

Mr. PUGH. I want some information with regard to this matter. I am in favor, and have been all the time, of paying judges liberally. I am therefore perfectly willing to vote to pay the judges of Baltimore city \$3,500; but it suggested itself to me the moment I heard the section read that we had fixed the salary of the judges of the court of appeals at \$3,000. I wish to know if there is any way of getting that subject up and increasing the salaries of the judges of the court of appeals. It would certainly be improper to put them in an inferior position in respect to salary than the judges of the lower courts, in Baltimore city. I am in favor of giving such salaries as will secure the best men for such positions. I wish to vote in favor of making the salary of the judges in the city of Baltimore \$3,500; but I would not like to do so unless we reconsider our action with regard to the court of appeals.

Mr. DANIEL. I think one way of judging what salaries the judges ought to receive is to look at the men and the object, which is to get good men in the practice of the profession. Now compare the practice of lawyers in the city of Baltimore with that of lawyers in the counties; and you will find on account of the greater amount of business more than double, treble the average practice of lawyers in the counties. Therefore, in order to secure a good lawyer upon the bench in the city, you must necessarily pay more than you would pay in the counties.

Besides, sir, they have a great deal more work to do in the city. Our courts sit nine or ten months in the year constantly; whereas in most of the counties, they sit far less time, and in a few they do not occupy four months in the year. We have double the amount of work to do in the city. And there is scarcely any man in the city of Baltimore competent to take the place of judge, who does not receive from his practice at least \$5,000 a year.

In reference to the court of appeals, I would like to see the salary increased; but it is known that a number of these judges of the court of appeals are taken outside of the city of Baltimore, where their practice has nothing like the range of successful practice in the city of Baltimore. Therefore it is not so great a sacrifice for gentlemen of the court of appeals taken outside of the city of Baltimore as to gentlemen in the city of Baltimore. I think that is an important consideration to look at, what lawyers in good practice get in the particular location where you propose to make them judges. If their practice in the counties is only \$2,500 a year for the best lawyers; they can very well afford to go on the bench fifteen years for that salary. But when the practice is \$5,000 or \$10,000 a year, as it is in the city of Baltimore, they can ill afford and will not give up that practice to

go upon the bench at \$3,000 a year. I think this is an important consideration.

Mr. RIDGELY. In relation to the last observation made by the gentleman from Baltimore city, my experience is the very reverse. I grant that we have got excellent judges, the very best judges perhaps that could be obtained; and yet not one of them had, in my opinion, a practice of \$5,000 a year. I know the very best judge we have got did not practice at all, and I think the same observations will apply to other portions of the State.

Now I have no objection at all to giving the judges of Baltimore city \$3,500 a year, if even-handed justice is done to all parts of the State. In Baltimore county the judge will have to hold the court continuously every month in the year, and he will be employed every day in the year, and he will have to break up his establishment at home, and come to reside at Towson town, the county seat, and will have to pay as high there for living as he would in Baltimore city.

Mr. STIRLING. How much will it take to rent a house there?

Mr. RIDGELY. I do not know about that. It will cost as much to live at a hotel there, as in Baltimore city. I am opposed to increasing the compensation.

Mr. ABBOTT. The gentleman from Baltimore county (Mr. Ridgely) has expressed the views I entertain. In answer to the remarks of my colleague (Mr. Stirling,) I will say that there is not a city in the Union where living is so cheap as in Baltimore city.

Mr. STIRLING. Is it not high everywhere? Mr. ABBOTT. We are making a constitution for all time, not for a few years. I know my income has not increased according to the increase of prices. I hope soon to see things settling down again. The increase that is proposed to be given now, making the salary \$3,000, is I think all that should be asked.—I hope the gentlemen from the counties who have to pay a portion of this tax will consider these things well, before they vote for this proposition.

Mr. STOCKBRIDGE. Gentlemen can get judges for less than \$3,000 dollars a year.

Mr. STIRLING. I have no doubt some could be got for \$500 a year.

Mr. NEGLEY. Why should there be a discrimination made in favor of the judges of Baltimore city and against those of the counties? I believe the work of the judge of the court in Baltimore county will be as continuous and onerous, as that of the judge of any court in Baltimore city. And everything in Baltimore county will be nearly if not quite as high as in Baltimore city, and so in Frederick county; and I know that in Washington county it will be pretty nearly so. Then why make a distinction in favor of one and against another. It has been said that the cost of living in Baltimore city is higher than it is in the counties. Admit it; but then