

The stock of tobacco now on hand however compared with that on hand at the time the present inspectors came into office is comparatively small, the shipment having been very large within the past two years—that your committee indulge the confident hope and belief, and indeed they have little doubt of the fact the stock on hand is at present so far reduced that a very considerable saving will be manifest to the State in the way of insurance, storage and drayage, and with strict economy on the part of the inspectors employed, the State will derive a vastly increased annual revenue from the inspections.

Therefore, from all the evidence coming to the knowledge of your committee, and the fact that owing to the very low prices of tobacco, prior to the year eighteen hundred and forty-eight, an immense number of hogsheads of tobacco having accumulated and stored, which stock is now nearly exhausted, that although the amount paid for storage has been great, they deem it unadvisable to put more than the present number of warehouses under commission. Warehouse number three is of small dimensions and will not contain perhaps more than two thousand five hundred hogsheads, and has necessarily incurred the largest expense by way of storage; your committee would, but from the fact that they believe there would be endless confusion arising by storing tobacco inspected at different warehouses under the same roof as all the houses have the same running numbers placed upon the tobacco hogsheads inspected at the different houses, recommend that a part of warehouse number five be set apart for the storage of tobacco from number three; but, from the above facts, they believe it would give rise to great trouble, confusion and delay. The stock on hand on the first day of January, 1850, amounted to about nineteen thousand hogsheads, the shipments appear to be steadily going on since that time, the stock on hand is comparatively small; your committee therefore indulge the belief that the present houses will be all sufficient under ordinary circumstances, to house and secure all that may from time to time arrive in market.

Incidentally connected with the subject of the warehouses is the condition of the State wharves, which upon a strict examination your committee found to be in a very dilapidated state, many of the principal timbers almost entirely decayed, and but for the slight repairs that has been done by the order of the State wharfinger must have ere this have fallen into the basin; your committee would, therefore, recommend an appropriation sufficient to place new timbers in the entire front of the wharf at warehouse numbers one and two. Other portions of the State wharves your committee have found to be in good condition, your committee is decidedly of opinion that an increased revenue would be derived to the State from this source either by renting the same out to the highest bidder, or by placing them on the same footing with wharves belonging to the city of Baltimore—to collect the same wharfage. Agreeably to the ordinances of the city of Baltimore,