

R E P O R T .

The Committee on Ways and Means have carefully considered the subject of the finances of the State, and submit the following report :

The universal desire that something effectual should be done during the present session of the legislature, to restore the public credit, is sincerely participated in by the committee, and they have accordingly devoted themselves with unceasing anxiety to devise and present such measures to the General Assembly, as seemed to them best calculated to accomplish that desirable result.

One of the great difficulties encountered by the committee this year, as was the case the year preceding, results from the refusal of some of the counties, to pay their proportion of the taxes ; and although the legislation of last year, has to some extent, removed this difficulty, it is still a formidable obstacle, in the way of any system of measures, to place the State in a condition, to meet her engagements with punctuality.

The proceeds of the direct tax paid into the Treasury in the fiscal year, ending on the 1st of December 1843, was \$367,232.51, the amount received from the same source for the year ending the 1st of December 1844, was \$376,332.79.

Exhibiting an increase from this source of revenue, of \$9,100.28.

The total amount of receipts into the Treasury in the fiscal year 1843, were	\$680,428 77
Whilst the receipts for the year 1844, were	\$743,479 51

Showing an excess of the last year, over the preceding year, of	\$63,050 74
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The amount disbursed by the Treasury in the year 1843, for purposes other than the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt, was	\$261,069 44
Whilst the amount disbursed for similar purposes in 1844, was	240,464 99

Showing a diminution of the ordinary expenses of the State of	\$20,604 45
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It appears therefore, that whilst the receipts of the Treasury from all sources, for the year 1844, exceeded those of 1843, by	\$63,050 74
The ordinary expenses of the State have diminished,	\$20,604 45