

The first section of the Act provides that all property, real, personal and mixed, of all kinds and description whatever, shall be liable to valuation and assessment. The Assessors have generally complied with this provision. The information thus obtained as to the value of all the property within the State may be of interest and advantage. Some portions, however, of the property thus assessed, it is beyond the power of the State to tax, because of her contracts exempting it, and other, for the want of jurisdiction.

Other descriptions of property, as will be seen by reference to the third and fourth sections of Article 81 of the Code, have heretofore been exempt. It is questionable whether all the property embraced within the provisions of these sections, should be released from taxation.

EXPENDITURES.

It may be well to notice in conclusion, the disbursements of the Treasury during the last five years—between the 30th of September, 1861, and the 30th of September, 1866—on account of unusual appropriations and extraordinary demands. The principal items are as follows :

For tax paid General Government.....	\$371,300
Exchange for paying interest on Sterling Bonds, (excess over previous rates).....	550,000
Bounties to Volunteers, including appropriations for their relief.....	3,850,000
State's subscription to Railroads.....	213,000
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	\$4,985,000

During the same period the expenses of the Constitutional Convention and two extra sessions of the General Assembly, and unusually liberal appropriations to educational and charitable Institutions, were paid. The direct taxes for two of the years were two and a half mills on the dollar, and for the other three years one and a half mills.

When we consider these heavy payments in excess of and beyond the ordinary expenses of the State Government, and remember that the public debts of many of the States of the Union, by reason of the expenses attendant on the late war, have been greatly increased, it is gratifying to know that the bonded debt of this State has been increased and her invested capital diminished but in the sum of \$1,341,695.91.

Respectfully submitted,

ROB'T J. JUMP,
Comptroller.