

The Committee on Finance to whom were referred the annual report of the Comptroller of the Treasury, and so much of the Governor's Message as refers to the finances of the State, report: That they deem it unnecessary to go into a detailed statement which shall exhibit a minute account of the various items which constitute the aggregate revenue of the State and its disbursements, but will confine themselves to such consideration of the general features of the financial system of the State, and the condition of the Treasury, as shall furnish information on which they propose resting their suggestions for your action.

The statistics and tabular statements of the Comptroller have relieved the labors of the Committee in the matter of detail, and full information on this subject may be derived from his annual report, which, under an order of your Honorable Body, has been printed and laid upon the desks of its members.

Past legislation has not been wanting in a spirit of rigid determination to collect the revenues of the State, and from time to time has made it the duty of the Comptroller, on short notice, to institute suits for this purpose, and yet, large amounts of arrearages are found standing on the books of the Treasury in almost every department, from which the revenues of the State are drawn. Without saying that another system of collecting the revenues can be devised, which shall be more effective, or that there is anything radically wrong in the present, it is evident that some stronger incentive must be provided to secure the collection of the large arrearages due since since eighteen hundred and forty-five, and some portion long anterior to that period, or in a few years all trace of many of the debtors of the Treasury will have passed away, and the State be left without remedy for the recovery of large sums, which, if now in her coffers, would go far to relieve this Legislature from the necessity of provision to meet her immediate wants.

The total receipts into the Treasury during the fiscal year ending on the 30th of September, 1867, were \$2,362,876.88, which, added to the balance in hand on the 30th day of September, 1866, made the aggregate for the year \$2,730,693.24. The disbursements during this period amounted to \$2,573,855.24, leaving a balance in the Treasury of \$156,838. The approximate receipts into the Treasury during the fiscal year which ends on the 30th September, 1868, will be \$1,822,000, while the probable disbursements will exceed this amount by \$151,000, and discover a deficit to this extent.

To meet this deficit the very large amount of arrearages, due from collectors, sheriffs, clerks and registers, might be regarded as more than ample, but experience has taught