

ment, was the introduction of foreign capital, for commercial, manufacturing and agricultural purposes ; but foreign capital will not seek investments in a State, whose policy will subject all within her borders to prolonged taxation, or whose policy on this point may be unsteady and capricious. The consideration which, more than any other, gives to taxes their odious character, in the estimation of the community generally, is their *perpetuity*, or what is the same thing ; their indefinite prolongation. It is this, which in reality constitutes the sad condition of the tax-ridden and down trodden people of Europe. Through the long future, they see no hope, that they or their children will ever be free from the visit of the tax-gatherer ; for any tax even of an onerous kind can be borne patiently, if accompanied by the conviction that it will not be of long duration. It was no doubt the fear that the State would be for all future time oppressed with taxes, which so alarmed the people when the large amount of public debt was first brought to their notice. As soon, however, as they understood that the admirable financial policy, now controlling the finances of the State, would not only pay punctually the accruing interest, but would in a few years discharge the debt, they became reconciled, and have ever since cheerfully paid their taxes. If two parties were raised in the State, one for a reduction, but *continuance* of taxes ; and the other for the taxes as they are, with a view to the early extinguishment of the public debt, and *thereafter a cessation entirely of taxes*, a large majority of the people of all parties and all conditions would be on the side of the latter proposition ; the dealers in stocks and capitalist, seeking investment of their money would be on the other side. For as long as the debt is continued, the taxes must be raised in order to meet the interest, and this is the main point in a public debt to which the stock jobber looks. He wants the taxes continued. Not so the tax payer : for his interest is to get rid of the debt and with it of the taxes. The committee believe that a considerable portion of the people of the State, if they could be satisfied that an arrangement could be made to pay at once their portion of the principal of the public debt, and forever thereafter be relieved from it and from the annual taxes levied for it, would cheerfully agree to the arrangement.

There are other considerations, which make it very desirable for the interests of the people that the State should pay off the debt at as early a day as possible. The State has an interest in the several internal improvement companies to an amount according to statement B, Comptroller's Report, exceeding fifteen million of dollars of what is called productive and unproductive capital and credits. If all the calculations as to the profitable results of these works do not fail, we have reason to hope that in a few years, large sources of revenue will be derived from them. One element of wealth of the State will alone give profitable employ-