

perty to be taken for public use without just compensation as agreed upon between the parties or awarded by a jury, being first paid or tendered to the party entitled to such compensation.

§ 47. Corporations may be formed under general laws, but shall not be created by special act except for municipal purposes, and in cases where, in the judgment of the legislature, the object of the corporation cannot be attained under general laws. All laws and special acts pursuant to this section may be altered from time to time or repealed; *provided* nothing herein contained shall be construed to alter, change, or amend in any manner the article in relation to banks.

§ 48. The legislature shall make provision for all cases of contested elections of any of the officers not herein provided for.

§ 49. That the rate of interest in this state shall not exceed six per cent. per annum, and no higher rate shall be taken or demanded, and the legislature shall provide, by law, all necessary forfeitures and penalties against usury.

ARTICLE IV.

Judiciary Department.

§ 1. The judicial power of this state shall be vested in a court of appeals, in circuit courts, in such courts for the city of Baltimore as may be hereinafter prescribed, and in justices of the peace.

§ 2. The court of appeals shall have appellate jurisdiction only, which shall be co-extensive with the limits of the state. It shall consist of a chief justice and three associate justices, any three of whom shall form a quorum, whose judgment shall be final and conclusive in all cases of appeals; and who shall have the jurisdiction which the present court of appeals of this state now has, and such other appellate jurisdiction as hereafter may be provided for by law. And in every case decided, an opinion, in writing, shall be filed, and provision shall be made, by law, for publishing reports of cases argued and determined in the said court. The governor, for the time being, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, shall designate the chief justice, and the court of appeals shall hold its sessions at the city of Annapolis, on the first Monday of June, and the first Monday of December, in each and every year.

§ 3. The court of appeals shall appoint its own clerk, who shall hold his office for six years, and may be re-appointed at the end thereof; he shall be subject to removal by the said court for incompetency, neglect of duty, misdemeanor in office, and for such other causes as may be prescribed by law.

§ 4. The state shall be divided into four judicial districts: Allegany, Washington, Frederick, Carroll, Baltimore, and Harford counties, shall compose the first; Montgomery, Howard, Anne Arundel, Calvert, St. Mary's, Charles, and Prince George's the second; Baltimore city the third; and Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset, and Worcester, shall compose the fourth district. And one person from among those learned in the law, having been admitted to practise in this state, and who shall have been a citizen of this state at least five years, and above the age of