

SKETCH OF THE GOVERNOR

Governor: ALBERT C. RITCHIE (Democrat), Baltimore.

Albert C. Ritchie was born August 29, 1876. He is a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. His father was Judge Albert Ritchie, who had been a member of the Maryland Constitutional Convention of 1867, City Solicitor of Baltimore, City Counsellor of Baltimore, President of the Maryland Historical Society, Professor at the University of Maryland Law School, and Judge of the Supreme Bench of Baltimore City. His mother, before her marriage, was Miss Elizabeth Caskie Cabell of Richmond, Virginia.

Mr. Ritchie received his early education in private schools in Baltimore and graduated from the Johns Hopkins University in 1896 with the degree of A. B., and from the University of Maryland Law School in 1898 with the degree of LL. B. In 1920 he received the degree of LL.D. from the University of Maryland and from St. John's College, in 1923 from Washington College, and in 1929 from Loyola College.

Upon his graduation, Mr. Ritchie began the practice of law in Baltimore City with the firm of Steele, Semmes, Carey & Bond, of which firm he became a member in 1900. In March, 1903, he was appointed Assistant City Solicitor of Baltimore City, holding this position until July 1, 1910, when he resigned.

In November, 1903, Mr. Ritchie formed a partnership for the general practice of law with Mr. Stuart S. Janney, under the firm name of Ritchie & Janney, which firm later became Ritchie, Janney & Griswold, and still later Ritchie, Janney & Stuart. Mr. Ritchie was a member of this firm until his election as Governor.

In 1907 he was appointed Professor of Law at the University of Maryland Law School and served in this capacity until his election as Governor.

On July 1, 1910, Mr. Ritchie became Assistant General Counsel to the Public Service Commission. This is the position popularly known as People's Counsel, and it was in this capacity that Mr. Ritchie represented the people of Baltimore in his noteworthy fight for cheaper gas and electricity, which resulted in reducing the price of gas from 90 to 80 cents per 1000 cubic feet, and the price of electricity from 10 to 8½ cents per K.W.H. On February 16, 1913, Mr. Ritchie resigned this position to devote his time to private practise.

In September, 1915, Mr. Ritchie was nominated in the direct primary on the Democratic ticket for Attorney-General of Maryland, and in November, 1915, he was elected to that office by a majority of 25,000.