

Under this head I would call your attention to chapter 54 of 1868, by which a deficiency of salary on the part of any clerk in Baltimore City is made up from the excess returned by others. Executing this law, the sum of \$1,849.17 was paid to the Clerk of the City Court, and \$90.45 to the Clerk of the Circuit Court for Baltimore City; total \$1,939.62. I would respectfully recommend the repeal of this law, as I cannot think the framers of the Constitution ever designed any Clerk to receive more than the fees of his office.

I would respectfully recommend a revision of the license laws of the State. I had the honor of furnishing the Chairman of the "Ways and Means" Committee, at the last session, a schedule of prices, graded from the highest to the lowest, according to capital, but no action was taken on it. As the law now stands, there is no distinction between the trader working a capital of \$40,000 and one operating with \$100,000 or more. I believe this to be wrong in principle, as the small traders pay much more in proportion. I think it just and right also, that all licenses should be transferable, and made so by law.

All the revenue laws of the State need a careful revision.— They have remained without material change or amendment for many years, and need adapting to changed circumstances. I would, therefore, earnestly recommend that the proper committee of your honorable body take the matter into consideration.

SALARIES OF CLERKS AND REGISTERS OF WILLS.

In accordance with the provisions of Section 13, Article XVIII, and Section 271 of Article XCIII, Code Public General Laws, it is the duty of the Comptroller, from time to time, to limit and fix the number and compensation of the deputies or assistants to the Clerks and Registers of Wills of the several Courts of the counties and Baltimore City.

By the provisions of Section 26, Article IV, of the Constitution, the Judges of the Courts are authorized to limit the number of deputies or assistants to the clerks of their respective courts. This creates a conflict between the provisions of the Code of Public General Laws and the Constitution, which should not exist; while the Judges, in the absence of any