

make the salary three thousand dollars per annum.

Mr. STIRLING moved to make the annual salary twenty-five hundred dollars.

Mr. EDLEN moved to make it two thousand dollars.

The question was first upon "three thousand dollars."

Mr. MILLER. I would state before the vote is taken upon this question, that by a report made by the comptroller or the treasurer in the early part of our session, it appears that there has been expended by the general assembly of the State for special counsel fees, under the provision in the constitution, allowing the governor to appoint special counsel for particular cases, the sum of \$24,475, or nearly \$2,000 a year since this present constitution went into operation. And that expense has been in consequence of the want of such an officer as an attorney general. I think that according to the rate of payment hitherto made for special counsel fees, taking into consideration also the present state of the currency, three thousand dollars a year is little enough compensation for such an officer as this.

Mr. BUSCOB. The amount expended for special counsel since the adoption of the present constitution, has been much more than \$24,000. I have ascertained that special counsel have received fees and commissions to the amount of \$12,000 or \$15,000. If the commissions were taken into calculation the amount paid to special counsel for the last thirteen or fourteen years, would be found to be at least \$40,000.

Mr. MILLER. That would make it about \$3,000 a year.

Mr. KING. A portion of that, some \$3,000 or \$4,000 was paid for counsel to go out of the State.

Mr. MILLER. The attorney general is to perform that duty under the proposed article.

Mr. JONES, of Somerset. Under the provisions of the constitution as proposed in this respect, the attorney general will be subject to be directed by the governor to assist in the trial of criminal cases of every kind. He may be ordered to go to Allegany county, or Washington county, or Somerset county; all over the State. And his time will be very nearly exhausted in giving opinions to the governor, comptroller, treasurer, State's attorneys, and other officers, on all subjects, and I think he will have very little time for other practice.

Mr. NEGLEY. I am as much in favor of keeping down salaries as anybody. But you better strike out this provision altogether than to put in an inadequate salary. Because if you put in an insufficient salary, you cannot get the services of a man whose services will be worth anything. And rather than have a second or third rate man in the office, you better strike out the provision entirely.

Three thousand dollars a year is little enough for such an officer. They are the younger members of the bar who are elected State's attorneys, and they will be continually calling upon the attorney general for his opinion, and perhaps require his personal assistance at the trial. He is to be, besides the legal adviser of the governor, comptroller, treasurer, and even of the legislature; he will have his hands full. Three thousand dollars a year is not too large. Let us have salary enough to secure a good officer, or let us have none at all.

Mr. BOND. In my judgment, a salary of three thousand dollars a year is little enough for a good lawyer. The attorney general, by this report, is forbidden to receive any other fee or compensation whatever, except his salary. As has been well remarked by the gentleman from Washington county (Mr. Negley,) you better strike out this provision entirely, than not get a good man in this office; and you cannot get a good one, unless you give him a good compensation.

Mr. MAYHUGH. I very much regret to see the disposition on the part of members of this convention to make new offices, and to increase the salaries of old ones. This is not increasing salaries, it is true; but is creating a new office. For the last fourteen years, the expenses for special counsel fees has been about \$1,800 a year.

A MEMBER. It has been a great deal more than that.

Mr. MAYHUGH. If gentlemen desire to defeat this constitution they can accomplish that purpose by weighing it down with such things as these. I am opposed to the creation of new offices, especially when they are unnecessary; and I am decidedly opposed to any increase of salaries. Whenever I have voted I have voted against them, and I intend to continue so to vote. I have a constituency who will hold me responsible for my action here. In this time of heavy taxation, especially when the people of western Maryland have been plundered and robbed, and almost deprived of the means of carrying on their necessary business, when they are taxed by the county, and by the State, and by the federal government, it is decidedly out of place to be creating new offices, and increasing the salaries of old ones. I must oppose all these measures, and shall do it at all hazards. And I shall at least vote to make this salary two thousand instead of three thousand dollars.

Mr. STIRLING. I think the views of my friend from Washington (Mr. Mayhugh) are correct so far as the general principle is concerned. I have myself on several occasions voted here not to put these salaries too high. I have no objection to putting the salary of the attorney general at \$2,500, though I think that is full low. But I suggested that sum, because I know there is an indisposition to pay large salaries.