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FOR THE PROPRIETORS.

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Legislature of S. C.

Comptroller-General's REPORT to the Hon. the Legislature of this State.

To the Honorable THOMAS BENNETT, Speaker, and the other Members of the Honorable House of Representatives.

The Comptroller-General, respectfully submits the following Exhibits and Reports:

No. 1, Shows the Receipts and Payments in the Treasury of the Lower Division, between the last day of September, 1816, and the first day of October, 1817, leaving a balance in the Treasury, of one hundred and eighty-six thousand seven hundred and ninety-three dollars, sixty-five cents.

No. 2, Is a like Exhibit from the Treasury of the Upper Division for the same period, leaving a balance in the Treasury of eighty thousand three hundred and forty-nine dollars, fifty-three cents.

No. 3, Covers the monthly reports of the Treasurer of the Lower Division for the last fiscal year.

No. 4, Covers the copies of the Treasurer's monthly Reports for the Upper Division for the same period.

No. 5, Is a statement and certificate of the funded debt of this state, with all the redemptions to the first day of October last, by which it appears there still remains outstanding the sum of four hundred and thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and ninety-six dollars, sixty-nine cents.

No. 6, Is a statement of the Paper Medium Bonds, by which it appears there was a balance due on them, on the first day of October last, of eighteen thousand, eight hundred and twenty-five pounds, eight shillings and four pence, equal to eighty thousand six hundred and eighty dollars, twenty-eight and half cents.

No. 7, Covers the Reports from the Commissioners of Roads for Darlington, Pendleton, Greenville, Chester, Fairfield, Newberry, Spartanburgh, Chesterfield, Lancaster, Lexington, Richland, Orange, Edgefield, Claremont, Clarendon, and Salem and Charleston.

No. 8, Covers the Reports of the Commissioners of the Poor for Fairfield, Edgefield, Lancaster, Florry, Lexington, Richland, Laurens, Abbeville, Newberry, Spartanburgh, Chester, Pendleton, Claremont, Clarendon, and St. Johns Berkly and Charleston.

No. 9, Covers the Reports of Fines and Forfeitures made by the Clerks of Greenville, Laurens, Spartanburgh, Chester, Newberry, Orangeburgh, Lexington, Richland, Lancaster, Union, Abbeville, Darlington, Edgefield, Sumter, and Georgetown.

No. 10, Covers the Reports of Fines and Forfeitures made by the Solicitor of the Northern Circuit, and by the Attorney-General.

No. 11, Is the Report of the Treasurer of South-Carolina College.

No. 12, Is the Report of the Trustees of South-Carolina College.

No. 13, Is the Report of the Commissioner of Columbia, of the Sales of Lots and Squares in Co-

lumbia made on the ninth day of December, 1816.

No. 14, Is a Report of the Commissioner of Columbia, of the cash which he received and paid away between the last day of September, 1816, and the first of October, 1817.

No. 15, Is a Report of the expenditure of the fund appropriated for Transient Poor in Georgetown.

No. 16, Is a statement of a number of old Bonds and Mortgages given for confiscated property to which the Comptroller-General is desirous of calling the attention of the Legislature. A great length of time has elapsed since the Bonds and Mortgages were executed, most of the parties are either dead or removed away. He is of opinion the greatest part of the Mortgaged lands might yet be located, if the Legislature would authorize the expence of employing surveyors for that purpose. He entertains no doubt but new grants have been long since obtained for those lands, and that persons have been in possession of them a sufficient length of time to bar the right of the state if the statute of limitation will run against the state. Should the right of the state not be barred, and these lands could be located, a considerable sum might be realized to the state, by a sale thereof. To attempt a sale of them before they are located, would be in vain, as no person would be disposed to purchase them.

The Comptroller-General further reports, that he is unable at the commencement of the session, to furnish the Legislature with the usual exhibit shewing the nett amount of Tax paid for property lying in each collection district, as he has not received the returns intended for this department, from some of the Tax Collectors of the Lower Division. Six packets are now lying in the Post-Office in this place, addressed to the Comptroller-General from Charleston, which he supposes to contain the returns for his office; the postage of which amounts to the sum of one hundred and fifty-six dollars. Accompanying those packets was a letter from the Post-Master in Charleston, to the Post-Master in this place, requiring him not to suffer those packets to go out of his office, until the postage was paid. This extraordinary conduct of the Post-Master of Charleston, induced the Comptroller-General to believe it was done with a design to embarrass him in the discharge of his official duties. He therefore addressed a letter to the Post-Master-General, stating the circumstance, his unwillingness on the part of the state, to pay this extraordinary and unnecessary expence, and requesting that the postage might be reduced. To which the Post-Master-General replied, it would give him pleasure to reduce the postage, but the law had not invested him with discretionary power in that respect.—That where packets, intended to be sent by private conveyance, are by mistake of the Post-Master, sent by Mail, a discretion had been exercised. The Comptroller-General being unable to procure a reduction of the postage, and believing he could obtain the necessary information from the returns made to the Treasury department of the Lower Division, to make out this exhibit, and ascertain the sums for which the Collectors should be made liable, declined taking those packets out of the post-office, and paying this unnecessary expence, without the

sanction of the Legislature. He contemplated returning to Charleston early in October, which would have afforded him time to examine the returns made to the Treasury, and enable him to report thereon at the commencement of the session, but was prevented by the prevailing sickness. He has lately received from the Treasurer in Charleston the returns deposited there, which he will examine during the session of the Legislature, and report thereon as early as possible.

He cannot however make a complete exhibit this year, as there has been no Collector for Hurry district, the person appointed to that office having declined serving; the taxes of which district remain uncollected, and ought to be collected with the next years taxes. All the returns which have come to his possession, except those lately received from Charleston, have been examined, and he has been ready for some time to report thereon. He submits to the Legislature the expediency of requiring by law, each Collector to deposit with the Treasurer of the division to which he may belong, the individual returns and the duplicate of the general return for the Comptroller-General's office, at the time he makes his settlement with the Treasurer, and that the Treasurer be required to deliver them to the order of the Comptroller-General, which would prevent a similar occurrence, in future. Should every collector be at liberty to forward to the Comptroller-General by Mail, his individual returns and duplicate of his general return, the postage would amount to an enormous sum of money.

The death of the treasurer of the lower division, suspended for a while, the cash transactions of that department. As soon as it was practicable, an appointment was made by the governor, of Mr. Lyon Levy, to fill that office, until the meeting of the Legislature. It appears that the Treasurer of the Lower Division had over drawn his salary two hundred and eighty-seven dollars, allowing it to the end of the quarter in which he died.

That the Bank of the State of South-Carolina, has received from the Treasury, between the last day of September, 1816, and the first day of October, 1817, the sum of one hundred and twelve thousand, five hundred and thirteen dollars and fifty-six cents, on account of capital, and has paid to the Treasury since the first of October last, the sum of seventy-six thousand five hundred and seven dollars, ninety-one cents, as profits.

The Comptroller-General further reports, that Thomas Key and Robert Ware, Esqrs. have in their hands a considerable sum of money which they received from the Inspectors of Hammonds', Pickens', and Campbells Ware Houses, belonging to the state. That they have been required to make a return thereof, upon oath, to the Comptroller-General, and to pay the amount into the Treasury. That they pledged themselves to pay the same into the Treasury in the month of April last, but have entirely neglected to render the account as required, and to pay the money into the Treasury, agreeably to their promise. That Thomas Key resides in the district of Edgefield, and it is necessary that a bill should be filed in the Court of Equity for that district, to compel them to account for, and pay over the money into the Treasury. That

he has applied to Robert Stark, Esquire, Solicitor for that circuit, to file said bill, who states that it is entirely out of his power to attend to the case, as the Court of Equity is holden at Orangeburgh at the same time, where is he under the necessity of attending to cases in which he is already engaged. The Comptroller-General therefore begs leave to submit to the legislature, the expediency of either altering the times of the sittings of the said Court, and thereby enable the solicitor to perform the duty, or to authorise him to employ some other person to file said bill.

Respectfully submitted by
ROBERT CRESWELL,
Comptroller-General.

Message

OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE U. S.

On Monday last the first session of the 15th Congress convened at Washington, having a larger number of members present than any congress heretofore on the first day. The Hon. Henry Clay, was elected Speaker, by a majority which fully spoke the estimation in which that truly valuable man is held. Yesterday (December 2) at 12 o'clock, the Clerk read the following message to the House:

*Beloved Citizens of the Senate,
and of the House of Representatives:*

At no period of our political existence had we so much cause to felicitate ourselves at the prosperous and happy condition of our country. The abundant fruits of the earth have filled it with plenty. An extensive and profitable commerce has greatly augmented our revenue. The public credit has attained an extraordinary elevation. Our preparations for defence, in case of future wars, from which, by the experience of all nations, we ought not to expect to be exempted, are advancing, under a well digested system, with all the dispatch which so important a work will admit. Our free government, founded on the interest and affections of the people, has gained, and is daily gaining strength. Local jealousies are rapidly yielding to more generous enlarged and enlightened views of national policy. For advantages so numerous and highly important, it is our duty to unite in grateful acknowledgments to that omnipotent Being from whom they are derived, and in unceasing prayer that he will endow us with virtue and strength to maintain and hand them down, in their utmost purity, to our latest posterity.

I have the satisfaction to inform you, that an arrangement which had been commenced by my predecessor, with the British government, for the reduction of the naval force, by Great Britain, and the United States, on the lakes, has been concluded: by which it is provided, that neither party shall keep in service, on Lake Champlain, more than one vessel; on Lake Ontario, more than one; and on Lake Erie, and the upper lakes, more than two; to be armed, each, with one cannon only; and that all the other armed vessels, of both parties, of which an exact list is interchanged, shall be dismantled. It is also agreed, that the force retained shall be restricted in its duty, to the internal purposes of each party; and that the arrangement shall remain in force until six months shall have expired, after notice given by one of the parties to the other of its desire that it should terminate. By this arrangement, uncessary ex-