

Baltimore and Kent counties. The latter county fell only 153 short of the necessary population required for two delegates,¹⁶⁴ and the former claimed an additional delegate for the reason that its population of 46,722 placed it within the arbitrary twenty-thousand rule, so that it had only six delegates, one more than Allegany for instance, which had 19,507 population, less than half of that of Baltimore County. It was finally decided near the close of the Convention to give Kent the extra delegate, but Baltimore County was held down to the letter of the rule adopted.¹⁶⁵

It is interesting to note that throughout the consideration of this question the members of the majority made comparatively few speeches, and even then made no serious attempt to answer the extensive arguments brought forth by the minority.¹⁶⁶ These latter took the ground that their opponents were attempting to deprive the southern counties of their proper political influence,¹⁶⁷ to give Baltimore City the position of three counties,¹⁶⁸ and that as soon as slavery was abolished even a three-fifths rule held no longer, but the whole population became the joint basis of apportionment.¹⁶⁹ It was all in vain, however, for now they only succeeded in procuring the additional delegate for Kent. The majority were evidently not going to lose this opportunity of settling old scores, and in addition might have urged the old excuse that it was necessary to strengthen the supporters of the National Administration in Maryland by weakening the power of their opponents.

The article on the Legislative Department contained numerous other changes, mostly in the direction of limiting the power of the General Assembly to act in certain cases.¹⁷⁰ Taking the most important in the order in which

¹⁶⁴ Deb., iii, 1658.

¹⁶⁵ Proc., 639-42; Deb., iii, 1655-76.

¹⁶⁶ Deb., ii, 1032-59, 1060-78.

¹⁶⁷ Deb., ii, 1034.

¹⁶⁸ Deb., ii, 1038.

¹⁶⁹ Deb., ii, 1041.

¹⁷⁰ Might this not have been a result of the struggle over the "Frederick" Legislature of 1861?