

In answer to my friend from Jefferson I would say to my certain knowledge and to the knowledge of my friend, Governor Oates, effort was made in the Congress of the United States to pension the family of Chief Justice Waite and it failed overwhelmingly. Is not that so?

MR. OATES—It is.

MR. COBB—And every effort that has been made in that body to begin the organization of a civil pension list has failed, and mainly for the reason that when you begin this civil pension list there is no end to it, there is no stoppage. You cannot say “thus far and no further,” because the argument will come and it will be overwhelming, that if the family of this civil officer is pensioned, the family of that civil officer should be pensioned, and strong reasons will be urged. Therefore I repeat the Government of the United States has hitherto steered clear of the establishment of a civil pension list.

Now as to the necessity, I want to ask my friends here who are so earnest upon these propositions, to tell me whether or not the sheriffs of the State of Alabama have hitherto failed to do their duty?

MR. JONES (Montgomery)—Are you asking me?

MR. COBB—Yes, you.

MR. JONES (Montgomery)—Yes, in several instances. There was a case in Elmore County where the military were run around for four or five miles to keep them away from the mob. There have been lots of cases where the sheriffs have failed to do their duty, not through cowardice, but because they felt it was morally wrong to defend some worthless prisoner.

MR. PARKER (Elmore) — I want to ask the gentleman from Montgomery a question.

THE PRESIDENT—The gentleman from Macon has the floor.

MR. PARKER (Elmore)—I will ask the delegate from Macon the question and the gentleman from Montgomery can answer it.

THE PRESIDENT—Does the gentleman from Macon yield to the question?

MR. COBB—Oh, yes.

MR. PARKER (Elmore)—Was it not the fault of the military, and were they not led around purposely by the Sheriff and didn't they fail to do their duty on that occasion?

MR. JONES (Montgomery)—I don't understand how.