MESSAGE

JOHN W. GEARY,

GOVERNOR OF PENNSYLVANIA,

TO THE

LEGISLATURE, JAN. 8, 1868.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN—

Before performing the constitutional duty of transmitting to you information of the condition of the Commonwealth, and recommending such measures as I may deem necessary and expedient, it affords me pleasure, free great pleasure, to congratulate the members of the Legislature on the happy meeting. *Dear Old Guard* friendly greetings on your assembling at the seat of Government, and to welcome you to the council chambers of the State.

Our grateful acknowledgments are due to the Beneficent Author of all good for the continued prosperity and well-being which everywhere prevails, for the abundance which has crowned the labors of the husbandman, for the greatest health all classes of a common blessing, and for the enjoyments of peace, contentment and "The Bear Dance" "happiness without satiety."

Our country has just emerged from the trials and dangers of an unrighteous rebellion and entered upon a period of important political struggle, which is now in progress. Being convened as the representatives of a confiding consistency grave duties and responsibilities devolve upon you to so legislate upon the great and manifold interests committed to your charge as best to conserve the welfare of the people, and advance the honor of the State. The public confidence is reposed in the belief that your deliberations will result beneficially and your public duties be faithfully discharged; and on my part, I express to you the assurance of zealous co-operation in all proper measures calculated to promote the general welfare.

One of the most important duties devolving upon the Legislature is the consideration of the public finances. Provision should be made for the provision of funds to defray the current expenses of the Government, the interest on the debt of the Commonwealth, and the speedy extinguishment of the public debt. These objects are of the highest importance and claim the first attention of the Representatives of the people.

FINANCES.

The report of the State Treasurer shows that the balance in the Treasury on the 1st day of Jan. 1866, was... $1,711,033 27

Ordinary receipts during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1867... 5,123,339 07

Loan for the redemption of the over-due bonds... 23,000,000 00

Depreciated funds in the Treasury, unavailable... 41,032 00

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1867... 30,205,395 34

Payments, viz.:

Ordinary expenses during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1867... $4,083,696 99

Loan, Act of April 20, 1864... 20,000,000 00

Depreciated funds unavailable... 41,032 00 — 25,543,558 88

Balance in Treasury, November 30... 4,661,836 46

Of which the Treasurer reports as applicable to the payment of over-due loans, the sum of... 2,937,958 55

Balance... 1,723,877 91

Amount of the State debt on Nov. 30, 1866... $35,622,052 16

Funded debt, viz.:

6 per cent. loans... $25,311,180 00

5 per cent. loans... 12,101,025 20

4½ per cent. loans... 175,000 00 — $37,587,205 20

Unfunded debt, viz.:

Relief notes in circulation... 96,625 00

Interest certificates outstanding... 13,086 52

Interest certificates unclaimed... 4,448 38

Domestic creditor certificates... 44 67 — 114,204 57

Total outstanding... 37,701,409 77

From which deduct the amount in Treasury applicable to the payment of overdue loans... 2,937,958 55

Amount redeemed during fiscal year ending November 30, 1867... 35,763,451 22

Amount redeemed during fiscal year ending November 30, 1867... $35,649 94

That the operations of the sinking fund may be clearly understood, a tabular statement is quoted from the report of the Commissioners for the year ending Sept. 3, 1867:

Balance in sinking fund, Sept. 3, 1867... $2,752,851 77

Receipts in fund for year ending Sept. 3, 1867... 3,353,819 69

Disbursements:

Paid interest... $2,375,330 55

Loans redeemed... 1,194,000 00

Premiums... 775 00

Domestic collections... 44 67 — 3,570,250 65

Balance in fund... 1,536,419 41

By the sixth section of the act of May 16, 1861, a special tax of one-half mill on the dollar was especially set apart for the payment of the interest, and redemption of the loan created by an act of May 16, 1861, entitled "An act to create a loan and provide for sinking the State." The receipts from such tax and the loan gross receipts amounts to... $488,128 17

Interest paid on loan in February and August, 1867... 169,215 00

Balance on hand... 319,913 17

Public debt, November 30, 1867... $35,766,451 22

Assets in Treasury, viz:

Bonds of the Pennsylvania railroad company... $6,500,000 00

Bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie railroad company... 8,500,000 00

Bonds of the Philadelphia and Erie Canal company... 1,400,000 00

Cash in Treasury... 1,723,877 91 — 18,123,877 91

Liabilities in excess of assets... 17,642,573 31

The above assets will be available as follows:

By the act of May 16, 1867, the Pennsylvania railroad company is required to pay on the interest coupons a year until July 31, 1870, when one million annually thereafter, without interest, on the principal of the whole loan, which will be in the year 1880.

By the act of March 7, 1861 $3,000,000 of bonds are expected to be paid in the State debt of our State ordered to "that company, upon the deposit of the State Loan, millions of dollars of their bonds as collateral security for the payment of the original debt, and a mortgage of four millions of mills on the State, was also given by the company to carry the work to completion. The bonds are to be paid in three years from date of issue, and will mature in the year 1868.

A large surplus follows, a discrepancy in announcing the preparation of the State debt, between the authorized and the executive.

nual presentation of the Governor and report of the State Treasurer, arising from the fact that the sinking fund year terminates on the first Monday in September and the fiscal year on the Thursday on the 30th of November. To prevent complications of accounts and annual explanations I recommend that the termination of the sinking fund year be made the same as that of the Treasury year.

The promptitude with which citizens of Pennsylvania come forward in April and took the bonds of the State of the loan authorized by the act of May 16, 1861, for the purpose of the Union, is a fact which should be considered a most auspicious circumstance in the financial history of the State, and indicates unbounded confidence in the good faith and substantial credit of the Commonwealth. The foregoing statement of the finances is set forth with pleasure, in consequence of their flourishing condition.

In addition thereto, the balance in favor of the General Government on Pennsylvania's quota of the direct tax levied in the year 1861 for the purpose and for cash from the United States, amounting, in all, to nearly two millions of dollars, has been settled in full by the allowance of claims for extraordinary expenses incurred by the State during the war.

In consequence of the lapse of time since the soldiers' claims were consummated, and of sufficient vouchers and explanations, and the difficulty of finding the parties, some of them believe dead, by whom they should be made, render their adjustment difficult, and in many instances doubtful, the accomplishment of which is a duty which can only be attended with results held before the Legislature.

Passing from this general review of the finances of the State, I cannot refrain from some of the most prominent ideas connected with them to pass unnoticed, because of the importance attached to a duty in the exchange of the Executive trust. It is a fact that during the entire year a very large sum of money is in the hands of the State Treasurer. This sum has not at any time for years been less than the amount of one and a half million of dollars, to considerably over four millions of dollars. That it is unnecessary to collect such large sums of it money should be kept in the Treasury to meet the ordinary demands upon it, and that all the facilities for withdrawn from circulation is certainly a detriment to the business of the Commonwealth, and a source of embarrassment to several business, as at present, cannot fail to occur, to the disbursement of the Government, scientific, manufacturing, agricultural, mining and other kinds of enterprises, I feel confident, from an informed upon good authority, can be loaned, with ample security for the principal and interest, and, for certain specified periods, at a reasonable rate of interest, which would be a benefit to the Treasury for the benefit of the State, which would not only be beneficial to the State, by increasing the revenues, but also enlarge the accommodations for business purposes. I think this plan may obviate the withdrawal of the circulating medium, by the payment of taxes, and be a benefit to the State, not materially affect the public welfare. The interest thus acquired would be added to the sinking fund, and would materially aid in the reduction of the State debt.

A glance at the condition of the Treasury will show that at least four millions of dollars should now be loaned, and at four per cent. would realize the handsome sum of $160,000 per annum. Or nearly the interest on the sum of money now in the Treasury might be rendered available if invested in bonds of the State, bearing six per cent. interest, even though purchased at a premium. The bonds issued in aid of the United States interest bonds, which would be available at any moment, if necessity might arise for the use of the funds. If that should not be considered wise, I feel it my duty to recommend the loan of the surplus, bearing five per cent. interest, to pay, the interest on the sum of $200,000 per annum, in gold, or, at the present value of gold, $266,000 in currency. Besides, the funds are not now the depreciated and unavailable" by long continuance in the Treasury. A law for the payment of the interest, specifying the method by which the mingled money of the Treasury, would be avoided, and, rising and empowering the State Treasurer, and the State Sinking Fund Commissioners to carry out, its provisions.

Your attention is also invited to the fact that the salary of the State Treasurer, now only seventy-five dollars, is not in proportion to the duties and responsibilities of that officer, and that the amount of the bond, eighty thousand dollars, given by the State Treasurer, is not equal to the security at all, under the present system of banking, unauthorized by the laws of the State in the hands. The only security, is the individual responsibility of the bankers, and surety. Suppose that when there is in his keeping the million, or two million of dollars, the officer should be tempted to become a defaulter! How could he pay the interest on the amount for which they would legally be liable to the State and the principal? The thought is appalling! For years, it seems to me, the Treasury of the State has stood as a rock, upon which, the Ship of State has stood, as it were, upon a volcano. Examples all around us show the fallibility of man, and how frequently he may be swerved from the path of rectitude and honor. Even many years of tried fidelity, and positive character, by the highest conidence of the public, are no bound to the fidelity of the Treasurer, and surround them. The desire for the rapid accumulation of wealth, the temptation, which may be related to excite the cupidity of human nature, and the boldness of public morals, engendered by the spirit of the guilty from punishment, have so generalized public sentiment that it may be considered a wonder—almost a miracle—that Pennsylvania has so long escaped from the robbery that might at any time have occurred, or that may hereafter happen, by the robbery of her Treasury, and render the duties of the payment of the interests upon the State debt, for a time, impossible.

In the performance of my duty, I have forewarned the Legislature of a danger to our interest finances, of no common magnitude. It remains for it to determine whether that danger shall be averted by prompt and efficient legislation and the Treasury guarded against the occurrence of so great a calamity.

EDUCATION.

The report of the Superintendent of the Common Schools exhibits a full view of our excellent system of public instruction, and the ever-diffusing its blessings by securing a sound and substantial education to all the children of the State. A brief summary of the results of the income proportions it has attained and the vast amount of usefulness it has in store for us.

At the close of the year the number of school districts in the State was 1,869, the number of schools, 13,453; graded schools, 2,147; school directors, 11,536; county, city and borough superintendents, 68; teachers, 13,623; pupils, 789,860. The cost of tuition $1,036,663; fuel, $1,262,; 75; 88; contingencies, $190,675 38; tuition, building and contingencies, $5,000,671; and the amount expended for all purposes relating to schools, $6,196,710.

Your attention is particularly invited to the want of uniformity and constant change of books in our public schools. These are productive of serious inconvenience and needless expense to the parent, and might easily be remedied by judicious legislation.

The chief aim of our system of common schools is to place the advantages of an education within the reach of all the children of the Commonwealth; and when it is considered that the intelligence and virtue of the people are the guards of our free institutions, this system cannot fail to receive the fostering care and wise guidance of the Legislature.

The graded schools have largely increased during the past year. The encouragement given the State was designed to only to furnish instruction to a portion of the children of a township, but wherever practicable, to impart to them an education. In the branches of learning, English, The multiplication or grammar and high school studies, the teachers receive encouragement for the year necessary to perfect the system and enable the State to avail itself of the advantages to be born in the cottages of the poor—quite as frequently as in the mansions of the rich.

Good schools cannot exist without good teachers, and good teachers cannot be obtained by using the prospect of permanent employment. Recognizing these facts, the Legislature of 1867 passed a law for the creation of a State Normal School, specifying the method by which the minceded money of the Treasury, would be applied, authorizing and empowering the State Treasurer, and State Sinking Fund Commissioners to carry out, its provisions.

Your attention is also invited to the fact that the salary of the State Treasurer, now only seventy-five dollars, is not in proportion to the duties and responsibilities of that officer, and that the amount of the bond, eighty thousand dollars, given by the State Treasurer, is not equal to the security at all, under the present system of banking, unauthorized by the laws of the State in the hands. The only security, is the individual responsibility of the bankers, and surety. Suppose that when there is in his keeping the million, or two million of dollars, the officer should be tempted to become a defaulter! How could he pay the interest on the amount for which they would legally be liable to the State and the principal? The thought is appalling! For years, it seems to me, the Treasury of the State has stood as a rock, upon which, the Ship of State has stood, as it were, upon a volcano. Examples all around us show the fallibility of man, and how frequently he may be swerved from the path of rectitude and honor. Even many years of tried fidelity, and positive character, by the highest confidence of the public, are no bound to the fidelity of the Treasurer, and surround them. The desire for the rapid accumulation of wealth, the temptation, which may be related to excite the cupidity of human nature, and the boldness of public morals, engendered by the spirit of the guilty from punishment, have so generalized public sentiment that it may be considered a wonder—almost a miracle—that Pennsylvania has so long escaped from the robbery that might at any time have occurred, or that may hereafter happen, by the robbery of her Treasury, and render the duties of the payment of the interests upon the State debt, for a time, impossible.

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union, which possibly can be best accomplished by the creation of a general Department of Education.

Serious complaints have been made concerning the neglect of the education of the children of the State. They are permitted to grow up in idleness and ignorance, and then sent upon the world to earn a living, with better prospect of lessons of vice than those of usefulness. The authors of these institutions of charity are pelled, by law, to send such children to the common schools, or provide proper schools for them, and it should be made the duty of common school superintendents to supervise and enforce the execution of the law.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' SCHOOLS.

The last annual report of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools was made up to include the 30th of November, 1866. The appropriations for that year, extending from January 1st, 1866, to January 1st, 1867, was insufficient to cover the expenses of the school year, and consequently from December, 1866, were unpaid. The next appropriation, under the present law, extends from January 1st, 1868, to June 1st, 1868. It was, therefore, determined that there was no authority to apply any of it to the payment of expenses prior to January, 1868, leaving those incurred in December, 1866, amounting to $31,049 77, remain unpaid.

Hon. Thomas H. Burrowes, who was appointed Superintendent by my predecessor, continued in office until May 1, 1867, when, on the 1st of April 9, 1867, I appointed Colonel George F. Jewett, Superintendent; Rev. Thomas H. Burrowes, Inspector and Examiner, and Mrs. E. W. Hunter, Assistant, who at once entered upon the discharge of their duties by visiting and reorganizing the schools, correcting abuses which had crept in, and bringing the system into harmony and in settling arrearages, which was done with zeal and promptitude in the short space of time.

The present Superintendent reports the expenditures for the eleven months ending November 30, 1867, as follows:

Education and maintenance... $431,889 40

Clothing furnished 1,088 children, in advanced schools... 37,187 47

Making and repairing clothing, freight, etc... 8,959 71

General expenses... 6,781 40

Total amount, from January 1, to December 1, 1867... 204,420 02

The expenses for the six months, from December 1, 1867, to June 1, 1868, are estimated by the superintendent, as follows:

Education and maintenance of 1,950 children, in advanced schools, at $190 per annum... $125,500 00

Food tuition and maintenance for 500 children in primary schools, at $125 per annum... 31,250 00

Education and maintenance of 1,050 children in "Homes," at $105 per annum... 55,125 00

Clothing 1,500 children, at $25 per annum... 24,375 00

Transferring pupils, salaries, etc... 3,955 00

Estimate for six months, ending June 1, 1868... 244,205 00

Total actual and estimated expenses for one school year of twelve months, from January 1, 1867, to June 1, 1868... $577,205 00

Or, at the rate of $479,205 00 per annum.

From which deduct total amount appropriated for seventeen months, at $350,000 per annum... 495,833 33

And a deficit for seventeen months is shown of... 111,561 66

Or, at the rate of $99,205 80 per annum.

Add the amount due for December, 1866... 31,049 77

And it exhibits the total deficit from December 1, 1866, to June 1, 1868, to be provided for by special appropriation... 142,611 43

I do not deem it inappropriate here to state that if the bill which passed the Legislature last session had become a law, making an appropriation of $450,000 per annum for the orphans' schools, it would have been sufficient to meet all the total expenses.

The estimates for the year ending June 1st, 1869, will be found fully set forth in the report of the Superintendent. From that report I also learn that there are in operation thirty-three schools and homes, containing an average of two thousand nine hundred and thirty-one pupils, for the year ending November 30, 1867, at an average cost of one hundred and forty-eight dollars and forty-three cents per annum.

These schools have doubtless reached their maximum numbers. Sixteen years being the age at which the orphans cease to be wards of the State, and they will henceforward decrease in number, viz.: 371 will reach that age in 1868, 329 in 1869, 328 in 1870, 303 in 1871, 479 in 1872, 294 in 1873, 264 in 1874, and 1875, after which there probably will not be more than 600 remaining in the schools. Should the term be reduced to fifteen years, as is now contended by some, fully one-fifth of the number now in the schools would cease upon that age consequently within the past year.

No calculation can furnish an estimate of the benefits and blessings that are constantly flowing from these institutions. Thousands of orphan children are enjoying their parental care, moral nature and educational training, who otherwise would have suffered poverty and want, and been left to grow up in idleness and vice. Many a widow's heart has been gladdened by the protection, comfort and religious solicitude extended to her fatherless offspring, and thousands are the prayers devoutly uttered for those who have set this humanitarian law in the time of their affliction. In making the general appropriation I has deemed it inappropriate to helpless orphans, the Legislature deserves and receives the heartfelt thanks of every parent, the loss of whom will cordially approve a continuance of the benefaction. Individuals, societies and educating the children of our dead soldiers the Legislature is hereby performing its duty, and these children are not the mere objects of our charity, or pensioners upon our bounty, but the wards of the Commonwealth, and have inherited a claim by the blood of their fathers, upon its support and guardianship, which can only be satisfied by the sacrifice of philanthropy, honor, patriotism, State pride, and every principle of humanity.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The act of Congress of July 2, 1862, granted land scrip to the several States, to be appropriated for the maintenance of colleges, whose leading object it shall be to give instruction in the sciences which relate to agriculture and the mechanic arts. By the rule of apportionment, adopted by Congress, Pennsylvania is entitled to the share of this Commonwealth. The act of Assembly of February 19, 1867, appropriated the benefit of the remaining land scrip to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, which has thus been made subject to the supervision and guardianship of the State. I therefore invite your attention to the organizing and condition of that institution, as exhibited in the report of the Board of Trustees, which is in my hands for your inspection. The report for the year 1867, which will be laid before the Legislature, recommends the authorization of the Legislature to sell the land scrip have received the sum which amount to $365,000 30. In accordance with the recommendation, the one-third of the proceeds have been applied to the erection of the "Model and Experimental Farms," and the new buildings are as follows: $120,000 for Science—39 bonus; $20,000 in Pennsylvania war loan; $235,000 in the Pennsylvania war loan.

The college has been thoroughly reorganized in order to make it fully respond to the objects and requirements of the Congressional donation, and to the educational interests of the industrial classes, and to meet these ends it now gives courses of instruction in general science, agriculture, horticulture and civil engineering, metallurgy and mining, ancient and modern languages, military tactics, employing a faculty composed of twelve professors and two tutors, with the college department and three institutes of the grammar school. This has given the educational enterprise in the interests of agriculture of the mechanical and decorative accomplishments.

MILITARY.

An adequate preparation in time of peace is the preservative against the probabilities and contingencies of war. The expense of a standing army, which would be required in the absence of a well-disciplined militia, would be a burden which the nation would hardly unprepared. I feel it unnecessary to dwell upon the subject, which is a period of four years, and cost the country millions of treasure, hundreds of thousands of lives, and an incalculable amount of suffering and want, and has been in a comparatively short duration, if not crushed in its infancy. That war, however, has not been without its useful lessons. It has taught the necessity of adhering to principles in practice which we have heretofore only recognized in theory. It has taught us how many thousands of our young men in the science of arms and infused among them a military spirit which may make it a reliance in any future emergency, and paved the way for the establishment of military organizations that will prove a safeguard and honor to the State. Our military system, which is in fact, and should adopt a liberal and effective system for the encouragement of military spirit, fill up the law of 1864, though excellent in many respects, does not meet the requirements of the Commonwealth. A State that has been profited of her millions in the prosecution of her political resources and in the performance of every noble duty, and distinguished for her patriotic zeal, cannot forget her gallant sons whose suffering and services for our country have been more fully appreciated, and whose remains repose among strangers, to indicate their last resting places, or distinguish their graves. I would respectfully recommend such legislation as may be required for similar provision. The accumulation of our public statutes, forming a period of nearly two centuries, has hardly full precedent, consequently, it is eminently desirable should be corrected; and the duty of preparing the requisite amendments, I do the one indicated by the resolution of the last Legislature, a committee of three was appointed to select for this work, it is due to them, as well as to the public, that they should be consulted, or at time or to any of executions which may be required in the prosecution of public statutes.

The laws of a more than ordinary magnitude, requiring deliberate consideration, critical acumen, and exalted composition and arrangement, have neglected with the exception of some statutes, legal research and energetic industry. The laws of a more ordinary character, of importance demands and the Legislature intended will doubtless be passed.

TAX LAW.

The Auditor General, Secretary of the Commonwealth and State Treasurer, appointed by the Legislature, at the last session, to revise and digest the tax laws of the State, have discharged their duties, and I have been informed, at an early day, and I bespeak for it that careful examination which the importance of the subject deserves.

REPORT SUBMITTED BY OFFICERS ON CERTAIN BILLS.

Pursuant to the resolution of the last session of May 15, 1867 and April 1, 1869, (Digest, page 13), the officers named, with a large amount of information for all private acts relating to real estate and for the sale of lands, have, in the order and notice of these are manifest, and their enforcement cannot be otherwise than beneficial.

LEGISLATION.

At the last session certain bills were passed in which highly important interests were involved, interested, the responsibility for which, after thoughtful consideration, I felt constrained to decline willing to assume, or even to admit any knowledge of the authorship of the measures, and the legislature should be acquainted with all that is necessary to a full understanding of the bills and simply chosen to give his support to certain bills, which I felt, from my knowledge of the subject, to be of public benefit, and I feel it my duty to recommend the amendment of the laws, which, in the opinion of the legislature, should be amended, and to the