

it for me, that my predecessor left me a good balance to begin with amounting to the sum of \$412,306.25, after deducting the money in the treasury for the redemption of the old defence loan.

There was another circumstance which aided me considerably at this time; the receipts of the treasury during my first year in office were far above what had been the average receipts for some preceding years. This was occasioned in a great measure by the collection of arrearages due from collectors and other receivers of public moneys, so that by the end of my first year, I was able to report a marked improvement in the treasury receipts, and to speak with confidence of my ability to not only fulfil the promise which I had made in relation to the sinking funds of the State, but also *to restore and maintain the sinking fund of every existing loan, to reduce the State debt at the rate of three hundred thousand dollars a year, and to enable the Legislature in the near future to reduce the rate of State taxes.*

How these promises have been kept, let the record of the three years which have passed since then, bear testimony.

#### THE RECORD.

The record has already been written, and is contained within the compass of this and the three preceding reports, a brief summary will not I hope be out of place, to show the leading features of the work which has been performed. It may be thus determined, whether I have followed the path which I marked out or not. Let us begin with the sinking funds and see how they have been kept.

During the four fiscal years just passed there was