

Thus have we lain before you, as clear, full and expressive an evidence of our monied concerns, as we conceive necessary, and such as will enable you at a glance to embrace the subject, and correctly to appreciate our concluding recommendations.

Suffer us to remark, that negligent and inattentive procedure, too long and too often have characterized the fiscal concerns of Maryland. At different times, and from the operation of various causes, portions of our capital have flown into the treasury. To this distinction, no attention appears ever to have been paid. It has been looked upon as income—mixed with the general revenue—so applied, and thus, gradually and imperceptibly has our capital dwindled down. A recent example of this is furnished in the money repaid by the United States. It was a part of our capital that went out, but when returned to us, this consideration was unattended to, and it became dissipated in annual running expenditures. To prevent this, a recurrence to taxation ought to have been had in due time, and but for this, the necessity of the measure would have forced itself upon the legislature, two or three years back. This step will no longer admit of postponement; the obligation to take it is imperative, and presents itself as apparent to every mind, taking the trouble to dwell upon the subject. We now therefore subjoin the plan that strikes us as least oppressive and most practicable. We recommend the adoption of state lotteries; of a tax on legacies; a separate licence for dry goods; a tax on certain militia dispensations; on original writs; and on certain law proceedings, &c. And also a direct tax of from three to six cents on each one hundred dollars of assessable property. The first items we estimate will give us from forty to fifty thousand dollars, and the direct tax, from fifteen to thirty thousand, according to the rate fixed upon. In aid of the revenue, we further recommend a reduction of the *per diem* allowance to the members of the general assembly, and in certain salary officers under the government,

So dispersed, so light and trivial will be this tax, that your committee cannot anticipate the slightest murmur or complaint from the good and reflecting citizens of this state.

It is here proper to observe, that we should deem it neither prudent nor politic to stop at the precise point yielding us the required sum to cover our annual waste. The state should possess itself of an accumulating fund, and see to the augmenting its capital to what it was in 1812 when at its zenith, or to that point when it will afford an interest equal to our demand, and thus look forward to the period, when the plan of taxation, now to be adopted, may be dispensed with, and the people relieved from its pressure. Farther, we should consider it a culpable neglect of every primary and vital interest, if the state did not look forward to providing, at no distant time, a surplus applicable to internal improvements. Shall Maryland slumber? shall our sister states on each side of us, advance in the proud career, and will we, with folded arms, stand gazing on, and behold ourselves stripped of those advantages that nature and nature's God emphatically have said belong to us? Let us move before it is too late; let us lay the foundation for the future importance and grandeur of our state; we shall thus accumulate national and individual wealth; and let us never forget that such is the surest fund, the firmest capital upon which to rest all our calculations for future exigencies, and for our future wants.

We presume it will be necessary to borrow twenty or thirty thousand dollars in anticipation, and that it will be advisable to appoint an agent, specially to look after the debts due to the state.

Bills founded on the above measures, will in due time be laid on your table,

By order,

THOMAS E. HAMBLETON, Clerk.

Which was read.

Mr. Bowles reports a bill entitled a further additional supplement to an act entitled an act for the erection of a new market-house in Hager's Town, Washington county, and for other purposes which was read.

The clerk of the senate delivers the bill to make valid a release of a mortgage from Thomas Jenkins, of Munroe county and state of Indiana, to James Dossey, (or John) of Calvert county and state of Maryland; endorsed will pass; ordered to be engrossed.

Mr. Brown presents a petition from Elizabeth White, of Anne Arundel county, praying for support; read and referred to Messrs Brown, Marriott, and Woodward.

The bill to make valid two deeds therein mentioned, and the supplement to an act entitled, An act for the improvement of the public roads in Kent county, were read the second time, passed and sent to the senate.

Mr. Martin delivers the report of the commissioners of the school fund for Talbot county which was read.

Mr. Hughes presents a petition from Ann Townsend of the city of Annapolis, praying for support; read and referred to Messrs. Hughes, Carroll and Brown.

On motion by Mr. B. S. Forrest, ORDERED, that so much of the executive communication of the 7th inst. as relates to the proposal of Matthew Carey and sons, to furnish the state with copies of the rules and regulations of the army of the United States, be referred to a committee of three, to be named by the speaker.

ORDERED, that so much of said communication, as embraces the report of the commissioners appointed on the part of the state, in pursuance of a resolution of the general assembly to meet such commissioners as might be appointed on the part of Virginia, jointly to view and report on the state of the Potomac river be referred to a committee of seven, to be named by the speaker.

ORDERED, That Messrs B. S. Forrest, Marriott and Orrick, be the committee relative to Matthew Carey's proposition.

ORDERED, That Messrs B. S. Forrest, Wever, Sprigg, Pigman, Semmes, Jenifer and Dorsey be the committee on that part relative to the Potomac.

Mr. Snowden presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county praying an alteration in the militia law; read and referred to the committee on a petition of a similar nature.

ORDERED, That Messrs. Waters and Riggs, be added to the said committee.