

"shall be," and inserting "are now or may be hereafter;" so that it will read—"and perform all other duties that are now or may be hereafter prescribed by law."

The amendment was adopted.

On motion of Mr. STOCKBRIDGE,

The words "general assembly" were substituted for the word "legislature" in this section.

Mr. ABBOTT. I would inquire whether "the third day of each session" gives the treasurer time enough after the first of January to make his returns. I know that in many organizations it is difficult for the treasurer to do so. I know that in the city of Baltimore it would be difficult for the treasurer to get his accounts ready by the third or fourth day after the council meets.

Mr. HERR. It has been customary to have the returns made on that day, as the fiscal year ends in September.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. I move to insert the word "regular" between the words "each" and "session." If there should be an extra session, I presume it would not be necessary to have any report made then to the general assembly.

The amendment was adopted.

No further amendment was offered to the fourth section.

Mr. SCOTT. I rise to request some member who voted in the majority yesterday, on fixing the salaries of the comptroller and treasurer, to move a reconsideration of those votes, in order that our work here may be made a little more consistent with itself. We have increased the salaries of other officers on the ground that the increased cost of living makes it necessary and proper to do so, without any pretence whatever that the duties of those officers have been in any way increased. It is notorious that the duties of the office of comptroller have been greatly increased by the war and other causes, and I think it but a simple act of justice to that officer either to reconsider the vote fixing his salary, and increase it, or reconsider the votes by which the salaries of other officers have been increased, and reduce them to their original standard. I have no particular choice as to which course shall be pursued. I voted in the minority yesterday, and cannot make the motion to reconsider. I would therefore ask that some gentleman who voted in the majority would now move to reconsider.

Mr. MILLER. I move to reconsider the vote by which the salary of the comptroller was fixed at twenty-five hundred dollars.

Mr. SMITH, of Carroll. I think the suggestion of the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott,) that we reconsider the votes by which the salaries of other officers were increased, would be much more acceptable to the majority of the members of this body; and I am sure it would be more acceptable to the whole body of the people. So far as these two officers

are concerned, I know that one of them has said that he accepted the office knowing what the salary was, and that if it was increased he would feel obliged, in consideration of his oath, not to accept any increase, but to pay it over to the treasury. We are legislating now, provided this constitution shall be adopted, for twenty years to come. In all probability, in a few years, times will be reinstated as before. If we increase these salaries, however, they must continue under this constitution, no matter what changes might take place. We might obviate the difficulty by fixing the salary at a maximum, and authorize the legislature in their discretion to decrease it until a given minimum is reached. I think, however, twenty-five hundred dollars is quite enough for these officers; and I think plenty of people in this State can be found competent to discharge those duties, who would be satisfied with that compensation. I think it would be better to reconsider the salaries of other officers which have been increased and bring them back to their present standard.

Mr. SCOTT. My only object was to preserve consistency in our action.

Mr. BERRY, of Prince George's. I think there is a great deal of force in what has fallen from the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott) in reference to increasing the compensation of all the officers of the State. It is well known that the cost of living is twice as great now as it was when these officers were elected, and in all probability it will be years before things will return to their old standard of value. I think it is but justice to increase the salaries of these officers. Without we give good salaries we cannot expect to obtain the services of good officers. No man will leave a lucrative business to accept an office where the salary is inconsiderable, not up to a supporting standard. I hope no decrease will be made in the salaries we have already fixed for officers; but that there will be an increase of at least five hundred dollars in the salary of the comptroller. And I am willing to increase the pay of every other officer appointed or elected under the constitution. Even if we increase the pay of the comptroller in the ratio I have indicated, it will not then be as much as two thousand dollars was at the time of the adoption of the present constitution. There are many strong and urgent reasons why this should be done. I am in favor of giving all our officers a fair compensation for their services.

Mr. MILLER. I shall vote in favor of the reconsideration of the vote, by which the salary of the comptroller was fixed at twenty-five hundred dollars. I voted yesterday for the highest sum, three thousand dollars, proposed by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Thomas,) because that was an increase of five hundred dollars over the present salary. I did so for two reasons: because