

B. F. McNEIL, Editor and Proprietor.

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REMARKS OF HON. GEORGE W. HOUSEHOLDER.

Discussion on the bill authorizing the State to assume the local debts incurred by giving bounties to volunteers.

HARRISBURG, Friday, April 15, 1864.

SENATE.—Mr. LOWRY. Mr. Speaker, we have had two bills before us this session, which, when they first came up, were denominated respectively as sisters. I think sir, that those sisters, at the time they were introduced in this chamber, came in with very bad characters indeed.

We have heard a dissertation from the Senator from Tioga as to what we should do. I am not prepared to answer his speech fully, but I say upon general principles that the whole system of bounties has been pernicious to the successful prosecution of this war.

Mr. HOUSEHOLDER. Mr. Speaker, I had not intended to say a word on this subject, but the manner in which this bill is evidently about to be treated precludes the necessity of my making any lengthy remarks.

I would ask the Senator from Erie, and other Senators who have spoken upon this bill if we do not propose not only to assume the reimbursement of these moneys, but also to make those bounties exactly equal in all sections of the State.

I have made a few calculations on this subject, which I will offer to the Senate for their consideration. It will fully demonstrate the great disparity between the several sections of this Commonwealth, and the unjust discrimination in favor of the more wealthy counties.

Table with columns: Counties, Taxables, Valuation, Per Taxable. Lists counties from Adams to York with corresponding tax data.

THE MENGEL HOUSE. Office on the east side of the Mengel House, Bedford, Pa. April 1, 1864.

cessarily be compelled to furnish their quotas by conscription, if the draft should be enforced.

Permit me, Mr. Speaker, to give you a calculation of the quota of the several counties of this Commonwealth. Of some districts I have been unable to get the exact amount from the Provost Marshal of the State.

Permit me, Mr. Speaker, to give you a calculation of the quota of the several counties of this Commonwealth. Adams county, as her quota, would have to furnish 685 men, which, multiplied by 300, would make a bounty of \$205,500.

Mr. HOUSEHOLDER. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Senator postpones indefinitely. I dissent entirely from the course pursued by the Senator in regard to the quotas.

Mr. CLYMER. Mr. Speaker, I am convinced that to incorporate a provision of that kind upon this bill would be unjust and improper.

Mr. HOUSEHOLDER. Mr. Speaker, I do not suppose that the State would compel those gentlemen to pay the bounties.

Mr. ST. CLAIR. Mr. Speaker, I understand that there is a resolution for indefinite postponement.

THE SPEAKER. Yes, sir. Mr. ST. CLAIR. Then, sir, I would merely say that I hope it will be voted down.

From Thomas Jefferson's Notes On Virginia. "It is difficult to determine on the standard by which the manners of a nation may be tried, whether catholic or particular."

lines of the interests of those brave men who are defending us, to see to it that in some way or other we put an end to the gross frauds that have been so extensively practised upon our soldiers.

I do not know whether this bill will be entirely satisfactory, but let us examine. It is nothing but a fair that should have before us, it is an insult to the originators and to the friends of the bill to pass a resolution indefinitely postponing it.

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, when this motion for indefinite postponement was first made, I had made up my mind to vote against it.

Mr. HOUSEHOLDER. Mr. Speaker, I do not blame the Senator from Dauphin for favoring his own constituency. While the proportion to be paid by his constituency would be one thousand five hundred and one dollars per taxable.

Mr. CLYMER. Mr. Speaker, I merely dissent in this connection, to show the Senators the fallacy of his position. He tells us that the high proportion in other parts of the State have drawn from his county nearly half the population liable to a draft.

Mr. HOUSEHOLDER. I will explain. The Senator from Dauphin seems to misunderstand my argument as applying only to my county.

On the motion for indefinite postponement. The yeas and nays were required by Mr. HOUSEHOLDER and Mr. WILSON, and were as follows: Yeas—36; Nays—59.

So the motion was agreed to. During the call Mr. GRAHAM said. While I am opposed to the bill, and shall vote against it when it comes before the Senate, yet I am willing that it should be amended so that it would stand for the purpose of amending it, and getting it in the shape in which he thinks it should be passed.

From Thomas Jefferson's Notes On Virginia. "It is difficult to determine on the standard by which the manners of a nation may be tried, whether catholic or particular."

the lines of the interests of those brave men who are defending us, to see to it that in some way or other we put an end to the gross frauds that have been so extensively practised upon our soldiers.

For if a slave can have a country in this world, it must be in preference to that in which he is born to live and labor for another; in which he must look up to the faculties of his nature, contribute as far as depends on his individual endowments to the advancement of the human race, or to the amelioration of his condition.

We must be contented to hope they will force their way into every one's mind. I think a change already perceptible, since the origin of the present revolution. The spirit of the master is abating—that of the slave rising from the dust.

From the Richmond Examiner, May 26. ATLANTA, May 25.—Westward and eastward, to Columbus, the harmless people of Northern Georgia are crowding into this city to await the issue of the impending struggle between our army and the Federal.

From the Richmond Examiner, May 26. We are indebted to Captain Brinton for copies of the Richmond papers to Saturday last.

From the Richmond Examiner, May 26. A letter from M. M. Gray, Captain in charge of torpedoes, dated Charleston April 29, addressed to Major General Maury, published in the Richmond Sentinel, tells us that the late Lieutenant Dixon and crew, whose torpedo vessel sank the Housatonic off Charleston Bar in February last.

Besides the resident population of Richmond, the number of people in the city has been increased by the addition of many sick and wounded in the hospitals and in private lodgings, and the presence of large bodies of troops, creating an active demand for all kind of food, especially vegetables.

Grand, gloomy, peculiar and unruined as the bosom of Jehova, after a simoon, the city continued yesterday to demonstrate its placidity under the difficulties inflicted its patience by the powers that be.

From the Richmond Examiner, May 26. ATLANTA, May 25.—Westward and eastward, to Columbus, the harmless people of Northern Georgia are crowding into this city to await the issue of the impending struggle between our army and the Federal.

THE SWAMP ANGEL AND CUMMING'S POINT BATTERIES. The Charleston Courier says: It has frequently been asked, "What is the difference between the Cummings' Point Batteries and the Swamp Angel?"

The Atlanta Confederacy sums up the movements of Gen. Sherman in Georgia, as follows: "The impression is general now that Johnston will hurl his forces upon the enemy at some point between his present line of battle and the Etowah river, upon the result of which, with our knowledge of that army and its great commander, we are willing to stake our hopes of independence."

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PHILADELPHIA, in view of movements then on foot looking to the abolition of slavery, and highly approving of them, declared that "inasmuch as men introduced from a servile state to a participation of all the privileges of civil society, without a proper education, and without previous habits of industry, may be in many respects, dangerous to the community, therefore the members recommended to all the members belonging to their communion to give those persons, who are at present held in servitude, such good education as to prepare them for the better enjoyment of freedom."

IN 1815 the following record was made: "The General Assembly have repeatedly declared their cordial approbation of these principles of civil liberty which appear to be recognized by the federal and state governments in these United States. They have expressed their regret that the slavery of the Africans and of their descendants still continue in so many places, and have urged the members of the church, and have urged the Presbyteries under their care to adopt such measures as will secure, at least to the rising generation of slaves, within the bounds of the church, a religious education; that they may be prepared for the exercise and enjoyment of liberty when their present masters shall have relinquished their emancipation."

"We consider the voluntary enslaving of one portion of the human race by another as a gross violation of the most precious and sacred rights of human nature, as utterly inconsistent with the law of God, which requires us to love our neighbor as ourselves, and as totally irreconcilable with the spirit and precepts of the Gospel of Christ which enjoins, 'that all things whatsoever we would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them.'" Slavery creates a paradox in the moral system: it exhibits rational, moral and accountable beings in such circumstances as scarcely to leave them the power of moral action.

They earnestly exhorted those portions of the church where the evil of slavery had been entailed upon them, to continue, and, if possible, to increase, their exertions to effect a total abolition of slavery, and suffer no greater delay to take place to this most interesting concern than a regard to public welfare truly and indispensably demands, and declare "that our country ought to be governed in this matter by no other consideration than an honest and impartial regard to the happiness of the injured party, uninfluenced by the expense or inconvenience which such a regard may involve."

Such were the early and unequivocal instructions to inquire how faithful and obedient to these lessons and warnings those to whom they were addressed have been. It ought to be acknowledged that we have all much to confess and lament as to our shortcomings in this respect. Whether a strict and careful application of this advice would have rescued the country from the evil of its condition and the dangers which have since threatened it, is known to the Omniscient alone. Whilst we do not believe that the present judgments of our Heavenly Father and Almighty and Righteous Governor have been inflicted solely in punishment for our continuance in this sin; yet it is our judgment that the recent events of our history and the present condition of our church, and society furnish manifest tokens that the time has lengthened.