

tion any separate fund for the colored schools; but colored schools shall be supported and maintained from the general school fund."

FREE SCHOOL BOOKS.

Statement "L" continues to show a heavy deficit on account of this fund. The receipts during the year were \$126,304.52, with the usual disbursements, \$150,000, leaving a shortage for the year of \$23,695.48, or since the fund was established in 1896 of \$237,679.36. The tax of 1¾ cents on each \$100 has never been adequate to sustain this appropriation, and in my judgment this tax should be increased in order that this fund should not be a burden to any extent upon the general treasury.

CONCLUSION.

It has been my purpose to direct your attention to what I conceived to be some of the most salient features of this Report. Your careful business training and the jealous care with which you safeguard every interest of the State will lead you, I am sure, to a careful perusal of each statement and table.

I deem it advisable, however, to call your attention to the rapidly increased funded debt of the State, and the purposes for which loans have been authorized, within the past six years, viz:

Maryland Penitentiary.....	\$ 950,000
State House.....	850,000
Springfield State Hospital.....	580,000
Fifth Regiment Armory.....	420,000
House of Correction.....	370,000
Court of Appeals Building.....	290,000
Maryland Institute.....	175,000
Relief Fund Commission.....	250,000
Heating Plant at Annapolis.....	140,000
Md. Asylum and Train'g School for Feeble Minded.	66,000
Maryland Agricultural College.....	57,000
Maryland Hospital for the Insane.....	53,000
Cambridge Hospital.....	10,000
Charlotte Hall School.....	5,000
St. Mary's Academy.....	5,000
St. Mary's Female Seminary.....	4,000
Total	\$4,225,000