

counties and city respectively, in lieu of all fees and perquisites as now established by law; in the event of any vacancy in the office of register of wills, said vacancy shall be filled by the judge or judges of the court until an election can be held, which shall take place under the directions of the sheriff upon giving thirty days public notice thereof.

On motion of Mr. DORSEY,

The section was amended by striking out, in the 2nd line, the words "to be," and in the 3rd line, by striking out the word "and."

On motion of Mr. SPENCER,

The section was further amended by striking out, in the 2nd line, the words "a plurality vote of," and in the 3rd line strike out "qualified."

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER moved to amend the section by striking out, in the 4th line, the word "six" and inserting in lieu thereof, "four."

And the question being taken, it was determined in the negative.

Mr. JOHN NEWCOMER demanded the yeas and nays;

Which were not ordered.

Mr. LEE then moved to amend the section by inserting after the word "and," in the 5th line, the words "shall not;" and after the word "there-to," in the same line, the words "for six years thereafter."

Mr. WELLS demanded the yeas and nays;

Which being ordered and taken,

Resulted as follows:

*Affirmative*—Messrs. Lee, Chambers, of Kent, Dashiell and Hicks—4.

*Negative*—Messrs. Chapman, Pres't., Morgan, Dent, Hopewell, Ricaud, Mitchell, Donaldson, Dorsey, Wells, Randall, Kent, Sellman, Weems, Bond, Brent of Charles, Merrick, Howard, Buchanan, Bell, Welch, Ridgely, Dickinson, Sherwood of Talbot, Colston, John Dennis, James U. Dennis, Hodson, Goldsborough, Eccleston, Phelps, Chambers of Cecil, McCullough, Miller, McLane, Bowie, Tuck, Sprigg, Bowling, Spencer, Grason, George, Wright, Dirickson, McMaster, Hearn, Fooks, Jacobs, Thomas, Shriver, Annan, Sappington, Stephenson, Magraw, Nelson, Carter, Thawley, Stewart of Caroline, Gwinn, Stewart of Baltimore city, Brent of Baltimore city, Sherwood of Baltimore city, Ware, Schley, Fiery, Neill, John Newcomer, Harbine, Michael Newcomer, Kilgour, Brewer, Anderson, Weber, Hollyday, Fitzpatrick, Smith, Parke, Shower, Cockey and Brown—79.

So the amendment was rejected.

Mr. FITZPATRICK moved to amend the 20th section by striking out from the word "shall," in the 8th line, down to the word "law," in the 10th line, and inserting the following:

"Shall regulate and graduate the fees and perquisites so as to allow a fair compensation for his services."

Mr. BOWIE hoped the amendment would not prevail. The people in his county wished all fees to be abolished, and desired to have salaried officers only. When fees went into the Treasury, no relief whatever was furnished to the people. By the present system of charging fees, accord-

ing to act of the Legislature, the grossest abuse was practised throughout the State. This malpractice was particularly applicable to the office of Register of Wills, and the Orphans Court. He hoped the bill would be left as it was at present.

Mr. GRASON had heard three or four opinions as to the system we ought to adopt; but he was in favor of the present system. In respect to the alleged abuses practised in the office of the Register of Wills, he knew nothing. His objection to the payment of an annual salary was this, that in Baltimore, as they well knew, by the most careless management of the office, the Registers would always have enough to pay themselves; but in the counties of the State, where the whole amount received was not more than seven or eight hundred dollars per annum, if they received an annual salary, they would have no inducement to collect the fees, and the whole of the money would be paid out of the Treasury, because they would not take the trouble to collect their own fees.

Mr. SPENCER was opposed to paying public officers by fees. He thought it one of the greatest abuses that could be practised, and the system had been too long tolerated in this State. Enormous exactions and impositions had been practised upon the people of Maryland in various ways, for a vast number of years. The system never could be corrected as long as it depended upon fees. The legislature had again and again attempted it, but in vain. The people had now made up their minds that all their officers should henceforth receive salaries, and not fees. He did not desire to make those offices revenue offices, but offices economically conducted and merely to pay for themselves—no more. He would allow all those officers salaries.

Mr. SPENCER said that the same identical reasons would apply to clerks and to registers. In his district there was but one profession, the medical profession, which made out their bills in Latin. But it had been found impossible to ascertain what was the value of the offices. The people could not know the principles upon which the fees were charged, or what the salaries were. In some offices the fees would more than compensate the checks; and in others they would be too low. Yet it would not do to have different fees in different offices. They must be uniform throughout the whole State. If the officer in the city of Baltimore was made a salaried officer, while the others were not, there would be an inequality in the laws. There was but one way to make it uniform; and that was to have a uniform system throughout the State for public officers to be paid so much; and the legislature could ascertain what was required and what would be suitable compensation. He moved to amend the section by striking out from the words "the legislature," in the 7th to the word "law" inclusive in the 10th line.

Mr. RIDGELY was in favor of the suggestion contained in the amendment of the gentleman from Allegany. He was satisfied that if left to