

La Plata, in said county, if the qualified voters shall so determine, and to provide a Court House and Jail, &c. I cannot concur in the favorable report of this bill, believing, as I do, that it is hurtful to the best interests of the people whom I in part represent, and in violation of the known and expressed wishes of a decided majority of the tax paying people of our county, upon whom alone the burdens of debt and increased taxation it proposes to create, will rest.

The question presented by this bill is not a new one with our people.

The question of the removal of the county seat from Port Tobacco to LaPlata was submitted to the popular vote of the county in the year 1882, with the result that only about 360 votes were cast in its favor out of a total vote of over 3,000 cast at said election.

Again, at the last session of the Legislature, a bill was introduced into the Senate by the author of the pending bill, providing for the removal of the county seat from Port Tobacco to LaPlata absolutely and without submitting the question to the people.

The bill passed the Senate without objection, and before the people of the county were aware that any such measure was contemplated. It subsequently passed this House, receiving exactly a constitutional majority, which consisted of every Republican member of the House, (excepting only Delegate Contee, from Charles county), with enough Democrats to make the requisite number.

The nature of the contest in the House at that time is known to many members now here who were also members at that time. At this stage of the case a very large and influential meeting of the leading tax payers from every section of the county assembled in the Court House at Port Tobacco, upon barely two days notice, and amid strong manifestations of earnest indignation, adopted a series of resolutions from which I will quote as follows:

“Resolved, By the citizens and tax-payers of Charles county, in mass-meeting assembled at Port Tobacco, this 17th day of March, 1890, that we have heard with great indignation of the passage by both branches of the General Assembly, of an Act to remove the county