

tion, and of no real use in attaining the object to be arrived at. A proper performance of these duties will involve the necessity of an additional Clerk to attend strictly and entirely to this branch of the business of the office, but if authority is given to the Comptroller to establish proper fees, for the performance of these duties, as is done in other States, it will be no additional burden to the Treasury, but will probably, after payment of expenses, become a source of revenue. At the same time the services of this additional Clerk, to attend carefully to the details and workings of the system of Insurance, by both Foreign and Domestic Companies, and to look after and prevent evasions of the laws, would add immensely to the revenue from this source and, what is more important, be a reliable safeguard to the insured.

An Act should be passed providing the proper regulations to carry these views into effect.

This subject was pressed upon the last Legislature by the Report of the Comptroller, but although the General Assembly considered the subject to some extent, they failed to pass the laws necessary to systematize the business.

It should be the object of the Legislature, as much as possible, to encourage the formation of Domestic Companies, so that capital of this State may be advantageously employed in this very lucrative business, and the drain on the resources of the people, consequent on the abstraction of so large sums of money from her limits, prevented.

A synopsis of the returns of the Domestic Insurance Companies of this State, made under Chapter 257, of 1870, is appended to this Report, and exhibits the financial condition of the Companies as far as is in the power of the Department to do so.

Table No. 14 shows the amount of taxes, for the year 1871, due from Collectors of State Taxes in the several counties and the city of Baltimore, at the end of the fiscal year, to be \$534,247.79.

Table No. 15 shows a list of balances due the State from Collectors for various years, ranging from 1843 to 1870 inclusive, amounting in the aggregate to \$645,970.78, exclusive of interest.

Table No. 16 exhibits a list of balances due from Sheriffs of the counties and city of Baltimore, for a long series of years, amounting to \$50,018.55. A number of these old claims are worthless and irrecoverable, and might as well be stricken off the books of the office.