

giving to them all powers necessary for the management of their public local concerns." This apparently mandatory provision of the Constitution does not appear to have been carried out as the election districts still exist.

The Constitution of 1867, which is still in force, provided for the erection of Wicomico County and repeated the general provision for the organization of new counties, the localization and removal of county seats, and the changing of county lines; vesting the power as before in the General Assembly. The same provisions were also made to the effect that no new county should contain less than 400 square miles and that no existing county should have its territory reduced to less than the same amount. This limiting clause practically forbids the General Assembly to erect any new county in the State of Maryland without a readjustment of several of the now existing counties. The largest counties at the present time are Garrett (681 sq. m.), Frederick (660), Baltimore (647), Dorchester (573), Montgomery (518), and Worcester (492). The division of Garrett into two counties with the addition of a small amount of Allegany is not possible since Allegany County has only 40 square miles to spare. Even if it in turn encroached upon Washington County the total area of these three contiguous counties is not sufficient to make an additional county of the size required without the reduction of existing counties below the limit provided.

A new county might be organized out of a portion of Frederick County but to do so it would be necessary to reduce Montgomery and either Washington or Carroll counties.

The rapid increase in population in the vicinity of Baltimore and the present large territory of Baltimore County might develop the necessity for the organization of an additional county in this part of the State, but according to the laws as they now exist this would be quite difficult since if Carroll, Harford, and Anne Arundel counties gave up their surplus, above the prescribed minimum, there would still be less area than is required for a new county.

Dorchester County, with its 573 square miles extends over a much wider territory on account of its estuaries and islands, yet from it no new