The Globe.

WM. LEWIS, HUGH LINDSAY, Publishers. —PERSEVERE.— TERMS, $2,00 a year in advance.

VOL. XXIII. HUNTINGDON, PA., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 1868. NO. 26.

TERMS OF THE GLOBE.

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Advertisements not marked with the number of insertions desired, will be continued till forbid and charged according to these terms.

Our prices for the printing of Blanks, Handbills, etc. are reasonably low.

Professional & Business Cards.

DR. R. R. WIESTLING most respectfully tenders his professional services to the citizens of Huntingdon and vicinity.
Office that of the late Dr. Snare. mch13-1y*

DR. A. B. BRUMBAUGH, Having permanently located at Huntingdon, offers his professional services to the community. Office, the same as that lately occupied by Dr. Luden on Hill street. sep10,1866

DR. JOHN McCULLOCH, offers his professional services to the citizens of Huntingdon and vicinity. Office on Hill street, one door east of Reed's Drug Store. Aug. 28, '55.

R. ALLISON MILLER, DENTIST, Has removed to the Brick Row opposite the Court House. April 13, 1859.

E. J. GREENE, DENTIST. Office removed to Leister's New Building, Hill street, Huntingdon. July 31, 1867.

WASHINGTON HOTEL, HUNTINGDON, PA. The undersigned respectfully informs the citizens of Huntingdon county and the traveling public generally that he has leased the Washington House on the corner of Hill and Charles street, in the borough of Huntingdon, and he is prepared to accommodate all who may favor him with a call. Will be pleased to receive a liberal share of public patronage. AUGUSTUS LETTERMAN. July 21, '67-tf. aug7'66

MILTON S. LYTLE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, HUNTINGDON, PA. Prompt attention given to all legal business entrusted to his care. Claims of soldiers and soldiers' heirs against the Government collected without delay. aug7'66

R. McMURTRIE, ATTORNEY AT LAW, Office on Hill street. HUNTINGDON, PA. Prompt attention will be given to the prosecution of the claims of soldiers and soldiers' heirs, against the Government. aug22,1866

AGENCY FOR COLLECTING SOLDIERS' CLAIMS, BOUNTY, BACK PAY AND PENSIONS. All who may have any claims against the Government for Bounty, Back Pay and Pensions, can have their claims promptly collected by applying either in person or by letter to W. H. WOODS, ATTORNEY AT LAW, HUNTINGDON, PA. aug12,1863

LAW AND COLLECTION OFFICE OF K. ALLEN LOVELL, District Attorney of Huntingdon County, HUNTINGDON, PA. OFFICE—In the Brick Row, opposite the Court House. jan1,1867

JOHN SCOTT, SAMUEL T. BROWN, JOHN M. BAILEY. The name of this firm has been changed from SCOTT & BROWN, to SCOTT, BROWN & BAILEY, under which name they will hereafter conduct their practice at ATTORNEYS AT LAW, HUNTINGDON, PA. PENSIONS, and all claims of soldiers and soldiers' heirs against the Government, will be promptly prosecuted. May 17, 1866-tf.

Huntingdon Business Directory.

[The following Cards are published gratuitously. Merchants and business men generally who advertise liberally in the columns of THE GLOBE for six months or longer, will have their Cards inserted here during the continuance of their advertisement. Otherwise, special Business Cards inserted at the usual rates.]

DR. WM. BREWSTER, McConnellstown. [Cures by Electropathy.]

B. M. GREENE, Dealer in Music, musical Instruments, Sewing Machines, in Leister's new building, (second floor.)

WM. LEWIS, Dealer in Books, Stationery and Musical Instruments, corner of the Diamond.

W. B. ZEIGLER, Dealer in Ladies and Children's Furnishing Goods, opposite the First National Bank.

W. P. RUDOLPH, Dealer in Ladies and Gents' Furnishing Goods, opposite Leister's new building

GEO. T. MARSH, Merchant Tailor, opposite, Lewis' Book Store.

H. GREENBERG, Merchant Tailor, in the Diamond.

M'CAHAN & SON, proprietors of Juniata Steam Pearl Mill, West Huntingdon.

J. M. GREENE & F. O. BEAVER, Marble Manufacturers, Mifflin street, near the Lutheran church.

WM. WILLIAMS, Plain and Ornamental Marble Manufacturer.

JAMES HIGGENS, Manufacturer of Furniture and Cabinet Ware, Huntingdon, Pa.

T. M. WISE, Manufacturer of Furniture, &c., Huntingdon. Undertaking attended to

WHARTON & MAGUIRE, Wholesale and retail dealers in foreign and domestic Hardware, Cutlery, &c., Railroad street, Huntingdon.

JAMES A. BROWN, Dealer in Hardware, Cutlery, Paints, Oils, &c., Huntingdon, Pa.

C. H. MILLER & SON, Dealers in all kinds of Fine Leather, Findings, &c., &c., near the Presbyterian church.

WM. AFRICA, Dealer in Boots and Shoes, in the Diamond, Huntingdon, Pa.

JOHN H. WESTBROOK, Dealer in Boots, Shoes, Hosiery, Confectionery, Huntingdon.

GEO. SHAEFFER, dealer in Boots, Shoes, Gutters, &c., Huntingdon.

A. L. LEWIS, Wholesale and retail Merchant, Leister's New Building, Huntingdon.

JOHNSTON & WATTSON, Merchants, Main st., east of Washington Hotel, Huntingdon

GLAZIER & BRO, Retail Merchants, Washington st., near the jail, Huntingdon.

ZENTER, Dealer in Groceries and Provisions of all kinds, Huntingdon, Pa.

WM. MARCH & BRO. Dealers in Dry Goods, Queensware, Hardware, Boots, Shoes, &c.

CUNNINGHAM & CARMON, Merchants, Huntingdon, Pa.

H. ROMAN, Dealer in Ready Made Clothing, Hats and Caps.

D. P. GWIN, Dealer in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, Hats and Caps, Boots and Shoes, &c. Huntingdon

S. E. HENRY & CO., Wholesale and Retail Dealers in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware, Queensware, and Provisions of all kinds, Huntingdon.

☞For neat JOB PRINTING, call at the "GLOBE JOB PRINTING OFFICE," at Huntingdon, Pa.

Message of Governor Geary.

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

GENTLEMEN:—Before performing the customary and constitutional duty of transmitting to you information of the affairs of the Commonwealth, and recommending such measures to your consideration as are deemed necessary and expedient, it affords me great gratification to tender to you my most friendly greetings on your assembling at the Seat of Government, and to welcome you to the council chambers of the State.

Our grateful acknowledgments are due to the Beneficent Author of all good for the continued prosperity and well-being which every where prevails, for the abundance which has crowned the labors of the husbandman, for the general health with which we have been so signally favored, and for all the enjoyments of peace, contentment and happiness within our borders.

One of the most important duties involving upon the Legislature is the consideration of the public finances. *Such action should be taken for the* provision of funds to defray the current expenses of the Government, the preservation of the credit of the Commonwealth, and the speedy extinguishment of the public debt, as circumstances shall be found to require. These objects are of the highest importance and claim the first attention of the Representatives of the people.

Finances.

The report of the State Treasurer shows that the balance in the Treasury, November 30, 1866, was..... $ 1,741,633 27
Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1867..... 5,423,330 67
Loan for the redemption of over due bonds 23,000,000 00
Depreciated funds in the Treasury, unavailable..... 41,632 00

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1867..... $ 30,206,595 94
Payments, viz:
Ordinary expenses during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1867..... $ 4,583,06 99
Loans, &c., redeemed..... 20,918,929 89
Depreciated funds, unavailable..... 41,630 00 — $ 25,543,628 88

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1867 — 4,663,536 46
Of which the Treasurer reports as applicable to the payment of over due loans, the sum of..... 2,937,978 55
Balance..... 1,725,857 91

Amount of State debt on November 30, 1866..... $35,622,652 16
Funded debt, viz:
6 per cent. loans...$25,211,180 00
5 per cent. loans...12,164,025 20
4½ per cent. loan ..... 175,000 00 — $37,590,205 20

Unfunded debt, viz:
Relict notes in circulation..... 91 025 00
Interest certificates outstanding..... 13,087 52
Interest certificates unclaimed..... 4,418 38
Domestic creditors' certificates..... 44 67 — 114,594 57
Total outstanding..... $37,704,409 77
From which deduct the amount in treasury applicable to the payment of overdue loans 2,937,978 55
— 34,766,431 22

Amount redeemed during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1867..... $55,620 94

That the operations of the sinking fund may be clearly understood, the following "recapitulation" is quoted from the report of the Commissioners for the year ending Sept. 2, 1867:

Balance in sinking fund, Sept. 3, 1867. $2,752,351 77
Receipts in fund for year ending Sept. 3, 1867..... 3,335,810 69
6,088,162 46

Disbursements:
Paid interest..... $2,575,239 55
Loans redeemed..... 1,794,569 60
Premiums..... 275 00
Domestic creditors..... 75 00
— 4,370,159 05
Balance in fund..... 1,737,912 41

By the sixth section on the act of May 16, 1861, a special tax or one half mill on the dollar was especially set apart for the payment of the interest, and redemption of the loan created by an act of May 11, 1861, entitled "An Act to create a loan and provide for arming the State." The receipts from said tax and tax on gross receipts amount to..... $150,172 17
Interest paid in February and August, '67. 168,345 00
Balance on hand..... $318,933 17

Public debt, Nov. 30, 1867..... $34,766,431 22
Assets in the Treasury, viz:
Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company..... $5,500,000 00
Bonds of Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company. 3,500,000 00
Interest on bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company..... 1,400,000 00
Cash in Treasury..... 1,725,857 91 — 13,125,857 91
Liabilities in excess of assets..... 21,642,573 31

The above assets will be available as follows:

By the act of May 16, 1867, the Pennsylvania railroad company are to pay on the above bonds, $100,000 a year until July 31, 1890, when one million of the residue shall fall due, and one million annual thereafter, without interest, until the whole is paid, which will be in the year 1895.

By the act of March 7, 1861, the $3,500,000 of bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad were surrendered to that company, upon the deposit of four millions of dollars of their bonds as collateral security for the payment of the original bonds, and a mortgage of four millions of dollars was also given by the company to secure their payment. These bonds are to be paid in forty years from date of issue, and will mature A. D. 1901.

There is always a discrepancy in announcing the reduction of the State *debt, between the annual proclamation* of the Governor and report of the State Treasurer, arising from the fact that the sinking fund year terminates on the first *Monday in September* and the fiscal year of the Treasury on the 30th of November. To prevent complications of accounts and annual explanations I recommend that the termination of the sinking fund year be made the same as that of the Treasury.

The promptitude with which citizens of Pennsylvania came forward last April and took the whole amount of the twenty-three million loan, (the bids being for upwards of thirty-three millions,) may be considered a most auspicious circumstance in the financial history of the State, and indicates unbounded confidence in the good faith and substantial credit of the Commonwealth. The foregoing statement of the finances is set forth with pleasure, in consequence of their flourishing condition.

In addition thereto, the balance in favor of the General Government for Pennsylvania's quota of the direct tax levied in the several States for war purposes and for cash from the United States, amounting, in all, to nearly two millions of dollars, has been settled in full by the allowance of claims for extraordinary expenses incurred by the State during the war.

In consequence of the lapse of time since the remaining claims were contracted, the want of sufficient vouchers and explanations, and the difficulty of finding the parties, some of them dead by whom they should be made, render their settlement difficult, and in many instances, doubtful, the accomplishment of which will, however, be vigorously pursued and the results laid before the Legislature.

Passing from this general review of the finances of the State, I cannot permit some of the most prominent ideas connected with them to pass unnoticed, because they clearly indicate the path of duty in the discharge of the Executive trust. It is deemed proper *to call your attention to the fact that* during the entire year a very large sum of money is in the keeping of the State Treasurer. This sum has not at *any time for years been less than a* million of dollars, and at present amounts to considerably over four millions of dollars. That it is unnecessary that the greater portion of this money should be kept in the Treasury to meet the ordinary demands upon it is obvious; and that it should be withdrawn from circulation is certainly a detriment to the business of the community. A contraction to the amount of several millions, as at present, cannot fail to make its impression upon those engaged in mercantile, manufacturing, agricultural, mining and all other kinds of employments. This money, I am informed upon good authority, can be loaned, with ample security for its re-payment when needed, for certain specified periods, at a reasonable rate of interest, and the proceeds placed in the Treasury for the benefit of the State, which would not only be beneficial to the tax payers, by increasing the public revenue, but also enlarge the accommodations for business purposes. If this plan were adopted, the withdrawal of the circulating medium, by the payment of taxes, would be so brief that it would not materially affect the public welfare. The fund thus acquired could be added to the sinking fund, and would materially aid in the reduction of the State debt.

A glance at the condition of the Treasury will show that at least four millions of dollars might now be loaned, and at four per cent. would realize the handsome sum of $160,000 per annum. Or nearly the whole amount of the balance now in the Treasury might be rendered productive by being invested in the bonds of the State, bearing six per cent. interest, even though purchased at a premium. Or, it might be invested in U. S., interest bearing bonds which would be available at any moment a necessity might arise for the use of the funds. If that amount were exchanged at par for United States ten forty bonds, bearing five per cent. interest in gold, the product would be at the rate of $200,000 per annum, in gold, or, at the present value of gold, $266,000 in currency. Besides, the funds would not become "depreciated and unavailable" by long continuance in the Treasury. A law for this purpose could be passed, specifying the method by which the unneeded money of the Treasury may be loaned, authorizing and empowering the State Treasurer, and such others as you may designate, to execute, or carry out, its provisions.

Your attention is also invited to the fact that the salary of the State Treasurer, now only seventeen hundred dollars, is entirely disproportioned to the duties and responsibilities of that officer, and that the amount of the bond, eighty thousand dollars, given by him to the State, is equivalent to no security at all, under the present system of placing, unconditionally, the entire funds of the State in his hands.

Education.

The report of the Superintendent of the Common Schools exhibits a full view of our excellent system of public instruction, which is widely diffusing its blessings by securing a sound and substantial education to all the children of the State. A brief summary will give an idea of the immense proportions it has attained and the vast amount of usefulness of which it is capable.

At the close of the year the number of school districts in the State was 1,889; the number of schools, 13,435; graded schools, 2,147; school directors, 11,534; county, city and borough Superintendents, 68; teachers, 16,523; pupils, 786,389; the cost of tuition, $3,028,065-70; building, $1,262,798 68; contingencies, $790,675 33; tuition, building and contingencies, $5,081,539 71; and the amount expended for all purposes relating to schools, $5,160,750 17.

Your attention is particularly invited to the want of uniformity and constant change of books in the public schools. These are matters of serious inconvenience and needless expense to the poor, and might easily be remedied by judicious legislation.

The chief aim of our system of common schools is to place the advantages *of an education within the reach of all* the children of the Commonwealth; and when it is considered that intelligence and virtue are the principal safeguards of our free institutions, this system earnestly claims the fostering care and wise guidance of the Legislature.

The graded schools have largely increased during the past year. The system established by the State was designed, not only to furnish instruction to our youth in the elements of knowledge, but wherever practicable, to impart to them an education in the higher branches of learning. The multiplication of grammar and high schools should, therefore, receive every encouragement, for they are necessary to perfect the system and enable the State to avail itself of that talent which is born in the cottages of the poor quite as frequently as in the palaces of the rich.

Good schools cannot exist without good teachers, and good teachers can only be obtained by using the proper means to prepare them. Recognizing these facts, the Legislature of 1857 passed a general Normal school law, dividing the State into twelve districts, and looking forward to the establishment, in each of them, a Normal school. According to the provisions of this law four of these schools are now organized, the prosperous condition of which is exemplified by the fact that two thousand one hundred and eighty-five students attended them during the past year, of whom forty-six graduated.

Fourteen colleges and thirty-two academies have made reports to the School Department during the past year. Such institutions supply a great public want, as the common school system is not competent to perform the whole work of popular education. A State requires men of generous culture in all the walks of life, as well as in the profession of teaching, and the perfection of the system of public school instruction is one of the wisest and noblest objects of legislation. All of the different institutions of learning would be strengthened and their usefulness increased by bringing them together in a closer union, which possibly can be best accomplished by the creation of a general Department of Education.

Serious complaints have been made concerning the neglect of the education of the children in the alms and poor houses of some of the counties of the State. They are permitted to grow up in idleness and ignorance, and when sent upon the world to earn a living are better prepared to receive lessons of vice than those of usefulness. The directors of these institutions should be compelled, by law, to send such children to the common schools, or provide proper schools for them, and it should be made the duty of common school Superintendents to supervise and enforce the execution of the law.

Soldier's Orphans' School.

Col. George F. McFarland, Superintendent of Common Schools reports the expenditures for the eleven months ending November 30, 1867, as follows: Total amount, $394, 420 02. The estimated expenses from December 1, 1867, to June 1, 1868, is $242, 975 00.

Total actual and estimated expenses for seventeen months, from January 1, 1867, to June 4, 1868..... $637,395 02
Or at the rate of $449 952 80 per annum
From which deduct total amount appropriated for seventeen months, at $350,000 per annum..... 406,833 33
And a deficit for seventeen months is shown, of..... 141,561 69
Or, at the rate of $99,925 80 per annum
Add the amount due for December, 1866..... 31,049 77
And it exhibits the total deficit from December 2, 1866, to June 1, 1868, to be provided for by special appropriation..... 172,611 46

I do not deem it inappropriate here to state that if the bill which passed the House at the last session had become a law, making an appropriation of $450,000 per annum for the orphans schools, it would have been sufficient to have paid the total expenses.

The estimates for the year ending June 1st, 1868, will be found fully set forth in the report of the Superintendent. From that report it will also be seen that there are in operation thirty-nine orphan schools and homes, *having in charge an average of two* thousand nine hundred and thirty-one pupils, for the year ending November 30, 1867, at an average cost of one hundred and forty eight dollars and forty-three cents per annum.

Agricultural College.

The act of Congress of July 2, 1862, granted land scrip to the several States, to be appropriated to the maintenance of colleges, whose leading object it shall be to give instruction in the sciences which minister to agriculture and the mechanic arts. By the rule of apportionment, adopted by Congress, 700,000 acres fell to the share of this Commonwealth. The act of Assembly of February 19, 1867, appropriated the benefit of the whole of that grant to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, which has thereby become a subject to the supervision and guardianship of the State. I therefore invite your attention to the organization and condition of that institution, as exhibited by the president of the board of trustees, in his report for the year 1867, which will be laid before you. The commissioners appointed by the Legislature to sell the land scrip have completed the sales, which amount to $439,186 80. In accordance with the act of Assembly, the one-tenth of the proceeds has been applied to the purchase of sites for "Model and Experimental Farms," and the residue invested as follows:—$126,000 in United State 5-20 bonds; $20,000 in Pennsylvania war loan, and $235,000 in the Pennsylvania bonds of 1867.

The college has been thoroughly reorganized in order to make it fully respond to the objects and requirements of the act of Congress and to the educational interests of the industrial classes, and to meet these ends it now gives courses of instruction in general science, agriculture, mechanical and civil engineering, metallurgy and mining, ancient and modern languages, and military tactics, employing a faculty comprising six professors and two instructors in the college department and three instructors in the grammar school. This important educational enterprise in the interests of agriculture and the mechanical arts deserves favorable consideration.

Military.

The Governor advises the Legislature to adopt a liberal and effective system for increasing and regulating the volunteer Militia.

The Governor asks that appropriation be made for the purchase of a site and for the erection of a new arsenal.

He has turned over to the Reynold's Monument Committee, according to act approved March 7, 1867, five condemned six pounder brass cannon.

History.

In 1864 the Legislature made an appropriation for the purpose of having prepared and published a complete history *of the military operations of the* State in reference to the late war. My predecessor appointed S. P. Bates, Esq., for the purpose of consummating the provisions of that act, who proceeded to collect the necessary materials and to prosecute the work.

In the prosecution of the war Pennsylvania, always among the first to answer the country's call, gave additional evidences of her devotion to liberty and to the nation's glory. Over three hundred and sixty thousand of her sons stood in the ranks of the Union army. Many have fallen, and nearly thirty thousand by wounds and disease received in the field, repose in death. To commemorate their heroism, to preserve their names and perpetuate the record of their deeds are among the objects of the work in progress. In its pages will be found an account of each and every military organization of the State; the officers and men of whom they were composed; the name of every individual, with its place of residence, time of muster, date of discharge, and the special acts by which he was distinguished, as well of the dead as those who have survived.

Transportation Department.

The Department of Transportation, created during the war, has accomplished its purpose, and ceased to exist by the determination of the Legislature, expressed in the appropriation bill approved April 11, 1867. The report of the Superintendent shows that for the year ending November 30, 1867, the whole number of claims settled and paid was eight hundred and eighty-two. These were for the disinterment of the bodies of deceased Pennsylvania soldiers on distant battlefields and transportation to the homes of their relatives, and the total expenditures were thirty-two thousand five hundred and twenty-nine dollars and forty cents. There remain unsettled one hundred and twenty three claims, amounting to about four thousand dollars, for the payment of which and some unsettled transportation, an appropriation of four thousand five hundred dollars will be required.

All the papers and business of the Department have been transferred to the office of the Adjutant General.

State Agency.

During the year ending December 15, 1867, one thousand seven hundred and eighteen claims have been settled, and three hundred and twenty-one hundred and twenty nine new cases remain unsettled, the most of which will probably be settled by the 30th of June next, at which period the appropriation terminates. When this is exhausted, the Department will have doubtless fulfilled its mission, and the documents and papers can be transferred to the Adjutant General's office.

Cemeteries.

The reports of the commissioners appointed under the act of March 12, 1867, *to investigate the transactions* relating to certain cemeteries are herewith presented.

The work at the Gettysburg Cemetery is progressing, but with less expedition than was contemplated, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring such blocks of marble as were required for statuary.

The appropriation of three thousand dollars to the cemetery at Antietam has been withheld, as it appears from the act of incorporation by the Legislature of Maryland and the resolutions of the board of trustees, that the rebel dead are to be interred within the enclosure and to be honored with the same memorials as the Union soldiers who are there buried.

While there is no reasonable objection to giving decent sepulture even to the rebel dead, those who consider them deserving of honorable testimonials may bestow them. It is our duty to render honor only to whom we believe honor is due.

Monument to Deceased Soldiers of the Mexican War.

The commissioners appointed under an act of the Legislature, approved April 22, 1858, "to contract for, and superintend the erection of a monument to the memory of citizens of Pennsylvania who were slain or lost their lives in the late war with Mexico," have contracted for the erection of a monument, in a prominent portion of the Capitol grounds, and the work is progressing as rapidly as circumstances will permit. The appropriation of $6,000, to which the commissioners are limited, is inadequate for the object contemplated. The lowest bid for the contract was $8,200. I join the commissioners, therefore, in requesting an additional appropriation of three thousand dollars, to be used, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to complete the undertaking.

Charitable Institutions.

The Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, the training School for Feeble Minded Children, the Northern Home for Friendless Children, the House of refuge, several Soldiers' Homes, and other similar charities, which have received aid from the State, are according to the reports of the principals and superintendents, all, in their different spheres, accomplishing much good for the unfortunate classes for whose benefit they were established.

A liberal appropriation for the Western Hospital was devoted to the erection of buildings, on the Ohio River, seven miles below Pittsburg, known as the Dixmont Hospital for the Insane. The great increase of population renders necessary the establishment of other institutions of this kind It is estimated that the ratio of the insane is one to every thousand persons, and on assuming the population of the State to be about three millions five hundred thousand, we have about three thousand five hundred insane.—The hospitals in the State afford accommodation for only two thousand.—Hence there are fifteen hundred for whom no provision is made, and many of them are languishing in the county prisons and alms-houses.

Revision of the Civil Code.

Pursuant to the first section of a joint resolution of the Legislature, approved on the 10th of April last, Hon. David Derrickson, W. Maclay Hall, Esq., and Wayne McVeigh, Esq., were appointed to "revise, collate and digest all such public acts and statutes of the civil code of this State, as are general and permanent in their nature." These gentlemen have commenced the work assigned them, and from which the following benefits are hoped to be derived:

First. The correction of the redundancies, omissions, repetitions and inconsistences of the existing statutes.

Second. The framing of general laws as substitutes for the innumerable local statutes, which for many years have comprised the bulk of the acts of Assembly and occupied the attention of the Legislature to the detriment of general legislation.

Third. The conferring upon the courts many powers now exercised by the Legislature, and which, it is believed, will greatly relieve that body by decreasing the demand for special legislation and allowing ampler opportunity for the consideration of the public interests.

The gentlemen comprising the commission have prepared a large number of bills, most of which will be laid before you at an early day. The most important of these, which the commissioners, in harmony with my own views, are of the opinion should receive early and favorable action of the Legislature, are those relating to corporations, the poor, public highways, railroads, evidence and interest. The others, with perhaps, a few exceptions, might be left unacted upon until the entire work of revision is completed.

Legislation.

At the last session certain bills were passed in which large numbers of citizens were deeply interested, the responsibility for which, after the adjournment, but few members could be found willing to assume, or even to admit any knowledge of their passage. It is expected that every legislator should be acquainted with all that is transpiring in the legislative halls. He is not simply chosen to give his support to certain bills which have been called to his individual attention, but to be constantly on the alert to frustrate every act that may have a tendency to jeopardize the public interests. To plead ignorance after a real or imaginary wrong has been done, is to acknowledge a want of attention to the trust reposed by his constituents. One bill, the authorship and knowledge of which has been generally disclaimed, passed both branches of the Assembly, and was sent in due form, with the signatures of the proper officers, for the Executive approval, and in several instances bills were passed and sent for approval in duplicate. All such hasty and careless legislation should be avoided, and the members of the session now about to commence be enabled at its close to give an account of their participation in every act, however unimportant. The Legislature, coming as it does, fresh from the ranks of the people should set an example in economy, retrenchment and reform. It is the custodian of the public interests, and any unnecessary *extravagance or prodigality* in the expenditure of public money is reprehensible. It was a matter of common notoriety at the last session that a number of subordinate officers, in both branches of the Assembly, were appointed, to whom liberal salaries were paid, and who were never seen at their designated posts, and rendered no service to the State. The practice has been emphatically condemned by the press and the people, and will not be continued by any Legislature which means to acquire a reputation for a faithful performance of duty. Your attention is respectfully invited to the law on this subject as contained in sections fifteen to eighteen of the act approved the 7th day of May, 1855

Your attention is directed to the practice of withholding the annual appropriation bill until the latest moments of the session. In the public estimation great importance is attached to this bill, and no action of the Legislature undergoes a closer or more careful scrutiny. Its provisions concern the entire community, and in their enactment too much caution cannot be observed. Last year the appropriation bill was not passed until the last night of the session, when it was hurried through both branches of the Legislature, and on the following morning presented for approval, without affording time for the necessary investigation, and subjecting the Executive to the alternative of signing it with all its imperfections, or suspending, for the ensuing year, the indispensable means for the operations of the State Government. It is, therefore, earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed, and passed at a sufficiently early period during the session to enable it to receive that thorough examination which its importance demands.

Very many serious complaints have been made for many years past relative to the disposition of the debris which annually accumulates about the Capitol. This seems to have been regarded as legitimate perquisites of certain attaches of the several legislative and other departments, and has consequently led to practices which should be prevented. It is alleged that valuable property has thus been taken possession of and applied to personal uses, or sold for mere nominal sums, and the amount obtained privately appropriated. A remedy for this evil is to allow no perquisites whatever to any of the employees of the government. Salaries, sufficient in all cases for the services rendered, should be appropriated, beyond which no other consideration should be allowed.

General Railroad Law.

The subject of a general railroad law has long been agitated, and although it has found opponents, but few objections has been urged against it, whilst arguments accumulate in its favor. It seems impossible that any person can receive injury from its adoption, whilst its benefits may be felt by all classes of citizens. Even the chartered companies have no reasonable grounds for opposition. The intention of the proposed law is not to deprive them of any vested rights or franchises; but to secure to others the same privileges and opportunities for competition. It will open new avenues of distant markets; improve the value of property; give new impulse to immigration; put additional lands under cultivation; stimulate trade, agriculture, manufactures and mechanic arts to increased energy; furnish greater inducements and facilities for travel, and add to our general prosperity. Other States have tried the experiment with satisfactory results, and there is no reason why Pennsylvania should be a laggard in the grand march of progress and improvement.

Next to the importance of creating additional railroads on the free principle, is the reduction of charges for passage and freight to minimum rates. This is a matter that concerns every individual. Transportation will increase in quantity in proportion to the reduction of its cost, and as the facilities increase and the costs decrease, the more vigorous will be the development of our industrial resources. Railroads will derive more benefit from low than from exorbitant charges. The increase of travel and freight will be vastly greater than the increase of expense. The transportation of a loaded car costs but little more than that of one that is empty. In the matter of passengers alone, it is reasonable to suppose, that the lower the rates of fare the greater the number of persons to avail themselves of the privilege of railroad transportation. The same is true in regard to freight; for the engine that draws a half dozen cars, can with equal facility propel a larger number. Moreover, the road that is worked to its utmost capacity must necessarily, at very reduced rates, acquire greater profits than one that transacts but a small portion of the business for which it is competent. The adoption of a system of uniform rates for passengers and freight, so graduated as to be profitable to all immediately interested in the use and conduct of such works, would be productive of decided benefit in lessening the prices of food, clothing, fuel, and all the necessaries of life, to every citizen of the Commonwealth.

Insurance Department.

I would recommend the establishment of an Insurance Department, similar to those in New York and Massachusetts, that shall have supervision and control over all companies allowed to transact business within this State. Such enactment is required for the security of our citizens. Millions of dollars are annually paid by them for insurance—much of it under such circumstances as to render it impossible for a private individual to know whether the company to which he pays is, or is not reliable. Careful supervision, by a superintendent appointed by law, and published reports of the same, under oath, would prevent much loss and fraud.

Gas.

The Legislature of a neighboring State has created the office of Inspector of gas meters. A bill might be enacted creating a similar position in any city in which it may be required in this State, and such arrangements made as would ensure justice to consumers and producers without an expense to the State.

Police for the Mining Districts.

In conformity to an Act of Assembly "for the better protection of person, property and life in the mining regions of this Commonwealth," approved April 12, 1867, and on the earnest appeal of many citizens, I appointed, immediately after that date, a marshal of police and a number of subordinates, to give protection to the inhabitants of Schuylkill and Northumberland counties. In these counties, for a long time previous, crimes of heinous character were of frequent occurrence. A similar state of affairs to that which existed in the counties named is said to prevail in some parts of the oil regions, and applications have been made for the benefit of the above named act. It is, therefore, recommended that its provisions be extended to those, or to any other counties, upon the petition of a sufficient number of citizens, who shall furnish good reasons for desiring their benefits.

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