

each and all of the instruments which are decided by the Court to be excluded by the phraseology of the existing law, would receive the almost universal approval of the people, and would double the revenue which is derived from this law as at present.

I have received from various sources the suggestion that lottery tickets should be subjected to the provisions of this Act. If you can, without danger to the existing revenue which is derived from the lottery system, require that each lottery ticket which shall hereafter be sold in this State shall be stamped, and pay ten cents, it would certainly add very much to the revenue which would be derived from this measure, and, in my opinion, I believe, be applauded by all classes of the community. I am satisfied that no constitutional objection exists to the legislation suggested, unless such an objection may be founded upon the present contract entered into by the Lottery Commissioners of the State, for the drawings of the present year. I have not seen the contract, and have been only informed in reference to it, that it accues to the State for the present fiscal year a sum of \$20,000, which is more than double the amount received from this source for the past year. If, upon an examination of the contract, you should be of opinion that the provisions of the Stamp Act cannot be extended to the sale of lottery tickets during the continuance of this contract, no constitutional impediment can interpose to prevent the adoption of such a provision, to take effect from and after the first of December next, the period at which, I believe, the present contract will expire.

It has been estimated by those who should be conversant with the subject, that the number of lottery tickets sold in the State during the past year exceeded one million, if the number sold should be lessened by reason of the imposition of this tax of ten cents upon each ticket, a great moral result (unaccomplished by your predecessors when legislating, especially for that purpose) will have been attained, and if the number sold would not be diminished by the tax, you will still have consolation in the reflection, that by placing one hundred thousand dollars additional revenue in the Treasury, every one whose money has been loaned to the people of Maryland upon the pledged faith of the State, will for the future be paid according to the spirit and letter of the contract upon which their money was obtained. Gentlemen, I believe that the adoption of the amendments to this law, which have been suggested, (including such of the instruments specified in the record section of the law as introduced at the last Session, as in your opinion will not occasion public inconvenience) will supercede the necessity of an increase of the direct tax, and with the legislation indicated in reference to the other revenue measures reviewed in this communication, will secure the annual payment of the sum specified, as necessary to meet the demands upon the Treasury.

I cannot form the consideration of this law without adverting to one of its provisions, for the purpose of pressing upon your consideration the importance of adopting a similar provision in reference to all the public revenue which is now collected by the Clerks of the County Courts & the Registers of Wills.