

same, and enforcing the payment, by the various stockholders, of the State taxes due on their shares of stock so omitted as aforesaid. As the holders of stock in National Banks have extraordinary privileges, rendering that species of property superior to all other in point of productiveness, it is submitted, that justice to the holders of other property, paying State taxes, would require that due diligence be used to compel the payment of the State taxes due from this source. I therefore recommend the passage of a law directing the assessment to the various holders of the shares of capital stock of the several banks, named in Tables 18 and 19, for the different years for which the same may be due, and giving power to the Collectors of State taxes in the city or county, where said shares are assessable respectively, to enforce the payment of the same, by process of attachment. The other National Banks, not mentioned in Tables 18 and 19, have paid the State taxes for their several shareholders, without requiring suit to be brought against them.

Table No. 20, shows a large amount of arrears of taxes due from various State corporations, amounting to \$67,429.08. Some of these are solvent and can be collected by suit under the powers now given by law for that purpose. A number of similar claims have been collected during the fiscal year.

TAXES ON GROSS RECEIPTS OF RAILROAD COMPANIES.

Under the Act of 1872, Chapter 234, levying a tax of one-half of one per cent. on the gross receipts of all Railroad Companies in this State, only one year's taxes have as yet become due. The several Companies have made the return of their gross receipts as required by law, except the Annapolis and Elkridge Railroad Company, which has refused to do so, and suit has been ordered against the President of that Company for the penalty prescribed in the Act, for failure to make said return. A number of the Railroad Companies incorporated at a later period, have paid their taxes according to law, but others, claiming to be exempt from every species of taxation, have failed or refused to pay the taxes accrued under this Act. Not wishing to bring unnecessary suits, I have ordered suits to be brought on the accounts of taxes due from the principal Companies claiming this exemption, but have not, as yet, been able to get one of the cases brought to trial. Suits have been ordered against the Northern Central Railway Company, the Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore Railroad Company, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company. I do not anticipate trouble in collecting the taxes from the other roads, if the Courts enforce the payment of the taxes on the part of those against whom suits have been brought. The people of the State demand that