

dollars, or something of that kind, he may perhaps be able to do it from the code. I, however, once knew a justice of the peace, who accepted the office, when appointed to it, for fear the governor might consider it discourteous in him to refuse. He was called upon to draw a deed, which he did, following the old forms of 1805; but when he came to the description, he copied so literally that it read—"beginning at a stone and going to the end of the description," and that is so recorded to this day in Somerset county.

Mr. SCHLEY. This section was amended yesterday before it was struck out, by striking out the words "of good moral character, being a voter." The action of the convention therefore has been had upon the words "being a voter." Is it competent now for the gentleman from Talbot (Mr. Mullikin) to offer an amendment to the section including those words?

Mr. PUGH. The action of the convention of last night has been reconsidered.

The PRESIDENT. If a proposition is reconsidered, everything in connection with the proposition is also reconsidered, and the whole subject is opened up again.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The words "of good moral character, being a voter," were stricken out of the section last night. What was left then was the following:

"Every person shall be admitted to practice law in all the courts of this State, in his own case."

Now, having voted to reconsider the vote by which the entire section as amended was stricken out, is not the question again upon the motion to strike out the section?

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Talbot (Mr. Mullikin) has moved an amendment to the section, in the nature of a substitute.

Mr. NEGLEY. Which substitute is the same as the section stands amended, with the exception of the words "being a voter."

Mr. DENT. According to my understanding the last vote upon the section yesterday was upon the motion to strike out the section. That vote is the one which has been reconsidered this morning. And after that reconsideration, the motion to strike out the section is again before the convention.

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman from Talbot in lieu of the section that had been stricken out proposes another section, to which the gentleman from Calvert (Mr. Parran) moves an amendment, to insert the words "in this State," after the words "being a voter."—The first question is upon the amendment of the gentleman from Calvert

Mr. MULLIKIN. I will accept that amendment.

The question was upon the substitute as modified.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. I move to strike out the words "being a voter."

Mr. MULLIKIN. That will admit colored people to practice.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. Well, if a colored man chooses to try his own case, let him do so; I see no objection to that.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. So far as the members of our profession are concerned, if we looked alone to our interests, we would greatly prefer to have incorporated into the constitution a provision allowing every person to practice law in all the courts of the State in his own case. It has been my experience in the practice of law, that those who have no practical knowledge of the law have been the means of making more law-suits than there would have been without their assistance. I know various cases arising in our county: I call to mind now one in particular, a criminal case, where the party attempted to defend himself. The jury found him guilty without leaving the jury-box, though it was the opinion of every member there that if he had had a professional man to defend him he would have been acquitted. There was another case of assault and battery, with which there was no aggravating circumstances connected. The party undertook to defend himself, and was found guilty and fined three hundred dollars.

It has been my experience that it is a great deal better for our profession, if we look at it in that light, to let every man practice law, for they make more law-suits. We have found the old adage true, "that he who tries his own case, has a fool for a client."

Now I came here to try and make an organic law that would meet the wants of the people of the State for all time to come. I did not want them to have another constitutional convention called within my lifetime.—But my opinion has now very much changed—I want to see another constitutional convention in this hall in less than three months. And if it could be done, I would have every one of the majority here turned out and what I consider better men politically, put in their places. I am here to do my duty to my constituents, and that I intend to try to do in my own way. I am here to try if I can to get a perfect organic law for the people of this State, and therefore I am prompted by no desire to put in any provision which will assist my profession, or any other profession.

Now, individually, I have no objection to this section. But let me ask if it is better to allow every citizen to practice in his own case, however inexperienced in the practice of law he may be, and however little knowledge he may have of it? I say that the citizen is much better off when he gets a professional adviser and gives him a fee to try his case. If the majority of this convention desire to have this section incorporated into the constitution, I want them to understand that I vote against it only because I think our citizens generally would be benefited by not having