

of the plan of state aid to canals and railroads; in this they were supported by the people of western Maryland who were interested in finding a market for their agricultural and mineral products.

The failure of the works of internal improvement to pay interest on the bonds guaranteed and issued by the State, compelled the government to resort to heavy taxation. The people of the Eastern Shore bitterly complained of being heavily taxed for the benefit of the Western Shore and Baltimore City. Intersected by rivers and creeks, the Eastern Shore did not require works of internal improvement to develop her resources. The people of the Eastern Shore regarded the Chesapeake and Ohio canal, and the Baltimore and Ohio railroad as injurious rather than beneficial to her agricultural interest. They brought into competition with her products the products of the great West.

It was amid these political and economic conflicts of interest within the State, and amid the agitation concerning slavery in the whole country, that the Maryland constitutional convention assembled in Annapolis on the 4th of November, 1850.

In the convention were many of the leading men of the State; men of wide political knowledge and experience. Among the more prominent members and those who took a leading part in the debates were ex-Governors Samuel Sprigg and William Grason. Hon. T. H. Hicks, afterward war governor of Maryland, through whose efforts Maryland was prevented from seceding from the Union, United States senators Edward Lloyd, of Talbot county, William D. Merrick, of Charles county, and David Stewart of Baltimore City. Others who were prominent in the convention were Hon. John W. Crisfield, of Somerset county, a representative in the Thirtieth and the Thirty-seventh Congress of the United States, and one of the ablest lawyers of the State. Alexander Randall, of Anne Arundel county, a representative in the Twenty-seventh