

mation in the possession of this Department as will enable it to present to the Legislature, at this time, any reliable project for the modification of the revenue system upon the basis of the new assessment. When the returns are received, and an opportunity is afforded the Department to digest and prepare them for the use of the General Assembly, the undersigned, in obedience to the Constitutional provision, which enjoins upon him the duty to "digest and prepare plans for the improvement and management of the revenue," will offer such views upon the subject as may appear to him to comport with the credit and honor of the State, and the true interests of the people.

Article VII, Section 5 of the Constitution, provides that, "from and after the first day of April, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, no Lottery scheme shall be drawn for any purpose whatever; nor shall any Lottery ticket be sold in this State; and it shall be the duty of the several Commissioners elected under this Constitution, to make such contract, or contracts, as will extinguish all existing Lottery grants before the said first day of April, eighteen hundred and fifty-nine, and also secure to the State a clear yearly revenue equal to the average amount derived by the State from the system for the last five years; but no such contract, or contracts, shall be valid until approved by the Treasurer and Comptroller." Chapter 113, Section 3, of January session, 1852, authorised the Commissioner of Lotteries, for the purpose of making a contract, or contracts, as required by the above quoted article, to "accept a surrender of any existing contract." The existing contract for drawing the Maryland Consolidated Lotteries was held by Francis Morris and Richard France, survivors of George Cook, and took effect from the first day of December, 1851, to continue for three years. On the twenty-seventh day of March last, the Commissioner of Lotteries entered into an agreement with Francis Morris and Richard France for the surrender to the State, from and after the first day of April then next, of the existing contract. On the twelfth day of April thereafter, the Lottery Commissioner, on behalf of the State, contracted with Richard France for the drawing of the Maryland Consolidated Lotteries for the period of seven years from the first day of that month; the contractor binding himself to pay to the Commissioner such proportions of moneys annually, as would fully extinguish the existing grants, and all costs and charges incident thereto, at the time limited in the