

The Comptroller, in his estimate, credits the State with the sum of \$18,000 for auction duties, and has omitted to add this sum to the probable expenditures in conformity with the act of 1853, ch. 266, which appropriates those duties, to the extent annually of \$20,000 to the purposes of deepening and improving the channel of the Patapsco river.

In his estimate of expenditures he has made no provision for the salary of the State Reporter and the State's subscription to the volume of Reports, which makes a further difference of \$1,500.

The present Comptroller and the Treasurer have estimated the interest on the public debt at \$678,445 23, making a further increase of expenditure over the estimate in the report of \$4,163 36.

In the opinion of the committee, the estimated receipts from the direct tax are too great. The experience of the past will prove, that the annual receipts from that source cannot be fairly rated at more than the full amount of the levy for the current year; as the arrears paid in on account of former years usually supply the failure in collections for the current year. Of the sum collectable for 1853, on account of the direct tax for that year, not more than one-half was received; the greater part of the receipts from that source being derived from the balances for former years.

The levy for the current year is \$365,956 92, while the estimate of the Comptroller is \$450,000, being a difference of \$84,043 08. The committee have given their reasons above for supposing that the payments from collectors in arrear cannot be relied upon to furnish as large a return as in former years, and they therefore think the estimates of the Comptroller for this item are in excess at least \$40,000.

These estimates of the committee are merely submitted as such, and perhaps may not be justified by the result; but they are made after careful examination of the whole subject, and are believed to be reliable.

Collecting these several over estimates and omissions, we must deduct from the the probable surplus set forth in the report these items, viz:

Auction duties,	\$18,000 00
State Reporter,	1,500 00
Supposed excess of estimates over receipts,	50,000 00
Under estimate of interest on debt,	4,163 36
Excess in estimate of direct tax,	40,000 00
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	<u>\$113,663 36</u>

The present Comptroller represents several of the smaller appropriations for the past year to be in debt, and he has therefore increased the estimates for those items. This will swell the difference to \$115,000.

The report of the various operations at the Treasury during the past year exhibit a highly prosperous condition of affairs. It ap-