

some counties had instructed their delegates to the convention to vote to continue the appointive system. A judiciary committee made two reports. Thomas F. Bowie, of Prince George's County, the chairman, submitted a majority report advocating a system of electing judges for terms of ten years, and a grouping of the trial courts into three districts, one of courts on the Eastern Shore, and two of courts on the Western Shore. A minority report, submitted by John W. Crisfield, of Somerset County, advocated the retention of the system of appointment and life tenure of judges, and a grouping into eight districts. Neither plan was finally adopted in all its details, but the majority plan was adopted in the main. It was decided that all judges should thereafter be elected, for terms of ten years, and that judges should be eligible for re-election. This was a subject of debate of a high order. A speech of Judge Ezekiel F. Chambers advocating the retention of the appointive system was the best of the convention, and it is still a noteworthy one. The contest, was, of course, between the logical supposition, on the one hand, that an elective system would put upon the bench judges not selected by anybody for judicial qualities, but merely rewarded for their own self-assertion and vote getting strength, and compelled to curry favor for their offices, and, on the other hand, the demand for more direct, popular government and an opportunity to terminate at some period the incumbency of a judge who had proved undesirable. The more thoughtful advocates of election, too, expressed an anxiety for independence in