

VETO MESSAGE.

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

GENTLEMEN: Bill No. 186 of the file of the House of Representatives, entitled "An Act relative to certain School Districts— to authorize corporations to subscribe to the stock of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad Company," and for other purposes, has been presented to me for my approval.

The ninth section of the bill proposes to authorize the "constituted authorities of any corporation within this Commonwealth, other than municipal corporations, to subscribe to the capital stock of the Ohio and Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and to pay for the same in money or otherwise, as may be agreed upon, by and with the authorities of said corporations and the authorities of said company. It may be somewhat difficult to define the extent of the power proposed to be conferred by the latter part of this section, or to decide how far it might release these corporations from the restrictions imposed by their original charters. I am of the opinion that whatever might have been the intention of the author of this broad and unguarded provision, that it would certainly vest these corporations with the right to make payment in money, or in bonds and obligations in any form or size which the authorities of such corporations might deem proper; and thus the subscription of one corporation to the stock of another might be paid in certificates of stock of five, ten, twenty, or fifty dollars, or in bonds or other evidence of indebtedness of similar denomination, thereby creating a fictitious capital, assuming a circulating medium, and thus directly contravening the principles laid down in my message in reference to the York and Hanover railroad company—that no certificate or loan should be created of a less denomination than one hundred dollars. These considerations alone are sufficient to constrain me to withhold my sanction.

Other principles embraced in this bill, and in others of a similar character, which have been presented for my approval, are of a suggestive character, which should, in my opinion, command my serious attention. To these I desire briefly to allude. The principle of allowing one corporation to subscribe to the stock of another, is of modern origin, but its practical application has been increasing, and the powers under it extending to an alarming degree. The first trace we find of this principle, is in the form of authority to county commissioners to make subscriptions to specific objects. Next, we find a few instances of the extension of it to the municipal authorities of certain small towns, for particular and very limited purposes. The first important exercise of the principle is found in the supplement to the law incorporating the Central railroad company. This law extended to certain municipal corporations the right to subscribe to the stock of said company, and limited such subscriptions to a maximum of five per cent. on the assessable property of said corporation, and defined the mode of payment. In this particular it is analogous to the principle as theretofore sanctioned. The supplement to the act incorporating the Sunbury and Erie railroad company, recently adopted, authorizes municipal and other corporations to subscribe to the capital stock of said company, and to pay in cash or in the bonds of said corporations, in sums of not less than one hundred dollars, bearing six per cent. interest, payable semi-annually.

I sanctioned this latter bill with much reluctance. I regarded the application of the principle as found in this bill, more extended and liberal than the safety and true interests of the people seemed to warrant. I regretted that the power to subscribe had been confined to certain municipal corporations, with restrictions on the amount to be subscribed, and a provision inserted guarding against the sale of the bonds of the cities, boroughs and counties which may subscribe at an injurious rate of discount, should the necessities of the railroad company at any time require such action.

The great importance of the Sunbury and Erie railroad as a state enterprise—the peculiar and varied interests involved in its construction—the large section of the State, as yet unaided by our public improvements, to which it will afford the only avenue to market—the difficulties which manifestly surround the laudable efforts which are now being made to secure the necessary capital to commence this work—all these considerations induced me to look with peculiar favor on this great enterprise, and in order as much as possible to facilitate its success, to go far in the application of a principle which I have always regarded as liable to a dangerous abuse.

It is now sought, by the section under consideration, to go a step further and to authorize all banks, railroads and other corporations within this State, to subscribe to the capital stock of a corporation whose works are mainly located in another State, and make payment in any form the officers may deem proper.

I would not be understood as desiring to embarrass the success of any great public project, by adhering tenaciously to a too contracted policy, but experience has demonstrated that we cannot be too cautious in the creation of corporate powers. The most acceptable principle, in such legislation, is, liable to abuse, and thus a project wise and proper in itself, may be attained through the use of means calculated to greatly lessen its legitimate blessings. Whilst, therefore, subscriptions by municipal corporations may to some extent be allowable, we can readily imagine that the power might be so exercised, as to do

infinite harm to the people. The right to make such subscription, and pay in bonds without any conditions as to its extent, might throw on the people represented by such municipal corporations, the most onerous burthens, without securing the construction of the improvements for which they are taxed. The bonds of the corporations so subscribing, might under a pressure of financial difficulties, be sold at a most ruinous sacrifice; and whilst the people would be called upon to pay the interest and principal of the face of such bonds, the amount realized to apply to their favorite project, might not reach fifty cents on the dollar. This power, to subscribe, never should be exercised by municipal corporations, unless the interests of the people represented by such authority are directly and certainly identified with the project on which the money is to be expended. The operation may be equitable when applied to the people of a town or city whose interests are identical, but when applied to those of a county it may not be so. On the contrary, it may prove most unjust and oppressive, subjecting them to burthens in the shape of taxes for the construction of a public improvement from which they may never realize any benefit, either direct or remote. The people in one section of a county may derive advantages from the construction of a public improvement, while those of another section, equally taxed for the payment of the principal and interest of the debt so contracted, may possibly realize no benefit at all.

And in reference to all other corporations, such subscriptions should be clearly consistent with the purpose for which such corporation was originally created. A sister State within whose limits it is proposed to expend a proportion of the proposed subscriptions, has had some experience on this subject, the result of which is recorded in a constitutional prohibition of all such municipal subscriptions, even if authorized by a direct vote of the people. I have not learned what circumstances brought the State of Ohio to the adoption, in her fundamental law, of so wise a restriction on corporate action, but it is fair to conclude that the necessity for the adoption of such restraint had been fully demonstrated.

The inquiry now fairly presented, in view of all the considerations connected with this subject, is, what policy shall we adopt for the future? It is to this point I desire to ask your attention. Assuming the principle that one corporation may subscribe to the stock of another, that if unrestrained in its application and extension, most alarming evils may result from the practice, and there will probably be no more proper occasion than the present for the Legislature to determine upon certain fixed and unyielding limits within which its exercise should be restrained. These can best be ascertained by an examination of the evils that are likely to result from its too liberal use. The most prominent that have occurred to my mind are the following:

First: the dangerous influences that the union or political consolidation of numerous corporations, various in their objects, powers and pursuits, located in all parts of the State, actuated mainly by the motive of private gain, may exercise over the independence of the elective franchise and the purity of legislation; as well, also, as their increased ability to infringe individual rights and to usurp the field of personal enterprise.

Second: the creation of fictitious capital, by loaning their credit, thereby starting an artificial and delusive enterprise, well calculated to mislead the unwary and to result in the most injurious consequences to the people generally.

Third: its tendency to a concentration of corporate power; thereby neutralizing many of the public advantages which may result from such grant. One corporation created for a specific purpose of public good, in rivalry with another, established for a like purpose (by which rivalry the public are mainly benefited) may thus become assimilated in their interests and act the part of one grand, unchecked monopoly, and greatly lessen the public good secured in their original formation. An extensive exchange of stock, and bonds, and subscriptions, must beget concert of action and interest between these institutions, which cannot fail to work infinite injury to the mass of the people.

If there is a possibility that evils of such magnitude may flow from the unrestrained application of the principle referred to, it is our solemn duty to seek for a remedy in guards and restraints to be applied where this principle is sought to be allowed. This power, in my opinion, should never be granted, even in a restricted form, except for the promotion of some great object of public good and pressing importance, that cannot be reached by the ordinary mode of individual enterprise. The corporations authorized to subscribe should be specifically named—the amount of subscription limited to a moderate percentage on the property of the corporation asking to subscribe—and in the case of municipal subscription, there should be a clear identity of interest between the corporation subscribing and the object to be promoted by such subscription, and the payments in all cases required to be made in cash and not in the bonds or the evidence of indebtedness of such corporations. I have satisfied my mind that the creation of bonds of this kind, to be handed over to a corporation to be converted to their use, without restriction as the rates they may command in market, is a most hazardous experiment and may be made the means of great injury to an honest and confiding people; whilst on the other hand, the subscriptions to be paid in money will be much better calculated to advance the true interests of any great public enterprise, and be greatly relieved from the evil consequences to which I have referred. Indeed, I can see no good reason why the bonds of a municipal corporation should be handed

over to a railroad company at all. They cannot be used in the construction of the work but must be reduced to cash. Nor can I see why the authorities of a municipal corporation may not have this effected as advantageously as the agents of another corporation. I am confident that this policy, whilst it will not interfere with any of the advantages of such municipal subscriptions, may greatly lessen the chances of injury to the people.

There are other features in the bill herewith returned to which I cannot give my sanction. The third section is in the following terms: "That the School Directors of the borough of Bridgeport, in the county of Montgomery, be and are hereby authorized to borrow a sum of money on School property, in said district." This section is greatly defective in its formation, not specifying the amount of money to be drawn, nor the mode in which the school property shall be pledged, nor describing such property, nor defining the purpose for which the money borrowed shall be applied. The section is not only deficient in form, but it contains a principle which to my mind is highly objectionable. It proposes to pledge the school property for a debt of the School district, and thus render it liable to a judicial sale for such debt. This, it seems to me, should not be allowed. The common School System, having for its object the education of our youth, and their preparation to discharge the high and sovereign duties of American citizens, is a part of the most sacred and valued machinery of our government. If, in countries governed by power rather than by popular intelligence, their ports, arsenals, and other bulwarks of defence are exempted from judicial sale for debts, our school houses, being mainly the means of defence and security for our country, should be guarded with equal care. As well might be sold the roads and bridges to pay the debts of a township, or the public Alms-house, the Court house, or County Prison, for the debts of the county, as the School House for the debts of the School District. Nor is there any necessity for such security. The whole taxable property of the District is already pledged for its debts; and the Legislature may provide that the collection be enforced in the same way as against townships and counties, or any other official mode directed against the school taxes of the district.

The fifth section of the bill erects parts of Washington township, Berks county, into a separate School District, and the sixth section provides that the qualified voters of said district, so erected, shall be entitled to elect six directors annually. This is an innovation on the general law providing for the election of two of the six directors yearly, in order to secure to the system at all times the advantage of experienced directors, and should not in my opinion be sanctioned. There is really no necessity for special legislation on this subject, except to regulate new Districts. The law of 1849, prepared after much experience and great deliberation, is intended to establish a uniform system throughout the State. All innovations on this uniformity must magnify the difficulties of administering the system, and consequently impair its efficiency.

The 14th section provides for the election of a Board of School Directors for Oxford township, Philadelphia county, to consist of three members, and also for a like number for the Borough of Frankford, and declares that these Boards shall respectively have concurrent jurisdiction in both Borough and Township. It was probably the intention of the author of this section, that the six directors elected by the township and borough, should constitute one Board and have jurisdiction over both. But the section before me does not so provide. It presents the impracticable proposition of two independent Boards, each having perfect power to exercise authority over the whole District.

There are other features to which there are no objections, but I am obliged to return the whole bill. This circumstance strikingly illustrates the impropriety of connecting various diversified and incongruous subjects in the same bill. And I must beg to be indulged in the remark, dictated alone by a sense of duty, that I sincerely hope some remedy may be found for this growing evil. The necessity for separating bills has been greatly increased by the law assessing an enrolment tax. Some of the bills contain a number of taxable provisions—the law is not enrolled and published until the tax is paid in full—one party interested appears and makes his share of the payment—another declines to do so—confusion and difficulty ensue—which, in some instances during the present sessions has been cured by legislation, and thus legislation of this year is rendered necessary to give effect to that of a former session.

The whole practice under this system demonstrates its evil tendency. The statute book when published is an anomaly—embracing on the same page a law of great public importance and one of the most trifling local character. The compilation of various subjects in the same bill very frequently embarrasses the action of the legislator, and secures the success of a doubtful proposition of its own merits alone.

WILLIAM BIGLER, EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, March 1, 1852.

Louis Philippe's real estate, and which has been lately confiscated from his family by Louis Napoleon, is thus estimated: Wealth comprised in the will made in favor of his children on the 7th of August, 1830, of which he estimated the interest, 41,807,054. Wealth in real estate belonging to the King en pleine propriété, 9,887,000. Wealth in real estate deputed by legacies to the King, by Mlle Adelaide, his sister, in interest only, 27,602,018. Total, 72,246,989, giving a net revenue of 2,879,409, or 8475,521 80.

THE REPUBLICAN. CLEARFIELD Pa., March 12, 1852.

FOR PRESIDENT, JAMES BUCHANAN, OF PENNSYLVANIA. (Subject to the decision of the Democratic National Convention.) FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, WILLIAM SEARIGHT, OF FAYETTE COUNTY.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—We have several pieces of original poetry on file, and as soon as we can get a little leisure, we will examine them carefully and publish those we think worthy.

THE STATE CONVENTION. The Democratic State Convention was held at Harrisburg on the 4th and 5th inst. The Convention was full, every district being represented. Col. BARRETT represented this Representative district, and JAS. L. GILLIS, as substitute for A. J. WILCOX, our Senatorial district.

The objects of the Convention were, first, to declare the choice of Pennsylvania democracy for the next Presidency, and to appoint delegates to the National Convention at Baltimore in June next, and to nominate candidates for electors in pursuance of that choice; and second, to nominate a candidate for Canal Commissioner.

On the subject of the Presidency the Convention seems to have been even more unanimous than was claimed by the friends of that noble son of the Keystone, JAMES BUCHANAN—the vote standing on first ballot 97 for Buchanan—32 for Cass—2 for R. J. Walker, and 2 for Gen. Houston.—Hon. ALFRED GILMORE was selected to represent our district in the National Convention. And for Senatorial Electors, Hon. G. W. WOODWARD, of Luzerne, and WILSON McCANDLES, of Allegheny, and for our district, Col. G. R. BARRETT, were selected.

After dispensing with the Presidential question in the satisfactory manner above indicated, the Convention then proceeded to the nomination of a candidate for Canal Commissioner. A number of highly worthy gentlemen were placed in nomination, and on the third ballot Wm. SEARIGHT, of Fayette county, having received a majority of the whole number of votes cast, was declared duly nominated. We will give a synopsis of the proceedings in our next.

THE VETO.—We ask the special attention of our readers to the veto message of Gov. BIGLER, in this paper. It abounds in the soundest principles, and demonstrates most clearly that our excellent Governor is determined to preserve the people from the effects of unwise and injurious laws as far as is in his power.

OUR SCHOOLS.—The attention of parents and others interested in the cause of education, is directed to the advertisements in this paper—not forgetting the Lewisburg University.

We hope our citizens will properly estimate the importance of improving the road between this and Curwensville, and if possible make a good turnpike. Those who think we can have the mail carried through here in four horse coaches, with the road as it now is, will be much mistaken, for it would not bear inspection six months in the year. A good turnpike should be made. It will increase the intercourse between the two places very much, and if properly located cannot help to pay well.

In obedience to the voice of the Democracy of Pennsylvania, as expressed in State Convention on the 4th instant, we this week nail to our mast head the name of one of the brightest and purest living statesmen, JAMES BUCHANAN, for the next Presidency. That this choice will be acceptable to the democracy of the Union at Baltimore in June next, we have but little doubt, and if so, that he will be triumphantly elected, we have less doubt, and after elected, that the Union will be blest with one of her very best Presidents, we are equally confident.

A WELCOME VISITOR.—Spring has at length burst upon us. The snow is fast leaving our hills—our river is in fine rafting order, all the ice gorges having passed away, and without doing any serious injury, with the exception of that at the Messrs. Irwins' dam, at Lick Run, where it is piled up at a fearful rate.

This has set our lumbermen to work in good earnest. Strangers have flocked in from all quarters, and every man is engaged as soon as he arrives. Although there may not be as much timber ready for market as in some former years, yet there is the finest prospect for good times the coming summer if what we have reaches market in proper season.

The Foreign news is beginning to grow more exciting every arrival. A stopping time is confidently expected in a very short time.

THE SCHOOL EXHIBITION.

The exhibition of the school under the charge of Mr. and Mrs. CATLIN, on last Friday night, fully reached the expectations of the most hopeful. The ceremonies took place in the Presbyterian church, and although that is the most spacious building in our town, it was found to be scarcely half large enough to admit and contain with comfort the immense concourse of spectators. It was the most perfectly crowded house we ever witnessed—composed of all ages and conditions, and although all seemed equally anxious to see and to hear, and also to let others hear, yet still the only thing that seemed to mar the delight and pleasure of the audience, was a constant movement among the crowd, making just noise enough to render indistinct much that was enacted on the stage.

It would be entirely vain for us to attempt a description of the performances, or to point out particular performers, as each and all "acted well their part," and not a single case of failure occurred. Next week we shall endeavor to give a programme of the performances, showing the different pieces and by whom rehearsed.

Some idea of the extent of the entertainment may be formed from the fact that the performances commenced at about 6 o'clock, and continued until after 11; and then several pieces were not reached. We have heard, however, that it is in contemplation to open the new town hall on some suitable evening, and there rehearse those pieces postponed, and perhaps repeat one or two of the others.

We cannot let the occasion pass without expressing our astonishment at the character of the music that graced the occasion, and so charmed and delighted the audience. We had no idea that our town could afford any thing in comparison to the eloquent strains and sweet harmony there displayed;—and it the performers had properly estimated their own qualifications, and let us heard from them often, we would have been better prepared for such a treat. Some of their pieces were really well executed—fit for any place.

To the labors, the talents, and industry, however, of the Teachers—Dr. CATLIN & wife, all the credit is due. They have had an arduous task to perform, and the successful manner in which their schools always pass examination, and the unanimous applause of parents and others, best attest how well they have performed their tasks.

Synopsis of Decisions of the Superintendent of Common Schools.

A committee elected in a sub-district at any other time than that authorized by law, have no authority to act—no more than if they had never been elected. If there is no legally elected committee in a sub-district, their powers and duties revert to the board of directors.

If the school directors do not keep all the necessary schools of their district in operation at least three months in each year, they are indictable for misdemeanor in office.

Public meetings have no power to discharge school teachers—nor to employ them, except in case of difference between the directors and committee of a sub-district. Directors must perform the duties required of them by law, but in performing them, should as far as practicable consult the wishes of the people of their district. The latter, however, cannot control the action of the former against their consent.

School directors have the power at any time to dismiss a teacher "for incompetency, cruelty, negligence, or immorality," and should be prompt in the exercise of this power whenever either of these charges are established against a teacher.

The superintendent has no power to compel directors to discharge a teacher, but the latter are always liable to indictment for misdemeanor for neglecting or refusing to comply with the requisitions of the law.

The directors are not personally liable for the salary of a teacher legally employed. When townships are divided, that part in which the school buildings are located becomes the owner for the purposes designed in their construction.

All "subjects or things made taxable for state and county purposes" are taxable for school purposes. Money at interest is therefore taxable for school purposes.

The board of directors have the exclusive right to locate school houses. It is their duty, however, to locate them at such points as will best accommodate the scholars for whose benefit they are erected.

A scholar cannot be suspended or expelled from school unless "found guilty on full examination and hearing, of refractory and incorrigibly bad conduct" in school.

Neither school directors nor school teachers can compel scholars to chop wood for the school house. School directors have power only to assess an annual tax, which must be done on or before the first Monday of May—i. e., between the time of the organization of the board after the annual election of directors and the first Monday of May ensuing. After this tax has been levied no other tax can be assessed, by the directors for the same year.

German Blood Among us.

It is commonly said that the German, unlike all other emigrants, never Yankee-ify, but stay thoroughly German, through several generations. See to what a multitude this isolated man is growing; how ever.

"The whole number of Germans in the United States is estimated at 5,000,000, being over one-fifth and nearly one-fourth of the whole population of the country, which is estimated at 23,000,000. Of these five millions of Germans, nine-tenths are in the free States. Missouri is the daily slave State in which they have settled in any considerable number. Many years ago, when the Mississippi Valley was reached most readily by the ways of New Orleans, and the great Northwest comparatively little settled or known, Mr. Chateau, who was a large land proprietor, offered to sell to Germans land in and around St. Louis, at a very low price, which set the tide of German immigration in that direction. But since the Northwest has been opened, almost the entire emigration from Europe seek their home by the northern route.

Over 183,000 Germans are settled in Wisconsin, embracing about one-third of the population of the State. That State, for a few years past, has been regarded by the German emigrants as, above all others, the most desirable. In Illinois there are about 80,000 Germans, many of whom are found in the counties of Stephenson, Madison, and St. Clair. In Missouri these are about 200,000. A very large proportion of the population of Michigan is German. A large proportion of Germans in the States of Ohio, Indiana and Missouri, are from Pennsylvania, which has a large German population.—Several of the principal cities have a German population as follows. New York city, 100,000; Buffalo 25,000; Cleveland, 7,000; Milwaukee, 10,000; Chicago, 9,000; St. Louis, 30,000; Cincinnati, 40,000. Large numbers of Germans from Europe are expected to settle in Chicago and Illinois next year.

The Germans have in the United States about two hundred and twenty-five weekly newspapers; also, between eighty and ninety dailies. Of these, four are in New York, three in Buffalo, three in Milwaukee, one in Chicago, and four in Cincinnati.

THE CROWNED HEADS.—The oldest monarch in Europe is the King of Wirttemberg, who is seventy; the youngest are the Queen of Spain and the Emperor of Austria, who are each twenty-one. The Pope is fifty-nine; Victoria, thirty-two; Louis Napoleon, forty-three; Nicholas, fifty-five; the King of Prussia, fifty-six. Of the Czar, Dr. Baird said, the other evening, that he is the ablest of European monarchs, that he holds his brother kings in great contempt, and that but for him they would all by this time have been de-throned. He regards himself as the special instrument of Providence, in these times, to save Europe from anarchy, and its kings from destruction; he feels himself quite equal to his divinely-appointed task. On the same occasion Dr. Baird described the Emperor of Austria as a man worthy of the title bestowed upon him by Kossuth, of the "beardless Nero." He is a pale, slender youth, of weak character, but unscrupulous, and delighting in blood. The King of Prussia is a fat stupid man, very fond of wine, not unamiable, but a bloated mass of incompetency. The King of Hanover is blind. The King of Denmark meddles little with affairs of State, being devoted to dogs and the chase. And these men are Kings in Europe in the nineteenth century.

A TRAGEDY AT NEW ORLEANS.—A man named Ronson, a hatter of New Orleans, accompanied by his wife, a young and handsome woman, and his partner, Charles Duree, went on an excursion, in August last to Lake Ponchartrain, and from that time Ronson has been missing. Duree immediately reported that he had absconded with all the funds of the concern, and the story being believed, his disappearance ceased to create remark. Subsequently Duree and Mrs. Ronson were married, but afterwards lived together unhappily, and during a recent quarrel, she was heard to threaten Duree in regard to the murder of Ronson. This excited public suspicion, and the body of an unknown man, found on the lake in November, was disinterred, and identified as that of Ronson, who had been horribly butchered with a hatchet. The guilty pair were immediately arrested.

A CAT IN THE MEAL.—Two barrels marked "now corn meal" came into the depot in this city, by Carpenter's express, directed to no one. Marshal Jones, happening to be round, thought that it looked like a suspicious heap. "It may be meal said he, "but there can be no harm in examining into it." Accordingly he waited upon the Express man, and took the barrel into his own custody. On opening them each one contained another barrel, surrounded by a little "now corn meal," one of them full of rum and the other full of brandy. As they were directed to nobody nobody has lost any thing.

Augusta (Me.) Farmer.

A DETROIT mercantile gentleman, who, travelling Eastward a short time since went to the clerk of one of the Ontario boats to be shown to his state-room. The clerk handed the applicant a key, at the same time pointing to a door at some little distance marked "B." Our friend went in the direction indicated, but opened the next door to his own; marked "A," where he discovered a lady passenger making her toilet, who, upon the stranger's appearance, uttered a low scream. "Go away! go away!" screamed the lady. "Let her B. yelled the clerk. "I am not touching her at all," shouted the indignant merchant.