

Governor's Message

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

My fellow citizens:—In performing the responsible duties entrusted to me by the Constitution...

It is therefore, gratifying to know that the war has fully terminated, and that peace, the rational desire of all, sheds again its blessings on every portion of our country.

In the late contest with Mexico, this Commonwealth was called upon by the National Government, to furnish a portion of the troops deemed necessary by the constituted authorities...

It is due to these patriotic citizens, that is commonwealth do set on a knowledge of their past illustrious services. The duty of the State is to erect a suitable monument, to their memory...

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, the Chief Executive Officer of the Commonwealth, the late Governor Shunk, has sunk beneath the malady which afflicted him.

It will not be deemed improper in me to say a few words in reference to the character of the illustrious deceased: Gov. Shunk, having spent a large portion of his life in the public service...

During our intimacy, it always gave him great pleasure to aid and assist the young and inexperienced, to relieve the distressed, and to impart to his fellow men, by words of kindness and advice, as large a share of happiness as his condition would allow.

His intercourse with others was courteous, his friendship as lasting, his attachments strong and enduring, while his resentments for injuries were transitory, and made no permanent mark on his mind.

Official information of the act of resignation did not reach me until the day of July 1st, 1848, in accordance to the same subject, that "in such case another Governor shall be chosen at the next annual election of Representatives."

An examination of the Constitutional provisions, the Act of Assembly, and the circumstances of the resignation, will satisfy you, that while the term of office of more than three calendar months before the occurrence of the next annual election of Representatives...

After a full and careful examination of the whole matter, I believed it my duty to issue the writs requiring notice to be given that an election would be held on the 2d Tuesday of October, next ensuing...

A law requiring in all cases of death, or resignation of the Governor, or of his removal from office, that writs to the Sheriff of the different counties shall be issued as soon as the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall be notified...

removal of the Governor, for the selection of a presiding magistrate. Such an event happening, the government would be left without a constitutional officer to carry on its operations.

The attention of the Legislature having been called to the neglected condition of the insane poor, an act was passed, on the 14th day of April, 1845, providing for the establishment of an asylum for this unfortunate class of our indigent population...

A considerable portion of the materials, as I am informed, has been provided; the excavation of the cellars and foundation has been made; the laying of the stone masonry commenced; the hydraulic apparatus for raising water to the building nearly completed.

By the act of the 4th of May, 1841, entitled, "an act to provide revenue to meet the demands on the treasury, it was made necessary to issue a loan for the purpose of subscribing to a loan through the Commonwealth...

The notes thus issued, were substantially the creatures of the banks. They constituted a loan to the Commonwealth, and were redeemed in the manner prescribed in the law, and were redeemed in their full value at the counter of the banks...

Under the provisions of the original act of the 4th of May, 1841, the amount of notes issued was two millions two hundred and twenty thousand two hundred and sixty-five dollars...

The balance in treasury Dec. 1, 1846, was \$663,851 88. The balance in treasury Dec. 1, 1848, was \$77,290 39. Deficit in balances in treasury for four months ending the 1st of May 31, 1844, being \$6,561 49...

The following tabular statement will exhibit with more clearness, the whole subject in relation to the issue and cancellation of these notes. Original amount of relief notes issued, \$2,223,265 00. Amount cancelled, \$1,525,214 00.

The first failure to comply with the act of Assembly requiring the collection of these notes, was prior to, or on the 31st of Dec, 1844. The amount directed to be cancelled on the 31st of Dec, 1844, was \$1,100,000. The amount of the failure to cancel in 1844, was \$1,100,000.

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The relief notes originally intended to be temporary in their character, and to be redeemed in full by the Treasury in discharge of the interest of the public debt.

It is not, however, in enhanced prices alone that he finds his reward. In the home market he is his own factor, and can select his own time for disposal of his produce.

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Table with financial data: House of Refuge, 4000; State House, 3000; Abatement of State Tax, 40,000; Miscellaneous, 40,000.

Total Estimated excess of revenue over expenditures, \$1,713,000. From the foregoing statement it would appear, should the estimates of receipts and expenditures be correct, and they doubtless approximate the truth, and should no unseen casualty occur, that the revenues will at least equal the expenditures of the year.

The subject of manufactures, on full experience during the restrictive system and the war, is not well understood, as respects the practicability of advantageously carrying them on, as to the kind of goods which may be made, and the quality and durability of the article which have had a fair experiment amongst us, that it is deemed unnecessary to urge arguments in their support.

The protecting policy hitherto sustained by the General Government, cannot, under existing circumstances, be abandoned or relinquished with the approbation or consent of the people of Pennsylvania. Their interests, their prosperity, and I may add, their comforts, are at this time, essentially identified with that policy.

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