

of the judges, while the present system exists, would be expedient or consistent with the true policy of the State.

They therefore pass to the second subject referred to their investigation; "whether a more efficient and less expensive system for the administration of justice can be adopted?"

In regarding the present system, the first consideration which suggests itself is the great inequality of some of the judicial districts in population; from which consequently results great inequality of labor to be performed by the judges in these several districts. The present arrangement of the districts was established (with some slight subsequent alterations) by the act of 1804, chapter 55. At that time, the inequality of the several districts in population, was not great; but since then, a period of forty years has elapsed, and important changes have taken place in various sections of the State. Some counties have doubled in population; while others have not increased at all, or actually decreased. Baltimore city, has since then, more than quadrupled in population. Thus we find the sixth judicial district composed of Baltimore county, Harford county and Baltimore city, which at the passage of the act of 1804, had a population little exceeding seventy-six thousand, we find the same district by the census of 1840, to have now a population exceeding one hundred and fifty-one thousand. On the other hand, the first district, which by the censuses of 1800, had a population of fifty-four thousand and fifty-six, we find that population according the census of 1840, reduced to forty-eight thousand eight hundred and sixty-eight.

The result of this great inequality in the population of the districts is an even greater inequality of judicial duties to be performed. The committee have not had the opportunity to obtain information, as to the number of suits brought in the several districts. But they think the number of days required for the transaction of the business of the districts, would be proper data from which to institute the comparison of duties required to be performed. From the official returns of the clerk's made to the Legislature at December session, 1840, in pursuance of the act of 1809, chapter 191, it will appear that the courts were in session in each of the districts as follows:

In the First District,	-	-	-	-	-	76 days.
" " Second "	-	-	-	-	-	101 "
" " Third "	-	-	-	-	-	65 "
" " Fourth "	-	-	-	-	-	66 "
" " Fifth "	-	-	-	-	-	119 "
" " Sixth "	-	-	-	-	-	226 "

The committee have taken the year 1840 for illustration. They believe that the returns for any one year would present nearly the same result. It thus appears that while the same salaries are allowed to the judges in all the districts, (with the exception of the Chief Justice in the fifth,) the labours to be performed in one district are nearly four times as great as those required in several of the others. The committee are aware that additional compensa-