

Ordered, That the clerks of the several county courts of this State, and Howard District, and the registers of wills, respectively report to this House on oath, on or before the 3rd day of February next, the time of their appointment, the number of years that each has been in office, the amount of their receipts of fees and perquisites in each year as near as they can ascertain the same, and the amounts annually paid for clerk hire, &c.

The Statements herewith made under the above order, are not as complete or satisfactory as could be desired. This is particularly the case in regard to the returns of the Registers of Wills. No law being in existence requiring these returns, and the whole amount of fees being the property of the incumbent, no account seems to have been kept of the receipts, or even of the expenditures of either the clerks or registers, except in a few cases. The result of the enquiry ensuing upon the order of the House can only, therefore, be taken as approximate. Should the bill which provides for the regulation of the compensation of the clerks and registers, become a law at the present session, the returns therein ordered to be made, will enable a subsequent Legislature to judge more correctly of the amount of receipts of the offices referred to.