

Your committee are also of opinion, if a further diminution of taxes should be thought proper, that it will be expedient to give up a part of the direct tax in preference to relinquishing the revenue arising from state lotteries. Were it practicable to prevent the sale within this state, of tickets of lotteries, authorized by other states, your committee would recommend an entire prohibition of lotteries on account of their tendency to excite and foster a spirit of gambling. As this however is impracticable, they think that lotteries ought to be regulated by law, that while the evil is diminished, the greatest benefit, derivable from them may be secured. The system now in force, which forbids all lotteries, except those drawn for the benefit of the state, they think is well calculated for the attainment of this desirable result. Information received under oath by the committee, fully establishes the fact, that from the superior credit, which state lotteries enjoy, a much larger amount of net profits may be derived from them, than from private lotteries, and that a much larger proportion of the tickets may be sold out of the state. It is computed that one half of the tickets of such lotteries would find a sale without the limits of the state, while the tickets of lotteries, not drawn under the direction of commissioners, authorized by law, could rarely, for the want of confidence in them, be disposed of to citizens of other states. From these considerations, your committee feel it their duty, strongly to recommend, that no acts be passed, authorizing private lotteries, and that in future the present system be rigidly adhered to, after all the lotteries, which are now authorized, shall have been drawn.

Your committee are of opinion, that a revenue of at least twenty thousand dollars may be derived annually from state lotteries, which will enable you to relieve the people from one third of the present amount of direct tax. For this purpose your committee recommend the passage of the bill, which accompanies this report, entitled, "An act, to provide a revenue for the support of government."

In considering the subjects which have presented themselves to the attention of the committee, they have thought it highly necessary to recommend a revision of the law or laws, respecting the collection of the public dues. The present system has been found to be defective and inefficient. Nothing is more necessary to a sound state of the public finances than punctuality in the payments into the treasury. On account of the general pecuniary pressure, it becomes the duty of the legislature to be particularly careful to provide against all unnecessary expenditures, to enforce the greatest possible economy in making such as are indispensable, and so far as it can be done consistently with the attainment of the essential objects of a wise and provident government, to relieve the people from the burthen of taxation. To enable them to do this however with effect, nothing is so necessary as securing the prompt payment of such taxes as are found to be absolutely necessary. For this essential purpose they therefore recommend the passage of a bill, which accompanies this report, entitled, "An act to provide for the prompt settlement of the public accounts and collection of the public revenue."

It is essential in every good system of taxation, that the burthen should be equally distributed—and to accomplish that object, that an uniform system for the valuation of property throughout the state, should be adopted. Your committee therefore recommend the appointment of a select committee to prepare and report a bill for that purpose.

It is always difficult to make a selection of the most proper objects of taxation. It is thought however to be at all times unwise to lay such taxes as are unproductive, vexatious, and liable to evasion, and which, while they hold out great temptation to fraud, offer great facility for effecting it. Your committee believe the tax upon certain offices to be of this character, and therefore recommend the passage of the bill herewith reported, entitled, "An act to repeal an act, entitled An act to tax certain offices."

It appears from the treasurer's report that there is a balance due on the journal of accounts remaining in the treasury, amounting to four thousand two hundred and seventy-eight dollars and ninety-four cents. It is ascertained by enquiry at the treasury that of this sum four thousand one hundred and five dollars have been due and not demanded for more than three years. Your committee are of opinion, that while good faith requires, that the treasurer should be authorized to pay the claims making up this balance, whenever justly asserted, out of any unappropriated money in the treasury, it is nevertheless inexpedient to permit money, a great part of which they have reason to believe will never be demanded, to lie idle in the treasury—and therefore recommend the passage of the resolution accompanying this report in relation to this subject.

From the view which has been presented of the public debt, it will be seen that provision has already been made for the extinguishment of all parts of it, except twenty thousand dollars due to the Farmers Bank of Maryland. The legislature at their present session have already paid in aid of its reduction to its present small amount the sum of fourteen thousand eighty-two dollars and seven cents out of funds in the treasury, and they have reason to believe, as it is manifest from the reports of the treasurer of the western shore, that the permanent indirect taxes are gradually becoming more productive, that there will be a surplus of revenue sufficient for its reimbursement, provided the measures recommended in this report be adopted.

Your committee therefore beg leave to congratulate the legislature upon the present favourable posture of the financial concerns of the state, which will enable them in a year or two to extinguish entirely the public debt, and at the same time relieve the people from one third of the direct tax, and one half of the duty upon the inspection of tobacco. All which is respectfully submitted,
V. MAXCY, Chairman.

By order,

TRUEMAN CROSS, Clk.

The bill to enable the mayor and city council of Frederick to receive a bequest for the purposes therein mentioned, and the bill respecting the transaction of business on the equity side of Montgomery county court, were sent to the Senate.

Mr. Estep has leave of absence.

Mr. Bennett reports a bill, entitled, "An act to make sale of the poors house and public lands thereto belonging in Talbot county."

On motion by Mr. Tyson, Ordered, That the petition of Mathew Murray be referred to Messrs. Tyson, Barnes and Shower. On motion by Mr. Shower, Messrs. Worthington and Price were added to the said committee.

Mr. King delivers the following report:

The committee to whom was referred the petition of sundry inhabitants of Somerset county, praying for a public landing place and road, have had the same under consideration, and are of opinion that the case is amply provided for by a law passed at December session eighteen hundred and twenty-three, chapter one hundred and twenty, and therefore recommend that the petitioners have leave to withdraw their petition.

Which was twice read and concurred with.

Mr. Willson presents a petition from sundry citizens of Rockville, praying that billiard tables may be prohibited in Montgomery county; referred to the committee on ways and means.

Mr. Worthington presents a petition from sundry inhabitants of Baltimore county, praying the improper destruction of wild fowl may be prevented on certain rivers and creeks therein mentioned; referred to Messrs. Worthington, Turner and Howard.

Mr. J. Edelen presents six memorials from citizens of Charles county, counter to the petitions praying that the time of holding their August term may be changed; referred to the committee on the petitions to which it is counter.

Mr. Worthington presents a petition from Martin Tschudy, to make valid a deed; referred to Messrs. Worthington, Price and Shower.

On motion by Mr. Nicholson, the bill respecting the Union Wool Manufactory, was referred to the 1st of June next.

The speaker laid before the house a report from the trustees of Charlotte Hall School.

On motion by Mr. Nicholson, the bill for the benefit of the stockholders of the Susquehanna bridge, was referred to the 1st of June next.

Mr. Jones obtained leave to bring in a bill, entitled, "A supplement to an act, entitled, An act for the benefit of the infant children and heirs at law of Jesse Wainwright, late of Somerset county, deceased. Ordered, That Messrs. Jones, King and Dennis, report the same."

On motion by Mr. Travers, the bill authorising a lottery to raise a sum of money for the purpose of repairing Zion's Church in Baltimore county, was referred to the 1st of April next.