

The Democratic Watchman.

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JOHN T. HOOVER.
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Governor's Message.

To the Honorable the Senators and members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

DEAR SENATORS:—In obedience to the Constitution and the laws of the Commonwealth you have assembled to discharge the important and responsible duties that devolve upon you. To protect the rights and privileges of the people, advance their interests, and promote the welfare and prosperity of the State, should be the aim and end of all your legislation. In the discharge of these duties, it will be a pleasure to cooperate with you in the accomplishment of these objects.

The year just has been one of unusual prosperity. The lousiness of a kind Providence has not been withheld from our Commonwealth. A plentiful harvest has rewarded the labor of the husbandman. Flourishing industry, in all its departments, has been encouraged. No financial embarrassments—no commercial distress—no political or social evils, have interrupted the progress or checked the energies of the people. The great interests of Education, morality and Religion, have been cherished and sustained. Health and peace, with their attendant blessings, have been ours. To him "who rules the Nations by his power, and from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift," we are indebted for these mercies, and to him should be given the homage of our devout gratitude and praise.

The financial condition of the Commonwealth is highly satisfactory. Every demand upon the Treasury has been promptly met, and paid without the aid of loans. The operations of this department will be detailed in detail in the Report of the State Treasurer.

For the fiscal year ending November 30, 1856, the receipts at the Treasury (including the balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1855, of \$1,243,697.02) have been \$5,021,077.64. The total expenditures for the same period were \$5,377,142.23. Balance in the Treasury December 1, 1856, \$1,244,705.42.

Excluding the balance in the Treasury on the first of December, 1855, the receipts were \$3,777,380.54. The expenditures for the same period were \$4,133,437.21, showing an excess of \$357,056.67 over ordinary expenditures of \$1,563,095.56.

The extraordinary payments for the same year were \$1,268,997.45, as follows: viz: For the completion of the Portage Railroad, and for the payment of the Pennsylvania Canal on that work, \$1,141,411; to the North Branch extension \$122,725.52; to relay the South track of the Columbia Railroad \$209,000.00; for motive power in 1855 \$118,040.42; to enlarge the Delaware Division of the Pennsylvania Canal \$13,960.00; for general repairs in 1855 \$4,111; to the 2nd branch of the Main Line, examined by the Commissioners, and paid under the Act of May 22, 1856, \$150,512.09; to the redemption of Loans \$327,824.41; and Relief \$10,000.00.

The interest on the funded debt which fell due in February and August last, was then paid, and that which becomes due in February next, will be paid with equal promptness, out of available means now in the Treasury. The punctuality with which the interest on the public debt has been paid, and the ability of the Treasury to meet all legitimate demands upon it, have inspired public confidence in our securities, and contribute largely to establish and sustain the credit of the Commonwealth.

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund report the sum of \$22,432.05 as due by the Treasury to that fund. This amount will be applied to the redemption of Belief notes now in circulation, and to the payment of the funded debt. Therefore the available means in the Treasury have been applied, to a great extent, in payment of outstanding temporary loans, in payment of the interest of six per centum; it being deemed an advisable course as a matter of economy to pay these loans rather than the funded debt, which bears a much less rate of interest. It is expected that the balance of the temporary loans will be paid before the close of the current year, and the operation of the Sinking Fund resumed and continued as directed by law.

The funded and unfunded debt of the State, including temporary loans, on the first day of Dec. 1st, at the report of the Auditor General and Treasurer, was as follows, viz:

FUNDED DEBT.	
4 per cent. loan	\$ 1,151,151.93
6 per cent. loan	38,903,444.84
6 per cent. loan	880,200.99
6 per cent. loan	100,000.00
Total funded debt	\$39,935,797.76
UNFUNDED DEBT.	
Belief notes in circulation	\$ 258,712.00
Outstanding certificates	20,107.35
Outstanding certificates	7,354.00
Balance of temporary loans, Apr. 1856	625,000.00
Balance of temporary loans, May 1856	146,000.00
Total unfunded debt	\$ 1,037,173.34
Total funded and unfunded debt at the close of the last fiscal year, ending Nov. 1, 1856, was as follows, viz:	
Total funded debt	\$ 39,935,797.76
Total unfunded debt	1,037,173.34
Total debt	\$ 40,972,971.10

It then appears that during the last fiscal year the sum of \$22,432.05 has been paid in liquidation of the public debt. This, taken in connection with the fact that during the year ending November 30, 1855, \$630,011.02 were paid on the same account, exhibits the gratifying fact, that the process of reducing the public debt has commenced, and, under the management of the Commissioners, and with the aid of the Commonwealth, will continue, until the people and the Commonwealth are relieved from the debt and taxation with which they are burdened.

In addition to this reduction of public debt, large expenditures and payments were made for the completion of the Portage Railroad and for other public works previously contracted for that work—for old and unsettled claims recently adjusted by the Commissioners appointed under the act of last session—for relieving the State of the Pennsylvania Canal, and for other purposes. These extraordinary demands upon the Treasury have, as will soon appear, with the necessity that created them; and thus leave a still larger portion of the revenues to be applied in payment of the public debt.

A careful examination of the financial condition of the Commonwealth—the sources of revenue and the probable future expenditures, has inspired the hope that the time is not far distant when the public debt will be fully paid, and the Commonwealth will be relieved from the burden of taxation. It has already been shown that the revenues of the year just exceeded the ordinary expenditures \$1,268,997.66 cents. The estimated receipts and expenditures for the current year, which will be presented to you in the Report of the State Treasurer, show that the excess of receipts over ordinary expenditures will reach the sum of \$1,268,997.66 cents. These estimates, although approximations, will not be far from the true result. Allowing, then, \$400,000 for annual extraordinary expenditures—and under a wise system of economy in no probable contingency can they exceed that sum—we will have available for the payment of the public debt, the sum of \$868,997.66 cents.

With the rapid development of the wealth and resources of the Commonwealth—the increase of population—the value of real estate, and of the amount and value of property of every description, the sources of revenue will be increased in a proportionately large amount. This natural and necessary increase of revenues will supply every deficiency and every demand upon the Treasury that falls within the range of probability. If, then, the sum of one million dollars be appropriated annually in liquidation of the debt, and the interest on the same paid in a plain and simple manner, the entire indebtedness of the Commonwealth will be extinguished in less than 23 years. If these premises are correct—and their correctness can only be impaired by a more rapid increase of revenues—the truth of the proposition is unassailable.

Assuming the public debt on the first day of December, 1856, to be, in round numbers, \$40,000,000, and that at the end of each fiscal year one million dollars, with the necessary interest, be applied to the redemption of the same, the calculation will determine the result to be as before indicated. Thus, before the expiration of the year 1879, Pennsylvania may stand redeemed from the oppression of her public debt, and her people be released from a tax, imposed by law, and which secures the faith and credit of the Commonwealth. This view is a step towards the redemption of the public debt, and the relief of the Commonwealth from the oppression of her public debt, and her people be released from a tax, imposed by law, and which secures the faith and credit of the Commonwealth. This view is a step towards the redemption of the public debt, and the relief of the Commonwealth from the oppression of her public debt, and her people be released from a tax, imposed by law, and which secures the faith and credit of the Commonwealth.

I must again call the attention of the Legislature to a subject referred to in my last annual message, in the following terms: "By the 35th section of the Act of the 16th of April, 1845, entitled 'An Act to provide for the ordinary expenses of Government, the repair of the canals and railroad of the State, and other claims upon the Commonwealth,' the Governor was authorized to issue certificates of interest on the first day of August, 1842, the first day of February and August, 1843, the first day of February and August, 1844, and so on, until the first day of February and August in each year, and redeemable on or after the first day of August, 1855, were issued. The minimum period fixed by law for the redemption of these certificates expired on the first day of August, 1855. No provision has been made for their renewal or redemption.

Although by the terms of the Act authorizing the issue of certificates of interest, as above stated, the certificates are to be issued in pursuance thereof, the time of payment, after the expiration of the minimum period, is optional with the debtor, the Commonwealth, yet a due regard for the credit of the State requires that provision should be made for their renewal or redemption. To renew these certificates, a loan would become necessary, and as a loan cannot be effected, in the present financial condition of the country, on terms more favorable to the State, than those on which these certificates were issued, it is deemed expedient that authority be given to issue the bonds of the Commonwealth in renewal of said certificates, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually, and redeemable on or after the expiration of twenty years; and that the bonds be issued in such amount as may be necessary to meet the interest on the certificates, in such equal amount to the semi-annual interest thereon, payable on the first day of February and August in each and every year, at such place as may be designated.

This change in the form and character of the certificates, it is believed, will be so advantageous to the holders, without increasing the liabilities of the Commonwealth, as to induce a willing and prompt exchange, at a premium for the bonds proposed to be issued.

The report of the Canal Commissioners will be laid before you, and will exhibit in detail the condition of the public works—their general operations, and the receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year.

By consideration of the currency—banking capital in its relations to the currency—the general interest of trade and commerce and the industrial pursuits of the citizen, deserve your careful attention. My views expressed in a former communication remain unchanged. The incorporation of new, or the recharter of old and solvent banks, when actually necessary, and demanded by the wants of legitimate trade in the community where located, should be favored; and no other circumstances should be permitted. In the creation of banks the interests of the State and people should be consulted, and a just discrimination as to number, locality and the demands of trade be exercised.

The rapid increase of population, the importance and value of our population and foreign commerce, the increased development of the material wealth of the State, the extent of our manufacturing, mechanical and agricultural industry, the fact that the State is flooded by a depreciated currency introduced by private bankers and brokers, justify, under the restrictions and limitations indicated, a judicious increase of banking capital within our Commonwealth. This, whilst it would aid the operations of trade, and supply the real business wants of the people, would, at the same time, remedy, to some extent, the evils of a depreciated foreign and local currency.

By the Act approved, the 6th day of November last, the thirtieth section of the Act of 1850, regulating banks, which after the first day of July next, extended to all incorporated banks, and to all banks organized after that date, is made lawful for said banks to issue or pay out any bank notes other than those issued by itself, payable on demand in gold or silver; notes of specie paying banks of this State which are taken on deposit or in payment of debts, at par at the counter of the bank where paid out; or notes of honor issued under the authority of the Act of the 4th of May, 1841, at the option of the person receiving the same.

These enactments were intended to protect the community against the evils of a depreciated currency, and prevent its introduction from other States. However well intentioned, and however laudable the objects, unless made to embrace private bankers and others of that class, whose profits are largely dependent upon the introduction into the State of such a currency. In many instances the notes of our own banks are called in, and their owners are left with a depreciated currency, which they are obliged to purchase at a discount, and which they are obliged to pay out at par at their counters. By these large loans are negotiated with banks out of the State, at less than the legal rate of interest, and their notes are called in, and a discount, brought into the State and put into circulation in the manner indicated, and this, under an agreement, with the bank making the loan, that the notes, when called in, shall be kept in circulation. The notes of our own banks are called in, and their owners are left with a depreciated currency, which they are obliged to purchase at a discount, and which they are obliged to pay out at par at their counters.

The Portage Railroad is not fully completed. A small additional appropriation may yet be required to complete, for the present time, its road. It is actually in the hands of the State, and its completion may soon be its coronant demands upon the Treasury. Every year experience more clearly reveals the impolicy of the State in undertaking this work.

It gives me no ordinary pleasure to inform you that the North Branch Extension of the Pennsylvania Canal has been so far completed, that boats freighted with coal and other products, were successfully passed through its entire length from Pittston to the Junction Canal. This work was commenced in 1830—suspended in 1848—resumed in 1850, and was officially announced in 1853. It extends from Pittston to the New York State Line, a distance of ninety-four miles, following the Valley of the Susquehanna to Athens, and thence along the Chemung River to the State line, where it joins the New York improvement.

The importance and value of this improvement cannot easily be over-estimated. Passing through one of the richest Mineral and Agricultural portions of the State, it offers to the immense and valuable products of that region, a safe and cheap transit to the markets of New York, Baltimore, and Philadelphia. In the completion of this Canal the difficulties to be overcome, and the labor to be performed were great. Both in the bottom of the nature of the formation, and in the nature of the soil, it passes slides from the hills, and in places will be, but these, after a few years of well applied labor, will be diminished, and by vigilance and care entirely prevented.

This improvement, although subject to the rivalry of competing railroads, if kept in good condition, under proper management, will receive its full share of coal and other products, for the current year, will equal, or exceed the expenditures; and increasing with the facilities afforded, and the rapid development of trade, will, instead of its heretofore unceasing demands upon the Treasury, take precedence in revenue over any canal in the Commonwealth.

In relation to the propriety and policy of the sale of the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Canal, my opinion has not changed. Every consideration of public policy, of present and future interests, requires the separation of the State from the management and control of these works. The expenditures on that portion of the line, between the Junction and Pitsburg, largely exceed the returns, the excess averaging annually not less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars; and, as causes are in constant operation that will still more increase this deficiency. This continual drain upon the Treasury, to sustain a work, an improvement, should at once be checked. A sale of the Main Line, for a fair consideration, upon terms just and liberal to the purchaser, is the proper remedy. Such a sale, in terms simply protective of the rights and interests of the people, can be properly legislation, as it is effected in connection with the payment of the public debt, this question becomes deeply important. The sale would constitute a new era in the financial history of the State, and assure a still more speedy reduction of the public debt, than that to which reference has been made. The subject is earnestly commended to your favorable

consideration. The success of the system proposed by waiting the slow and unaided efforts of voluntary associations to furnish the much needed teacher. Voluntary associations of common school teachers have accomplished much in their disinterested and noble efforts to remedy this defect. They are worthy the highest commendation—they deserve every encouragement. They can and will do more; but unaided they cannot accomplish the object desired. The Legislature must provide the remedy—they can supply the deficiency. It should be done promptly and effectually. No subject of greater interest can appeal your attention as legislators—no one appeals more earnestly to duty and patriotism.

In a former communication to the Legislature the establishment of State Normal schools for the education of teachers, was urged as an indispensable necessity to the perfection of the system. With full confidence in their utility and necessity, I again recommend them. These institutions, with their proper Professors, and all pinpoints supported by the State, would meet the wants indicated, and supply the deficiency of the Teachers' Institutes, as auxiliary to Normal Schools, when in operation, and supplying their place till established, should be aided by the State. One such institute in each county, meeting annually under the fostering care of the Government, would be a most judicious and successful measure. Whilst it would improve teachers and prepare them for their important and responsible duties, it would elevate and dignify a profession too long neglected and undervalued.

Our educational, charitable and reformatory institutions have strong claims upon the bounty of the people, and I cordially commend them to your care and liberality. The State Lunatic Asylum at Harrisburg, and the western Pennsylvania Hospital for the insane, and other kindred purposes at Harrisburg, are public charities, and deserve the aid and encouragement of the State. The annual reports of these institutions will be laid before you, and will exhibit in detail their operations during the past year.

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Agriculture, in its varied departments, is the great interest of the Commonwealth. It is the basis alike of financial and commercial success, and national prosperity. An increase of its products, and the consequent diffusion of useful knowledge on this subject, and to encourage scientific and practical agriculture. Science, with wondrous energy, has aided the husbandman in his honorable vocation, and profers still more help. The State should nurse his arm, and direct him onward in this noble and noble pursuit of man. This subject in connection with an appropriation to the Farmers High School of Pennsylvania, an institution destined to be an honor to the Commonwealth—is recommended to your favorable consideration.

The Polytechnic College of Pennsylvania, established by the enterprise and liberality of some of the patriotic citizens of Philadelphia, as a school of the applied sciences, deserves honorable mention, and should receive the confidence and patronage of the public. The instruction of this institution, in agriculture, science and art, in happy union, tends to prepare our young men for the practical business of life, for training mechanical and civil engineers, and for promoting intelligently and efficiently the great interests of manufacturing and agricultural industry. The laws on the subject of regulating manufacturing and improvement companies, require revision. They are unnecessarily stringent in many of their provisions, and thus defeat the object of their enactment. They drive capital from the State, instead of inviting its investment here; and instead of encouraging individual enterprise, they tend to stifle and enervate the development of our immense natural resources, they bind and crush both by mere restrictions, unwise limitations and personal liabilities. The subject deserves careful attention and liberal legislation.

I have so frequently expressed my views in relation to local, general and "omnibus" legislation, that their repetition now becomes unnecessary. Legislation, so far as practicable, should be general and uniform. Local and special legislation, when the object desired can be secured by general laws, should be avoided. The Legislature should be guided by a "Omnibus Legislation" cannot under any circumstances be justified or approved. The much legislation is an evil that prevails extensively in Legislative Halls. Its avoidance would not be injurious to public interests.

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our republican government, and the rights and privileges of the citizen. Every legal voter, whatever may be his political affiliation or party predilections is deeply interested in this question. Any attempt to nullify its purity, or impair its efficiency, which is actively enforced, should be sternly resisted and severely punished. Illegal votes, whether founded on forgery or perjury, or both on false assessments or false and forged certificates of naturalization, is an evil that deserves the severest condemnation. It prevents an honest expression of the popular will, corrupts the sources of legitimate power and influence and strikes a fatal blow at the cherished rights of freedom. These evils are alleged to exist in our large cities—the rural districts of the State are comparatively free from such corrupting abuses. It prevents an honest expression of the popular will, corrupts the sources of legitimate power and influence and strikes a fatal blow at the cherished rights of freedom. These evils are alleged to exist in our large cities—the rural districts of the State are comparatively free from such corrupting abuses. It prevents an honest expression of the popular will, corrupts the sources of legitimate power and influence and strikes a fatal blow at the cherished rights of freedom. These evils are alleged to exist in our large cities—the rural districts of the State are comparatively free from such corrupting abuses.

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