

Court and other tribunals which Congress, from time to time has power to establish, provides, the Judges of the Supreme and inferior Courts shall hold their offices through good behavior, and shall at stated times, receive for their services a compensation which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office.

Congress, from time to time has increased the salaries of the Federal Judges, and its power to do so is under the wording of the Constitution similar to our own, and has never been questioned.

Probably if our Constitution like that of the United States had received the benefit of a revision by a Committee on Style, no question would ever have been raised as to the power of the Legislature to increase the salaries of the Judges. The proposition is not a new one. It has been several times before the Legislature. Some difference of opinion has existed upon the subject, but rather a doubt as to the constitutionality of the measure than a decided conviction against it.

Your Committee think the importance of the subject justifies a report at length of the reasons for the conclusion at which they have arrived. They have not relied alone upon their own judgment and researches, but have had the advantage of the opinion in writing of several of the most eminent lawyers of the State and of the committee on the amendment of the law of the Bar Association of Baltimore city. All concur in the opinion that the proposed bill is a constitutional measure. And while the question submitted to this committee is the mere legal question of the constitutionality of the bill, we cannot refrain from expressing the opinion that every consideration of justice and of sound public policy dictate that the State should not be niggardly in dealing with the compensation of the faithful and capable public servants who have heretofore so justly and ably protected the lives, liberties and property of our citizens, but we should pass the bill which only makes a very moderate addition to the present inadequate compensation of our Judges.