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THE HUNTINGDON GLOBE.

WILLIAM LEWIS, Editor and Proprietor.

---PERSEVERE---

TERMS, \$1.50 a year in advance.

VOL. XVI.

HUNTINGDON, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 9, 1861.

NO. 29.

LAST ANNUAL MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR PACKER.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

GENTLEMEN:—In submitting to the General Assembly my last annual communication, it is the source of unfeigned gratification to be able to announce to the people, and to their representatives, that notwithstanding the present unfavorable crisis in the monetary affairs of this country, and the general prostration of business and credit, the financial condition of Pennsylvania is highly satisfactory.

The receipts at the State Treasury, from all sources, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of November, 1860, were \$3,479,257 31, to which add the available balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of December, 1859, \$889,823 09, and the whole sum available for the year will be found to be \$4,369,080 40. The expenditures, for all purposes, for the same period, were \$3,627,147 82. Leaving an available balance in the Treasury, on the 1st day of December, 1860, of \$661,932 58. The following items are embraced in the expenditures for the fiscal year, viz:

Loans redeemed,	\$664,857 65
Relief notes cancelled,	1,811 00
Interest certificates,	2,439 52
Domestic creditors' certificates,	5 40
Damages on the public works, and other claims,	22,644 32

Making of the public debt actually paid during the year, the sum of 691,757 89

The funded and unfunded debt of the Commonwealth on the first day of December, 1859, was as follows:

FUNDED DEBT.	
6 per cent loans,	\$400,000 00
5 do do,	37,625,153 37
4 do do,	388,200 00
3 do do,	100,000 00
Total funded debt,	385,133,983 37

UNFUNDED DEBT.	
Relief notes in circulation,	\$101,213 00
Interest certificates outstanding,	18,153 82
Do do unclaimed,	4,443 50
Domestic creditors' certificates,	802 60
Total unfunded debt,	124,977 70

Making the entire debt of the Commonwealth at the period named, \$385,688,961 07.

The State, at the close of the last fiscal year, December 1, 1859, stood as follows:

FUNDED DEBT.	
6 per cent loans,	\$400,000 00
5 do do,	39,907,293 72
4 do do,	581,200 00
3 do do,	100,000 00
Total funded debt,	87,849,125 72

UNFUNDED DEBT.	
Relief notes in circulation,	\$99,402 00
Interest certificates outstanding,	16,074 30
Do do unclaimed,	4,443 50
Domestic creditors' certificates,	797 10
Total unfunded debt,	120,721 78

Making the entire debt of Pennsylvania, on the first day of December, \$37,978,847 50.

To pay the principal and interest of this debt, besides the ordinary sources of revenue, the Commonwealth holds the following mortgage bonds, derived from the sale of her public improvements, viz:

Bonds of Pennsylvania Railroad Company,	\$7,200,000 00
Bonds of Sunbury and Erie R. Co.,	3,500,000 00
Bonds of Wyoming Canal Co.,	281,000 00
Total,	10,981,000 00

At the close of the fiscal year, on the first day of December, 1857, the public debt of this Commonwealth, funded and unfunded, was, \$39,881,738 22

It is now, at the close of the fiscal year, 1860,

Having been reduced, during the last 3 years,	1,911,890 72
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The available balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1857, was, \$528,106 47

On the first day of December, 1860, it was,

661,433 08

Exceeding the former balance in the sum of,

153,326 61

Add to this the sum paid at the Treasury during the past 3 years, for debts and claims against the Commonwealth arising out of the construction and maintenance of the public improvements, and which was substantially a part of the unfunded debt of the Commonwealth, amounting to,

171,664 82

And we have the sum of,

324,091 42

By adding this sum to the amount paid on the public debt from December 1, 1857, to Dec. 1, 1860, to wit: \$1,911,890 72, it will be found that during the past three years the State has not only met all her ordinary liabilities, including the expenses of government, and the interest on her public debt, but has diminished her actual indebtedness the sum of \$2,230,882 15.

When it is remembered that for the last three years the tax on real and personal estate has been but two and a half mills on the dollar, while from 1844 to 1857 it was three mills—that for the past two years and six months the State has received no part of the tax on tonnage due from the Pennsylvania railroad company—and that since July, 1859, the interest on the bonds held by the State against the Sunbury and Erie Railroad company has remained due and unpaid, it is certainly cause for hearty congratulation that, without aid from these important

sources of revenue, so great a reduction of the public debt has been accomplished in comparatively so short a period. The funded debt of the State is now less than it has been since 1842, and the unfunded and floating debt, which at that time amounted to upwards of two millions of dollars, has been almost entirely redeemed. It is now reduced to \$120,721 78—and of this sum over ninety-nine thousand dollars consists of relief notes, most of which are undoubtedly either lost or destroyed, and will, therefore, never be presented for payment. The claims against the State, accruing from the construction and maintenance of her canals and railroads, are now reduced to a mere nominal sum; and, in the future, after providing for the ordinary expenses of government, her revenues and energies may be exclusively applied to the payment of the interest, and the discharge of the principal of her public debt.

The people of this Commonwealth have hitherto met with promptness, the demands upon them, from time to time, for the ways and means of replenishing the public treasury; and now, that they see that the onerous debt with which they have been so long burdened, is each year certainly and rapidly disappearing, that the amount required to meet the interest is annually being diminished—that consequently a still greater sum can each year be devoted to the reduction of the principal of the debt, without resorting to additional sources of revenue—and that with a proper husbanding of the resources of the State, the day is not far distant when direct taxation in Pennsylvania will cease altogether—the payment of such taxes as may for the time be required to meet the public necessities, will continue to be met with cheerfulness and alacrity. But they will unquestionably hold those to whose care they have entrusted the financial interests of the State, to a rigid accountability. That there should, at this particular juncture, when the business and monetary affairs of the country are so greatly depressed, be the strictest economy in public expenditures, is so manifest, that it scarcely needs to be said that attention to so plain a duty, is equally clear that any legislation which would tend greatly to lessen the revenues of the Commonwealth, would, at this time, be peculiarly unwise and inexpedient. The exigencies of the future no man can foretell—the prospect before us is beset with doubt and uncertainty—it is, therefore, no more than the part of wisdom to guard, with unceasing vigilance, all our present sources of revenue, and to thus be prepared for every possible emergency.

It is a gratification to pay the tax on tonnage required to be paid by the act incorporating the company, and its various supplements, and there is now due to the State on that account exclusive of interest, the sum of \$674,296 22. Including the interest, the sum now due is about \$700,000.—Before my last annual message was communicated to the Legislature, a case had been tried in the court of common pleas of Dauphin county, between the Commonwealth and the railroad company, involving the question of the constitutionality of this tax, which was decided in favor of the State, and the imposition of the tax pronounced constitutional. In January last, another suit was tried between the same parties, in the same court, involving the same question, with a like result. In December last, a judgment was obtained in the district court of Philadelphia, upon one of the semi-annual settlements of for \$110,000. So that judgment has been obtained for \$965,000 of the debt, being the whole amount which became due prior to 1860. The tax which accrued during the past year, amounts to \$308,829 03. The first settlement for the year is before the Dauphin county court, on an appeal taken by the company; and the second, or last, settlement was made out a few days since, by the account department of the Commonwealth.

After the recovery, in the common pleas of Dauphin county, the cases were removed by writs of error, taken on behalf of the defendants, to the Supreme Court of this State, where they were argued in June last, and in October that tribunal sustained the decision of the Court of common pleas, and held the tax to be clearly constitutional; thus uniting with the law making power in affirming the right of the State to tax a corporation under a law to which it claims its existence. But, notwithstanding this concurrence of opinion and action on behalf of the constituted authorities of Pennsylvania, the litigation is not at an end; for the railroad company has recently removed the cases by writs of error, to the Supreme Court of the United States, where they are now pending. That the decision of that court will, when made, fully sustain the right of a sovereign State to enforce a contract between the State and a corporation, and entirely vindicate the power of a State to impose such taxes upon corporations, as in her sovereign will she may deem proper, I cannot for a moment doubt.

To complete the history of this important litigation, and to show that every effort has been, thus far, made to compel the payment of this large sum of money into the Treasury of the State, it is proper to add that the law of the Commonwealth, being of opinion that the writs of error were not issued from the Supreme Court of the United States in time to prevent the collection of the judgments rendered in the State courts, executions were issued to the sheriff of the county of Dauphin, and proceedings are now pending in the Supreme Court of this State, to determine whether the Commonwealth can compel the payment of the judgments already recovered, before the final decision by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The Sunbury and Erie railroad company having failed to negotiate its mortgage bonds in their present condition, the expectations confidently entertained of an early completion of that most important improvement, have not been realized. The work during the past year, however, although greatly retarded, has been continually progressing; upwards of one million of dollars having been expended on the line from November, 1859, to November, 1860. The whole length of the road, from the borough of Sunbury to the harbor on the lake, at the city of Erie, is 288 miles; of which 148 miles are now finished and in operation, and 115 miles of the remaining portion of the line are graded; leaving but 25 miles yet to grade. Pennsylvania is largely interested in the early completion and success of this great thoroughfare, not only because she is the creditor to the company to the amount of three and a half millions of dollars, but for the additional, and more cogent reason, that the improvement, when completed, will open one of the most important channels of trade between the city of Philadelphia and the great lakes of the west, at the best harbor on Lake Erie, entirely within the limits of our own State, which has ever been contemplated. It will, moreover, develop the resources of a large portion of the north-western Pennsylvania, abounding with the richest minerals, and a lumber region of unsurpassed excellence, which the magnificent hand of the State has hitherto totally neglected. By disposing of her branch canals to that company, in exchange for its mortgage bonds, the State has already largely aided in the construction of this great work; and it may be necessary, to insure its completion, that further legislation should be had in order to render the means of the company available. It is incident that a bill, now pending in the Senate, will promote alike the interests of the Commonwealth and the railroad company; nevertheless, great care should be taken to protect, as far as possible, the debt now due from the company to the State. If all propositions which may be made for a change in the securities now held by the Commonwealth, be carefully considered by the Legislature, and no more yielded than sound economy demands, with proper provision for the application of whatever means may be realized, it is believed that sufficient relief can be granted to the company, to enable it promptly to finish the road, while the security remaining will be fully adequate to insure the ultimate payment of the principal and interest of the bonds of the railroad company.

I commend this subject to the Legislature, as one entitled to its most careful consideration, as well on account of its vast importance to that portion of the State through which the railroad passes—to the cities of Philadelphia and Erie—and to the railroad company—as to the Commonwealth itself. Premising that whatever policy it may be thought expedient to pursue, should be adopted solely with reference to the protection and furtherance of the public interests.

The attention of the Legislature is again invited to the subject of general education. At the present juncture it presents peculiar claims. The experience of a quarter of a century has satisfied the proverbially cautious people of Pennsylvania, of the adaptiveness of the common school system to their wants and condition. No less has the severe ordeal of the past three years shown its capability to endure those sudden reverses which occasionally prostrate the other interests of the community. Involving greater expenditure than the rest of the departments of government, and that, too, mainly drawn from direct taxation, it is a proud fact, that, while most of the enterprises of society have been seriously embarrassed, and some of them suspended by the pecuniary crisis of 1857, our educational system has not been retarded in any appreciable degree. On the contrary, its operations have been maintained, to an extent which plainly indicates that our citizens fully appreciate its value. Contrasting its main results during the past year, with those of 1857, we find that the whole number of pupils now in the schools, is 647,414, being an increase of 44,422; these were taught in 11,577 schools, 321 more than in 1857, during an average term of five months and five and one-half days, at a cost of fifty-six cents per pupil, per month, by 14,065 teachers, being 529 more than in 1857. The entire expenditure of the system, for the past year, including that of the School Department, is \$2,638,550 80. These figures afford some idea of the magnitude of the operations of the system; but neither words nor figures can adequately express the importance of its influence upon the present, or its relations to the future.

In contemplating the details of a plan for the due training of the youth of a community, its large proportions and imposing array of statistics do not display the points of its greatest importance. Pupils may be enrolled by hundreds of thousands; school-houses of the best structure and most complete arrangements may be dotted all over the face of the land; the most perfect order of studies may be adopted, and the best possible selection of books made; but what are all these, without the learned and skillful, the faithful, moral and devoted teacher? Without this animating spirit, all is barren and unfruitful. In this vital department, I am happy to announce that the improvement of the common school system of the State shows more solid advancement within the past three years, than any other branch of the system. This, therefore, being the point whence all real progress in learning and culture must originate, is also the one to which the fostering atten-

tion and care of the public authorities should be mainly directed. Our peculiar mode of training teachers under the normal act of 1857, has not stood the test of practical experience, and, against the most adverse circumstances has produced results decisive of its success. Already it has placed one institution in full operation in the south eastern part of the State, equal in standing and extent to any in the Union. Another, with all the requirements of the law, has just applied for State recognition in the extreme north-west. I commend these noble, and peculiarly Pennsylvania, schools, to your favor. Aid to them will be the best investment that can be made for the rising generation. Good instruction for our children, is the strongest earthly guarantee, that whatever else we bequeath them, their inheritance will be a blessing and not a curse; and, if nothing more is left, in well cultivated minds, the willing hands, and the trust in God, of free men, they will have all that is essential.

Nearly eleven thousand of our fellow citizens are now devoting their efforts to the improvement of the common school, as directors. Than this there is no more meritorious body of men. An increase of the annual State appropriation would not only be a material relief to the districts, at a time when the State is so generally impoverished, but would, to some extent, disengage directors in their local operations. It is not, however, the common school system, vast and honorable to the State, as it is, that claims your entire attention, in reference to education. Pennsylvania also boasts her collegiate, academical, scientific, professional, and philanthropic institutions, and numerous private schools of every grade. In this respect, she is second to no member of the confederacy; but, from mere want of attention to the proper statistics, she has thus far been ranked far below her true standard. The present is not the time to renew grants to institutions of these classes which heretofore received State aid. If it were, the public authorities do not possess the requisite data for a safe and just extension of liberality. The period will arrive when all public educational agencies must be included in one great system, for the elevation of mind and morals; and when the State will, no doubt, patronize every proper effort in the good work.

For the details of the system, during the last school year, the attention of the Legislature is respectfully referred to the annual report of the Common School Department, herewith submitted. I commend this subject to the Legislature, as one entitled to its most careful consideration, as well on account of its vast importance to that portion of the State through which the railroad passes—to the cities of Philadelphia and Erie—and to the railroad company—as to the Commonwealth itself. Premising that whatever policy it may be thought expedient to pursue, should be adopted solely with reference to the protection and furtherance of the public interests.

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I commend to your consideration the report of the State Librarian, whose attention to the interests of the Library under his care, deserves the warmest commendation. The system of exchanges, with the different States of the Union, and with foreign governments, commenced and prosecuted under his auspices, has resulted in great advantage to the Library, and deserves the continued commendation of the Legislature. The increase of the Library, at a comparatively small expense to the State, has been such, that it now needs enlarged accommodations for the safe-keeping of the volumes, and, if the increase continues, will soon require a separate building for its exclusive use.

The reports of the State Treasurer, the Auditor General, the Surveyor General, the Adjutant General and the detail of the operations of the government, as presented by those several departments, for the last fiscal year—they are entitled to the attentive consideration of the Legislature. Soon after my inauguration, upon the recommendation of my predecessor in office, a dwelling house was purchased in this city for the residence of the Governor of the Commonwealth. The purchase included several articles of heavy furniture, then in the building, and a small appropriation was completed the necessary furnishing of the house, so as to make it a fit and convenient residence for the incoming Executive. I cheerfully recommend the immediate passage of a bill making a suitable appropriation for this purpose.

The extraordinary and alarming condition of our national affairs demands your immediate attention. On the twentieth of December last, the Convention of South Carolina, organized under the authority of the Legislature of that State, by a unanimous vote, declared "that the Union now subsisting between South Carolina and the other States, under the name of the United States of America, is hereby dissolved" and the act already taken in several other Southern States indicates, most clearly, their intention to follow this example. On behalf of the States of secession, it is claimed that this Union is merely a compact between the several States composing it, and that any one of the States, which may feel aggrieved, may, at its pleasure, declare that it will no longer be a party to the compact. This doctrine is clearly erroneous. The Constitution of the United States is something more than a mere compact, or agreement, between the several States. As applied to the Union, it is a compact between the people of its bad faith in refusing to keep its engagements, but entirely irresponsible to any superior tribunal. A government, on the other hand, whether created by consent, or by conquest, when clothed with legislative, judicial and executive powers, is necessarily in its nature sovereign; and from this sovereignty flows its right to enforce its laws and decrees by civil process, and, in an emergency, by its military and naval power. The government owes protection to the people, and they in turn, owe it their allegiance. Its laws cannot be violated by its citizens, without accountability to the tribunals created to enforce its decrees and to punish offenders. Organized resistance to it is rebellion. If successful, it may be purged of crime by revolution. If unsuccessful, the persons engaged in rebellion may be executed as traitors. The government of the United States, within the limits assigned to it, is as potent in sovereignty, as any other government in the civilized world. The Constitution, and laws made in pursuance thereof, are expressly declared to be the supreme law of the land. Under the Constitution, the general government flows its right to enforce its laws and decrees by civil process, and, in an emergency, by its military and naval power. The government owes protection to the people, and they in turn, owe it their allegiance. Its laws cannot be violated by its citizens, without accountability to the tribunals created to enforce its decrees and to punish offenders. Organized resistance to it is rebellion. If successful, it may be purged of crime by revolution. If unsuccessful, the persons engaged in rebellion may be executed as traitors. The government of the United States, within the limits assigned to it, is as potent in sovereignty, as any other government in the civilized world. 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