

TERMS OF PUBLICATION.

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MESSAGE OF ANDREW G. CURTIN GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA.

To the Legislature, January 30, 1866.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA., JAN. 30, 1866.

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

My countrymen—We have cause to be thankful to Divine Providence for the blessings which have been bestowed upon this Commonwealth since the close of the war.

The Bradford Reporter.

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peatedly passed directing the expenditure of as much money as may be necessary to effect any purpose, sometimes without clearly designating by whom the money is to be expended, or how the accounts are to be examined.

I recommend that the practice be corrected, and that no appropriation be made without having the exact sum appropriated, the specific purpose to which it is to be applied, and designating the officer by whom it is to be expended, and providing that the accounts shall be settled in the Auditor General's office in the usual manner.

Notwithstanding the large expenditures by the State for military purposes, since the breaking out of the rebellion, the condition of the Treasury is now \$2,555,579 12 better than it was then, and I am proud to be able to state further, that on the 1st day of December, 1865, the State debt was \$42,938 66 less than it was on the 1st of January, 1861.

Under these circumstances, it may be possible, with entire safety to our finances, to reduce or even repeal the ordinary State tax of two and a half mills on real estate. The tax of one half mill laid by the act of May 16, 1861, was by that act expressly pledged for the repayment of the loan of \$3,000,000, thereby authorized, and of course cannot be repealed or reduced until that repayment shall have been made.

In case of such a repeal, I recommend the adoption of some effective measures for enforcing correct returns of such objects of taxation, with appropriate penalties for the neglect or refusal to make them.

I make these recommendations, believing that it will lead to more equitable local taxation and to greater economy in their disbursement.

Many acts are on our statute books, incorporating companies for various purposes, which companies have never been organized or gone into operation.

I recommend that such acts be repealed by a general law, and that provision be made that in future every act authorizing a corporation shall become void, unless the corporation shall organize and use its franchises within a limited time.

Since my last annual message the war against armed treason has been brought to a close. Of the large contributions made by Pennsylvania to the National army, but a few of the men now remain in the service.

Only eleven regiments, however, in addition to the fourteen called for by the President, were organized and mustered into the service, before the order of General Patterson was countermanded by him, under instructions from the War Department.

On the 14th day of May, 1861, the Secretary of War, in a letter communicating the plan of organization, for three years' regiments, confirmed the revocation of the order in the following language: "Ten regiments in addition to the thirteen regiments of three months militia, already called for, twenty-three regiments. It is important to reduce rather than enlarge this number, and in no event to exceed it."

The twenty-five regiments raised as above stated, comprised 20,979 men. The ardor of our people was unabated. Many of the companies, under my own personal supervision, were organized at Harrisburg, and others maintained their organizations at home at their own expense, and by contributions from their neighbors and friends.

In the critical condition of the country, and anticipating that, in case of reverse to our arms, the borders of Pennsylvania would be the portals to the rich granaries, manufacturing and store-houses of the North, I deemed it my duty to convene the Legislature, that adequate provision might be made to enable me to render the military power of the State as available and efficient as it should be, for the common defense of the State and General Government;

and accordingly, on the 20th of April, 1861, I issued my proclamation, calling for a meeting of the General Assembly, on the 30th of the same month.

In my message to the Legislature at its opening, I recommended the immediate organization, disciplining and arming of at least fifteen regiments, exclusive of those called into the service of the United States.

The Legislature acted promptly upon this suggestion, and made full provision for its successful accomplishment. The result was the early and complete organization, clothing and equipping of the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, with its thirteen regiments of infantry, one of light artillery and one of cavalry, under the supervision of George A. McCall, who was selected to command it, with the commission and rank of Major General.

This corps contained 15,856 men, and the whole expense of raising, clothing, equipping, subsisting and paying them, until their entry into the United States service, was \$955,444 87. They were encamped in different parts of the State, except two of the regiments, those commanded by Colonels Chas. J. Biddle and Seneca G. Simmons, and two batteries of artillery, under the command of Colonel Charles T. Campbell, which at the request of the War Department, were sent on the 22d of June, 1861, to the relief of Colonel Wallace, at Cumberland, Maryland, and remained for about six weeks there, and in Western Virginia, engaged in active operations.

Towards the close of July the whole corps was called for and taken, on a requisition, into the service of the United States. Within four days after the disaster at Bull Run, eleven regiments, in all respects ready for active service, were in Washington and Baltimore.

During the year 1864, under the various call of General Sherman, thirty-two regiments, two battalions and eight unattached companies of different arms, of the service and for various periods, were organized and sent to the field, aggregating, with re-enlistments in the field, amounting to 17,876, an aggregate force of 91,704 men, furnished for that year.

On my suggestion the policy of consolidating our reduced regiments, and filling them up by the assignment of new companies was adopted, and in 1865, under this system, besides organizing three entire new regiments, seventy-five companies were assigned to reduced regiments, by which they were again filled to the regimental standard. These three new regiments and seventy-five companies, with volunteer recruits for regiments in the field, amounted, in the aggregate, to 25,709 men for this year.

In the month of September, 1862, after the second disaster of Bull Run, it became evident that the enemy had adopted an aggressive policy, and was about to invade the Northern States through Maryland and the southern border of Pennsylvania. Under the command of these troops, by whom I issued my proclamation, calling to immediate service fifty thousand of the freemen of this State, under this call twenty-five regiments and four companies of infantry, fourteen unattached companies of cavalry, four batteries of artillery were immediately organized and sent to the border, the greater portion advancing beyond the State line into Maryland.

General John F. Reynolds, at that period commanding the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, was temporarily assigned, by the Secretary of War, to the command of these troops, by whose orders they were returned to Pennsylvania, and by my proclamation, disbanded on the 24th of the same month.

In acknowledgment of the service rendered by the men of Pennsylvania, Major General McClellan, commanding the Army of the Potomac, by letter dated the 27th of September, 1862, acknowledging the service and thanking the State, uses the following language: "The manner in which the people of Pennsylvania responded to your call, and hastened to the defence of their frontier, no doubt exercised a great influence upon the enemy, and the Governor of Maryland, His Excellency A. W. Bradford, in an order dated September 20, 1862, used the following language in regard to these troops: 'The readiness with which they crossed the border and took their stand beside the Maryland brigade, shows that the border is, in all respects, but an ideal line, and in such such a cause as now unites us, Pennsylvania and Maryland are but one.'

In the month of June, 1863, it again became evident that the rebel army was advancing to the defence of their frontier, on the western border of Pennsylvania, and on the 26th of that month, I again issued my proclamation, calling the militia of the State into immediate service. In the Department of the Monongahela, five regiments of infantry, one company of cavalry and one battery of artillery, for ninety days' service, and one battalion of infantry, one battalion of cavalry and one battery of artillery, for six months' United States service, were organized.

In the Department of the Susquehanna, twenty-three regiments and five unattached companies of infantry, and two unattached companies of cavalry, for ninety days; one battalion of infantry, one battalion of cavalry, and four independent batteries of artillery, for three months; three regiments of cavalry, two battalions of infantry, and three independent batteries of artillery, for six months' United States service, were organized.

There were also organized in this department, for the "emergency term," eight regiments, one battalion and a number of unattached companies of infantry, two independent batteries of artillery and two companies of cavalry.

In the Department of the Monongahela, the troops under this call, were commanded by Major General W. T. H. Brooks, and in the Department of the Susquehanna, by Major General D. N. Conch, severally detailed by the War Department.

me to take them on behalf of the State, and for the defence of the State, the United States paying all the expenses of their clothing, equipment, subsistence, &c. It was, however, alleged that there was no appropriation for their pay. To remove this difficulty the General Government applied to banks and other moneyed corporations in Philadelphia to advance the amount of the pay, on a pledge that, when Congress met, the passage of a bill to reimburse them should be recommended. These institutions declined this proposition, but expressed their willingness to make the advances if I would pledge myself to recommend to the Legislature the passage of such an act in case Congress should not provide for reimbursing them.

Under these circumstances, I received from the Executive of the United States the pledge which he had proposed to give to the banks, &c., and upon that I gave the necessary pledge to them, and they advanced the required funds according. The following telegram from the Secretary of War will show in part the ground on which I acted:

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 General Government for 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 an actual invasion, including those of the State of Pennsylvania. If, in the meantime, you can raise the necessary amount, as has been done in other States, the appropriation will be applied to refund the advance to those that 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 yourself whenever the Department is prepared to make answer.

When Congress met, the Executive of the United States did not recommend the passage of the necessary act. I have understood that the subject was called to the attention of the proper committee, by the Secretary of War, but as the President did not send a message explaining the circumstances of the case, the appropriation failed, and the members of Congress had thus no means of explaining to their constituents the difference between the case (which was in substance a loan to the United States, upon the pledge of the Executive for its repayment), and the case of the voluntary expenditure of money for military purposes of Pennsylvania and most of the other States.

I will add that the men came into the service for the emergency only, and on the faith that they should be discharged as soon as, in my judgment, the emergency should have ceased. The emergency ceased immediately after the battle of Gettysburg, which commenced on the 1st of July, 1863; yet the men, against my urgent and repeated remonstrances, were kept in the service long afterward and used by the officers of the United States for various purposes.

I recommend that the Legislature adopt measures to bring the subject again before Congress, and obtain repayment of this sum, amounting to \$671,476 43, with interest on the same, which the General Government has thus far so unwarrantably withheld.

Great injustice has been done to private soldiers, who went into service under the provisions of the act of Congress, by refusing to pay them the full bounties offered by the terms of that act. The following letter, which I addressed to the Secretary of War, sufficiently explains the position of this affair:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA., June 5, 1863. Sir:—There are two subjects connected with the discharge of volunteers which are of so much importance that I feel justified in calling your attention to them.

and it is my fervent desire for the success of your administration which leads me to bring them directly to your notice.

I recommend that the Legislature make proper efforts to have this injustice corrected.

The report of David Willis, Esq., president of the soldiers' National Cemetery, at Gettysburg, herewith transmitted, shows the present condition of the cemetery. As the battle of Gettysburg resulted in a glorious victory, and was in fact the beginning of the end of the war, and occurred on the soil of the Commonwealth, I think it would be well that it should be commemorated by an historical painting to be placed in the Capitol of the State; and I recommend that the Legislature take measures for that purpose.

The State of Maryland has proposed to her sister States that they unite with her in establishing a cemetery for our soldiers who fell at Antietam. I herewith transmit copies of the Maryland statute, and other documents on this subject, and recommend the passage of an act heartily accepting the proposition of the State of Maryland. All the States having promptly and generously responded to our proposition to have a cemetery at Gettysburg, it would seem proper that we should reciprocate, and unite in this. The duty is made more sacred when we remember that more of Pennsylvania's sons fell in that battle than those of any other State.

The report of the State Agent at Washington, herewith transmitted, shows that under his efficient management the claims of our soldiers are promptly examined and paid. Every effort has been made to apprise our officers and men that their claims will be collected by the State Agent (Col. Jordan), without expense to them; yet it is feared that many of them continue to employ private claim agents, whose fees bear heavily on the claimants.

Since my last annual message I have expended of the secret service fund, the sum of four thousand three hundred and thirty-three dollars and twenty cents, out of which I have paid my personal staff and other extraordinary expenses. No appropriation is required for the increase of this fund.

I invite your attention to the reports of the Military Departments of the State, to the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools, which exhibits the prosperous condition of our system of public education, and to the report of the Surveyor General, and recommend to your favorable consideration the many excellent suggestions made by that officer.

I commend to your earnest consideration the suggestion made by the Surgeon General in his report, herewith transmitted, on the propriety of legislation for the protection of our people, by proper sanitary measures, from the ravages of the cholera, which is now approaching our shores.

I commend to the attention of the Legislature the subject of providing for the relief of our many maimed and wounded soldiers. Possibly this might be done by continuing and enlarging the acts providing for boards of relief in the several counties. I recommend the adoption by the Legislature of this or some other plan for doing justice to the class of men in question.

By the joint resolution of May 16, 1861, authorizing me to give flags to our regiments, it was made the duty of the Executive to receive the flags when the regiments returned. This has not been hitherto done, inasmuch as they have not all yet been mustered out. As soon as this shall have been taken place, the flags will be received with appropriate ceremonies, and I recommend that the Legislature make provision for causing them to be hung in the new Library.