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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

MARCH 4, 1870.

Report from the Select Committee on Retrenchment of  
County Expenses, read and 1,000 copies ordered to be printed.

By order,

MILTON Y. KIDD,  
Chief Clerk.

## REPORT.

OF THE

# SPECIAL COMMITTEE

ON

## RETRENCHMENT

OF

# County Expenses.

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ANNAPOLIS:

WM. THOMPSON OF R., PRINTER.

1870

# REPORT.

HOUSE OF DELEGATES, March 3, 1870.

*Gentlemen of the House of Delegates :*

The Special Committee on Retrenchment of County Expenses, appointed the 19th January, "with leave to report by bill or otherwise, for the purpose of examining into county expenditures, with the view of reducing and making the same more uniform," have the honor to submit the following report :

Some of the Boards of County Commissioners have not been as prompt as they might have been in complying with the order adopted by the House, January 20th, "to communicate to this House, as soon as practicable, copies of" certain accounts therein specified. Several of the reports made give only the aggregate amounts of the different accounts, instead of copies of the accounts in full, as called for. Whether, and in what cases, this has been inadvertently, or purposely done, your Committee will not undertake to say—the people of the different counties can best determine when the reports are printed.

From the reports that have been received, the Committee has had prepared a tabular statement, herewith submitted as a part of this report, showing in condensed form the amount under each head, also the total expenses of every county, on account of the several items specified ; which it is believed, will be a matter of general interest to tax-payers. In this statement is included a column giving the assessed value of property in each county, which by comparison with the total expenses, ascertains the number of cents in every hundred dollars worth of property that each county has been taxed on this account. It will be seen there is a very wide difference in expenses in the different counties—the comparative amount in Charles county being six times, and other counties three, four and five times, as great as it has been in Carroll county.

The publication and circulation of these accounts will undoubtedly call public attention to, and to some extent check, the extravagance and irregularities that have, in too many instances, been committed in the county expenditures during the past year.

As a further means of correcting these abuses, the Committee has prepared and will report to the House three several bills, viz : one proposing to reduce the expenses of publishing Local Laws; one to reduce the expenses of publishing statement of county expenditures, and one to prevent the accounts against the counties for officers' fees exceeding the legal allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

ED. L. F. HARDCASTLE,

*Chr. of Special Committee.*

**Tabular Statement of Expenses of the different Counties for 1869, called for by order of the House of Delegates,  
Adopted January 20, 1870.**

| COUNTIES             | Clerk to Circuit Court. | State's Attorney. | Sherrif.   | Register of Wills. | Judges of the Orphans Court per diem and mileage. | County Commissioners per diem and mileage. | Local Printing. | Total.     | Assessed value of property. | Relative expenses in comparison to the assessed value of property. |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------|--------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Allegany.....        | \$1,349 46              | \$1,280 80        | \$6,775 65 | \$2,935 35         | \$824 00                                          | \$866 00                                   | \$2,401 35      | \$7,432 51 | \$15,713 000                | 11                                                                 |
| Anne Arundel.....    | 1,274 57                | 1,549 92          | 4,698 88   | 514 27             | 852 00                                            | 2,244 00                                   | 3,038 92        | 15,282 66  | 10,573,754                  | 15                                                                 |
| Baltimore.....       | 4,026 75                | 2,469 90          | 12,148 66  | 375 56             | 1,465 00                                          | 1,350 00                                   | 844 75          | 27,668 61  | 39,744,251                  | 17                                                                 |
| Calvert.....         | 958 52                  | 629 98            | 762 95     | 206 30             | 256 00                                            | 400 00                                     | 484 02          | 3,668 37   | 2,169,506                   | 17                                                                 |
| Caroline.....        | 3,118 10                | 620 00            | 748 92     | 151 74             | 472 00                                            | 281 60                                     | 881 03          | 6,274 33   | 4,169,658                   | 15                                                                 |
| Cecil.....           | 843 82                  | 470 33            | 2,834 99   | 27 60              | 1,396 00                                          | 874 70                                     | 416 00          | 6,863 09   | 16,693,510                  | 4                                                                  |
| Charles.....         | 1,300 04                | 886 62            | 2,451 94   | 357 71             | 353 00                                            | 1,045 00                                   | 1,036 15        | 7,430 46   | 14,078,062                  | 5                                                                  |
| Chesapeake.....      | 2,247 43                | 1,545 00          | 1,456 75   | 638 00             | 628 00                                            | 505 90                                     | 713 87          | 7,677 52   | 3,106,885                   | 24                                                                 |
| Dorchester.....      | 3,708 68                | 1,839 83          | 9,471 07   | 354 30             | 658 00                                            | 1,565 15                                   | 1,537 95        | 8,021 13   | 6,115,902                   | 13                                                                 |
| Frederick.....       | 2,508 45                | 929 36            | 4,727 65   | 1,046 57           | 2,048 00                                          | 1,068 00                                   | 4,594 62        | 23,447 97  | 26,035,066                  | 9                                                                  |
| Harford.....         | 1,689 08                | 686 66            | 1,625 65   | 809 20             | 272 00                                            | 713 00                                     | 2,218 75        | 11,917 33  | 12,769,356                  | 9                                                                  |
| Howard.....          | 2,383 35                | 613 33            | 2,213 68   | 232 27             | 652 00                                            | 584 60                                     | 1,184 41        | 7,973 61   | 5,053,403                   | 10                                                                 |
| Kent.....            | 1,885 27                | 776 64            | 451 87     | 131 65             | 1,117 00                                          | 593 20                                     | 989 00          | 5,325 01   | 7,187,511                   | 8                                                                  |
| Montgomery.....      | 1,966 85                | 1,976 88          | 3,532 80   | 511 89             | 256 00                                            | 758 00                                     | 1,466 26        | 10,316 13  | 8,632,349                   | 17                                                                 |
| Prince George's..... | 1,734 62                | 980 00            | 1,837 61   | 156 00             | 732 00                                            | 558 20                                     | 1,040 93        | 5,590 11   | 3,001,311                   | 20                                                                 |
| Queen Anne's.....    | 1,765 65                | 1,431 66          | 1,720 75   | 175 75             | 384 00                                            | 758 00                                     | 1,040 93        | 5,590 11   | 3,600,157                   | 14                                                                 |
| St. Mary's.....      | 2,338 57                | 2,900 00          | 1,494 50   | 373 13             | 344 00                                            | 644 40                                     | 2,942 65        | 10,938 01  | 7,521,353                   | 14                                                                 |
| Talbot.....          | 2,308 83                | 1,592 83          | 2,703 24   | 235 00             | 1,303 00                                          | 948 70                                     | 4,495 80        | 12,967 31  | 20,110,731                  | 6                                                                  |
| Washington.....      | 1,129 90                | 1,592 83          | 3,682 44   | 235 00             | 1,303 00                                          | 948 70                                     | 4,495 80        | 12,967 31  | 4,484 01                    | 10                                                                 |
| Wicomico.....        | 1,231 57                | 460 26            | 563 05     | 233 05             | 340 00                                            | 1,169 00                                   | 7,115 70        | 4,684 01   | 4,433,463                   | 16                                                                 |
| Worcester.....       | 1,542 07                | 1,238 30          | 2,94 26    | 232 85             | 356 00                                            | 883 70                                     | 2,473 50        | 8,909 63   | 4,521,668                   | 19                                                                 |