

importer's agent, and they were filled according to the pleasure of the importer or of his own agents; all that the inspector heretofore did, was to receive a salary, in some years very far above that allowed by the constitution, and give sinecures to his appointees, whose only duty it was to sustain the existing state of things before the Governor and General Assembly. In proof of the above I refer your honorable body to the number of tons of guano annually inspected in the port of Baltimore.

Every dollar of this cost for inspection was taken from the pockets of the consumers, planters and farmers, and this they paid without any return. The inspector did not examine into the article for whose inspection he received and kept a salary far above the constitutional limits. Yet sensitive *farmer-loving* gentlemen could talk about expenses and constitutional matters when the State Chemist was concerned, and at no other time. It was all right that the farmers of the State should be taxed many thousand dollars for an inspection which was no inspection; but most atrocious to pay two thousand dollars to another officer who acted well his part, and for whom the farmers of any county were not taxed to the amount of the personal expenses of the State Chemist in that county.

The bill that passed the Senate that the State Chemist should regulate the inspection of guano, was proposed by a whig, referred to a committee, at whose head was the largest farmer in the State, and by his committee reported on favorably and passed by the Senate. It then went to the House, where it was *so amended as to require bond and security for the faithful performance of all his duties, and an inspection (at twenty-five cents per ton in lieu of all other salary,) which should show the exact composition of the article inspected.*

This Senate bill was opposed by the dealers and hucksters in the article, and they at once joined forces with the appointee of the Governor. The democratic members, with three exceptions, voted against this bill, some of them after having voted for its engrossment, and defeated it with the aid of the majority of the Baltimore delegation. The former gave as a reason, that it was taking patronage from a democratic Governor; some of the latter, that a rigid inspection would interfere with the regular course of trade, as if an article which could not bear a rigid inspection, should on that account be sold to our farmers and planters, the loss being that of the latter, all the gain being for the importers and dealers.

This result was brought about by the agency of the outside influence of many politicians in the State, who used either a direct or indirect influence to defeat the Senate bill.