

The Act of 1894, Chapter 329, provides that "in the month of October in the year 1895, and in every second year thereafter, the Treasurer of every Savings Bank or Savings Institution in the State of Maryland shall deliver to the Comptroller a written statement, sworn to by him or the President of such Savings Bank, containing the name and amount standing to his or her credit of every depositor who shall not have made any deposit therein or withdrawn any money on their accounts for the period of twenty years next prior to the first day of the preceding September; provided, that this section shall not apply to the deposit made by any person known to the said Treasurer to be living. The Comptroller shall communicate the statement which shall be so delivered to him to the General Assembly in his next report."

Several Savings Banks have complied with the requirements of the statute, and an examination of Statement "F" will show in detail the names of the Savings Banks, the names of depositors and the amount to his or her credit. If the General Assembly will make provision for general publicity of the names of depositors and the amounts of money to their credit in these several banks, I am confident a very considerable part of this money will be demanded by the depositors or their heirs or legal representatives. I would respectfully recommend that the General Assembly provide by law for the reverting or forfeiting, after a period of two years, to the State of all sums not demanded by depositors or their representatives.

The aggregate amount reported is very considerable, one bank having more than sixty thousand dollars. Providing for a reversion or forfeiture of this money to the State is not without precedent. Many of the States have such laws, and it could not be successfully contended to be a hardship on these banks, for already they have had the use of these sums for more than twenty years.

The State, rather than the banks, should be the beneficiary of these sums of money.

The very gratifying exhibit which I make of the financial affairs of our State is in a very large measure due to the sound discretion and financial ability of my associate in the Treas-