

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the general Assembly.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:—In the abundance of our harvests, the universal health of our people, and the maintenance of peace, and individual and social prosperity, and the new motives of gratitude to the Father of Mercies, who holds our destinies in his hands. That grateful homage, acknowledgment of our dependence on his Almighty Will, it becomes to me cheerfully to render.

Never, in the history of more prosperous tranquility. The citizens of the State, aside from other sources of contentment, have at last realized that a cause of despondency, which has for the last twenty-five years oppressed them, is about to be removed. The beginning has been made in the practical liquidation of the public debt.

On the 1st of Dec. 1848, the amount of the public debt was, \$40,842,379 31

On the 1st of Dec. 1851, the amount of the public debt was, \$40,114,236 39

Thus, within the last three years, there has been effected a reduction of upwards of seven hundred thousand dollars of indebtedness, without impairing the efficiency of the public works, or retarding any plans of practical beneficence, such as the improvement of the policy of wise economy, have thought proper to authorize.

I do not hesitate to attribute this important result to the successful operation of the efficient and real sinking fund system, established by the act of the 10th April, A. D. 1819. The detailed transactions of the commissioners of the fund will appear in their report, to be submitted to the Legislature.

This system, copied in its leading features from that which was established in early years of our history, for the extinguishment of the national debt, has worked admirably. While there can be no precipitated cancellation of public securities, such as would derange and disturb our monetary relations, neither can there be, under the present law, any such accumulation of stocks in the hands of the Commissioners as to tempt or permit the application of the fund to any accidental emergency, or to purposes other than that for which it is set apart. Pledged to the payment of the public debt, it must be sacredly regarded. The creation of this fund, and the adoption of the system of making no loans, unless provided for by their limitations, have made in the law authorizing them, have already exercised a moral influence on public policy.

Like the protective system in national legislation, though by another process, they prevent the Representatives of the people from heedlessly incurring new debts; they make the payment of the public debt a part of the fixed policy of the State, which no one will be willing to disavow or disturb; they interfere with no extension of public improvements or expenditures for beneficial purposes. The first application of surplus revenues is to pay a portion of the State debt, the next to extend and maintain such objects of public improvement as will, when completed, increase actual revenue and diffuse the greatest good. To maintain that system of financial policy, which has for its object the gradual and certain extinguishment of the public debt, is as well the duty as it will be doubtless the earnest desire of the general Assembly.

Believing that the revenues of the Commonwealth, if properly guarded, are adequately sufficient for both objects, the payment of the debt and the completion of the public improvements, I again, and earnestly press on the attention of the Legislature, the claims of that great section of the State, living on the North Branch of the Susquehanna. The North Branch Canal ought to be finished without further delay. Its completion would increase revenue to the Treasury, and would be a simple act of justice to a large portion of the people interested in its construction.

The propriety of calling upon the National Government for a portion of the public debt in aid of the several great lines of railway communication within our borders, is again suggested and urged upon your favorable consideration.

To the existing and completed Internal Improvements of the State, and other to be made by their administration, I invite special attention. There is in it some radical defects which need reformation. It is wanting in proper checks, and the enforcement of proper responsibility, to secure which it is respectfully urged upon the Legislature to make such change as will improve the election of one Canal Commissioner by the people for a term of three years, to whom shall be entrusted the whole supervision of the system and the selection by the Legislature of an Engineer, to serve for a similar term, to whom shall be committed the duty of making the necessary examinations and estimates of the propriety and cost of construction and repair of the public works. That a commissioner or agent for payments shall be selected by the Internal Improvement Commissioners, to be charged with the disbursement of the public fund annually appropriated to these purposes. Officers thus selected, owing their appointment to different powers in the Government, would, from that fact and the nature of their duties, act as checks upon each other, bring responsibility directly to each department of the system, and secure a more active and energetic discharge of duty.

Contact have been made for the publication of the original records and of the maps and other documents connected with the Geological Survey of the State. An interesting report from the gentleman charged with the arrangement for publication of the Pennsylvania Archives, accompanies this Message. I invite to it and to these important and interesting papers your favorable action. The supervision of the publication of these papers should be entrusted to the gentleman who had arranged them. The labor performed has greatly exceeded the amount contemplated by the Legislature, and hence demand additional compensation.

The Insane Asylum, as well as the other charitable institutions in which the State is directly interested, are in prosperous condition. The kindly regards of the Assembly are solicited for these institutions. It is a pleasant reflection now, and will be a grateful reminiscence hereafter, that in the promotion of all these interests the Administration has faithfully and to some extent obediently, directed its labors. It is to be regretted that more was not accomplished, but it is encouraging to know that so much of practical good has been done.

In the enactment of the revenue laws of the National Government, much injury has resulted to many of the industrial interests of this State. Their alteration in such manner as will protect those interests, all most earnestly desire. I have, on former occasions, most fully expressed my views on this subject, and have urged upon the Legislature the propriety of such action as would influence favorably the National Congress. The great manufacturing, mining, and agricultural interests of Pennsylvania require and demand a change of the present system of tariff laws. The ill success attending former efforts, furnish no excuse for a commission again to call attention to the subject. In the confederacy of States, we hold an important position, Pennsylvania, from the numbers of her population, and her acknowledged patriotism, has a right to demand for her industry that kindly legislation which is necessary and should receive, is not the part of a high minded people to make bargains for the security of their rights; and it is equally unbefitting tamely to submit to oppression and wrong. A firm and manly demand for the change of policy which is rapidly impoverishing a portion of our citizens, and preventing the development of its mineral resources, would have the effect of securing from our National Government such modifications of its laws as would protect American labor against the ruinous competition it meets in our markets, from the labor of foreign countries. It is most sincerely to be hoped that the present Assembly will determine, in its action on the subject, to be faithful to Pennsylvania.

A communication from the Inspectors of the Western Penitentiary has been laid before me. It states that the number of prisoners in the penitentiary is increasing, and that the accommodations of the convicts, to secure punishment by separate confinement, it is necessary to increase the number of cells, and to provide for the construction of private and public buildings in crowded communities. I respectfully ask your consideration on this matter. It is idle to say that a sense of individual self-interest is a sufficient protection on this subject. All experience shows it is not so; and that localities where groups of valuable, space restricted, and competition for position active, everything is lost sight of but temporary advantage. The public is not roused to the sense of impending danger until some frightful casualty, involving the loss of human life, strikes it, and it is then that legislation in prevention of the recurrence of these casualties is earnestly recommended.

My attention has been directed, by the occurrence of fearful accidents in the cities of our Commonwealth, to the necessity of precautionary legislation on the subject of the construction of private and public buildings in crowded communities. I respectfully ask your consideration on this matter. It is idle to say that a sense of individual self-interest is a sufficient protection on this subject. All experience shows it is not so; and that localities where groups of valuable, space restricted, and competition for position active, everything is lost sight of but temporary advantage. The public is not roused to the sense of impending danger until some frightful casualty, involving the loss of human life, strikes it, and it is then that legislation in prevention of the recurrence of these casualties is earnestly recommended.

The laws in relation to small notes issued by banks of other States have failed to realize the results intended by the Legislature. In many counties they are entirely disregarded. In a former message reference was made to the evil consequences likely to result to the morals of a community from open disobedience to law. It is clear that the present law is not, and will not be executed. The circulating medium it proposes to furnish should not be permitted to exist among us, in its present condition. Authority to the banks of the Commonwealth to issue this denomination of money would speedily drive from circulation this depreciated currency, by the substitution of notes issued by institutions under the control of the Legislature. In relation to the subject, as well as to a system of free banking, based upon public securities, the recommendations of a former message are respectfully referred to your careful consideration.

I would refer you to the Report of the Canal Commissioners for a detailed statement of the proceedings on the public works during the past year; and to the Reports of the Auditor General, State Treasurer, Surveyor General, Superintendent of Common Schools, and Adjutant General, for information in relation to the operations and condition of their several departments during the same period.

The following estimates of receipts and expenditures for the current year are duly submitted:

ESTIMATED RECEIPTS. From Lands, \$20,000; Auction Commissions, 22,000; Auction Duties, 50,000; Tax on Bank Dividends, 2,000; Corporation Stocks, 100,000; Real & Personal Estate, 1,350,000; Licenses, Taverns, 100,000; Retailers, 170,000; Peddlers, 18,000; Brokers, 8,000; Theatre, Circus and Menagerie, 4,000; Distillery and Brewery, 3,000; Billiard Rooms, &c., 3,000; Eating Houses, &c., 8,000; Patent Medicine, 3,000; Pamphlet Laws, 500; Militia Fines, 9,000; Foreign Insurance Companies, 3,000; Tax on Wills, &c., 45,000; Tax on Officers, 18,000; Collateral Inheritance, 175,000; Canal and Railroad Tolls, 1,700,000; Canal Fines, 1,000; Tax on Enrollment of Laws, 5,000; Premium on Charters, 20,000; Tax on Loans, 140,000; Interest on Loans, 20,000; Sales of Public Property, 10,000; Tax on Tonnage, &c., 25,000; Dividends from Bridge Tolls, 300; Accrued Interest, 2,000; Refunded Cash, 10,000; Escheats, 1,500; Fees of Public Officers, 4,000; Miscellaneous, 5,000; Total, \$4,317,500.

ESTIMATED EXPENDITURES. Public Works—superintendence & repair, \$900,000; Expenses of Government, 240,000; Militia Expenses, 5,000; Pensions and Gratuities, 15,000; Charitable Institutions, 100,000; Commission on Sinking Fund, 33,000; Interest on Public Debt, 2,020,000; Guaranteed Interest, 30,000; Domestic Creditors, 5,000; Damage on Public Works, 20,000; Special Commissions, 500; State Library, 500; Public Grounds and Buildings, 10,000; Penitentiaries, 40,000; House of Refuge, 5,000; Total, \$5,000,000.

Nicholson Lands, 2,000; Escheats, 1,000; Geological Survey, 8,000; Colonial Records, 5,000; Abatement of State Tax, 45,000; Relief Notes, 2,500; Counsel Fees, &c., 5,000; North Branch Canal, 350,000; Miscellaneous, 10,000; Total, \$425,500.

An act, entitled "An Act to grauate lands on which money is due and unpaid to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," passed the 10th day of April, A. D. 1855, expired, by its own limitation, on the 10th day of December last. Its re-enactment would secure to many the advantages of its provisions, who, from pecuniary inability, or other causes, have been unable to avail themselves of its provisions.

It will devolve upon the present Assembly to make an appropriation of the State, for the election of members of the House of Representatives of the United States. I feel confident the greatest care will be observed, to give to every portion of the Commonwealth its just claims, and to make the arrangement of the Congressional Districts strictly conformable to those considerations of population and locality which should apply to them.

And now, gentlemen of the General Assembly, as this is the last occasion upon which I shall formally, by message, address you, I beg to present to you, at parting, assurances of my highest esteem and regard.

WM. F. JOHNSTON. Executive Chamber, Harrisburg, January 5, 1852.



V. B. PALMER is authorized agent to receive subscriptions and advertising at his office, in Philadelphia, New York, Boston and Baltimore.

TO ADVERTISERS.—The circulation of the Sunbury American among the different towns on the Susquehanna is ascertained by equalized by every paper published in North or Pennsylvania.

EDITOR'S TABLE. Business Notices.

We refer our readers to the advertisement of George Renn, who has opened a new establishment and has on hand, and will make to order, Cabinet work, equal in style or workmanship to any manufactured in the city.

EXTRACT OF COFFEE.—This is a new article which is highly extolled. See advertisement in another column.

HEARING'S SALAMANDER SAFES.—These Safes are highly commended as will be seen by referring to our advertising columns.

SNOW.—We are again blessed with a fine fall of snow, it commenced snowing on Tuesday morning, and continued through the day until it reached the depth of about fifteen inches. As the foundation is good we may expect a season of fine sleighing which is always desirable during the winter.

CANAL COMMISSIONER.—Col. Henry C. Eyer, of Union county, has been recommended by a writer in the Pottsville Mining Register, for the office of Canal Commissioner. There has been no candidate named, better qualified for that office, than Col. Eyer.

The travel between Philadelphia and Baltimore was stopped by the ice at Havre De Grace. The Rail Road Company wished to build a bridge there which would cost \$500,000, but the Legislature of Maryland have heretofore refused to grant a Charter.

The poem on our third page, published by request, from a youthful writer, though defective in some particulars is not without merit.

A sword was presented to Gen. Riley, at Independence Hall, Philadelphia, on Monday. It was the gift of the State of Missouri.

LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS AT HARRISBURG.—Harrisburg, Jan. 5.—The several caucuses, to nominate candidates for officers of the two Houses of the Legislature, to be elected to-morrow, met this evening. The Democratic caucus for officers of the House nominated John S. Rhey, of Armstrong, for Speaker, by acclamation. The Natives nominated Frederick Reed, for Speaker, and a full ticket for the subordinate officers. The Whigs nominated John Acker, of Chester, for Speaker; David Flemming, of Harrisburg, Clerk; John Dilow, of Lancaster, for Sergeant-at-arms, and Thomas Lesser, of Lebanon for Door-keeper.

There was no Democratic caucus for officers of the Senate. There were sixteen Whig Senators present at the Whig caucus Mr. Matthias declined a re-nomination for Speaker of the Senate, and the caucus then nominated John H. Walker, of Erie.

DISCHARGE OF SOME OF THE CHRISTIANA PRISONERS.—ARREST AND ESCAPE.—On the 2nd inst, nine of the colored prisoners charged with treason against the United States, alleged to have grown out of the Christiana riot, were discharged from the custody of the keeper of the Lancaster county prisoner.

One of the discharged prisoners was immediately taken into custody by officer Henry H. Kline, of Philadelphia, under the allegation that he was the slave of an elderly man from Virginia. The claimant and the officer procured a carriage during the same night, and rapidly drove to Penningtonville. There they rested at a tavern. All the parties sought repose except the alleged fugitive, who kept wide awake for a convenient opportunity for escape; which he successfully effected; taking with him no doubt reluctantly, the pair of handcuffs which confined his arms, and of which he could not divest himself. Up to the 2nd inst., no trace has been discovered of the whereabouts of the alleged fugitive.

OUR FORMER TOWNSMAN, Charles W. Higgins, Esq., now President Judge of the Schuylkill district, has been with us during our Court, residing in Court in such cases in which Judge Jordan had been interested. Judge Higgins first presided a few weeks since in Schuylkill county, and we need not say to those who knew him that he is quite as popular on the Bench as he had been previously at the Bar.

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE.—On Tuesday last, on motion of George F. Miller, Esq., Horatio J. Woolverton, Esq., was admitted to practice in the several Courts of this County. We are pleased to learn that Mr. Woolverton passed a very creditable examination.

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

We understand that the Governor Bigler has appointed Francis W. Hughes, Esq., of Schuylkill county, to this important office, and that Mr. Hughes has accepted the same. Gov. Bigler has acted wisely in this matter. The incumbent for this office should not only possess the requisite qualifications, but should also have those elements of popularity which are necessary to harmonise all conflicting interests of party. These, Mr. Hughes possesses in an eminent degree. In this section of the Commonwealth we know that no appointment could be made that would give more general satisfaction, nor is this feeling confined to any one portion of the party. In Philadelphia, we know, this is also the case. While in the city a few weeks since we frequently heard the subject discussed, and in no instance did we hear a single objection to the appointment of Mr. Hughes.

THE COAL TRADE OF SHAMOKIN. The amount of coal brought over the Philadelphia and Sunbury Rail Road, from the Shamokin mines to this place, for shipment, &c., during the year ending the 31st of December 1851, is 24,899 tons. This is an increase of nearly twenty-five per cent over the trade of last year, and that too in the face of a general depression of all kinds of business requiring the use of coal. If an iron track was laid down, and motive power used, the coal trade would run up to several hundred thousand tons. A Corps of Engineers, under the direction of J. B. Mills, Esq., principal Engineer, have been, for some time, on the road, and we presume the road will be put in good condition, which however can only be done by relaying it with an iron track. The Shamokin coal where its good qualities are properly known, commands a higher price than any coal sent to market. An iron track to Shamokin, if even not extended to Pottsville, would prove a most profitable investment, as almost any amount of coal could be disposed of, when such an improvement was completed.

On examination of the Colonial Records for 1772, we find the following extract, which may prove of interest to our readers: On the 21st of March, 1772, a law was passed for erecting parts of the Counties of Lancaster, Berks, Northampton and Bedford into a separate County, to be called Northumberland county. The following persons at that time to be Justices of the Court of General Quarter Sessions, of the Peace, and of the Court of Common Pleas for the said county of Northumberland, and were commissioned accordingly:—Wm. Pinket, T. Francis, S. Hunter, J. Potter, W. Maclay, C. Grayden, R. Allison, R. Moody, I. Lowden, T. Lounnon, E. Hughes, and B. Weaver, Esq's. At the same time, William Masley was appointed Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas, Register of the Orphans' Court, and Recorder of Deeds.

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