

They further recommend the passage of a law prohibiting any one engaged about the warehouses, to be engaged directly or indirectly in the sale or purchase of tobacco.

By the examination of the Comptroller's Report for 1854, it will be found that there was expended for nails, during the year, over \$6000.00. The opinion of several of the inspectors was that at least one-half of this amount might be saved to the State if these nails were required to be purchased by them, or by some one else having special charge of, and discretion in the matter. They are now furnished by contract, and nails are in many cases furnished two or three times as large as are necessary, and at a greatly superfluous cost, they being sold by weight. In many instances cut nails would answer every purpose of a wrought nail.

Another saving to the State might be effected in the storage of tobacco. In former years, when some warehouses have been full, there has been sufficient room in others to store all the tobacco in the market, but instead of sending the tobacco to another warehouse when there was not room in one, heavy bills of storage have been paid for other houses, and to the great detriment of the State.

To remedy all these defects, and bring about the necessary reform, your Committee recommend the appointment of a general superintendent, who shall have the charge of all these matters, with power to employ or discharge hands, as he may deem most expedient; also to detail the hands engaged in the business from one house to the other, as the emergencies of the business may require, and thus supercede the necessity of employing so many hands, clerks, &c. In a word, let full power be given him to remedy all these evils hereinbefore described or may exist.

Your Committee visited, also, the warehouse recently built under the supervision of Messrs. Cook & Tewksbury. This is a fine structure, and reflects much credit upon the superintendents of the work, as well as those engaged in its mechanical construction. We recommend that this warehouse be given to Nos. 3 and 4, for storage houses.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JAMES M. LESTER, Chairman.

Annapolis, Feb'y 20th, 1856.