

Dec. 26, 1917.

Hon. Albert C. Ritchie,
Attorney General,
Baltimore, Md.

My Dear General:—

This office is respectfully calling your attention to some economies which we believe can be effected by amending certain laws providing for various publications, and other matters herein mentioned, kindly asking your co-operation in the preparation of such bills, in order that the same may be presented to the General Assembly of 1918.

I would suggest an amendment to Section 1 of Article 78-A, title "Public Works, Board of," of the Annotated Code of Maryland, wherein it provides that the Board of Public Works shall advertise in three daily newspapers published in Baltimore city in each and every year, etc., the amendment to be "Provided that if, in the judgment of the Board of Public Works, the sum to be expended shall be for a less sum than \$500.00, then in that case, the Board of Public Works shall not be required to place such advertisement." The reason for this is that the cost of the advertisement for a small amount of work adds very materially to the expense incurred.

I am further calling your attention to the enactment of a law providing that all collectors of State taxes, or other revenues, in the State of Maryland who are now required to furnish bond, shall furnish such bond by a bonding company, duly authorized and empowered to do business in this State, as the experience of this office has shown that where bonds are supplied by bonding companies, settlements of any delinquencies can readily be made without any loss to the State.

There are times when the general funds of the State Treasury should be augmented from every possible source. They are what are called the lean periods of the year, and in order to make this effective, I would suggest that the provision in Section 178, Tenth of Article 23, title "Corporations," sub-title "Insurance Department," of the Annotated Code of Maryland, wherein it provides that the Insurance Commissioner shall "on the first day of December, annually report to the Comptroller the fees received, and the expense of his Department for the year then to end, and pay into the Treasury all excess of receipts over disbursements" be so amended as to read "shall on the 31st day of December, the 31st day of March, the 30th day of June, and the