

The levy of 1868 will be made on the last assessment, and at the present rate of twenty cents on the one hundred dollars, will exceed the last levy by \$424,303.80, which will be sufficient to meet the demands upon the Treasury when the deficiency existing at this time is provided for.

For "Public Schools," ten cents will realize \$72,000 more than the present levy and be a liberal provision.

This estimate of taxes is based on the assumption that no further provision be made for "bounties," to which I would respectfully call your attention in a subsequent paragraph.

BOUNTY.

Statement "L" exhibits the amount paid on account of "Bounty," during the last fiscal year to be \$335,397.56, of which sum \$194,845.60 was paid into the Treasury from various sources, including \$79,050, returned by the County and Bounty Commissioners under Chapter 167 of 1867.

The total amount disbursed for "Bounty" from 1864 to 1867 inclusive, is shown to be \$4,196,864.25, and the receipts during this period from all sources is \$2,364,107.94, or \$1,822,756.31, in excess of receipts.

The "Bounties" paid by the State, under the Acts of 1864 and the amendments thereto, have never been properly adjusted and equalized. The volunteers and drafted men of 1861 and 1862, have never received any bounty; the former owners of enlisted slaves and the slaves themselves have only been paid two hundred dollars, when free negroes were paid by the same law, three hundred dollars, thereby declaring the free negro more valuable than the slave, which experience has not verified.

The State has gone too far in the settlement of these claims to recede. I would therefore respectfully recommend to your favorable consideration, (regarding these claims as a just demand on the generosity of the State,) the full recognition from the beginning to the close of the war, of all "volunteers," "drafted men," those who paid "commutation," those who furnished "substitutes," drafted or otherwise, and a further bounty of one hundred dollars to the "former owners of enlisted slaves."