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VOL. 58.—NO. 31.

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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

GENTLEMEN:—You have, for a season, separated yourselves from private business and personal interests, and come from different sections of the State clothed with the powers of free, intelligent and independent people; to serve them in your representative capacity; and to determine upon public affairs, in such manner, it is hoped, as may deserve the blessings of God and the gratitude of men. It is earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed and passed at an early period during the session, to enable the Executive to give it that thorough examination which its importance demands.

In my message of January seventh, 1868, I informed the Legislature that the balance in favor of the General Government for Pennsylvania cents of 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 being dead, by whom they should be made, render their settlement difficult. It is earnestly desired that the settlement of these claims, however, will be vigorously pursued, and the result laid before the Legislature.

Lately public attention has been persistently directed to the subject of these claims, and their collection from the State Government, and the present position of the action which may be your duty to take in reference thereto, the following facts, showing what these claims consisted of, the measures taken by the State for their recovery, and the success resulting therefrom, are submitted to aid your wisdom in recommending such measures as are deemed of sufficient importance to be presented for your consideration.

FINANCES.  
After thorough examination of the reports from the accounting departments, the following statement is submitted:

Receipts.  
Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1875, \$1,820,452.82  
Ordinary receipts during year ending Nov. 30, 1875, 6,820,211.85  
Extraordinary receipts during year ending Nov. 30, 1875, 1,308,851.91  
Total in Treasury during year ending Nov. 30, 1875, \$9,949,516.58

Disbursements.  
Ordinary expenses paid during year ending Nov. 30, 1875, \$3,018,819.35  
Extraordinary expenses paid during year ending Nov. 30, 1875, 1,763,651.91  
Total disbursements, \$4,782,471.26

Public Debt.  
The Public Debt on Nov. 30, 1875, \$31,111,101.90  
Deficit amount paid by sinking fund during year ending Nov. 30, 1875, \$2,131,021.17  
Total Public Debt on Nov. 30, 1875, \$28,980,080.73

The following statement shows the nature of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth, November 30, 1875:

Unfunded debt, viz:  
Amount of over-issues of bonds, \$2,522,085.18  
Do. of 1872, 2,522,085.18  
Do. of 1873, 2,522,085.18  
Do. of 1874, 2,522,085.18  
Do. of 1875, 2,522,085.18  
Total, \$12,610,430.82

The Commissioners of the Sinking Fund report assets remaining in their hands, as follows, viz:

Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, secured by lien on the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad, \$5,000,000.00  
Fifty-five bonds of the Allegheny County Railway Company, \$100,000.00  
Central Railroad Company and the Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad Company, payable \$100,000.00 annually, \$1,000,000.00  
Total, \$6,100,000.00

In obedience to the sixty-seventh section of the appropriation bill, approved May 27, 1875, I have caused to be levied on the citizens of Chambersburg and vicinity, for war damages adjudicated under former acts, certificates of loan to the amount of two hundred and ninety-nine thousand seven hundred and forty-eight dollars and ninety-one cents, which sum bears interest at six per cent, payable semi-annually at the State Treasury.

The books of the Auditor General and State Treasurer show the total indebtedness of the Commonwealth, on the 1st day of December, 1865, was "thirty-seven million seven hundred and four thousand four hundred and nine dollars and seventy-seven cents. Since then, and up to November 30, 1875, the sum of eight million seven hundred and twenty-four thousand three hundred and thirty-eight dollars and four cents has been paid. The reduction during the year ending November 30, 1875, is one million one hundred and thirty-one thousand five hundred and ninety dollars and seven cents. The average reduction during the last five years is one million seven hundred and forty-seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-four dollars and seventy cents.

It will be observed, in the table exhibiting the nature of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth, the amount of the loans now overdue is \$2,602,085.01. This sum can, without doubt, be paid as rapidly as the holders will present it to the State Treasury. The bonds payable in 1875, and demandable in 1877, amount to \$8,870,400.00. These can also be paid within the five years prior to their maturity, at an average of \$776,880.00 per annum.

ions of the government for the ensuing year, or call an extra session of the Legislature. It is earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed and passed at an early period during the session, to enable the Executive to give it that thorough examination which its importance demands.

War Claims.  
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Lately public attention has been persistently directed to the subject of these claims, and their collection from the State Government, and the present position of the action which may be your duty to take in reference thereto, the following facts, showing what these claims consisted of, the measures taken by the State for their recovery, and the success resulting therefrom, are submitted to aid your wisdom in recommending such measures as are deemed of sufficient importance to be presented for your consideration.

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For many years the general appropriation bills have been withheld from the Governor until about the time of adjournment, when he must either sign them without proper investigation, or suspend the means to defray the opera-

cessary, under the statutes of July 27, 1861, and August 5, 1861, that the money should be paid out of the Treasury in the United States, or that the claims of the State against the National Government, which had been "disallowed and suspended" (except the credit of \$113,50, above explained), for five years, should be "liquidated and determined" by the accounting officers of the government. It was under these circumstances that the Legislature of the State, in 1867, by joint resolution, authorized the Governor to appoint "a special agent to collect disallowed and suspended claims against the United States," "whose compensation for that purpose, shall not exceed ten per centum on the amounts thus collected, and shall be paid out of such collections."

As thus authorized, it became my duty to appoint a competent person to attend specially to the interests of the Commonwealth in the collection and adjustment of these claims, and under the authority conferred upon me, I appointed Mr. George O. Evans, of Philadelphia, whose recommendations for efficiency and faithfulness were so strong, that I had no hesitation to place in his hands the agency required by the act of Congress of 1867, and the joint resolution of the Legislature. It was not expected that he would succeed in paying off a debt which seemed to be greater than the amount of the claims then on file; nor was it expected that he would succeed, under the best of circumstances, in obtaining more than a few hundred thousand dollars out of vouchers, which had, for upwards of five years, been "disallowed and suspended," and deemed almost without value.

Mr. Evans, upon his appointment, immediately gave his attention to the duties assigned him. He began by communicating to the Legislature of 1868, the partial settlement of the claims referred to. It is due to Mr. Evans to state, that that reference was to me a great character to play the result of his services before the public, and that, in his labors, the claims of the State, which had been for years "suspended and disallowed," were "liquidated and determined" by the accounting officers of the National Government, and being thus "liquidated and allowed," the State is enabled to provide for the redemption of the bonds of the State, and to pay the interest on the public debt, and for other purposes, there was levied a direct tax upon the several States, Territories and the District of Columbia, of twenty million dollars, with the privilege to those States of collecting and paying the same, and of the tax into the Treasury of the United States, at a deduction or allowance of fifteen per cent, as compensation for the expenses attending the collection.

Pennsylvania's portion of this tax amounted to \$1,946,713.33, the payment of which was made by the State.

The fifty-third section of the statute last referred to provides: "That the amount of direct tax apportioned to any State, Territory or District of Columbia, shall be liable to be paid and satisfied, in whole or in part, by the release of such State, Territory or District, duly executed to the United States, of any claims, Territory or District of equal amount against the United States: Provided, That in case of such release, such State, Territory or District shall be allowed the same abatement of the amount of such tax as should be allowed in case of payment of the same in money."

Under the act of Congress first referred to, of July 27th, 1861, claims against the United States were filed, and the interest which might have accrued on the entire claim of the United States.

The claims collected by the State from the United States are as follows:

Jan. 1, 1866, \$112,500.00  
Feb. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Mar. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Apr. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
May 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
June 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
July 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Aug. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Sept. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Oct. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Nov. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Dec. 1, 1866, 1,000.00  
Total, \$117,500.00

These collections the special agent accounts for as follows:

Jan. 1, 1867, paid debt due by the State to the United States, being \$1,946,713.33, \$1,946,713.33  
Feb. 1, 1867, paid cash advanced to the State by the United States, \$600,000.00  
Total, \$2,546,713.33

From these results it will be seen that the present condition of the claims against the National Government stands thus:

Amount of direct tax, \$1,946,713.33  
Amount of claims filed as above, \$117,500.00  
Total, \$2,064,213.33  
Amount of claims paid as above, \$2,546,713.33  
Total, \$2,546,713.33

THE MILFORD AND MATAMORAS RAILROAD COMPANY.  
About the close of the session of the Legislature in 1870, an act was passed and approved, entitled, "A Supplement to the Milford and Matamoras Railroad Company." The fourth section of this enactment seems to have been intended to take from the State, and give to the Company, the ten thousand dollars bonus, paid into the State Treasury annually by the New York and Erie Railroad Company, under the fifth section of the act of 28th March, 1848. Soon after the adjournment, my attention was directed to the subject, and to guard against loss I caused the Attorney General to give notice to the New York and Erie Railroad Company that the State was claiming the bonus, and that the payment of the annual bonus, as heretofore, notwithstanding the passage of the supplement referred to. I regard the latter as having been enacted and approved, through inadvertence, in the hurry of a closing session, and under the influence of the haste and confusion which attend the adjournment of the Legislature, and in consequence of the fact that the act of 28th March, 1848, and highly prejudicial to the public interests; and I therefore earnestly repeat the recommendation in my last annual message for the instant repeal of this obnoxious law, or at least that part of it which relates to the bonus. The State having long abandoned the policy of paying money out of her Treasury for the construction of railroads, there is neither equity or justice in allowing this enactment to remain in force.

Every citizen is deeply interested in the management and welfare of our common schools, and in the cause of general education, and should rejoice that in the property of so great a trust he is charged with an appropriate share of responsibility. In proportion to the extent of public instruction is elevated, the vast multitudes who emerge from our schools will be properly prepared for the activities of life, and "the weighty responsibilities of American citizenship."

Thirty-seven years have elapsed since the common school system was introduced into Pennsylvania, and the general property of the State has, ever since, been commensurate with the advantages that have been afforded to the rapidly increasing population. Those who were instrumental in its introduction, and those who have developed them into Pennsylvania, and the general property of the State has, ever since, been commensurate with the advantages that have been afforded to the rapidly increasing population.

But for the prompt appearance and judicious management of the National Guard on the occasion of these riots, one of our most prosperous cities might have been reduced to ashes, millions of property destroyed, many valuable lives sacrificed, and scenes of general ruin and devastation produced.

By act of the Legislature provision was made for the expenses necessary for the suppression of the disturbances in Luzerne County. They amounted to thirty-seven thousand eight hundred and sixty-seven dollars and fifty-six cents. The various items comprising this sum, properly audited, and paid by the State Treasurer, will be found in detail in the report of the Auditor General.

At the session of 1870, the Legislature passed an act entitled "An Act to allow writs of error in cases of murder and voluntary manslaughter," the first section of which provided that a writ of error shall be of right, and may be used out of the term of the defendant or defendant, as in civil cases. The second section makes it the duty of the judges of the Supreme Court, in all such cases, to review both the law and the evidence.

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There are sundry local laws on the subject of elections, to which the local prohibitions must necessarily conform. The election laws are generally uniform, and there are no good reasons why the main body of the sheriff's proclamations should not also be uniform. For many years scarcely any two proclamations have been alike, and they seem, in many instances, to have been prepared with more regard to