

to be sound policy to lay taxes to pay interest while we hold perishable capital that may be rendered, by mismanagement hereafter, entirely unavailable. To guard against an unnecessary sacrifice, a minimum price could be fixed upon the stocks.

I have no means of ascertaining what revenue may be expected for this year, (none having been received for the last,) under the various tax laws passed at the last session. To obtain the information, inquiries were addressed to the officers having charge of their execution, and their replies will be submitted for your consideration.

If the law requiring licences to be taken out by brokers is to be persevered in as a means of raising revenue, a modification of its requirements is indispensable, inasmuch as the sum demanded is so high as to preclude persons from applying for them. The income tax law needs also, a declaratory statute to ensure to its provisions an uniform construction.

It is impossible to contemplate the condition of affairs without wonder and surprise, that a prudent and economical people, enjoying, justly, a high character for the punctilious performance of all engagements, public and private should be involved in a few years, in debts so enormous. In 1830 the State was in full possession of the means from its ordinary revenue, to meet promptly all its liabilities. About that time, the policy of internal improvement which promised to overwhelm the General Government with debt and taxes, was undergoing a strict and rigid examination. Public attention was directed intently to the deliberation of Congress on the subject, and a public opinion, deep, strong and resistless, formed against the whole system, as equally premature, unwise, inexpedient and unconstitutional.

The veto of the then President on the Maysville and Rockville roads, and his triumphant re-election in 1832 were hailed as indications that, the day was yet distant when the people of the United States were to be made to feel, that no form of government can be considered a guaranty for the peaceful enjoyment of the rewards of industry. Those who were administering the government of the Union, in all its departments, heeded the admonitions given by their constituents at the elections, and a course of measures in accordance therewith, eventuated in the payment of the whole national debt, in the reduction of taxes, and in the accumulation of a surplus of revenue of \$28,101,644.91 which was afterwards distributed to the States. Unfortunately for this ill fated State, every department of its government was under control of those holding opinions which had been condemned by the whole country. They had refused to abandon altogether, an extravagant system of roads and canals that cannot be consummated in a country like the United States, where population is scattered and sparse. Measures were taken to place Maryland in the van of those States ambitious of rivaling Great Britain, Holland and other countries where the population is crowded and dense, & where their vast numbers justify large expenditures to facilitate intercourse. In the short space of seven years succeeding the veto of the President, our State debt was augmented more than twelve million of dollars. Within the same period, other roads were projected, until, (it will seem incredible now when the public mind is perfectly sobered) we beheld the little State of Maryland having ten thousand square miles of territory, and 318,194 white inhabitants staggering