

to the several counties and the city of Baltimore, in proportion to their respective population, both white and colored, between the ages of five and twenty years, which opinion I have scrupulously observed.

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

Statement "M" shows the receipts and disbursements on account of this fund, together with a summary showing a deficit of \$213,983.88 to the Treasury since 1896, at which time the fund was established, the tax rate never having been sufficient to relieve the Treasury from bearing a part of the expenditure for this purpose.

STATE TOBACCO INSPECTIONS.

Table No. 7 shows the receipts and disbursements on account of this fund during the fiscal year, the receipts being \$55,265.74, while the disbursements during same period were \$54,786.29, leaving as net earnings to the State the sum of \$479.45.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

The new State Building at Annapolis, known as the Court of Appeals Building, provided for under Chapter 607 of the Acts of 1900, is now virtually completed. Besides the Court of Appeals, it contains the General Public Library, the Law Library, the offices of the Comptroller, the State Treasurer, Tax Commissioner, Land Commissioner and the State Fishery Force, thus bringing together, in commodious and comfortable quarters these various departments of the State Government. The Annex to the State House, authorized by Chapter 200 of the Acts of 1902, and which is now in course of construction, will add greatly to the convenience and comfort of the General Assembly, and will, when completed, be in every way a credit to the State. The old State House, of Colonial times, and about which cluster so many historic associations, is untouched in this improvement, remaining as it has for years, the pride of all Marylanders. It will be necessary for the Legislature to make an additional appropriation for the completion of the