

to the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Company, whose peculiar position is such as to require the most vigilant foresight, to guard against complications, which in the event of a transfer of that work to parties not fully identified with our people, might entail lasting injury upon a most valuable portion of our State; I have reason to believe that, but for the difficulty of securing any large amount of the Bonds of the State, a proposition would have been submitted by the Baltimore and Ohio Rail Road Company before this time for the cancellation of an amount of our public securities upon terms which would have justified action on the part of the Board of Public Works in furtherance of this plan to reduce the public debt.

The collection of the State taxes in connection with the subject of the finances, especially in the City of Baltimore, requires your early attention. Heretofore these taxes have been collected by the City of Baltimore, through its officers without charge. It has become indispensably necessary now, that the State should be placed upon an independent footing in this respect, and should take the earliest opportunity to establish a Bureau of its own in the City of Baltimore, with officers, to be paid such fixed commission upon their collections as may be deemed just and reasonable. Under the present arrangement the State is subjected to a heavy expense, and the tax payers justly complain of the large commission charged upon their dues. I commend this subject to your earliest attention in justice both to the State and the tax-payer.

In closing this exhibit of the finances, I deem it but just, to bear witness to the zealous, honest and faithful discharge of the duties of this department, by the Comptroller, whose earnest devotion to the trust confided to him and the friendly aid and co-operation which I have always received at his hands, entitle him to this recognition of his services, on the eve of his retirement to private life.

A BUILDING FOR STATE PURPOSES IN BALTIMORE CITY.

The need of a suitable building in the City of Baltimore for State purposes is seriously felt. An office for the collection of State taxes must soon be provided. The Commissioner of Immigration, Board of Public Works, and Superintendent of Public Instruction, are all under rent in different parts of the city, with accommodation scarcely adequate to their wants. Whether it would not be advisable to purchase a building in some central location in which all the State officers could be properly accommodated, not subject to be interfered with by the fluctuations in rents or other contingencies, is a matter to which I would invite your attention. I am satisfied that the public interest would be facilitated by such an arrangement, without increased expense to the State.