

just voted that there shall be no increase of his salary?

Mr. PUGH. I suppose that the sense of the house, if this is adopted, will indicate that some action will be hereafter taken with reference to that very matter. I think that this at least is tautology, and by implication, at least, suggests that inasmuch as a provision has been adopted here requiring the legislature to do nothing to increase the compensation of the librarian, it is within their power to do that with regard to other salaries. My opinion is that hereafter we shall have to reconsider that already adopted. I do not see how we can possibly avoid it.

Mr. CLARKE. As I understand the purport of the amendment offered by the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott,) it does not undertake in the constitution to fix the salary, but to leave it to the existing law, and giving the legislature the power to vary it from time to time, not exceeding \$1,500.

The PRESIDENT. The amendment offered by the gentleman from Baltimore county, and just adopted, denies the legislature that very power.

Mr. SCOTT withdrew his amendment.

Mr. STIRLING submitted the following amendment: Strike out the third section, and insert:

"Section 3. The State librarian shall be elected by joint vote of the two branches of the legislature for four years; he shall perform such duties and receive such compensation as are now prescribed or paid, or may hereafter be prescribed by law."

Mr. STIRLING said: I am desirous of increasing the salary of the librarian. But this really will not affect that question at all. If this constitution is adopted, of course it will have no effect until next winter, and the legislature will meet in January. There cannot be a change until the legislature meets; and we may as well leave it for them to say whether or not his salary shall be increased. It will then be acted upon just as soon as if we put it into the constitution itself. If the legislature is willing to give him an increased salary there will be no delay; and if not, he ought not to have it.

Mr. NEGLEY. This amendment is open to two objections. First, it does not give the librarian the relief he asks at the hands of the convention. In the second place, it leaves a question open which the convention ought to settle. If it settles the salary of other officers, it ought especially to settle that of the librarian. Every legislature might change the law; and every legislature will be operated upon in the ways that we know legislatures are. In our county, I have known some of our delegates to have State paper enough to last them three or four years after they return. Some of them have supplied themselves.

The PRESIDENT. The hour has arrived,

(12 o'clock, M.,) for taking up the order of the day.

On motion of Mr. PURNELL,

The order of the day was suspended for half an hour.

Mr. NEGLEY resumed: I am opposed to this amendment, because it does not give the relief which is claimed. I am perfectly willing to vote for \$1,500 a year, with the understanding that the legislature is not to increase it either directly or indirectly, as decided by the amendment of the gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. King.) With regard to leaving this question open, if you fix the salary of one officer, we ought to fix the salary of all. I do not see any reason at all for the discrimination.

Mr. CLARKE. There is one difference between the section offered by the gentleman from Baltimore (Mr. Stirling) and the section as it now stands; but I do not know that it would very materially affect the question. It provides for a term of office for four years, leaving out the provision, "and until his successor shall be elected and qualified." It has become a very material clause to be inserted. My impression is, that it should be retained.

Mr. STIRLING. I will insert these words. I omitted them in copying.

Mr. CLARKE. Then I have nothing more to say upon that. The other point to which I wish to call attention is, that I think all these offices if any ought to be withdrawn from the constitution. But the salary of the librarian ought to be fixed inasmuch as we are fixing that of other officers. Let us adopt one rule or the other. Let us leave it to the legislative control, to be governed by considerations of the state of the currency and other matters not possible to foresee, and say that it shall not exceed a certain amount, leaving it to the discretion of the legislature to say what is a proper salary. Or, if we are to regulate it ourselves, in the present state of the currency, I think there is no reason for making an exception in the case of the librarian; and we may as well take the responsibility of determining it, as to throw it upon the legislature. The salary fixed in this article, I think is a fair and reasonable one.

There is a provision already adopted which prohibits the librarian from receiving hereafter any additional compensation voted him by the legislature for additional services, and I think, under these circumstances, that this is a reasonable salary. But in view of the continual applications which would be made by this officer, and all officers under the immediate control of the legislature, and by magistrates, constables, judges of orphan's courts, &c., and the fact that a great portion of the time of the legislature would be taken up in considering the question of increasing their salaries, in order to remove those influences, I think it will be better to adopt