

Special Acts of Assembly have been passed, from time to time, in various counties, devoting the Fines and Forfeitures in those counties to county objects, such as the formation of libraries, the expenses of indexing, &c., and in the City of Baltimore, authorising the sheriff to appropriate them to the payment of the expenses of attendance on the several Courts. It does not seem just to the other counties, that these special laws should be passed. It would appear to be more in consonance with the spirit of the Constitution, that a general law should be passed, either devoting the Fines and Forfeitures in all the Counties, and City of Baltimore, to county or city purposes, or what would perhaps be better, to return to the former legislation, requiring all Fines and Forfeitures to be paid into the State Treasury.

FOREIGN INSURANCE COMPANIES.

The revenue from licenses to Agents of Foreign Insurance Companies, doing business in this State, is given in detail in table "No. 13," amounting in the aggregate to the sum of \$31,446.72.

The Act of 1876, Chapter 248, reducing the price of licenses from \$300.00, to \$100.00 per annum, and making the tax payable on the net receipts, instead of the gross receipts of these companies, has had a disastrous effect upon the revenue from this source, diminishing its amount from \$72,042.15, in 1875, to \$23,999.61, in 1876, and to the sum of \$31,446.72, in 1877. The loss of these large sums to the Treasury, in the last two years, has been indeed serious, and with other losses, equally unexpected, will entail upon this General Assembly, the necessity of providing more revenue.

So far as this item is concerned, the best mode of effecting the remedy, will be to repeal the Act of 1876, Chapter 248, and to restore the law as it stood before the passage of that Act, or with an amendment increasing the cost of the licenses to \$400.00, per annum.

Had I been consulted by the General Assembly in 1876, in regard to the expediency of the change, I should certainly have opposed the passage of the Act by which it was made. It is argued by some, that the competition encouraged by the change in the law will lessen the cost of insurance to the