Mr. Ritchie explained that the State's Attorneys were unlike any other State officers; they returned large amounts into the State treasury, all the result of their own labor, and they should be paid a fair compensation.

Mr. Syester asked if there ever had been any difficulty in procuring a candidate for this office in the city of Baltimore?

Mr. Barry would answer by saying that there had been difficulty in procuring a competent person.

Mr. Carter.—When?

Mr. Syester said that was a mere matter of taste. There had never been any difficulty in procuring persons at $3,000, either in Baltimore or elsewhere, to fill these positions. The duties were simple, and required no such great store of legal lore as the gentleman from Baltimore, (Mr. Garey,) asserted. They needed to consult a few authorities and know something about the license laws, and that was all. This thing of raising salaries must be stopped. What were they going to give the judges?

Mr. Maulsby.—Don't start that.

Mr. Syester.—Yes, we will start it. The liberal minded gentlemen who are in favor of such high salaries allege the increased cost of living, but the present state of affairs cannot long continue; the people are beginning to talk about them; a return to specie payment may take place at no distant day, and what will be said then about these high salaries? The action of this Convention is watched with momentous interest, and its doings are fully criticized from day to day, and if they were not careful the people would tear their work to flinders. It would be the most disastrous thing that could happen to the party which they all represented if their work was not ratified at the hands of their constituents. He besought gentlemen not to attempt to conform this constitution to the fluctuating condition of affairs at present, which might be changed any day or hour.

The motion to insert $4,000 was lost.

Mr. Gill moved to insert $3,500.

Mr. Buchanon asked if it would be in order to insert $2,500.