service. And certainly, no class of claims can come before you for adjustment of more binding obligation upon the justice of the State.

It is not of course to be reasonably expected that in cases of this kind the proof could be as definite as might under different circumstances be required. We were at the date of these claims, in a state of revolution, with the enemy at our very doors, and there was neither time nor opportunity to pursue strictly any prescribed rule of evidence with a view to future adjustment. The impending danger and the public necessities required the most immediate and heaviest sacrifices — even the utter ruin, for the time being, of some of our settlers: and in these cases the sacrifices were cheerfully made, with the expectation no doubt, that a just people would willingly repair the injuries which patriotism and the cause of the country required to be inflicted on individual citizens. The evidence as ample as to the injuries sustained and it is hoped that it may prove satisfactory.

The charges made for the property taken are moderate: particularly so, when it is remembered that the sufferers were wholly ruined and have ever since remained in comparative poverty. From the possession of valuable and productive estates,