

## Statement of the cases.

force, was not applicable to fraudulent importers. He stated that he expressed no opinion as to the instructions imputing knowledge of the guilty partner to the others.

Mr. Justice BRADLEY concurred generally; dissenting from the opinion of the court, on all the points taken in it.

## TWENTY PER CENT. CASES.

Under the joint resolution of February 28th, 1867, increasing by 20 per cent. the pay of employés in the Department of the Interior, &c., and in the office of the Capitol and Treasury Extension and Commissioner of Public Buildings, neither a commission nor a warrant of appointment is necessary to entitle an employé to the benefit of the provision under consideration, provided he was actually and properly employed in the office of the Capitol or Treasury Extension, or in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, if it appears that he is one of the persons or class of persons described in the joint resolution. Persons so employed are properly in the service if they were employed by the head of the department, or of the bureau, or any division of the department charged with that duty and authorized to make such contracts and fix the compensation of the person employed, even though the particular employment may not be designated in any appropriation act.

APPEAL from the Court of Claims; the case being this: A joint resolution of Congress of February 28th,\* provided:

“That there shall be allowed and paid to the following described persons [whose salaries do not exceed \$3500] now employed in the civil service of the United States, at Washington, as follows: To civil officers and temporary and all other clerks, messengers, and watchmen, including enlisted men detailed as such, to be computed upon the gross amount of the compensation received by them, and employés male and female, in the Executive Mansion, and in any of the following-named departments, or any bureau or division thereof, to wit: State, Treasury,

\* 14 Stat. at Large, 569.

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War, Navy, *Interior*, Post Office, Attorney-General's, Agricultural, and including civil officers and temporary, and all other clerks and *employés*, male and female, *in the offices of the Coast Survey, Naval Observatory, Navy Yard, Arsenal, Paymaster-General, including the division of referred claims, Commissary-General of Prisoners, Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands, Quartermaster's, Capitol and Treasury Extension, City Post Office, and Commissioner of Public Buildings*; to the photographer of the Treasury Department, to the superintendent of meters, and to lamplighters under the Commissioner of Public Buildings, an additional compensation of 20 per centum on their respective salaries as fixed by law, or, where no salary is fixed by law, upon their pay, respectively, for one year from and after the 30th day of June, 1866."

## I. FITZPATRICK'S AND SEVEN OTHER CASES.

This joint resolution being in force, several persons, named respectively Fitzpatrick, Hall, Bohn, Lytle, Holbrook, La Rieu, Richards, and Newman, and whose salaries were all less than \$3500, filed their petitions; each setting forth facts, which, if true, brought him within the act, and each claiming the 20 per cent. additional. By the finding of the Court of Claims it appeared that Fitzpatrick was an *employé* in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, as keeper of the western gate of the Capitol; that Hall was an *employé* in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, in that part of the Capitol called the crypt; that Bohn was an *employé* in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, as a laborer on the public grounds; that Lytle was an *employé* in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, as watchman in the east grounds of the Capitol; that Holbrook was an *employé* in the office of the Commissioner of Public Buildings, as watchman at the stables; that La Rieu was an *employé* in the same office, as watchman in the Smithsonian grounds; that Richards was an *employé* in the same office, as watchman on the Capitol dome; and Newman was an *employé* in the same office, as captain of the Capitol police.

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## II. MILLER'S CASE.

About the same time one Miller filed a petition in the Court of Claims, alleging that he had been as clerk and *employé* in the office of the Capitol Extension, assigned to duty as foreman of construction, receiving a salary of \$1800; that he was in the civil service of the United States at Washington, and that he was thus entitled to an addition of 20 per cent. on his salary, under the joint resolution above quoted, and asking judgment against the United States therefor. The United States opposed the demand.

The court found as fact :

1. That the claimant was appointed foreman of carpenters by the Secretary of the Interior Department, March 1st, 1866, at a salary of \$1800 per annum, and was in the service of the United States, *in connection with the Capitol Extension*, at Washington, D. C., continuously from June 30th, 1866, to June 30th, 1867, inclusive, at the said salary.

2. That he was paid monthly, as in the case of other salaried officers; that he received materials for the work upon the Capitol building; made up daily reports; had charge of workmen, and performed such duties as were assigned him by the architect of the Capitol Extension, and was paid out of the said fund as the architect of the Capitol Extension, clerks, and others connected with said work, *viz.*, the appropriation for the Capitol Extension.

No other facts than those above mentioned were found by the court. The counsel of the United States, however, after adverting to the fact that the findings contradicted an averment of the petitioner of a matter within his own knowledge, they finding that he was appointed *foreman of carpenters* March 1st, 1866, at a salary of \$1800 per annum, and the counsel stating—by way of reconciling the discrepancy—that prior to March 1st, 1866, the claimant was employed in the same capacity as thereafterwards, but at a compensation of only \$5 per day of actual employment, that is, exclusive of Sundays, or about \$1500 per annum; and that the Secretary of the Interior, on March 1st, 1866, wrote the following letter:

## Argument for the United States.

“DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

“WASHINGTON, D. C., March 2d, 1866.

“SIR: You are hereby authorized, from and after the 1st of the present month, to pay George Miller, timekeeper, &c., on the Capitol Extension, at the rate of \$150 per month, for the time actually employed, until further orders.

“I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

“JAMES HARLAN,

“Secretary.”

“DR. W. M. S. MARSH,

Disbursing Agent, Capitol Extension.”

### III. MANNING'S CASE.

Near about the same time one Manning filed a petition with a purpose similar to that with which the others filed theirs. The court found that the claimant was employed as watchman or guard at the jail in Washington, for one year, at a salary of \$1200 per year, paid to him monthly by the disbursing officer of the Department of the Interior. His pay was fixed at this rate by the Secretary of the Interior, under acts of Congress which place the jail under the supervision of the Department of the Interior.

The Court of Claims gave a decree for the claimants in all of the cases, and the United States appealed in all.

*Mr. C. H. Hill, Assistant Attorney-General, for the United States, (Messrs. L. P. Poland and N. P. Chipman, contra,) argued:*

#### I. IN REGARD TO FITZPATRICK AND THE SEVEN OTHER CLAIMANTS,

That none of these claimants were “employed in the civil service at Washington,” which it was indispensable that any one claiming under the joint resolution should be. No officer, clerk, messenger, watchman, enlisted man, or employé being entitled unless within that special class; a class which not only excluded the military and naval branches, but which, in reference to the civil branch, comprises only those persons who fill some office or hold some appointment established by law.

That the findings of the Court of Claims that the persons were “employés,” were not findings of fact, but findings of

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law, and therefore not findings proper for the court to have made as the basis of its conclusions; that being findings of law they were re-examinable in this court; that thus re-examined it was plain that the word *employés* being found in the phrase, "all other *clerks* and *employés*," was to be regarded as meaning *employés* whose duties were clerical; moreover that the "employés" meant to be favored were "employés" *in the office of* the Commissioner of Public Buildings, &c.; that is to say, *employés* having appointments as officers in the edifice appropriated to the commissioner, &c.

**II. IN REGARD TO MILLER,**

That the claimant was not in the civil service, nor even an appointee of the Secretary of the Interior; that the letter of March 2d, 1866, was not an appointment but a mere order for an increase of pay; that the letter showed that the claimant was in the service of the United States, "in connection with the Capitol Extension," and not an "employé in the Capitol Extension." Of course he was not an employé in any other of the departments.

**III. IN REGARD TO MANNING,**

That he did not show that he was an employé in any one of the departments, or in any bureau or division thereof, or in any office named in the resolution; his appointment was not authorized by statute, nor is his compensation prescribed by an appropriation act; that neither his employment nor his compensation being known to any act of Congress, he was not to be regarded as an employé in the civil service at Washington.

Mr. Justice CLIFFORD delivered the opinion of the court in all the cases, giving it as follows:

**I. IN FITZPATRICK'S AND THE SEVEN OTHER CASES.**

Twenty per cent. additional pay is allowed by the joint resolution of the twenty-eighth of February, 1867, to certain persons or classes of persons therein described, who are employed in the civil service of the United States in this

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city, whose salaries, as fixed by law, do not exceed three thousand five hundred dollars per annum, to be paid out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.\*

Objection is made in several of the pending cases arising under that resolution that the claimant does not show himself to be an employé in the civil service of the United States, which, it is said is the primary condition and the one required to be shown in every case before the party can lawfully claim the prescribed additional compensation, and the attempt is made by the appellants to restrict the meaning of the term civil service so as to exclude all persons from the benefits of the provision except such as have been appointed to office or hold appointments of some kind in that service. They contend that the words "in the civil service" were not employed merely to contradistinguish the service described from that of the military or naval service of the United States, but also to show that the persons entitled to the benefits of the enactment must be persons filling offices or holding appointments established by law.

Beyond doubt those words were intended to contradistinguish the service described from that of the military or naval service, but the court is unable to concur in the proposition that they were also intended to restrict the operation of the resolution to persons in office in the civil service, or to persons holding appointments in that service as salaried officers.

Certain described persons and classes of persons are plainly entitled to the benefit of the provision, whether regarded as officers or as mere employés, and it is no valid argument against that proposition to show that there are or may be other employés or persons in the civil service here who are not within that description, as the terms of the enactment are special and do not extend to every employment in that service, but only to the described persons and classes of persons therein mentioned.

Civil officers whose salaries, as fixed by law, do not exceed

\* 14 Stat. at Large, 569.

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three thousand five hundred dollars per annum are clearly within the terms of the resolution, and so are temporary and other clerks, messengers, and watchmen, including enlisted men detailed as such, and employés, male and female, in the executive mansion, and in the state, treasury, war, navy, interior, and post office departments, and the department of justice, or in any bureau or division of such a department, including the agricultural bureau, and all civil officers, whether permanent or temporary, in the offices of the coast survey, naval observatory, navy yard, arsenal, paymaster-general, commissary-general of prisoners, bureau of refugees, freedmen, and abandoned lands, office of quartermaster, capitol, and treasury extension, city post office, and commissioner of public buildings, and the other officers and employés described in the same resolution.

By the finding of the Court of Claims it appears that Fitzpatrick was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, as keeper of the western gate of the Capitol; that Hall was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, in that part of the Capitol called the crypt; that Bohn was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, as a laborer on the public grounds; that Lytle was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, as watchman in the east grounds of the Capitol; that Holbrook was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, as watchman at the stables; that Richards was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, as watchman on the Capitol dome; and that Newman was an employé in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, as captain of the Capitol police. Employés in the office of the commissioner of public buildings being within the very words of the joint resolution, the Court of Claims in each of these cases rendered judgment for the claimant, and the United States appealed to this court.

Most of the defences to the several claims have already been considered in the remarks preceding the statement of the case, but there are also certain special objections which

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deserve some consideration, as, for example, it is insisted that the question whether the claimant was or was not an employé in the office of the commissioner is a question of law and not a question of fact, and that being a question of law it may be re-examined in this court.

Whether the claimant was or was not employed by the commissioner of public buildings is certainly a question of fact, but the question as to what relation he sustained to that office may perhaps be a question of law, as assumed by the United States. What they contend is that the words of the act "in the office of" have respect to another class of employés, that those words refer to the clerks and messenger and the like, but the court is of a different opinion, as clerks and messenger are specially mentioned in the same enactment, which shows that the words "employés in the office of" were intended to embrace a class of persons other and different from the persons having appointments as officers in the building assigned to the commissioner. Such an interpretation would be too restricted to comport with the general scope and object of the resolution, or with any of the canons of construction usually applied in ascertaining the meaning of a remedial law.

Offices may be and usually are divided into two classes—civil and military. Civil offices are also usually divided into three classes—political, judicial, and ministerial. Political offices are such as are not immediately connected with the administration of justice, or with the execution of the mandates of a superior, as the President or head of a department. Judicial offices are those which relate to the administration of justice, and which must be exercised by the persons appointed for that purpose and not by deputies. Ministerial offices are those which give the officer no power to judge of the matter to be done, and which require him to obey some superior, many of which are merely employments requiring neither a commission nor a warrant of appointment, as temporary clerks or messengers.\*

\* Mallory's Case, 3 Nott & Huntington, 257; Kirby's Case, Ib. 265.

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Neither a commission nor a warrant of appointment is necessary to entitle an employé to the benefit of the provision under consideration, provided he was actually and properly employed in the executive mansion, or in any of the departments, or in any bureau or division thereof, or in the office of the Capitol or Treasury Extension, or in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, or in any other of the offices therein mentioned, if it appears that he is one of the persons or class of persons described in the joint resolution. Persons so employed are properly in the service if they were employed by the head of the department or of the bureau or any division of the department charged with that duty and authorized to make such contracts and fix the compensation of the person employed, even though the particular employment may not be designated in an appropriation act.

Many persons not employed as clerks or messengers of a department, are in the public service by virtue of an employment by the head of the department or by the head of some bureau of the department authorized by law to make such contracts, and such persons are as much in the civil service within the meaning of the joint resolution as the clerks and messengers employed in the rooms of the department building.\*

Tested by these rules it is clear that each of the eight claimants whose cases are under consideration were employés in the office of the commissioner of public buildings, and that the judgment of the Court of Claims in each case was correct.

JUDGMENT IN EACH CASE AFFIRMED.

## II. IN MILLER'S CASE.

Judgment for the claimant was rendered in this case by the Court of Claims under the joint resolution of Congress

\* *United States v. Belew*, 2 Brockenbrough, 280; *Graham v. United States*, 1 Nott & Huntington, 380; *Commonwealth v. Sutherland*, 3 Sergeant & Rawle, 149.

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giving additional compensation to certain employés of the government in the civil service in this city. Preceding the entry of the judgment is a finding of the facts, which is also agreed to by the counsel of the parties, as follows: (1.) That the claimant was appointed foreman of carpenters by the Secretary of the Interior, at a salary of eighteen hundred dollars, and that he was in the service of the United States, in connection with the Capitol Extension, continuously for one year at that salary. (2.) That he was paid monthly, as in the case of other salaried officers; that he received materials for the work upon the Capitol building, made up daily reports, had the charge of workmen, and performed such duties as were assigned him by the architect of the Capitol Extension, and that he was paid out of the same appropriation as the architect, clerks, and others connected with that work.

Several defences were set up by the appellants, as follows: (1.) That he is not an appointee of the Secretary of the Interior, and that he was not an employé in the civil service. (2.) That he does not show himself to have been an employé in the office of the Capitol Extension. (3.) That he was not an employé in any of the departments specified in the joint resolution.

Support to first proposition is supposed to be derived from the fact alleged in argument, which is not found by the court, that the claimant was employed in the first place at a compensation of five dollars per day, exclusive of Sundays, and from the copy of a letter not introduced in evidence, addressed by the Secretary of the Interior to the disbursing agent of the Capitol Extension, in which he gives authority to that agent to pay the claimant from that date as time-keeper, &c., on the Capitol Extension, at the rate of one hundred and fifty dollars per month for the time he actually worked until further orders.

Two remarks will afford a sufficient reply to those suggestions: (1.) That such evidence cannot be received in this court to contradict the finding of the Court of Claims. (2.) Suppose it could, it would constitute no defence to the claim,

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as it only shows a mistake in the appellation given by the government to the employment. Enough appears in the letter to show that he was employed by authority of the Secretary of the Interior, and that his compensation was fixed as alleged, by the head of that department. Grant that the letter does not amount to a warrant of appointment, still if it be admitted as evidence it clearly shows that he was employed by the authority of the secretary, which, instead of contradicting, actually fortifies the finding of the court.

Sufficient has already been remarked in disposing of the first defence set up by the appellants, to show that the second cannot be sustained, as the claimant does show that he was employed in the public service on the Capitol Extension. Employed as he was by the authority of the Secretary of the Interior, it is clear that he was an employé in the civil service in that department, as neither a commission nor a warrant of appointment is required to evidence such an employment.

Argument to show that the work designated by the words "Capitol Extension" was under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior is unnecessary, as the act of Congress of the sixteenth of April, 1862, provides that the supervision of the Capitol Extension and the erection of the new dome be and the same is hereby transferred from the War Department to the Department of the Interior.

None of the errors assigned can be sustained, and they are accordingly overruled.

JUDGMENT AFFIRMED.

### III. IN MANNING'S CASE.

Persons to act as watchmen or guards at the jails in this District are usually selected by the warden of the jail, subject to the approval of the head of the department, but their number and the amount of their compensation are fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, as they are paid out of the judiciary fund, over which he exercises control.

By the act of the twenty-seventh of February, 1801, the

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custody of the jails was intrusted to the marshal of the District, and he was made accountable for the safe keeping of the prisoners.\*

Congress, however, on the twenty-ninth of February, 1864, created the office of warden of the jail, and enacted that he should have all the power and should discharge all the duties previously exercised and discharged over the jail and the prisoners by the marshal.†

Supervisory power over the accounts of marshals is given by the act of Congress upon the subject to the Secretary of the Interior, and the express provision is that the warden shall annually, in the month of November, make a detailed report to the Secretary of the Interior.‡

Judgment was rendered for the claimant, and the court below made the following finding of facts: (1.) That the claimant was employed as watchman or guard at the jail in this city for one year, at a salary of twelve hundred dollars per year, paid to him monthly by the disbursing officer of the Department of the Interior, and it is conceded by the appellants that the pay of such employés was fixed at that rate by the secretary of that department. (2.) That he made application to the first comptroller of the treasury for the additional compensation, which is the subject of controversy, and that his application was refused.

1. Objection is made in this case, as in those previously decided, that the claimant does not show that he was an employé in any one of the departments, or in any bureau or division thereof, or in any office named in the joint resolution. His appointment, it is said, is not authorized by statute, nor is his compensation prescribed by any appropriation act; and the argument is, that inasmuch as neither his employment nor his compensation is directly known to any act of Congress, he cannot be regarded as an employé in the civil service of the United States; but the court is entirely of a different opinion, as the office of warden is an

\* 2 Stat. at Large, 106.

† 13 Id. 12.

‡ 13 Id. 12; 9 Id. 395.

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office created by law, and the appointee of the office is required to report to the Secretary of the Interior.

Guards at the jail are selected by the warden, but their compensation is fixed by the Secretary of the Interior, and they are paid by him, and it makes no difference whether the pay is charged to the appropriation for the department or to the judiciary fund, as the fact remains that the whole subject is under the supervision of the head of that department; whether their pay is charged to the one fund or to the other, the charge for their services must be approved by the warden, and must be included in his report to the Secretary of the Interior, where the same is subject to a further revision. Evidently they are employés in a bureau or division of the Interior Department, as their compensation is fixed by the head of that department, and the officer by whom they are employed is required annually to make a detailed report to that department of all his official acts.

Persons employed in a bureau or division of a department are as much employés in the department, within the meaning of the joint resolution, as the messengers and others rendering service under the immediate supervision of the secretary, or those specially named in the provision as entitled to its benefits. Unquestionably guards of the jail are employés of the warden, and the office of warden of the jail is a bureau or division of the Department of the Interior.

Viewed in that light, as the case must be, it is clear that the claim is well founded, and we are all of the opinion that the judgment should be

**AFFIRMED.**