

THE JEFFERSONIAN

Devoted to Politics, Literature, Agriculture, Science, Morality, and General Intelligence.

VOL. 20.

STROUDSBURG, MONROE COUNTY, PA. JANUARY 23, 1862.

NO. 52.

Published by Theodore Schoch

TERMS.—Two dollars per annum in advance—Two dollars and a quarter, half yearly—and if not paid before the end of the year. Two dollars and a half. No papers discontinued until all arrearages are paid except at the option of the Editor.
Advertisements of one square of (ten lines) or less, one or three insertions, \$1.00. Each additional insertion, 25 cents. Longer ones in proportion.

JOB PRINTING.

Having a general assortment of large, plain and ornamental type, we are prepared to execute every description of

FANCY PRINTING.

Cards, Circulars, Bill Heads, Notes, Blank Receipts, Justices, Legal and other Blanks, Pamphlets, &c., printed with neatness and dispatch, on reasonable terms at this office.

Dirge for the Year.

BY PERCY B. SHELLY.

Orphan hours, the year is dead,
Come and sigh, come and weep!
Merry hour, smile instead,
For the year is but a leep,
See, it smiles as it is sleeping,
Mocking your untimely weeping,
As an earthquake rocks a coast,
In its coffin in the clay,
So white Winter, that rough nurse,
Rocks the dead-cold year to-day,
Solemn hour! wait aloud
For your mother in her shroud,
As the wild air stirs and sways
The tree-sung cradle of a child,
So the breath of these rude days
Rocks the year;—be calm and mild,
Trembling hours; she will arise
With new love within her eyes,
January grey is here,
Like a sexton by her grave;
February bears the Bier,
March with grief doth howl and rave,
And April weeps—but, O ye hours,
Follow with May's fairest flowers.

Important Correspondence.

The Worcester *Palladium* prints the following as "Official":
Complaint of John Bull to Brother Jonathan.

Brother Jonathan: My goose-pen stands in the road. Two of your go-slings got into it in a storm. Your son Wilkes came blustering along—threw a stone towards the pen—burst open the door—got in and took out your two go-slings, and carried them off. Now, Jonathan, I am insulted by such conduct. Give up your two go-slings, to be put back in my goose-pen. I'll set fire to your barn and burn all your buildings! Yours with high consideration,
JOHN BULL.

Response of Brother Jonathan to John Bull.
Brother J. Bull, Esq: What my son Wilkes did, was all on his account. I didn't tell him to throw a stone at your goose-pen, or get into it. Nor did I tell him to take out the go-slings. But, John, as you seem to be determined to "pick a fuss" about the two go-slings, you may take them in welcome! I've got a plenty more at home!
Yours to serve,
BROTHER JONATHAN.

Scene in an Irish School.

Class in Scripture History will take the furo. Now then, Tim Murphy, hold up yer head and be a sither lookin' sharp to the questions I'll be axin'.
Master—What dumb baste was that spake when the angel of the Lord appeared to Aalaam?
Tim—Sure an' 'twas a whale!
Master—Well, what did he say?
Tim—Thou almost persuadest me to be a Christian!
Master—To whom did he say this?
Tim—To Moses in the bulrushes.
Master—What was Moses' reply?
Tim—Thou art the man.
Master—That'll do; now go and cut some turf for the fire.

Novel Contrivances in the Churches of Boston.

In the new Methodist Episcopal Church on Tremont street, Boston, the organ blowing is performed by water power; a small stream of Coebitate being introduced, which does the work admirably, without getting the "sulks" and quarrelling with the organist. All that the letter has to do, is to turn on a stop cock, which lets on the water, and the organ bellows are put in motion, and supply all the wind desired. In the new church spire of Rev. Dr. Granett, also in the city of notions, there is a fine chime of bells which is to be played upon by means of electricity, so that the performer may cause them all to sound exactly in the respective order he may desire, while seated at a keyboard similar to that of an organ.

A charcoal pedler, who was taken from his cart near Newburyport the other day in an insensible state, and apparently dead from cold, on being thawed out at a neighboring house, says the Newburyport *Herald*, opened his eyes, and with a confused look asked if anybody wanted to buy charcoal. That was probably the last thought in his mind before he lost consciousness, and on coming to himself he commenced just where he left off, and was ready for a bargain.

A dandy observed that he had put a plate of brass upon his boots to keep him upright. "Veil palanced, by jing!" said a Dutchman, "prass at both ends."

Cotton and the Negroes.

A correspondent of the Philadelphia *Ledger* writing from Hilton Head says: It is estimated that at least \$2,000,000 worth of cotton has been secured and taken care of already, and the negroes are every day busily employed in picking, baling and shipping more. On the different islands where cotton abounds, they are set to work in gangs of ten, twenty-five, fifty or a hundred, collecting the cotton in baskets or bags, which they carry in one hand, or slung from the shoulders. They empty the cotton in other receptacles, where it is weighed, and each picker is credited at the rate of one cent per pound for his work. Thus the account is kept with the negroes. The cotton from each plantation is marked with the initials of the owner of the estate, and the fact noted in the account; so that if it can ever be shown that the property belonged to a loyal man, the exact amount of damage can be ascertained.—Perhaps the idea of loyalty may cause the reader to smile incredulously, but it will be conceded at any rate that the precaution taken is a prudent one, and generous, if more than just. The negroes manifest the greatest interest in collecting all the cotton they can find.—However dull of understanding many of them may be, every one can see the pecuniary reason for getting cotton for the "Yankees." Many times they have led small parties to distant plantations, secured loads of the article, and returned in triumph, demonstrating their exultation by extravagant gestures, songs, shouts of hi, yi, and rapid successive elevation of heels. Let me say here that we have almost found the negroes truthful in the statements they have made to us, and consequently we have sometimes relied in their guidance in making quite extended explorations of the country.

The county of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, is struggling under an enormous railroad debt, which, added to that of the cities of Pittsburg and Allegheny, is sufficient to ruin any community less fortunate in the possession of mineral wealth and industrial resources. The county debt is \$3,341,061; that of Pittsburg \$4,641,070, and that of Allegheny City 1,423,901. The grand aggregate is \$9,406,032, the major part of which was contracted for railroad purposes. The entire assessed value of taxable property in the county, and upon which this debt is chargeable, is only \$27,055,000. It is estimated that the tax for the ensuing year will be as follows: for the rural districts, 62 mills; and for Allegheny 92 mills.—The taxpayers are, of course, greatly distressed at the prospect before them.—This great debt was incurred by sanguine officials, who believed that the dividends on the railroad bonds would so far exceed all expenses that a surplus would flow into the county and city treasuries sufficient to meet the current expenses of both, and thus do away with taxation altogether. When this dream vanished and the roads were found incapable of meeting the simple interest on their cost, the general indignation was great and legal quibbles were resorted to in order to evade the payment of bonds. Suits were carried from court to court, with the almost unanimous result of a verdict against the county and cities. The County Commissioners refused to obey the order of the court, and were put in prison where they remained till the expiration of their terms. But all this interest was accruing and cost increasing, so that now the interest in arrears amount to \$1,452,390, and the costs unpaid to \$5,935.

A Sharp Boy.

Two boys of tender age who went by the names of Tom and Jack, became members of a district school in a certain New England town. On making their appearance, the teacher called them up before the assembled school, and proceeded to make certain interrogatories concerning their names, ages, &c.
"Well my fine lad," said the teacher to the first one, "what is your name?"
"Tom," promptly responded the juvenile.
"Tom!" said the teacher, "that does not sound well. Remember always to speak the full name. You should have said Thom as. Now my son," turning to the other boy, whose face suddenly lighted up with the satisfaction of a newly-comprehended idea, "now, then, you tell me what your name is?"
"Jack ass," replied the lad, in a tone of confident decision.

No Danger.

A "whang doodle" hard shell preacher wound up a flaming sermon with this magnificent peroration:
"My brethren and sistern! of a man's full of religion you can't hurt him!—There was the three Arabian children; they put 'em in a fiery furnace, hotted seven times better than it could be het, and it didn't singe a hair on their heads! And there was John the Evangelist; they put him—where do you think, brethren and sistern they put him? Why, they put him into a caldron of bilin lie, and biled him all night, and it didn't feze his shell! And there was Daniel; they put him into lion's den—and, what, my fellow travellers and respected auditors, do you think he was put into a lion's den for? Why, for praying three times a day. Don't be alarmed, brethren and sistern; I don't think any of you will ever get into a lion's den!"

A STEAM BATTERY.

The N. Y. Herald says the Government is having built at that port an iron clad vessel, which is to be launched this month. The following is the dimensions of the vessel: Length 175 feet, breadth of beam 40 feet, depth 12 feet. Her hull where protected by the water, will be formed of wrought iron plates, five eighths of an inch thick, and above the water-mark the plate will be six inches thick.—But very little wood is to be used in her construction, and the deck will be protected by plates one inch in thickness.—She will be fitted up with Ericsson's patent steam engine, which together with her machinery, now being built at Delamater's iron works, foot of Thirteenth street, North river. She will carry two twelve or fifteen inch Floyd or Rodman guns. These will be mounted inside an iron fort twenty feet high. The plates of which it will be built are to be eight inches thick. The most peculiar feature connected with the battery is the fact that the guns can be brought to bear on any given point, without altering the position of the vessel. This is accomplished by means of a turn table on which the fort will revolve; it will be turned by means of gearing connected with her machinery. The steersman will be placed inside the fort, and when in action all the crew will be protected, as no man will be required to appear on deck for the purpose of working the vessel. She is water tight and fire proof, and her deck, which is but eighteen inches above the water, may be swept by the waves from stem to stern without any damage being done, as nothing will be left exposed either to the action of the waves or the shot of the enemy.

A GIPSY CAKE.

Put a sponge cake into a deep china or glass dish, pour into it a half-pint of white wine and a wine-glass of brandy. Let the cake soak up the wine, and then strew sifted sugar over it, and pour in the dish a rich thick custard. Ornament the top of the cake with bits of clear currant jelly, or blanch, and split sweet almonds and stick them thickly over the top.

The magnitude of Russia is unprecedented in the history of nations.—Her vast proportions can only be shown by a comparative statement. The total area of the United States, the North, the South, and the Territories, is 2,936,166 square miles. The area of France (including Corsica and Savoy) is 207,933 square miles. The area of the British Isles is 120,850 square miles. Thus the territorial extent of the United States is twenty-four times greater than that of the British Isles, and fourteen times greater than that of France. Our whole area could be divided into about 400 States of the size of Massachusetts. It is moderate to say that the territory of our single country is much larger than that which constituted the Roman Empire when it was greatest. But Russia is between two and three times larger than the United States. Her square miles, in Europe and Asia are 7,864,861. From the continuity of the Empire, except Russian America, it may be regarded as one great whole. There is no more interesting problem than that of the destinies of the American Republic and the Russian Empire, which divide between them so much of the earth's surface and so many of the possibilities of the future, and which, while grounded upon opposite political ideas, rival each other in enterprise, vigor, and rapidity of development.

Negroes on this Continent.

It is estimated that there are some fourteen millions persons of African descent on this continent. In the United States they number 4,500,000; Brazil, 4,150,000; Cuba, 1,500,000; South and Central American Republics, 1,200,000; Hayti, 2,000,000; British Possessions, 800,000; Dutch, Danish and Mexican, 200,000.

Whole or None.

"Miss, will you take my arm?" said an old bachelor. "La, yes, and you too," said the young lady. "Can only spare my arm," hastily replied the bachelor.—"Then," said Miss, "I can't take it, as my motto is to go the whole hog or none at all."

A pair of stockings sent by the ladies' committee for the use of some gallant volunteer, was accompanied by the following verse:

Brave sentry, on your lonely beat,
May these blue stockings warm your feet;
And when from war and camps you part,
May some fair knitter warm your heart."

"Shan't I see you hum from singin' skull to night, Jermy?"
"No; you shan't du no sich thing. I don't want you nor your company, Reuben."

"Praps you didn't exactly understand what I said?"
"Yes, I did. You asked me if you mightn't see me hum."

"Why, no, I didn't; I only asked you how your marm was."

The four great evils of life are said to be standing-collars, stove-pipe hats, tight boots, and tobacco.

MEN OF THE TIME—Watchmakers.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

Henry D. Moore,

State Treasurer.

READ JANUARY 8, 1862.

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

GENTLEMEN:—In obedience to the requirements of the Act of 16th March, 1832, in reference to this Department, I herewith submit the following report for the fiscal year ending November 30th, 1861:—

The disbursements and general duties of the Department for the past year have been largely in excess of those of any previous year in the history of our State.—An unbloody war and rebellion against the General Government, upon the part of a number of the Southern States of the Union, rendered it necessary for the President to call upon the loyal States for aid to assist him in sustaining the Government, maintaining the Union, and upholding the Constitution and the laws. In response to that call, Pennsylvania has most nobly done her duty, as is attested by a hundred thousand of her brave and loyal sons who are now in the field, sustaining her honor and assisting the Government in crushing out this traitorous rebellion. The arming, equipping and sustaining such a large force as this by our State, has necessarily involved a large expenditure of money, and caused the vast increase of labor and expenditure of this Department to which I have alluded.

Presuming that it will be more satisfactory to have the ordinary receipts and disbursements of the Department shown separate and distinct, from the war expenses, I respectfully report:—

Available balance in the Treasury at the close of the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1861, \$681,433 08
Receipts into the general fund for the last fiscal year, 3,017,645 57

Total, \$3,699,078 65

Payments of the ordinary appropriations and general expenses of the State from December 1st, 1860, to November 30th, 1861, inclusive, \$3,144,480 34

Available balance of the general fund, November 30, 1861, \$554,593 31

By comparing the receipts into the general fund for the last year, with the receipts for the preceding year, it will be seen there is a falling off or deficiency of \$461,611 74.

This deficiency is mainly on the following items, viz:

Tax on bank dividends.
Tax on real and personal estate.
Interest on railroad and canal bonds.

The deficiency on account of taxes is to be attributed to financial embarrassments and great depression of business, caused by the war in which our Government is engaged.

On the 12th of April last, the Legislature by "An Act for the better organization of the Militia of the Commonwealth," authorized the Governor to negotiate temporary loans to the amount of five hundred thousand dollars to carry out the provisions of that act. Under this act temporary loans were obtained from the banks in Philadelphia to the amount of \$475,000. On the 15th of May following, another act was passed, "to create a loan and to provide for arming the State." By the provisions of this act the Governor and State Treasurer were authorized "to borrow on the faith of the Commonwealth any sum not exceeding three millions, of dollars, and to issue the bonds of the Commonwealth for the same at six per centum interest per annum, and reimbursable at any time after the expiration of ten years from their date: Provided, That no certificate should be negotiated at less than its par value." There being doubt upon the minds of some of the members of the Legislature, as also of the officers of the State government, whether a six per cent loan could at that time be negotiated at par, the Governor was authorized by the sixth section of the Act of 16th of May, "for the payment of members, &c., to advertise for proposals for the loan or any part thereof, and allow the loan to the highest and best bidders." On examination of these two acts by gentlemen conversant with financial matters, as well as by the Hon. Attorney General of the Commonwealth, it was decided that they did not confer any power to negotiate the loan at less than its par value. In this situation of things, with a civil war existing against the Government, its very existence, as well as the capital of the nation threatened, and Government sizes under the panic then existing, selling in the market at 15 per cent below par, it seemed almost useless to undertake the negotiation of our State loan at its par value. In this emergency, by the consent of the Governor, I called upon two of the prominent Banking Houses of Philadelphia, Messrs. Drexel, and Jay Cooke & Co., and after consultation with them, they agreed, with the assistance of this Department, to undertake the negotiation even in the face of all the difficulties surrounding it; and to the credit of Pennsylvania be it said, that in this dark hour of our country's trial, and in the midst of an excitement such as the country had never before known, with the credit of the General Government rapidly falling in the market as it then was, the citizens and corporate institutions of our Commonwealth most nobly responded to the fervent and patriotic appeal of those gentlemen, and vindicated the loyalty and patriotism of our people by subscribing to this loan at its par value, and setting a most noble example for her sister States, who were to follow her in like appeals to their own citizens. In this connection I cannot forbear expressing the thanks which are due to the banks of the Commonwealth for the promptness and liberality with which they responded to the call for this loan. But for their subscriptions the loan never could have been negotiated, and I deem it but an act of justice that this acknowledgment should be made of their valuable assistance to the State in the emergency then existing. I conceive it also to be my duty to say that in consequence of a doubt existing as to the power of the Governor under the Act to pay the gentlemen who rendered such eminent service in the negotiation of this loan, they have never received any commission or remuneration for the expenses or services. In view of these facts, and in consideration of the invaluable services rendered the State by them, it is to be hoped that the Legislature will make prompt provision for the payment of their commission by authorizing the Governor to draw his warrant for the same.

The receipts and expenditures for military or War purposes up to the end of the fiscal year, November 30, 1861, are as follows, viz:

Amount received under temporary loan, Act of 12th April 1861,	\$475,000 00
Amount received under Act of 15th May, 1861,	2,612,150 00
Cash refunded by Paymaster and others,	32,229 45
Total,	\$3,119,379 45
Expended under Act 12th April, 1861,	474,873 85
Expended under Act 15th May 1861,	1,708,462 68
Expended under Act 16th May 1861,	170,535 51
Amount of temporary loan of 12th April, 1861, repaid,	375,000 00
Total,	\$2,728,872 04
Balance on hand unexpended November 30th, 1861,	\$390,507 41

A detailed account of receipts and expenditures will be found in the report of the Auditor General. Amount outstanding against the Commonwealth, November 30th, 1861, of the war loans, viz:

Temporary loan, Act 12th April 1861,	\$ 100,000 00
War loan, Act 15 May 1861,	2,612,150 00
Total,	\$2,712,150 00
Amount of public debt funded and unfunded, November 30, 1861,	37,969,547 50
Amount paid during the fiscal year ending November 30, 1861,	101,831 42
Amount of public debt exclusive of war loan, Nov. 30th, 1861,	\$37,867,716 08

By reference to the report of the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund, it will appear that \$400,801 01 of the public debt was paid during the year ending on the first Monday of September 1861, at which time they are required by law to report to the Governor.

On the 12th of September an account was presented to the General Government of expenses incurred by our State for war purposes, up to the 1st of that month, amounting to about \$1,515,000 00.

On the 25th of November following \$606,000 00 was refunded to the State, being 40 per cent. on the amount of account thus presented.

There was therefore in the Treasury on the 30th of November, 1861, as follows, viz:

Balance of general fund	554,593 31
Unexpended balance war loans	390,507 41
Amount refunded by General Government,	606,000 00
Cash from the society of Cincinnati,	500 00
Balance in Treasury,	\$1,551,600 72

The semi-annual interest on the State debt, which will be due and payable on the 1st of next month will amount to nearly one million of dollars. It is gratifying to know that the State will be ready and prompt as usual to meet the interest on her obligations.

How much of the balance in the Treasury may yet be required to meet expenses of our military operations is impossible to say, but the probability is that the unexpended balance will be sufficient for all those purposes, unless the State should receive a future requisition from the General Government for more troops. If no further requisition shall be made upon us, the refunded balance in the Treasury will then be applicable to the defenses of our State, the redemption of our loans, meeting the direct tax of the General Government, or such other purposes as in the wisdom of the Legislature may seem most proper.

By an act of Congress, approved August 5th, 1861, a direct tax of twenty million of dollars was levied against all States of the Union. The quota of Pennsylvania, under that Act, is \$1,940,719 33. Two modes of payment of this tax to the General Government are presented by the provisions of the Act. One is, that it may be paid by the citizens of each State direct to collectors to be appointed by the General Government; and the other mode that the State may assume and pay the tax and collect it herself from her own citizens.

I would respectfully urge upon the Legislature the assumption and payment of this tax by our State, for two reasons.—First. The innovation of Government tax collectors among our people would be distasteful to our citizens, who would undoubtedly much prefer to pay the tax to our own collectors in the usual manner. Secondly. Because the adoption of that course will save about three hundred thousand dollars to the State, as an allowance of fifteen per cent is made by the Act to all States who will assume the collection of said tax.

Under the supposition that the State will assume the tax, I would respectfully suggest a mode by which our citizens may be relieved from the payment of it for the coming year. By a proviso in the 53d section of the Act aforesaid, it is allowed that this tax may be "paid and satisfied in whole or in part by the release of any State daily executed to the United States, of any liquidated and determined claim of such State of equal amount against the United States." It is further provided "that in case of such release, State shall be allowed the same abatement of the amount of such tax as would be allowed in case of the payment of the same in money."

I would respectfully propose that the claim of our State against the General Government for military expenses be "determined" as soon as it can be done, and that the Legislature shall authorize a release to be made of such claim to pay the amount of our State tax aforesaid.

This would relieve us from imposing this tax upon our citizens for the present year, and it is to be hoped that by the time it would be necessary to levy such tax for any succeeding year, that the existing war and rebellion may be crushed out and the general business of the country will have recovered from its present depression and financial embarrassment, and our citizens be better able to sustain the burthen of such a tax.

In this connection I cannot but express the hope that our Representatives in Congress may be requested by the Legislature to take such action as shall put the expenses of this unbloody war and rebellion upon the traitors who commenced and are now sustaining it; that they be requested to support such measures in Congress as shall authorize the seizure and confiscation so far as it can be done constitutionally, of the property of the rebels engaged in this rebellion, to pay the war debt of the Government, and thus relieve the loyal citizens and their children from the onerous burden of taxation which they will otherwise have to sustain for years to come.

The State is holder of bonds of the Wyoming Canal Company to the amount of \$281,000 00. Upon the bonds the interest was punctually paid up to the 15th of January last. In July the company defaulted in its interest due at that time and it yet remains unpaid. Being informed that some action was about to be taken by the bondholders to reorganize the company by a sale of the canal under the mortgage I addressed a letter to the trustees of the mortgage on the 30th of September, requesting that they would take no action in reference to a sale without first notifying me as the representative of the interest of the State in the matter. They referred my letter to C. H. Clark, Esq., Attorney for the bondholders, who informed me by letter that he was "fully authorized by the large bondholder to treat with the State for the bonds she holds, and that it was his and their desire that the interests of the State should be properly protected to the same extent as other bondholders." I subsequently had an interview with Mr. Clark, and ascertained from him that in consequence of suits having been instituted against the company, a receiver had been appointed, and a plan matured between stock and bondholders to reorganize the company, and that application would be made to the Court to grant a decree of sale. The action contemplated would result in a substitution of stock for the bonds held by the State, and a reduction or loss of about ten per cent. of the amount of her bonds. I declined to act for the State in the matter, for the reason, that I had no authority to compromise or make any settlement which would not realize to the State the full amount of her claim. Under these circumstances, I would respectfully recommend immediate action upon the part of the Legislature to protect the interests of the State in this matter.

At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed "to change the name of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company and to facilitate the completion of a railroad from Sunbury to Erie."

All the provisions of this act binding upon either State or Company relating to the issuing, delivery, and cancellation of bonds, have been fulfilled by the respective parties, and the State now holds all the bonds of the company as specified in said act, excepting one million of the bonds authorized by the second section, which were delivered to the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad company on the 9th of May last, under a warrant of the Governor as authorized by the sixth section of the act as aforesaid.

My experience in this Department for the last year has satisfied me of the necessity of a thorough alteration and revision of our revenue laws. The burthen of

er mode that the State may assume and pay the tax and collect it herself from her own citizens.

I would respectfully urge upon the Legislature the assumption and payment of this tax by our State, for two reasons.—First. The innovation of Government tax collectors among our people would be distasteful to our citizens, who would undoubtedly much prefer to pay the tax to our own collectors in the usual manner. Secondly. Because the adoption of that course will save about three hundred thousand dollars to the State, as an allowance of fifteen per cent is made by the Act to all States who will assume the collection of said tax.

Under the supposition that the State will assume the tax, I would respectfully suggest a mode by which our citizens may be relieved from the payment of it for the coming year. By a proviso in the 53d section of the Act aforesaid, it is allowed that this tax may be "paid and satisfied in whole or in part by the release of any State daily executed to the United States, of any liquidated and determined claim of such State of equal amount against the United States." It is further provided "that in case of such release, State shall be allowed the same abatement of the amount of such tax as would be allowed in case of the payment of the same in money."

I would respectfully propose that the claim of our State against the General Government for military expenses be "determined" as soon as it can be done, and that the Legislature shall authorize a release to be made of such claim to pay the amount of our State tax aforesaid.

This would relieve us from imposing this tax upon our citizens for the present year, and it is to be hoped that by the time it would be necessary to levy such tax for any succeeding year, that the existing war and rebellion may be crushed out and the general business of the country will have recovered from its present depression and financial embarrassment, and our citizens be better able to sustain the burthen of such a tax.

In this connection I cannot but express the hope that our Representatives in Congress may be requested by the Legislature to take such action as shall put the expenses of this unbloody war and rebellion upon the traitors who commenced and are now sustaining it; that they be requested to support such measures in Congress as shall authorize the seizure and confiscation so far as it can be done constitutionally, of the property of the rebels engaged in this rebellion, to pay the war debt of the Government, and thus relieve the loyal citizens and their children from the onerous burden of taxation which they will otherwise have to sustain for years to come.

The State is holder of bonds of the Wyoming Canal Company to the amount of \$281,000 00. Upon the bonds the interest was punctually paid up to the 15th of January last. In July the company defaulted in its interest due at that time and it yet remains unpaid. Being informed that some action was about to be taken by the bondholders to reorganize the company by a sale of the canal under the mortgage I addressed a letter to the trustees of the mortgage on the 30th of September, requesting that they would take no action in reference to a sale without first notifying me as the representative of the interest of the State in the matter. They referred my letter to C. H. Clark, Esq., Attorney for the bondholders, who informed me by letter that he was "fully authorized by the large bondholder to treat with the State for the bonds she holds, and that it was his and their desire that the interests of the State should be properly protected to the same extent as other bondholders." I subsequently had an interview with Mr. Clark, and ascertained from him that in consequence of suits having been instituted against the company, a receiver had been appointed, and a plan matured between stock and bondholders to reorganize the company, and that application would be made to the Court to grant a decree of sale. The action contemplated would result in a substitution of stock for the bonds held by the State, and a reduction or loss of about ten per cent. of the amount of her bonds. I declined to act for the State in the matter, for the reason, that I had no authority to compromise or make any settlement which would not realize to the State the full amount of her claim. Under these circumstances, I would respectfully recommend immediate action upon the part of the Legislature to protect the interests of the State in this matter.

At the last session of the Legislature an act was passed "to change the name of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company and to facilitate the completion of a railroad from Sunbury to Erie."

All the provisions of this act binding upon either State or Company relating to the issuing, delivery, and cancellation of bonds, have been fulfilled by the respective parties, and the State now holds all the bonds of the company as specified in said act, excepting one million of the bonds authorized by the second section, which were delivered to the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad company on the 9th of May last, under a warrant of the Governor as authorized by the sixth section of the act as aforesaid.

My experience in this Department for the last year has satisfied me of the necessity of a thorough alteration and revision of our revenue laws. The burthen of