

1850 to 1860, 1,272 annually. In 1867 it was reduced to 20; in 1868 to 19. This very nearly demonstrates that by the universal application of vaccination the disease would very nearly be banished from human society.

The expenses of this Agency during the past year have been \$971.50, being the whole of the appropriation of \$800 for 1877, with \$171.50 of the balance of \$177.75 left from the appropriation for 1876, leaving a balance on hand from the appropriations for the two years of \$6.25.

I would here respectfully suggest to your Excellency the insufficiency of the appropriation for 1877 to defray the current expenses of the Agency, even while no epidemic existed, and with the closest possible personal supervision of every expenditure; and further, that the efficiency, as well as the scope of the benefits to the community designed by the establishment of this office, have been seriously curtailed, and even endangered by so limited an appropriation. The question naturally suggests itself, as to what would have been our condition had such an epidemic occurred as visited our chief city only a few years ago. Your Excellency can but see how crippled we should have been, and how totally unable to meet the demand upon us for a large amount of virus, and consequent use of many more heifers, with corresponding increased expenses. It is to be hoped that the present Legislature may appreciate the true state of affairs, and provide for any such contingency in the future.

I have the honor to be, with great respect,

Your obedient servant,

WILSON G. REGESTER, M. D.,

Maryland State Vaccine Agent.

Which were read, and referred to the Committee on Finance.

Also,

A communication from the Executive, endorsed "Executive business."

Mr. Bannon presented the petition of C. R. Warfield and others, voters of Anne Arundel County, praying the passage of a law submitting to the voters of the State whether licenses shall be granted to sell intoxicating liquors as a beverage in said State.

Which was read, and referred to the Committee on Temperance.

Mr. Dennis presented the petition of Erastus Handy and others, citizens of Somerset County, praying for the passage