

Your Committee, in the interest of the travelling public, does not favor an increase of the rate of riding when relief can be afforded the Companies without entailing additional burdens upon the passenger. Nor do we understand the memorialists as demanding or preferring it, if other relief can be afforded.

The Committee, however, with State pride in the beautiful parks of Baltimore, and every desire to have them properly kept up and improved, nevertheless consider that in view of the very large amount paid in the last twelve years by the Railway Company; of its crippled financial and material condition requiring a large present outlay to repair its tracks and renew its cars; of the building and running of competing and closely parallel roads, and fully impressed with the conviction that a reduced rate of taxation upon the different Companies will guarantee an ample amount for all the requirements of the Parks, recommend that the Park Tax, which the several Passenger Railways in the city of Baltimore are required to pay, shall be reduced from one-fifth of their gross receipts to one-half cent upon each adult passenger.

Which was read and ordered to be entered on the Journal.

Mr. Blake, on the part of the Committee appointed to visit the House of Refuge and the Maryland Penitentiary, submitted the following

REPORT:

To the Honorable

The General Assembly of Maryland:

The undersigned, Joint Committee, appointed by your Honorable Body for the purpose of visiting and examining into the condition of the House of Refuge, and the Maryland Penitentiary, would respectfully report, that in the discharge of their duty, they visited first the House of Refuge, the worthy Superintendent, Mr. W. R. Lincoln, together with a number of the Board of Managers assisted your Committee in making a thorough and satisfactory examination of the Institution.

The buildings were found to be in good repair, and in a cleanly condition; the inmates had a cleanly appearance, both as regards their persons and their clothing, their general healthy appearance, ruddy cheeks, &c., gave evidence of their being well fed, and otherwise properly cared for.

A number of the larger youths are employed by contractors, subject, however, to the strict discipline and rules governing the Institution. It was surprising to see, with what cheerfulness and zeal, they applied themselves to their re-