

trary, every special fund is dedicated and appropriated by law to a particular purpose; and in no instance is authority given to use it for any other.

The Constitution, Art. 3, sec. 34, declares that "no debt shall be contracted by the General Assembly, unless such debt shall be authorized by a law providing for the collection of an annual tax or taxes sufficient to pay the interest on such debt as it falls due, and also to discharge the principal thereof within fifteen years from the time of contracting the same; and the taxes laid for this purpose shall not be repealed or applied to any other object, until the said debt and the interest thereon shall be fully discharged."

In the face of this provision of the Constitution, it is my duty to report that the debt, known as the "Maryland Defence Loan," authorized by Act of 1868, chap. 235—the principal of which is \$3,326,750.66—will fall due in the year 1883; and that it devolves upon this General Assembly to make provision for its payment or redemption.

There has been received, on account of the tax of 5½ cents on each \$100, known as the "Bounty Tax," and imposed by the above Act for the payment of this debt, the sum of \$2,887,297.02. There has been disbursed in payment of interest on the loan the sum of \$2,127,714.51. (See Statement M.) There is shown, upon the books of this office, to the credit of this tax, in excess of disbursements, as set forth in "Statement M," on page 22 of this report, the small sum of \$145,628.73 due from the Treasury Proper. The balance of the tax, \$613,953.78, and millions more, have gone for bounties. It will presently be seen that the Treasury Proper is not, and will not be, in any condition to settle up with this special fund creditor; and even if it were, the amount due would fall far short of the amount required for this purpose. I am, therefore, compelled to ask that a new loan be authorized, to enable the Treasury to take up this debt, as it falls due in 1883. I am prompted to make this request, in compliance with another provision of the Constitution; to wit: Art. 6, Sec. 2, which requires that "the Comptroller shall digest and prepare plans for the improve-