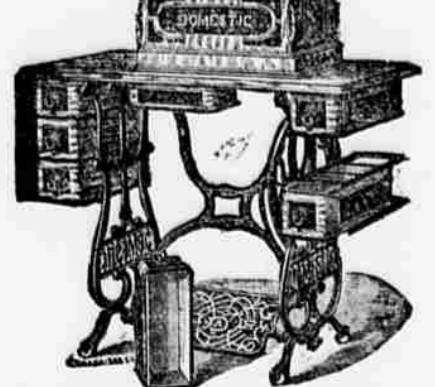


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MAY IT PLEASE THE COURT,

And it Doubtless Will, in a Personal and Pecuniary Sense.

The Proposed Increase of Salary and the Labors of United States Judges.

Senator Van Wyck's Amendment—A Lively Debate Led by Nebraska's Junior.

During the debate in the United States senate on Senator Hoar's bill to raise the salaries of U. S. district judges from \$3,500 to \$5,000 per annum, the following interesting "passage at arms" occurred:

Mr. Van Wyck.—I desire to offer an amendment, to substitute the word "four" for "five," so as to read "four thousand" instead of "five thousand" dollars.

The Presiding Officer.—The question is on the amendment of the senator from Nebraska [Mr. Van Wyck].

Mr. Van Wyck.—In the somewhat lengthy discussion upon this bill I have been listening to hear something of a public reason why the senate should stop at this time to pass a bill of this nature. I have not discovered that there is any danger of the bench being deprived of the judges who are presiding over it.

True the senator from Massachusetts [Mr. Hoar] mentioned the great qualifications which are needed in every person occupying a position upon the bench, but I failed to hear him follow it up with the statement that those upon the bench now did not possess those qualifications, I take it for granted that they do, and that all that is sought for by the senator from Massachusetts we already have in the judges who are presiding. So there can be no reason on that ground at this time.

Then the senator from Delaware [Mr. Bayard] in his lengthy statement urged a reason purely of sympathy. One thing is noticeable, Mr. President, that there is one class of American citizens who always find a vast deal of sympathy on this floor and in the American congress, and that is those who hold official positions.

So it was with my friend from Delaware. His sympathy overflowed, but I failed to see much of hardship in the family of Judge Taney, who he said were poor; but does my friend from Delaware call up to his recollection other distinguished lawyers, who are not upon the bench whose families also are poor and destitute? Is there any reason why there should be any more particular consideration for a distinguished lawyer who goes upon the bench and is unfortunately poor than for a distinguished lawyer who does not go upon the bench and whose family also may be poor and necessitous?

There is another feature which appears in discussions of this kind. First, I say we always find sympathy for the officeholder. Then some gentlemen believe that the highest privilege of the American citizen and his greatest enjoyment is his own property. Some gentlemen point to our overflowing treasury as an evidence of the great enjoyment it furnished the American people to fill it.

My friend from Delaware probably does not go down to the thousands of families who are poor, who do not only die poor but live poor, thousands of families from whose pockets are extracted the dollars that go into an overflowing treasury. That is another proposition which always appears in these liberal discussions and liberal appropriations—the pleasure it is to the American people to pay taxes.

And then, of course, the necessary corollary is the necessity of the American congress being liberal in paying out the money. The proposition is first to fill up, and then deplete. There are various ways of doing this. One is the case with which public offices are filled, and the next apparent ease with which salaries are made and increased.

The senator from Arkansas [Mr. Garland] speaks of the necessity of the salaries of the judges being equal. Will my friend from Arkansas reflect on the congress which passed the present law? It was supposed in 1867 when this law was passed that the salaries should be graduated, and they were graduated from \$3,500 to \$5,000. Was that law just then? Has it been just from 1867 to this day? Gentlemen say no; many judges do more labor than others; it would be liberal and generous to put them all on the same basis. From 1867 to now there has been this discrimination, twelve judges receiving from \$4,000 to \$5,000; the remainder receiving \$3,500. That proposition that the judges shall be equal, has remained upon our statute-books from 1867 to now, and there has been no murmur of complaint. Now it is proposed to equalize them. I would ask our generous brethren here, after you have equalized the salaries and placed them all upon the basis of \$5,000 a year, how long will it be before judges in districts requiring all of their time will come and find some one who will ask that that injustice shall be righted? Then we shall hear piteous appeals for them. Is it right that the overtaxed and overworked judges in New York and in Massachusetts and in Pennsylvania should receive no more salary than the judges in the rural districts, where such intricate and difficult questions do not come up for consideration?

Mr. Hoar.—The senator proposes, as I understand, a question to me, and if I would like to have the answer now I will tell him what is my answer to that difficulty. I think the law which has been recently passed would be made practical still more than it is now, requiring the judges to go out of their districts when directed by the circuit judge. So I look forward, will tell the senator very frankly to a period soon to come when every district judge of the United States will be employed all his time, and will be obliged to go about to other districts besides his own. In Massachusetts the district judge in my own district is employed the whole year, and it is a very hard and laborious year's work for him; and for one or two years he has scarcely had a vacation of more than two days. I suppose there are nearly two men's work in that court now, but when a judge comes occasionally from Maine, from New Hampshire, from Rhode Island, the labor will be still more equalized.

Mr. Van Wyck.—The senator concedes the fact, I suppose, that there are very many districts where the judges are not overworked, and where probably not half their time is required in discharging their official duties.

Mr. Hoar.—There are twelve or thirteen districts out of the fifty, as near we can make out, in which the judges now are not worked a hard year's work. I expect that within a very few years every judge within those thirteen districts will be obliged to be constantly employed in doing the work which the others can not perform.

Mr. Van Wyck.—Then would it not be best for congress to wait until that time does arrive?

Mr. Hoar.—It has come near enough now.

Mr. Van Wyck.—The senator thinks it has come near enough now. Possibly that may be in his idea of excessive generosity and liberality; but would it not be well to wait until that time does come if it is to be used as an argument why the salaries are to be increased?

Mr. Hoar.—The senator's hope is that in the future it will be so arranged that the district judge of Iowa may be ordered into the district of Nebraska or the judge of the district of Colorado.

Mr. Hoar.—The district judges do not go out of the circuit in which their district is.

Mr. Van Wyck.—Then that will not meet the difficulty. I take it in the New York and Pennsylvania circuits every district in those circuits is now practically worked up to the maximum of what the senator considers to be a hard year's labor. Maritime questions, great commercial questions, where large amounts of property are involved, are seldom heard in the interior districts. Therefore it is that in the far distant districts, in the rural districts, where the position is a comparatively easy one, the injustice would still continue. And yet it is not in those districts where the law is not in a hard-worked district the whole year. Therefore, the objection is not removed, and the condition of things that my friend suggests can not possibly exist where the increase will apply most actively. I think that just at this juncture there is no necessity for the proposed increase of those salaries.

It would seem from all the hardships that are mentioned as if there were some sort of draft or conscription into the civil service of this country. When a gentleman overflows with sympathy for the hard-worked office holder, you would naturally suppose that there was a draft or a conscription which forced the private citizen into a position of trust.

But one thing is very remarkable in his suggestion in regard to the profession to which my friend belongs and that of the senator from Arkansas. It is very remarkable when any position is suggested which that profession can fill that we hear so much of the great sacrifices which gentlemen who come from the bar and the profession of the law give up to serve their country. We find that from considerations of patriotism the most distinguished lawyers in this country are willing to surrender their chances of fortune to take a position upon the bench; and they are willing from their great degree of patriotism to surrender positions of profit even to take seats in the American Congress, where as senators claim they are so hard worked that it is necessary to furnish a clerk to each of them to aid them in the discharge of their duties.

As I said there is no conscription, there is no draft that will take a man out of the legal profession and put him on the district bench, or the circuit bench, or the supreme court. There is no power on earth that can take a distinguished lawyer from his remunerative practice and place him in a seat in this chamber or in the other house. And yet it is impossible, so these gentlemen say, to give a lawyer of distinguished ability to fill these positions at the salary now paid. When there is a district judgeship vacant the whole state is torn up, and every lawyer of prominent position is anxious, if possible, to fill that chair. If there is a vacancy in a judgeship, half a dozen states are torn up, as my friend from Kansas knows—Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, and Colorado.

Mr. Cameron, of Wisconsin. Not Wisconsin.

Mr. Van Wyck. Fortunately for Wisconsin that state is not in the circuit to which I allude where a vacancy now exists. The other states I named are in that circuit and they are all torn up. Each has distinguished lawyers, the ablest lawyers, and not too much can be said in their favor, to fill the circuit judgeship. To-day a struggle is going on in that circuit in which my friend from Wisconsin does not appear. In which my friend from Kansas does, and the president is besieged by delegation after delegation from each branch of congress, and citizens from the states probably come in regiments to beg the president to recognize the great merit of a distinguished lawyer in their state. Kansas presents her best man; Minnesota hers, Colorado hers, and Iowa hers, and they come here struggling for this judgeship position. At one time my friend from Kansas does, and the president is besieged by delegation after delegation from each branch of congress, and citizens from the states probably come in regiments to beg the president to recognize the great merit of a distinguished lawyer in their state. Kansas presents her best man; Minnesota hers, Colorado hers, and Iowa hers, and they come here struggling for this judgeship position.

Mr. Bayard.—I was accepting the statement of the senator from Alabama as true; and if the facts he stated were true, they were gross outrages upon the rights of American citizens which ought to subject their perpetrators to punishment.

Mr. Van Wyck.—Then I understood either that senator or the senator from Alabama, I think it was the senator from Delaware, to state that it was the circuit judge who made the appointments from which the people suffered in Alabama.

Mr. Morgan.—The circuit judges made the appointment of commissioners, not of marshals, of course. The marshals are confirmed here.

Mr. Van Wyck.—Precisely; but I wanted in that connection to suggest that it was the high-priced judges that are the cause of the most outrage upon the state of Alabama. The district judges to-day receive \$3,500, the circuit judges receive \$6,000, and it was the high-priced judges who produced the troubles under which you labor in Alabama, as I understand.

Mr. Morgan.—I want entirely on the report made to the department of justice by its chief agent, which I have before me, and from which I read. I made no statement of my own in regard to that point.

Mr. Van Wyck.—Then I was correct about that.

I have made all the suggestions I desire to make upon this matter. I was anxious principally to see what reason was to be given for this proposed increase, and, with all deference to the distinguished senator from Massachusetts, I fail to see any force in his reasoning. As my friend from Delaware was anxious to have high-priced judges, and as I thought that the high-priced judges produced the greatest injustice in his state, if not in other states of the south, I wished merely to draw the

parallel, and also to show that in my judgment for this purpose, legislation to-day it might be well to level the salary up to \$4,000.

Mr. Hoar.—I hope we may have a vote.

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A Kick on Taxes.
Detroit Free Press.
There came into the city treasurer's office the other day a woman who desired to pay her city taxes, and she patiently stood holding some money in her hand until a clerk informed her that the amount was \$26.15.

"It can't be!"
"O'h! yes it is."

"But last year I only paid \$21!"
"Yes, but the taxes are higher this year."

"For what reason?"
"Well, the Fire department has had an increase."

"Suppose it had! Am I a fireman? Has my house ever been on fire? Don't I keep insured so as to get the worth of my house if it should burn? There can't no fire department increase my taxes, and don't you pretend it!"

"The police department estimates are larger."

"A snap for the police! Didn't a rascal break into my house in broad daylight and steal \$7? Have I ever been arrested? Do I want anyone arrested? And if I did, would there be a blue-coat within a mile of the spot? I'll not pay one cent for the police!"

"You know the city bought Belle Isle for a park?"
"What's that to me? Was I ever up there? Am I ever going? If I did go, wouldn't the boat blow up or the wharf break down, or I'd lose my purse or get a terrible cold? The back yard up home is park enough for me, and I'm a woman who can't be cajoled."

"But you'll have to pay the tax."

"Never! Here's the \$21, and if you don't take it I'll walk out and calmly wait for a lawsuit."

"I can't take less than the full amount."

"Very well, sir. If you was Nero himself I wouldn't pay it! I'm a woman who drove a two-horse team to California and back, and you can't scare me for shucks!"

Letter from General John E. Mulford
23 DEW STREET, NEW YORK,
October 8, 1883.

For years past I have used ALCOCK'S POROUS PLASTER on my person and in my family, and have found them perfect as an external remedy, quick in their action, giving immediate relief, without blistering the skin, and far superior to all others. No family should be without ALCOCK'S POROUS PLASTERS; their healing powers are wonderful, and their efficacy far-reaching and lasting. When in Washington last winter I was induced to try another much advertised plaster for severe pain in the back. No relief from the pain, but a sore and blistered back for a week was the result. So soon as the blisters healed I applied two ALCOCK'S POROUS PLASTERS, and they gave me immediate and permanent relief. They gave me additional strength and vitality to the spinal column, and they are a never failing remedy in my family for Coughs, Colds, Sprains, and all Pains and Weakness. Their use has repeatedly saved me from Pneumonia. I constantly use them, and would not be without them for any consideration.

JOHN E. MULFORD,
Beware of imitations. "Alcock" is the only genuine Porous Plaster.

The Battle Flags of Illinois.
SPRINGFIELD, March 26.—Memorial hall in the state capital building, in which the authorities have gathered the battle flags of all the Illinois regiments which served in the late war, was dedicated to-day by the Hon. James H. W. Sherman, Gen. W. T. Sherman, Gen. McClellan, Gen. Palmer, Governor Hamilton, Gen. C. J. Black and Adjutant General Elliott.

Albany, March 26.—In the assembly to-day the bill passed regulating the sale of oleomargarine and other substitutes for butter. The main feature is requiring the conspicuous posting of notices of the character of the stuff sold.

Prohibition in Canada.
OTTAWA, March 26.—The commons today adopted resolutions that the house was prepared, as soon as public opinion sanctions prohibition, to make such enactments in that direction as are within the competency of parliament.

A Mail Carrier Drowned.
KEOKUK, March 26.—Meinart Steiner, mail carrier between Nauvoo and Sonora, Ill., was drowned to-day while crossing Sheridan creek. The mail bags were swept away by the rushing waters.

Richmond Under Water.
RICHMOND, March 26.—All the wharves in the lower part of the city are submerged. The water is up into the Main street and steadily rising.

San Francisco's Shake Up.
SAN FRANCISCO, March 26.—The earthquake produced no serious results beyond what has already been reported.

National Guard Association.
CINCINNATI, O., March 26.—The National Guard association began its session to-day with a small number of delegates present.

The River at Kansas City.
KANSAS CITY, March 26.—The river at 9.8. It has twenty-one feet and stationary. A heavy additional rise would be necessary to cause serious damage.

LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT.

The Wooing of the Arizonian.
Chicago Inter-Ocean, March 21.
A tall man, with a full beard the color of old gold, and a wide-brimmed hat such as is invariably associated with the denim of the wild west, and wearing a suit of ready-made clothes with the shelf marks of an Omaha store plainly visible, got off the train as it reached the Northwestern depot, and had his gripcase checked for safe-keeping in the waiting room.

"I'm going to take in the town, pardner," he confided to the man behind the counter, "and the grip might be onhandy, like."

"Say, mister," said he of the checks, "mebbe you'd better leave that thar gun," pointing to a 44-caliber revolver, the down-pointing muzzle of which hung some inches below the tail of his short sack coat. "The police might take you in, and then you'd be fined \$50, besides confisckatin' the shooter."

"P'raps you're right, pardner," said the Westerner, after a moment's consideration. "I never been in a big town before, and ain't exactly fly on the ways of people. You're sure I won't need it?"

"No, you won't need it," said the checkerman, "leastways if you don't drink too much."

"I never drink," said the new comer, unstrapping the formidable weapon and handing it over.

Then he stepped out of the depot and walked east on Kinzie street, looking curiously at the buildings and the peculiar merchandises of that thoroughfare, and making up his mind that the trade in hides monopolized the energies of Chicago people. When he reached the corner of Clark street he glanced up and down admiringly at the crowded street, thronged with wagons, street cars, and people. Setting his hat firmly on his head the stranger stopped a hurrying man and asked:

"Say, stranger?"

"Well, sir," said the other, stopping impatiently.

"Say, can you tell me where the business part of town is? I'm a stranger—"

"But the man had gone before the sentence had concluded.

"Pears like they didn't tumble to innocent jokes," he said to himself. Then he looked across the street and saw the signs of the Chicago museum. "A show, hey? Well, I'll take that in sure." He bought a ticket and passed in, and was soon contemplating the pretty girls in the costumes of all nations. Round and round he walked, and all the time his wonder grew. He glanced furtively and bashfully at the beauties in their gorgeous and becoming costumes. "Wonder if they can talk United States?" he thought. Finally he found a post against which he could stand, and, thus braced, he ratched his hat brim up out of the way and stared long and earnestly at the eye of the young ladies, who seemed to take his eye. The girl was fully conscious of this admiring look, but a well-behaved girl took no notice of it until after the space of some minutes, when the steady gaze brought the color to her cheek and a half smile to her face, which she attempted to hide by quickly turning about. This was not lost to the keen eye of the western man, and several times he moved forward as if to speak to the girl, but each time he shrank back bashfully and resumed his first position. The girl became somewhat nervous. She attempted to dust off the front of her booth with a feather brush, but it flew from her fingers upon the floor. The Western man sprang quickly forward, and handed it to her with untutored grace.

"Thank you, sir," she said, with a smile and a blush.

"Oh, can you talk American?" he asked.

"Yes, sir," she replied. "Why not?"

"Oh, I durno; you wearing a furrin rig, you know."

"Yes, I am American," she said.

"It's a mighty purty rig, anyhow," he said.

"Do you think so?"

"Yes. Do you stay here all the time?"

"No; I live at home. I'm only here for a couple of weeks."

"I'm a stranger in town," said he.

"Indeed."

"Yes; I live in Arizony."

"Is that far away?"

"Yes; it's lonesome for me out there, sometimes."

"Why don't you live in a city?"

"'Cause I've got a ranch and a lot of cattle."

She looked at him with sudden respect, for she had heard of the western cattle kings.

"I was going out to see a gal," he said after a pause. "But I don't think I'll go now."

"Why not?"

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