

table amount during the year; and inasmuch as it is done in most instances without the knowledge of the inspector, and will, if allowed, and the hands are dishonest, lead to fraud, it is thought best to prohibit its being done by law.

The committee's attention was directed to the law regulating the sale of scrap tobacco; whether the present law might not be abolished with advantage to the interest of the State. They are of opinion an important change can be effected by the repeal of said law, and have the testimony of the inspectors of the warehouses themselves in corroboration of their opinion. This, it is believed, opens the door to fraud and dishonesty, and calls loudly for a speedy change in the practice. They believe also, that whereas the State now receives for the sale of these scraps, after the deduction of the wharfinger's 20 per centum commission, but a small sum for the sale of the scraps accumulated in the warehouses,—that if the law were abolished, and another passed, directing, that the scraps be packed up into hogsheads, by a selection of quality and placed in the hands of a commission merchant, or sold by the inspector, that a considerable amount would be saved to the tobacco fund annually. Besides, the present regulation of selling the scraps in bulk, and allowing the hands of the warehouses to pack them up for the purchaser at a certain price per hogshead, is a practice leading to dishonesty in the hands, as the more hogsheads they pack up the more dollars they receive in pay, and they may hence be induced to purloin other tobacco to make the more hogsheads, to get more money. One of the inspectors informed the committee during the investigation, that he had detected some of the hands of his warehouse in stealing tobacco, to pack up in hogsheads, in the way above described, and that he discharged them immediately.

There are many other points to which the attention of the committee was directed, and which might here be remarked upon, connected with the examination and the subject of the tobacco inspections, but they have already extended this report beyond its contemplated length, and they will reserve such suggestions and recommendations for other reports by bill or otherwise; and propose such alterations and amendments in the existing laws as they believe will be a saving to the funds of the tobacco inspection of a considerable amount, and at the same time protect the interest of all concerned.