

urged against it the "driving of capital out of the State," "the counties milking the city," etc., losing sight of the fact that the capital in this business, as in every other, should contribute its fair share towards the burdens of the State and not discriminate against their brother merchants of smaller capital. Upon what basis of equity can you reconcile the rate of \$125 per annum for one merchant with a capital of \$40,000 while adjoining him his rival with \$1,000,000 invested pays only \$25 more per annum?

"It is a franchise tax, it is true, one for the privilege of doing business in the State, and as such the merchant is liable for the additional tax upon his stock of goods. Some companies, electric light, trust, etc., pay in addition to their other taxes a franchise tax as well. \* \* \* \* \*

"There is only one question involved in the above measure: Does the above schedule make everyone operating thereunder bear his fair share of governmental expenses?

There can be but one answer to the above proposition. It does not. I therefore recommend your honorable bodies to so amend the above schedule, as not only to give to the state additional revenues but require the trader of larger means in comparison with his brother of lesser resources, to equally contribute towards the expenses of the State according to the capital employed.

#### FRANCHISE TAX ON ORDINARY BUSINESS CORPORATIONS.

The taxation of ordinary business corporations was radically changed by the General Assembly of 1914, Chapter 324, Section 88-C of which is as follows:

"Sec. 88-C. Every ordinary business corporation shall be subject to taxation upon its property, real and personal, which would be taxable in this State if such corporation were a natural person and engaged in a similar business, and the taxes thereon shall be levied, assessed and collectable in the following manner and not otherwise: On all real property the taxes shall be levied and assessed, and shall be payable at its situs, as now provided by law. All personal property of such corporations, exclusive of bond, shares of stock and securities as enumerated in Article 81, Section 214 of the Code of Public Civil Laws