

Miller offered a motion that the committee on judiciary be instructed to consider a requirement that an opinion in each case decided by the Court of Appeals be filed within three months after argument; and it was so ordered. This would effect a considerable change in the practice of the judges, for instead of carrying over to the succeeding terms cases which had been argued and held under advisement, it would be necessary under this requirement that the judges remain in Annapolis, or return there during the same term, until all cases were disposed of. The committee on judiciary, of which Henry Stockbridge, of Baltimore, father of Judge Henry Stockbridge of the Court of Appeals (1911-1924), was chairman, reported a plan for a court of a chief justice and four associate justices, to be appointed from five judicial districts; and it was proposed that opinions be filed within a maximum limit of six months, which would still permit carrying cases over for opinions at succeeding terms.

The report opened the debate on the methods of selection. Judge Ezekiel F. Chambers again urged the method of executive appointment, and in the course of his argument expressed the opinion that there had been a loss to the bench by the abandonment of that method in 1851;<sup>5</sup> but there was much testimony given to the contrary, amounting to a substantial preponderance of proof, indeed, that the judges of the state since 1851 had at least been men of integrity and of ability that commanded the respect of the people.

5. This opinion had been expressed frequently during the intervening years. Cf. Semmes, Latrobe, 214.