

I would respectfully suggest that the office may be continued in its present form, and the evil growing out of the influence of the commissioner's decisions upon his emoluments corrected, by fixing a salary to be paid out of the treasury of the State, the fees of register and examiner general to be charged and received by the commissioner, to be paid by him into the treasury, after deducting necessary office expenses. This would also relieve the office from the embarrassment necessarily arising from the uncertain and unsettled state of his compensation.

I would also suggest that the chancery records be made part of the records of the land office, subject to the removal of unfinished cases to such courts as the parties may direct.

Hereto appended please find an approximate estimate of the receipts or emoluments of the commissioner from all sources, for the six years ending January 1, 1864.

Respectfully your ob't serv't,
WM. L. W. SEABROOK,
Commissioner Land Office.

*Estimate of the Salary and Emoluments of the
Commissioner of the Land Office for Six
Years, ending January 1st, 1864.*

YEAR.	Salary as Judge of Land Office.	For sending List of Certificates to County Com.	Fees as Register and Examiner General.	For keeping the Chancery Rec's.	TOTAL.
1858.....	\$200	\$50	\$2,590	\$2,840
1859.....	200	50	2,370	2,620
1860.....	200	50	2,680	2,930
1861.....	200	50	1,380	1,630
1862.....	200	50	900	\$500	1,650
1863.....	200	50	1,200	500	1,950
G. total.....					13,620
Average.....					\$2,270

The committee thought these suggestions very judicious, and that it was wrong that his fees should be dependent upon his decision. They thought that it was proper to make it a salaried office, and they fixed upon the sum of \$1,800. I think the committee were very equally divided, and I know that several of them preferred \$2,000, which would be really a less amount than he has received for the last six years. He received for the first year \$2,840, for the last year \$1,950, and on the average \$2,270. I think it would be very proper, and nothing beyond the value of the services performed, to make his salary \$2,000.

Mr. THOMAS. One of the objects I have in view is to secure a good man for commissioner of the land office. There is no gentle-

man of the condition of Mr. Seabrook who wants to live down here at Annapolis for \$1,800 a year. If you take the fees of his office from him, \$2,000 is little enough for any man who will stay down at Annapolis from one year's end to another. Give him a good salary, and you can always have a good commissioner of the land office. The duties of the office are important; and it is important that the office should be given to a man entirely competent, a man who understands technicalities, and knows how to decide these cases when brought before him. I think the convention ought to make the salary at least \$2,000.

Mr. DANIEL. In fixing this salary, if I recollect right, the two amounts before the committee were \$1,500 and \$2,000. Some wanted it to be \$1,500, and thought that was sufficient. Others thought that \$2,000 would be about right. I think that the compromise upon \$1,800 was unanimous among the committee. Every member of the committee agreed that that was about a fair salary. The committee could not have agreed upon \$2,000. I think that under the circumstances, that is about a fair compensation for the office of commissioner of the land office. I should be very unwilling to vote for more. I do not see that this office requires more skill and management, or as much labor as the office of librarian; certainly not any more. Therefore, as we have got the salary of the librarian fixed at \$1,500, I think that certainly \$300 more is sufficient; and it is as much as I am willing to vote for.

Mr. BOND. I shall vote with pleasure for the amendment offered by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Thomas.) I think that \$2,000 is certainly not too great a compensation for any judicial officer; and even that is less than the average of his fees. His fees last year amounted to \$1,950, so that allowing \$2,000, the State would have lost but \$50; while the average of his fees is greater. I am in favor of good salaries; and I certainly think that no judicial officer is entitled to less than \$2,000. I shall therefore vote for the amendment with pleasure.

Mr. THOMAS. I wish to suggest that the commissioner of the land office has nobody to assist him at all, but his duties are performed by himself. It appears to me a very little thing to give him \$2,000 a year. A salary of \$2,000 for a judicial officer, like the commissioner of the land office, is a great deal less than \$1,500 for the State librarian in proportion to the duties and responsibility of the office. The commissioner of the land office has a great responsibility upon him, while the State librarian has none, except to keep the books together and perform the duties laid down in that section, and he is allowed an assistant.

Mr. DANIEL. I would state that the \$1,950 received by the commissioner of the land