

# The Bradford Reporter.

E. O. GOODRICH, Publisher.

TOWANDA, BRADFORD COUNTY, PA. JANUARY 16, 1888.

NUMBER 34.

By the sixth section of the act of May 14, 1861, a special tax of one-half mill on the dollar was established for the payment of the interest and redemption of the loan created by an act of May 13, 1861, entitled "An act to loan and provide for arming the State."

Public debt, Nov. 30, 1887. \$34,706,451.92  
Assets of Treasury Vtd. Bonds of the Pennsylvania railroad company, \$46,500,000.00  
Philadelphia and Erie railroad company, 8,500,000.00  
Interest on bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie railroad company, 1,400,000.00  
Cash, 1,723,856.91  
Total, \$58,526,357.91

The above assets will be available as follows: By the act of May 14, 1867, the Pennsylvania railroad company are to pay on the above bonds, one hundred thousand dollars a year until July 31, 1890, when one million of the residue shall fall due, and one million annually thereafter, without interest, until the whole is paid, which will be in the year 1895.

By the act of March 7, 1861, the three million five hundred thousand dollars of bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad were surrendered to this company, upon the deposit of four million dollars of their bonds as collateral security for the payment of the original bonds, and a mortgage of four millions of dollars was also given by the company to secure their State bonds, as it were, upon a promissory note which is to be paid in forty years from date of issue, and will mature A. D. 1901.

There is always a discrepancy in announcing the reduction of the State debt, between the annual proclamation of the Governor and report of the State Treasurer, arising from the fact that the sinking fund year terminates on Monday in September, and the fiscal year of the treasury on the 30th of November.

The report of the State Treasurer shows the balance in the Treasury November 30, 1887, was \$3,714,033.97. Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1887, \$4,523,307.07. Loan for the redemption of the over due bonds, 23,000,000.00. Depreciated funds in the Treasury, unavailable, 41,023.00.

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1887, \$30,905,355.34. Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1887, \$4,523,307.07. Loans, etc., 23,019,929.89. Depreciated funds, unavailable, 41,023.00. Total, \$58,526,357.91.

dred and sixty thousand dollars per annum. Of nearly the whole amount of the balance now in the Treasury might be rendered productive by being invested in the bonds of the State, bearing six per centum interest, even though purchased at a premium. Or, it might be invested in United States interest bearing bonds, which would be available at any moment a necessity might arise for the use of the funds. If that amount were exchanged at par for United States ten-fourty bonds, bearing five per centum interest in gold, the product would be at the rate of two hundred thousand dollars per annum, in gold, or at the present value of gold, two hundred and sixty-six thousand dollars in currency. Besides, the funds would not become "depreciated and unavailable" by long continuance in the Treasury. A law for this purpose could be passed, specifying the method by which the unneeded money of the Treasury may be loaned, authorized and empowered the State Treasurer, and such other things as you may designate to execute or carry out its provisions.

Your attention is also invited to the fact that the salary of the State Treasurer, now only seventeen hundred dollars, is entirely disproportionate to the duties and responsibilities of that officer, and that the amount of the bond, eighty thousand dollars, given by him to the State, is equivalent to no security at all, under the present system of placing, conditionally, the entire funds of the State in his hands. The only security is the incorruptible honesty and integrity of the Treasurer. Suppose that when there is in his keeping millions of dollars the incumbent of that office should be tempted to become a defaulter! How easily could he secure in his bondman the amount for which they would legally be liable to the State and appropriate the same to himself! For years, it seems to me, the Treasury of the State has stood, as it were, upon a volcano. Examples all around us show the fallibility of man, and how frequently and easily he is swerved from the path of rectitude and honor. Even many of those in the most elevated positions and enjoying the highest confidence of the public, are often found to yield to the temptations that surround them. The desire for the rapid accumulation of wealth; the thousands of schemes presented to excite the cupidity of human nature, and the looseness of public morals, engendered by the escape of the guilty from punishment, have so demoralized public sentiment that it may be considered as certain that almost a miracle—that Pennsylvania has so long escaped from the calamity that might at any time have happened, or that may hereafter happen, by the robbery of her treasury, and render the suspension of the payment of the interest upon the State debt, for a time, inevitable.

In the performance of my duty, I have forwarded the Legislature a danger as respects her finances, of no common magnitude. It remains for her to determine whether this danger shall be averted by prompt and efficient legislation and the treasury guarded against the occurrence of so great a calamity.

The report of the Superintendent of the Common Schools exhibits a full view of our excellent system of public instruction, which is widely diffusing its blessings by securing a sound and substantial education to all the children of the State. A brief summary will give an idea of the present condition of the system, as follows: Education and maintenance, \$34,889.85. Partial relief, \$210.00. Clerical and messenger, \$2,317.83. Making and repairing clothing, \$3,350.74. General expenses, \$6,741.60. Total amount from January 1, 1887, to Dec. 1, 1887, \$394,420.02.

The expenses for six months, from December 1, 1887, to June 1, 1888, are estimated by the Superintendent, as follows: Education and maintenance, \$1,800 children in advanced schools, at \$140 per annum, \$252,000.00. Education of normal students, \$100,000.00. 1,050 children in primary schools, at \$135 per annum, \$141,750.00. Clothing, \$1,000 children, at \$2.50 per annum, \$2,500.00. Transferring pupils, \$2,000.00. Total, \$402,250.00.

I do not deem it inappropriate here to state that if the bill which passed the House at the last session had become a law, making an appropriation of four hundred and fifty thousand dollars, it would have been sufficient to have paid the total expenses.

able the State to avail itself of that latest which is known as the savings of the poor: which is frequently a day in the palace of the rich.

Good scholars cannot exist without good teachers, and good teachers can only be obtained by using the proper means to attract them. The recognizing these facts, the Legislature of 1857 passed a general Normal school law, dividing the State into twelve districts, and looking forward to the establishment, in each of them, of a Normal school. According to the provisions of this law four of these schools are now organized, the proper condition of which is demonstrated by the fact that two thousand one hundred and eighty-five students attended them during the past year, of whom forty-six graduated.

Fourteen colleges and thirty-two academies have made reports to the School Department during the past year. In the schools we find a great public want, and an empoverished school system is not competent to perform the whole work of popular education. A State requires men of generous culture in all the walks of life, as well in the profession of teaching, and the perfection of the system of public school instruction is one of the wisest and noblest objects of legislation. All of the different institutions of learning would be strengthened by their usefulness increased by bringing them together in a closer union, which possibly can be best accomplished by the creation of a general Department of Education.

Several gentlemen have been made concerning the rights of the orphan and poor houses of some of the counties of the State. They are permitted to grow up in idleness and ignorance, and when sent upon the world to earn a living are better prepared to receive lessons of vice than of usefulness. It is a disgraceful condition, which should be compelled by law, to send such children to the common schools, or provide proper schools for them, and it should be the duty of common school superintendents to supervise and enforce the execution of the law.

"SOLDIERS' ORPHAN SCHOOLS." The present Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphan Schools was made up to include the 30th of November, 1886. The appropriation for that year, extending from January 1, 1886, to January 1, 1887, was insufficient to cover the expenses of the whole year, and consequently those of December, 1886, were unpaid. The next appropriation under the present law, from January 1, 1887, to June 1, 1888, it was therefore, determined that there was no legal authority to apply any part of it to the payment of expenses prior to 1887; hence those incurred in December, 1886, amounting to thirty-one thousand four hundred and seventy-seven cents, were paid by the State.

Hon. Thomas H. Burrows, who was appointed Superintendent by my predecessor, continued in office until April 8, 1887. I appointed Colonel George F. McFarland, Superintendent, and Mrs. E. T. Fuller, as Examiner, and Mrs. C. S. Taylor, as Auditor. Since that time attention has been directed to the discharge of their duties by visiting and reorganizing the schools, correcting the abuses which had crept into the local management of some of them, and in settling arrearages, which was done with zeal, fidelity and commendable promptness.

November 29, 1887. At a session of the House of Representatives, held at the State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pa., on the 29th day of November, 1887, the following resolutions were adopted: Resolved, That the Committee on Education, and the Committee on Finance, be and they are hereby directed to investigate the transactions relating to certain cemeteries as hereinafter presented.

The work at the Gettysburg cemetery is progressing, but with less expedition than was contemplated, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring such blocks of marble as were required for statutory.

Agreeably to the requirements of the act of Assembly, entitled "An act to authorize the Governor to transfer to the Reynolds Monument Committee unexpended and unappropriated moneys approved March 7, 1867, I called the ordinance in the Arsenal to be inspected and turned over to the committee for the purpose indicated by the statute. The aggregate was three thousand seven hundred and forty-eight pounds."

While there is no reasonable objection to giving decent sepulture even to the rebel dead, those who consider them deserving of honorable testimony may bestow them. It is our duty to render honor only to whom we believe honor is due.

"All the papers and business of the department have been transferred to the office of the Adjutant General, and the same are being examined by the Department of War." During the war a State Agency for the examination, adjustment and collection, free of expense, of military claims, was established at Washington, for the maintenance of which the Legislature, with commendable liberality, has annually made the necessary appropriations.

The Pennsylvania Institute for the Deaf and Dumb, the Institution for the Instruction of the Blind, the Training School for Feeble-Minded Children, the Northern Home for Friendless Children, the Houses of Refuge, several Soldiers' Homes, and other similar charities, which have received aid from the State, are, according to the reports of the principals and superintendents, in their different spheres, accomplishing much good for the unfortunate classes for whose benefit they were established.

burg, will furnish the reports of the trustees and superintendents. Each of these institutions, as well as others in the State for the care of the insane, are crowded. The infirmaries for the hospital at Harrisburg, for which appropriation was made last year, with a large number of additional wards, have been erected, and will be ready for occupation during the winter. A liberal appropriation for the Western Hospital was devoted to the erection of buildings on the Ohio river, seven miles below Pittsburgh, known as the Dixon Hospital for the Insane. The great increase of population renders necessary the establishment of other institutions of this kind. It is estimated that the ratio of the insane is one to every thousand persons, an average of the population of the State to be about three million five hundred thousand, we have about three thousand five hundred insane. The hospitals in the State afford accommodation for only two thousand. Hence there are fifteen hundred for whom no provision is made, and many of them are languishing in the county prisons and almshouses.

Paragant to the first sec. of a joint resolution of the Legislature, approved on the 10th of April last, Hon. D. Derrickeon, W. Maclay Hall, Esq., and Wayne W. Veigh, Esq., were appointed to revise, compile and digest all such public acts and statistics of the civil code of this State, as are General and permanent in their nature. These gentlemen have commenced the work assigned them, and from which the following benefits are hoped to be derived: First. The correction of the redundances, and the removal of contradictions and inconsistencies of the existing statutes.

Second. The framing of General laws as substitutes for the innumerable local statutes which for many years have comprised the bulk of the acts of Assembly and occupied the attention of the Legislature, and the determination of general legislation.

The commissioners desire to be allowed, so far as possible, to complete work and present it detached parts, and express their opinion relative to the time requisite for its satisfactory completion. They ask a repeal of so much of the first section of the joint resolution as excepts from their labors "those statutes revised, codified and enacted under the resolution approved March 23, 1837," and so as to extend from "two to three years, the time allowed for the completion of the work. The proposed amendments will give them control of the whole body of the statute law, with such allowance of time as they deem necessary for its satisfactory revision.

The Auditor and General Secretary of the Commonwealth and State Treasurer, appointed by the Legislature at its last session, to revise and digest the tax laws of the State, have discharged that duty. Their report will be submitted at an early day, and I bespeak for that careful examination which the importance of the subject requires.

Your attention is also invited to the acts of May 13, 1887, and April 2, 1880 (Digest, page 43), requiring public notice to be given of the application for all private acts relating to real estate and for acts of incorporation. The wisdom and justice of these acts are manifest, and their enforcement cannot be otherwise than beneficial.

At the last session certain bills were passed in which large numbers of citizens were deeply interested, the responsibility of which rested upon the wisdom and justice of the enactment. It is expected that every legislator should be acquainted with all that is transpiring in the legislative hall. He is not simply chosen to give his support to certain bills which have been called to his individual attention. It is his duty to be conversant with the whole body of the law, and to be able to give an intelligent opinion upon every bill that comes before the Legislature. It is the duty of every citizen to be conversant with the laws of his country, and to be able to give an intelligent opinion upon every bill that comes before the Legislature. It is the duty of every citizen to be conversant with the laws of his country, and to be able to give an intelligent opinion upon every bill that comes before the Legislature.