Another recent change in the law has shifted to the State that portion of school costs which were formerly borne by the counties and financed through ad valorem taxes.

2. Legal Basis of Assessment

Section 2 of Chapter 642, California Revised Statutes of 1931, provides that:

"The State Board of Equalization shall bi-annually determine the average assessed value of the property assessed for taxation for general county purposes in each county for each $100.00 of true valuation of such property as determined by said Board of Equalization in accordance with a uniform basis or standard. The determination of said Board of Equalization as to the ratio of such assessed valuation to true value shall be final and conclusive."

On Appendix Page 7-A will be found a tabulation prepared for this report by the Sacramento County Auditor. In submitting this tabulation, regret was expressed that, owing to the county's method of bookkeeping, it was impossible to ascertain the accumulated delinquencies for the various years. The statement was made, however, that these accumulations had never been large and at present amounted to a very nominal sum.

As has been stated, the City of Sacramento makes its own assessment and collects its own taxes; therefore, these are not included in the tabulation. For the past several years the city tax rate has been $18.10 a thousand. Currently, the valuation, as assessed by the city, is $115,406,910, whereas the county's assessed value of property in the city is $90,939,680, which is $24,467,130, or 21.2%, less than the City Assessor's figures. The county's basis of assessment is 50%, whereas the city's basis is 70% on real estate and 60% on improvements.

Owing to the many changes which have been made in the tax laws within recent years, it is not practical to make comparisons between the different years. For example, the assessed valuation, shown for 1928-29 of $139,194,596, declined to $126,866,640 in 1934-35, a loss of $12,327,956, has since risen until the 1937-38 assessed value slightly exceeds that for the 1928-29 period. This increased valuation, however, is not the result of increased property assessments but is largely due to the fact that property of public utility companies was returned to the County tax rolls in 1935.