

missioners of the counties in which they are situate. I then caused the necessary forms for the assessment to be furnished, together with forms for the accounts for said taxes, made out according to the terms of the Act, against the said stockholders, and caused proceedings to be actively taken in the City of Baltimore, under the direction of the counsel selected for that purpose, who instituted the necessary legal proceedings to enforce the payment of said taxes. Propositions were subsequently made by some of the said Banks to compromise the claims of the State against their stockholders, under the 9th Section of said Act. After the consideration of the various propositions, by the counsel and myself, an agreement was finally arrived at, by which the Banks stipulated to pay directly into the Treasury for all of their stockholders, fifty per centum of the amounts charged against such stockholders, without any abatements for transferred stock, or without raising any questions of ownership in regard to any of the shares of said stock. Settlements were accordingly made with said Banks on this basis, and the several amounts paid into the Treasury. When I consider that in inaugurating the measures under which these recoveries have been made, I was sustained by a very small portion of the legal talent of the State, and when I recall to mind the difficulties which I encountered in procuring the passage of the bills through the Legislature, I cannot but feel a sincere gratification that the whole matter has been brought to so satisfactory a result, and hope that it will receive the approval of the General Assembly.

#### TAXATION OF RAIL ROAD COMPANIES.

I indulge the hope that at no very distant day, I shall be able to report a satisfactory arrangement with the Rail Road Companies, by which those large interests will also contribute their proper share towards the support of the Government to which they look for protection to their vast interests, and from which they have derived their corporate existence and their many privileges. I have always contended, that under the restriction upon the powers of the Legislature, contained in the 15th (formerly the 13th) article of the Declaration of Rights, the power is denied to the General Assembly to make privileged classes in the State, so far as the question of taxation is concerned. That article declares that "every person in the State or person holding property therein, ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes for the support of the Government, according to his actual worth in real or personal property."