

which shall tend to lighten the burdens of government, as well as give positive evidence upon which he can rest a well-founded hope that permanent relief shall surely follow.

While the taxes of this State are light in comparison with many States of the Union, indeed, there are but few whose direct taxes are so light as our own, yet we believe it is the duty of those whom the people shall intrust with power, to exercise the same regard at all times in the expenditure of the people's money, whether the taxes be high or low.

If by an economical administration of our State government it is found that the people of this State can be relieved in a few years of all direct tax, except for the support of Public Education, it should be the aim of every officer who has anything to do with the expenditure of public funds, to so administer his trust, as shall cause the least outlay of money consistent with an efficient public service.

With receipts aggregating annually the sum of two millions of dollars, with expenditures, if economy is practiced, not exceeding sixteen hundred thousand in non-Legislative years and a fraction over seventeen hundred thousand dollars in legislative years, it does not require a great amount of figuring to demonstrate the entire feasibility of wiping out in a short period of time every direct loan tax imposed upon the property of this State.

The putting aside even the sum of three hundred thousand dollars a year in the Sinking Funds of the State, and the re-investment of the increment from year to year as it accrues, at the rate of six per cent. per annum, would in the short space of ten years amount to over four millions of dollars, a sum more than sufficient to discharge that part of the debt of this State, for the ultimate payment of which special taxes are now collected from the people.

This is the promise that was made shortly before I entered upon the discharge of the duties of this Depart-