

the first class. Whilst the State should not pay exorbitant salaries, it certainly should not expect its officers to devote their time and talents to its service, for an inadequate remuneration. I believe that the change in the system of labor in the warehouses, will cause a reduction in the general expenditures.

This leads me to the consideration of another matter, of which I shall treat very briefly. An effort will be made to induce you to abolish the whole system of inspections; or, as to modify it, as to substitute licensed inspectors for those now appointed by the State.

To abolish inspections absolutely will, I presume, meet with the approbation of comparatively few. It requires no great degree of sagacity to foresee the injurious results of such a measure. But, the more plausible scheme of the license system will be pressed upon your consideration. Powerful influences will be brought to bear for the attainment of this object. I respectfully caution against hasty action in the matter. The unprecedented prosperity visible in every branch of our industry and commerce, which has been reached under the present system, should admonish you against inconsiderate change. The principle and object of every system of inspection must be to establish an impartial umpirage between the buyer and the seller, the producer and the consumer. The arbitrator of valuation must be absolutely independent; so that, full justice may be done to each of the parties interested. The independence of the inspector must not be jeopardized. Men are not prone to be dishonest, though they may be weak. To remove temptation is to insure integrity. The inspector who holds his appointment from, and is directly responsible to the Executive, or other Superior Officer of the State, can have no motive to do wrong. But, the licensed inspector, who depends upon the patronage of the producer, or his Commission Merchant, may not have the moral courage to perform his duty, with strict impartiality. Past experience has convinced me that the occasions for the exercise of firmness, on the part of the inspectors, in maintaining the market standards of merchandise, are much more frequent than is generally supposed. This may be one reason, why some are found anxious to rid themselves of the whole, some restraints which the present system imposes. It is much more important, however, for the general purposes of justice, as well as for the character of our market abroad, that these salutary restrictions should be rigidly maintained, than that individual interests or prejudices should be gratified.

To subject claimed a more earnest consideration in the distinguished body which gave to the State its present Constitution.