

next general election in the State thereafter, when a commissioner shall be elected for a full term ensuing."

By general consent the rules were suspended and the amendment received.

The question was upon agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. STIRLING. I would suggest to my colleague (Mr. Stockbridge) to modify his amendment so that it shall read "until the next general election for members of the general assembly." There are two general elections provided for under this constitution.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. This article provides for his election at a general election which is not for members of the general assembly.

Mr. STIRLING. The amendment of my colleague is correct according to this report. But it strikes me that it would be proper to have the report corrected. It was provided that an election for this office should be held in 1869, because the term of the present incumbent expired at that time. But it is an anomaly to provide for the election of a general State officer at an election for county officers. If the amendment I propose is adopted, it will in effect extend the term of the present incumbent one year; but I see no objection to that. The house has already provided in the article on the treasury department that there shall be an election for comptroller and treasurer this fall, not to interfere with the terms of the present incumbents, but that the elections for those officers shall hereafter take place on the same day with the elections for governor and members of the legislature. That being the case, the election for commissioner of the land office ought to take place on the same day, as he is also a State officer. I therefore move to amend the amendment by inserting after the words "next general election" the words "for members of the general assembly."

The question being taken upon Mr. STIRLING's amendment to the amendment of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE, it was adopted.

The amendment as amended was then adopted.

Mr. STIRLING. In order to make the section conform to the amendment just adopted, I move to strike out the word "sixty-nine" near the beginning of the section, and insert the word "seventy."

The question being taken, the amendment of Mr. STIRLING was adopted.

The next section was then read as follows: "Sec. 3. The State librarian shall be elected by joint vote of the two branches of the general assembly for four years, and until his successor shall be elected and qualified. His salary shall be fifteen hundred dollars per annum. The legislature shall pass no law whereby he shall receive an additional compensation. He shall perform such duties as are now or may hereafter be prescribed by law."

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE, By general consent the section was amended by adding thereto the following:

"In case of a vacancy in the office of State librarian from death, resignation or any other cause, the governor shall fill such vacancy until the next meeting of the general assembly thereafter."

The next section was then read as follows:

"Sec. 4. The county commissioners shall be elected by general ticket by the voters of the several counties, on Tuesday next after the first Monday of November in the year eighteen hundred and sixty-five, and on the same day in every second year thereafter; said commissioners shall exercise such powers and perform such duties only as the legislature may from time to time prescribe; but such powers and duties shall be similar, and the tenure of office uniform throughout the State, and the legislature shall have power to pass such laws as may be necessary for determining the number for each county, fixing the salary, and ascertaining and defining the powers, duties and tenure of office of said commissioners; and the commissioners elected under this constitution shall have and exercise all the powers and duties in their respective counties now exercised by the county commissioners under the laws of the State, and they shall receive the same salary, and their present number in the several counties shall remain the same until changed by law."

Mr. RIDGELY. It will be observed that these county commissioners are to be elected on general ticket and not by districts, and for a period of two years. On motion of the gentleman from Allegany (Mr. Hebb,) a provision was adopted in relation to the judges of the orphans' court, by which the first judges elected are to serve respectively two, four and six years, and then a judge will be elected every two years for a period of six years. Now it strikes me that the same reasons which influenced the house to modify the present system in relation to the judges of the orphans' court, pre-eminently exist in relation to the board of county commissioners, and that great public benefit would result from adopting a system by which they should not all go out of office together.

Mr. HEBB. I fully concur in the remarks of the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely.) And if the convention will consent to suspend the rules to enable me to offer such an amendment, I will do so.

Mr. SCOTT. I hope the convention will suspend the rules for that purpose. The county commissioners are actually the most important officers we elect. They come right down to the pockets of the people. The board is open for bogus claims, when they are all inexperienced men coming in at the same time, and they are not unfrequently taken advantage of. And I think some ar-