

if not quite without exception, since the present constitution has been in operation, to employ additional counsel. I do not know to what extent; I have not looked over the list of counsel employed, very carefully; but I know there is at least one mistake in it. I am aware of the employment of at least one attorney who has received fees from the State who is not included there.

The PRESIDENT. Some of them have been employed under acts of the general assembly.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. If we compare the salary proposed here with that paid to any great corporation, municipal or otherwise, for similar services, we will find that the largest sum which has been named here is a moderate one. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad company pays very considerably more than that every year for its counsel fees.

Mr. ABBOTT. Allow me to correct the gentleman. Mr. Latrobe manages the business of that company for a thousand dollars a year.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. He transacts a part of it; he is only one of three or four employed.

Mr. ABBOTT. He transacts the attorney general part of it.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Not at all. I happen to know that there are several counsel who do business for that company who receive that sum. The amount Mr. Latrobe receives is the same he began with years ago; and as far as I am aware it has never been raised. But they have a great many special counsel. It is notorious here; I know any number of counsel employed by them.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The late Mr. Scott did more business for that company than did Mr. Latrobe.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. The corporation attorney of the city of New York receives, I believe, five thousand dollars a year. And certainly the business of the State of Maryland is of quite as much importance as the business of that corporation. The cost to the city of Baltimore for legal services, year by year, is more than the largest sum named here. And whether we look to the services required to be performed, or the importance and the delicate nature of them, or the great interests involved in comparison with the duties of other attorneys, we shall find that the largest sum named here is moderate.

Mr. EDELEN. I wish to make but one remark. I dissent altogether from the views taken by the two gentlemen from Baltimore city (Messrs. Stirling and Stockbridge,) in instituting any comparison between what has been paid to special counsel in times past, through the medium of the legislature and other authorities, and the salary now proposed to be given to the attorney general. We all know that sometimes for very slight services very liberal fees are paid by the general assembly of Maryland.

The view upon which I act in regard to

this matter is this; we have already determined that the judges of our court of appeals shall not receive more than three thousand dollars per annum. When they go upon the bench they are debarred from all practice. They have to devote their time, their abilities, their labor, to that one thing. They are employed constantly nearly ten months in every year. When not actually engaged in court they are required to devote their time to preparing opinions. And after a careful examination of the duties of the attorney general, as enumerated in section three of this report, I have come to the conclusion that he will have ample and abundant time for the prosecution and transaction of a large private practice.

I wish to correct the impression which was made upon my mind—I do not know how it was with others here—by the remark of the gentleman from Anne Arundel (Mr. Miller,) in relation to the attorney general being cut off from any other fees and perquisites.

The section reads—

“But he shall not be entitled to receive any fees, perquisites, or rewards whatever, in addition to the salary aforesaid, for the performance of any official duty,” &c.

That only means that he shall not charge any fees to the State, but does not debar him from private practice. That I submit is the true construction.

And I differ altogether from the construction of this section as given by my friend from Somerset (Mr. Jones.) It does not require the attorney general to go to the several counties of the State and take part in the prosecution of any criminal upon any indictment at the suit of the State of Maryland.

Without wishing further to transgress upon the time of the convention, I will say that I think all of us recognize the truth of the remarks of the gentleman from Washington (Mr. Mayhugh,) that we ought to reduce the expenses of this State as much as possible, in consideration of the fact that the people of this State have now, and will have for many years to come, to bear heavy taxation. I think, under all the circumstances that two thousand dollars a year is an ample salary, one abundantly sufficient for the attorney general.

Mr. CHAMBERS. I desire to say a word or two in regard to this matter, and the illustration offered by the gentleman from Baltimore city (Mr. Stockbridge.) I happen to know something about the conducting of the business of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company. The late distinguished and intelligent gentleman, Mr. Scott, who resided for a long time in Harford, was perhaps the most active lawyer in trying the causes of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company: if you go by per centage, he tried ten to one of any other counsel. He had half a dozen associates. The late Hon. Mr. Pearce was one;