

Bellefonte Patriot.

BELLEFONTE, CENTRE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, PRINTED BY W. BRINDLE.

Vol. III.

SATURDAY, February 10, 1821.

No. 40.

CONDITIONS.

The price of this paper is two dollars and fifty cents per annum—but if paid half yearly in advance, two dollars only will be charged.

Advertisements, making no more in length than breadth, will be inserted three times for one dollar; and for every subsequent continuance twenty-five cents. Those of greater length in proportion. Rule or figure work double those rates.

No subscription will be received for less than one year; nor any paper discontinued until all arrearages are paid.

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Letters addressed to the editor must be post paid.

Pennsylvania Legislature.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 15, 1821.

The committee of ways and means respectfully report:

That your committee in laying before you a statement of the finances of the commonwealth, deem it unnecessary to enter into a minute detail of all the property belonging to the state, or to attempt to put a specific value upon it; as this must depend on circumstances alone, and forms no data on which the legislature can act with any degree of certainty.

And many of our resources, from which we formerly derived a considerable revenue are now become either wholly unproductive, or the revenue derived from it so diminished as to render it inconsiderable.

Your committee therefore have thought proper to confine themselves to those branches of the revenue which constitute the active funds of the state, on which is predicated the probable estimate of the receipts at the treasury in the year 1821.

It would have been gratifying to your committee to have presented to you a more favorable account of our fiscal concerns, but they conceive it to be their duty to you as well as to their constituents to state the facts without disguise. By a reference to a letter from the Auditor General enclosing a statement accompanying this report, it will be seen, that the estimate of the probable receipts at the treasury in the year 1821 are \$258,500, and the probable demands in the same year (exclusive of appropriations) are estimated at 251,200, leaving a balance in the treasury of \$7,300.

The estimate of the probable demands for the same year on account of appropriations, and balances of appropriations unpaid on the 30th of November last, the interest on existing loans, and such as may be made to meet the deficiencies of the year 1821, amounts to \$226,147 47 cents.

Deduct from this \$7,300 the surplus revenue of 1821, and \$50,000 which remains to be borrowed under the act of March 1820, together with a balance remaining in the treasury on the 1st of Dec. 1820, and it will leave a deficiency of \$141,447 46 cents.

Add to this \$20,000 which it will be necessary to reserve in the treasury to meet contingencies, and there remains the sum of \$161,477 46 cents to be provided for under existing laws.

The sum due by the commonwealth on loans, including the \$50,000 which remains

to be borrowed under the act of March last is \$530,000, the interest paid by the commonwealth in 1820 was \$17,185 67 cents and in the year 1821 it is estimated at \$35,000.

Owing to the very liberal appropriations which have been made to internal improvements by former legislatures; our funds have been anticipated; this with the great diminution in various branches of our revenue, arising from the general depression of business has rendered it necessary to resort to loans; our annual income a few years since was upwards of half a million; in the present year it is estimated at \$258,000 a sum little more than sufficient to defray the annual expenses of government.

Your committee would suggest the propriety of the legislature providing means to pay annually the interest, and a part of the principal of the money due by the commonwealth as well as to supply the deficiency of the present year. This may be done in one of three ways, either by a loan, by a sale of bank stock or by a tax. Should it be thought advisable to enter upon a general system of internal improvement, it will be the duty of the legislature to provide funds for that purpose.

And here your committee cannot forbear to notice, that large sums are due to the commonwealth by individuals for lands, which if collected would create a fund for internal improvement, for the establishment of free schools, the endowment of colleges, or other useful purposes; whether any more efficient measures could be adopted to compel payment will be for you to judge.

Should the bill for the reduction of salaries be carried into effect it will produce a saving to the state of a sum nearly sufficient to pay the interest on existing loans. It will be seen by a reference to the expenditures of last year that our militia system is expensive.

Your committee would suggest the propriety of abolishing such officers as could without inconvenience be dispensed with; it is worthy of inquiry whether the duties of the Adjutant General could not be performed by the secretary of the commonwealth without much difficulty or any additional expense.

Auditor General's office 11th Jan. 1821.

SIR,—Agreeably to the request of the committee of ways and means, I respectfully submit for their consideration the enclosed statement. I shall have pleasure in aiding the views of the committee by affording all the information I possess; you will therefore call on me as you progress in your views for such explanations as may appear to be necessary in relation to our fiscal operations,

Very respectfully, sir your most ob. ser.

GEO. BRYAN.

Joseph Lawrence, Esquire,

Chairman of committee of ways & means.

ESTIMATE,

Of the probable demands on the State Treasury, for the year 1821, on account of appropriations and balances of appropriations unpaid on the 30th of Nov. 1820.

Turnpike roads, &c.	\$150,000
Philadelphia prison	14,000
Penitentiary near Pittsburg,	3,147 27
State Capitol,	24,000
Interest on existing loans and on such as may be made to meet deficiencies of 1821,	35,000

Dollars 226,147 37

Deduct probable surplus revenue of 1821 per statement sent to the house of representatives, the 6th inst.

\$7,300

Of the loan authorised by the act of the 28th March, 1820, there remains to be borrowed, Balance in the Treasury, 1st Dec. 1820,

50,000

27,360 91

84,669 91

Probable deficiency of 1821, under existing laws,

\$144,477 46

I am of opinion that it would be proper to reserve in the treasury to meet contingencies, about

20,000

Amount to be provided for the year 1821, under existing laws,

\$161,477 46

GEO. BRYAN, A. G.

Wednesday January 17.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Sturgeon presented a petition from inhabitants of Fayette county, for erection of a poor house.

Mr. Dorrance from New Milford and Bridgewater turnpike company for aid.

Mr. Rohrer a remonstrance from inhabitants of Lancaster county, against restricting magistrates.

Mr. Jenks a memorial from the inquest of Bucks county for reduction of fees and salaries.

Mr. Good, 3 petitions from citizens of Berks county for a law to erect a poor-house—referred to the members of said county.

Mr. Crooks, from inhabitants of Franklin county for a loan office.

Mr. Brackenridge from President and Secretary of the Pittsburg and Butler turnpike company, for additional appropriations.

Mr. Cassat from inhabitants of Adams county for a law to prevent sheriffs and constables from taking property of sureties, in execution, while the principal has any property to be got at.

Mr. Livingston from inhabitants of Chanceford township, York county, for a new election district,—to elect at the "Globe" tavern.

Mr. Hanna, from inhabitants of Lycoming county for a bridge over Pine Creek.

Mr. Wm. Smyth from inhabitants of Centre county, remonstrating against a law to regulate the practice of medicine.

Mr. Connely, from inhabitants of Warren county, for aid to erect public buildings in said county.

Mr. Rohrer, from Martic township, Lancaster county, to change the place of holding elections.

Mr. Estep obtained leave from the committee appointed on the subject of Hopkins' dam to view the works on Friday next.

Mr. Lawrence called for a second reading of a resolution, offered by him, some time ago, to concert measures for the call of a convention, to alter the constitution.

Passed, and a committee of seven to be appointed, and appear on the journal, to-morrow morning [Committee—Lawrence, Anderson, Estep, Emlen, Leiper, Wurtz Gilleland]

Friday January 19.

Messrs. Jones and Herrington obtained leave of absence for a few days.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Fry 6 petitions from inhabitants of Perry county, for changing the seat of justice.

Mr. Hunt, from Chester county, for al-

teration in the law relative to revival of judgments.

Mr. Withers, remonstrance from inhabitants of Lancaster county, against a law to regulate the practice of medicine.

Mr. Rees, from inhabitants of Schuylkill county, against restricting the jurisdiction of justices of the peace.

Mr. Orr, a similar petition from Armstrong county.

Mr. Rees, Mr. Hanna, and Mr. Calwell, presented a number of petitions for uniting the waters of the Susquehanna, and Schuylkill by canal navigation.

Mr. Dimmick, 3 petitions, from inhabitants of Northampton, Wayne, and Pike, for a loan office.

Mr. Mitchell, from 99th regiment, P. M. for authority to hold company elections, to elect their field officers.

Reports of Committees.

Mr. Kennedy from committee on loan office, made report, which was read and laid on the table.

A number of petitions were presented on various subjects already before committees.

Monday Jan. 22.

PETITIONS.

Mr. Wilson Smith presented two petitions, one from Ebenezer Eldridge, and one from Philip Kennedy, old soldiers for aid. Several others of a similar nature were referred.

Mr. Connelly, from Mercer, for aid to a turnpike road, from Mercer to Beaver.

Mr. Storm, from York and Adams counties; for authority to raise money by lottery to finish a church.

Mr. Kennedy, from Northampton county against restricting magistrates, in civil cases.

Mr. M'Cullough, two remonstrances, from Lancaster county on the same subject.

Mr. Dimmick, from Wayne county, for a revision and continuance of the appraisement law.

Mr. Robbins, 5 petitions from Master Bakers of Philadelphia for a law to prevent baking bread and dinners on the Sabbath.

Mr. Livingston, from York county, for a reduction of interest, on money due the state for lands.

Mr. Lawrence was appointed on the committee on the penitentiary system, in place of Mr. Wilkins, resigned.

Mr. Magill from inhabitants of Greenwood township Mifflin county remonstrating against being attached to Perry county.

Mr. Roberts, a remonstrance from Washington county, against a new county.

Mr. Wierman, from inhabitants of Adams county, for alteration in the law relative to bastardy—referred to committee on vice and immorality.

Mr. Mitchell, from Indiana, that the bounty for wolf scalps may be reduced from 12 to 8 dollars.

On motion of Mr. Dimmick the Northampton county members, were added to the committee on the fisheries in the Delaware.

Mr. Piper, from John Bell, praying that the Auditor General be authorised to settle his accounts.

Mr. Cortright from inhabitants of Luzerne county, for aid to a road from Millford to Wilksbarre.