

of securing appropriations of this character by inserting after the amount of the appropriations the word "annually" has grown apace. These appropriations remain as such until repealed, which is seldom the case, and therefore are not passed upon by the succeeding Legislatures. At each session of the General Assembly new Acts of a similar character are passed, thereby increasing the burden upon the Treasury. In the limited time of the Session, and especially owing to the physical as well as mental strain to which the members of the Finance and Ways and Means Committees are subjected, it is impossible for them to give such matters the attention they so well deserve and should receive.

I am equally of the opinion that all special Acts carrying appropriations should be absolutely repealed, their future enactment prohibited, and that all future appropriations by the State should be covered in two bills, one for each of the fiscal years; and, further, that a Constitutional Amendment should be passed to this end. If this were adopted, every General Assembly should be advised of the demands upon the Treasury, but more especially in comparison with the ordinary receipts of the Treasury would they be in possession of the knowledge of the amount of those demands which prudence would dictate could be safely given. In other words, the General Assembly having before it the revenue of the State could always keep its appropriations within those limitations.

In closing these remarks, I am forced to the conclusion that in my judgment the State has already gone too far, certainly beyond the resources of the State, in appropriating money and creating new bureaus and commissions with the necessary demand upon the Treasury for their maintenance. I am not to be understood that this applies to all appropriations or to all new bureaus or commissions heretofore created, but the work of the State in different fields has of late been so rapidly and greatly enlarged that it may be possible in some instances that such appropriations could be materially reduced and the work done as efficiently by a merger of such bureaus or commissions, or be done by bodies already in existence, without any loss in efficiency to the State.

In speaking as I have of the finances of our State, I do not wish