

The appropriations which have been made, or are proposed during this session of the Legislature, and which the committee think necessary and proper, and that the fact that a special committee have reported the State Penitentiary embarrassed with debt, and an extension or a new building, almost unavoidable, are additional reasons for the course of the committee.

The committee have thought it advisable to endeavor to supply the deficiency soon to be made by the termination of the lottery grant, and partly with this view have introduced bills, regulating licenses to foreign insurance agencies and to ordinary keepers and traders. These bills, if they should pass the two Houses, will, in the opinion of the committee, produce an additional revenue at least equal to the amount received from the lottery grant, and whilst bearing oppressively on no class, accomplish other important results. The license act of 1856, reduced the lowest grade of traders' license from twelve dollars to six. While the provisions of that act increased in the aggregate, the revenue from licenses, this particular feature caused a reduction of revenue from that class of licenses which was uncalled for and unnecessary. The bill of the committee restores the charge to twelve dollars. The other additional features are a more gradual advance of the rate of license, proportioned to the amount of stock in trade, and a difference in rate of charge between a license to sell liquor in quantities less than a pint, granted to ordinary keepers with tavern or boarding house accommodation, and that granted to the keepers of mere drinking houses. A higher grade on the latter, protects the bona fide hotels, particularly in the country, while it incidentally affords a security against the evils of grog shops.

The committee have also provided in the act itself, penalties for its violation, instead of leaving the penalty to be determined by prior acts of Assembly, many of which are obsolete or inapplicable.

The many important and exciting questions, which have crowded with unusual pressure on this General Assembly, have prevented an earlier introduction of the bill regulating the traders and ordinary license, and the committee fear that this delay may endanger its passage. They earnestly hope however that it may pass into a law. The bill in regard to licenses of foreign insurance agencies, which has already passed the House of Delegates, gets rid of the impracticable tax on premiums, imposed by the law of 1846, and substitutes a license of \$200, with provisions to prevent evasions, which the committee think will increase the revenue