

this income, the State would have to meet, from her own Treasury, directly, a large portion of the annual interest upon the debt of these warehouses. They do not believe, also, that the intention of the law is pursued in the sale of these items, which was that public notice should be given for proposals, and sold to the highest bidder. Under present management, but few merchants are aware of the sale, and thus competition is prevented.

They further believe that the expenses attending these inspections might and ought to be materially reduced. At some of the warehouses the receipts of tobacco are much larger than at others; for instance, tobacco warehouse No. 1 inspects about 11,000 hogsheads, and No. 4 about 4500, yet No. 4 has the same number of clerks as No. 1, where there is twice as much labor to be performed. If No. 1, therefore, has enough, No. 4 must have more than is necessary. Again, we found, in looking over the accounts, that there was paid out, in the month of January 1854, in one of the warehouses, for labor, exclusive of salaries, when there was but two hogsheads inspected, and one hundred and forty-five hogsheads shipped, the sum of \$208.00; and in February of the same year, in the same warehouse, there was nine hogsheads inspected, and sixty-seven shipped, at a cost for labor, of \$269.00. The reason assigned for this, by the inspectors, is that they must keep a certain number of hands about the warehouse to meet emergencies, for fear they could not obtain such hands when they needed them. The Committee think otherwise.

Your Committee are of the opinion that by rigid economy in the various departments of these warehouses, better salaries might be given to the various clerks and laborers employed therein. As the salaries paid the clerks, and the wages paid the hands, are too low, taking into consideration the high prices of provision and living generally, and where men faithfully perform their duty, they are worthy and should have a fair compensation, the State should require a faithful performance of this duty, and then compensate them for it liberally.

Upon the subject of stayed tobacco, your Committee made diligent inquiry; they found that most of the tobacco is dried and repacked by hands employed about the warehouses, for their benefit. It is true this is not done in the time in which they are required to be engaged for the State, but it is done sometimes before and sometimes immediately after such hours. We are of the opinion that by taking upon them this additional amount of labor, their efficiency is to some extent impaired for the performance of their duty to the State, and that this drying and repacking should be done by the State, and for its benefit.