

the State subject to the taxes imposed by the act of April session 1841 and its supplements, may be estimated at \$175,000,000, on which amount the tax of 25 cents in the hundred dollars directed to be levied, if the whole be collected and paid, will yield a revenue, annually, of \$437,500.

In addition to the act of April session 1841, various revenue laws have been enacted imposing taxes on incomes and emoluments, on silver plate and watches, on protests, on brokers, and on theatrical and other public exhibitions. These acts have been only partially executed. The information collected by the Treasurer from those who are required to enforce them, justifies the belief, that they will not bring into the Treasury annually, an amount exceeding much the diminution of revenue to be expected under the act of April 1841, from the farther abatements in the assessed value of property, and from insolvencies of tax-payers and collectors.

If then the interest in arrear, with the accruing interest, amounting to \$1,798,694.63, are to continue current demands against the Treasury, and the income is not, by additional taxes, increased beyond \$450,000, there will be a deficit in the Treasury, at the expiration of the present year, of \$1,348,694.13.

Past experience has fully demonstrated, that the tax system of the State is destitute of the vigour which is indispensable to its faithful execution. Ever since its adoption, some of the counties have wholly failed to put it in operation, and others have done it in such an irregular and unsatisfactory manner, as to make it, at all times, questionable, whether it would accomplish the purposes contemplated by its framers. Aware that some amendment of it was absolutely necessary to ensure its execution, the Legislature at its last session provided, as a coercive measure, that the collectors of the county charges should be the collectors of the State tax, hoping, doubtless, that the local authorities of the counties would be forced to levy the tax directed to be imposed, for the purpose of raising a sum sufficient to pay the interest on the public debt. The result has sadly disappointed this hope. So far from the delinquent counties being compelled by this measure to levy and collect State taxes, it has only had the effect to prevent the collection of taxes of any kind whatsoever.

The violent struggles for political power and patronage, which have agitated our State for several years past, have prompted both of the great political parties, from time to time, as they acquired an ascendancy in the Legislature, to curtail the power conferred by the constitution originally upon the Executive. To such an extent have the abstractions of executive power been carried by successive modifications of its original character, that it is now wholly inadequate to the faithful execution of some of the most important laws upon the statute book. In the case of the acts designed to provide a revenue sufficient to meet the interest on the public debt, the Executive has but little, if any controlling influence. By these acts, the power of carrying them into execution, is left almost entirely and exclusively with the local authorities of the several counties;