

That is, that the estimation you give to this position here is the measure of your position before the world upon this very question of education. If you want a good man, if you think the work he is to do is of great value to the State, then you will endeavor to secure him without quibbling about five hundred dollars. And I only wish to say to the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands) who has characterized this view of mine as being nonsense, that I thank him for his commendation.

Mr. SCHLEY. I desire merely to give expression to the views which I entertain upon this subject. I have looked at this report with a great deal of interest. It is extremely gratifying to me to think, from the provisions of this report, that we shall have under it a just system of public education. And knowing the attention that has been given to the subject, and how thoroughly animated a number of the gentlemen are with its importance, I am prepared to accept their report.

Upon the particular suggestion made here to reduce the expense of the State superintendent of public education, I merely desire to say that although, as the gentleman from Howard (Mr. Sands) has suggested, and as others have thought, it may be that we could get a thoroughly competent person to fill that office at a less salary than is here proposed, yet I for one am so desirous of securing a thoroughly competent superintendent of public education, that I would rather run the risk of giving too large a salary, than falling short one dollar of the necessary sum to secure his services. I came here feeling the responsibility of every dollar appropriated by way of salary for the officers under the new constitution we are about to frame. And I trust I am disposed to be as economical as my constituents require, or as the public welfare demands. While thus feeling, I am persuaded that the sum here set apart for the salary of this officer is not an extravagant sum at all. It is not a large sum in comparison with the important duties that are to be devolved upon that officer. And it is an insignificant sum in comparison with the benefits that a competent man in that office will be able to render.

It has been intimated that this office may fall into the deplorable condition that some other offices under the constitution and laws of the State have fallen into through partizan influences. I have no such fear. The officer himself is put forth differently from any other officer in the State, and is a mark for criticism upon his action. And there is no governor who would appoint a mere partizan to this place without proper qualifications. And there is no mere partizan, whatever may be his effrontery, who would have the arrogance to undertake this office without the requisite qualifications to per-

form its duties. Or if he did, he would soon perceive how much he was out of place, and would be glad to shrink away from public observation. I trust therefore that gentlemen will see that it is just economy to keep this salary at the amount reported by the committee.

Mr. VALLIANT. I have a desire to offer an amendment to this first section. And I will preface the reading of the amendment by a remark explanatory of my views. This convention, in my judgment, has made and will make no provision for the erection of any office, or for the creation of any office, of greater consequence to the best interests of the State, than the office embraced in this section. I do not propose to weary the convention with an expression of my views in reference to the great consequence of this office. I only wish to express my high appreciation of the important duties to be performed by this officer.

I regard the adoption of this article as but the inception of the great work which it is proposed by the enactment of the article to be performed—I mean the adoption of some plan by which the masses of the people may be educated. As this is but the inception of this great work, the duties to be performed by this great public functionary, I apprehend, must necessarily be much more onerous than the duties to be performed by any of his successors. I therefore consider that his salary should be larger than the salary of his successors. His duties will be greater, because he will have duties to perform which others filling this office after him will not have to perform. The report requires of this officer that he should devise some school system for the State; and if the school system which he devises for the State is not adopted by the legislature, then that system becomes the law of the land. I regard that as a very high responsibility. And I do really consider that a man whose services in the community cannot command but two thousand dollars, is not the man I want, or the people want, for such an office as this. With the same propriety you might argue that two thousand dollar men were the men for the gubernatorial chair. I regard this as a first-class office, and nothing less than a first-class man with a first-class salary will answer.

I propose to amend this section by adding the following as expressive of my views:

“And said salary of three thousand dollars per annum shall continue after the appointment of the first State superintendent, for four years after said superintendent shall have entered upon the discharge of his duties; but after the expiration of the said four years neither he nor his successor shall receive more than two thousand dollars per annum, exclusive of office and travelling expenses.”

Mr. TODD. I wish to make one remark be-