

There was some evidence of a feeling that the later judges might not have equalled the earlier ones in professional ability. James L. Ridgely, of Baltimore County, said ⁶ "It may be that we have not in general obtained judges so profound in judicial learning as we had under the former system; but we have obtained judges who have in the opinion of our people met the wants of the people." In this connection it must be borne in mind that the salaries of judges were still low, and that the earnings of practitioners were steadily rising above the amounts of judicial salaries, and the inducements to men eligible for the bench were thus, in the course of time, of less and less strength; and this having been a possible factor it is unsafe to attribute any small difference in the professional ability of the judges, if there was any, to the difference in methods of their selection. The convention voted 51 to 19 in favor of an elective system. Judge Chambers and Oliver Miller voted with the minority, favoring appointments.

The committee later reported a further plan, that the judges should hold office during good behavior and until they attained the age of sixty years, when they might be appointed for an additional ten years in the discretion of the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. There was a motion that all judges be elected by vote over the state at large, another that the chief judge only should be so elected. An age limit of seventy years was proposed; and a fifteen year term of office was moved and carried. On motion of Mr. Miller, the allowance of three

6. Debates, 1390.