

surey. I shall present, to the consideration of the General Assembly, an Act proposing such amendments and alterations of the 81st Article of the Code of Public General Laws as will be effective to carry out the suggestions of this Report, if the Legislature shall desire to adopt them.

The enactment of provisions for collecting the taxes recommended in this Report, and repealing the present Direct Tax, will tend towards the equalization of taxation in this State; and as experience shall suggest improvements and alterations to the same end, the legislation of future years may attain that object to a more desirable extent. Nothing, in my opinion, that the Legislature can now do, will contribute more to raise the hopes and spirits of the depressed and almost disconsolate agricultural interest, than the adoption of these provisions.

It has ordinarily been regarded as incontrovertible, that a reasonable amount of thrift and success, in agricultural pursuits, is necessary to the permanent prosperity of a State or country, and I therefore suggest that the railroad companies themselves, as well as the commercial community generally, are vitally interested in the adoption of any measures which will bring relief and prosperity to the agricultural interests.

Nothing, in fact, remains but the attainment of this end to secure the power and prosperity of the State.

If the agricultural community is thrifty and prosperous, the wealth of the Internal Improvement Companies, and other corporations, will be irresistibly enhanced, while success in mercantile pursuits and professional industry will become comparatively certain and easy of accomplishment. I invoke a determination on the part of your Honorable Bodies to establish true economy in the administration of the government of the State, and to relieve the people from all unnecessary burdens and requirements, believing, as I do, that the perfection of government consists in its being felt as *little as possible*, save in the exercise of its power for the promotion of good and the suppression of evil.

Respectfully submitted,

LEVIN WOOLFORD,

*Comptroller of Treasury.*