

was to serve only in case of the death or disqualification of the other,¹⁹⁵ was done away with, and the more common sense plan substituted by which only one Sheriff was to be elected, and the Governor by appointment to fill any vacancies.

We now come to an article which was one of the greatest merits of the Constitution. It was entirely new, and provided for a state system of education. For years before this time numerous attempts had been made at the various sessions of the Legislature to inaugurate some sort of a general educational system, but for one reason or another these attempts had always resulted in failure. The sentiment of the members of the Convention was practically a unit in favor of provisions of this character, and they were backed in this by a large majority of the people of the state. Mr. Cushing of Baltimore City, chairman of the Committee on Education, submitted the unanimous report of that committee,¹⁹⁶ which was finally adopted with changes mostly of a minor character. In its final form it provided as follows:¹⁹⁷ within thirty days after the ratification of the Constitution by the people, the Governor was to appoint, subject to the confirmation of the Senate at its first session thereafter, a State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the term of office to be four years, and the salary \$2500 a year, with certain sums for traveling and incidental expenses which were to be fixed by the General Assembly.

This officer was to report to the General Assembly within thirty days after the commencement of its first session under the new Constitution, an uniform system of free Public Schools. He was also to perform such other duties pertaining to his office as should from time to time be prescribed by law. The Governor of the State, the Lieutenant-Governor, the Speaker of the House of Dele-

¹⁹⁵ Constitution of 1850-1, Art. iv, sec. 20.

¹⁹⁶ Proc., 372-3.

¹⁹⁷ Art. viii.