

Whilst the several commodious and elegant public buildings recently undertaken have been a necessary source of considerable expense, there can be no question, as to their utility, and indeed, the necessity of securing additional accommodations in view of the increase of public business and the number of members of the Legislature.

It is also a fact that quality of workmanship and material considered, the State has been most fortunate in the comparatively small cost of building. In short, the State has received 100 cents for every dollar put into them.

The progressive and enlightened policy of improvement thus inaugurated is worthy of commendation, and its fruits are most valuable and creditable.

THE FIFTH REGIMENT ARMORY.

The new Fifth Regiment Armory, located in Baltimore city, has been completed. The building is at present in the plainest possible finish. The sum of \$420,000 has been appropriated up to date by the General Assembly to erect the building and to pay for the lot, which is owned in fee by the State.

This building has undoubtedly already proved of great service, directly as an encouragement to the National Guard, and indirectly as an attractive hall for great gatherings such as the Saengerfest and the Elks' convention. These gatherings formerly went to other cities having such halls for their use. This building affords the largest floor space of any building south of New York, and its construction has been accomplished at a considerably less cost than smaller armories in New York and elsewhere.

There are many important and necessary features omitted from this building for lack of sufficient funds to install them. Among the most important are the construction of a gallery around the drill hall and a rifle range. To build a gallery sixteen feet wide on all four sides would very materially increase the seating capacity and add greatly to the usefulness of the building.

The Fifth Regiment has advanced a considerable