

fiscal year 1898, from Clerks of Courts, Registers of Wills, Collectors of Taxes, etc., mention of which to some extent has been previously made in these remarks. Upon a close examination of these tables, there will be found a generally healthy increase in the State's revenues, especially from the direct tax of 17½ cents. As the receipts to Public Schools, 10½ cents, School Books, 2 cents, and Outstanding Debt, 5½ cents, depend upon the collections made, it has ever been my constant care to see that all moneys due the State as far as practicable were promptly collected and paid over. It will therefore be seen that during the year 1898, the Public Schools of this State received \$85,936.81 more than they did during the year 1897.

#### STATE TOBACCO INSPECTIONS.

An exception, however, to the above increase in receipts is noticed in Table No. 7, showing the receipts and disbursements of the State Tobacco Warehouses. The gross receipts during the year aggregate \$40,439.69; disbursements, \$35,552.47, leaving net earnings of \$4,887.22, as against \$78,541.66 gross receipts and \$72,283.78 disbursements, with net earnings of \$6,257.88 for the year previous, or a loss in net earnings during the fiscal year of \$1,370.66. This shrinkage, however, is fully explained by reference to Chapter 314 of the Acts of 1898, being an amendment to the Code of Public General Laws, title "Inspections," sub-title "Tobacco," this Act taking effect from the date of its passage, April 7, 1898, changes the entire management of the State Tobacco Warehouses, as you are very well aware, and especially as to the time of accounting to this office. Under said statute the Chief Inspector, while required to make quarterly reports, viz.: On the first of January, April, July and October in each year, showing cash balance on hand, yet "at the quarter ending April first in each year (he shall) pay over to the Comptroller to whom the aforesaid reports are required to be made, all moneys in hand, after paying all expenses and salaries of said warehouses." As said Act went into effect last April, therefore the receipts and disbursements shown in said table, are for only a fraction of a year. It is but proper to add that in the Report of the Chief Inspector, submitted to me for the quarter ending October 1, 1898, there is shown a cash balance on hand of \$18,580.51, which, in all probability, will show increased receipts for next fiscal year.

#### MISCELLANEOUS.

In Tables Nos. 13, 14, 15, 16 and 17 will be found the balances due, exclusive of interest, from various State