

can be consistently adhered to, so long as the proceeds of such tax may be needed either during the prosecution of the war, or for paying the debt incurred in its prosecution.

Your committee were confident at the opening of the present session of the Legislature, that Congress would soon mature its plans for taxation, so that at a much earlier day than the present it would be known, how much of the revenue needed by the United States Government would take the form of Direct taxation, and how much, if any, of the indirect taxes might be commuted for by the States. It is evident, that in the absence of such knowledge, all plans proposed by your committee must be based upon conjecture in regard to the amount necessary to be raised. The duration of the tax depends, of course, upon the events of the future, and must remain an uncertain element in all our calculations. But it seemed of such great importance, that we should know how much we should be called upon to contribute directly as a State, to the General Government, before framing laws to provide for such contribution, that your committee have heretofore, from week to week, delayed taking into consideration any special plan; hoping that Congress, by some definite action, would relieve us of the embarrassment under which, unfortunately, we still labor, of assuming certain facts as the basis of our financial measures. Our session, however, draws rapidly to a close, and it is impossible longer to postpone the consideration of the subject. Such being the case, your committee have been obliged to assume a certain amount of Direct Tax, as that likely to be demanded of our State by the General Government, and also to fix a probable term for the duration of the tax. In doing so, they hope that both as to time and amount they have kept within limits of safety.

They have assumed, that the annual sum of \$750,000, or something more than double the amount called for by the act of August 5th 1861, will be exacted of our State in the year 1862 and the four succeeding years. Your committee do not believe that the war can be greatly protracted. The brilliant victories which have been achieved so recently, and in such rapid succession by the armies of the Union, give assurance that the end is not far distant. But immense outlays have already been made, and must still for a while be made, and vast debts have been incurred by the Government in this gigantic contest; so that a great part of the taxes now contemplated by Congress must be continued for a number of years to come. It is most probable that the various indirect taxes to be laid by Congress will be the last repealed, and that the United States Direct Tax will scarcely remain in force for a longer period than five years. If this conjecture should prove fallacious, it will be the duty of the Legislature to be elected in the autumn of 1865 to devise plans for raising the means necessary for 1867 and succeeding years.