

FOR CANAL COMMISSIONER, WILLIAM B. FOSTER, JR.

The Independent Treasury.

The House of Representatives have finally passed the Independent Treasury bill, by a decisive vote.

The final consummation will be a glorious triumph of the policy of Mr. Van Buren's administration.

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The Public Works.—The Canal Commissioners of Pennsylvania have sent a communication to the legislature giving a detailed account of the damage done on the various lines of the Public Works by the late freshets.

It is confidently stated that the several Divisions will be in repair and open for business as follows:

MEMBERS SICK.—We learn from the Reporter of the 8th inst. that James S. Campbell, one of the members of the Legislature, from Luzerne county, lies dangerously ill at Hale's Hotel, in Harrisburg.

George Chesnut, Esq., one of the members from Bedford, has been unwell, but is now recovering.

Richard Eldred, Esq., the member from Pike, has been absent from his seat for a few days, on account of indisposition; but he will be able to resume his duties in a few days.

INCREASE OF THE ARMY.—On the 25th ult. the following bill passed the House of Representatives, by a vote of 165 to 15, and was sent to the Senate for concurrence.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States, be and he is hereby authorized, by voluntary enlistment, to increase the number of privates in each of any of the companies of the existing regiments of dragoons, artillery, or infantry to any number not exceeding eighty, whenever, in his opinion, the exigencies of the public service may require the same.

Provided, That the said enlistments shall be for the term of three years, and no longer, unless sooner discharged by the President.

Col. PLOTT'S SPEECH.—We shall next week, lay before our readers the speech lately made by Col. Plott, of the subject of taxing anthracite coal.

GENERAL SAM HOUSTON has taken his seat in the United States Senate. A persevering, energetic and talented man, he is the fit representative of this young and vigorous state.

Senators.—Robert Jones, of Eastern, committed suicide on Sunday week, by hanging himself. No cause is assigned, except a troubled state of mind, arising from religious excitement.

The CONSTITUTIONAL EXERCISES.—The election in this state, took place on Monday week. The returns indicate the success of the democratic party.

The trial of Mr. RICHIE, for his fight with Mr. Pleasant, has resulted in his acquittal. The rendition of the verdict, by the jury, was received with loud applause by the spectators.

Special Message of The President to Congress.

To the Senate of the United States: In answer to the inquiry of the Senate, contained in their resolution of the 17th instant, whether, in my judgment, any circumstances connected with, or growing out of, the foreign relations of this country, require at this time an increase of our naval or military force; and if so, what those circumstances are; I have to express the opinion, that a wise precaution demands such increase.

In my annual message of the 2d of December last, I recommended to the favorable consideration of Congress an increase of our naval force, especially of our steam navy, and the raising of an adequate military force to guard and protect such of our citizens as might think proper to emigrate to Oregon.

The consideration of such additional provision was brought before appropriate committees of the two houses of Congress, in answer to calls made by them, in reports prepared, with my sanction, by the Secretary of War and the Secretary of the Navy, on the 29th of December and the 8th of January last; a mode of communication with Congress not unusual, and, under existing circumstances believed to be most eligible.

It was a wise maxim of the Father of his country, that "to be prepared for war, is one of the most efficient means of preserving peace;" and that, "avoiding occasions of expense by cultivating peace," we should "remember also, that timely disbursements to prepare for danger frequently prevent much greater disbursements to repel it."

The general obligation to perform this duty is greatly strengthened by facts known to the whole world. A controversy respecting the Oregon territory now exists between the United States and Great Britain; and while, as far as we know, the relations of the latter with all European nations are of the most pacific character, she is making unusual and extraordinary armaments and warlike preparations, naval and military, both at home and in her North American possessions.

It is not to be disguised that, however sincere may be the desire of peace, in the event of a rupture these armaments and preparations would be used against our country. Whatever may have been the original purpose of these preparations, the fact is undoubted that they are now proceeding, in part, at least, with a view to the contingent possibility of a war with the United States.

The general policy of making additional warlike preparations was distinctly announced, in the speech from the throne, as late as January last, and has since been reiterated by the ministers of the crown in both houses of Parliament. Under this aspect of our relations with Great Britain, I cannot doubt the propriety of increasing our means of defence, both by land and sea.

The state of our relations with Mexico is still in an unsettled condition. Since the meeting of Congress another revolution has taken place in that country, by which the government has passed into the hands of new rulers. This event has protracted, and may possibly defeat, the settlement of the differences between the United States and that country. The minister of the United States to Mexico, at the date of the last advice, had not been received by the existing authorities. Demonstrations of a character hostile to the United States continue to be made in Mexico, which has rendered it proper, in my judgment, to keep nearly two-thirds of our army on our southwestern frontier. In doing this, many of the regular military posts have been reduced to a small force, inadequate to their defence should an emergency arise.

In view of these "circumstances," it is my judgment that "an increase of our naval and military force is at this time required," to place the country in a state of defence. At the same time, it is my settled purpose to pursue such a course of policy as may be best calculated to preserve, both with Great Britain and Mexico, an honorable peace; which nothing will so effectually promote as unanimity in our councils, and a firm maintenance of all our just rights.

JAMES K. POLK. WASHINGTON, March 24, 1846.

Proceedings of the Penn'a. Legislature.

Harrisburg, April 16th, 1846. Both Houses have adjourned on the 22d inst. The important bills have progressed so far as to render it nearly certain that the session will not be prolonged beyond that period.

The most difficult question which has been presented to the consideration of the Legislature during its present session has been as to the best mode of reducing the State debt, and of ultimately relieving the people from the burthen of excessive taxation.

The House has adopted a resolution, which is a measure to be adopted to accomplish that desirable object. Where taxation is so high as in Pennsylvania, it is no easy matter to select proper objects upon which to impose additional taxes, and at the same time make the burthen fall equally upon every section of the Commonwealth.

The House has acted upon the subject of passing a bill entitled "An act to reduce the State debt." It provides for the appointment of Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, and the levying and assessment of taxes to be applied exclusively to the extinguishment of the debt.

The tax on Anthracite coal was warmly recommended by the Representatives of those sections of the state, immediately interested in sending that article to market. It was contended that it was an unjust and unequal tax, inasmuch as it applied only to a small portion of the State.

The market for English securities was depressed this (yesterday) afternoon. In the morning an appearance of weakness became evident, but it was more severe toward the close of business, a rumor then being current that a message from the Queen would be received by the House of Commons to night on the subject of America.

The London Times of the 7th ult. has the following: The market for English securities was depressed this (yesterday) afternoon. In the morning an appearance of weakness became evident, but it was more severe toward the close of business, a rumor then being current that a message from the Queen would be received by the House of Commons to night on the subject of America.

The affairs in India are in a critical condition for England. The Sikhs appear to be too powerful for the British, and it is confidently expected that the great battle which is supposed to have been fought on the 21st of January, between 70,000 Sikhs and 30,000 British and native troops, resulted in the defeat of the latter.

The United Service Gazette, of the 7th ult. state that the navy works in the dock yards had ceased, in consequence, probably, of the drafts upon the army for India.

There is nothing of interest in Parliament yet. The pilot boat Romer had not arrived. There appears to be no later intelligence of the insurrectionary movements in Poland.

The steamer Great Liverpool from Gibraltar for England was lost off Cape Finisterre on the 24th Feb. Three passengers were lost. According to letters received from Paris, the health of Rossini is so enfeebled that but little hope is left of his recovery.

INDIA.—The Government of the Sikhs was making efforts to renew the war. Several attempts had been made in different places to cross the Sutlej.

The Morning Chronicle of the 6th says, "The intelligence from the seat of war in the East is far from satisfactory. Without giving credit to every rumor afloat in India, we must still confess that each successive mail only increases our anxiety, bringing as it does fresh proofs of the extraordinary want of wisdom which has characterized all the proceedings of our Indian Government."

Some skirmishing took place near the Sikh bridge of boats on the 13th, 14th, and 15th of January, without any remarkable effect. On the 15th, the Sikhs came over the river at Phulford, plundered the neighborhood, and pitched a camp on the left bank, in the British territory.

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Some of the native troops are said to have thrown down their arms, and to have fled, leaving the Europeans to bear the brunt of the battle. Her Majesty's 53d and 31st were engaged, and are said to have suffered severely, but they demanded to be led anew to the fight, which Sir H. Smith did not deem it prudent to do, and therefore withdrew the troops.

The Agra Ukbar construes the retirement to a defeat; while the Delhi Gazette states that heavy firing was heard in the direction of Ludiana during the whole of the afternoon of that day. Nothing positive appears to have been known as to the results of that day when the mails were leaving Bombay.

In obedience to a call of "Many Temperance Men," the Delegates from a number of the Township Temperance Societies met in Convention at Troy, the 20th of April last, for the purpose of devising the means of stopping the fearful ravages of alcohol which prevails with such destructive violence in many parts of this and the adjoining counties.

The Convention was organized by electing ELI BAIRD, Esq. of Troy, as president, & JAMES E. HALE, of Smithfield, Secretary of the meeting.

After a prayer by Rev. J. Doty, of Smithfield, the object of the Convention was briefly, but eloquently set forth by the President after which, the Convention resolved itself into a Committee of the Whole, for the transaction of business; and during whose sitting the following Resolutions were unanimously adopted, as the sense of the Convention:—

Resolved, That the prevalence of intemperance, pauperism and crime, calls for the interposition of the friends of humanity and good order in this vicinity, to stop the manufacture, sale and use of all intoxicating liquors.

Resolved, That the excess that has attended the efforts that have hitherto been made in behalf of total abstinence from all that intoxicates, is abundant reason for us to take courage and go forward in behalf of this noble cause.

Resolved, That each local Temperance Society be recommended to appoint a committee of vigilance (within its bounds) to enquire into the essential qualifications and character of the applicant for license to retail ardent spirits—to apprise the authorities having the prerogative of granting said license, of all applicants who do not meet the requisitions of the law; and to throw every honorable impediment in the way of such men's obtaining license for that purpose.

Resolved, That each local temperance society within the limits of Tioga, Susquehanna and Bradford County, Penn'a. be requested to furnish detailed reports of its condition and prospects, the number of its members—male and female in separate columns, together with any other information pertaining to its interests, to an adjourned meeting of this convention.

Resolved, That the present state of the temperance enterprise requires the immediate organization of a Temperance Convention of delegates from all the local temperance societies within the limits of the counties of Bradford, Tioga and Susquehanna, to assemble at some given point once every six months for the furtherance of our glorious cause.

Resolved, That the temperance societies within the aforesaid counties be requested to appoint delegates to such a convention, to assemble at Towanda, on Thursday the 7th day of May next, at 10 o'clock A. M. at such a room as shall be prepared by a committee appointed for that purpose.

Resolved, That Messrs. Crum, Miller & Hale, constitute a committee to draft a Constitution and By-Laws for the government of such conventions to be submitted at its first sitting at Towanda, to be acted upon by Messrs. E. W. Brown, Esq. of Towanda, Z. Frisbie of Orville, and Jos. E. Hale of Smithfield, constitute a committee to submit proper subjects for the consideration and action of the convention at the same time.

Resolved, That the Secretary be requested to present a copy of the proceedings of this convention to the Editors of the several newspapers of the county for publication.

After short but pertinent addresses from Rev. Messrs. Crum & Angles, and Dr. Joslin of New York, the Convention adjourned.

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PROSPECTUS OF

"The Pennsylvania Backwoodsman"

Is the title of a newspaper which will hereafter be published in this Borough, by C. L. Wain and H. Hoorn, the Editors. It will be of a different character, in many respects, from most other journals of the day; and for this reason, it becomes necessary to explain our design to the public at greater length than is usual.

This paper will be the organ of no political party, or religious sect; it will stand—if it stand at all—on an independent basis. A large proportion of our newspapers are the creatures of partisan excitement or sectarian zeal.

In politics and morals, science and literature, we shall suggest such views, and enforce such principles, as to us seem best; while we shall, at the same time, freely open our columns to others, (as well to those who differ from us, as to those who agree with us in sentiment.)

With regard to the more special department of a Newspaper, we shall keep a careful eye on the progress of events, and the development of principles; and so far as is practicable, give our readers intelligence, from time to time, of whatever matters of importance transpire in the political, scientific and literary world.

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CLAREMONT HOUSE

GEORGE HENNING

RESPECTFULLY informs his friends that he has leased the above House, situated on the west side of the public square, lately occupied by A. M. Co. and having made entirely new arrangements, is now prepared for the reception of visitors.

The rooms of the CLAREMONT HOUSE, are spacious and airy, and furnished in the best style. The Table will be furnished with every substantial article of the country.

First rate Stabling attached, with ready and careful Osters always in attendance.

NOTICE is hereby given, that the Commissioners of the county of Bradford will attend at the Bridge over Wyalusing creek, near the mouth thereof, in the township of Wyalusing, on Thursday the 22d day of April next, at 9 o'clock A. M., for the purpose of receiving proposals and letting to the lowest responsible bidder, the necessary work and repairing said bridge.

By order of the Commissioners, J. M. WATTLES, Clerk. Commissioners Office, Towanda, March 26, 1846.