

pany. The indebtedness in arrear from the latter Company, has been settled with the Treasurer. In the case of the Northern Central Railway Company, the Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the Superior Court of Baltimore City, and remanded the cause to that Court for a new trial, in order that the amount due the State may be ascertained. The cause is still pending in the Superior Court, and no receipts from that company will probably be had, until its final adjudication. The cases against the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and the Western Maryland Railroad Company, have not yet been settled.— The case against the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, is now pending in the Court of Appeals. A case is also pending in the Court of Appeals, brought by the County Commissioners of Anne Arundel county, against the Annapolis and Elk Ridge Railroad Company, the decision of which will probably go far to obviate the necessity of an action by the State against that company. Some of the other Railroad Companies are in default for non payment at maturity, but I am not advised that any others are disposed to resist the collection of the tax.

The failure of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, for upwards of two years to settle any portion of the large amount due the State, under the contract for one-fifth receipts from passengers on the Washington Branch, or to pay the dividend on the stock of the State in that Branch Road, or any sum on account of the amount due for taxes on the gross receipts of the company, has occasioned a loss to the State Treasury which has been seriously felt. That the people of the State, will require that this corporation shall be forced to fulfil its obligations to the State, is beyond doubt.

Although many years ago, when the question, involved had been mooted to only an inconsiderable extent, the Court of Appeals of Maryland, decided, that notwithstanding the restriction in the 15th Article of the Declaration of Rights, the Legislature did possess the power to exempt from taxation the shares of stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company yet in view