

office constantly. All expenses of that character are now paid through the Comptroller's office, which necessarily entails some delay and gives the Comptroller additional work. There is no reason why the Tax Commissioner should not have sufficient fund placed at his disposal to meet contingent expenses, the same to be properly accounted for as are other contingent funds. It is largely a question of bookkeeping, which will relieve two departments and will probably cost the State no more than at present.

#### STATE INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

The State Insurance Department has been ably conducted during the administration of the present incumbent, and the business of the office has steadily grown. The companies doing business in Maryland have been carefully looked after. The bona fide, honest companies have been protected as have the policy holders by ridding the State of companies organized and conducted upon improper principles. The department turns into the State Treasury a large amount of money each year. The following statement indicates the growth of the office during the three years the present commissioner has been in charge by showing the amount paid the State Treasurer :

1901.....	\$180,484 57
1902.....	191,185 91
1903.....	210,227 23
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Total.....	\$581,897 71

For purposes of comparison it may be interesting to note that the total amount paid into the State Treasury by the Insurance Department for the three years immediately preceding the present commissioner's term was \$493,201.39. It will be seen from these figures that the present commissioner has paid into the State Treasury \$88,696.32 more than was paid in during the last three years of his predecessor.

#### BUREAU OF STATISTICS.

The State Bureau of Statistics and information has attained a standard of efficiency and accuracy that