

which was read. The bill to incorporate the president and managers of the shot tower company of Baltimore, endorsed "will pass with the proposed amendments; which amendments were read, assented to and the bill ordered to be engrossed. The bill to provide a revenue for the support of the government of this state, endorsed "will not pass" and the following message:

BY THE SENATE, February 19, 1822.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates,*

We have received your bill entitled, An act to provide a revenue for the support of the government of this state. The senate are constitutionally prohibited altering or amending a bill to provide a revenue and can therefore do nothing else than pass or reject this bill.

The statement of the treasury department has demonstrated that the permanent revenues of the state amount to about \$82,000, and when deducted from the permanent expenditures will leave a deficit of near \$60,000. The state is now reduced to such a pecuniary condition as to leave it no longer in the opinion of the legislature whether a tax shall be imposed. The senate believe that a resort to taxation ought to have been had before this period; and that the judicious application of a smaller amount than is now necessary, if made at an earlier period, would have relieved the state from an embarrassment in its finances which we now experience.

Believing therefore as we do, that the serious difficulties into which we have been led, are attributable in part to the failure of former legislatures to provide current means of meeting the pecuniary demands on our treasury, as well as to the consequent error of appropriating to current expenditures sums which ought to have been considered as a principal or capital, and the interest or proceeds of which only ought to have been disposed of. The senate cannot proceed in a course as fatal to the best interest of the state as they believe it will be ultimately ruinous to our citizens. It appears evident that a continuation of this mistaken course of proceeding, which contemplates an appropriation of the capital and permanent funds of the state to its current expenses, and a progressive increase of the amount imposed on those who are to succeed us will ultimately result in the accumulation of such a debt as to require a most oppressive and intolerable system of taxation. This result the senate believe can only be avoided by a decisive and determined resolution to meet impending difficulties at their first approach, by commencing with a system of taxation which shall provide the means as well of defraying the current expenditures as of securing a fund gradually to reduce the debts already incurred by the state.

The senate are aware of the pressure of the times, and of the fallacious hopes by which public bodies as well as individuals deceive themselves in a prospect of better times and more abundant means; yet they cannot but believe that all the dictates of political wisdom suggest an energetic course.

The season of peace is the proper period in which to replenish the treasury and to repay those drafts which experience has demonstrated to us a state of war will necessarily require us to make on it. How long this season may continue no human intelligence can determine; the only prudent course is to assume such an attitude as to be prepared for a change.

Whether the situation of our country is or is not to experience such an alteration as will increase to our citizens the means or the inclination to meet the necessary demands of the treasury may be considered matter of speculation. That the patriotism and good sense of the people will induce them cheerfully to contribute to the security and establishment of our financial concerns is a fact, which the senate cannot permit themselves to doubt. With this view of the subject the senate have to suggest the following statements

The deficit of revenue is fairly stated at near \$60,000; the mode of procuring a revenue contemplated by the bill sent from your house, in other respects efficient would not place funds in the treasury in time to meet its engagements. It appears to be absolutely necessary therefore to adopt some other mode of procuring funds as well to meet these current demands, as also to discharge the debt of \$40,000 due to the Farmers' Bank. This fund the senate believe can be readily procured, by authorising a loan at five per cent. A loan to the amount of \$100,000 would place in the treasury a sum sufficient to meet all its engagements including the debt. This loan will enlarge the amount of annual expenditures by making it necessary to provide for the annual interest of the loan, and also for such an annual appropriation as will secure the redemption and re-payment of the loan.

These sums, added to the present deficit, will, as it appears to the senate, require the adoption of a system which will provide an annual revenue equal to at least \$70,000. The senate have not been able to satisfy themselves that the other sources of revenue which your house has contemplated in the several bills on that subject received by the senate, can be relied on with any certainty of producing such an amount as will materially vary the foregoing estimates; and they therefore find themselves compelled to regard the system in the bill now returned to you as the only one to which the state must look for a supply of its necessities. The senate see with regret, that the bill provides for the receipt of only 30,000, a sum which the senate believe is less than one half the amount absolutely and imperiously required. The senate have therefore been induced to reject the bill in the hope that upon further consideration you will be willing to enlarge the sum directed to be raised.

The senate will more cheerfully unite in the enactment of a revenue system, if your honorable body will devise the means of subjecting to a fair portion of the tax, the individuals in our state, who although in the wealthiest class of the community are yet entirely beyond the operation of the system now proposed to us, because their estates do not consist of such articles of property as are enumerated in the laws directing the assessments.

The senate would further suggest that the bill in its present form does not provide the means of