

ALIENS.

Some modification in the laws of the State on the subject of the right of Aliens to acquire and hold real property seems to be required. As that law at present exists, Aliens may take and hold lands and tenements by purchase or descent, provided they, within a specified time, declare their intention to become citizens, and subsequently and within a further time prescribed, are naturalized according to the laws of the United States. By a distinction, altogether technical, between freehold and leasehold interests in land, the spirit of this law is frequently evaded, and being construed as applicable only to estates in fee, Aliens may, and often do, acquire what is substantially the entire interest in large landed property, by subjecting it to a nominal ground rent, and still continue the subjects of a Foreign power, and as such claim their exemption from Military duty. This prohibition upon Aliens in relation to real estate ought either to be abolished altogether, or this frivolous distinction repudiated.

So far as concerns those of the age specified for Military service, I would recommend that they be allowed to hold either freehold or leasehold interests in land without requiring their naturalization under the laws of the United States, and that when the owners of property of this description they be considered as so far invested with the rights of citizenship as to subject them to some of its duties, so far at least as to require them to discharge their share of Militia service.

THE PUBLIC WORKS.

I have received no report of the operations of our chief line of internal improvements—the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad—during the past year, but judging of them by the amount received at the Treasury on its account, that company continues to fulfill every expectation entertained of it, as a chief conduit of the trade of the State as well as one of the most important sources of her revenue.

During the last fiscal year the company has paid into the Treasury on account of capitation tax upon passengers over its Washington Branch the sum of \$219,386.13, and for dividends on the stock of that Branch and the Main Stem the sum of \$148,443.60, making the aggregate receipts of the State from that source during the year \$367,829.73, or more than \$57,000 above the largest amount ever before received in any year on similar account.

These results present not only a most satisfactory evidence of the efficient management of this important work, but go to show that any severance of the relations subsisting between it and the State, as apparently contemplated by a clause in the recently adopted Constitution, should not be too hastily consummated.