

interest on the State debt and provide for the payment of the debt at maturity could be dispensed with.

ASSESSMENT AND LEVY OF 1901.

The assessed value of property for State purposes, as shown in Statement "K," aggregates, \$643,812,408, or an increase of \$27,092,626. While the State tax is $\frac{3}{4}$ of one cent less for the year 1901, yet by reason of the increased basis, the tax at 17 cents on such basis, if realized, would produce within \$196.52 of what it did last year.

PUBLIC SCHOOL TAX.

Statement "L," shows the receipts and disbursements on account of this tax during the fiscal year now closed. The receipts during the year were \$727,314.41, which, added to the balance on hand September 30, 1900, aggregate \$1,077,270.48. There was disbursed during the year among the several counties and Baltimore City, the sum of \$720,455.85, leaving as a balance on hand, October 1, 1901, the sum of \$356,814.63, as against \$349,956.07 for the same period last year.

In the apportionment of this tax during the year, I have found the rule I established of distributing more equally among the counties and Baltimore City the quarterly installments thereof, has worked most admirably. The distribution heretofore made on the 15th day of June (close of the scholastic year), always exceeded very largely the other distributions, but by distributing an extra sum of \$25,000, on the first days of October and January and the 15th day of March, the several counties and Baltimore City have gotten the benefit of these amounts at once.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

Statement "M" exhibits clearly the condition of the Free School Book Fund at the close of the fiscal year. The receipts were \$138,455.08, while the disbursements during the same period aggregated \$153,532.74. The summary in said statement shows a deficit of \$164,314.67 since the levying of this tax in 1896, thus demonstrating that the 2 cents levied on each \$100 has never been