

Mr. Ritchie served as Attorney-General from December 20, 1915, to December 20, 1919. He organized the first State Law Department of Maryland, which took over the legal work of all of the State Departments except the Public Service Commission, thus doing away with the employment of numerous special counsel, and resulting both in economy and increased efficiency to the State. At the War Session of 1917 he prepared or supervised all special legislation made necessary by the war, and this work served as a model in many States.

On June 3, 1918, Mr. Ritchie was appointed General Counsel to the United States War Industries Board, serving in this capacity until December, 1918, when the Board was dissolved. He secured a leave of absence from his duties as Attorney-General and moved to Washington in order to devote his entire time to war work.

In September, 1919, Mr. Ritchie was nominated without opposition as the Democratic candidate for Governor of Maryland, and in November, 1919, he was elected by the narrow margin of 165 votes. This was more of a victory than the figures indicate, because a Republican plurality of 10,000 in the Baltimore City Mayoralty election of May, 1919, was converted into a Democratic plurality of 1800 in November of the same year.

Governor Ritchie's first term was noteworthy for a number of constructive achievements.

The State Reorganization Bill and the Fewer Elections Bill were passed.

He fostered and developed the Public School System of the State, until, from a position of stagnation, it now equals the best in the country.

He advocated and pursued the policy of building and maintaining the roads of the State until Maryland stands second to no State in the Union in the excellence of its highways.

He established the Merit System for State employes.

He inaugurated a business system of purchasing State supplies, effecting a remarkable saving of the taxpayers' money.

He secured the passage of model legislation on the subject of co-operative marketing, the eradication of tuberculosis from dairy herds and the promotion of agriculture.

He redrafted and liberalized the Workmen's Compensation Act and advocated and secured legislation protecting the health and safety of the miners of the State.

When, in 1922, President Harding, during the coal miners' strike of that year, called upon the Governors of all the coal producing States to send troops to the mines, Governor