

the present rate of taxation, of over a quarter million dollars.

In this matter of taxation we are far behind many of our neighboring States.

In New Jersey, Railroads pay a tribute for passing over its soil sufficient to defray the entire expense of the State government.

And Pennsylvania, though liberal towards its Railroads, collects annually from them and other corporations in the State, an amount which enables its law making power to exempt the land from all State Taxes.

With these facts before us, would it be any great hardship upon our Railroads to make them take their stand with the land and bear equally with the agricultural interests of the State the burdens of government?

This question I will leave for you to answer as you may think the interest of the State can be best subserved.

"Statement L" gives in detail the disbursements on account of the Public Schools, for the year 1885, commencing on the 1st day of October, 1884, to be \$509,940.92 being \$6,053.87 less than they were for the year 1884.

The receipts for the Fiscal year, 1885, on account of this Fund, were \$538,994.02, being \$43,152.82 more than they were for the Fiscal year, 1884.

"Table No. 1," gives the receipts from the Clerks of Courts, on account of licenses, &c., and from other sources, for the year ending on the 30th day of September, 1885, to be the sum of \$542,969.88, and shows an increase over the fiscal year, 1884, of \$16,183.23.

A considerable part of this increase comes from the sale of liquor licenses in Baltimore City and from the sale of licenses to dredge for oysters.

Under this head it is proper that I should make a few suggestions upon the subject of

#### LICENSES.

A large portion of the State's revenues is derived from licenses. Several efforts have been made in the