

Said bill was then returned to the House of Delegates.

Mr. Hepbron, from Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates, appointed under and by virtue of Article 3, Section 24, of the Constitution, submitted the following

REPORT.

To the Honorable the Senate and

House of Delegates of the State of Maryland:

The undersigned, the Joint Committee of the Senate and House of Delegates, appointed under and by virtue of Article 3, Section 24, of the Constitution, and to whom was referred amongst other subjects, the following order, adopted in the House of Delegates, January 18th, 1876, viz: "And be it further ordered, that they shall also examine into and fully and searchingly enquire into the accounts and disbursements of the Treasury Department, and the various departments and officers doing business therewith, and ascertain whether the expenditures and disbursements of said officers and departments have been made in conformity with law," having finished their investigations on this branch of their duty, beg leave to report—

That they did, at a meeting of said Committee, appoint five members of the same to conduct the said investigation, to wit: Messrs. Walsh, Lee, Neal, Lewis and Farrow, who have bestowed much time on the investigation of the books and papers of the Comptroller's Office, and at the instance and request of the Comptroller, have gone over and carefully examined all the expenditures from the 1st of January, 1870, down to the present time. This has been a work of much labor to the Committee and has occupied much of the time during the session that they could spare from their other duties. The Committee found that all the expenditures have been made strictly in accordance with law. They have also examined the books of the Treasurer and find them to agree exactly with those of the Comptroller. The account of receipts and expenditures in the office of the Comptroller is compared every month with those of the Treasurer and the utmost exactness in regard to amounts received and disbursed is thereby attained.

In addition to this, quarterly statements are made by the Treasurer and compared with the books of the Comptroller, and these, after examination and comparison, are signed by these officers. These comparisons are made under the Constitutional provision for that purpose, and the necessity of absolute agreement in the statements of both offices, makes it easy to ascertain that no discrepancy can exist between them. The Committee required the production of the vouchers in every case in which they have thought it necessary to