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## TOWANDA:

Thursday Morning, January 15, 1863.

### THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—Notwithstanding the pressure of public calamity which has weighed heavily on the country during the past year, it has pleased Divine Providence not only to enable the people of Pennsylvania to perform in full all their duties to our common Government, but to give to this Commonwealth domestic peace, plenty, and prosperity.

The balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1861, was \$1,551,605 72	
Receipts during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1861, were as follows:	
Ordinary sources.....	\$4,047,822 39
Six per cent loan, act May 12, 1861.....	387,850 00
From various banks as an equivalent for coin for the payment of interest on the public debt.....	140,763 30
Refunded cash, military.....	29,566 42
United States Government.....	605,749 52
5,211,447 63	
Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1861 and the payments have been as follows:	
For ordinary purposes.....	\$2,083,110 06
Paid on State interest as an equivalent for coin.....	146,631 22
Military expenses, Act April 12, 1861.....	7 62
Military expenses, Act May 16, 1861.....	460,548 68
Military expenses, Act May 16, 1861.....	1,217 26
Military expenses, Act April 12, 1861.....	20,667 04
Military Pensions, Act May 15, 1861.....	409 54
Commissioners of Sinking Fund.....	427,881 51
Domestic creditors.....	105 32
Temporary Loan redeemed.....	109,000 00
United States Government.....	350,000 00
Direct Tax.....	4,500,409 25
Leaving balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1862.....	\$2,172,844 10
Of which amount one hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and seventy-six dollars and seventy-seven cents is the balance of unexpended military loan, as follows:	
Balance of said fund Nov. 30, 1861.....	320,507 41
Receipts under Act May 15, 1861.....	387,850 00
778,357 41	
Paid for military expenses as follows:	
For ordinary purposes.....	482,781 14
For temporary loan.....	100,000 00
582,781 14	
Receipts from ordinary sources:	
For year ending Nov. 30, 1861.....	\$4,047,822 39
For year ending Nov. 30, 1862.....	3,017,645 57
1861.....	3,017,645 57
Excess of receipts for 1862.....	\$1,030,176 82
Payments for ordinary purposes, excepting interest, for year ending Nov. 30, 1861.....	\$1,118,662 93
For year ending Nov. 30, 1862.....	1,023,245 77
1861.....	1,023,245 77
Decrease of expenditures of 1862.....	496,571 16

From the tables exhibited it will appear that the receipts from ordinary sources of revenue for the year 1862 are in excess of the receipts of the year 1861 one million thirty thousand one hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-two cents, [the excess of interest paid in 1862 over that of 1861 being \$144,096 37], and that the ordinary expenses for the year 1862 were ninety five thousand three hundred and seventeen dollars and six cents less than the year previous.

The healthy condition of the revenues, and the excess of the receipts over the expenditures secured by the rigid economy which has been practiced, (especially considering the necessary increase of taxation by the National Government,) seem to invite the attention of the Legislature to a revision of the revenue laws, with a view of lightening the burdens of the people. In this connection it is proper to invite your attention to the justice and expediency of restricting the rate of total taxation, now, in some parts of the State, oppressive.

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania as reported on the 1st day of December, 1861.....	\$40,506,666 08
Additional amount received at the State Treasury, during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1862, on Military Loan authorized per act of May 15, 1861.....	388,850 00
29,968,516 08	
Deficit amount redeemable at the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1862, viz:.....	
5 per cent. State stocks.....	\$208,800 40
4 per cent. State stocks.....	150,000 00
Interest certificates.....	100,000 00
Relief notes.....	17 25
Domestic creditors' certificates.....	1,411 00
64 62	
Military loan per act April 12, 1861, redeemed.....	100,000 00
250,202 26	
Public debt Dec. 1, 1862.....	\$40,448,213 82

Towards the extinguishment of the public debt, the Sinking Fund holds securities amounting to ten millions seven hundred and eighty-one thousand dollars, as follows:

Bonds of Sunbury & Erie Railroad Company.....	\$3,500,000
Bonds of Pennsylvania Railroad Company.....	7,000,000
Bonds of Wyoming Canal Company.....	281,000
\$10,781,000	

Should there be no extraordinary demand on the Treasury, there can be appropriated from the large balance now on hand, and the increasing revenues at least a million and a half of dollars during the coming year towards the payment of the public debt.

The operations of the sinking fund during the last year have been, as shown by my proclamation of the 8th of September last, as follows:

Amount of debt of Commonwealth reduced as follows, viz:.....	\$262,801 67
State Loans.....	\$261,178 74

Interest certificates.....	370 41
Domestic Creditors' certificates.....	64 52
Relief notes cancelled.....	11 88
\$262,801 67	

It will be observed that the fiscal year ends on the 30th of November, and the Sinking-fund year on the first Monday of September. This is the reason for the apparent deficiency in the amount of debt paid as stated in the Treasurer's Report, and by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund.

Under the act of the 11th of April, 1862, I appointed William McClelland, R. B. McCombs, and M. Russell Thayer, Esqrs., as revenue commissioners, who have printed a report, and will no doubt submit the result of their labors to the Legislature, to which I invite attention.

I refer to the reports of the State Treasurer and Auditor General for the details of the financial affairs of the Commonwealth. The reports of all the Surveyor Generals, Superintendent of Common Schools, and State Librarian, will exhibit the state department under their care.

In accordance with the act of 10th February, 1862, the quota of this State of the direct tax of the United States, amount to one million nine hundred and forty-six thousand seven hundred and nineteen dollars and thirty-six cents, was, on the 14th June, 1862, paid to the United States, partly by a relinquishment of a portion of the sums claimed by this State from the Government and partly in cash, after deducting the 15 per cent. allowed by the act of Congress for prompt payment. Pennsylvania thus paid her quota of direct tax before any other State. There is still due to the State, principally for advances since made for transportation and equipment of volunteers, about three hundred thousand dollars.

On the 20th February last, I issued my warrant authorizing the State Treasurer to deliver to the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company one thousand of the bonds deposited with the State, in conformity with the act of May 7, 1861. On the 20th of November I issued a similar warrant. Both warrants were granted after receiving reports from J. A. Wright, Esq., the commissioner appointed for the purpose, that the proceeds of the bonds previously issued had been appropriated in accordance with the provisions of the law. The company has now received three of the five millions of bonds deposited in the State Treasury. With the proceeds of the bonds issued, fifty-two miles of road have been completed, making, with what had formerly been finished a total of one hundred and ninety-nine miles, leaving eighty-nine miles unfinished, of which nearly all is graded and ready for the iron. The bonds still in the Treasury will yield an ample amount to complete the road, and thus open this important route of trade and commerce. The development of the vast mineral and other resources of our northwestern counties by this means, will undoubtedly in a few years render valuable the securities of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, now forming part of the Sinking Fund of the Commonwealth.

The interest on the State debt was paid in August last, in specie or its equivalent, in conformity with the existing law, at the cost of one hundred and forty-six thousand six hundred and thirty-one dollars and twenty-two cents (\$146,631.22), for the difference between specie and paper currency, of which the banks, under the provisions of the 11th April, 1862, had already refunded to the State one hundred and forty thousand seven hundred and sixty dollars and thirty cents.

This burden on the banks has become heavier than in my judgment ought to be borne by any special interest. Unless the Legislature should otherwise provide, it will be the duty of the State Treasurer to pay in like manner the interest which will fall due hereafter. We should all be careful not to violate the faith or impair the credit of the Commonwealth. The serious and careful consideration of the Legislature is invited to the whole subject.

In my opinion there are already more incorporated banks in the Commonwealth than are at present required for the public convenience, and I therefore recommend that no more shall be incorporated.

On the 7th of July last, a call was made by the President for three hundred thousand volunteers. This State had already supplied nearly one hundred and ten thousand men, yet her people promptly bestirred themselves to respond to this new requirement. Although it was believed that no bounties would be necessary to induce the men of Pennsylvania to enter the service of their country on such an occasion, yet, as some of the neighboring States offered large bounties, it was thought not right to expose our citizens to the temptation thus offered to them to enlist in regiments of other States. There being no appropriation for the payment of bounties, I, of course, could not direct them to be paid out of the treasury, and it was evident that to call the Legislature together and wait for the negotiation of any loan, which might be authorized for the purpose would be attended by injurious delay. Under these circumstances I confidently appealed by proclamation to a people who have never faltered in the performance of any duty of patriotism, calling on them to raise, in their several counties, the sum necessary to insure their proportion of the quota of the State. This appeal was effectually answered. Public meetings were held, and liberal amounts subscribed by individuals. In the city of Philadelphia, besides a very large fund thus raised, the municipal authorities contributed heavily from their common treasury, and in several counties the country commissioners, generally under the guarantee of a few of their eminent citizens, devoted country funds to the same purpose.—I recommend that these proceedings be legalized, and submit to the wisdom of the Legislature the question of what legislation would be just and proper on the whole subject, that the burden of this patriotic effort may fall equally on all classes of people throughout the State.

The result of this manifestation of public spirit was that thirty-eight new regiments and three unattached companies of infantry were raised. Four other regiments, which, previous to this call, had been authorized by the War Department to be raised are still in progress of organization.

On special requisitions from the War Department there have been raised, and are now in service, five additional regiments, and three companies of cavalry, two batteries of heavy artillery, and one battery of light artillery.—A battalion of heavy artillery is being raised by Major Joseph Roberts, U. S. A., with my assent, also under special authority of the War Department.

Early in September last the rebel army crossed the Potomac into Maryland, with the design of invading this State. On the 4th of that month I called upon the people by proclamation to organize into companies and hold themselves in readiness to be ordered into actual service for the defence of the State. And on the 11th of the month, under authority of the President, I issued orders for fifty thousand volunteer militia, to rendezvous at Harrisburg, for the defence of the State. This call was promptly responded to, and a large force was sent forward to the Cumberland Valley and its vicinity. The first part of this force consisting of one regiment and eight companies of infantry, moved from Harrisburg on the night of the 12th of September, and were followed by other regiments as rapidly as they could be organized and transportation provided. The command of this whole force was taken by Brigadier General John F. Reynolds, who left his corps in the Army of the Potomac at my urgent request, and hurried to the defence of his native State, for which he is entitled to the thanks of the Commonwealth. Fifteen thousand of the volunteer militia were pushed forward to Hagerstown and Boonsboro', in the State of Maryland; ten thousand were posted in the vicinity of Greencastle and Chambersburg, and about twenty five thousand were at Harrisburg, on their way to Harrisburg, or in readiness and waiting for transportation to proceed thither. One regiment, at the request of General Halleck, was sent to protect Dupont's powder mills, in the State of Delaware. On the 24th of September the Volunteer Militia were discharged by me from service, having by their spirited demonstration greatly aided in preventing the intended invasion of this State, by the rebels, and in compelling their sudden evacuation of the portion of Maryland which they had polluted. For these services, the thanks of the Governor of Maryland, and the Commander of the Army of the Potomac, were rendered to our patriotic troops through me. Measures have been taken to procure the payment in full of these troops, and of the expenses attending their service, by the United States, in accordance with the terms of the call by the President. A large portion of the amount has already been paid. Having accompanied this force to Hagerstown, I am enabled to speak of the courage, fidelity, and cheerfulness with which the men suffered unaccustomed privations, and bore the fire of the rebel force, performing with alacrity all the service that was required of them.

On the 4th of August last, a draft of three hundred thousand militia, to serve for nine months, was ordered by the President, under the act of Congress of the 17th July, 1862, and regulations were made by his authority, in pursuance of that act, under which regulations the enrollment and draft were conducted in this State, our militia laws being found to be defective. Several counties and districts having already supplied by volunteers their proportion of the quota of this State, were exempted from the draft, and time was given to enable others to raise the required number of men by voluntary enlistments. The draft was generally proceeded with throughout the State on the 16th day of October last, and the drafted men were directed to be placed in the several camps of rendezvous established under the regulations, where they were organized and elected their officers, and have since gone forward to the army in the field. The draft was eminently successful, and when the men had been marched to the rendezvous, my agency in the matter ceased, and all authority and control over the men devolved on the United States officers. I cannot but commend the people of Pennsylvania for their cheerful obedience to the requirements of the Government on this occasion. All the expenses of the draft are, of course, to be paid by the United States, and I learn that officers are now in the State charged with the settlements and payments.

Including the three months volunteers, Pennsylvania has furnished to the General Government more than two hundred thousand men since the breaking out of the rebellion, besides some fifty thousand who were in service, or actually ready for it, as volunteer militia under the call of the 11th of September last, making, in the whole, more than two hundred and fifty thousand men.

In October last, a body of rebel cavalry, with a battery of artillery, suddenly crossed the Potomac, and made their way as far as Chambersburg, plundering what they found of supplies useful to them, and committing other depredations. They went out of the State by crossing the South Mountain, and thus reaching the Potomac below Harper's Ferry. The troops in the field were not prepared at that moment to punish this attempt on her soil, and it is to be much regretted that efficient measures could not have been taken by the army to capture the rebels on their return to the Potomac. Immediately after I received notice that this force had crossed the line of the State, I called into service the Anderson Cavalry, then encamped at Carlisle, and two companies of regulars at the barracks at that place. These troops were pushed forward in the direction of Chambersburg and South Mountain. The cavalry at Camp Curtin, consisting of one full and two imperfect regiments, were armed as infantry, and, together with two companies of infantry and a battery of volunteer light infantry of Harrisburg, were held in readiness to go forward, when Major General

Wool arrived and assumed the command of all the forces. He had previously ordered part of his command from Baltimore, and marched the troops to Gettysburg.

The rebels marched with so much celerity that they did not encounter any of the forces of General Wool, and escaped from the State. I recommend that application be made to Congress for an appropriation to compensate our citizens for damages sustained by the raid.

On the two emergencies to which I have referred, I acknowledge valuable counsel and assistance from Brigadier General Andrew Porter, of the United States Army, who thus testified his affection for his native State, and zeal in her service when threatened. And on the same, and other occasions, I am indebted to Colonel Thomas A. Scott, Colonel John A. Wright, and Colonel J. B. Parker, members of my staff, who came promptly on my summons, and served with their accustomed zeal and fidelity, without pecuniary compensation.

The militia laws of this State are greatly defective, and I earnestly recommend the appointment of a commission to prepare and submit an efficient system, to be reported before the adjournment of the Legislature, so that action may be had on the subject at the present session. In the hurry of ordinary business the Legislature might not be able to give the necessary attention to the preparation of a proper measure, and events which have already occurred prove the necessity of some effectual legislation on the subject, so that our people may be adequately protected.

The State is in possession of the following ordnance, arms, and ammunition:

- 63 pieces of artillery, of which 22 need repairs.
- 2 batteries of new cannon, consisting of 12 Griff-in rifled cannon, 6 pounders, 2 caissons, and 2 battery wagons, presented to the State by the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, in September last.
- 26,492 muskets and rifles, of which 11,614 are ready for issue, 4,499 in the hands of mechanics for repairs, and the balance, having been used by the militia called out in September last, require cleaning.
- 12,427 sets infantry accoutrements complete.
- 1,238 swords and sabres.
- 684 pistols.
- 1,283 rounds artillery ammunition.
- 1,222,969 rounds ammunition for small arms.

The following arms, accoutrements, and ammunition have been furnished according to law to the border counties, and to volunteer organizations formed under the militia act of 1858:

- 5,810 muskets and rifles with accoutrements complete were issued to, and are now in possession of border counties.
- 4,058 muskets and rifles, and 2,911 sets of accoutrements issued to, and now in possession of organized companies. Also, 80,000 rounds of ammunition issued to border counties and organized companies.
- 1,755 muskets, and 805 sets of accoutrements, were issued to Colonel Brown and Grant's regiments on going to the service.
- 32 pieces of artillery, issued to 1st Pennsylvania Artillery, Col. Charles T. Campbell, commanding, on going into the service.
- 528 sabres, 1,056 pistols, and 528 sets of accoutrements, issued to organized cavalry companies. Showing an aggregate of:
- 107 pieces of artillery.
- 39,945 muskets and rifles.
- 1,749 pistols.
- 1,207 rounds of shot and shell.
- 22,202 sets infantry accoutrements.
- 528 sets of cavalry accoutrements.
- 1,608,968 rounds of ammunition.

In addition to the above the following military property of the city of Philadelphia is reported, by the "Home Guard of the city of Philadelphia," to be in its possession—viz:

- 6 20-pounder Parrot rifled guns.
- 12 10-pounder Parrot rifled guns.
- 12 10-pounder English rifled guns.
- 2 caissons for 20-pounder Parrot rifled guns, with tools and stores.
- 12 12-pounder rifled howitzer, Dahlgren.
- 12 12-pounder rifled howitzer, 750 pounds Dahlgren.
- 2 field carriages for do.
- 2 small howitzer guns, 12 pounders, with carriage, tools, and stores.
- 12 12-pounder rifled howitzer, Dahlgren.
- 12 12-pounder smooth bore, 750 pounds Dahlgren.
- 2 12-pounder rifled howitzer, with carriage, tools, and stores.
- 1 small 10-pounder howitzer, with Dahlgren, tools, and stores.
- 100 saddles.
- 121 saddles with traces, breast straps, &c.
- 68 saddles incomplete.
- 2,296 muskets and rifles.
- 2,000 pistols and 121 sabres.
- 1,907 rounds of shot and shell.
- 672,884 rounds musket and rifle cartridges.

The foregoing does not include the arms and equipments that have been issued to the several regiments of the Home Guard, and which are in their possession. For the details of military operations and of statistics I refer you to the reports of the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Surgeon General, and the chief of Transportation, which accompany this message. In regard to the election of officers in the reserve corps, and the recruitment of the regiments of that corps, and of our other gallant regiments of volunteers, I propose to send a special message in a few days, as I desire to treat those subjects some what at large, and to submit to the Legislature some documents relating to them. By the thirteenth section of the act of May 15th, 1861, I was authorized to draw my warrants on the treasury for a sum not exceeding twenty thousand dollars for compensation to such persons as might be required to serve the country in a military capacity. At the date of my last annual message, I had drawn from the treasury eight thousand five hundred dollars, and had paid out up to the 1st of December, 1861, six thousand four hundred dollars, when my account was settled. Since that time I have drawn two thousand dollars from the treasury, part of which, with the balance in my hands, has been expended in the payment of members of my personal staff the service when I required assistance, and in procuring information, and to persons employed when the State was threatened with invasion in September, 1862, and during the raid in October last.

An account of these expenditures will be found on file in the office of the Auditor General.

Under the act of 10th April, 1858, it is my intention to take early measures for the sale of the powder magazine in the city of Philadelphia. The powder magazine at Harrisburg is not judiciously located. A State powder magazine ought, in my judgment, to be erected on a suitable site in the vicinity of this place, and I recommend the attention of the Legislature to the subject.

In September last two batteries of rifled cannon was presented to the Commonwealth by a committee of citizens of Philadelphia,

through S. V. Merrick, Esq., which are now in the arsenal in that city. I recommend that provision be made for procuring carriages, caissons, and other equipments for them. The liberal donors are entitled to the thanks of the Commonwealth for their patriotic gift.

Under the joint resolutions of the 23th of February, 1862, measures were promptly taken for the relief of our sick and wounded men in the field.

The wounded at Winchester, Strasburg, Front Royal, Williamsburg, and Fair Oaks, and those in the corps of Major General Banks, were duly attended on the field or in the vicinity, by Surgeon General Smith and a corps of surgeons under his direction, and were brought into this State. The same system would have been continued, but in June last, I received a letter from the Surgeon General of the United States, representing that it was found inconvenient to the service, and must create difficulties in the regular identification of the soldiers for pay and pensions.

In compliance with his views, I was reluctantly obliged to discontinue the system; but I have not ceased to urge on the War Department the propriety of sending our sick and wounded men into the State, where they can be nursed and cared for by their friends, and have to say that at length such an arrangement was made with the authorities at Washington, which it was hoped would be effective, but there has been such tardiness in putting it into practical operation that I recommend the Legislature to invite the attention of the War Department to the subject. Our suffering men have a right to the sympathy and aid of their State, to be so rendered as not to injure the service. If the bringing them home to be attended could produce even inconvenience to that I would not urge it. But it is cruel to leave them to the care and (I regret to say it) frequently to the neglect, or worse, of strange officials, at points in the immediate vicinity of all the abundant comforts which the solicitude of their families and friends would rejoice to provide for them.

In addition to the expenses of attending and bringing home our sick and wounded, as above stated, I have expended less than \$4,000 in the transportation of friends of sick, killed or wounded volunteers, and other persons sent by me for their care to the several battle fields and hospitals, and in bringing home for interment the bodies of those slain. The whole expense incurred under the joint resolution was \$5,119 83, the details of which will be found in the report of the Surgeon General and of the chief of transportation.

I have uniformly, when applied to, allowed the expense of transportation of one person to the field to bring home the body of his friend or relation, and the expense of his return with the body. The cost of this has not exceeded \$600, which is included in the sum of less than \$4,000 above stated.

In this connection I must speak with applause of the active benevolence of our citizens, who have, without compensation, devoted their time and care to their suffering fellow-citizens, disabled by the casualties of war. Not only have many gone to the field, to administer their kind offices, but in every part of the Commonwealth thousands have applied their means and exertions to the same end; and especially have the women of Pennsylvania, obeying their true womanly instincts, shown that they are worthy to be the mothers, wives, and sisters of the brave men who they have stimulated to their duty, and soothed and nursed in the sufferings that have ensued in the performance of it.

The city of Philadelphia having patriotically offered to the United States League Island, as a donation for a navy yard, Congress directed a commission to report upon the availability of that site, and also of New London. To the general astonishment, a majority of the commission have reported in favor of New London, but the minority has presented a report, which is fortified by the approval of the Secretary of the Navy, showing so conclusively the superiority of League Island that it is scarcely possible that Congress should hesitate to select that location. To establish a navy yard for the construction of iron-clad vessels, situated on salt water, and accessible by more than one route to any enemy, who may have a momentary superiority at sea, would appear to be quite inconsistent with the wisdom of Congress, especially when a site is offered convenient to iron, coal and other necessary supplies, situated on fresh water, with a sufficient depth for a draught of large vessels, and safe from hostile attack by its position.

Capt. Henry E. Wrigley, of the city of Philadelphia, at my request, and without compensation, has made a report to me on the defenses of the Delaware, which I herewith transmit for information.

In July last I received at Pittsburg, by telegraph, an offer from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company of a donation of fifty thousand dollars to assist in paying bounties to volunteers. I declined this offer, because I had no authority to accept it on behalf of the public, and was unwilling to undertake the disbursement of the fund in my private capacity. I have since received a letter on the subject from the company suggesting other modes of disposing of the money, a copy of which is annexed to this message.

If the Legislature should accept the donation, I recommend that it be applied towards the erection of an asylum for our disabled soldiers, and that the trustees appointed to superintend the erection and management of the asylum be authorized to accept such further contributions as our citizens may offer. In a well-managed establishment of that kind it is probable that the pensions to be allowed by the Government to the men will enable them to support themselves with comfort.

By an act of Congress, passed on the second day of July, 1862, lands were granted to the several States for the endowment, support, and maintenance, by each State, of at least one college for teaching such branches of learning as are related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, without excluding other scientific and classical studies, and including military

tactics. I recommend that proper provision be made by the Legislature for having the lands thus granted to this State selected, and the title made to the State, and that Congress be requested to allow the lands and their proceeds to be used by the State in the construction and support of such an asylum as I have above suggested.

The details of the operations of the common-school system, during the school year that terminated on the first Monday in June, 1862, manifest scarcely any evil effects from the troubled state of the country. Absence of the usual degree of progress in the various departments is the only result observable. To have held its own, however, during the severe ordeal to which, in common with all our great social interests and enterprises, it has been subjected, is the strongest proof of its inherent vigor, and of the hold it possesses upon the affections as well as the judgment of the people of the State.

It has come to my knowledge that in some parts of the State a system exists of paying the wages of workmen and laborers not in money, but in orders on storekeepers for merchandise and other articles. This system, by preventing all competition, leaves the men to the uncontrolled discretion of the storekeepers. It is a system most unwise and unjust, and affects classes of useful citizens, who, as they live by the proceeds of their daily labor, have not adequate means to resist it. I have no doubt that most of the difficulties which occasionally occur between employers and their workmen are due to the prevalence of this system. That every man, for a fair day's labor, should receive a fair day's wages, is but the dictate of common honesty; and while it would be most unwise for the State to interfere at all with the rate of wages, it is, in my judgment, incumbent on her to protect her laboring population by requiring that, whatever may be the wages stipulated, they shall be so paid that the recipient may purchase necessaries for himself and his family where they can be had best and cheapest. I do most earnestly recommend this subject to the Legislature for prompt and effectual action.

I believe that the several charitable institutions to which the Legislature has been accustomed to grant aid have been well managed during the past year.

The Wyoming canal is still in the hands of the receiver. Certain creditors of the company having instituted proceedings in the Supreme Court for selling the canal under the mortgage, the Attorney General has intervened in the suit to oppose the making of a decree of sale. No decree has been made, and the proceedings are yet pending. Meanwhile, it being alleged that the subscribers and stockholders have paid up but a small part of the nominal capital of the company, an information has been filed in the Supreme Court by the Attorney General to compel them to pay up the capital, or such charges and assessments as may be necessary to extinguish the debt due to the Commonwealth. This proceeding is also still pending. It is understood that the gross receipts of the canal during the last season have been about one hundred and thirty thousand dollars, and the annual interest on the mortgage bonds of the company a little over fifty-one thousand dollars.

In pursuance of the joint resolution passed 11th April, 1862, the Attorney General has instituted proceedings on the proper cashier's bonds, to recover the money due to the Commonwealth by the Bank of Commerce, at Erie, and I have employed John H. Walker, Esq., as special counsel for the Commonwealth, in the prosecution of the officers of the bank in the Court of Quarter Sessions of Erie county.

In accordance with the provisions of the act of 6th May, 1862, an information in equity was filed by the Attorney General against the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company and the Pennsylvania Coal Company, and the case was argued before the Supreme Court at Sunbury, in October last.

By an act passed on the 16th day of May, 1861, a company was incorporated by the name of the Navy Yard, Broad-street, and Fairmount Railway Company. It being alleged that the company, instead of making a railway on the route and in the manner prescribed by its charter, is constructing a railroad of a different character, by a route extending from the Philadelphia, Wilmington, and Baltimore Railroad depot to the Philadelphia and Trenton depot, both within the city of Philadelphia, the Attorney General has proceeded against the company by *quo warranto* for the violation of its charter, and has also filed an information for the purpose of restraining the company from proceeding in the construction of their road. Both these proceedings are now pending.

By the act of 29th March, 1813, it was provided that citizens absent from home in actual military service might exercise their right of suffrage as if they were present at the usual places of election. This act was substantially re-enacted in the general election law passed on the 2d of July, 1839. The Supreme Court has recently decided that, by reason of a phrase in the constitutional amendments of 1838, the provision has become unconstitutional. Pennsylvania has sent to the service about two hundred thousand citizens, who, by this decision, are disfranchised. This seems to be a hard measure—that men who testify their devotion to the country by going to the field should thereby lose the most inestimable right of a citizen. I recommend that the necessary steps be forthwith commenced to amend the Constitution, so as to give the right of suffrage to the citizens who are thus excluded.

I cannot close this message without speaking of the unbroken loyalty and spirit of the freemen of Pennsylvania. They feel that on the preservation of the Union and the suppression of the most causeless and wicked rebellion which history records, depend the honor, the interests, and the whole future welfare of the Commonwealth. They will never tolerate schemes for destroying the Government of the United States, or for forming separate Confederacies, or any other schemes for creating general confusion and ruin, and aiding and

(Continued on Fourth Page.)