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WEDNESDAY MORNING, NOV. 23, 1898.

THE PAPER'S POSITION ON THE TAX SYSTEM IS AN EXTREMELY COMPLICATED ONE.

We have taxes on income, on excise duties, on alcohol, on tobacco, on stocks and dividends, on income and profits of corporations and on almost every separate source of income, as well as on real estate; but the chief reliance upon the latter, and there is a constant struggle on the part of those who pay for their property to escape them.

The governments have found it difficult to regulate taxation. The revenue laws are generally given rise to peculiar taxes; and as the occasion for them wears away the pressure of getting them is generally yielded to.

The great heads of taxation in Pennsylvania are real estate, our government having followed the general example of other states in imposing a tax based on the estimated value, and the value is fixed by officers selected by the taxpayers. The result is an entire lack of uniformity in the valuation and a consequent inequality in the taxation.

We are not, of course, going to undertake the task of reforming an abuse so deep-seated and so generally spread, but we are bent upon throwing out a hint to our legislators on this subject. We know the difficulties that surround the whole question, and we know that the only way to approach it with confidence, but a remedy is not to be found elsewhere.

The only suggestion of trying taxes, in our opinion, is upon the total annual income of each taxpayer from all sources. If one man earns \$500 a year and another receives, from all sources, \$200,000, but each is assessed on what he receives. In this way a man who has a stock, or railroad stock, will not be taxed on its nominal, but on its productive value, and he will not pay more, proportionally, than the man who does not own stock.

As to the method of ascertaining the income of a party, we do not think it is a simple matter, but we think it is a matter that can be solved. We think that the only way to approach it with confidence, but a remedy is not to be found elsewhere.

Parliamentary bills propose to make a bargain with the South, with that if the people of the South will accept a protective tariff, the people of the North will accept a protective tariff.

The Philadelphia Press proposes to make a bargain with the South, with that if the people of the South will accept a protective tariff, the people of the North will accept a protective tariff.

The Washington correspondent of the New York Times says that the Treasury Department is engaged in collecting facts and figures from various sources in order to determine the relative merits of the alternative systems of specific and ad valorem duties.

The feud between the Douglas and Wright (Leopold) men in Indiana is bitter in the extreme. The hostile factions of the Democracy are far more deadly in their animosity than the Republicans and the Democracy in general.

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