

causes, also tend to produce uncertainty in the inspections. This is partially correct. It is admitted to be one of the necessary inconveniences of a republican government, where all official tenures are short, from the Presidency down to the humblest office. But can it be reasonably argued, that the temporary inconvenience, arising from fresh appointments, made once in four or eight years, may be at all compared to that perpetual irregularity and conflict which must ensue from the creation of rival inspectors under a license system? If the State inspection system is subject to periodical inconveniences, for the reason alleged, it can scarcely be denied that an unorganized and discordant body of licensed inspectors will not cure the evil complained of, but must, on the contrary, aggravate it.

The whole complaint in regard to the Tobacco Inspection, may be reduced to one point, viz: The want of sufficient accommodation, and the delays in the inspection of that article of merchandize, owing to the increased trade. The Legislature can surely remedy this inconvenience without at all interfering with the principle of the present system of inspections. And so it will be found in regard to all similar inconveniences complained of by other trades. It is well known, that the present inspection system was originated piece-meal, and at long intervals of time; and was extended and remodeled to meet the demands of the producers. Let that course be pursued now. If additional Inspectors be required, (which this committee is not prepared to say is the case,) let them be provided. If another Tobacco warehouse be needed the Legislature has the power to erect it. In regard to such recommendations, your committee will report at another time and in another form. The object of this report is simply to meet, in general terms, the general allegations contained in the memorial of the Board of Trade.

Before concluding this report, your committee feel it to be their duty to call your attention to the numerous and respectable petitions, protesting against any alterations in the inspection laws, or the mode of appointing inspectors, from large bodies of consumers and dealers, in the counties and the city of Baltimore. As far as any expression of public opinion has taken place, by petitions to the Legislature, it cannot be denied that it is against the prayer of the memorial.

Under these circumstances, your committee strongly recommend that the present well-matured and long standing system be preserved.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH WEATHERS, *Chairman.*