

man, in the community, is well acquainted with the exceedingly loose system, which now prevails in the approval of bonds; especially, in regard to the bonds of the ordinary Revenue Officers. I invite your serious attention to this matter.

Article IV. sec. 22, provides that, when a Circuit Judge, by reason of any interest, connection with either of the litigants, or former relations as counsel, is disqualified, to sit in a cause, the parties may, by consent, appoint a proper person to try the same; or, any one of the Judges shall do so, when directed by law. Parties may not agree; and, hence, this contingency must be anticipated. Nearly one half of all the Circuit Judges, recently elected, have been hitherto, and until very lately, engaged, as counsel, in the trial or preparation of numerous cases, which are yet unfinished. Several of the Circuit Courts will shortly be in session; and it would, therefore, be well to enact the necessary law, as soon as possible. Similar difficulties, in regard to the Court of Appeals, have already been provided for, by the Constitution.

Doubts were raised as to my power to designate the Chief Justice, of the State, in advance of the meeting of the Senate. I had no doubts; and, accordingly, did, so. I have, therefore, the satisfaction to inform you that the Judges of the Appellate, Circuit and Orphans' Courts are all commissioned; and that their several Courts are fully organized. Commissions have also been issued to all other Officers, elected under the new Constitution.

Much diversity of opinion existed, as to the proper construction to be put upon the eighth Section of Article VIII. Almost every County has its own peculiar local laws, regulating the number, and mode of election of the Commissioners, or Levy Court; a species of legislation which cannot be too strongly condemned. In most of the Counties, the election has been, heretofore, by districts. Construing that part of the Article, referred to, which adopts the general ticket system, literally, and, as I believe, in strict accordance with its spirit and intention, I have commissioned those, who were returned to me, as having received the highest number of the aggregate votes of their respective Counties, without regard to district residence; and I have consulted the local laws, only to ascertain the number of Commissioners authorized for each County. You will allow me to remark, here, that much patient attention will be required, when you come to arrange the local authorities of the Counties, as you are directed to do, by the Constitution. County Commissioners, Justices of the Peace, Supervisors of Roads, and Constables, have a more immediate and constant intercourse with the people, than all of the other Officers of the Government together. In their competency and integrity, the great mass of our population is particularly interested. The number and compensation of these functionaries, should be so regulated, as, at all times, to secure the services of fit men; who, otherwise, might not be willing to incur the risk and trouble of an election.

The Treasury Department has been reconstructed, upon a brighter and more rational basis. The office of Comptroller, has long been needed. Too many and dissimilar duties have, heretofore, been imposed upon the Treasurer. For the future, he will be merely a Receiver and Accountant. The entire supervision, and control over the finances have been devolved upon the Comptroller. In organizing the new Treasury Department, you cannot devote too much attention to details. The duties of the Comptroller, especially those connected with the enforcement of the collection of the revenue, cannot be too specifically defined. This was, formerly, an Executive function. You will find, by reference to the Annual Report of the Treasurer, for several years past, that many Collectors of the direct taxes, as well as other Officers, who collect the indirect revenue, have been, annually, found