

should detect some deficiency in the laws, or difficulty in their operation. If so, it will be for the Legislature, at its next session, to cure the defects and render the whole perfect.

Table No. 20 exhibits the amounts of unpaid State Taxes due from various incorporated institutions, amounting in the whole to the sum of \$82,174.53.

These accounts are engaging the special attention of the Department, and it is hoped that a large number of them may be realized during the current year.

Table No. 21 contains the names of a number of corporations and companies, which are indebted for State Taxes, but the amounts of which are not accurately ascertained. Some of them are defunct bodies and incapable of payment at this time; others, however, are abundantly able to pay when the amounts can be ascertained with certainty.

TAXES ON GROSS RECEIPTS OF RAILROAD COMPANIES.

The Act of Assembly passed at January Session, 1872, Ch. 234, establishes the rate of taxation upon the gross receipts of Rail Road Companies in this State, at one-half of one per cent. This tax, small and apparently trifling as it is, will, it is believed, amount to \$50,000.00 per year on all the roads, but as the Act does not require the returns to be made until the first day of February, I have no precise data from which to ascertain the amount with certainty.

TAXES ON FOREIGN CORPORATIONS.

Section 58 of Article 3 of the Constitution, having made it the duty of the Legislature "to provide by law for State and Municipal taxation upon the revenues accruing from business done in this State by all foreign corporations," the Legislature, at its last Session, passed an Act (Chapter 355) "to authorize the issuing of licenses to Telegraph Companies, and Express and Transportation Companies not organized under the laws of this State, to transact business therein," fixing the license for said Companies at \$300.00 for the agent at the principal office, and \$2 for subordinate officers, and at the same time, directing that if one per cent. of the gross receipts from business transacted in this State by said Companies respectively, should exceed the amounts of said licenses, the excess also, should be paid into the Treasury. These Companies having heretofore made their profits in this State without contributing in return therefor to the support of the State government, are now disinclined to pay for their licenses, and intend to resist the execution of the