

Mr. Thomas was another, and there were others. However, we are not to be governed by the action of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad company in this respect.

The idea which has been suggested that this is increasing the expense of the State, is altogether a mistaken idea, as much so as any idea that ever was presented. It is just the reverse. The State, since this office of attorney general has been abolished, has not only actually paid more than it did before, but it has committed—I will not say fraud—but great injustice in many cases. You know, Mr. President, as well as I do, a case in which I was concerned for one month. The president of this convention was the special judge. That was eight years ago, and to-day I have not received one dollar for my services in that case.

Some gentlemen in the house, when they hear of a lawyer receiving one or two hundred dollars for his services, think it a very great affair, and go to talking about what a day laborer receives. But notwithstanding all this injustice, which I suppose has been perpetrated upon others as well as myself, the actual cost to the State has been greater than when we had an attorney general. Let gentlemen take up the statutes and turn to the comptroller's account and they will find that the State has paid more for these legal services than it would cost to have an attorney general at three thousand dollars a year. We have suffered nothing but evil, inconvenience and mischief, since the destruction of this office. We all know that at the last convention this office was discontinued, not from any belief that the office was unnecessary, but purely from personal considerations, having relation to the individual who it was supposed was going to have the office. It was abolished not in consequence of any judgment formed in regard to the expediency of the matter, but solely from personal considerations.

Now let gentlemen listen a moment to the duties to be performed by this officer, and they will find that it is perfectly impracticable for him to do anything else, if indeed he can discharge all the duties required of him by this section three of the report.

"It shall be the duty of the attorney general to prosecute and defend, on the part of the State, all cases which at the time of his election and qualification, and thereafter, may be depending in the court of appeals, or in the supreme court of the United States, by or against the State, or wherein the State may be interested; and he shall give his opinion in writing whenever required by the general assembly or either branch thereof, the governor, the comptroller, the treasurer, or any State's attorney, on any matter depending before them," &c.

Every county in the State is to have its State's attorney, and every attorney of every

county is to ask the attorney general, just as often as his own ignorance may require, for information which the attorney general is obliged to give. But that is not all.

"And when required by the governor or the general assembly, he shall aid any State's attorney in prosecuting any suit, or action brought by the State, in any court of this State; and he shall commence and prosecute or defend any suit, or action, in any of said courts, on the part of the State, as the general assembly, or the governor, acting according to law may direct."

Now, how can any individual occupying this position, and liable to be sent off to any part of the State at any moment, attend to any private business? Talk about three thousand dollars being a large sum! It is payable in the present currency, and in point of fact it amounts in good money to less than fifteen hundred dollars. What an enormous sum! for the whole time of a man, who, unless he is one of the first lawyers in the State, is not fit for the place. You expect to obtain a man possessing the first legal abilities of the State, and you propose to pay him fifteen hundred dollars for the performance of duties which will separate him entirely from his own private concerns. I do hope this house will give this officer the highest salary which has been named, for it is not one cent too large.

The question was on the motion of Mr. AUDOUN to make the salary of the attorney general three thousand dollars a year.

Upon this question Mr. MAYHUGH called the yeas and nays, and they were ordered.

The question being then taken, by yeas and nays, it resulted—yeas 30, nays 31—as follows:

*Yeas*—Messrs. Goldsborough, President; Audoun, Blackiston, Bond, Briscoe, Brooks, Carter, Chambers, Clarke, Dent, Duvall, Earle, Galloway, Hopkins, Kennard, Lansdale, Lash, McComas, Miller, Negley, Nyman, Parker, Ridgely, Russell, Smith, of Carroll, Sneary, Stirling, Stockbridge, Sykes, Wooden—30.

*Nays*—Messrs. Abbott, Annan, Billingsley, Brown, Crawford, Cunningham, Daniel, Davis, of Charles, Ecker, Edelen, Gale, Hatch, Hebb, Hopper, Horsey, Keefer, King, Lee, Markey, Mayhugh, Mitchell, Mullikin, Murray, Parran, Purnell, Robinette, Schlosser, Smith, of Dorchester, Swope, Todd, Wickard—31.

The motion was accordingly not agreed to.

Mr. ABBOTT, when his name was called, said: As compared with the salaries paid for other services, I do not believe that there is a lawyer in the State whose services are worth more than two thousand dollars a year.

Mr. FOXBA, when his name was called, said: I am in favor of making the salary of the attorney general twenty-five hundred dollars, and therefore cannot vote for this proposition, though I never did like to see anything mean. I do not want a man to work for me for nothing. But there is another thing which