

of taxation not embraced in the existing laws, which it may be, would raise the required amount, and which would probably be less onerous to the people, than an additional direct tax for that purpose. I would then recommend that every Executor or Administrator to whom letters testamentary or of administration shall hereafter be granted, shall, out of the commissions to be allowed him by the Supreme Court, pay to the Register by whom they are granted, to be by him paid into the Treasury, one per cent upon the amount of the personal estate of his testator or intestate. Under the existing laws the maximum of compensation allowed to an executor or administrator is ten, and the minimum five per cent. - The effect, therefore of the proposed legislation will be to give to the State one per cent, and to reduce the maximum of allowance to the executor or administrator to nine, and the minimum to four per cent. - This provision would yield a revenue of not less than \$25,000 - it would, in my judgement, be without a well founded objection, and would be universally acceptable to the people of the State.

The next subject of taxation not embraced by the existing laws, to which I would invite your attention, is a tax upon collateral inheritances. I would recommend that whenever any person shall hereafter die, seized or possessed of real personal property, without leaving lineal descendants to inherit the same, or leaving lineal descendants, shall devise or bequeath real or personal estate to any other than to such lineal descendants, that the person entitled to the same either as heir at law or as devisee or as legatee, shall pay to the Register of the County in which such real estate shall be situated, or of the County in which the personal estate shall be, five per cent, upon the assessed value of such real and personal estate, to be by the Register paid into the Treasury. Should this suggestion meet with your approval, it will yield a revenue of not less than \$25,000, and will in my judgement be entirely acceptable to the people.

I would next recommend that every donee or grantee of real estate should at the time he deposits for record, the deed or instrument of writing which conveys to him the title to such estate, pay to the Clerk in whose office such instrument is under the existing laws to be recorded, to be by him paid into the Treasury, one per cent, upon the assessed value of the estate by such deed or other instrument conveyed. I have no data upon which I can form an accurate estimate of the amount of revenue which this provision would place in the Treasury, but from full reflection upon the subject and the information which I have been able to collect, I am persuaded that an estimate of \$100,000 as the annual revenue which would be derived by the State from this source would be approximately correct. Although I have