

age of members; they did not assume to do it. But they wanted to appropriate a certain amount. They could not appropriate a hundred dollars under the head of per diem, because the constitution fixed how much per diem they were to receive. They could not appropriate a hundred dollars under the head of mileage, because travelling such unequal distances, it would have led to so great confusion that it would have amounted to an impossibility to arrange it.

What then did they do? They say they make an effort to equalize the compensation of members with that of previous legislatures. They do not propose to affect in the slightest the amount allowed for travel by the mile; but they propose to equalize the compensation of members with that of previous legislatures. And how do they propose to do that?

*“Resolved by the general assembly of Maryland, That the sum of one hundred dollars, in addition to their usual mileage, be paid to each of the senators and delegates of the general assembly.”*

Paid as what? As additional compensation? As additional mileage? As arbitrary mileage? They do not say any such thing as that. Why do they not say—“paid as an addition to their per diem?” Because it might have seemed to some of them that that would look too much like running in the face of the constitution. Nor do they say, “allowed as additional mileage.” They do not bring it under either head. But they say “in addition to their usual mileage.” It is not mileage; not a rate of compensation for travel by the mile, which is the definition of mileage. It is an arbitrary matter, as gentlemen will see at once upon reflection.

Is this hundred dollars mileage? Suppose, for example, that there is a case of contested election before the house of delegates, and witnesses are brought here to testify. So far as I know, witnesses are allowed mileage the same as members of the general assembly. That is to say, the same compensation for travel rated by the mile. If this hundred dollars bonus is mileage, then witnesses, on the same principle, would be allowed this hundred dollars as well as members of the general assembly. But the hundred dollars was not allowed to the witnesses before the last general assembly, and their name was legion.

But this hundred dollars was a bonus granted to members, and by nearly the same vote to all the officers of that general assembly, whether they resided in Annapolis, Baltimore city, Allegany county, or upon the eastern shore, this hundred dollars was allowed to each one as a bonus, not as mileage. It is upon that point that this whole thing may turn. For if that hundred dollars be not mileage, then it is not allowed to the members of this convention, under this convention bill, which allows only two things, per diem

and mileage. If it be mileage, then I will thank any gentleman on the floor of this convention to tell me what is the rate of “fees for travel by the mile” fixed by law for members of the general assembly and of this convention. Is there any rate that can be specified? It is possible to find out these things somehow. And what is the rate per mile, if this hundred dollars bonus is mileage?

Heretofore mileage has always been adjusted by a fixed rule. The rate per mile is ten times as much for one hundred miles as it is for ten miles, and cannot be anything else. If it is mileage it must be that. And a member of this convention, or a member of the general assembly who lives in Allegany county is entitled to very different mileage from that allowed to the man who lives in Anne Arundel county or Baltimore city.

I say, then, that this is not mileage. And if the convention chooses to vote to themselves such compensation as that, let them vote it straight out, just what the thing is. Let us not try to deceive ourselves or others by calling that mileage, which is not mileage; let us call it what it really is. I am not here to argue the question of the justice or injustice, propriety or impropriety of the matter. But let us call things by their right names. If it is mileage, let us know how much we are to have per mile. If it is not mileage, then let us call it a bonus, or anything else that men may choose to call it. But I insist it is not mileage, as contemplated by this act. How can it be? All money paid out of the treasury of the State must be under appropriations by law. The general assembly in calling this convention made their appropriation, and told at what rate it should be allowed. But I will not trespass further upon the convention.

Mr. DANIEL. I have a remark or two to make in addition to what my colleague (Mr. Stockbridge) has said. In the first place, it was not carrying out the principle embraced in the order of the general assembly to their committee on accounts, which was to readjust the mileage. It ought to have been upon some principle, and if upon any principle, then surely the gentleman living in Anne Arundel county, or in Annapolis, or in the city of Baltimore, is not entitled to the same mileage as the gentleman from Allegany county. And yet under the pretence of mileage every member, those living in Annapolis and Baltimore city as well as those in Allegany and Worcester, received the same amount of additional compensation; each received the hundred dollars.

Now if the mileage is to be readjusted, let it be adjusted according to principle. And if you do that, then the members from Worcester and Allegany ought to receive more than the members from Anne Arundel county or Baltimore city, according to the difference in