

# TAXATION AND FOOD.

By Grace Isabel Colbron.

The following tables (to which our attention is called by Mr. George H. Duncan of East Jaffrey, a convinced single taxer and a former member of the Legislature of New Hampshire) may throw some light upon the present high cost of meat. Also upon the intimate connection between taxation and the cost of living generally.

During the past four years in New Hampshire there has been an increase in the assessment of taxable value in oxen of 20 per cent., with the result that there has been a decrease of 32 per cent. in numbers. For other animals the list reads:

Cows, inc. taxable val.,	30%;	dec. in number,	6%
Neat stock,	" " 52%;	" " "	37%
Sheep,	" " 22%;	" " "	39%
Hogs,	" " 39%;	" " "	49%

The figures, extending over a period of four years, show the immediate effect of taxation in restricting industry and discouraging production. Continued, this policy means an outlook for the future which is anything but cheerful, as it will eventually lead to a meat famine. And there is little hope in the thought that other states may not be as short-sighted as New Hampshire. The facts are too well known.

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If you should see a flock of pigeons in a field of corn; and if (instead of each picking where and what it liked, take just as much as it wanted and no more) you should see ninety-nine of them gathering all they got into a heap keeping this heap for one, and that the weakest, perhaps worst, pigeon of the flock; sitting around and looking on all the winter, whilst this one was devouring, throwing about and wasting it; and if a pigeon more hardly or hungry than the rest touched a grain of the hoard, all the others instantly flying upon it and tearing it to pieces; if you should see this, you would see nothing more than what is every day practiced and established among men. Among men you see the ninety-and-nine toiling and scraping together a heap of superfluities for one (and this one, too, oftentimes the feeblest and worst of the whole set, a child, a woman, a madman, or a fool); getting nothing for themselves all the while but a little of the coarsest of the provision which their own industry produces; looking quietly on while they see the fruits of all their labor spent or spoiled; and if one of the number take or touch a particle of the hoard the others joining against him and hanging him for the theft.—WILLIAM PALEY.