

## R E P O R T .

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The committee of Ways and Means, to whom was referred so much of the Governor's message as relates to the finances of the State, report

That in the investigation of a subject involving such complicated details and extended interests, they have been duly impressed with the necessity of unwearied care and scrutiny, and have endeavored faithfully to perform the duty required at their hands.

The labors of this committee, always arduous, have been lightened by the conviction, which has grown stronger at each stage of progress, that the finances of the State are in a sound and healthy condition, requiring from this Legislature only firmness to persevere in a policy wisely originated, and successfully established by its predecessors. Its task is not to devise additional impositions, or project new schemes of taxation, but to equalize as far as practicable the operation of existing laws, and meet out equal and even-handed justice.

State faith is no longer a problem; it has been fully solved by the wisdom of our law-makers, and the patriotic co-operation of our people. The cloud that obscured for a season the national honor has been dispelled, and the opprobrium of violated engagements is forgotten in contemplating the manly effort to regain and secure our true position before the world.

In every community direct taxation is an admitted grievance. Its very necessity springs from political or monetary convulsions, that aggravate the evil. It is never commenced, but in seasons of disaster and suffering, and is the cautery applied to a wound which has made the body politic doubly sensitive. Under more arbitrary Governments, it is prescribed by the ruler, administered through compulsive agencies, and the people must submit to a power alike irresistible, and inexorable; but in a republic, the inflection is self-imposed, and Legislative action can only reflect, not control, the popular will. If obnoxious and resisted there are no means of coercion; the prescript, unless consonant with, and justified by the moral sense of the community will be a futile pretension, and remain a dead letter on the statute book. The Government acknowledges the sovereignty of the governed, by