorities to say so. It strikes me that that interpretation will be put upon this provision; that it means to say to the legislature that it shall provide uniform salaries throughout the State; that the fees shall be uniform; that the people of the whole State shall in that respect come under a uniform system of legislation. That is the interpretation which I put upon this provision. It strikes me that to say that the legislature shall not pass any local or special law, means that all legislation shall be uniform and general.

Mr. DANIEL. If the legislature should provide by a single act that all these local boards shall have power to do a particular thing, is not that general legislation and not special, and still conferring on those boards all the power to do precisely what they want.

Mr. VALLIANT. I move to amend this provision by adding the following:

"But may empower the local authorities of the city of Baltimore, and of the counties, to do the same."

The question being taken upon the amendment, it was rejected.

The question then was taken upon the clause prohibiting the legislature from passing local or special laws "relating to fees or salaries," and it was adopted.

The question was upon agreeing to the next clause, prohibiting the legislature from passing special or local laws, "relating to the interest on money."

Mr. MILLER. I would like to ask the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) whether he supposes there may be such a thing as the legislature passing a law making the interest on money in Anne Arundel county, for instance, different from the interest on money in any other county?

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. It is possible.

Mr. PUGH. I would suggest to the gentleman from Anne Arundel county (Mr. Miller) that just as wild things have been done by the legislature.

The question being taken, the clause was adopted.

The next question was upon agreeing to

the clause providing that the legislature shall not pass special or local laws—

"Providing for regulating the election or compensation of State or county officers, or designating the places of voting, or the boundaries of election districts."

Mr. MILLER. I must ask the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge) another question. Does not a provision of the constitution which we have already adopted provide how these State and county officers shall be elected? Does it not fix the day of election, and make all other provisions in regard to those elections? Then how can any special legislation be possible? It seems to me that that is an absurdity.

Mr. VALLIANT. I move to amend this provision by striking out the words "State or," so that it shall read, "providing for regulating the election or compensation of county officers," &c.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The constitution does not, by a great deal, provide for the election or selection of all the State officers. There is a large number of State officers which are not provided for by the constitution, but they are left to the regulation of the legislature.

Mr. BELT. Will the gentleman tell us of any State officer at all whose election is referred to the legislature, and not provided for and regulated by the constitution? I would like to know the process by which the legislature of Maryland can elect officers not warranted by the constitution.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Tobacco inspectors are not provided for in the constitution. They are certainly State officers, and important State officers. That is only one of a class including hundreds of others.

Mr. MILLER. Is it not intended to confer upon the governor the power to appoint these officers?

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I do not know what is provided.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. It is provided for by special laws, under the constitution, giving the legislature the power to provide for the election. It is certainly not intended to restrict the legislature from appointing local officers that may be necessary, other than those which are provided for in the constitution.

Mr. KING. What are we to do about the election of esquires and constables? If the legislature cannot regulate it, who is to regulate it? It states here that the legislature shall not make any provision for it.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The legislature shall not provide that the governor shall appoint these officers for Baltimore county, and that the people shall elect them in Allegany county; but shall provide by general law for that purpose. That is all that this means.

The question was then taken upon the amendment of Mr. Valliant, to strike out the words "State or," and it was rejected.