

REPORT.

To the General Assembly of Maryland :

The Committee appointed on the part of the House of Delegates to inspect the Tobacco Warehouses of this State, beg leave to submit the following

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The State's interest in this property, they are of opinion, is worth at least \$500,000. Some of these warehouses they found in good order; but Nos. 2 and 3 are very much in want of repair; the power should be conferred on the Comptroller to have made such repairs as he may deem necessary from time to time. The State should take good care of the property thus entrusted to her.

The amount of tobacco inspected during the past year, has been about 39,000 hogsheads. The gross amount received for which, on outage, has been about \$48,750. The cost for inspection \$45,196. Leaving a balance, in favor of the tobacco fund, of \$3,554 00.

It will be perceived that this sum is not sufficient to meet the interest upon the tobacco fund debt, which is \$163,689.00. Now while we believe that it was never designed that a revenue should be derived to the State from this source, we also believe that it should never be a drain upon her Treasury. There ought to be enough realised from these inspections, if properly conducted, to pay the interest to the State upon this funded debt, and appropriate a sum from year to year for the liquidation of the same. Thus the producer would not be required to pay so much outage as he has now, and the great interest of the State, in this branch of trade, would be much promoted.

There is derived, annually, from the sale of the scraps and crumbs of tobacco, about \$10,000.00, which would be the value of 350 hogsheads of tobacco. Your Committee believe that these items legitimately belong to the producer; but if it was not for