

STATE FINANCES.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL.

The following is a summary of the receipts at the state treasury from December 1, 1874, to November 30, 1875, inclusive:

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Includes categories like Lands, Auction commissions, Notary public commissions, Tax on bank stock, etc.

Grand Total \$7,244,650 67

The following is a summary of the payments made at the state treasury from December 1, 1874, to November 30, 1875, inclusive:

Table with 2 columns: Item description and Amount. Includes categories like Expenses of the government, Constitutional convention, Susquehanna Depot riots, etc.

Grand total \$7,244,650 67

The following is a general summary of the receipts and payments during the fiscal year by months:

Table with 3 columns: Month, Receipts, and Expenditures. Shows monthly financial data for 1874 and 1875.

Grand total \$7,244,650 67

From the previous reports of the Auditor-General we compile the following statement of the ordinary receipts of the state treasury since the fiscal year 1866, inclusive:

Table with 3 columns: Year ending, Receipts, and Expenditures. Shows annual financial trends from 1866 to 1875.

GENERAL NEWS SUMMARY.

The grand jury of Cole county, Missouri, have indicted General Grafton, his son, and Cole Rogers, for forgery and entering false military warrants. The state troops in Sonora defeated the Yaqui Indians on the 3d ult., killing and wounding 200 of them. A telegram from Sioux City reports that four hundred Sioux Indians are encamped at the Old Ponca agency, that the settlers are fleeing, and that an attack on the agency is expected. The jury in the case of Major, charged with wife murderer, at Nashua, N. H., rendered a verdict on Saturday of murder in the first degree. The legislature of New York will meet January 4, and it is expected that Governor Tilden's message will be sent in the same day. The state officers elect of New York were inaugurated on Saturday. From the records in the office of the registrar of births, deaths, etc., it appears that 18,909 persons died in Philadelphia during 1875. The act of the New York legislature prohibiting Sunday concerts and theatricals has been decided entirely constitutional. This sustains the action of the police in arresting the proprietor of a beer garden for giving a Sunday concert some time ago, upon whose case the test was made.

elector. This inequality is palpably unjust, and the tax is often burdensome and onerous as it may be to the polls. There is no good reason why the right of suffrage in one county should be attended with greater burdens than in another, and on the contrary, there seems great injustice in such a regulation. I renew therefore my suggestion of last year, that all the laws imposing taxes on trades, occupations and professions be repealed, and that a uniform poll tax be substituted therefor, and that the necessary steps be taken to make a proper display, will I feel assured, meet with your favor and support.

BOUNDARY LINES. The New York legislature, by an act passed May 26, 1875, authorized the Regents of the University of New York, to resume the work of examining the boundary lines of the several counties of the state, and in connection with the authorities of Pennsylvania, to replace any monuments which have become dilapidated or been removed on the boundary line of the two states, and I respectfully recommend that authority be given to appoint commissioners to act in conjunction with those of New York, and that a suitable appropriation be made for the necessary steps to be taken to accomplish the very proper object indicated in the above act.

BANKS. My opinion is in regard to the organization and management of banks, savings funds and trust companies, and the restrictions and safeguards that should be thrown around these institutions, were elaborated in my annual message of 1874 and 1875, and have undergone no change, but have rather been confirmed by investigation and further consideration of the subject, which I am persuaded is one of the most important to which you can devote your attention.

I beg leave to renew, also, the several recommendations in my previous messages, in relation to the prevention of the willful and wanton destruction of our forests, the importance of modification of the exemption law so as to forbid a waiver of exemption by the creditor, the manifest benefit of adopting some measures that will aid in the improvement of the navigation of the Ohio river, and the necessity of giving adequate power of investigation to the bureau of statistics, and opening every avenue of intelligence to its officers, so that the information which may be reliable and of value.

GEORGE W. WOODWARD, ex-chief justice of the supreme court of Pennsylvania, died while in Europe, in May last. The public services of Judge Woodward were singularly honorable and prominent in the history of the state will contain a more interesting recital than those which chronicle the life of this eminent jurist, whom the commonwealth honored by repeated renewals of his confidence, whose executive, whose energetic, robust mind that wedded to its convictions, never subjected to caprice, nor bends to opinion, however fiercely it storms, and his conduct as a legislator, a center in every step of his public life, with his friends and constituents, but with an honest difference that had no selfish or sordid taint. He has conducted his own most enduring monument in the public mind, and his decisions are left to the bar, and the current judicial opinions in Pennsylvania, will have a steadier flow because of the direction given it by his master mind.

ROBERT BINNEY. The length of life accorded to the venerable Robert Binney, who has been allotted to man, and still more rarely, is accompanied to a ripe old age with the vigor and graces of intellect that attended upon this great lawyer to the very close of his long and useful career. Avoiding public notice, and the usual pomp and circumstance, he evoked his interference, the experience of Mr. Binney illustrated the power and beauty of an unblemished private life, and the independence and integrity of his character. He has dedicated all his time and energy with singleness of purpose to the duties of his profession, the bar of Philadelphia is indebted for an example that has been a center in every step of the progress of jurisprudence in Pennsylvania.

SAMUEL E. DIMMICK. In October last the mortal remains of the late Attorney General, Samuel E. Dimmick, were reverently laid in the little cemetery at Honesdale. Three years ago the character, integrity and recognized legal abilities of this eminent man designated him for the important position he filled with so much dignity and honor, and the full measure of popularity he enjoyed at the time of his death, showed how satisfactorily he discharged his responsible duties.

GENEROUS, manly and upright in all the relations of life, and administering his high office with a stern and uncompromising fidelity to the interests of the state, the deceased attorney general tempered his decisions with so much benevolence and courtesy that it is difficult to say whether as a man or official he was most beloved. A delicate health, and suffering from the affliction that resulted in his death, in response to what he believed a call to duty, Mr. Dimmick died while in attendance upon the board of pardons, where his merciful disposition and mature and correct judgment were invaluable helps in dispensing justice.

With the public grief that deplores his loss, I may be permitted to mingle my private sorrow, for while the state mourns for a just and incorruptible official, the nation mourns for a man deprived of a careful and wise counsellor, and the executive of a disinterested and devoted friend.

CONCLUSION.

With the year upon which we have just entered the republic has had a century of existence, a century wherein her foundations have been more solidly and securely laid, and which has been crowded with the evidences of her progress in science and the useful arts, filled with the proofs of her increased enlightenment, benevolence and humanity, and marked by many and durable proofs of her statesmanship and genius. It is fitting, then, that our people should celebrate the centennial of the nation's birth, and testify their gratitude for the benefits we have received. With our growth in wealth and population, however, we could remember increased responsibilities, we could remember increased responsibilities, and that we can best show our appreciation of our institutions and their privileges by consecrating ourselves to the work of redoubling them from the list that beset them, by keeping them intact and pure for those who are to follow us.

THE DESTINY of our great state may depend upon the direction we may give legislation at this juncture. Let us strive then to so shape our councils that the verdict of posterity will be that we acted with a view to the prosperity of the people, and the honor and fair fame of the commonwealth.

JOHN F. HARTMAN.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, Harrisburg, January 4, 1876.

It is learned that the late Vice President Wilson had concluded his voluminous work on the rise and fall of the slave power with the exception of three or four chapters. The material for these was left in the hands of the Rev. Samuel Hunt, of Natick, Mass., Mr. Wilson's private secretary, who will complete the work.

CHARLES B. BECKWITH, lately clerk of Benjamin T. Babbitt, soap manufacturer, was arrested in New York last night on the charge of embezzlement and forgery to the amount of about \$250,000.

SINCE JANUARY 1, 1875, the following contraction of the currency has taken place: Legal tenders, \$10,170,000; fractional currency, \$2,230,000; national bank circulation, \$6,270,000; total, \$18,670,000.

the several states, under the auspices of the United States coast survey, is insufficient to make that of this state complete, and the recommendation of the report of the state commission, that \$4,000,000 be appropriated to supplement the work of the United States coast survey is worthy of your serious attention. This course has been adopted by other states with satisfactory results.

The propriety of having a full representation of our natural resources at the centennial, need only be suggested to impress you with its importance, and the plan proposed by the commission to make a proper display, will I feel assured, meet with your favor and support.

It is to be regretted that the labors of the fish commissioners have been in some respects, altogether fruitless, because the legislature has left them to their unaided exertions to procure protection to the fish, while the various processes for applying our rivers are on trial. If authority is not given to the commissioners to control the streams, while their experiments are in progress, it is manifestly unwise to continue the work, however important or promising of great results it might be. It is too late to discuss the practicality of restocking rivers with fish, for that question has already been tried in other states and countries where streams have been refilled with abundant supplies of choice fish of various kinds. Are we not then indifferent to an unexplored source of cheap food when we neglect the manifold opportunities for fish culture in this state, and is it not proper that we should make some efficient and systematic effort in this direction, or else forego all spasmodic endeavors that are practically useless?

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES. The public service has sustained a severe loss in the resignation of Hon. George L. Harrison, the able and efficient president of the board of public charities, and the unremitting zeal and energy with which he devoted himself to the labors of the board and the faithful administration of its responsibilities, have won for him the respect and admiration of his fellow citizens, and were alike honorable to himself and useful to the public.

VAGRANCY. The public mind is becoming seriously alarmed about the prevalence of vagrancy, and some measures should be taken to regulate and restrain this propensity to live by begging and idleness. The force of public opinion would constrain the parties whose claims were arbitrated to do justice to those who were wronged. May I not ask, in view of the immense interests involved, that the board consider the expediency of authorizing the appointment of such a court.

PRISONS. The inspectors of the eastern penitentiary will address a communication to the legislature in regard to the overcrowded condition of the institution in their charge, and the character of the various methods of prison discipline, together with the necessity of making some provision for this excess of prisoners in the eastern penitentiary, will, I am confident, attract the consideration of their opinions and suggestions.

COLONIAL RECORDS. The publication of the second series of Pennsylvania archives, authorized by act of May 13, 1874, has been carried forward to the completion of two volumes—the first and third of the series. The second, which will embrace such of the records and memorabilia of the colonial officers and soldiers from Pennsylvania, who served in the revolutionary war, has been delayed by the compilation of such records as may be found in the department of Washington, and in the archives of historical societies.

INSURANCE. The operations of the insurance department have entirely justified the wisdom of its establishment. It has been in existence less than three years, and it has rendered valuable services to the community by exposing and destroying fraudulent companies, strengthening those that were weak and systematizing the entire insurance business of the state. The annual reports of this department, showing the condition, at the close of each year, of the several companies authorized to do business in the state, enable the insured to form an intelligent estimate of their character and are valuable contributions to our statistics. The laws of this state providing for the creation and regulation of insurance companies are defective and inadequate, and the attention of the legislature has, on several occasions, been directed to the importance of their thorough revision, but the subject has not received this consideration which its importance demands. Besides providing a system to promote the formation of honest and substantial companies, and prevent speculative and fraudulent organizations, the powers and duties of receivers of companies dissolved by the courts and equitable distribution of their assets should be prescribed by law. Until our insurance laws are improved and systematized, the beneficial operations of the department must be necessarily limited and circumscribed.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER entrusted with the geological survey of the state will be submitted to the legislature, and it is requested that you direct your thoughtful attention to the detailed statements of the progress of this important work, and the practical suggestions to insure the successful prosecution of the labors of the survey. Investigation will discover that rigid economy has been practiced in its every department, and no attention given to any work but that which was practical and legitimate, and to the immediate publication of its results in a useful and reliable shape. Our quota of land to be surveyed by congress to make a trigonometrical survey of

perhaps involving them in injury and loss. This armed body of men would also form a nucleus around which the law abiding citizens could rally when the disturbance assumed more dangerous proportions, and they would learn to depend upon themselves and the officers every emergency. It is proper that the expense should be borne by that portion of the community especially benefited, and the county should be held to a strict accountability they will not be likely to incur the great responsibility of asking this assistance from the courts, unless the gravity of the situation justifies the demand.

This special home commission, however, might also be applied in certain regions of the state on occasions when in certain regions of the state murder and arson are rife and a spirit of lawlessness prevails that does not take the shape of organized resistance to law. The attorney general should also be authorized, upon his own information, to indict any officer or citizen who failed to perform his duty, or party or parties who were engaged in riotous, turbulent and lawless conduct, and to summon witnesses to any other county in the commonwealth where a fair and impartial trial can be had. The large expenditures of public money almost annually incurred, and the oppression of the state, alike demand of the legislature a thorough investigation of the cause of these disturbances, and their cure, if possible, by the application of some certain and, if necessary, severe remedies.

It has not escaped the observation of those whose duty it is to investigate the cause of these riots that those who become embroiled therein are often grievously wronged, and goaded to madness by what they conceive to be the injustice of the law, which seems to protect their employer and leaves them exposed to his caprice or avarice, resort to violence for redress. As the state can tolerate within its limits no authority superior to its own, and therefore can show no consideration for a combination that assumes the right to prevent men making any contract to work for pleasure, so it cannot permit any oppressive or arbitrary power to be exercised upon them by the state, to control production and the channels of trade, so as to raise or depress the price of labor or the cost of living, or to deprive, therefore, of the rights which are vested by the law, and to exercise of the powers of these corporations, and lays his grievance before the executive, if, upon investigation, it is found to be a legal remedy exists therefor, he will instruct the attorney general to see that this remedy is speedily and surely enforced.

There is no problem of state policy, the solution of which would be fraught with more advantage to our people, than the one which means by which the difference between labor and capital can be adjusted. This solution can only be reached by slow approaches, for the sanctities of property, corporate or otherwise, cannot be rudely invaded, and any attempt to do so, more than should an undue support be given to bodies of laboring men who may be moved by an inconsiderate impulse, or under the direction of irresponsible leaders. The investigation of labor and capital has agitated the public mind for centuries, but it is none the less our duty for that reason to solve it if we can, and especially to make some accommodation that will speedily and practically adjust the state. Does it not seem practicable to appoint a court of arbitration, composed of three or more of the judges of our courts, as many operators, and a like number of representatives of the laboring men, to sit between employers and employees, so that at least a full, fair and impartial discussion could be had, and the public enlightened upon the merits of the controversy? The force of public opinion would constrain the parties whose claims were arbitrated to do justice to those who were wronged. May I not ask, in view of the immense interests involved, that the board consider the expediency of authorizing the appointment of such a court.

NATIONAL GUARD. The pecuniary assistance extended by the state in the last two years to the National Guard, and the rigid inspections made of every company in the service, has wrought a wonderful improvement in the condition of the force, and justifies the belief that the National Guard, composed of men of finer physique and more conversant with their duties and discipline, will be present at the centennial than the troops which Pennsylvania will muster there during the coming summer. Some companies are exceptionally good and have no superiors in the volunteer service of the country. At Boston, on the occasion of the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill, the portion of the Guard that participated in the parade elicited the warmest praise, not only from the vast concourse of people there assembled, but from the trained and experienced soldiers who were present, and it is proper, that that honorable mention should be made of the soldierly bearing of the troops sent to suppress the riots in the coal regions. No more unwelcome and distasteful or responsible duty could be assigned to soldiers in the line of their service. In cold and inclement weather, and transferred from their comfortable homes to a wild and bleak region, where the opportunities for even shelter were meagre and the passages of the people were tedious, they were called upon to perform their duty, they performed their daily round of duty for several weeks, with a strict observance of the rights of property, and a detestation of the feelings of the citizens whose turbulences they were called upon to suppress, and their exemplary conduct quieted the minds of the people, and restored to the state a reputation to be proud of. There is a disposition to underestimate the services of the military, and to deny all expenditure upon them as a needless outlay upon the treasury. The laws of this state, which strengthen in his attempt to uphold the law, would be ungrateful if he did not make public recognition of their valuable services. In my annual message of 1874, I recommended the removal of the arsenals from the coal regions, and the purchase of a new site and the erection of an arsenal thereon. The legislature accorded with the view of this recommendation, and the necessary authority was given. The new arsenal, which is situated in a desirable and available location, has been completed, and is a handsome structure, admirably adapted to the uses for which it is intended, and with a capacity equal to any military necessity for which the state may require it.

THE LOCAL officers likewise allege their inability to suppress this turbulent spirit, because citizens when summoned to render aid, are intimidated by fear to incur the penalty of the rioters, and unless the penalties that attach to their failure to assist the officers are inflicted, it is idle to expect them to perform this ungracious and it may be perilous duty. But we have in these communities where this mob rule most prevails, an unhealthy moral public sentiment, that in the event of a disturbance permits the officer to neglect his duty, refuses itself to enormous expenses when an offender is arrested, conspires with the fraud that packs the jury box with his sympathizers and friends, making a mockery of justice, and bringing the state and its authority into contempt. It is necessary that we should prevent a return of these disorders, and the local officers and citizens more vigilant and active, and dissuade them from looking and applying to the executive upon every occasion of an alarm or tumult, and that they should have given patient and anxious thought, and the following plan will, I believe, afford a practical test of the disposition and ability of a county to enforce the law and maintain order within its limits. I recommend the enactment of a law empowering the sheriff, whenever a riot or disorder is imminent, to apply to the court of his county, and upon the sworn certificate of said court, that said riot or disorder is threatening, then the said court to authorize the sheriff to organize a constabulary force sufficient to quell the disturbance, and to maintain them under his direction and control until there is no longer need for their services. The force so constituted should be paid and armed by the state. A tumult arising, the sheriff would then have an armed, paid and subordinated force to aid him in preserving order, and enforcing the process of the courts, without taking the citizens suddenly from their daily vocations and

reason and society. From the beneficence and charity of the state can there be evolved no plan that will take charge of these poor creatures and place them under the supervision of those who are skilled in the treatment of the disease and can perhaps arrest its progress before the victims have become hopeless, demoralized, and the hospital of Dr. Brown and Warren will doubtless be able for the next few years to accommodate all the insane of the western and northwestern portions of the state. Those at Harrisburg and Danville will supply the wants of the same class in the central and northeastern sections. There remain then the large and populous counties of the east, including Philadelphia, with over one-fourth of the whole population of the commonwealth, without hospital accommodations for the insane other than those provided by their almshouses and prisons. In the Philadelphia almshouse alone twelve hundred of the inmates are insane, and the crowded wards, made necessary by a limited accommodation, aggravate instead of relieving their misery. Contentment and cheerfulness are essential to promote the recovery of these patients. Is recovery more likely to be effected by a cheerful and intelligent treatment under such conditions? No hospitals that the state could construct would afford accommodations for all these helpless creatures. Most of them are incurable, and it is not a humane or skillful, could alleviate their misery. There are, however, many inmates of this almshouse, who, if they had been properly treated in the first stages of the disease, might have been rescued from the deplorable madness that shuts them out from all home. Constrained to associate with and constantly look upon insanity in every conceivable form, it was not strange that the little intelligence that still adhered to their minds went out in utter darkness, never to be rekindled. It is for this class who have recently been stricken with the disease and for whose recovery reasonable hope may be entertained, that a convenient hospital should be built, where the insane of Philadelphia and the adjoining counties could be treated upon scientific principles and wherein the accommodations would be ample. The construction of such a hospital has progressed as far as the appropriation made in its behalf would permit. This hospital was one among various institutions of the state that suffered by the failure of the appropriations to charities at your last session, and I sincerely trust that suitable provision will be made at this session for the vigorous prosecution of the work upon this hospital to its completion, as there is a pressing need for the accommodation it will supply.

The recommendations of the commission to institute into the constitution of this state, the principle of the state, embodied in their report made to your honorable bodies at its last session, are worthy your respectful attention. Several of the gentlemen whose names are appended to this report are scientists who have had varied and extended experience in the treatment of the insane, while the others are gentlemen of culture, who have given to the problem careful and continued investigation, and the opinions of this commission, based upon this important question should commend themselves to you, as the best possible views that could be obtained upon the subject within the state.

LAWYERS' FEES. It again becomes my painful duty to direct your attention to the lawless disposition that exists in portions of the state, where tumult and riot at times have been so formidable that the executive power of the state had to be invoked to quell the disturbances. The turbulent manifestations are becoming alarmingly frequent, and to some remedy must be devised. That the attitude of the executive towards the participants therein, may not be mistaken, the following plain and easily comprehended principles are grouped together, who will be the rule of his conduct on the occasion of every outbreak of a kindred nature. No disobedience of regularly constituted authority will be permitted, whether on the part of individuals, corporations or combinations of men. No act of wrong, however grievous, will or shall justify violence in seeking indemnity therefor. The rights of property must be respected, and no interference with its exercise will be tolerated. Every man must be allowed to sell his own labor at his own price, and his working must not be interrupted either by force or intimidation. For grievances fancied or real, redress must be sought in the regular course of law, and no one must attempt to override its process. If citizens will recognize these principles as binding upon their consciences and actions, there can be no necessity for executive interference to prevent the violence, and to restore the law. Once for all, that any violation of private rights or resistance of public officers when in the discharge of their duty, will be summarily dealt with by the local authorities, and the power of the county cannot maintain the supremacy of the law then the whole power of the commonwealth shall be employed, if necessary, to compel respect for authority. The interference of these disorders, which cannot be prevented by the use of military force, for upon the withdrawal of troops, the turbulent feeling still exists, and there is no security against similar and repeated outbreaks. One of the main sources of the evil has its origin in the timidity or unwillingness of the local authorities to enforce the law, and their duties should be defined anew, and penalties imposed that would compel their performance. These results are not achieved, unless the officers who know they have the whole power of the commonwealth if needs be, to support them, can have no reasonable doubt of their ability, to repress every form of violence, and in the face of local disturbances, they fail to discharge their duty, they should be made to feel the full responsibility of their neglect and cowardice. Mobs, too, are a recent evil. They know they cannot successfully contend with the combined power of the state, and if the energy of an officer evinces a determination to act promptly and resolutely for the preservation of order, rioters will quickly abandon their unlawful designs. Moreover, men who engage in these riotous acts, and the violation of the offices of those in authority depend in a large measure upon the good will of these turbulent electors, and it is difficult to find an officer who will fearlessly and fully perform what he is legally required to do, unless he has the confidence of the voters, and the support of the community, and then, unable to quell the disturbances, petitions for the aid of the military, and the state is subjected to enormous expenses to subdue an insurrection that the ordinary police force of the county could readily have suppressed at its inception.

The local officers likewise allege their inability to suppress this turbulent spirit, because citizens when summoned to render aid, are intimidated by fear to incur the penalty of the rioters, and unless the penalties that attach to their failure to assist the officers are inflicted, it is idle to expect them to perform this ungracious and it may be perilous duty. But we have in these communities where this mob rule most prevails, an unhealthy moral public sentiment, that in the event of a disturbance permits the officer to neglect his duty, refuses itself to enormous expenses when an offender is arrested, conspires with the fraud that packs the jury box with his sympathizers and friends, making a mockery of justice, and bringing the state and its authority into contempt. It is necessary that we should prevent a return of these disorders, and the local officers and citizens more vigilant and active, and dissuade them from looking and applying to the executive upon every occasion of an alarm or tumult, and that they should have given patient and anxious thought, and the following plan will, I believe, afford a practical test of the disposition and ability of a county to enforce the law and maintain order within its limits. I recommend the enactment of a law empowering the sheriff, whenever a riot or disorder is imminent, to apply to the court of his county, and upon the sworn certificate of said court, that said riot or disorder is threatening, then the said court to authorize the sheriff to organize a constabulary force sufficient to quell the disturbance, and to maintain them under his direction and control until there is no longer need for their services. The force so constituted should be paid and armed by the state. A tumult arising, the sheriff would then have an armed, paid and subordinated force to aid him in preserving order, and enforcing the process of the courts, without taking the citizens suddenly from their daily vocations and