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REMARKS OF SENATORS RUTAN AND WALLACE ON THE BILL TO REDUCE TAXATION.

We publish below the remarks of Senators Rutan and Wallace, on the bill to reduce taxation, delivered on the 13th inst. The bill passed the Senate unanimously.

MR. RUTAN. Mr. Speaker, when this amendment was offered yesterday Senators were not prepared to vote upon it, because they did not understand the question. I confess I was not then prepared to vote. Since the adjournment yesterday I have examined the reports of the State Treasurer and Auditor General, and how far this was going to effect our revenues. I am informed that the repeal of the tax upon personal property will take out of the Treasury about two hundred and eighty seven thousand dollars a year; there will be that much reduction of the receipts of the Treasury; that the removal of the tax upon gross receipts of net earnings will run it up to over a million of dollars; that is the amount of the reduction of the revenues proposed in this bill. The question is, can the Commonwealth permit such a large reduction and still pay off the public debt at the rate at which we should pay it.

I find, in looking at the annual message of the late Governor Geary, that he recommends a reduction of taxation, and in fact to the amount of that reduction, he is decidedly believed that with these proposed reductions, which amount to one million three hundred and sixty-one thousand one hundred and sixty-one dollars and one cent, the State can still pay its current expenses, the interest on the public debt, and make an annual reduction of at least one million three hundred thousand dollars upon the debt.

Governor Hartranft, in his message, emphatically endorses that recommendation, and the State Treasurer takes the same ground. Last year the State paid two hundred and seventy-six thousand dollars of her debt. Now, if we reduce a million dollars from the revenues, Governor Geary says in his message, we shall pay one million five hundred thousand dollars towards the liquidation of the debt, and the State Treasurer agrees with the Governor. Then it seems from his message we can afford to reduce taxation, to the amount of one million of dollars, and still pay off our debt at the rate of more than a million. That is as rapidly as any man can reduce our State debt, and our debt amounts to a little over one million dollars, and by the end of the year we will have completely discharged it in less than three years. But the revenues of the Commonwealth are increasing every year, and in less than three years we shall be able to pay as much as we did this year, and still have one million five hundred thousand dollars in the treasury.

There is no reason, then, why we should not accept the suggestion of the late Governor and Governor Hartranft, to reduce taxation.

The question arises, where shall we reduce it? What interest shall we take? I represent a large manufacturing community. A few years ago we took off the tax from the Commonwealth can we afford to take off the tax from the property, and I heartily endorse the suggestion of the Senator from Clear-

field, taking off the tax on horses, cattle, &c. I also represent a manufacturing district to a considerable extent, and they are very anxious to have this very unjust tax upon net earnings taken off, and I believe the Commonwealth is united upon that matter, and that we should take off the tax upon net earnings. It is an unjust tax—a tax we have been recommended to take off by the financial officers of the Commonwealth and the Governor. I am informed that this tax upon gross receipts is similar to the tax upon net earnings of corporations; or, as the Senator from Tioga [Mr. Straub] says, it is a tax upon nothing. It is taking the gross receipts of a railroad company, whether it is paying dividends or not.

I do not propose to discuss this question. I merely rose to explain my position. The people I represent are very anxious to have the tax removed from personal property and net earnings; and if the Commonwealth can afford, as I have been informed by the financial officers and the Governor she can, to reduce the taxes one million of dollars, and still go on paying our debt at the rate of over one million a year, I am willing to adopt this bill, because I am interested, as I say, in the first two sections.

The law providing for a sinking fund provides that the debt shall be reduced to the amount of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars a year. This shows to what extent the Commonwealth is pledged by that act to reduce her indebtedness. After reducing taxation to the extent proposed in this bill we will still be able every year to pay more than five times this amount of debt every year. If our revenues go on increasing every year as they have been doing in less than three years we can pay two million and a half of our debt yearly, as we did last year and could this, but for this proposed reduction.

We are assured that the interests in this bill propose to reduce the tax on real estate to a rate of one percent, and believing this I shall vote for this bill and trust it will pass.

MR. WALLACE. Mr. Speaker, I did not intend, upon the motion to refer, to state the position I may occupy upon the final vote on this bill; but I am now to some extent forced to vindicate the position I shall occupy. I do not hesitate to say in the outset—and I think my record bears me out in the assertion—that I am not one of those who are to be terrified by having the red rag of railroad corporations flaunted in my face. If it be right to relieve railroad corporations from the taxes that press heavily upon them, I will take the responsibility as a representative of the people, and aid in relieving them and through them the people. If, on the contrary, the burthen placed upon them is a just one, and the tax imposed one that is necessary for the purpose of paying off the debt and defraying the current expenses, I will vote to keep it there. If a conflict comes between the people upon the one side and the railroad corporations upon the other, I shall be found, sir, upon the side of the people.

I may say, in passing, that the Senator from Indiana [Mr. White] rarely approves any measure that is not his own bantling. He commends with slow and halting speech the measure I had the honor to introduce. This is but a small honor, yet I know the agricultural interests of this Commonwealth feel that this tax is a burden upon them, and they are receiving less profit from their labor and money expended than any other interest in this Commonwealth. Manufacturing, mining, banking, broking and all the moneyed interests of the Commonwealth receive more profit from their investments than the agricultural interests. Hence I thought I was doing what was necessary and proper in attempting to relieve them from even this slight load.

In regard to the section that relieves manufacturing and mining companies from the onerous load of triple, quadruple and quintuple taxation now imposed upon them under our laws, there seems to be no dissent from that proposition. Take up these taxes and examine them for a moment. A mining or manufacturing corporation of this Commonwealth, an oil or iron corporation, is taxed upon its real estate just as individuals are; it is taxed a bonus of one-fourth of one percent upon its capital stock; this goes into the coffers of the Commonwealth, and is the price it pays for exercising the privileges of an artificial person. Then we tax them one-half mill on each one percent of their dividends; then upon their net earnings or income three per cent; and then, when their necessities compel them to borrow money, and place upon record their mortgage on their lands and

franchises, perhaps, they are compelled to pay five per cent upon all the interest they pay to their creditors. Here are no less than five taxes imposed upon the mining and manufacturing interests—the very interests that should be fostered by the Commonwealth. This is "killing the goose that lays the golden egg."

I hesitated to relieve these corporations until the hour came when we could do it with safety to the finances of the State, although I fully recognized the necessity for relief. I believe the time has arrived when it can be safely done, and I am ready to vote to relieve them.

Upon the third proposition, I have this to say: Under the act of 1861, which is known as the act to create a loan to provide for arming the State, the Legislature authorized what was known as the war loan of three millions of dollars. By a statute passed on the day following the passage of that act, they levied a special tax of one half mill on the dollar upon real estate and all objects that were liable to a State tax. By that statute this "half mill tax was specially pledged to the payment of the war loan.

The law and the tax remained in that condition until 1866, the war loan being still largely unreduced, when it was desired to relieve the people from the tax upon their real estate. And what was then done? In violation of this pledge the people were relieved by the act of 23d February, 1866, from all taxes upon real estate, and by the same statute the source of revenue now to be repealed was pointed out and specifically pledged to the payment of the war loan in these words:

Sec. 3. The revenue derived from the second section of this act shall be applied to the payment of the principal and interest of the debt, contracted under the act of the 15th May, A. D. one thousand eight hundred and sixty-one, entitled "An act to create a loan and to provide for arming the State."

Here was an appropriation of this tax then first enacted and first placed upon these corporations, to do the specific thing from which the people were by that law relieved. Upon the one hand there was an enormous tax imposed, and upon the other the people were relieved. Some other source of revenue had to be found, and it was found in the imposition of a tax as well upon rich corporations as upon railroad companies that were paying no dividends, and were struggling to make for the people of the State highways to take out of our mountains the riches that lie buried there. All these corporations were taxed upon their gross receipts—not upon their dividends; and they are thus taxed to this hour for the purpose of paying this debt.

This is a most grievous oppression upon many of the least powerful railway and transportation companies within the Commonwealth, and the sooner it is extinguished in accordance with the pledge given in 1866, the better it is, in my view. Under the decisions of the Supreme Court all of this class of corporations must be taxed or none can be. We must continue to oppress the weak to reach the strong, or we must redeem our pledge to extinguish the tax when the war debt was paid.

The act of 1868, which was a general codification of the tax laws, by section eight expressly re-enacted the same tax which the act of 1860 provided; and it also contained these words:

Provided, That the revenue derived under this section shall be applied to the payment of principal and interest of the debt contracted under the act of the 15th of May, A. D. 1861, entitled "An act to create a loan and to provide for arming the State."

Here is the pledge to pay the war debt again. This tax is again appropriated especially to the payment of the war debt. That purpose has now been accomplished; the debt is paid; and so far as the corporations that are making no earnings and paying no dividends are concerned, clearly they ought to be relieved from this load.

So far as those corporations are concerned that are paying dividends, they have been placing this tax upon the people, and through this third section I desire to relieve them from the tax thus imposed, and this is the purpose of the amendment I have offered. Can any man hesitate to say that this is a just proposition? For, after all, it is the hard rock of labor that pays all these taxes, and we must, through our legislative power, seek to compel corporate power to relieve the people therefrom. It seems to me this proposition is a just one, and I have made up my mind that I shall support it. Certainly I shall support it if my amendment to the amendment be adopted. It is simple justice, common equity, and plain honesty. Let us maintain our contract with these corporations. They took the load that the people were relieved from, the necessity for its imposition has passed away through

the payment of the debt to which it was pledged, and our duty is a plain one.

There is another view of this case which induces me so much as any. It is, that a man who has full pocket will spend a great deal more money than a man with an empty one. A man with large resources will be very apt to spend an extravagant expenditure of money in various and dark ways, when he is occupied closely to making money. He will not get in the way of Heaven, if we can confine the revenues of the Commonwealth to the bare payment of its current expenses as now administered, reducing them wherever we can, and to the payment of the interest on the public debt and to the payment of the principal of the debt as rapidly as possible and consistent with the demands of the Constitution itself and the necessities of 1868. It is to my mind the proper mode of administering the finances of the Commonwealth. This is my view, and I have another and additional reason why I shall, when the opportunity is presented, vote in favor of this bill. It seems to me, sir, that what ever view we may take of the subject is worthy of the most careful and careful consideration.

THE SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON.

Washington, D. C., March 25, 1873.

Three sloops of war, authorized by the Congress, will be constructed by the Government in the Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Charleston and Portsmouth navy yards. Proposals will soon be invited by the Secretary of the Navy for the building of the necessary steam machinery for these vessels.

The outstanding legal tenders were further increased on Friday by payments made from the reserve funds of the Treasury amounting to upwards of one million of dollars.

The following is an official exhibit of the amounts called for by the various general appropriation bills passed at the late session of Congress: Preliminary Deficiency, \$1,699,833 82; Texan Border Commission, \$18,490 00; Pension, \$30,490,000 00; American and British Commission, \$613,500 00; Indian, \$5,512,218 90; Fortification, \$1,899,000 00; Consular and Diplomatic, \$1,311,359 00; Military Academy, \$344,317 56; Legislative, Executive and Judicial, \$19,500,000 00; Naval, \$22,275,757 65; Army, \$31,796,008 81; Postoffice, \$32,529,167 00; River and Harbor, \$6,112,900 00; Sandy Civil, \$32,175,415 00; Deficiency, \$3,243,871 65. Total, \$195,510,830 48.

The Lower House in the late Congress contained 132 Republicans, 106 Democrats and 5 Liberals. In the next Congress it will have 196 Republicans, 89 Democrats and 3 Liberals. In the latter list two Republicans and one Democrat are counted as chosen in the recent New Hampshire election, and four members, forming the Connecticut delegation, are omitted, as they are yet to be elected. The Republicans will thus have nearly 200 votes in the House against less than 100 in opposition.

Senators Cameron and Howe, with several prominent gentlemen and their wives, are preparing for an extended Southern tour immediately after the adjournment of the Senate, which is expected to take place soon. While this is to be a pleasure trip, it will give these distinguished representatives of the North an excellent opportunity to observe the temper of the Southern people for themselves, and will enable them to collect many valuable facts, which will doubtless be used by them judiciously.

General Blount, of Kansas, ex-Indian agent, was arrested on a warrant issued from the Supreme Court of this district Saturday, in answer to a requisition issued by the Governor of North Carolina, charging the General with a defalcation of over thirty thousand dollars, accruing to the Cherokee Indians of that State. Blount denies his own complicity, but alleges that his clerk was responsible for the defalcation.

The following telegram concerning the Modocs has just been received at the War Department, dated Headquarters U. S. Army, Washington, March 22:

A telegram dated from Van Bruners Rancho, Cal., to Gen. T. W. Sherman, says the squaw who was sent into the M. doc camp, returned yesterday, and says the exercise made by the Modocs for not keeping their appointment, is that at the last moment their hearts failed them, and they could not abandon their own homes and go to a distant country. They are evidently not in any disposition now to make any arrangements, although they profess a willingness to have another talk. It will necessarily be some time yet before the commission can assemble, and in the meantime troops will be put in a position that will cover as far as possible all points of access from the lava beds. I think by the system of gradual compression with the exhibition of the force that can be used against them, the Modocs, if the commissioner again fails, will satisfy them of the hopelessness of further resistance, and give the peace party sufficient strength to control the whole band. Time is becoming of the greatest importance as the melting of the snow will enable the Indians to live in the mountains. This will greatly increase the difficulties we have to contend with, as they will then break up into small parties and can readily make escape from their present location.

COL. R. S. CANBY.

General Sherman has expressed the belief that further bloodshed will be avoided by a settlement of all grievances on the part of the Indians through the efforts of the Peace Commissioners, as now reorganized; that the entire military movements in the Modoc country are under the control of General Canby, who is a wise, discreet and patient officer, and will give all possible assistance to the Peace Commissioners in effecting a peaceful settlement of the troubles. General Sherman does not hesitate in saying that in his opinion the Modocs have been unjustly treated in some respects, especially in moving them to a reservation where it was impossible for them to obtain the kind of food to which they had been accustomed, such as fish, roots, berries, &c.; but that, on the other hand, Captain Jack and some of his friends were undoubtedly great rascals, and it was necessary that they should be placed where they could do the least harm. The General further said that should the efforts of the Peace Commissioners prove abortive General Canby would then take steps to insure the capture of the entire party, and remove them to such a place as the Government may determine.

General Sickles by telegraph informs the State Department that the immediate emancipation law for Porto Rico passed the Spanish Assembly Sunday night with great enthusiasm. Slavery in all the Spanish Colonies in the West Indies is doomed and the dawn of freedom in Porto Rico will be hailed by all as the harbinger of a better era for the West India Islanders.

The Commissioner of Patents, General Leggett, has just issued the following instructions in regard to fees in patent extension cases: Hereafter, unless the final fees in extension cases are paid in time to admit of the certificates of extension being signed and attached to the original patents before expiration, the extensions will be refused.

The developments in the Caldwell discussion in the Senate since last Saturday suddenly convinced that much talked of Senator that he was a gone case, and the sooner he got out of the way the better. A count of the Senate indicated almost to a certainty that the vote would go against him. Accordingly this morning about ten o'clock, in consultation with the Governor of Kansas, Thomas A. Osborne, who is in the city, the Senator determined to hand in his resignation. He sat down and penned the document at once. The interest manifested in this case by Kansas politicians may be judged by the fact that the Governor of the State, about a half dozen members of the State Legislature and the three Representatives in Congress have been in the city awaiting the action of the Senate. As the Legislature is not in session, and will not be regularly until next January, it will be necessary to determine whether the Governor shall appoint a successor during the interim. A meeting of the Kansas delegation in Congress, at the request of the Governor, was to have been held this evening, but failed, owing to the non-attendance of two of the members. It was proposed to determine whether an appointment should be made immediately or not. Governor Osborne is an aspirant for the vacancy, and it was stated that if he can arrange matters with the Lieutenant Governor he will resign and get the appointment from him.

An effort will be made to reach action on the Clayton case, now before the Senate. With the precedent of the Caldwell decision it will occasion surprise if a result is reached by the end of the present week.

The notification of the Postmaster General by the Presidents of the leading railroads centering in New York that they would stop running postal cars if they did not receive increased compensation, if

carried into effect, will prove a serious detriment to the people, generally, and to business interests, particularly.

The Postmaster General, upon an examination of the law, finds that he has no power to accede to the demands of the railroad companies, but trusts that they will consent to continue the service until Congress can take some action. SAM.

THE SCHOOLS.

The following bill has been proposed in the Legislature:

AN ACT TO ENABLE THE SCHOOL DIRECTORS, OR CONTROLLERS OF ANY COUNTY OF THIS COMMONWEALTH, TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN ONE OR MORE HIGH SCHOOLS WITHIN THEIR COUNTY LIMITS.

WHEREAS, By the school laws of Pennsylvania it is made the duty of directors and controllers to establish a sufficient number of common schools for the education of every individual above the age of six and under twenty-one years, in their respective districts, et cetera.

AND, WHEREAS, By said school laws it is declared that the directors and controllers of the respective districts, shall have power to establish schools of different grades and to determine into which school each pupil shall be admitted.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly, met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That whenever any five directors or controllers, in any county of this Commonwealth request in writing to the county superintendent of common schools, to call a meeting of the directors and controllers of the several school districts of said county, for the purpose of considering the question of establishing one or more high schools within the county limits, it shall be his duty to do so, as soon thereafter as may be possible at some convenient and accessible place within the county limits.

SECTION 2. That whenever the directors or controllers of the several school districts, in any county, by vote of not less than two thirds of the number present, shall at a meeting thus convened, deem it necessary or expedient to establish one or more high schools within the county limits, they shall elect from their number, a board of control for such schools, which shall consist of one member from each separate school district, and which shall be entitled "the board of control of county high schools."

SECTION 3. That said board of control shall immediately after its first organization, divide the members thereof by lot into three classes, one of which shall retire from office at the end of one year, from the first day of the following July, and one at the end of two years, and one at the end of three years from the same date. The directors and controllers of the school districts represented by the retiring members, shall elect on or before the second Monday in June of each year, new members for three years, from the first day of the following July, to fill the vacancies thus occurring, and should there occur a vacancy by death, resignation or removal, the directors or controllers of the districts whose representation is thus impaired, shall immediately thereafter proceed to elect a suitable person to fill said vacancy.

SECTION 4. That said board of control shall be and hereby is empowered to solicit and receive contributions in money and grants of land from private citizens, and from townships, borough and State authorities for the purpose of erecting and maintaining as many high schools as the wants of the county may require, and if the whole amount needed for such purposes, cannot be obtained in such manner, then they shall collect such additional sum by taxation in the following manner, to wit: They shall annually and by vote of not less than a majority of their number, determine what additional amount will be required for the high school or schools in operation, or to be erected during the ensuing school year, and transmit a detailed statement of the same to the Commissioners of the county, who shall proceed to levy and collect the same in the same manner, as they are now authorized by law to do other taxes for school purposes, and pay the same over to the proper officers of the board of control.

SECTION 5. That said board of control, shall exercise the same powers and functions, and be subject to the same rules and restrictions, for the benefit of the high school or schools under their charge for the whole county as they are exercised by the directors or controllers of each school district for the benefit of the schools under their charge.

THE SITUATION AT THE MAHOONING COAL COMPANY'S MINES IS UNCHANGED. A strong guard is necessarily kept there night and day to prevent a collision between the strikers and new miners.

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