

The Legislature met at Annapolis on January 6, 1864, and soon after organized. John S. Sellman, of Anne Arundel was elected President of the Senate, and Thomas H. Kemp, of Caroline, Speaker of the House of Delegates. Governor Bradford's message was a long and able document. It contained, in addition to the usual discussion of the financial and other economic affairs of the state, an account of the controversy and difficulties at the previous election, with some condemnation of the military authorities. Some suitable action on the part of the Legislature was suggested, so as to remedy military interference and prevent the use of marked ballots. The Governor also urged that a Convention Bill be speedily passed, and that a state system of education and numerous other important subjects should be carefully considered.

In the House of Delegates, Mr. Stockbridge, of Baltimore City, on January 8 offered an order that so much of the Governor's message as related to a Constitutional Convention be referred to a select committee of five members, to be appointed by the Speaker, with authority to report by bill or otherwise. This was adopted, and on the 12th the following committee was appointed: Messrs. Stockbridge (chairman) and Jones, of Cecil; Trail, of Frederick; Tyson, of Howard, and Frazier of Dorchester.

This committee reported a bill on January 15, which provided for a vote of the citizens of the state on the question of calling a Convention, and for the election of delegates on the same day. Mr. Tyson presented a minority report, around which the opposition at once assembled all its strength, as it was a measure of delay, providing for a special vote to decide for or against a Convention, with the addition that in case of a favorable result the Governor was to inform the Legislature of the fact at a special session or at the next regular one. This body then *might* provide for the election of delegates and the assembling of such a Convention. The contest lasted for some days and was quite bitter. The minority report, offered in the form of