

we had already increased the salary of one subordinate State officer at least five hundred dollars, and another has been increased more than that in my judgment; that is, the salary of the commissioner of the land office. Now, either the one or the other of two propositions must be adopted, or else this convention will subject itself to a burning disgrace. It is not proper to keep, as fixed by the present constitution, the salaries of these high fiscal officers of your State, having control of your entire treasury; while the salaries of the State librarian and the commissioner of the land office have been increased. If we do that, we shall at once subject ourselves to the imputation of having been under the influence of lobbyists. These high and important officers, the governor, comptroller and treasurer, as well as your judges, are above any such thing as coming here and attempting to influence this convention to increase their salaries. And if we increase the salaries of other officers, and let the salaries of those officers remain as under the present constitution, it will be a disgrace to this convention. I do not care which proposition is adopted, whether the one proposed by the gentleman from Cecil (Mr. Scott,) or the one proposed by the gentleman from Carroll (Mr. Smith.) But we should adopt the one or the other, in order to be consistent.

Mr. STIRLING. I think the convention has been perfectly consistent. It has raised the salary of the librarian because it considered the present salary insufficient. It has not increased the compensation of the commissioner of the land office; it has merely given him a uniform, fixed compensation, instead of the fees at present allowed, and the report of the committee shows that that uniform compensation is not quite as much as the average amount which the commissioner of the land office has made out of his fees.

Now, there is a manifest distinction between the condition of those officers and the two officers named by the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller.) If a man is librarian he must live out of his salary as librarian; he cannot do anything else—his salary must be his support. These financial officers of the State have always had ample salaries. The salaries of our comptroller and treasurer are larger than are generally paid to such officers. They are not obliged to live upon their salaries; it is notorious that they do not live upon their salaries. My estimable friend, the treasurer of the State, does not live out of his salary, but he finds time enough, as any man in that office, whether merchant or lawyer can, to attend to other business by which to make a living.

The comptrollers of the State have generally been members of the bar. It is true their official duties interfere with their practice, but it does not destroy it. On the con-

trary, their office gives them a prominence and reputation in the State, which enables them ultimately to rebuild their practice and to extend it. And they actually attend to their business as lawyers while holding that office, and I think twenty-five hundred dollars is ample compensation for that officer. He is responsible for the duties of the office, and ought to be well paid. But he does not perform all the labors of the office himself; he has other officers under him who perform a great part of the labor. But the commissioner of the land office performs all the duties of that office himself, and the librarian does the same, except those duties which are merely duties of hand and which an assistant performs.

I submit that the salaries fixed by the present constitution for these officers are large enough. The treasurer of the State gets as much salary as a judge, and does not do anything like the amount of work. He does not work every day, and I know that former comptrollers of the State have not even lived in Annapolis. I knew one comptroller who exercised the functions of this office very creditably indeed, who did not reside in Annapolis at all; who kept up his residence and office at home, coming down here occasionally to attend to his official duties. There is no parallel between the cases referred to.

The question being then taken upon the motion to reconsider, it was not agreed to.

No further amendment being offered to the report upon the treasury department, it was ordered to be engrossed for its third reading, and to be printed.

ELECTIVE FRANCHISE.

Mr. AUDOUN moved that the convention proceed to consider the report of the committee upon the elective franchise.

Mr. ECKER. I hope the gentleman will withdraw that motion. The chairman of that committee (Mr. Sands) is absent to-day, and although I am a member of that committee, there are some things in that report that I do not feel able to defend.

Mr. MILLER. And another consideration is, that the report of the minority of that committee is not yet on our files, not having been printed.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. It is printed in the journal. We may as well look this matter full in the face. There seemed on yesterday to be a great indisposition to take up the report of the judiciary committee. We have now but two reports before us undisposed of—the report on the judiciary department and the report upon the elective franchise.

Mr. HEBB. There is the report of the committee on the executive department.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. That has not yet been printed.

Mr. HEBB. It is printed upon the journal.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. It is not printed for