

of all State offices and institutions receiving State aid, by duly authorized and competent persons, there cannot be the slightest doubt, in order that the State should receive its own and the public the best and most intelligent service. These opinions I held when called to fill the responsible position I now occupy, and my official connection with the Treasury Department has only strengthened those convictions.

During the session of the last Legislature, after much research and careful consideration, and after consultation with Your Excellency and the State Treasurer, there was prepared, under my direction, a bill known as the "Special Auditor," and by Senator Stevenson A. Williams introduced in the Senate on the 10th of March last. Notwithstanding he gave it his earnest and intelligent support, it failed to become a law by reason of the opposition of those officials whose offices and institutions it effected. Section 42 of said bill read as follows :

"It shall be the duty of the Special Auditor to Examine, under the direction of the Comptroller as often as, and whenever the Comptroller may direct and determine, all State institutions, institutions or corporations receiving appropriations from the State, or in which the State may be directly interested, all savings banks and institutions not otherwise by law required to be examined, all State Tobacco Warehouses, building and loan associations, and all offices created by the Constitution or laws of this State and receiving fees or funds for which they are required in any manner to account with the State or with any State officials. Full and ample power is hereby conferred upon the Special Auditor to make such examinations for the purpose of ascertaining the status and condition of the affairs of the institutions, banks, corporations, associations, warehouses and offices aforesaid, their methods of accounting and doing business, how the moneys received by them are expended or applied, and whether or not they are in all respects complying with the several provisions of law to them respectively applicable."

Had such bill become a law, I am fully persuaded a more intelligent and trustworthy service would now be given the State.

It has been a pleasure to present to you the above operations of the Treasury Department. That the exhibit thus made must meet your hearty approval, I feel well assured ; for the record herein given challenges the favorable consideration of every citizen. It is also my pleasure to again bear testimony to the eminent financial ability of the present State Treasurer, to whom is equally due the credit of the management of the State's finances ; and I