

ment. The importance of the subject is forced upon the whole country, by the growth, extent and power of the corporations claiming exemptions upon legal postulates declared by the highest judicial tribunal to be false. The tenacity exhibited, in insisting on these claims, is only equalled by the danger attending their further recognition. The subject is therefore challenging the most serious attention not only from the speculative political economist, but from the practical legislative bodies and judicial tribunals in the country.

#### STATE LIVE STOCK SCALES.

I call the special attention of the General Assembly to the laws regulating the weighing of live stock and the revenue therefrom. The defects in the laws in regard to this branch of the revenue are very glaring. Section 459 of Article 4 of the Local Code of the City of Baltimore requires the weigher of live stock to execute a bond to the State of Maryland with two sureties to be approved by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore, in the penal sum of five thousand dollars, conditioned for the full performance of all acts and things required of him as weigh master, and to pay all damages that may be sustained by reason of wilful omission, refusal or neglect to discharge the said duties, which bond shall be filed among the records of the Superior Court of Baltimore city and may be sued by any person injured or damaged by such wilful omission, neglect or refusal. The form of this bond should be amended so as to make it more full and explicit as to the revenue due the State, the penalty should be increased, and the bond and security should be approved by the Governor of the State. The Sections of the Code regulating this matter are exceedingly vague and loose in their provisions so far as the revenue for the State is concerned and require fundamental amendments before any certainty can be arrived at, as to the amount of revenue to which the State Treasury is entitled. No penalties are provided for the non-compliance of the officer in making his returns to the State, and other defects in the law cannot fail to be manifest upon the most casual reading of its provisions. Very little revenue has been derived from this source for a long series of years owing to this looseness in the provisions of the Code and the powers given to the weigh master to expend the amounts required in improvements &c. Were the provisions of law in regard to this branch of the revenue well guarded, a large amount of receipts might be expected from this source.

#### LICENSES.

I call the attention of the Legislature to the want of a provision of law by which the Clerks of the Circuit Courts in the several counties,