

posing many new and vital measures of revenue, some of which still remain upon the statute books of the State yielding substantial aids to our Treasury, and incidentally recording the courage and ability of the chieftian who led the fight for honesty and for the payment of the State's obligation, and, who more than any other man, contributed to the success of the great and almost hopeless undertaking of paying the enormous and ever-increasing debt that burdened the people of Maryland in his momentous day.

Amongst the revenue measures of Governor Pratt's administration, were the marriage license tax, the tax upon collateral inheritance, the tax upon clerks and registers for their commissions, the improvements of corporation revenue laws, a tax on the commissions of Executors, Administrators and Trustees, and a stamp tax.

The last act was compared by the opponents of the administration with, and called, a British Stamp Act. The Governor settled this objection by replying that Maryland's Stamp Act differed in this important particular with the British Stamp Act—that the latter was put on Americans by Britons, but that the Maryland Stamp Act was enacted by Marylanders for Marylanders.

The effect upon the finances of the State by the measures of the new administration was wonderful. The very next Legislature, 1845, was informed by the Governor that the annual revenues, for the first time, for many years had been more than the annual disbursements, and that the interest on the public debt, then amounting yearly to six hundred and fifty thousand dollars, had been paid, and a very large sum of the interest in arrears, then nearly a million and a-half dollars had been settled.

The good work so happily begun continued throughout his administration, and the auspicious financial career of this grand commonwealth continues to this day for the iron that he put into its soul still yet strengthens the courage, faith and integrity of all Marylanders.