PROCLAMATION.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of Maryland.

Whereas, at the January Session of the General Assembly of Maryland held in the year nineteen hundred and fourteen, Acts were passed, to wit: Chapter 390, proposing an amendment to Article 15, of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of Maryland; Chapter 416, proposing a new Article to said Constitution to be known as Article XI-A; Chapter 453, proposing an additional section to Article 111 of said Constitution and Chapter 673, proposing an additional Article to said Constitution to be known as Article XVI; which said Acts of the General Assembly are in words and figures following:

CHAPTER 390.

An Act to amend Article XV of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, and to provide for the submission of such amendment to the qualified voters of this State for their adoption or rejection.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland (three-fifths of all the Members of each of the two Houses concurring), That the following Article be and the same is hereby proposed in the place and stead of Article XV of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, as at present existing, and if adopted by the legal and qualified voters thereof, as herein provided, it shall supercede and stand in place and stead of such Article.

Article XV. That the levying of taxes by the poll is grievous and oppressive and ought to be prohibited; that paupers ought not to be assessed for the support of the government; that the General Assembly shall, by uniform rules, provide for separate assessment of land and classification and sub-classifications of improvements on land and personal property, as it may deem proper; and all taxes thereafter provided to be levied by the State for the support of the general State Government, and by the counties and by the City of Baltimore for their respective purposes, shall be uniform as to land within the taxing district, and uniform within the class or sub-class of improvements on land and personal property which the respective taxing powers may have directed to be subjected to the tax levy; yet fines, duties or taxes may properly and justly be imposed, or laid with a political view for the good government and benefit of the community.

Section 2. And be it enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the foregoing Article hereby proposed in the place and stead of Article XV of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution of the State of Maryland shall be, at the next general election for members of the General Assembly held in this State, submitted to the legal and qualified voters thereof for their adoption or rejection, in pursuance of the directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State, and that at said general election the vote on said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each official ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now prescribed by law, and immediately after said election due returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against said proposed amendment as directed by Article XIV of the Constitution.

Approved, April 10th, 1914.

* * *

CHAPTER 416.

An Act to propose an amendment to the Constitution of this State by adding a new Article thereto to follow immediately after Article XI and to be known as Article XI-A, and to provide for the submission of said amendment to the qualified voters of this State for adoption or rejection.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, (three-fifths of all Members of each of the two Houses concurring), That the following Article to follow immediately after Article XI and to be known as Article XI-A be and the same is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of this State, which Article, if adopted by the qualified voters of this State, as herein provided, shall thereby by such adoption be and become a part of the Constitution of this State.

* * *

ARTICLE XI-A. LOCAL LEGISLATION.

Section 1. On demand of the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore, or on petition bearing the signatures of not less than 20 per cent. of the registered voters of said city or any county (provided, however, that in any case 10,000 signatures shall be sufficient to complete a petition), the Board of Election Supervisors of said city or county shall provide at the next general or Congressional election, occurring after such demand or the filing of such petition, for the election of a charter board of eleven registered voters of said city or five registered voters in any such counties. Nomination for members for said charter board may be made not less than forty days prior to said election by the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore or the County Commissioners of such county, or not less than twenty days prior to said election by petition bearing the signature written in their own handwriting (and not by their mark) of not less than 5 per cent. of the registered voters of the said City of Baltimore or said county; provided, that in any case two thousand signatures of registered voters shall be sufficient to complete any such nominating petition, and if not more than eleven registered voters of the City of Baltimore or not more than five registered voters in any such county are so nominated their names shall not be printed on the ballot, but said eleven registered voters in the City of Baltimore or five in such county shall constitute said charter board from and after the date of said election. At said election the ballot shall contain the names of said nominees in alphabetical order without any indication of the source of their nomination, and shall also be so arranged as to permit the voter to vote for or against the creation of said charter board, but the vote cast against said creation shall not be held to bar the voter from expressing his choice among the nominees for said board and if the majority of the votes cast for and against the creation of said charter board shall be against said creation the election of the members of said charter board shall be void; but if such majority shall be in favor of the creation of said charter board, then and in that event the eleven nominees of the City of Baltimore or five nominees in the county receiving the largest number of votes shall constitute the charter board, and said charter board, or a majority thereof, shall prepare within six months from the date of said election a charter or form of government for said city or such county and present the same to the Mayor of Baltimore or President of the Board of County Commissioners of such county, who shall publish the same in at least two newspapers of general circulation published in said the City of Baltimore or county within thirty days after it shall be reported to him. Such charter shall be submitted to the voters of said city or county at the next general or Congressional election after the report of said charter to said Mayor of Baltimore or President of the Board of County Commissioners; and if a majority of the votes cast for and against the adoption of said charter shall be in favor of such adoption the said charter from and after the thirtieth day from the date of such election shall become the law of said city or county, subject only to the Constitution and Public General Laws of this State, and any Public Local Laws inconsistent with the provisions of said charter and former charter of said the City of Baltimore or county shall be thereby repealed.

Sec. 2. The General Assembly at its first session after the adoption of this amendment shall, by Public General Law, provide a grant of express powers for such county or counties as may thereafter form a charter under the provisions of this Article. Such express powers granted to the counties and the powers heretofore granted to the City of Baltimore, as set forth in Article 4, Section 6, Public Local Laws of Maryland, shall not be enlarged or extended by any charter formed under the provisions of this Article, but such powers may be extended, modified, amended or repealed by the General Assembly.

Sec. 3. Every charter so formed shall provide for an elective legislative body in which shall be vested the law-making power of said city or county. Such legislative body in the City of Baltimore shall be known as the City Council of the City of Baltimore, and in any county shall be known as the County Council of the county. The chief executive officer, if any such charter shall provide for the election of such executive officer, or the presiding officer of said legislative body, if such charter shall not provide for the election of a chief executive officer, shall be known in the City of Baltimore as Mayor of Baltimore, and in any county as the President of the County Council of the county, and all references in the Constitution and laws of this State to the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore or to the County Commissioners of the counties shall be construed to refer to the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore and to the President and County Council herein provided for, whenever such construction would be reasonable. From and after the adoption of a charter by the City of Baltimore, or any county of this State, as hereinbefore provided, the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore or the County Council of said county, subject to the Constitution and Public General Laws of this State, shall have full power to enact local laws of said city or county, including the power to repeal or amend Local Laws of said city or county enacted by the General Assembly, upon all matters covered by the express powers granted as above provided; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to authorize or empower the County Council of any county in this State to enact laws or regulations for any incorporated town, village, or municipality in said county, on any matter covered by the powers granted to said town, village, or municipality by the Act incorporating it, or any subsequent Act or Acts amendatory thereto. Provided, however, that the charters for the various counties shall provide that the County Council of the counties shall not sit more than one month in each year for the purpose of enacting legislation for such counties, and all legislation shall be enacted during the month so designated for that purpose in the charter, and all laws and ordinances so enacted shall be published once a week for three successive weeks in at least one newspaper published in such counties, so that the taxpayers and citizens may have notice thereof. This provision shall not apply to Baltimore city. All such local laws enacted by the Mayor of Baltimore and City Council of the City of Baltimore or the Council of the counties, as hereinbefore provided shall be subject to the same rules of interpretation as those now applicable to the Public Local Laws of this State, except that in case of any conflict between said Local Law and any Public General Law now or hereafter enacted, the Public General Law shall control.

Sec. 4. From and after the adoption of a chapter under the provisions of this Article by the City of Baltimore or any county of this State, no Public Local Law shall be enacted by the General Assembly for said city or county on any subject covered by the express powers granted as above provided. Any law so drawn as to apply to two or more of the geographical sub-divisions of this State shall not be deemed a Local Law, within the meaning of this Act. The term "geographical sub-division" herein used shall be taken to mean the City of Baltimore or any of the counties of this State.

Sec. 5. Amendments to any charter adopted by the City of Baltimore or by any county of this State under the provisions of this Article may be proposed by a resolution of the Mayor of Baltimore and the City Council of said City of Baltimore or the Council of said county, or by a petition signed by not less than 20 per cent. of the registered voters of said city or county, provided, however, that in any case 10,000 signatures shall be sufficient to complete a petition, and filed with the Mayor of Baltimore or the President of the County Council, and when so proposed shall be submitted to the voters of said city or county at the next General or Congressional election occurring after the passage of said resolution, or the filing of said petition, and if at said election the majority of the votes cast for and against said amendment shall be in favor thereof, said amendment shall be adopted and become a part of the charter of said city or county from and after the thirtieth day after said election. Said amendments shall be published by said Mayor of Baltimore or President of the County Council once a week for five successive weeks prior to said election in at least one newspaper published in said city or county.

Sec. 6. The power heretofore conferred upon the General Assembly to prescribe the number, compensation, powers and duties of the County Commissioners in each county, and the power to make changes in Sections 1 to 6 inclusive, Article XI of this Constitution, when expressly granted as hereinbefore provided, are hereby transferred to the voters of each county and the voters of City of Baltimore, respectively, provided that said powers so transferred shall be exercised only by the adoption or amendment of a charter as hereinbefore provided; and provided further, that this Article shall not be construed to authorize the exercise of any powers in excess of those conferred by the Legislature upon said counties or city as this Article sets forth.

Sec. 7. The word "Petition," as used in this Article, means one or more sheets written or printed, or partly written and partly printed; "Signature" means the signature of a registered voter written by himself in his own handwriting (and not by his mark), together with the ward or district and precinct in which he is registered. The authenticity of such signatures and the fact that the persons so signing are registered voters shall be evidenced by the affidavit of one or more registered voters of the city or county in which said voters so signing are registered, and one affidavit may apply to or cover any number of signatures to such petition. The false signing of any name, or the signing of any fictitious name to said petition shall be forgery, and the making of any false affidavit in connection with said petition shall be perjury.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the aforesaid Article hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution shall be at the next General Election for Members of the General Assembly held in this State, submitted to the legal and qualified voters thereof, for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of the directions contained in Article XVI of the Constitution of this State, and at the said general election the vote on said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law, and immediately after said election due return shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against said proposed amendment as directed by the said Fourteenth Article of the Constitution.

Approved April 16th, 1914.

* * *

CHAPTER 453.

An Act to propose an amendment to Article III, of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, by adding a new Section, to be known as Section 60, and to provide for the submission of said Amendment to the qualified voters of this State for adoption or rejection.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland (three-fifths of all the Members of each of the two Houses concurring), That the following new Section be and the same is hereby proposed as an amendment to Article III, title, "Legislative Department" of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, the same to be inserted after Section 59 and to be known as Section 60; and if adopted by the legally qualified voters thereof, as herein provided said Section shall become a part of Article III of the Constitution of Maryland.

Section 60. The General Assembly of Maryland shall have the power to provide by suitable general enactment (a) for the suspension of sentence by the Court in criminal cases; (b) for any form of the indeterminate sentence in criminal cases, and (c) for the release upon parole in whatever manner the General Assembly may prescribe of convicts imprisoned under sentence for crimes.

Sec. 2. And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said foregoing Section hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution shall at the next ensuing general election, to be held on Tuesday next after the first Monday in the month of November, 1915, be submitted to the legal and qualified voters of Maryland for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of the directions contained in Article 14 of the Constitution of this State, and at the said election the vote on said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot and upon each ballot there shall be written or printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as now provided by law, and immediately after said election due returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against said proposed amendment, as directed by said Article 14 of the Constitution.

Approved April 10th, 1914.

* * *

CHAPTER 673.

An Act to amend the Constitution of Maryland by adding thereto a new Article to be entitled, "Article XVI" providing for "The Referendum," and to provide for the submission of said amendment to the qualified voters of the State for adoption or rejection.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, (three-fifths of all the Members elected to each of the two Houses concurring), That the following new and additional Article, to be known as Article XVI, title, "The Referendum," be, and the same is hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of Maryland, and if adopted by the legal and qualified voters thereof, as herein provided, it shall stand as part and as a new and additional Article of said Constitution, to be known and entitled as aforesaid:

* * *

ARTICLE XVI. THE REFERENDUM.

Section 1 (a). The people reserve to themselves power known as The Referendum, by petition to have submitted to the registered voters of the State, to approve or reject at the polls, any Act, or part of any Act of the General Assembly, if approved by the Governor, or, if passed by the General Assembly over the veto of the Governor:

(b) The provisions of this Article shall be self-executing; provided that additional legislation in furtherance thereof and not in conflict therewith may be enacted.

Sec. 2. No law enacted by the General Assembly shall take effect until the first day of June next after the session at which it may be passed, unless it contain a Section declaring such law an emergency law and necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety, and passed upon a yea and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly; provided, however, that said period of suspension may be extended as provided in Section 3 (b) hereof. If before said first day of June there shall have been filed with the Secretary of the State a petition to refer to a vote of the people any law or part of a law capable of referendum, as in this Article provided, the same shall be referred by the Secretary of State to such vote, and shall not become a law or take effect until thirty days after its approval by a majority of the electors voting thereon at the next ensuing election held throughout the State for Members of the House of Representatives of the United States. An emergency law shall remain in force notwithstanding such petition, but shall stand repealed thirty days after having been rejected by a majority of the qualified electors voting thereon; provided, however, that no measure creating or abolishing any office, or changing the salary, term or duty of any officer, or granting any franchise or special privilege, or creating any vested right or interest, shall be enacted as an emergency law. No law making any appropriation for maintaining the State Government, or for maintaining or aiding any public institution, not exceeding the next previous appropriation for the same purpose, shall be subject to rejection or repeal under this section. The increase in any such appropriation for maintaining or aiding any public institution shall only take effect as in the case of other laws, and such increase or any part thereof specified in the petition, may be referred to a vote of the people upon petition.

Sec. 3 (a). The referendum petition against an Act or part of an Act passed by the General Assembly, shall be sufficient if signed by ten thousand qualified voters of the State of Maryland, of whom not more than half shall be residents of Baltimore City, or of any one county; provided that any public local law for any one county or the City of Baltimore shall be referred by the Secretary of State only to the people of said county or City of Baltimore, upon a referendum petition of 10 per cent. of the qualified voters of said county or City of Baltimore as the case may be, calculated upon the whole number of votes cast therein respectively for Governor at the last preceding Gubernatorial election.

(b) If more than one-half, but less than the full number of signatures required to complete any referendum petition against any law passed by the General Assembly, be filed with Secretary of State before the first day of June, the time for the law to take effect, and for filing the remainder of signatures to complete the petition shall be extended to the thirtieth day of the same month with like effect.

Sec. 4. A petition may consist of several papers, but each paper shall contain the full text of the Act or part of Act petitioned upon; and there shall be attached to each such paper an affidavit of the person procuring the signatures thereon that of the said person's own personal knowledge every signature thereon is genuine and bona fide, and that the signers are registered voters of the State of Maryland, and of the City of Baltimore, or county, as the case may be, as set opposite their names, and no other verification shall be required.

Sec. 5 (a). The General Assembly shall provide for furnishing the voters of the State the text of all measures to be voted upon by the people; provided, that until otherwise provided by law the same shall be published in the manner prescribed by Article XIV of the Constitution for the publication of proposed Constitutional Amendments.

(b) All laws referred under the provisions of this Article shall be submitted separately on the ballots to the voters of the people, but if containing more than two hundred words, the full text shall not be printed on the official ballots, but the Secretary of State shall prepare and submit a ballot title of each such measure in such form as to present the purpose of said measure concisely and intelligently. The ballot title may be distinct from the legislative title, but in any case the legislative title shall be sufficient. Upon each of the ballots, following the ballot title or text, as the case may be, of each such measure, there shall be printed the words "For the referred law" and "Against the referred law," as the case may be. The votes cast for and against any such referred law shall be returned to the Governor in the manner prescribed with respect to proposed amendments to the Constitution under Article XIV of this Constitution, and the Governor shall proclaim the result of the election, and, if it shall appear that the majority of the votes cast on any such measure were cast in favor thereof, the Governor shall by his proclamation declare the same having received a majority of the votes to have been adopted by the people of Maryland a a part of the laws of the State, to take effect thirty days after such election, and in like manner and with like effect the Governor shall proclaim the result of the local election as to any Public Local Law which shall have been submitted to the voters of any county or the City of Baltimore.

Sec. 6. No law or Constitutional Amendment, licensing, regulating, prohibiting, or submitting to local option, the manufacture or sale of malt or spirituous liquors, shall be referred or repealed under any Act of the provisions of this Article.

Sec. 2. And be it enacted by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the foregoing Article hereby proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of this State, at the next General Election for Members of the General Assembly to be held in this State, shall be submitted to the legal and qualified voters thereof, for their adoption or rejection in pursuance of the directions contained in Article XIV of the Constitution of this State, and that at such general election the vote upon said proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be by ballot, and upon each ballot there shall be printed the words "For the Constitutional Amendment" and "Against the Constitutional Amendment," as prescribed by law, and immediately after said election due returns shall be made to the Governor of the vote for and against said amendment as directed by the said Article XIV of the Constitution.

Approved April 16th, 1914.

* * *

NOW, THEREFORE, I, PHILLIPS LEE GOLDSBOROUGH, GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF MARYLAND, in pursuance of the direction contained in Section 1, of Article 14 of the Constitution of the State of Maryland, DO HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT, that a copy of each of said above recited Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland of 1914, be published in at least two newspapers in each of the counties of the State and in three newspapers published in the city of Baltimore, one of which newspapers published in said city of Baltimore to be published in the German language, once a week for at least three months next preceding the election to be held in said State of Maryland on the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November, 1915, and at which election the said proposed amendments and additions to the Constitution of Maryland, shall be submitted, in form and manner prescribed by the General Assembly, to the legal and qualified voters of the State for their adoption or rejection.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND AND THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE.

DONE at the City of Annapolis, on this 20th day of July, in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and fifteen.

PHILLIPS LEE GOLDSBOROUGH.

By the Governor:

ROBERT P. GRAHAM,
Secretary of State.

A TERRIFIC STORM.

Does Thousands of Dollars Worth of Damage in the Town and County.

In the worst wind and rain storm that has ever struck this town and county, thousands of dollars worth of damage was done to growing crops, shipping and property in general on Tuesday night. The wind assumed cyclonic force, and trees here and there over the town and county were uprooted, the smoke stack at W. S. & A. M. Culp's factory was blown down, a part of the roof on a building of the Hubbard fertilizer factory was blown away, corn, tomatoes and truck were knocked flat, and boats and launches along the water front were sunk or battered to pieces. A part of the railing of Chester bridge was carried away, a big boat at the bridge hailing from Annapolis was battered, a barge loaded with sand belonging to W. S. & A. M. Culp at the electric light plant was sunk, and cellars and pretty grass yards along the water front were submerged. The tide rose as high as the west pavement on Front street, Chester River wharf and the electric light plant were flooded, and you could row a boat beyond the office of the electric light plant. One family on Front street had their best winter clothing stored in trunks in their cellar. They were found on Wednesday morning floating in several feet of water in the cellar, and their contents badly damaged. Telegraph, telephone and electric light wires were badly damaged, but communication was quickly restored. The next morning the streets of the town looked like a cyclone had struck the town, tree limbs, etc., being strewed all over the place. It was surely a terrible night and many of our residents failed to get any sleep. The damage in the county to buildings, fences, etc., was heavy. Rev. S. S. Hepburn, living near Still Pond station, says his buildings, crops, etc., were damaged to the extent of $300, and many others suffered equally as heavy. The damage to the corn and other growing crops will amount to many thousands of dollars. The great oak, at the home of Mr. Bartus Trew, in Quaker Neck, probably the oldest and largest tree in the county, a description of which was published in the TRANSCRIPT last year, was torn to pieces. Mr. Trew prized this tree most highly and is distressed because of its destruction. The date of this storm, August 3rd, 1915, will long be remembered by our people.

Mayor Preston at Rock Hall.

Mayor James H. Preston, of Baltimore, was greeted by a big crowd at Rock Hall last Saturday night and he made a notable speech to the oystermen. The mayor explained in simple language the part Baltimore city is playing in this campaign, and made a strong plea for a fair and square deal for the city by the counties. The mayor held the interest of the crowd for more than an hour, and his forceful arguments met with a warm and generous reception. An unfortunate occurrence at the meeting was a prank, we understand, on the part of some one who likes to have some fun on occasions of this kind. It has been stated that eggs were thrown into the crowd and a lady was hit, and one of the members of the band had his coat and drum spoiled. If the thing was done by some Organization enthusiast in an effort to break up the meeting, it was a disgraceful procedure, and should be dealt with in a manner which it deserves. If the Organization faction is in such desperate straits that they feel compelled to incite a thing of this kind, especially when a man of such prominence as Mayor Preston is a guest of folks in Kent county, they deserve the condemnation of every right-thinking person in Kent county.

Drowns in Sassafras River.

Howard Nickerson, 24 years old, a farmer of the First District, Cecil county, was drowned in Sassafras River off Island Wharf, Saturday evening. Just how the accident occurred no one knows, as he was alone.

After eating his supper Nickerson drove down to the river to wash his carriage, and sometime later his brother-in-law, George Williams, took a walk down that way and found the horse tied under a tree, the carriage standing nearby, nicely washed, and Nickerson's clothes lying in a boat tied to the wharf. The supposition is that after washing his carriage Nickerson went into the river to bathe and not being able to swim got beyond his depth and was drowned.

Dr. Patterson Heads M. A. C.

Dr. Harry J. Patterson was elected president of the Maryland Agricultural College last week at a meeting of the board of trustees in the office of Governor Goldsborough, in the Garrett Building. There was no opposition to him. The board failed, after three ballots, to elect a secretary and treasurer, and Wirt Harrison, now the assistant and one of the candidates for the place, was directed to perform the duties temporarily. The appointment of Prof. Patterson is an excellent one, and meets with the approval of all those who are interested in the State's great agricultural school.

Last Sunday was reported to be the hottest day of the summer. The thermometer registered 97 degrees in the shade.

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