

Burnt District Commission of Baltimore City. His offices in the Glenn Building having been destroyed by the great fire in February, 1904, Mr. Straus practiced for the year following the fire in the office of the Honorable William Pinkney Whyte. In 1906 he was appointed by the General Assembly as Special Counsel for the State of Maryland in the controversy of the State with the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad growing out of the suspension by the railroad company of the payments of dividends on the State's stock in the Washington Branch of the railroad, and took a leading part in effecting the settlement and preparing the legislative measures whereby the State disposed of its 5,500 shares of the Washington Branch stock to the railroad company for the sum of \$2,500,000. In 1906 the Maryland Agricultural College conferred the degree of Master of Arts upon Mr. Straus.

*President of the Senate:* JOSEPH B. SETH (Democrat), Easton.

Joseph Bruff Seth was born on November 25, 1845, in Bay Hundred District of Talbot county, Md. His father was Alexander Hamilton Seth, a farmer, also a member of the House of Delegates of Maryland in 1844, and his mother was Martha A. Haddaway, daughter of William Haddaway and Ann Kersey. Mr. Seth's parental ancestor was Nicholas Harvey, who came into the Province in 1634 with Leonard Calvert. He was granted a patent for land on the Patauxent River, opposite Point Patience, called "St. Joseph's Manor." Nicholas Harvey was a member of the First Assembly held in the colony; he was also one of the first to receive a military commission, having received a commission from Leonard Calvert on the 3d of January, 1639, to raise a company to go against the nation called the Maquantequants, a tribe of Indians who were committing sundry insolences upon the English inhabitants.

Mr. Seth was educated in the public schools of Maryland and under private tutors, and was admitted to the Bar of the State in Baltimore in 1867, since which time he has been a successful practitioner, both in Baltimore city and Talbot county.

He sat in the Legislature as a Delegate for Talbot county in the sessions of 1874, 1884 and 1886, during the latter term being Speaker of the House. In 1905 he was elected to the State Senate and was chosen president of that body in the session of 1906.

By appointment of Governor Robert M. McLane, in 1884, Mr. Seth served as Judge Advocate General, with the rank