

assembly shall not pledge the faith of the state, or bind it in any form, for the debts or obligations of any company or corporation.

29. There shall be set apart annually, from the accruing revenue, a sum equal to seven per cent. of the state debt existing on the first day of January in the year one thousand eight hundred and fifty-two. The fund thus set apart shall be called the sinking fund, and shall be applied to the payment of the interest of the state debt, and the principal of such part as may be redeemable. If no part be redeemable, then the residue of the sinking fund, after the payment of such interest, shall be invested in the bonds or certificates of debt of this commonwealth, or of the United States, or of some of the states of this union, and applied to the payment of the state debt, as it shall become redeemable. Whenever, after the said first day of January, a debt shall be contracted by the commonwealth, there shall be set apart in like manner, annually, for thirty-four years, a sum exceeding by one per cent. the aggregate annual interest agreed to be paid thereon, at the time contracted, which sum shall be part of the sinking fund, and shall be applied in the manner before directed. The general assembly shall not otherwise appropriate any part of the sinking fund or its accruing interest, except in time of war, insurrection, or invasion.

30. The general assembly may, at any time, direct a sale of the stocks held by the commonwealth in internal improvement and other companies; but the proceeds of such sale, if made before the payment of the public debt, shall constitute a part of the sinking fund and be applied in like manner.

31. The general assembly shall not contract loans or cause to be issued certificates of debt or bonds of the state, irredeemable for a period greater than thirty-four years.

GENERAL PROVISIONS.

32. The general assembly shall not grant a charter of incorporation to any church or religious denomination, but may secure the title to church property to an extent to be limited by law.

33. No lottery shall hereafter be authorized by law, and the buying, selling, or transferring of tickets or chances in any lottery not now authorized by a law of this state, shall be prohibited.

34. No new county shall be formed with an area less than six hundred square miles; nor shall the county or counties from which it is formed be reduced below that area; nor shall any county, having a white population less than five thousand, be deprived of more than one-fifth of such population; nor shall a county having a larger white population be reduced below four thousand. But any county, the length of which is three times its mean breadth, or which exceeds fifty miles in length, may be divided at the discretion of the general assembly. In all general elections the voters in any county, not entitled to separate representation, shall vote in the same election district.

35. The general assembly shall confer on the courts the power to grant divorces, change the names of persons, and direct the sale