

to exist in the valuations, indicate the necessity for a new assessment. By an examination of Statement "K," appended to this Report, it will be seen that the assessed value of the property in the State has declined in amount \$64,900.079 since 1867.

When once a correct and equal assessment of all the property in the State is attained, the provisions of the Act of 1874, chapter 483, enabling the County Commissioners and Appeal Tax Court to alter former valuations, so as to make them conform to existing rates, will do much to obviate inequalities, and the necessity for frequent general assessments. Additional powers may perhaps be safely lodged with these officers, to enable them with more certainty to preserve the correctness and equality of the assessable basis. The consideration of this whole subject is respectfully submitted to the wisdom of the General Assembly.

ECONOMY IN EXPENDITURES.

I cannot too strongly urge upon the Legislature the importance of *economy* in the expenditures of the public money. A large amount may be saved by prudence in appropriations, and by lessening the officers of the two Houses to the number absolutely required for the proper dispatch of the business of legislation. The large number of appointees at the last session contributed very much to swell the expenses beyond what they might otherwise have been, and the necessity of guarding against a repetition of this policy, must be apparent to all. I respectfully request also, that all appointments of officers by the two Houses, may be certified to this Department, with the dates of appointment and the amount of compensation allowed, so that proper accounts may be raised and kept in this office. Unless this is done, the Department is compelled to be governed entirely by the certificates of the Chairman of the Committee on Claims, and cannot estimate in advance the amount which will be necessary for this purpose.

The appropriations to literary, charitable and benevolent institutions for the past year, amounted to \$117,500.00.

To raise this amount by taxation, a levy of upwards of two cents on each hundred dollars of the assessable property of the State is necessary. A reduction in this item of expenditure would render practicable a corresponding reduction in the State taxes.

An important saving may be made also by limiting the amount of the public printing of the Legislature, to such bills and documents as may be absolutely necessary for the full information of the members, and for such distribution among the people, as may be conducive to