

if the legislature should see fit to extend the city limits for a short distance, so as to include the paved streets, the built up streets outside the city, those who now receive all the benefits and protection of the city government, might vote that they would not come out of Baltimore county into the city, simply for the purpose of escaping that portion of the city taxes which they ought to bear. Men now go and build houses just outside of the city limits, where they get all the protection of the city government, all the benefits of living within a city, while they escape the taxes in the city. Now a man should not be allowed to exercise selfish interests in that way. If he wants to live in the county, let him move in the county; if he wants the benefits of a city, then let him pay for them.

This proposition practically puts it into the power of two or three landholders to decide the whole question of legislative policy in regard to this matter. I do not believe the legislature will do anything which will not be acceptable to the people. I know the people of the city of Baltimore will ask nothing against the interests of Baltimore county.

Mr. RIDGELY. I do not place it upon that theory at all. I do not understand how the people of Baltimore county get any protection from the city of Baltimore. I do not understand that argument. This is a question of right, one which belongs to the people of the community to be consulted upon the subject. It is a question of the transfer of their relative political position; and I ask this house, upon that ground, to give them protection.

Mr. STIRLING. What I meant by the people of Baltimore county receiving all the benefits of the city government, was this: not that those who belong *bona fide* to the county receive these benefits; but I refer to the people who transact all their business in town, who are in effect citizens of Baltimore, who go to our mass meetings, some of whom are made presidents of those meetings; some who, the moment you touch their real interests, are all Baltimoreans. They are merchants, mechanics, manufacturers, men who do business in Baltimore city, who belong there; men who have no interest in Baltimore county, who actually receive all the benefits of the city government in their business. These men go just outside of the city limits, on a street which runs continuously from the centre of the city out to their houses; they go there to escape their portion of the city burdens. They want to receive all the benefits of the city, and then evade their share of its burdens. I know men who are worth millions of dollars, who have put themselves in that position, and thereby escape taxes on their property to the amount of \$500,000 or \$800,000 annually. Wherever

property *bona fide* in the county, that is all well enough. But I am opposed to these Baltimore city people doing this, while they live on streets built out by the city, and occupy three-story brick houses on those streets, and who are not country men at all.

Mr. RIDGELY. I only desire to observe that the class of people of whom the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stirling) speaks, is very small compared with the abiding, fixed, rural population of Baltimore county.

Mr. STIRLING. I know that.

Mr. RIDGELY. The number of Baltimore county people who transact business in Baltimore city is comparatively a very small number, alongside the great body of the people who have their fixed residence and agricultural pursuits outside of the limits of Baltimore city.

Mr. HESS. My first impression was to vote for this amendment. But if it is not adopted, the legislature will have the right to alter the limits of Baltimore county and Baltimore city, as they may deem most expedient, and I think it is better to leave it in that way. Of course those parties who live just outside of Baltimore city will always vote to stay out to avoid the city taxes.

Mr. SPOCKHANS. So far as that is concerned, there is really a greater practical difficulty about this matter than any that has yet been stated. Everybody knows that taxation in every city of large size, which has to maintain a government like that of the city of Baltimore, is unavoidably higher than taxation in the county. Now there are many men who own whole rows of houses, and warehouses, in Baltimore city, and rent them, who have their own residences in the city of Baltimore, where they live six and eight months in the year, and yet who also have their country residences outside of the city. Now these men, in electing which they will have as their residence, having the opportunity, will select the county. The result of which is a practical saving to them of \$10,000, \$15,000 or \$20,000 a year in taxes alone. Because all their personal property, all their floating property is taxed where they claim their residence, in the county. And while the city is protecting this property of theirs in town, while they are doing business there, and having all the benefits and protection of the city government for the great bulk of their property, they are paying only county taxation. This operates very gross injustice; and such men will never consent to change their place of residence from the county to the city, for the very obvious reason which I have stated. There are other practical objections and difficulties, but this to me is the insuperable objection, so far as the limits between Baltimore city and Baltimore county are concerned.

The question was upon agreeing to the amendment of Mr. RIDGELY.