The Bedford Inquirer

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PROFESSIONAL AND BUSINESS CARDS.

ESPY M. ALSIP. ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDPORD, PA.,

Will faithfully and promptly attend to all business entrusted to his care in Bedford and adjoining counties.
Military claims, Pensions, back pay, Bounty, &c. specific sollection.

dily collected. Office with Mann & Spang, on Juliana street, 2 doors April 1, 1864 .- tf. J. R. DURBORROW,

ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA Office one door south of the "Mengel House,"

W_l attend promptly to all business intrusted to his care iolicctions made on the shortest notice.

Having, also, been regularly licensed to prosecute laims against the Government, particular attention will be given to, the collection of Military claims of all inds; Pensions, Back Pay, Bounty, Bounty Loans, &c. Bedford, apr. 8, 1864—tf.

ALEX. KING,

ATTORNEY AT LAW.

And agent for procuring arrears of Pay and Bounty noney. Office on Juliana Street, Bedford, Pa. April 1, 1864—tf.

KIMMELL & LINGENFELTER. ATTORNEYS AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA.

Have formed a partnership in the practice of the Law Office on Juliana Street, two doors South of the Mengel April 1, 1864-tf.

JOHN MAJOR,

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, HOPEWELL, BEDFORD COUNTY. Collections and all business pertaining to his office will be attended to promptly. Will also attend to the sale or renting of real estate. Instruments of writing carefully prepared. Also settling up partnerships and other ac-

JNO. MOWER, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

BEDFORD, PA.,

April I, 1864-tf.

JOSEPH W. TATE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD PA.

WILL promptly attend to collections and all business entrusted to his care in Bedford and adjoining counties. Money advanced on Judgmen , Notes and other Claims. Has for sale Town Lots, in Tatesville, and St. Josephs on Bedford Railrond. Farms and unimproved land in quantities to suit purchasers.

Office opposite the Banking House of Reed & Schell. Office opposite the apr. 15, 1864-10 m.

JOHN LUTZ, ATTORNEY AT LAW.

AND Regularly licensed agent for the collection of Govern-cent claims, bounties, back pay, pensions, &c., will give rompt attention to all business entrusted to his care August 19th, 1864.--tf.

M. A. POINTS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, BEDFORD, PA. Respectfully tenders his professional services to the ablic. Office with J. W. Lingenfelter, Esq., on Juliana reet, two doors South of the "Mengle House." treet, two doors South of the Bedford, Dec. 9, 1864-tf.

DENTISTRY. I. N. BOWSER, Resident Dentist of Wood-

WILL spend the second Monday, Tuesday, and Wed-Wills spend the second Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, of each month at Hopewell, the remaining
three days at Bloody Run, attending to the duties of his
profession. At all other times he can be found in his offee at Woodbury, excepting the lest Monday and Tuesday of the same month, which he will spend in Martinsburg, Blair county, Penna. Persons desiring operations should call early, as time is limited. All operations war-

C. N. HICKOK.

DENTISTS, BEDFORD, PA.

Office in the Bank Building, Juliana Street. All operations pertaining to Surgical or Mechanical Dentistry carefully and faithfully performed and warranted.

TERMS CASH.

April 1, 1864-tt.

DR. B. F. HARRY, Respectfully enders his professional services to the citizens of Bedford and vicinity. Office and residence on Pitt Street, in the building formerly occupied by Dr. J. H.

J. L. MARBOURG, M. D.

Having permanently located respectfully tenders his ofessional services to the citizens of Bedford and vinity. Office on Juliana Street, opposite the Bank, one door north of Hall & Palmer's office.

April 1, 1864—tf.

DANIEL BORDER.

Bedford, Pa. Watchmaker & Dealer in Jewelry, Spectacles, &c HE KEEPS ON HAND A STOCK OF FINE GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES, SPECTACLES OF Brilliant Double Refined Glasses, also Scotch Pebble Glasses. Gold Watch Chains, Breast Pins, Finger Rings, best quality of Gold Pens.

He will supply to order any thing in his line not on

apr. 8, 1864—zz. U. S. HOTEL,

HARRISBURG, PENN'A... CORNER SIXTH AND MARKET STREETS.

OPPOSITE READING R. R. DEPOT. D. H. HUTCHINSON, Proprietor. jan6'63-3m.

UNION HOTEL. VALENTINE STECKMAN, PROPRIETOR,

West Pitt Street, Bedford, Pa., (Formerly the Globe Hutel.) TILE public are assured that he has made ampe ar-

A splendid Livery Stable attached. fap'r64.

EXCHANGE HOTEL. HUNTINGDON, PA. JOHN S. MILLER, Proprietor, April 29th, 1864,—ft.

ANNUAL MESSAGE

OF THE

Governor of Pennsylvania.

To the Senate and House of Representatives : To the Senate and House of Representatives:

During the past year the people of this Commonwealth have had reason to be grateful to Aimighty God for many blessings. The earth has been fruitful, industry has thriven, and with the exception of the injury suffered by the citizens of some of our border counties, through the disgraceful barbarity of the rebel forces which ravaged parts of them, and barned the town of Chambersburg, we have no public misfortune to lament. The year closes with a train of brilliant successes obtained by the armies of the United States, inspiring hope in every loyal mind that the accursed rebellion will soon be crushed, and peace be restored to our country.

crushed, and peace be restored to our country. 4,783,818 02

\$6,880,644 72 4,938,441 09

Balance in Treasury, Nov, 30, 1864 \$1,942,203 68 The operations of the sinking fund during the las

year have been shown by my proclamat 27th day of September last, as follows: Amount of deb of Commonwealth,re-\$268,569 50 As follows, viz:

Five per cent loan of the Commonwealth Interest certificates \$268,308 03 261 47 268,569 50 redeemed The fiscal year accounted for in the statem

the Treasury Department, embraces the time from the 1st of December, 1863, to the 30th of November, the 1st of December, 1863, to the 30th of November, 1864. The sinking fund year commenced the first Monday in September, 1863, and closed the first Tuesday in September, 1864. This will explain the discrepancy between the statement of the Treasury Department as to the reduction of the public debt of the State, and the statement embodied in the pro-clamation relative to the sinking fund.

\$39,496,596 7

\$39,379,608 94

36,264,093 72

36,379,603 94

3,500,000 00

debt of Pennsyl vania, asit stood on the first day of Dec., 1863 Deduct am't re-deemed at the State Treasury during the fiscal

year ending with Nov. 30, 1864, Five per cent. stocks............ Four and a-half \$104,722 78 per ct. stocks... Interest certifica-10,000 00 tes .. 2,270 11

Public debt December 1, 1864 Funded debt, viz: Six percent loans ordinary Five per ct. loans, \$400,630 00 ordinary Four and a-half 35,605,263 72 per cent loans, ordinary 258,200 00

Unfunded debt, Relief notes in circulation Interest certifica-tes out-standing 13,086 52 Interest certifica 4,448 38

tes unclaimed... Domestic creditor's certificates Military loan per Act 15th May, 1861.....

3,000,000 00 Total public debt Dec. 1, 1864 \$39,379,603 94

The Commonwealth holds bonds received from the sale of Public Works, amounting to ten million, three hundred thousand dollars, (\$10,300,000 00) as

Pennsylvania Railroad Company \$6,800,000 00 Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Com-

These bonds are in the Sinking Fund, and reduce the public debt to \$22,079,603 94.

The tax on tonnage imposed by the acts of 30th April and 25th August 1864, has yielded something less than \$200,000—a much less sum than was anticipated. I recommend a revision of these acts for the purpose of rendering this source of revenue more productive, and amending other defects in those hills The revenue derived from the tax on banks during J. G. MINNICH, JR.

abling act of the State so many of our banks have become National banks under the act of Congress, that this source of revenue may be coasidered as substantially extinguished, and it will be necessary in some way to make up deficiency from other sour-

The act of Congress authorizes the taxation by The act of Congress authorizes the taxation by the State of the stock in the National bank in the hands of the holders, not exceeding the rate of taxation imposed on other similar property, and part of the deficiency may be thus provided for.

The amount of debt extinguished by the Sinking Fund during the year is unusually small, which is to be accounted for by the extraordinary expenses which have been incurred. Seven hundred and

which have been incurred. Seven hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (713,000) have been paid to refund to the banks the money advanced by them to pay the volunteers in service during the invasion of the State in 1863. One hundred thousand dollars (\$190,000) have been distributed among the inhabitants of Chambersburg, suffering by the rebel destruction of their town. About two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) have been expended under the acts providing for the payment of extra under the acts providing for the payment of extra military claims, and in addition to these extraordi-ary outlays, the amount appropriated to charities

ras last year larger than usual.

In my opinion this matter of donations to chari-In my opinion this matter of donations to charities is fast running into a great abuse. Houses of Refuge, and Insane, Blind and Deaf and Dumb Asylums, appear to be proper subjects of State bounty, because their objects are of public importance and to be useful, and well and reconomically managed it seems to be necessary, that they should be more extensive than would be required for the wants of a particular county. But in our system ordinary learning the second of the secon

and whilst it opens a large and wealthy part of the State to the commerce of the seaboard, and unites capital and enterprise within our borders, it secures to the Commonwealth the payment of the sums due her from the company.

In my special message of 30th April last, to which I refer, I communicated to the Legislature, in some detail, the circumstances connected with the advance by banks and other corporations of the funds to pay the volunteer militia of 1863.

It is not necessary here to recapitulate them at length. The case was peculiar, and it is believed anone quite like it has occurred. The fall for volunteers was made by the authorities of the United States, but it being found that men could not be got under that call, the form of a call by the State authorities for the defence of the State was, with the assent of the President, substituted. The United States agreed to furnish the arms. subsistence and supplies, but it was alleged that Congress had made no appropriation covering the pay. In this state of things, the emergency being great, the Secretary of War telegraphed me, thus:

Washington, July 22, 1863. of this Commoneful to A mighty
has been fruitthe exception of
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ur country.

\$2,147,331 70

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Warsuington, July 22, 1863.

Washington, July 22, 1863.

To His Excellency, Gov. A. G. Curtin: Your telegrams respecting the pay of militia, called out under your proclamation of the 27th of June, have been referred to the President for instructions and have been under his consideration. He directs me to say, that while no law or appropriation authorizes the payment, by the General Government, of troops that have not been mustered into the service of the United States, he will recommend to Congress to make an appropriation for the payment of troops. o make an appropriation for the payment of troops alled into State service to rebel an actual invasion, acluding those of the State of Pennsylvania. If, in the meantime, you can raise the necessary amount, as has been done in other States, the appropriation will be applied to refund the advance to those who made it. Measures have been taken for the payment of troops mustered into the United States payment of troops mastered means and pay rolls are made out. The answer of this department, to you as Governor of the State, will be given directly to yourself, whenever the department is prepared to make answer.

EDWIN M. STANTON,

Secretary of War.

The banks and other corporations refused to adand other corporations remose to ac-vance the money unless I would piedge myself to ask an appropriation from the Legislature to refund it. It will be noticed that the piedge of the Presi-dent is clear and distinct but, notwithstanding the money was paid and the accounts settled and placed in the hands of the President before the meeting of Congress, no such recommendation as promised me in the hands of the President before the meeting of Congress, no such recommendation as promised me was made, and for that reason the bill introduced for that purpose failed. The men were raised and placed under the command of Major General Couch and the other U. S. officers in this Department.—The troops were held in service longer than the emergency for which they were called out required. Several of the regiments were marched immediately into the distant parts of the State, by order of the officers of the army stationed in Pennsylvania, against my repeated remonstances. They were retained, as was alleged, to preserve the peace and enforce the draft. Nearly, if not quite, one-halt the money was paid to troops thus held, and after the emergency had expired. Finding that the appropriation was likely to fail in Congress, I laid the matter before the Legislature, just prior to their adjournment, in May last, and an act of Assembly was journment, in May last, and an act of Assembly was immediately passed to refund the money out of the State Treasury, which, as above stated has been done. I ought to say that the appropriation by Congress was vigorously supported by all the members, from this State, in both branches. Having done transfer in the course the request the payment of

everything in my power to procure the payment of this just claim of the State, I now recommend that the Legislature take the subject into consideration with a view to induce proper action by the President with a view to induce and Congress.

By the act of 22d August, 1864, I was authorized to cause an immediate enrollment of the militia to be made, unless that recently made by the United States should be found sufficient, and to raise United States should be found sufficient, and to raise
by volunteering or draft a corps of fifteen thousand
men for the defence of our Southern border. The
United States enrollment being found very defective,
I directed an enrollment to be made, which is now
in progress under the charge of Colonel Lemnel
Todd, whom I appointed Inspector General. A
draft by the United States was then in progress, and draft by the United States was then in progress, and it was not thought advisable to harrass our people by a contemporaneous State draft, even if a draft had been practicable under the present law. Volunteers could not be obtained, there being no bounties and the men not being exempted by their enlistment. in that corps from draft by the United States. Forments have been made with the authorities at Washington for arming, clothing, subsisting and supplying the corps at the expense of the United States, and an order has been given by the authorities of the United States to furlough such volunteers in the corps as may be drafted by the United States. The orps so privileged not to exceed 5,000 men. It is by intention to raise 5,000 men during the winter, my intention to raise 5,000 men during the winter, and I have already adopted measures to that end.—
There may occur irruptions of irregular bodies of the rebels, and it is well to be provided against them. The number proposed to be so raised and put into actual service, will, in my judgement be sufficient, and a regard to economy requires that no more than are sufficent should be placed on pay. The remaining 10,000 will be organized, and ready for service in case of necessity. I invite your immediate attention to the very able report of the Inspector General, which sets forth the defects in the law which he has discovered in his preparation for carrying it into practical effect.

practical effect.

The State agencies at Washington and in the South-west, are in active and successful operation. I communicate herewith the reports of Col. Jordan, at Washington, and Col, Chamberlain, agent for the South-west. The provisions of the law requiring the agents to collect moneys due by the United States to soldiers, have been benificent. A reference to the reports will show the magnitude and States to soldiers, have been defined. A refer-ence to ther reports will show the magnitude and usefulness of this branch of their service. I desire to invite the attention of all our volunteers, officers, and soldiers and their families to the fact that the State agents will collect all their claims on the Gov-

State agents will collect all their claims on the Government, gratuitously, as I have reason to believe that many are still ignorant of that fact, and are greatly imposed upon by the exorbitant commissions charged by the private claim agents.

Under the act of the 6th of May, 1864, I appointed Hon. Thomas H. Burrowes to take charge of the arrangements for the education of the orphans of soldiers. I communicate herewith a copy of his report on the subject. He has discharged his duties with commendable zeal, fidelity and efficiency. I earnestly recommend that a permanent and liberal appropriation be made to support this just and worthy scheme of benificence.

I recommend that an appropriation be made for pensions to the volunteer militia men, (or their familles,) who were killed or hurt in service in the years 1862 and 1863. As soldiers sometimes ar-

ter.

I also recommend the repeal of an act passed the
22 day of July, A. D. 1863, entitled "A further supplement to enable joint tenants and tenants in commin, and adjoining owners of mineral lands in this
Commonwealth, to manage and develop the same."

This act allows foreign corporations to Lold three
hundred acres of land in this State for mining purpoes. It was passed, it is believed, for the purpose
of mabling companies near our border engaged in
the manufacture of iron, to hold land as ore banks.
But under the idea that the sinking of an oil well is
mining, it is believed that companies have already ming, it is believed that companies have already been organized under the laws of other States, and more will be, for the purpose of holding lands and carrying on the oil business in this State. It would carrying on the oil outsiness in this State. It would be better to remove all doubt on this question by repealing the act. These companies, being foreign corporations, are not within the control of our laws or the extent that they ought to be for the purposes of taxation and regulation.

of taxation and regulation.

The immense development of wealth in some of our western counties by the discovery of oil, has added wastly to the resources of the Commonwealth.

I have made efforts to ascertain the value of this preduct during the past year, but have failed in procuring information sufficiently accurate to justify me in estimating its amount. It is already vast and is residually increasing.

repidly increasing.

The productions and mannfactures of the State have become so diversified and abundant that some measure should be taken for an accurate ascertainment of them, so that their extent may be generally nown, and also that the necessary taxation may be stelligently imposed. I recommend for these puroses the creation of a Bureau, of which the Auditor General and State Treasurer shall be members, and the head of which shall be a new officer, to be styled ommissioners of Statistics, or designated by any

other appropriate title.

The act of 25th August, 1864, providing for the roting of soldiers, should be carefully examined, with a view to its amendment, and, indeed, a revision of our whole election laws would seem to be desirable, with a view to the two essential objects of, 1. sion of our whole election laws would seem to be desirable, with a view to the two essential objects of, I. The admission of legal and exclusion of illegal votes at the polls; and, 2. Faithful and correct returns of the wates actually polled. I communicate herewith the opinion of the Attorney General on the conflicting returns for the 16th Congressional District, which will show some of the practical difficulties which rise under the existing system. Without undersaking to recommend the adoption of particular plan. I submit the whole subject to your careful and caruest consideration, in the hope that in your wisdom you will be able to devise some measure which will produce the result so essential to the existence of a free government: that votes shall be fairly taken in the first instance, and fairly counted and returned afterwards.

I have endeavored since I came into office to exercise the excentions a spossible the powers confided to the Executive, and avoid usurping any. I shall endeavor to persist in this course to the end.

A new eall has been made by the President for 300,000 men. This renders it proper that I should invite your attention to the evils which have resulted from abuses of the system of local bounties which was begun, in an emergency by the voluntary and generous lovalty of our citizens, before the passage

from abuses of the system of local bounties which was begun, in an emergency by the voluntary and generous loyalty of our citizens, before the passage by Congress of the enrollment act, and has since been continued by sundry acts of Assembly. The result has been to the last degree oppressive to our citizens, and unproductive of corresponding benefit to the Government. In some counties and townships, it is believed that the bounty tax during the last year exceeded the average income derived from the land. The large sums offered in some places in in that corps from draft by the United States. Fortunately the United States placed an army, under General Sheridan, between us and the enemy, and thus provided effectually for our defence. With such adequate protection as proved by the brilliant campaign of that army, I did not think it right to incur the expense to the State of an independent army, and the withdrawal of so many of our people from their homes and pursuits. Meanwhile arrangements have been made with the authorities at Washington for arming, clothing, subsisting and supplythe land. as practiced lowers the morate of the army steen, of putting into the ranks men actuated by merely mercenary motives, and who are tempted to desert by the facility of escaping detection, and the prospect of new gains by re-enlistment, a process which they expect to be able to repeat an indefinite number. expect to be able to repeat an indefinite number of times. Of the number of men for whom bounties have been paid, it is believed that not one-fourth have been actually placed in the ranks of the army, and even-those who have joined it, have probably not on an average received for their own use one-half of the bounty paid for them. Immense sums have thus been appropriated by cheats and swindlers in many cases believed to be acting in complicity with agencies of the Government.

rith agencies of the Government. An effort was made to prosecute some of the par-ies concerned in such frauds under the act of As-tembly of 14th August last, and they were bound ver by the Mayor of this city, but after the witness s had come here on the meeting of the court, the disappeared from the public eye. I recommend the whole subject to your careful consideration, that he system may be purged of these evils.

I am officially informed that the quota of this state, under the recent call, 66,999, but I am not nformed of the principle on which the draft is to

It appears from the President's proclamation that It appears from the Freshent's proclamation that t is made chiefly to supply an alleged deficiency in former calls. I am surprised at the amount of this large deficiency, and can only account for the dif-erence between the number of men furnished by the State and the deficiency alleged to exist in the assignment of the present quota by the assumption that the men never reached the army, although enat the men hever reached the army, almost of bounties sted and mustered after the payment of bounties to which they were supposed to be redited. It is probable that there are very few pounties in the State which have not paid large ounties for a number of men sufficient to fill their

Taking the local bounties at the low average of our hundred dollars, it is believed that it can be emonstrated that the people of Pennsylvania have hus been robbed of more than twelve millions of ollars during the past year. This estimate does ot include the money fraudulently taken from men the have actually some into the received. ho have actually gone into the service.

The continuance of these monstrous and unparalled abuses cannot be tolerated.

Certainly more men are required to aid our gal-ant soldiers in the field in crushing this rebellion,

the various prisons, some eighteen or twenty persons under sentence of death, and who may lie there for an indefinite period of time.

The vast amount of additional labor which has been imposed upon the Secretary of the Commonwealth by the existing state of affairs renders it absolutely necessary that the clerical force of his department should be increased. The marking out of commissions for our large array of volunteers in

absolutely necessary that the ciercal force of his department should be increased. The marking out of commissions for our large army of volunteers in the field, and the preparations of election blanks required by law to be sent to the army—the receipt, filing and recording the returns of the yearly increasing number of acts of Assembly, and of charters obtained under general laws and the making out of letters patent for them—all these together with the previous heavy duties of the office—from an aggregate, the weight of which must ultimately break down his few subordinates, diligent, faithful and enduring as they are. I recommend, therefore, that provision be promptly made to meet the necessities of this case.

It is a subject of just congratulation that notwithstanding the distracted condition of the country, our system of common schools continues to flourish. The report of our Superintendent, which I herewith transmit, shows that there has been an increase of scholars during the past year. It is important to secure a trachers a sufficient number of men of suitable education and ability, and with a view to this object, I suggest for your consideration the expediency of making out of the school finds.

men of suitable education and ability, and with a view to this object, I suggest for your consideration the expediency of making out of the school funds itself some provision for the support of such teachers as shall after a given term of service become superannuated or disabled while in the performance of their duties.

Of the fund placed in my hands by the act of the 16th May, 1861, and of the 4th of May, 1864, and to be appropriated in my judgement in military service, I have expended in the last year \$6,124 68, in support of the agency at Washington—up until the 30th of May last, for my personal staff and other military service, an account of which is settled in the office of the Auditor General.

No similar appropriation will be required at this session.

A bill was introduced and passed the House at the last session of the Legislature providing for the appointment of a commission to ascertain the damages done in the counties of Bedford, Fulton, Franklin, Cumberland, York and Adams, by the rebel army in 1862, which failed in the Senate for want of time.

want of time.

I commend to your consideration the propriety of the passage of such a bill during the present session. It is just to the people of these counties who have suffered, as well as to the Government that these damages should be fairly ascertained and the evidence perpetuated, whatever may be the view to be taken on future consideration by the United States or State Government as to the propriety of paying such claims.

States or State Government as to the propriety of paying such claims.

Major General Hancock has been authorized by the War Department to raise a corps of veterans, to be called the First Corps. One of the regulations is that an application by the Governor of any State, recruiting officers will be designated for such State. I have been requested by General Hancock to make such application, but have hitherto declined to comply with the request. It appears to me that the families of men raised on the plan adopted by the War Department would probably not be entitled to the relief provided by our own laws for the families of volunteers. I have inquired of General Hancock whether the proposed corps is to form part of the regular army or of the volunteer force, and if the latter, under what act of Congress it is to be raised. He has referred that communication to the War Department, from which I have as yet received no answer to it.

The following letters have passed between General Hancock and myself on this subject:

Pennsylvania Executiae Chamber,
Hardsheid Page Dec 29th, 1864.

Pennsylvania Executiae Chamber, Harrisburg, Pa., Dec. 29th, 1864.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 29th, 1864.

General: —I received your letter at the moment of my departure for Phitadelphia on Monday last.—I returned this morning and hasten to reply.

Having no knowledge of the organization of the corps you are to command than what appears in the newspapers and orders, I will be obliged if you will inform me if it is to be regarded as a part of the regular army of the United States or as part of the volunteer service.

If it is part of the army of the United States, If it is part of the army of the United States, I certainly have no connection with it, as Governor of the State. If it is organized as volunteers, be pleased to inform me under what act of Congress?

I need not say, General, that I would be most happy to do all in my power personally and officially to raise a force to be commanded by you. Can we not raise you two or three regiments in Pennsylvania, in the usual manner and according to the act of Congress, for your corps? Of course, I would consult gress, for your corps? Of course, I would consult you in the selection of officers and only commission

where you approved.

I cannot understand the importance of my asking that persons be sent to Pennsylvania to induce veterans to go to the District of Columbia to enlist. I certainly will do nothing to embarrass the plan pro-

we have benefits, by general and special legislation in Pennsylvania, which attach to the volunteer
and his family. While I will do nothing to deter the
veterans of the State from entering your corps, I
hesitate to connect myself with a mode of enlistment
which may deprive them of such benefits, unless it
is my duty under the law.

I am, General, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
A. G. CURTIN.
Major General WINDFIELD S. HANCOCK. Headquartees First Corps, Washington, D. C., Dec. 31, 1864. To His Excellency Hon. A. G. Curtin, Governor

Pennsylvania:
Sin:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 29th inst., and have referred the same to the War Department. I thank you for your kind expression of personal good will, and regret that there should be any occasion for hesitation on your part to lend your official influence, as Governor, to the raising of the corps as proposed by the War Department.

It is not within my province, perhaps, to discuss

the plan of organization, as I am acting under the direct orders of the War Department, and my own views, therefore, are of no practical moment. I may say, however, that I have no knowledge of the organ-ization other than what I have derived from the orlers and circulars of which I mailed you official co-pies December 5th.

I cannot see how volunteers for this corps from

our State lose any of the advantages attaching to lose for other organizations. They are credited to the localities where they or rilies are domiciled, and count on the qu

It should be borne in mind that this is an effort to et men into service who are not subject to a draft. I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, you

edient servant.
WINFIELD S. HANCOCK, Major General U. S. Volunteers, comma

Major Gereral U. S. Volunteers, commanding First Corps.

The only act of Congress for raising volunteers that I am aware of, requires that the field and line officers shall be commissioned by the Governors of the several States. The men in this corps are not to be formed into organizations of the respective States, and it is proposed that its officers shall be appointed by the general government. I know of no act of Congress or of Assembly under which men so raised will be entitled to pensions or their families to benefits from the United States or State Government. In addition, I will observe that without any feeling of jealousy, I am still not ready to participate actively in transferring to the United States ty because their objects are of public importance and to be useful, and well and reconnically managed and consulting the pasticular county. But in our system, ordinary local charities are left to the care of the repeative and the public money for their supports ir send to great the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the public money for their supports are left to the supports are left to the care of the repeative and the localities, and to give the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the localities, and to give the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the localities, and to give the public money for their supports are left to the care of the repeative and the place, and it is proposed that the combination of particular to a purpose. The particular county, and the local taxes authorized by unwise legislation and paid by our people are excessive. In view of these circumstances, we should be required to the wing serious at least to the local taxes authorizing characters to be obtained without the commonwealth of the proposed of the results of the work of the circumstances, we should be required to all our gall and to offer the respective to the care of the respective for the care of the committee of the state of the committee of the care of the results of the work of the committee of the c

sacrifices the rights of the State under existing laws, and would leave the men unprotected under them, so far as concerns future provision for their comfort and that of their families.

I will further observe that it appears by the report of the Adjutant General, herewith transmitted, that the State, under the system established by law, has put into the military service of the United States, since the commencement of the war, the following number of men, viz:

Troops sent into service during 1864. Organizations for three years' term Organizations for one hundred days' 7.675 Organizations for one year term.... Volunteer recruits...... Drafted men and substitutes..... Infantry...... 13.862 2.834 799 389

17,876 .91,704 Troops sent into the service of the United States since the commencement of the rebellion, including the ninety days' militia in the department of the Mo-nongahela and Susquehanna in 1863. .. 180,594 During the year 1861.....

1864... Re-enlistment of Pennsylvania volunteers .. 336,444

The twenty-five thousand militia of 1862 are not included in this statement.

I call the attention of the Legislature to the Report of the Surveyor General, herewith presented, and commend the suggestions made by that officer to your consideration.

of the Surveyor General, herewith presented, and commend the suggestions made by that officer to your consideration.

This message is accompanied by full reports of all the military departments. They exhibit the large amount of service performed during the past year, and contain a full history of all the military operations of the State. Many valuable recommendations are made in them to promote the efficiency of our volunteers, and the comfort of the sick and wounded, which I commend to your earnest and immediate attention. It affords me great satisfaction to bear my testimony to the ability, diligence and fidelity of all the officers in these several departments.

Before closing this message I desire to advert to the delay which has sometimes occurred in the passage of the general appropriation bill. It is necessary that this bill should become a law, as otherwise the action of Government would be stopped. To delay its presentation to the Executive as was done at the last regular session—till a late hour of the night before the morning fixed for the final adjournment, is to deprive the people of their right to have all bills submitted to the revision of the Legislature before becoming laws, in case the Executive should not approve them. If there had been time, I should have probably returned the appropriation bill of last year for such revision, as when I had the opportunity of deliberately examining it, I found provisions which I could not have approved—but that opportunity was denied me before the bill became a law, and in fact, as the Legislature was on the point of adjournment, the only question presented to me was whether that should become a law without amend. journment, the only question presented to me was whether that should become a law without amend-ment or the necessities of the government remain vided for.

unprovided for.

The gallantry of our soldiers in the field still sheds lustre on the Commonwealth, and that their merit is appreciated by a generous people is shown by the continued and cheerful liberality with which the men and women of the State contribute of their means for their comfort and welfare. May the blessing of God be on those brave men who have stood by the country through the dark hours of her trial.

A. G. CURTIN.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, Jan. 4, 1865.

THE OIL PRODUCT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

From the Cleveland (Ohio) Leader.
To those who are unacquainted with the facts in connection with the discovery and development of oil in Pennsylvania, an exhibit of the actual production of oil furnishes material for important re-

The business has already become so extensive that petroleum furnishes that medium of exchange with foreign countries, which was lost in the cotton kept out of market by the rebellion. In 1862, the entire exports amounted to 10,182,020 gallons; in ten months of 1863, to 26,070,569 gallons; and since the first of January, 1864, to 30,182,020 gallons. In its magnitude it alreacy competes with the coal and iron interests of that State. The estimated value of the petroleum found in Pennsylvania during the last twelve months, is two millions of barrels, which at eleven dollars a barrel, a high average, was worth at the wells, twenty-m The pig-iron interest of Pennsylvania during the

The pig-iron interest of Pennsylvania during the same time amounted to 700,000 tons, which at an average of \$50 per ton, produced \$37,500,000.—
The coal product for the same time is estimated at 12,000,000 tons. This at an average price of \$6,50 a ton, would make \$78,000,000. The grand total of coal, iron and oil would therfore reach the enormous sum of \$130,000,000.

These formers show that petroleum, which has mous sum of \$130,000,000.

These figures show that petroleum, which has been comparatively but a few months in development, promises in the course of the next year to take precedence of both iron and coal in the State of Pennsylvania.

Arrangements are being made for civilian.

Arrangements are being made for sinking a vast number of wells during the coming summer, so that in one year from this time the number of wells in operation will be three or four times those now operation will be three or four times those now pumping or flowing. In addition to this are the re-gions in Southern Ohio, Western Virginia and Eas-tern Kentucky, that promise to make vast additions to the amount of oil already produced. No one can form any adequate idea of what will be the result when the productions of oil reaches a point far be-yond its present position. It will, if we are not much mistaken, attain during the coming year, a value four times the present annual aggregate, and nuce mistaken, attain during the coming year, as value four times the present annual aggregate, and thus materially aid in keeping down foreign exchange, beside adding immensely to the material interests of the country. As yet there have been no statistics that have shown the actual amount of oil produced. It is estimated at from four to five willows of hearels.

REMARKABLE EXPLOSION OF AN OIL WELL.—As Mr. Jacob Crowe, of George's Creek Fayette Co., Pennsylvania, was engaged on Monday week, in boring for oil on his farm, the angur struck upon a deposit which began at once to rush upward with irresistable force, flowing over the ground and saturday everything in the vicinity. A stream of hydrogen gas accompanied the oil, making a loud noise and filling the atmosphere. Finally, coming into contract with a stove in a shanty a little distance off, a terrific explosion ensued, fortunately injuring no one. The flames darted into the air sixty feet high, threatening a general destruction. It soon gave in, however, and the men succeeded in extinguishing it before any serious damage was done. For some time the most lively alarm prevailed, and it is safe to predict that the engineers boring on George's Creek for oil will take the precaution in future to put out all the fires in the neighborhood while at work. REMARKABLE EXPLOSION OF AN OIL WELL.