

When their names were called,

Mr. ABBOTT said: It was my opinion that it was not proper for this convention to make any change in its judiciary system, except perhaps to make one more district for Baltimore county, that county having a large accession of population; but inasmuch as it seems to be the desire of so many members of other counties that there should be a further change, and as this system seems to be the best that is offered, I vote "aye."

Mr. BOND said: As the proposition of the gentleman from Allegany approximates as nearly as any other to what I desire, I am very much inclined, in a spirit of compromise, to vote "aye."

Mr. CHAMBERS said: Believing this to be the best system which it will be the disposition of this house to furnish the State, I take this rather than incur the hazard of getting a worse one. I therefore vote "aye."

Mr. KING said: I rather look upon this as a compromise than anything else, giving an additional district to Baltimore county which has had such an influx of population, and I vote "aye."

Mr. MILLER said: I believe this to be the best thing we can get, and if we do not get this we shall get something worse. I therefore vote "aye."

Mr. NUGLEY said: I should have preferred the section as reported by the committee, but as indicated by the vote of the convention this morning, I think that is unattainable in any shape or form. As the nearest approximation to that system, and as being calculated to remedy in part at least the evils of the present system, I take this as the next best, and vote "aye."

Mr. SCHLEY said: The existing judicial system of the State answers the purposes of the constituency which I represent. I am sure that an alteration giving Baltimore county a separate judicial district would meet the wants and wishes completely of that district. We do not want any change. I believe on account of the increased cost of all the necessities of life, that the people of my county and district are willing and desirous to increase the salaries of the judges above what is at present allowed by law; but they would with marked reluctance accede to any such increase if the multiplication of the number of the judges was so great as to make it an onerous burden to pay them. This is one reason why I proposed that every county desiring a judge should pay the expense of that judge. I wish to say on the pending question that I prefer the proposition of the gentleman from Allegany very much to the report of the committee, but I do not like it as much as the present system with the amendment I have indicated. Believing, however, that there is no chance of getting anything better, in the temper of the conven-

tion, or anything more accordant with the views I entertain, I vote "aye."

Mr. THOMAS said: I came to this convention under the impression that the only alteration or change required in the judicial system was to erect Baltimore county into a separate circuit. Feeling satisfied, as I do, from the vote of this convention that the counties desire separate circuits formed for some of them, I feel constrained to vote for this proposition "aye."

Mr. TOND said: After much deliberation I would have preferred the system reported by the committee. Believing it impossible to get that I shall vote for this proposition as the best we can do. I vote "aye."

The amendment of Mr. HEBB, creating thirteen judicial districts, was accordingly agreed to.

Mr. THRUSTON. I move to add the following:

"And the general assembly may from time to time increase the number of such judicial circuits, if the public convenience and interests require it."

I will merely say in advocacy of that amendment, that it may be a long time before we have another convention to change the constitution, and that various portions of the State may increase very largely in population, business, &c. I think it would be prudent to give the legislature that power. I do not see any harm that can possibly arise from it. I think it is nothing more than enabling the legislature to conform to the increase of population.

Mr. AUDOUN. I will suggest to the gentleman to use the words "alter or increase."

Mr. THRUSTON. I have no objection in the world to that.

Mr. SANDS. This word "alter," now in the amendment, seems to me not precisely a proper one, because the constitution provides for its own amendment in this respect as in others. If ten or twelve years hence we want another judge, all we have to do is to say so. But if we leave it to the legislature to be constantly altering the circuits, we shall have judges elected and ousted from their position, and at almost every meeting of the legislature there will be some change. As the necessity is provided for by the facility with which the constitution itself can be altered or amended, I think it is better to let it stand as it is. It is hardly proper to leave the judiciary system to be remoulded and remodelled by every legislature. One legislature will be democratic and will remodel and remould to suit their views. The next may be of some other politics, and may remodel and remould to suit theirs. I think it would be very unwise to make this a subject over which party politics could have any jurisdiction.

Mr. THRUSTON. I will merely say that the word "increase" necessarily implies the right