

MR. WARD'S ADDRESS.

If that of Mr. Ward's Address which we noticed in our last, is objectionable, that portion of it which we propose to review now, is doubly so; and if we regretted the awkward position which our examination of his charge against the republicans of fraudulent voting, places him in, we can truly say that we are pained at being obliged to follow up the more reprehensible part of this extravagant folly; and it would be less rigorous to him, if Mr. Ward had not "traveled out of the sphere of his appointment" to earn condemnation. But to our subject.

Mr. Ward substantially declares, that forty-four innocent, and reputable, citizens of Luzerne and Columbia counties, were imprisoned by military authority, and tried before a tribunal unknown to the constitution—called a Court Martial. An abundance of epithets are called into requisition to give this act of the administration a horrifying aspect. The truth of the matter is, that these forty-four citizens combined to resist the draft, and the government was obliged to send a military force to arrest the law-breakers. Mr. Ward says three of them were sentenced to heavy fines, and imprisonment; so that these conspirators were guilty of the charges preferred against them; and it is these criminals before the law, over which our neighbor makes his piteous lamentation. We doubt not but that every criminal in the penitentiary could give an equally distressing account of his sufferings, if he had Mr. Ward's power of delineation. But who is to blame for this suffering? Mr. Ward says the government. We say the traitors themselves. For if they had not resisted the law, they would not have been punished. This is clear. Why are not peaceable citizens punished? Because they are peaceable. Mr. Ward pleads for these violators of the law, and tries to cover up their heinous offense, for the reason that they are democrats, and if they were cut-throats, and belonged to his party, it would be the same thing. Such is the perverse tendency of blind partisan zeal. What is to the loyal citizen that this is a damp Island fort, constructed more with a view of resisting a bombardment, than anything else? What is it to them that the government is obliged to persecute it by the incarceration of Copperhead rebels? Loyal men respect the laws, and have no fears of Bastilles, and because they respect the laws, they see no modern tyrannies. It is only traitors who feel the damp of noxious cells, and see the tyranny.

The Chairman of the State Democratic Committee says, these Columbia rioters "are being" drawn out, one by one, to be tried before a tribunal unknown to the constitution—called a Court Martial—in which they are denied the privilege—priceless in a freeman's estimate—of a trial by a jury of their peers, and of the vicinage." Mr. Ward is a lawyer, and asserts that a Court Martial is unknown to the constitution. That instrument says, "Congress shall have power to raise and support armies. To make rules for the government, and regulation of the land and naval forces." And pray, who ever heard of armies without Court Martials? So the power to create Court Martials, comes directly from the constitution; and we have had them under the government, ever since its organization. Every bright school boy knows these facts; and yet, our legal neighbor says, these courts are unknown to the constitution.—Wise, and learned man! What a luminous production it would be, how suddenly all that has ever been written on the sacred right of trial by jury, would fall into the shade, if he had an "elaborate discussion" on this subject, from this writer! The question, however, of the legality of the trial of the Columbia county rioters, has been clearly settled, in the case of Vallandigham. The Supreme Court of the United States, under its old regime, after a full argument, decided that the arrest of Vallandigham, by military authority, was legal, that the military commission which tried him for a military offense, was constitutionally constituted, and that there was no legal authority in our civil courts to reverse, or to revise its judgment. Yet Mr. Ward pronounces these courts unconstitutional, monstrous and unbearable. But the denial of a trial by jury in the vicinage, to these Columbia law-breakers, is the point over which we have full burst of lachrymose whinnies of a sarcharged partisan prejudice. A trial by jury in the vicinage, to these rioters, would have been a mockery. No witnesses could have been found, no matter what the criminality of the party tried, to testify against them; and the jurymen, like the witnesses, would have sympathized with the rioters, and therefore, it would only have been a farce, to try them in this manner. After the army that went out to suppress the Mormon rebellion, had taken possession of Salt Lake city, and courts of law had been established, an attempt was made to bring to punishment the leaders of the rebellion; but the witnesses and jurymen, were all Mormons, and they thought that Mormons in rebellion against the government, was a religious, and a political duty, and the sentence was, that the trials were a farce, and had to be abandoned. It would be just so with trials in the disaffected districts of Columbia county.—Democrats turned rioters, and democrats over the State, as Mr. Ward's sympathies prove, as well as democrats of the vicinage, believe it is right to rebel against the abolition government, as they choose to call it, and how would a trial in the vicinage, under such circumstances, result? It would have been a mockery, truly.

We have shown that the trial of the Columbia county conspirators, was lawful, beyond all cavil, and proper; and in view of this, how does Mr. Ward's appeal to the two hundred and seventy-six thousand democrats to revolt against the government, appear? For such in reality it is. The spleen consequent upon political defeat, has so distorted the vision of our neighbor, that he can no longer see the plain outlines of the Constitution, and under his hallucination, the necessary, and the proper acts of the administration, are pronounced "alarming violations of great principles of freeman's rights, which even no monarch on the throne of our English ancestors, since the days of Magna Charta, ever invaded with impunity; and no administration of our government, ever before dared to infringe," declaring the acts of the government to be "monstrous and unbearable." The plain English of this is, that if Mr. Ward's democratic cohorts are not plotters, they will revolt, in a mass, against these imagined wrongs. It is telling them that if they do not resist these supposed infringements of their rights, that they are not freemen—that no freemen ever did put up with such things. So that we understand this to be a call on the democrats to resist the acts of the government; and if they do not resist them, it will not be the fault of this appeal. In its spirit, and intended effect, this language is similar to that used by Henry II, when exasperated at the recalcitrant conduct of Thomas Becket. In the presence of his courtiers, this king exclaimed, "What an unhappy prince am I, who have not about me one man of spirit enough to rid me of a single insolent priest!" and forthwith the Bishop of Canterbury was murdered before the altar by four of the king's partisans; and if there is not an immediate uprising of the democrats to resist the acts of the government, Mr. Ward's words are less potent for evil, than were those of an English King. That is all the difference.

We have already said that we are sorry our neighbor perpetrated the folly of issuing this address. It will be a badge of disgrace to him for the rest of his days, and it is a little singular he did not see this. In every war in which this country has been engaged, there have been among us those who opposed the government. In the revolution we had the Tories, and in his letters written against the efforts of the United States to secure their freedom, Benedict Arnold used language similar to that now used by Mr. Ward. The Tories have ever been a by-word of reproach. In our second war with England, the federalists opposed the government; and its leaders were ever afterwards in disgrace. And even in the Mexican war, which was projected for the acquisition of slave territories, and on this ground was opposed by Whigs, and this opposition resulted in the ruin of that party. Can Mr. Ward not see the fate of his party, and of himself, in this past experience of the country?

Since our last issue, the most notable military occurrence has been the failure of the immense expedition undertaken against Wilmington, under the command of Gen. Butler and Commodore Porter. The fleet bombarded Fort Fisher for some days without any perceptible result, and finally withdrew. The operations of the army, appear to have been confined to landing a few troops and re-embarking them. Want of cooperation between the two arms of the service seems to have been the cause of this disgraceful failure.

From Thomas' army the news is, that Hood has escaped with the fragment of his routed army, so cut up and disorganized that he is impotent for mischief. There are indications that Thomas has concentrated his army, and is preparing to move in some direction for the purpose of striking an effective blow.

The latest from Sherman are Charleston dispatches dated last Thursday, published in the Richmond newspapers, represent Gen. Sherman's forces are still concentrated in South Carolina, between the Savannah River and Hardeeville. Gen. Kilpatrick was reported to be still in South Carolina. The Union troops were said to be building a new pontoon bridge across the Savannah, and steamers were removing the obstructions placed in the stream by the Rebels. Gen. Sherman had, it is stated, given notice to the citizens of Savannah to settle up their bank and other accounts within fifteen days.

Gen. Sherman's raid on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad has been successful, so far as heard from, without the loss of a man.—He started from Memphis on the 21st of December, and struck the road just below Corinth, Mississippi, and on the 27th had completely destroyed it to beyond Okaloosa, a distance of over seventy miles, together with twenty-nine bridges, a great deal of treasure, a number of cars, three hundred army wagons, four thousand Rebel cartridges, and much other property. He had dispersed Forrest's dismounted camp, and was pushing on with the intention of rendering the line utterly useless as far as Meridian, one hundred miles further, and if possible, releasing the Union prisoners at Catawba, Miss.

The quiet continues before Richmond and Petersburg. Considerable damage was done to buildings in the latter town on Tuesday by the opening of our artillery upon it. But a feeble reply was made by the Rebel guns. Operations on the Dutch Gap Canal have been suspended for the present, and the Rebels have ceased firing upon it.

Gen. Sheridan has recently sent portions of his cavalry and artillery into Loudon and Fairfax counties, Virginia, who are making all that region a very uncomfortable place for Rebel guerrillas and sympathizing secession residents. A number of the latter have been arrested, and their property, which was made to subserv the purposes of Mosely's and White's outlaws, has been seized.

Secretary Stanton is conferring with Gen. Sherman as to future movements.

FROM HARRISBURG.

HAERISBURG, Jan. 6, 1865. MR. EDITOR:—In accordance with the constitutional provision, the Legislature convened at the capitol on the first Tuesday of January, and organized. Hon. A. G. Olmstead, of Potter, was elected Speaker of the House, and Hon. W. J. Turrell, of Susquehanna, of the Senate. Mr. Benedict, of Huntington, was elected clerk of the House, and Mr. Hammersley, of Philadelphia, of the Senate. Messrs. Turrell and Olmstead are both from the northern tier of counties, and both of them talents, industry, moral rectitude and unflinching attention to their duties as legislators eminently deserved, and fairly secured the honorable positions which they now occupy. They are both emphatically self-made men, having been reared in the counties which they now represent, when advantages afforded to young men were not as favorable as they now are. The northern counties should feel honored by the election of both speakers from their section of the State.

Immediately after the organization and the reading of the message, both branches adjourned over till Tuesday the 9th, in order to enable the Legislature to appoint the Standing Committees. There are to be several contested seats. Two seats of members are on hand from the district composed of Somerset, Fulton and Bedford counties. The republicans are Ross and Armstrong, and the democrats are Myers and Findley. There is one of the Lycoming members who is not yet safe in his seat.

I observe among the members of the house many familiar countenances. Still many of the members are new men, and several quite young men. Among the missing are Bigham, of Allegheny, who is transferred to the Senate, South of Chester, McMertrie of Blair, Lilley of Bradford, Watson of Philadelphia, and Johnson, the former Speaker of Crawford. In the Senate there are fewer changes, Kenney of Bucks, Johnson, of Lycoming, and Penney of Allegheny are not in their accustomed seats, they will be much missed.

The workmen have commenced excavating upon the east side of the capitol preparatory to the erection of a wing to the building. This addition is needed for the use of the library and for committee rooms.

The following is a full list of officers of the Legislature: Officers of the House.—Speaker—A. G. Olmstead, of Potter. Clerk—W. B. Benedict, of Huntington. Assistant Clerk—Wm. H. Denniston, of Allegheny.

Transcribing Clerks—Caleb Walker, of Philadelphia; A. D. Harlan, of Chester; Jos. Willison, of Allegheny; Thomas J. Kerr, of Washington. Postmaster—E. H. Hinds, M. L. Novinger, of York. Sergeant-at-Arms—Charles E. Idell, of Philadelphia.

Doorkeeper—Jas. T. Melankin, of Butler. Messengers—John A. Bradford, of York. In addition to the above are four Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, four Assistant Doorkeepers, four Messengers, and one Assistant Postmaster.

Officers of the Senate.—Speaker—Wm. J. Turrell, of Susquehanna. Clerk—Geo. W. Hammersley, of Philadelphia. Assistant Clerk—Lucius Rogers, of York. Transcribing Clerks—Ebenzer Williams, Martin Ordway, E. K. Haines, Henry Catlin, E. De Wolf. Sergeant-at-Arms—John G. Martin.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives. During the past year the people of this Commonwealth have had reason to be grateful to Almighty God for many blessings. The earth has been fruitful, industry has thrived, and, with the exception of the injury suffered by the citizens of some of our border counties, through the disgraceful barbarity of the rebel forces which ravaged parts of them, and burned the town of Chambersburg, we have no public misfortune to lament. The year closes with a train of brilliant successes obtained by the arms of the United States, inspiring hope in every loyal mind that the accursed rebellion will soon be crushed, and peace be restored to our country.

THE FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE STATE. The balance in the Treasury, Nov. 30, 1863, was \$2,147,331 70 Receipts during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1864, 4,733,313 02 Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1864, 6,880,644 72 The payments for the same period have been 4,938,441 09 Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1864, 1,942,203 63

The operations of the Sinking Fund during the last year have been shown by my proclamation of the 27th day of September last, as follows: Amount of debt of Commonwealth reduced \$208,569 50 As follows, viz: Five per cent. loan of the Commonwealth \$208,308 03 Interest certificates redeemed 561 47 258,569 50

The fiscal year accounted for in the statement of the Treasury Department embraces the time from the 1st of December, 1863, to the 30th of November, 1864. The sinking-fund year commenced the first Monday in September, 1863, and ended the first Tuesday in September, 1864. This will explain the discrepancy between the statement of the Treasury Department as to the reduction of the public debt of the State, and the statement embodied in the proclamation relative to the sinking fund.

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania as it stood on the 1st day of December, 1863, \$39,496,596 78 Deduct amount redeemed of the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending with November 30, 1864, viz: Five per cent. stocks, \$104,722 73 Stocks, \$1,000 00 Interest certificates, 2,270 116,992 94 Public debt Dec 1, 1864, \$39,379,603 84

Funded debt, viz: Six per cent. loan, \$400,630 00 Five per cent. loan, ordinary, \$5,965,263 72 Loans, ordinary, \$28,200 00 36,264,994 72 Unfunded debt, viz: Relief notes in circulation, 97,251 00 During the fiscal year ending 1864, has standing, 13,086 52 Interest certificates unclaimed, 4,448 28 Domestic creditors' certificates, 724 32 115,510 22

Military loan, per act 15th May, 1863, 3,000,000 00 Total public debt ended 1, 1864, \$39,379,603 84

The Commonwealth holds bonds received from the sale of Public Works amounting to ten million three hundred thousand dollars (\$10,300,000), as follows: Pennsylvania Railroad Company bonds \$6,800,000 Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company bonds 3,500,000 \$10,300,000

These bonds are in the sinking fund, and reduce the public debt to \$29,079,603 84. The tax on tonnage imposed by the acts of the 23d April and 6th August, 1864, has yielded something less than \$200,000—a much less sum than was anticipated. I recommend a revision of these acts, for the purpose of rendering this source of revenue more productive, and amending other defects in these bills.

The revenue derived from the tax on banks during the year amounts to \$539,606 67, but under the enabling act of the State so many of our banks have become national banks under the act of Congress, that this source of revenue may be considered as substantially extinguished, and it will be necessary in some way to make up the deficiency from other sources. The act of Congress authorizes the taxation by the State of the stock in the national banks in the hands of the holders, not exceeding the rate of taxation imposed on other similar property, and part of the deficiency may be thus provided for.

The amount of debt extinguished by the Sinking fund during the year is unusually small, which is to be accounted for by the extraordinary expenses which have been incurred. Seven hundred and thirteen thousand dollars (\$713,000) have been paid to refund to the banks the money advanced by them to pay the volunteers in service during the invasion of the State in 1863. One hundred thousand dollars (100,000) have been distributed among the inhabitants of Chambersburg suffering by the rebel destruction of their town. About two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) have been expended under the acts providing for the payment of extra military claims, and, in addition to these extraordinary outlays, the amount appropriated to charities was last year larger than usual.

NO UNDUE APPROPRIATIONS RECOMMENDED. The national taxation is heavy and must probably be made heavier, and the local tax authorized by unwise legislation and paid by our people are excessive. In view of these circumstances, we should endeavor to avoid increasing their burdens by making undue appropriations for any purpose.

DONATION TO LOCAL CHARITIES. In my opinion this matter of donations to charities is fast running into a great abuse. Houses of refuge, and insane, blind, and deaf and dumb asylums appear to be proper subjects of State bounty, because their objects are of public importance; and to be useful, as well as economically managed, it seems to be necessary that they should be more extensive than would be required for the wants of a particular county. But in our system ordinary local charities are left to the care of the respective localities, and to the public money for their support is really to tax the inhabitants of all the counties for the benefit of one.

RAILROAD MATTERS. It being alleged that the Atlantic and Great Western Railroad Company has not, in various particulars, obeyed the law by which it was incorporated, the Attorney General, on the suggestion of parties claiming to be thereby injured, has filed an information in equity against that company, seeking an injunction to prevent a continuance of its past and the persistence of its intended illegal course.

Since my last annual message, on the report of John A. Wright, Esq., that the Sunbury and Erie Railroad was finished, I ordered the bonds remaining in the treasury to be delivered to the company. It is a subject of just pride to the people of this Commonwealth that this great work is completed, which it opens a large and wealthy

part of the State to the commerce of the seaboard, and unites capital and enterprise within our borders, it secures to the Commonwealth the payment of sums due her from the company.

THE PAYMENT OF THE MILITIA. In my special message of 30th April last, to which I refer, I communicated to the Legislature, in some detail, the circumstances connected with the advance by banks and other corporations of the funds to pay the volunteer militia in 1863.

It is not necessary here to recapitulate them at length. The case was peculiar, and it is believed none quite like it has occurred. The call for volunteers was made by the authorities of the United States, but it being found that men could not be got under that call, the form of a call by the State authorities for the defence of the State was, with the assent of the President, substituted. The United States agreed to furnish the arms, and accoutrements, and supplies, but it was alleged that Congress had appropriated no appropriation covering the pay. In this state of things, the emergency being great the Secretary of War telegraphed to me thus:

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1863. To His Excellency Gov. A. G. Curtin: Your telegrams respecting the pay of militia called out under your proclamation of the 27th of June, have been referred to the President for instructions, and have been under his consideration. He directs me to say, that while no law or appropriation authorizes the payment, by the Government, of troops that have not been mustered into the service of the United States, he will recommend to Congress to make an appropriation for the payment of troops called into State service to repel an actual invasion, including those of the State of Pennsylvania.

It is not necessary to state the necessary amount, as has been done in other States, the appropriation will be applied to refund the advance to those who made it. Measures have been taken for the payment of troops mustered into the United States service as soon as the muster and pay rolls are made out. The answer of this Department, to you as Governor of the State, will be given directly to you whenever the Department is prepared to make answer.

EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

The banks and other corporations refused to advance the money unless I would pledge myself to ask an appropriation from the Legislature to refund it. It will be noticed that the pledge of the President is clear and distinct, but, notwithstanding the money was paid out of the accounts settled and placed in the hands of the President before the meeting of Congress, no such recommendation as promised me was made, and for that reason the bill introduced for that purpose failed. The men were raised and placed under the command of Major General Couch and the United States officers in this Department. The troops were held in service longer than the emergency for which they called out required. Several of the regiments were marched immediately to distant parts of the State, by order of the officers of the army stationed in Pennsylvania, against my repeated remonstrances. They were retained, as was alleged, to preserve the peace and enforce the draft. Nearly, if not quite, one-half the money was paid to troops thus held, and after the emergency had expired. Finding that the appropriation was likely to fail in Congress, I laid the matter before the Legislature, just prior to their adjournment, in May last, and an act of Assembly was immediately passed to pay the money out of the State treasury, which, as above stated, has been done. I ought to say that the appropriation by Congress was vigorously supported by all the members from this State in both branches. Having done everything in my power to procure the payment of this just claim of the State, I now recommend that the Legislature take the subject into consideration, with a view to induce proper action by the President and Congress.

THE ENROLLMENT OF THE MILITIA. By the act of 22d August, 1864, I was authorized to cause an immediate enrollment of the militia to be made, unless that recently made by the United States should be found sufficient, and to raise by volunteering or draft a corps of fifteen thousand men for the defence of our Southern border. The United States enrollment being found very defective, I directed an enrollment to be made, which is now in progress under the charge of Colonel Lemuel Todd, whom I appointed inspector general. A draft by the United States of the militia in progress, and it was not thought advisable to harass our people by a contemporaneous State draft, even if a draft had been practicable under the present law. Volunteers could not be obtained, there being no bounties, and the men not being exempted by their enlistment in that corps from draft by the United States. Fortunately the United States placed an army, under General Sheridan, between us and the enemy, and thus provided effectually for our defence. With such adequate protection, as proved by the brilliant campaign of that army, I did not think it right to incur the expense to the State of an independent army, and the withdrawal of so many of our people from their homes and pursuits. Meanwhile arrangements have been made with the authorities at Washington for arming, clothing, subsisting, and supplying the corps at the expense of the United States, and an order has been given by the authorities of the United States to furlough such volunteers in the corps as may be drafted by the United States, the corps so privileged not to exceed 5,000 men. It is my intention to raise 5,000 men during the winter, and I have already adopted measures to that end. There may occur irruptions of irregular bodies of the rebels, and it is well to be provided against them. The number proposed to be so raised and put into actual service will, in my judgment, be sufficient, and a regard to due economy requires that no more than are sufficient should be placed on pay. The remaining 10,000 will be organized and ready for service in case of any emergency, and your immediate attention to the very able report of the Inspector General, which sets forth the defects in the law which he has discovered in his preparation for carrying it into practical effect.

OUR STATE AGENCIES. The State agencies at Washington and in the Southwest are in active and successful operation. I communicate herewith the reports of Colonel Jordan, at Washington, and Colonel Chamberlin, Agent for the Southwest. The provisions of the law requiring the agents to collect moneys due by the United States to soldiers have been beneficial. A reference to their reports will show the magnitude and usefulness of this branch of their service. I desire to invite the attention of all our volunteers, officers, soldiers, and their families to the fact that the State agents will collect all their claims on the Government gratuitously, as I have reason to believe that many are still ignorant of that fact, and are greatly imposed upon by the exorbitant commissions charged by private claim agents.

RECUSSION OF SOLDIERS' BOUNTIES. Under the act of the 6th of May, 1864, I appointed Hon. Thomas H. Burrows to take charge of the arrangements for the education of the orphans of soldiers. I communicate herewith a copy of this report on the subject. He has discharged his duties with commendable zeal, fidelity, and efficiency. I earnestly recommend that a permanent and liberal appropriation be made to support this just and worthy scheme of beneficence.

PROVISIONS FOR INSURED AND DEAD MILITMEN. I recommend that an appropriation be made for pensions to the volunteer militmen (or their families), who were killed or hurt in service in the years 1862 and 1863. As soldiers sometimes arrive here who are insane, and who should be protected and cared for, I recommend that provision be made for their being placed in the State Asylum for the Insane, at this place, and that full notice can be given to the authorities of their respective counties, who should be required to remove and care for them.

IRREGULAR ACTS OF INCORPORATION. I feel it to be my duty to invite your serious attention to the evils growing out of the system of passing acts of incorporation for purpose which are provided for by general laws. We have passed acts authorizing charters to be obtained without special legislation. These acts have been generally prepared with some care, and contain the provisions which the Legislature thought necessary to protect the Commonwealth and her citizens. If these general laws are not found to answer such purposes, they should be amended and perfected. If any company desires to be incorporated with greater privileges than are conferred, or to be relieved from any of the conditions imposed by these acts, it appears to me that it should be required first to obtain a charter under the general laws, and then apply to the Legislature for an act making the changes which are desired. The attention of the Legislature will thus be drawn to the specific object, and a judgment can be formed of its propriety. I would also observe that great evils result from the habit of granting privileges to a corporation by a mere reference to some former private act relating to other corporations, sometimes without even giving the date of these acts. All these practices are bad, and although they may sometimes be pursued by parties having no bad intentions, yet they certainly originated in the design of surprising the Commonwealth into grants of privileges which it was known could not be obtained if their extent were understood, and they are often followed now for the same fraudulent purposes.

REPEALS RECOMMENDED. I strongly recommend the repeal of the act passed the 18th day of July, A. D. 1863, entitled "An act relating to corporations for mechanical, manufacturing, mining, and quarrying purposes." Its provisions are found to be practically so inconsistent with the protection of the citizens and with the just policy of the Commonwealth, that it ought not to be allowed to stand longer on our statute book. I approved the act in question with great reluctance, and subsequent reflection and observation have satisfied me of its mischievous character.

I also recommend the repeal of an act passed the 22d day of July, A. D. 1863, entitled "A further supplement to an act to enable corporations to hold three hundred acres of land in this State for mining purposes." It was passed, it is believed, for the purpose of enabling companies near our border, engaged in the manufacture of iron, to hold land as ore banks. But under the idea that the sinking of an oil well is mining, it is believed that companies have already been organized under the laws of other States, and that more will be, for the purpose of holding lands and carrying on the oil business in this State. It would be better to remove all doubt on this question by repealing the act. The companies, being foreign corporations, are not within the control of our laws to the extent that they ought to be for the purposes of taxation and regulation.

DEVELOPMENT OF OUR INTERNAL RESOURCES. The immense development of wealth in some of our western counties by the discovery of oil has added vastly to the means of our Commonwealth. The value of this product during the last year, but have failed in procuring information sufficiently accurate to justify me in estimating its amount. It is already vast, and is rapidly increasing.

A COMMISSIONER OF STATISTICS. The productions and manufactures of the State have become so diversified and abundant that some measures should be taken for an accurate ascertainment of them, so that their extent may be generally known, and also that the necessary taxes may be intelligently imposed. I recommend for these purposes the creation of a bureau, of which the Auditor General and the State Treasurer shall be members, and the head of which shall be a new officer, to be styled Commissioner of Statistics, or designated by any other appropriate title.

REFORM IN THE METHOD OF SOLDIERS' VOTING. The act of 25th August, 1864, providing for the voting of soldiers, should be carefully examined, with a view to its amendment, and, indeed, a revision of our whole election laws would seem to be desirable, with a view to the two essential objects of 1. The development of a correct and exclusion of illegal votes at the polls; and 2. Faithful and correct returns of the votes actually polled. I communicate herewith the opinion of the Attorney General on the conflicting returns for the Sixteenth Congressional district, which will show some of the practical difficulties which arise under the existing system. Without undertaking to recommend the adoption of any particular plan, I submit the whole subject to your careful and earnest consideration, in the hope that in your wisdom you will be able to develop a system which will produce the result so essential to the existence of a free government; that votes shall be fairly taken in the first instance, and fairly counted and returned afterwards. I have endeavored since I came into office to exercise as cautiously as possible the powers conferred to the Executive, and avoid usurping any. I shall endeavor to persist in this course to the end.

DRAFT—CONDENSATION OF LOCAL BOUNTIES. A new call has been made by the President for three hundred thousand men.—This renders it proper that I should invite your attention to the evils which have resulted from abuses of the system of local bounties, which was begun in an emergency, by the voluntary and generous loyalty of our citizens, before the passage by Congress of the enrollment act, and has since been continued by sundry acts of Assembly. The result has been to the last degree oppressive to our citizens' and unproductive of corresponding benefit to the Government. In some counties and townships, it is believed that the bounty tax during the last year exceeded the average income derived from the land. The large sums offered in some places in the competition for men have demoralized many of our people, and the most atrocious frauds connected with the system have become common. The number of some of the poorer counties have been nearly exhausted by their volunteers being credited to richer localities paying heavier bounties. The system, as practised, lowers the morale of the army itself, by putting into the ranks men actuated by merely mercenary motives, and who are tempted to desert by the facility of escaping detec-

tion, and the prospect of new gains by re-enlistment—a process which they expect to repeat an indefinite number of times. Of the number of men for whom bounties have been paid, it is believed that not one-fourth have been actually placed in the ranks of the army, and even those who have joined it have probably not on an average received for their own use one-half of the bounty paid for them. Immense sums have thus been appropriated by cheats and swindlers, in many cases believed to be acting in complicity with agents of the Government. An effort was made to prosecute some of the parts concerned in such frauds under the act of Assembly of 14th August last, and they were bound over by the Mayor of this city, but after the witnesses had come here, on the meeting of the court, they disappeared from the public eye. I recommend the whole subject to your careful consideration, that the system may be purged of these evils.

OUR STATE QUOTA 66,999. I am officially informed that the quota of this State, under the recent call, is 66,999, but I am not informed of the principle on which the draft is to be made. It appears from the President's proclamation that it is made chiefly to supply an alleged deficiency in former calls. I am surprised at the amount of this large deficiency, and can only account for the difference between the number of men furnished by the State and the deficiency alleged to exist in the assignment of the present quota by the assumption that the men never reached the army, although enlisted and mustered after the payment of bounties by the localities to which they were supposed to be credited. It is probable that there are very few counties in the State which have not paid large bounties for a number of men sufficient to fill their former quotas. Taking the local bounties at the low average of four hundred dollars, it is believed that it can be demonstrated that the people of Pennsylvania have been thus robbed of more than two millions of dollars during the