

conditional payment of the debt would have been tolerated. It must not be said of us, that what we exacted from France we will refuse to others.

If the period has arrived, when to pay the interest on this debt all other resources have failed except direct taxation, we must resort to it.

By the act of 1835, ch. 395, sec. 15, it is enacted, "that in case it shall become necessary at any time hereafter, to levy a direct tax for the support of Government, or to sustain the public credit, the same shall be laid according to the thirteenth article of the Declaration of Rights, including all goods, wares and merchandize belonging to citizens of this State, ships or vessels in or out of port, monies at interest or on mortgage, bond or any chose in action, stock and public securities of every description, and all income derived from shares of every incorporated institution or otherwise, as well as every other description of property, real, personal or mixed which escapes taxation under existing laws, and the faith of the State is hereby pledged to lay the same accordingly in consideration thereof, and to provide for the payment of interest and the reimbursement of principal of debts to be created in virtue of this act, or of debts which may be created at any subsequent Legislature, and all acts or parts of acts in contravention of the constitutional and equitable principles herein contained, shall thenceforward be repealed, abrogated and annulled.

Is taxation for the present, inevitable? Are there no resources within the reach of the legislature to avoid so serious an expedient? It is a resort which at all times should be avoided as far as possible, and only adopted as the ultimate resource. If for the present it can be postponed, it is the duty of the legislature to do so. We are now in the midst of commercial embarrassments.—The failure of the banks to redeem their obligations—the tremendous reaction of improvident speculations and overtrading; the overwhelming debt amounting to about 200,000,000 of dollars in which the States of the Union are involved, have produced a general stagnation in trade and depressed the products of agriculture, Nor is this state of things confined to our own country. In England with whom we have our principal commerce, the same unfortunate condition exists. Depressed in her monied transactions, and having balances due her in this country, from merchants, banks and states, the present depression is made the more disastrous.

The evil has been foreseen. The awful consequences of the desperate state of expansion in which the banks have engaged, and the ruinous policy of internal improvement speculations into which the States have entered, have been predicted. The reaction upon the States in their mad career, is for the first time experienced; It is not so with the banks—their experience is the experience of ages. What is the case now, was the same a century ago.