

\$7,592,734 ; and they then state the balance (7,697,934) as the actual debt. From this last sum, they deduct the several items of the productive capital of the State, amounting to \$924,323 ; and they then present the sum of \$6,773,611, as the actual debt to be provided for, inclusive of the Sinking Fund, as it then stood. If the Sinking Fund, as it now stands, therefore, were deducted from the last amount given, it would make the actual debt to be provided for, upon the calculation of the Majority of the Committee, only a small fraction over four millions of dollars. The Sinking Fund, as it now stands, consequently, will only have to increase to the extent of four millions of dollars, beyond its present amount, in order to cover the outstanding debt. This it would do, by the annual re-investments of its own interest, in less than nineteen years, without the addition of a dollar from the surplus revenues. It would only be necessary, in that case to provide for the current interest of the outstanding debt, which would be annually decreasing, as it became absorbed into the Sinking Fund. But, if extrinsic aid be afforded to the Fund, as I propose, from a reasonable margin to be preserved upon the annual surplus revenues, the time for the final liquidation of the actual debt, as exhibited by the Majority of the Committee, would be still further contracted. If only the sum of two hundred thousand dollars of the surplus revenues be annually invested in 5 per cent. stock ; and, if the interest of that sum, in each year, be re-invested, under the present compounding policy of the Fund, an aggregate extrinsic addition, would be obtained for the Fund, of more than three millions seven hundred thousand dollars, in thirteen years. But, if the supposed permanent appropriation of two hundred thousand dollars be annually added to the Sinking Fund, and both operate conjointly, at the rate of five per cent. interest, it will be found that a gross amount of upwards of seven millions of dollars would be produced, in ten years. Thus, it will be seen that, that policy would, in ten years, swell the Sinking Fund to an amount (beyond its present capital,) more than sufficient to absorb the outstanding actual debt, as estimated by the Majority of the Committee. If, therefore, the line of calculation adopted by the Majority of the Committee, is fully admitted, there is still less reason for the continuance of the present exorbitant rate of taxation.

It must be remembered, however, that the debt of Maryland is actually, and in sober fact, \$15,260,668.64, less the present amount of the Sinking Fund ; for the whole of which she is primarily liable to the public creditors. For, although we have every reason to hope for a different result, nevertheless, should any unanticipated misfortune happen to any one of her productive Works, she would be still responsible for every dollar, which was borrowed by her for its use. I hope it will not be forgotten, here, that the vast bulk of that debt will not fall due until the year 1890.