

and upon this it is to be settled by the convention. Can we obtain a first-class man, such as the gentleman has spoken of, for \$2,000, and will that man when obtained, take the \$2,000 as a perfect wind-fall in his line, and a God-send to him? I know many such men; yes, sir; and of the very highest grade of qualifications, of the very highest standing for moral character, and everything of the sort, who are this day receiving less than half that sum; and many of whom would enter with all possible and imaginable zeal into this calling, and think themselves blessed indeed with a salary of \$2,000.

If we cannot get such an individual for the sum of \$2,000, which is a very handsome salary, then make it \$3,000. I like generosity. I like a free giver. But I must remember the adage—be just before you are generous. Our State is now heavily taxed. In all human probability we shall have much heavier burdens imposed upon her; and I ask whether you are just in fixing the salary at \$3,000, when men equally capable can be obtained for \$2,000. I like to see men paid for their work. I like to be paid for mine. But I am here representing my people in this matter; and I say if I can get a man qualified in every respect for \$2,000, who will take \$2,000 as a God-send to him, why should I pay \$3,000, under the present circumstances, when every grade and condition of society is groaning under the weight of taxation, which the emergencies of this war, as well as our financial condition have imposed upon the people? I am willing to give \$2,000, and I am sure my friend will agree with me that if we can get a first-class man who will be glad to have it at \$2,000, we ought to get him at that. I think the amendment moved by the gentleman from Caroline (Mr. Todd,) ought to be adopted in justice to the people of the State, and I hope it will be adopted by this convention.

Mr. DANIEL. I shall move this amendment, to strike out "exclusive" in the fifth line, and to insert "inclusive," so as to pay the salary of \$3,000, inclusive of office and travelling expenses. I think the great danger will be in allowing him to fix his own travelling expenses, and his own office expenses, and especially the office expenses. It will be in his power to create an office such as may not be necessary, and to employ as many clerks as he pleases; and you give him clear discretion as to his travelling expenses. I say it is better to fix the salary absolutely and make him pay these outlays; to give him no discretion in this respect. Estimate what is fairly the worth of his labors, what is fair for his travelling and office expenses; and put that sum in his salary, and let that be the end of it. Let us know, and let the State know exactly what we are to pay for these services. I hold that \$3,000 a year is amply sufficient to pay for all the

travelling and office expenses of this superintendent; and therefore at the proper time I will move to let the amount remain at \$3,000, but to include in that all expenses.

Mr. RIDGELY. I hope that amendment will not prevail. I consider now that the convention is engaged in one of the most important subjects that will probably occupy its attention in the inauguration of a system of public education in the State. Much depends in the future success of such a system, upon the proper inauguration of this institution. I cannot agree with the gentleman from Howard county (Mr. Sands) that he can go abroad in the community and gather up hundreds and thousands of men qualified for such an office as this.

Mr. SANDS (in his seat.) I said a score.

Mr. RIDGELY continued: Nor do I believe that the class of men, or the sphere in which he proposes to find this numerous class of individuals, is the proper sphere into which we should look for men possessed of qualifications for such a place. If I wanted a teacher competent to impart knowledge, I would go to that sphere of my fellow citizens, and look among the school masters. But I am not in pursuit of a person designed to fill any such vocation. The office of superintendent of public education, is an office of a very different character. Teachers are generally disqualified for any other office except that of teaching. Nor does it follow that a man because he has learned, is qualified to impart that learning. The qualification of a teacher is a peculiar one and a rare one. Comparatively speaking, there are but few who have the faculty of successfully imparting knowledge, however they may possess that knowledge themselves.

But we are not called upon here to inaugurate a system of public education, but to provide for it by the appointment of a general superintendent. This requires eminent administrative abilities, a man who possesses within himself business habits, business qualifications, a capacity to administer a large and extensive system of public education, such as may be devised by the legislature, a system of education which embraces the whole State, every county in the State and the city of Baltimore. I take it for granted that for such a position talents of a peculiar character are required, business talents and large experience, independent of mere fitness by way of learning. I regard that fitness as decidedly subordinate to the more eminent and superior fitness which such an officer would require in the possession of administrative talents.

I hold this officer to be second in importance to no officer in this government, I care not whom you name, whether the governor or your State, the judges of your courts, or any other officer. He has the disbursement, under his immediate direction, of very large sums of public money. He has, in co-opera-