

BY THE SENATE,
March 4, 1870.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

We propose, with the concurrence of your Honorable Body, the appointment of a Joint Special Committee of two on the part of the Senate, and three on the part of the House, to examine into the condition of the Land Office, and report what legislation, if any, may be necessary, in connection therewith.

We have appointed on the part of the Senate, Messrs. Henkle and Malone.

By order,

AUGUSTUS GASSAWAY,
Secretary.

Which was read

Mr. Hardcastle, of Talbot, Chairman of a Select Committee, submitted the following

REPORT.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES,
March 3, 1870.

Gentlemen of the House of Delegates:

The Special Committee on Retrenchment of County Expenses, appointed the 19th January, "with leave to report by bill or otherwise, for the purpose of examining into county expenditures, with the view of reducing and making the same more uniform," have the honor to submit the following report:

Some of the Boards of County Commissioners have not been as prompt as they might have been in complying with the order adopted by the House, January 20th, "to communicate to this House, as soon as practicable, copies of" certain accounts therein specified. Several of the reports made give only the aggregate amounts of the different accounts, instead of copies of the accounts in full, as called for. Whether, and in what cases, this has been inadvertently, or purposely done, your Committee will not undertake to say—the people of the different counties can best determine when the reports are printed.

From the reports that have been received, the Committee has had prepared a tabular statement, herewith submitted as a part of this report, showing in condensed form the amount under each head, also the total expenses of every county, on account of the several items specified; which, it is believed, will be a matter of general interest to tax-payers. In this statement is included a column, giving the assessed value of property in each county, which by comparison with the total expenses, ascertain the number of cents in