

## REVENUE FROM CLERKS OF COURTS, &c.

*Statement No. 7* also exhibits the receipts from sales of Licenses, Taxes on Plaintiffs, on Commissions of Trustees and Receivers, Excess of Officers' Fees, &c., which are received through Clerks of Courts, Commissioner of Stamps, State's Attorney for Baltimore City, &c. The amount derived from these sources, during the fiscal year, was \$263,353.70. A comparison of these receipts with those of the previous year, shows an increase in favor of the last fiscal year, on these accounts, to the extent of \$24,142.04. This large increase is chiefly confined to the receipts from Licenses to Traders and others.

This branch of the public revenue could be greatly augmented by a thorough revision and amendment of the License Laws. They are scattered over the Statute Books in most admirable disorder, and should be condensed into a concise act, with such amendments as experience readily suggests.

Since the period, at which most of the present Licenses were authorized to be granted, many new trades and kinds of business have been established, for which no license is required by existing laws.

Many of these pursuits are very profitable, and should be made to contribute a fair proportion towards the maintenance of the State Government and the reduction of the public debt.

The preparation of such a law, reducing to a tangible form the present acts and embracing those trades, which are not now properly taxed, would require much time and labor. It is suggested, that the Legislature should employ some competent person to prepare, for their action, such a digest of the license laws, as was done in reference to the revenue laws, compiled by Messrs. Hinkley and Carter under a resolution of a former Legislature.

The present system of issuing Licenses to the Clerks of the several Courts from this Office is strongly commended. The law should, however, be so changed as to authorise the Comptroller to affix to the Licenses a stamp,