

is in effect a consumption of the capital invested, and for that reason the State should receive some revenue from such business as it progresses, especially as the people of the State have been taxed for so many years to give value to the investments in coal lands and property, by furnishing an outlet to market for the coal through the medium of the vast works, for which so large a portion of the public debt was contracted.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

By the 2nd Section of the Act of 1872, chapter 282, provision is made for the payment of five hundred dollars annually, to any Agricultural Society organized or to be organized in any county, the members whereof shall contribute voluntarily an equal sum, for the purpose of being disbursed for the promotion of agricultural knowledge and improvements; provided that but one such society in any county shall be entitled to receive such appropriation in any one year under said Act. In the event of two or more Agricultural Societies being organized in any county, and contending for this appropriation, the law points out no tribunal to decide which one of the said societies shall receive the appropriation, and prescribes no rule by which it may be determined, which of said societies shall be entitled to receive the same. In the absence of any rule by which to determine, under such circumstances, which of said societies shall be entitled to the appropriation, the county might be deprived of the appropriation altogether. It is therefore submitted, that if such appropriations are to be continued, some rule should be prescribed in the Act, by which it may be ascertained, which of two or more societies existing in any county, shall be entitled to have the benefit of said appropriation.

PUBLICATION OF DEFAULTERS.

By the 6th Section of Article 69, of the Code of Public General Laws, the Comptroller is required to "furnish each officer of the State, whose accounts are in arrears, at least sixty days prior to a general election, a full statement of his accounts, and in default of his accounting for such deficiencies within thirty days, then it shall be the duty of the Comptroller to have published weekly, for one month, in one or more newspapers in the several counties of this State and the City of Baltimore, the names and titles of said officers, with the amounts of such deficiencies."

A large number of accounts are standing open on the books of the office, where the claims have been in the hands of the State's Attornies for a number of years, and in many instances where the impossibility