Bradford Reporter.

Free Soil, Free Speech, Free Men!
Freedom for Free Territory.

E. O. GOODRICH, EDITOR.

Towanda, Wednesday, Jan'y 9, 1850.

Terms of the Reporter.

$2 50 per annum: if paid within the year 50 cents will be deducted, for cash paid actually in advance, $1 00 will be deducted.

ADVERTISEMENTS, per square of ten lines, 50 cents for the first, and 25 cents for each subsequent insertion.

☞ COMMITTEES OF VIGILANCE.—The Democratic Standing Committee of Bradford county, have appointed the persons hereafter named, Committees of Vigilance, and have directed that they call meetings on Friday the 18th day of January 1850, (being the day upon which the several Township and Boro' elections are to be held,) between the hours of 1 and 7, P. M., for the election of two Delegates to represent each election district in the County Convention to be held at the Court House in Towanda on Tuesday evening Feb. 5, 1850 for the purpose of electing delegates to the next State Convention.

We wish to urge upon the Committees the importance and necessity of a full and faithful discharge of their duties. The primary meetings should be called upon the day named, at the place most convenient for the Democrats of each district, and due exertions should be used to give every democrat notice of the time and place of holding the delegate meetings in order that all may have an opportunity of attending the same.

ULYSSES MERCUR,	THOMAS SMEAD,
STEPHEN PIERCE,	JOHN BALDWIN,
B. LAPORTE,	GEO. W. ELLIOTT,
J. E. CANFIELD,	NELSON REYNOLDS,

ARUNAH WATTLES.

Towanda, Dec. 31, 1849.

Albany—Joseph Menardi, Peter Sterigere;
Armenia—L. C. Shepard, Erastus Kiff;
Asylum—T. J. Ingham, John M. Horton;
Athens Boro—Wm. Hancock, F. S. Hoyt;
Athens Tp—Solomon Bosworth, W. H. Overton;
Burlington—Hiram Gee, Morgan Dewitt;
Canton—W. H Vandyke, Asa Pratt Jr;
Columbia—Charles Ballard, Alfred Furman;
Durell—Martin T. Vangorder, Miner Biles:
Franklin—N. L. Dodge, Stewart Smiley;
Granville—Stephen Troman, Harrison Ross;
Herrick—W. C. Knapp, E. N. Keeler;
Le Roy—Jedediah Hunt, Moses Walter;
Litchfield—Samuel Davidson, Benj. Park;
Monroe—Patrick Dunfee, Guy C. Irvine;
Orwell—E. N. Farrer, James B. Smith:
Pike—A. S. Baldwin, G. G. Graves:
Rome—Chas. Forbes, E. G. Nichols;
Ridgbery—Mark A. Burt, C. F. Wilson;
Sheshequin—Wm. Tuttle, Daniel Brink, Jr,
Smithfield—C. M. Gerould, Hezekiah Huntingdon,
Springfield—Allen Stacey, H. W. Root;
South Creek—Benj. Quick, Jas. L. Phillips;
Springhill—Harry Ackla, Cyrus Shumway;
Standing Stone—Alex. Ennis, Wm. R. Storrs;
Towanda Boro—C. F. Harder, Jerre Culp;
" Tp—H. C. Fox, Nelson Gilbert;
Troy Boro—E. C. Oliver, Elijah Runyon;
" Tp—L. B. Morse, Alonzo Pratt;
Ulster—J. L. Gorsline, M. S. Warner;
Warren—Miranda Chafice, James Bowen;
Wells—Lorenzo Peters, J. H. Cole;
Windham—Abram Dunham, Wm. Sibley;
Wyalusing—Harrison Black, J. H. Stalford;
Wysox—J. M. Wattles, Morgan D. Strickland;

☞ The Holidays and the Messages are our excuse for the lack of interest in the Reporter for a week or two past. As both are now "endured," we shall endeavor to make ample amends.

Organization of the Legislature.

The General Assembly of Pennsylvania assembled at Harrisburg, on Tuesday last, January 1st, at 12 o'clock, M. Thirty-three Senators—the full number—were in attendance, and ninty-nine members of the House.

The Senate was organised by the election, on the *eighth* ballot, of VALENTINE BEST, of Columbia county, as Speaker. The vote stood: For J. PORTER BRAWLEY, 15; VALENTINE BEST, 17; F. B. STREETER, 1.

Mr. BRAWLEY was the Democratic caucus candidate for Speaker; and through all the ballots received the vote of every Democratic Senator, except his own and Mr. Best's. In the first four ballots, the Whigs in a body voted for BENJAMIN MATTHIAS. After that they began to scatter their votes, and upon the eighth ballot cast their entire vote for Mr. BEST, who *voting for himself* against the regular nominee of the party whose name he professes to bear, was thus elected Speaker.

The House of Representatives was organised by election of JOHN S. M'CALMONT, of Venango, as Speaker, upon the first ballot, viz:

John S. M'Calmont, Dem.,	58
Augustus R. Cornyn, Whig,	36
John Allison, Whig,	1
John N. Conyngham, Dem.,	1

The governor's Message was transmitted to the Legislature on Wednesday, at noon. After hearing read, both branches adjourned.

The remaining officers were elected on Thursday, viz:

Senate.—L. Pearson, (Whig) Chief Clerk; J. Patrick, (Dem.) Assistant Clerk; M. M'Cauley, (Whig) and Kinsel, (Dem.) Sergeants-at-Arms: John L. Morris and G. W. Palmer, both Democrats Doorkeepers; Young, (Whig) and Peterson, (Dem.) Messengers.

[It will be observed, from this result, that Mr. Speaker BEST has made impartial use of his casting vote.]

House.—William Jack, Clerk; Wm. L. Picking, Assistant Clerk; Messrs. Brewster, Gray and Allison, Transcribing Clerks; John Piatt, Sergeant-at-Arms; Isaac Beck, Doorkeeper; Henry Hull, Messenger—all Democrats.

Mr. MEEK introduced into the House, on Tuesday, a preamble and resolution expressive of sympathy for the wrongs of Hungary, and instructing our Senators in Congress to vote for a suspension of Diplomatic intercourse with the Court of Vienna, until the independence of Hungary shall be acknowledged. The resolutions lie over.

Resolutions have been adopted, in the Senate for appointing a Committee of *five*; and in the House, for appointing a Committee of *thirteen*, to apportion the State into Congressional and Senatorial Districts. The Committees have not yet been announced.

We find no other proceedings worthy of note in the legislative reports thus far.

☞ The name of *Camptown* post office in this County has been changed to *Merryall*—the former name.

☞ that excellent Democratic paper, the *Reading Gazette* comes to us enlarged to the mammoth size. It is one of the very best of our exchanges.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

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

FELLOW CITIZENS: The Legislative branch of the Government, meets under circumstances calculated to produce deep emotions of gratitude.—The events of the past year cannot fail to afford assurances of the continued mercy of the Almighty Father of the Universe, and of the blessings He has dispensed to the people of this Commonwealth. While in other parts of our country, and in distant lands, pestilence has made fearful ravages; leaving in its track the wretchedness of destitution and the tears of crushed affections; a healthful climate, in the disposal of a righteous Providence, has preserved the citizens of the State comparatively free from the miseries of the destroyer. During a period of war, famine and civil commotion in the old world, bringing in their train, desolation and want; blighting the hopes, paralizing the industry, and running the prosperity of the people; our beloved Commonwealth, in union with others under the National Constitution, has enjoyed the delights of peace, and her citizens, in the exercise of industrial pursuits, have found contentment and competence. To the Author and Guardian of our being, whose benificence caused all things to work together for our good, our reverence and gratitude are especially due.

The recent efforts for the establishment of liberal political institutions in Europe, have excited in the people of this country, the warmest sympathies. The conflict between the oppressor and the oppressed, whatever may be the incidents or results, having for its object a government capable of protecting and extending political and social liberty, must be regarded by the people of the United States with the deepest solicitude. In the enjoyment of institutions which recognize the inherent rights of man, and are founded on the acknowledged principle that all political power is a trust to be exercised for the benefit of the citizen, they cannot witness the struggle between despotism and freedom, without ardent hopes and sincere prayers for the triumph of liberal and enlarged justice. It is impossible to behold a people long the subjects of tyranny and oppression—enlightened by our example, and solicitous for equal enjoyment—rising up beneath the burthens which centuries have heaped upon them—casting aside the reverence for power, and the pride of regal splendor; looking forward to the establishment of human rights; to the elevation of the moral and social condition of society; and placing their lives and fortunes on the hazard of a struggle for these objects; without, on our part, an earnest, an anxious desire that they may succeed. That struggle has been unsuccessful. The arbitrary Governments, in whose midst the noble band of patriots erected their standard, have succeeded with their immense force in maintaining tyrannical authority, and the brave men who fought for freedom, have either perished under the barbarious exactions of despotic will, or they wander in foreign lands, exiles from homes that no longer afford security. It is not the policy of our National Government to mingle in the controversies of foreign nations, nor is it desirable that it should, by act of hostility or friendship, break up the commercial relations which exist for mutual advantage; but it is, nevertheless, no violation of international law to enter our solemn protest and warning, against acts of cruelty and barbarism upon heroic men and defenceless women.—It is no wrong for our Government to unite with others in the expression of indignation against the violation of national faith and national law, involved in the demand, for sanguinary purposes, of the brave defenders of human rights.

The consideration of the Legislature is respectfully invited to the financial condition of the Commonwealth.

The present funded debt is as follows:

6 per cent loans,	$2,941,022 54	
5 per cent do.	37,336,716 90	
4½ per cent do.	200,000 00	
		$39,577,739 44

Unfunded debt to wit:

Relief notes in circulation (without interest)	$653,164 00	
Interest certificates outstanding,	179,422 96	
Interest unclaimed,	4,448 58	
" on certificates to be added when the same shall be funded or paid,	11,294 34	
Domestic creditors (on settlement,)	85,104 88	
		$933,434 51
Amount of canal, rail road, and motive power debts, contracted prior to Dec 1, 1848, and unpaid by the appropriations of the last session,		63,238 53
Total indebtedness of the Commonwealth, Dec. 1849,		$40,574,413 45
The funded debt on the first Dec. '48 was.	$39,393,350 24	
Unfunded debt,	1,081,886 69	
Amount of canal, railroad and motive power debt, contracted prior to Dec. 1, 1848,	367,642 38	
		$40,842,379 31
Amount of public debt paid during the year 1849, exclusive of the sum paid Commissioners of the sinking fund,		$267,965 86
Amount paid during the year 1849 to the Commissioners of the sinking fund,		227,313 33
Amount appropriated during the year 1849 toward payment of public debt,		$495,479 39

In exhibiting the operations of the Treasury for the last fiscal year, the sum of $130,000, borrowed on special loan for the avoidance of the Schuylkill Inclined Plane, and included in the aggregate of the public debt in December, 1849, should be added to the above stated sum of $497,479 39:

The amount of receipts at the Treasury during the year ending Dec. 1, 1849, is	$4,433,688 65
The amount of expenditures during the same period, is	4,684,771 80
Balance in the Treasury on Dec. 1, 1848,	577,290 39
Balance in the Treasury on Dec. 1, 1849,	926,207 24
Amount paid to commissioners of sinking fund to Jan 1, 1850, $227,513 53, with which was purchased of the funded debt, and transferred to the Commonwealth,	253,500 00
Difference between the indebtedness of the State on the 1st Dec. 1848, and Dec. 1, 1849,	267,965 86
Total amount of public debt paid during the year,	$521,465 86

Estimates of receipts at the Treasury during the year 1850:

From Lands,	$20,000 00
Auction Commissions,	23,000 00
" Duties,	50,000 00
Tax on Bank Dividends,	130,000 00
" " Corporation Stocks,	160,000 00
" " Real & Personal Estate,	1,320 000 00
" " Tavern Licenses,	80,000 00
" " Retailers' Licenses,	160,000 00
" " Pedlar's Licenses,	3,000 00
" " Broker's Licenses,	12,000 00
" " Theatre, Circus and Menagaries' Licenses,	3,000 00
" " Billiard Rooms, Bowling Saloons and ten-pin alley Licenses,	5,000 000
" " Distillery and Brewery Licenses,	150,000
" " Eating Houses, Beer houses and Restaurant Licenses,	15,000 00
" " Patent Medicine Lic'ns,	3,000 00
" " Pamphlet Laws,	500 00
Mulitia Fines,	2,000 00
Tax on Wills, Writs, Deeds, &c.	40,000 00
" " Certain Offices,	20,000 00
" " Collateral Inheritance,	240,000 00
Canal and Railroad Tolls,	1,825,000 00
Canal Fines and Sale of old Materials,	5,000 00
Enrollment of Laws,	11,000 00
Premiums on Charters,	40,000 00
Tax on Loans,	125,000 00
Inclined Plane Loan,	270,000 00
Dividedns on Turnpike and Bridge Stocks,	2,000 00
Nicholson Lands,	300 00
Accrued Interest,	5,000 00
Refunded Cash,	5,000 00
Escheats,	2,000 00
Fees of public Offices,	2,000 00
Miscellaneous,	2,000 00
Interest on Stock purchased,	15,000 00
	$4,566,306 00

Estimated payments during the year 1850:

To Public Improvements,	$640,000 00	
Expenses of Government,	235,000 00	
Militia Expenses,	4,000 00	
Pensions and Gratuities,	20,000 00	
Charitable Instit'ns,	80,0000 00	
Common Schools,	200,000 00	
Interest on Loans,	2,005,000 00	
Guarantees on Int.	32,5000 00	
Domestic Creditors,	10,000 00	
Damages on Public Works,	20,000 00	
Special Com'rs.	2,000 00	
State Library,	2,000 00	
Public Buildings & Grounds,	2,000 00	
Penitentiaries,	15,000 00	
House of Refuge,	5,000 00	
Nicholson Lands,	300 00	
Escheats,	2,000 00	
Abatement of State Tax,	40,000 00	
Counsel Fees and Commissions,	2,000 00	
Miscellaneous,	2,000 00	
Inclined Plane (at Schuylkill)	270,000 00	
North Branch Canal;	150,000 00	
Com'ns on Sinking Fund,	293,000 00	
		$4,134,800 00
		531,500 00

The foregoing estimated balance in the Treasury at the end of the fiscal year 1850, would appear to justify the appropriation of $40,000 toward the completion of Western Reservoir at Johnstown, as hereinafter recommended. It would also authorize the appropriation of a sum not less than $300,000, in addition to the amount already appropriated, to be expended in the completion of the North Branch canal.

The legislature at its last session authorized the re-issue of the relief notes then in circulation, and suspended their cancellation for three years.

The amount of the whole issue now outstanding is	$653,164 00
The amount paid into the Treasury and supplied by a new issue is	443,537 00
Balance,	$209,627 00

The above balance has been destroyed, or has failed to reach the Treasury during the year.—These notes, the redemption of which being amply secured, and affording a safe and convenient local currency, have the confidence and favor of the citizens. It is therefore recommended that authority be given to the proper officers, to keep them in good condition, by a new issue, in lieu of such as may become mutilated and defaced.

In addition to the suggestions made to the last Legislature on the subject of the monied affairs of the State, it is deemed proper to call your attention to the fact, that a portion of the funded debt is over due;—a part bearing an interest of six per cent.—and a part falling due the year 1850, as follows:

The amount of five per cent. funded debt over due, except bank charter loans, is	$354,519 10
The amount of six per cent. funded debt over due, is	1,752,335 06
The amount of five per cent. funded debt falling due on or before Dec. 1, 1850, is	999,217 12
The amount of unfunded debt, now due, is	85,194 88
Amount demandable at the Treasury during the year,	$3,191,170 19

Provision should be made at an early day for arrangements with creditors holding these claims. To permit them to remain in their present condition, would only evince an indisposition to pay our just debts; but would also operate injuriously to the holders of the stock, by compelling sales at a price below their par value. The annual demands upon the Treasury, with the present means of the State, will not permit the payment of these loans; and the only practicable mode which suggests itself seems to be the negotiation of new loans, stipulating an extension of the time of payment. It is believed that such loans could be negotiated at a rate of interest not exceedig five per cent. Should authority be given in the arrangements suggested, to stipulate that the said stock should be exempt from taxation, the inducements to investments therein, would create such competition as would be highly advantageous to the Treasury. Justice and honesty require that these debts be promptly paid, or arranged to the satisfaction of the parties interested, and any provision which the Legislature may deem proper on the subject, will meet the cordial approbation of the Executive.

The establishment of the sinking fund, by the appreciation of State stocks, and the consequent increase of confidence in the ability of the State to meet her engagements, with the replacement by a new issue of the old and defaced relief notes, has had the salutary effect of enabling the Treasury Department with slight expense in the exchange or transmission of means, to meet the payment of interest on the public debt in par money, as also to pay other creditors of the State in good funds. The payment of the public liabilities in the manner aforesaid, and the adoption of a system to extinguish eventually the public debt, must bring to their par value, the stocks of the Commonwealth. It is estimated that $13,049,000 of the public stocks are held in this country, and the addition in their value by these simple operations demanded alike sound policy and honesty, will increase their marketable worth in the hands of the citizens $1,950,000: To the efficiency of the State Treasurer, the Auditor General, and other officers charged with the collection and disbursement of the public moneys during the past year, is justly attributable in a high degree these favorable results.

The beneficial results of the sinking fund cannot be doubted. The payments from various sources to the Commissioners, during the past year have been as follows:

From collateral inheritance tax,	$180,212 41
" Premiums on charters,	35,969 40
" Eating and oyster houses and restaurants,	5,867 20
" Billiard and bowling saloons and ten-pin alleys,	2,987 50
" Theatre, circus and menagorie licences,	2,210 00
" Distillery & brewery licenses,	384 00
Amount received for the year ending December, 1, 1849,	$227,629 01

The estimated payments for the same purpose, for the year ending Dec., 1850, are as follows:

From collateral inheritance tax,	$200,000 00
" Interest on stocks purchased,	15,000 00
" Premiums on charters,	40,000 00
" Theatre, circus and menagerie licenses,	2,000 00
" Distillery & brewery licenses,	1,500 00
" Billiard and bowling saloons & ten-pin alleys,	5,000 00
" Eating and oyster houses and restaurants,	15,000 00
Balance in Treasury after deducting appropriations heretofore recommended,	53,500 00
	$371,000 00

The opinion is confidently expressed, that the estimated receipts above stated, will be found to approximate the truth, should an adherence to the policy pursued by the last Legislature, in relation to premiums on charters, and other financial measures be authorized & continued. Should such be the case, the above sum, at the present rates, would extinguish upwards of four hundred thousand dollars of the funded debt, during the present fiscal year. The sources from which the sinking fund is supplied, must necessarily increase. The tax on collateral inheritance, and on theatre, circus, and menagerie licenses, prior to the act creating a sinking fund, yielded to the Treasury about the sum of $45,000 annually. By the provisions of that act, these have been increased to the sums above stated, and the other sources of revenue have been created by recommendations heretofore made to the Legislature.

With these means for the supply of the sinking fund, together with such additions as the probable resources of the Treasury, from time to time may justify, it is susceptible of easy calculation to determine, how nearly approaches the period when the State taxes may be repealed, and the State free from debt, and the burthens of the people removed. So manifestly important are these results upon the industrial pursuits of the citizens, and the interests and honor of the State, it is suggested for consideration whether good policy would not require the transfer of all balances in the Treasury, at the end of each year, to the Commissioners of the said Fund.

Every consideration that can impose itself on a government demands the payment of the public debt. The local advantages of our commonwealth—the salubrity of our climate—the vastness of our mineral deposites—the fertility of our soil, and the prosperity and happiness of the people—alike require the repeal of a system of laws, which compel emigration—prevent the settlement of uncultivated lands—drive capital from all borders, and paralyze the industry of every class of our citizens! Should these balances remain in the treasury unappropriated to the said Fund, the history of the past will remind us that prodigal expenditures will be made to objects of diminished importance.

The subject of the revision and equalization of the laws for raising revenue, is again earnestly pressed upon the attention of the legislature. Great injustice arises under existing enactments, from the want of adequate means to prevent or to punish individuals making false returns of property subject to taxation. The conscientious citizen, scrupulously exact in the performance of his obligations to society, may well complain of laws which suffer the dishonest to elude with impunity the payment of an equitable share of the public burthens. The tax on bonds, mortgages, and moneys at interest, is assessed so unequally, that great reason for complaint exists throughout the State. To remedy to some extent this evil, it would be well to require the Prothonotaries of the several counties, to collect from the Plaintiffs on Judgments the tax thereon assessed, and if necessary, to compel payment by legal process, allowing to the officer entrusted with this duty, a reasonable compensation, to be paid, where the payment of the tax is made voluntarily, out of the fund; and by the Plaintiff, when the payment has been compelled by legal process. A similar provision with regard to mortgages, giving the Recorders the authority before stated in relation to judgments, would embrace these two items of taxation, and would doubtless compel the payment of a large amount of revenue, now fraudulently withheld.

The laws subjecting to a tax the commissions issued to officers of this Commonwealth, should be extended to embrace commissions to non residents who hold commissions under the government, to enjoy the emoluments free from taxation, cannot readily be perceived.

No effectual mode has been devised to compel the agents of Foreign Insurance companies to make a semi annual exhibit of the amount of funds employed by their respective companies within this Commonwealth. A law having an effect of this character, is highly necessary, and would be productive of decided advantage. In the enactment of such a law, it would be well to make the certificate issued to agents of said companies, subject to taxation.

Incorporated companies or various kinds, deriving their charters elsewhere, have agencies in the State, and transact business therein, and yet no accurate account is taken of the money employed, or of the value or profits of their investments. Where the proper departments required to make a list of these incorporations, and authority given to ascertain the amount of the investments, the rate of dividends declared, or the profits made, and a tax levied on such dividends, or profits, as well as on the capital stock employed, a large revenue to the Commonwealth would be the result.

While money borrowed by citizens, boroughs, and incorporated districts, is subject, by existing laws, to taxation, it is not perceived why money borrowed by incorporated companies, should be exempt from similar assessment. To make an equitable distribution of the public burthens, should be the special object of the Legislature, and care should be taken that no exemption should be allowed to any class of citizens over another where the property employed is the same. Attention to the foregoing objects of taxation, will not only increase the revenue, but is demanded alike by justice and sound policy.

Next in importance to the public debt, and the equalization of the taxes, is the management of the public improvements. The vast expenditures annually made for the repair and supervision of these works, and the amount of revenue derived therefrom; so materially affecting the condition of the Treasury; render them objects of peculiar interest. It is believed that an increased amount of nett revenue should be derived from these works. The enormous appropriations of the last year, for their maintenance in repairs, and towards the payment of debts theretofore contracted, should have placed them in a sound condition, and would authorize the conclusion that a small expenditure during the present season would be sufficient. In the absence of the annual report of Canal Commissioners, no specified amount for these objects can be given by the Executive.

The system for the management of these improvements, invites unnecessary expenditures, and removes responsibility from the proper department. Were the number of Canal Commissioners increased to five;—the State divided into districts for the election and supervision of each Commissioner,—the direct and immediate charge and control of the district imposed upon one of these officers; requiring of him the performance of the duties now executed by superintendents and supervisors, and stipulating for the annual alternation of the said Commissioners; much practical information of interest to the State would be acquired; a direct responsibility for the well ordered condition of the Public Works, and the economy of expenses would be secured; and the large discretionary powers now vested in superintendents and supervisors, in the adoption of plans and payment of money for repairs, would be placed in officers directly accountable to the people. In relation to this subject, legislation should be clear and specific, as discretionary power over the money of the citizen must be depreciated by right thinking men.

The method adopted in the management of the Public Works is evidently defective. Repairs on the canals and railroads are made in a way to prevent all competition. Were the several services performed by contract, and awarded to the lowest bidder, giving the required security, can there exist a doubt of favorable results to the public interests.

The State does not derive an adequate share of the profits arising from the use of the Columbia Railroad. The construction of the road; its maintenance and supervision, and the supply of the Motive Power, involving great expense and risk, demand from the profits of the road a larger return than finds its way to the Treasury. An evil so detrimental to the public interests calls for a speedy remedy.

It is suggested that the Canal Commissioners should be required to invite proposals for furnishing the Motive Power on the said road, specifying in detail the services to be performed; and the nature of the security to be given. The object being to procure competition in the supply of the Motive Power, encouragement should be given to individuals, willing to undertake the duty of running one or more locomotives on the road, whether belonging to the State, or the individual bidder. Should the locomotives belonging to the State, be furnished to the bidders, the contract should stipulate the terms on which they should be used.

The transportation of passengers should be done by contract with the lowest bidder. In the agreement, it would be necessary that the Canal Commissioners should fix the kind of cars, and such other details as would secure the accommodation of the passengers, and faithfully guard the public interest.

In the transmission of burden cars, an arrangement might well be made with their owners, by which the State would receive instead of the present tolls, a portion of the freight charges. The consequences would be advantageous to both parties.

These changes in the present system, would, it is believed, largely diminish the expenses of the Motive Power; would authorize a reduction in the rate of tolls; produce an increase of business upon the road; furnish with profitable labor many citizens now refused employment, by reason of the monopoly held by the State over the Motive Power on the road; prevent the expenditure necessary for the purchase of new locomotive; save to the State the immense sacrifices in the old engines; accommodate the travelling public by a lower rate of fare; and would advance the public interests by lessening the annual outlays, and increasing the income from the road more than $200,000.

Discriminations in the tolls on the Public Works, against portions of our citizens, by means of a system of drawbacks and maximum rates of tolls, are unjust and improper. Their labor and property, in common with others, was incumbered in the construction of the improvements; their industry and wealth have for years assisted, and continued to assist, to sustain them; and it is difficult to perceive upon what principle of public policy, a Tariff of tolls is maintained, discriminating against their interests. The demands of trade cannot excuse a palpable wrong of this character, while a reduction of tolls on the whole line of improvements, would produce an increase of business, and secure the desired foreign trade.

The practice of contracting debts for repairs, and for the purchase of materials beyond appropriations for these purposes, should be prohibited by severe penalties. Nothing can be more destructive of all accountability, or offer stronger inducements to extravagance, than such a power over the public money. An officer guilty of an act of the kind, violates the trust committed to him, and should be forthwith dismissed from the public service. Debts already contracted in this way, should be paid; for the labor in behalf of the State has been performed, and it would inflict an injury on those who could not have a knowledge the wrong, to withhold from them the value of their services; but immediate measures should be adopted, to prevent occurrences of a like nature in future. A practice of this kind, authorized in some measure by subsequent appropriations of the Legislature, for the payment of the debts thus contracted, cannot fail to mislead the people, and embarrass the public officers in their estimates and recommendations. The large appropriations for the payment of old debts, made at the last session of the Legislature, show the extent to which the practice has been carried, and should admonish us to guard against a recurrence of the evil. In providing by legal enactment against the mischief here stated, authority might be given to the Canal Commissioners, should it be deemed necessary, to meet deficiences in the funds provided for any line of improvements; to draw from a specified appropriation for that purpose, requiring from them a detailed and special report on the subject, to the auditing department, as well as to the succeeding Legislature.

The avoidance of the Schuylkill Inclined Plane, and the improvements connecting with the Columbia and Philadelphia Railroad, which are in rapid progress of construction, must materially increase the business on that public thoroughfare, and will render the relaying of a portion of the said road, a work of absolute necessity. In the performance of this work, should the Legislature authorize it, good policy would seem to require, so far as the means of the Treasury will permit, that one track at least, should be laid with a heavy rail; and it is worthy of consideration whether the public interests would be greatly subserved, by a location of the new track, so as to avoid the many short curvatures on the eastern end of said road. They increase the danger to passengers and freight; forbid a despatch safely performed on a straight line; and require greater force than would be necessary on a direct track with higher grades. In the event of the Legislature authorizing the relaying of the eastern section of the said road, and the change of location before mentioned, a due regard to the public interests and the limited resources of the Treasury would seem to demand that the improvement should commence at an early day, and progress from year to year, as the revenues would warrant, until it should be completed.

The Portage Railroad, from the completion of our line of improvements to the present time, has been a serious obstacle to the business of the community, and the occasion of trade seeking other channels to the Atlantic markets. Any mode therefore, of lessening this evil, must meet the hearty concurrence of the citizens. The sum of five hundred thousand dollars judiciously expended, will avoid all the short levels, and four of the five Inclined Planes, on the western slope of the Allegheny. The annual expense of maintaining these Planes is not less than ten thousand dollars for each Plane, and if to that amount be added the cost the short levels, and the perishable nature of the materials connected with these works, with the delays and risks incident thereto, the annual amount for their maintenance, cannot be less than one hundred thousand dollars. Were these Planes avoided, and those on the eastern slope of the mountain repaired, the commerce on the Public Works would be facilitated and increased, and the Pennsylvania Central Railroad Company, would find it their interest for many years to use it in connection with their great improvement.

During the last session, the scarcity of water on the upper portion of the Western Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, materially injured the character of the Public Works, and diminishes the revenue from that source not less than $50,000. To guard against a recurrence of this evil, it is recommended that the Western Reservoir, in the construction of which, the sum of sixty thousand dollars has been expended, be completed. The estimated amount required for its completion is $40,000, and would, in the opinion of the Executive, be a judicious appropriation.

It has been suggested that an alteration in the canal locks, by making them conform to the shape of the bottom of the boats, would not only strengthen them, but would be a saving of water. This might be effected, if deemed of sufficient importance, by the insertion of wooden bottoms, in such manner as to produce the results indicated.

By the reports of the Auditor General and State Treasurer, made under the directions of the act of the 10th of April, 1849, it appeared that after the payment of the interest on the public debt, and the liquidation and payment of other claims for which appropriations had been made by the Legislature, and retaining a reasonable balance in the Treasury, the sum of $150,000 might, with safety, be applied to the completion of the North Branch Canal. Accordingly gave immediate notice of the fact to the Canal Commissioners, and portions of the work it is understood, have been placed under contract. Considered as a part of the Public Improvement, and re-commenced as a revenue measure, that work should be finished at the earliest day the condition of the Treasury will permit. It should not be forgotten, that the present unfinished condition of the work, by interrupting the free navigation of the river: by the destruction of roads and injury to private property, without affording any convenience to the community, inflicts a wrong which demands immediate reparation. In addition to the sum already appropriated, it is confidently believed that $300,000 can with propriety, be given to that improvement in the present season; and the following year, provision might be made for its completion.

While it has been deemed advisable to bring these subjects to the notice of the Legislature, considerations of sound policy, the interests of the citizens already heavily burdened with taxation—and the general welfare of the commonwealth, forbid an increase of the public debt.

The equalization and revision of the revenue laws; the proposed change in the management of the Public Works, and their early improvement and completion; with a rigid maintenance of the sinking fund, and the consequent reduction of the public debt, would, with the present resources of the treasury, produce in a few years a condition of financial prosperity, justifying the conviction of the speedy relief of our citizens from the payment of all taxes for the support of government, schools, and charities.

The Eastern and western penitentaries have been conducted with skill and prudence, and in the reformation, and security of offenders, society has derived important advantages. It is, however, worthy of serious consideration, whether in the adoption of a system of solitary confinement, the severity of the punishment authorized by law, does not injuriously affect the mental and physical vigor of the prisoner.

The frequent recommendations to Executive, for the pardon of convicts afflicted with ill health and mental imbecility, would appear to require a modification of the present laws.

It is earnestly recommended that a small increase of the annual appropriations be made to the Homes of Refuge, and the Asylums of the Deaf, Dumb and Blind. These institutions, long the deserved objects of State bounty, have been increasing in usefulness, and incurring additional yearly expenses, while the annual sums bestowed have remained the same. In the growth of population the demands on these Asylums must be augmented, and their expenditures necessarily enlarged and the same degree of liberality awarded on former occasions, would claim the appropriation of larger amounts.

In the prosecution of the work for the State Lunatic Asylum, the appropriation of a former year has been exhausted, and a sum of like amount is required for its completion. Under the supervision of excellent and attentive trustees, the building has rapidly advanced, and is now under roof.

The structure is plain, substantial and beautiful; eligibly situated in regard to the comfort of the patients and susceptibly of a finish, honorable to the State, and useful to the community. The probability of its abandonment by the Legislature or of a refusal to grant the additional sum required for its completion cannot be entertained by the Executive. Too long already has public charity been withheld from the insane Poor of the State—too long have they been suffered to wander destitute and deserted.—The jest of the thoughtless, and the victims of the profligate; while humanity and christian benevolence claimed for them public protection. It is not, however, protection alone that is contemplated in this Asylum. The reports from different similar institutions afford the gratifying intelligence that eighty, and in some instances, ninety per cent. of the number afflicted, radically cured. In this view of the subject combining shelter and protection, with restoration to health and reason the inducements to energetic action on our part cannot be overlooked. It is estimated that an additional sum of $50,000 will finish the building, and it for the reception of patients, and the same is respectfully and earnestly recommended.

Notwithstanding the revision, by the last Legislature, of the laws, in relation to common schools, the system will require modification. It does not receive from the citizens the favor, that a sound and enlightened scheme of education deserves, and the evil must exist in the laws which control its practical operations. A serious defect, is the want of properly qualified teachers. It is worthy your consideration whether the establishment of Normal schools in the different counties, would not remove this evil. Education may well be termed the great measure of the age. In a Republican government it is the safeguard of liberty, and enlightened statesmen regarding it in this aspect, will cordially co-operate to establish, to defend, to cherish, and to maintain it. The Superintendent having bestowed much thought on the subject, will at an early day submit a report, to which your attention is invited.

The militia law of the last session is imperfect in many of its details, and requires revision. If the abolition of the mockery of parades incident to the old system, and the establishment of an effectual uniformed militia, well disciplined and drilled, it has been productive of general good. Slight modifications in its provisions will make it all that can be desired. The report of the Adjutant General is well worthy your consideration, and is accordingly submitted.

Reports from the Surveyor General and Auditor General, exhibiting the condition of their respective departments, are herewith transmitted to the Legislature, and the latter will furnish in detail much valuable information, in relation to the financial condition of the Commonwealth.

The duty of districting the State for the election of Representatives, will devolve upon you. Returns of taxables, required to be made by the different counties, have not been transmitted, as by law they were directed; but the officers charged with the duties under the law, are engaged in their preparation and they will be laid at an early day before the Legislature.

By resolution passed at the last session the Executive was required to transmit to certain officers, citizens or natives of the State, resolutions expressive of the approbation of the Legislature for their distinguished services in the late war with Mexico. In performing this duty these resolutions were transmitted to such of these Officers, as by the report of the Adjutant General of the United States, had been breveted for good conduct.

The resolutions for the amendment of the Constitution, having been duly published according to the terms of that instrument, it will be the duty of the Legislature to take such action on the subject as may be most consistent with the wishes of the people. It is proper to state that the appropriation made to defray the expenses of the publication of these resolutions, was wholly insufficient for the purpose, and an additional sum will be required.

In the message delivered at the opening of the late session, reference was made to the citizen soldier, who had returned to his home after having earned for himself and the State in the war with Mexico, a reputation for undaunted bravery, patient suffering and heroic virtue; and the opinion was expressed, that it was due to these patriotic citizens, that the Commonwealth should make a suitable acknowledgement for their services. No action having been taken upon the suggestion, I would again call the subject to the attention of the Legislature. It is also proper to refer to the recommendation therein made, in relation to the death of certain officers of the government, and the omission in the constitution to supply the vacancy. The subject is deemed of sufficient importance to justify an earnest hope that legislative action may not be withheld thereon.

The practice of postponing the passage of appropriation bills to last day of the session forbids deliberation as well to the Legislature as to the Executive and should hereafter be avoided. These bills requiring care and attention to the specific items, disposing of large amounts of the public money, should be deliberately examined before they obtain the sanction of laws. Nothing can excuse hasty and unadvised legislation, on a subject so important to the public interests. It is confidently anticipated that this Legislature will adopt a rule of practice more consistent with prudence, economy, and sound policy.

The intimate connection existing between the industry of the citizens, and the currency of his country, demands for that question the serious attention of the statesman and lawgiver. To authorizing Banking or other Institutions, to create a currency other than gold and silver, it would be unfaithful to our trusts to permit them, for want of proper checks and guards to allow it to become less valuable than