

This law should provide, exclusive of legal fees, for the payment of a twenty per cent. commission on collections made from arrearages which accrued anterior to 1851 ; of a ten per cent commission on those which accrued from the 31st day of December 1851, to the 1st day of January 1861, and of a five per cent. commission on those which accrued between the 31st day of December 1861, and the 1st day of January 1866. They should be empowered to compromise on all claims due the State before the 1st day of January 1866, for release of a part or the whole of the interest on payment of the principal, or for a release of the interest and a portion of the principal on the payment of the balance, their acts under this power being placed under the review of the Governor and Comptroller, and made subject to their confirmation or rejection.

The taxable basis under the last assessment has been nearly doubled ; and your committee feel safe in recommending a reduction in the direct tax from five to three cents in the hundred dollars ; in the school tax, from fifteen to twelve cents in the hundred dollars ; in the bounty tax, from ten cents (as authorized in the Act of 1865, chapter 33, which was repealed, or intended to be repealed by the Act of 1867, chapter 156, and which your Committee suggest should be re-enacted) to five and one-half cents in the hundred dollars, and in the Southern Relief Fund tax, from one cent to one-half cent in the hundred dollars.

Your Committee are of opinion, after very mature reflection, that laws predicated on these views, will lead to a prompt adjustment of the balances due the Treasury, and supply it with means to meet all the requirements likely to be made upon it.

JAMES T. EARLE, Chairman.
HENRY SNYDER,
JOHN M. MILLER,
ALFRED SPATES,
ORMOND HAMMOND.