

burden of taxation, direct and indirect, which they have so long and so patiently borne, but which they are unwilling should be still imposed when the credit of the State is in so healthy a condition—when all her resources are in fine development, through the activity of her citizens, and when a large portion of her principal debt will not mature until the remote period of 1890, more than thirty years hence.

Again, is not the policy of keeping in the Treasury large sums of money questionable, when it is known, that the credit of a State as well as of an individual, is enhanced by immense pecuniary possessions? With an overflowing Treasury, money in extravagant abundance, the market value of our stocks will greatly appreciate, and to invest our surplus revenue in them, by way of redemption or otherwise, will take from us large sums for premiums. Investments in other securities may be wise policy; absolute safety however, is in purchasing our own, and we should not, by our own act, give to them such a fictitious value as will require great sacrifices because of appreciated and still appreciating premiums. Yet investments in other securities are preferable to buying our own at enhanced and exorbitant prices.

In connection with the question of réduction, it has been intimated, that a Company or Companies of Internal Improvement might refuse to pay their portion of interest when solvent, and would apply that interest to the extension or enlargement of their works. It is useless to indulge such anticipation, because when such a state of things is presented it is remediable. Under the Constitution, aid from the State to any work is expressly prohibited, until the occurrence of a certain financial contingency; and it would not require any nice perception to pronounce that fact; hence any appropriation of interest due before the occurrence of that contingency would be in disregard of that instrument, by a failure to comply with its requirements and expectations. Surely no company would be bold enough to do such an act. We live under law, and the law will vindicate its rights.

The undersigned respectfully recommend the passage of the Senate bill, to reduce the direct tax to twelve and a half cents in the one hundred dollars.

L. J. M. P. BRODWATER.
JNO. WOLF.