

aggregate to the sum of \$208,934.54, being about the same as the amount received last fiscal year, less the interest on the Bonds of the Baltimore & Ohio R. R. Co. transferred to the Sinking Funds.

OYSTER FUND.

The receipts on account of the Oyster Fund during the fiscal year, as shown in "Statement H" were \$79,704.17, being \$12,864.15 greater than for the last fiscal year.

The Disbursements for the same period amount to \$127,089.56.

In this amount, it should be remembered, is included the expense of building the two iron steamers for the service above referred to; and deducting their cost from the gross disbursements leaves \$65,050.70 as the net ordinary expense of the service, which sum is \$14,754.47 less than the gross receipts.

These figures present for the year a very satisfactory showing; but the carrying clause of the Oyster Law having been recently declared unconstitutional by the Court, the receipts for the present year will perhaps be barely sufficient to maintain the present expensive service. Some Legislation therefore upon this subject will be necessary.

Whether it shall be by the curtailment of the Police Force, in order to decrease expenses, or the passage of some law whereby the revenue shall be increased, are questions which is in your province to determine.

There are some things, however, in connection with this subject that our past experience teaches which should not, and I am sure will not, be lost sight of. And these are: 1st. That while the State does not rely upon the Oyster Beds as a source of revenue, yet the catching of oysters not only affords employment to thousands of her citizens, but the revenue derived therefrom adds very materially to the wealth of the State and that wealth, in common with other property, contributes to its share of the public burdens. And 2d