

I declined to compromise the rights of the State, directed the collecting attorney, in whose hands my predecessor had placed the accounts, to press by distraint, and other suits being instituted by attorneys who claimed to represent all the large oyster packers, I turned over all matters of law to the Attorney-General, who is representing us and I am entirely satisfied taking care of the rights of the State.

I recommend a careful consideration of this matter by your honorable bodies and the oyster question generally, with a view to insure the prompt payment of this tax, which seems to be necessary to enforce the system of inspection and the protection of the oyster beds.

TAX ON FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.

Section 68 of Article 23 of the Code of Public General Laws provides that "every foreign corporation which has a usual office or place of business in this State, except insurance companies, hereinafter provided for, but including any corporation which is engaged in this State permanently or temporarily and with or without a usual place of business therein * * * shall, before doing business herein, file with the Secretary of State, who shall record the same (1) a certified copy of its charter or certificate of incorporation" and then follows the enumeration of certain statements required to be made, among which is the following "and the amount of capital employed in this State."

Section 70 of said Article further provides that every foreign corporation, except certain companies therein exempt, "shall at the time of filing its annual certificate, to wit, before the first day of April in each and every year, pay to the State Treasurer, for the use of the State, a franchise tax for such year at the following rate, that is to say, the sum of twenty-five dollars for every full fifty thousand dollars of capital employed by it in this State up to five hundred thousand dollars, but in no case less than twenty-five dollars; if the amount of such capital is more than five hundred thousand dollars and not more than five million dollars, then an additional amount equal to one-fortieth of one per cent. on the excess; and if more than five