Gazette and Democrat

SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1863.

MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR CURTIN.

READ, JANUARY 7, 1863.

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

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

The balance in the Treasury, November 3 th, 1861, was	$1,551,605 72
Receipts during fiscal year ending November 30th, 1862, were as follows:	
Ordinary sources,	$4,017,822 39
6 per cent. loans, act May 15, 1861,	387,850 00
From various banks as an equivalent for coin for the payment of interest on public debt,	140,768 30
Refunded cash, military,	29,566.42
United States Government,	605,740 52
Total in Treasury for fiscal year, ending November 30, 1862,	$6,763,353 35
And the payments have been as follows:	
For ordinary purposes,	$3,089,110 06
Paid on State interest as an equivalent for coin,	146,831.22
Military expenses, Act April 12, 1861,	7 62
Military expenses, Act May 15, 1861,	463 548,68
Military expenses, Act May 16, 1861,	1.217 28
Military expenses, Act April 16 1862,	20,607 04
Military Pensions, Act May 15, 1861,	400 54
Commissioners of Sinking Fund,	427,881 01
Domestic Creditors,	105 22
Temporary Loan redeemed,	100,000 00
United States Government Direct Tax,	350,000 00
	$4,590,609 25
Leaving balance in Treasury, November 30, 1862,	$2,172,844 10

Of which amount one hundred and ninety-five thousand five hundred and seventy six dollars and twenty seven cents is the balance of unexpended military loan, as follows:

Balance of said fund, November 30, 1861,	393,507 41
Receipts under Act May 20, 1861,	357,850 00
Paid for military expenses as above,	492,781 14
Paid for redemption of temporary loan,	100,000 00
	$193,576 25
Receipts from ordinary sources:	
For the year ending November 30, 1862	$4,017,822 39
" " " " " 1861,	3 017,645 58
Excess of receipts for 1862,	$1,030,176 82
Payments for ordinary purposes, excepting interest:	
For year ending November 30, 1861,	$1,118,662 93
" " " " " 1862,	1,023,345 77
Decrease in expenditures of 1862,	95,317 16

From the tables exhibited it will appear that the receipts from ordinary sources of revenue for the year 1862, are in excess of the receipts of the year 1861, one million thirty thousand one hundred and seventy-six dollars and eighty-two cents, [the excess of interest paid in 1862 over that in 1861, being $144,095 37;] and that the ordinary expenditures for 1862 were ninety-five thousand three hundred and seventeen dollars and sixteen cents less than the year previous.

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

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania, as it stood on the 1st day of December, 1861,	$40,589,666 03
Additional amount received at the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1862, on Military Loan, authorized per act of May 15, 1861,	387,350 00
	$40,968,616 03
Deduct amount redeemed at the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1862, viz:	
5 per cent State stocks,	268,909 49
4½ per cent State stocks,	50,000 00
4 per cent State stocks,	100,000 00
Interest certificates,	37 25
Relief notes,	1,411 00
Domestic creditors' certificates,	64 52
Military Loan, per act of April 12, 1861, redeemed,	100,000 00
	$520,302 26
Public debt December 1, 1862,	$40,448,213 82

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

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

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

The operations of the Sinking Fund during the last year have been, as shown by my Proclamation of the 8th of September last, as follows:

Amount of debt of Commonwealth reduced,	$262,801 67
As follows, viz:	
State loans,	$261,178 74
Interest certificates,	370 41
Domestic creditors' certificates,	64 52
Relief notes cancelled,	11 88
	$262,801 67

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

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

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

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

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

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

This burden on the banks has become heavier than in my judgment ought to be borne by any special interest.

Unless the Legislature should otherwise provide, it will be the duty of the State Treasurer to pay in like manner the interest which will fall due hereafter. We should all be careful not to violate the faith or impair the credit of the Commonwealth. The serious and early consideration of the Legislature is invited to the whole subject.

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

On the 7th of July last, a call was made by the President for three hundred thousand volunteers. This State had already supplied nearly one hundred and ten thousand men, yet her people promptly bestirred themselves to respond to this new requirement. Although it was believed that no bounties would be necessary to induce the men of Pennsylvania to enter the service of their country on such an occasion, yet as some of the neighboring States offered large bounties, it was thought not right to expose our citizens to the temptation thus afforded to them to enlist in regiments of other States. There being no appropriation for the payment of bounties, I, of course, could not direct them to be paid out of the treasury, and it was evident that to call the Legislature together and wait for the negotiation of any loan which might be authorized for the purpose, would be attended by injurious delay.

Under these circumstances I confidently appealed by proclamation to a people who have never faltered in the performance of any duty of patriotism, calling on them to raise in their several counties the sums necessary to insure their proportion of the quota of the State. This appeal was effectually answered. Public meetings were held, and liberal amounts subscribed by individuals. In the city of Philadelphia, besides a very large fund thus raised, the municipal authorities contributed heavily from their common treasury, and in several counties the county commissioners, generally under the guarantee of a few of their eminent citizens, devoted county funds to the same purpose. I recommend that these proceedings be legalized, and submit to the wisdom of the Legislature the question of what legislation would be just and proper on the whole subject, that the burden of this patriotic effort may fall equally on all classes of people throughout the State.

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

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

Early in September last the rebel army crossed the Potomac into Maryland, with the design of invading this State. On the 4th of that month I called upon the people by Proclamation to organize into companies and hold themselves in readiness to be ordered into actual service for the defense of the State. And on the 11th of that month, under authority of the President, I issued orders for fifty thousand volunteer militia, to rendezvous at Harrisburg, for the defense of the State. This call was promptly responded to, and a large force was sent forward to the Cumberland Valley and its vicinity. The first part of this force, consisting of one regiment and eight companies of infantry, moved from Harrisburg on the night of the 12th of September, and was followed by other regiments as rapidly as they could be organized and transportation provided.

The command of the whole force was taken by Brigadier General John F. Reynolds, who left his corps in the Army of the Potomac at my urgent request, and hurried to the defense of his native State, for which he is entitled to the thanks of the Commonwealth. Fifteen thousand of the Volunteer Militia were pushed forward to Hagerstown and Boonsboro', in the State of Maryland; ten thousand were posted in the vicinity of Greencastle and Chambersburg; and about twenty five thousand were at Harrisburg, on their way to Harrisburg, or in readiness and waiting for transportation to proceed thither. One regiment, at the request of Gen. Halleck, was sent to protect Dupont's Powder Mills, in the State of Delaware.

On the 24th September the Volunteer Militia were discharged by me from service, having by their spirited demonstration greatly aided in preventing the intended invasion of this State by the rebels, and compelling their sudden evacuation of the portion of Maryland which they had polluted. For these services, the thanks of the Governor of Maryland and of the Commander of the Army of the Potomac were rendered to our patriotic troops through me. Measures have been taken to procure the payment in full of these troops, and of the expenses attending their services, by the United States, in accordance with the terms of the call by the President. A large portion of the amount has already been paid. Having accompanied this force to Hagerstown, I am enabled to speak of the courage, fidelity and cheerfulness with which the men suffered unaccustomed privations, and bore the fire of the rebel force, performing with alacrity all the service that was required of them.

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

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

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

The cavalry at Camp Curtin, consisting of one full and two imperfect regiments, were armed as infantry, and, together with two companies of infantry and a battery of volunteer light artillery of Harrisburg, were held in readiness to go forward, when General Wool arrived and assumed the command of all the forces. He had previously ordered part of his command from Baltimore, and marched the troops to Gettysburg.

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

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

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

The State is in possession of the following Ordnance, Arms and Ammunition:

63 pieces of artillery, of which 22 need repairs.
2 batteries of new cannon, consisting of 12 Griffin rifled cannon, 6 pounders, 2 caisons and 2 battery wagons, presented to the State by the Committee of Safety of Philadelphia, in September last.
26,482 muskets and rifles, of which 11,614 are ready for issue, 4,460 in the hands of mechanics for repairs, and the balance, having been used by the militia called out in September last, require cleaning.
12,427 sets infantry accoutrements complete.
1,298 swords and sabres.
684 pistols.
1,938 rounds artillery ammunition.
1,622,000 rounds ammunition for small arms.

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

5,840 muskets and rifles with accoutrements complete, were issued to and are now in possession of border counties.
4,955 muskets and rifles, and 3,041 sets of accoutrements issued to and now in possession of organized companies. Also, 80,000 rounds of ammunition issued to border counties and organized companies.
1,755 muskets and 895 sets of accoutrements, were issued to Colonels Brown and Glantz's regiments on going into the service.
32 pieces of artillery, issued to First Pennsylvania Artillery, Colonel Charles F. Campbell, commanding, on going into the service
528 sabres, 1,056 pistols, and 528 sets of accoutrements, issued to organized cavalry companies.

Showing an aggregate of

107 pieces of artillery.
39,043 muskets and rifles.
1,740 pistols.
1,826 sabres.
22,203 sets of infantry accoutrements.
528 sets cavalry accoutrements.
1,603,938 rounds of ammunition.

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

6 20 pounder Parrot rifled guns.
2 10 pounder Prussian rifled guns.
1 10-pounder English rifled gun.
12 caissons for 20-pounder Parrot rifled guns.
2 caissons for 10-pounder Prussian rifled guns, with tools and stores.
1 12 pounder rifled howitzer, Dahlgren.
1 12-pounder rifled howitzer, 750 lbs., Dahlgren.
2 field carriages for ditto.
2 small howitzer guns, 12-pounders, with carriages, tools and stores.
1 12-pounder rifled howitzer, Dahlgren.
1 12-pounder smooth-bore, 750 lbs. Dahlgren.
2 field carriages for ditto.
2 small 12-pounder howitzers, with carriages, tools and stores.
195 saddles.
127 saddles, with traces, breast strap, &c.
88 sabres, incomplete.
2,296 muskets and rifles.
200 pistols and 124 holsters.
1,997 rounds of shot and shell.
672,684 rounds musket and rifle cartridges.

The foregoing does not include the arms and equipments that have been issued to the several regiments of the Home Guard, and which are in their possession.

For the details of military operations and of statistics, I refer you to the reports of the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, Commissary General, Surgeon General, and the Chief of Transportation, which accompany this message.

In regard to the election of officers in the Reserve Corps and the recruitment of the regiments of that corps, and of our other gallant regiments of volunteers, I propose to send a special message in a few days, as I desire to treat these subjects somewhat at large, and to submit to the Legislature some documents relating to them.

By the thirteenth section of the act of May 15, 1861, I was authorized to draw my warrants on the Treasury for a sum not exceeding twenty thousand dollars for compensation to such persons as might be required to serve the country in a military capacity. At the date of my last annual message, I had drawn from the Treasury eight thousand five hundred dollars, and had paid out up to the 1st of December, 1861, six thousand four hundred dollars, when my account was settled. Since that time I have drawn two thousand dollars from the Treasury, part of which, with the balance in my hands, has been expended in the payment of my personal staff in service when I required assistance, and in procuring information, and to persons employed in ascertaining the condition of the country, and in procuring information, and to persons employed in ascertaining the condition of the country, and in procuring information, and to persons employed in ascertaining the condition of the country