

year; and from the State Hay Scales \$1,759.60, and \$467.12 more than the previous year.

The receipts from license and tax upon premiums, paid by foreign insurance companies during the year, amounted to \$43,355.14, being an increase of \$11,235.17 over the receipts from like sources the previous year.

The payment of bounties for enlistments from this State in the federal army during the late civil war, commenced in the year 1864, before the "grim visaged" had "smoothed his wrinkled front," and has continued ever since, and I apprehend will ever continue, unless the laws authorizing and directing the payment of these bounties are repealed. I refer to "Statement M," page 21, of this report, for full details of the cost to the State of this bounty. The Treasury has paid during the last year for bounties \$10,100.00, and for clerical service \$1,500.00. No claim has been paid without the closest scrutiny of the proofs presented through authorized channels. Since the close of the last fiscal year, even a greater amount has been disbursed on this account. Certainly by this time all parties entitled have had sufficient opportunity to establish and receive their bounties, and yet many claims, seeking payment under the law, are unsatisfied. I respectfully, but earnestly, request that an end be put to these stale demands, and that the bounty laws be repealed, and the further payment of bounties be prohibited by this Legislature.

Statement "H" is an exhibit of the receipts and disbursements on account of the "oyster fund" during the year, and of the balance due that fund of former years. It shows that the fines collected did not pay the cost of suits in cases when the parties were acquitted by \$68.13, and that the expenses of the "oyster navy" exceeded the revenues from dredging licenses and oyster measurers by \$12,342 51.

The oyster rocks and shoals of the Chesapeake bay and its tributaries are the imbedded wealth of the State of Maryland. Go where you will, in cities, villages and towns, and you will find hotels, restaurants and oyster saloons supplied with luxuries from this source, which are being enjoyed and "pro-