

terest. A large number of similar claims have been settled during the fiscal year.

Table No. 17, shows the balances due from Clerks of Courts, Registers of Wills and certain other officers, as of the end of the fiscal year, a number of which have since been settled. A number of these old balances have been in the hands of the State's Attorneys for collection, for many years, but the securities on the bonds of the officers being insolvent, as well as the officers themselves, no results are expected from them to the Treasury. This table also shows the amount estimated to be due from the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, under their contract to pay one fifth of the gross receipts from passengers on the Washington Branch Road, amounting to \$729,154.

NATIONAL BANKS.

Table No. 18, shows the amount due on the shares of capital stock of various National Banks for the years 1872 and 1873, amounting to \$55,867.63.

The large amount of arrears due from taxes on the shares of capital stock of various National Banks from 1864 to 1871, inclusive, appears, in detail, in Table No. 19, footing up the aggregate of \$132,530.31, without interest. These two tables show the whole amount due from taxes on shares of National Banks, exclusive of interest, to be \$188,397 94. The banks named in these tables have been regularly assessed, and have paid their city and county taxes, so far as this department is informed, but the law of Maryland, directing the payment of the taxes on the shares of the capital stock of banks, by the banks themselves, instead of by the individual stockholders, has been found defective to enforce said payment by the National Banks. An Act was passed at the last Session of the General Assembly to provide for this deficiency in future, but that Act, levying the State tax at 19 cents, was rendered inoperative by the subsequent action of the Legislature in repealing the direct tax, whereby a different rate of taxation was provided for other property. This being the case, and the stockholders of the said National Banks not being assessed with the shares of stock owned by them for the different years, it has been found impossible to collect the arrears due on the shares of said banks. The law, it is true, provides for the assessment of shares of stock, as well as any other property which has been found to have been omitted in former assessments, for the various years during which said omission has occurred, but no special provisions of law being made to compel such assessment, it has not been done, and it remains for the General Assembly to provide by law for making the