

THE MORNING STAR

Truth and Right—God and our Country.

VOLUME 17.

BLOOMSBURG, COLUMBIA COUNTY, PA., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1866.

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

PENNSYLVANIA EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,
Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 20, 1866.

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

GENTLEMEN:—We have come to be thankful to divine Providence for the abundant crops, unanimity among our people, and that it is this Commonwealth has been enabled to do full duty to the country, itself and to posterity.

I express you in my message of the 27th November, 1865 and delivered to you at the beginning of your session, of the necessity under the pressure of which I was compelled, for the restoration of my health, to resign the office of Governor, and to have returned the discharge in my public duties. I cannot omit to acknowledge, with profound gratitude, the kind, considerate and affectionate concern which you expressed during my absence. A heavy burden has been laid on the people of the Commonwealth and their Representatives.

The balance in the Treasury, Nov. 30, 1865, \$1,942,003.69

Receipts during fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1865, 6,219,989.67

Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1865, 8,161,993.36

The payments for the same period have been, 5,788,925.16

Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1865, 2,373,068.20

The operations of the sinking fund, during the year ending on the first Monday of September last, as stated in my proclamation were as follows: Amount of debt reduced, \$745,811.26, as follows: U.S. Five per cent, \$436,824.62

U.S. loan, 210,000.00

U.S. loan, 76,000.00

U.S. loan, 2,008.64

Domestic creditors, 578.00

The discrepancy between the reduction of the public debt, as shown by the statement at the close of the fiscal year, and that in my proclamation at the close of the sinking fund year, arises from the fact that the one item on the first Monday of November, the other on the 30th day of November.

Amount of the public debt of Pennsylvania, as it stood on the first day of December, 1865, \$39,379,603.94

Amount redeemed at the State Treasury, during the fiscal year ending with November 30, 1865, 7,217,517.88

Five per cent stocks, \$1,703,517.88

Four and a half per cent stocks, 20,000.00

Domestic certificates, 578.00

Military loan, act of May 15, 1861, 179,250.00

1,903,345.88

Public debt, December 1, 1865, \$37,476,286.06

Assets in the Treasury: Bonds—Penn. R. R. Co., do Phila. & Erie R. R. Company, 3,500,000.00

Interest on bonds Phila. & Erie R. R. Company, 1,050,000.00

Cash in Treasury, 2,373,068.20

Liabilities in excess of assets, 23,852,589.92

Liabilities in excess of assets, Nov. 30, 1865, 23,408,168.94

Liabilities in excess of assets, Nov. 30, 1865, 23,852,589.92

Improvement in condition of the Treasury, since Nov. 30, 1865, 2,355,579.02

By the report of the State Treasurer, it will be observed that the extraordinary expenditure during the year, not funded, has been \$4,028,927.21. This includes the direct tax paid to the U. S. by the States, which is not to be included. In the balance is included the \$671,476 paid to the militia, which, with a good portion of the remaining expenditure, is clearly due the State from the General Government.

The necessity of extraordinary expenditures having ceased with the suppression of the late rebellion, measures should be taken to examine our resources, and relieve, as far as possible, the heavy burdens to which our people are subjected.

It has been the habit of late years, to appropriate freely, annual sums for the support of local charities; and such appropriations are almost every year increased in number and amount. Houses of refuge, institutions for the deaf and dumb and for the blind, insane asylums—these appear to be proper objects of State bounty, because a few of them are sufficient for the whole State, and it seems to be provided for the local authorities would, in fact, be to deprive of protection the unfortunate classes for whose benefit they are designed. But more local charities, however meritorious and effective, should I think, be left to the support of the benevolent parties who establish them.

It is to be regretted that the people of the Commonwealth, should be coerced to pay taxes in order that part of the money so raised may be given to the support of local charities in the State have asked for such appropriations.

I recommend, therefore, that no appropriation be made for charities beyond the institutions which I have above specified. The money so given, to any corporations or individuals, and to a certain extent thereby unjust. I recommend the subject to the attention of the Legislature, with a view to a revision of the existing laws.

Within a few years, acts have been repeatedly passed directing the expenditure of as much money as may be necessary to effect named purposes, sometimes without clearly designating by whom the money is to be expended, or how the accounts are to be examined. This custom is very recent, and has already had abuse therefrom.

I recommend that the practice be corrected, and that no appropriation be made without having the exact sum appropriated, the specific purpose to which it is applied, and designating the officer by whom the money is to be expended, and providing for the accounts to be settled in the Auditor General's office in the usual manner.

Notwithstanding the large expenditures by the State for military purposes, since the breaking out of the rebellion, the condition of the Treasury is now \$2,355,579.02 better than it was thus, and is expected to be able to state further, that on the 1st day of December, 1865, the State debt was \$39,379,603.94 less than it was on the first day of January, 1861. These are truly gratifying facts.

Under these circumstances, it may be possible, with entire safety to our finances, to recommend the repeal of the act of May 15, 1861, which authorized the issue of two and a half mill bonds, by the act of May 16, 1861, by which an act expressly provided for the repayment of the loan of \$3,000,000, thereby authorized, and of course cannot be repealed or reduced until that repayment shall have been made.

I recommend that the act of May 15, 1861, be repealed, and that the act of May 16, 1861, be amended so that it shall authorize the issue of local bonds, mortgages, loans and all property of the kind to be also repealed. Such a repeal would encourage the issue of local bonds, mortgages, loans and all property of the kind to be also repealed. Such a repeal would encourage the issue of local bonds, mortgages, loans and all property of the kind to be also repealed.

In case of such repeal, I recommend that the act of May 15, 1861, be amended so that it shall authorize the issue of local bonds, mortgages, loans and all property of the kind to be also repealed. Such a repeal would encourage the issue of local bonds, mortgages, loans and all property of the kind to be also repealed.

I make these recommendations believing that it will lead to more equitable local taxation, and to greater economy in their disbursement.

As to our other statute books, incorporating companies for various purposes which companies have never been organized or gone into operation. I recommend that all such acts be repealed by a general law, and that provision be made that in future every act authorizing a corporation shall become void, unless the corporation shall organize and use its franchises within a limited time.

Since my last annual message the war against armed treason has been brought to a close. Of the large contributions made by Pennsylvania to the National Army by a few of the men who remain in the service of the United States, and who are to be commended to the gratitude of the people, and we can look back with pride and satisfaction to the part taken by this State in aiding to maintain the unity of the Government, and in its defence against the assaults of its enemies.

In my first inaugural address, I took occasion to declare that Pennsylvania could, in the circumstances, render full and determined support of the free institutions of the Union. The pledge so made was based upon my knowledge of the solid patriotism of her citizens. At that time danger threatened, but no one anticipated that it would break forth so suddenly, nor that it would grow to such fearful proportions as it in fact has assumed.

My confidence in Pennsylvania, in her even, yet stubborn will, her ability and resources, has been fully justified by the manner in which she has done her duty during the late eventful period.

On the request of the President of the United States, in a communication to the Legislature on the 9th day of April, 1861, setting forth that military organizations of a formidable character, which did not seem to be demoted by any existing public exigency, had been formed in certain of the States, and that, whilst Pennsylvania yielded to no State in her respect for the rights of the people, and in her guarantees, the constitutional rights and constitutional independence of her sister States, she contemplated an attempt to resist the enforcement of the National law could meet with sympathy or encouragement from the people of this Commonwealth, and asked for military aid, and to organize a militia bureau to the capital, and to amend and modify the militia laws so as to give vitality and energy to the military organizations of the State. On the 12th day of the same month I signed a bill providing for the purposes indicated in my message.

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order in the following language: "Ten regiments are assigned to Pennsylvania, making, in addition to the thirteen regiments of three months militia, already called for, twenty-three regiments. It is important to reduce, rather than enlarge this number, and in no event to exceed it. Let me earnestly request you, therefore, to call for no more than twenty three regiments, of which only ten are to serve during the war, and if more are already called for, to reduce the number by discharge."

The twenty-five regiments raised as above named, comprised 30,979 men. The order of the President was, that the Major of the companies, under my order, had arrived in camp at Harrisburg, and others maintained their organizations at home at their own expense, and by contributions from their neighbors and friends.

In the critical condition of the country, and in the emergency of the war, the services rendered by the men of Pennsylvania would be the port to the rich granaries, manufactories and store-houses of the North. I deemed it my duty to convene the Legislature, that adequate provision might be made to enable me to render the military service, and to be available and efficient as it should be, for the general good of the State and the General Government; and accordingly, on the 20th of April, 1861, issued my proclamation, calling for a meeting of the General Assembly, on the 30th of the same month.

In my message to the Legislature at its opening, I recommended that the organization, disciplining and arming of at least fifteen regiments, exclusive of those called into the service of the United States.

The Legislature acted promptly upon this suggestion, and made full provision for its efficient accomplishment. The result was that the State, in a few weeks, was equipped with arms, accoutrements, and Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer corps, with its thirteen regiments of infantry, one of light artillery, and one of cavalry, under the supervision of George A. McCall, who was selected to command it, with the commission and rank of Major General. This corps contained 15,856 men, and the whole cost of raising, clothing, subsisting and paying them, until their entry into the United States service, was \$855,444.87. They were encamped in different parts of the State, comprising two of the regiments, commanded by Colonel Charles J. Biddle and Seneca by Colonel John C. Smith, and the other regiments, under the command of Col. Chas. T. Campbell, which at the request of the War Department, were sent on the 22d of June 1861 to the relief of Col. Wallace, at Cumberland Md., and remained for about six weeks there and in Western Virginia, engaged in active operations, towards the close of July the whole corps was called for and taken on a march into the service of the United States. Within four days after the disaster at Bull Run, eleven regiments, in all respects ready for active service, were in Washington and Baltimore.

The troops sent to Western Virginia were recalled, and with the other two regiments of the National Army, were ordered to Washington. On the 26th of July, 1861, the Secretary of War expressed his gratification and thanks for the prompt response from Pennsylvania.

The wisdom of the Legislature in providing for the formation of this corps, for the interests of the State and nation, was fully shown by the result. The most of the men who filled its ranks had been accepted by me under the call for twenty-five regiments, which was afterwards rescinded.

They had left their families and homes under a deep sense of duty to their country, and to have sent them back unaccepted would have caused serious difficulty in making their homes.

By act of Congress of 22d and 25th of July, 1861, the President was authorized to call upon the several States for volunteers to serve for three years. Under this authority requisitions were made on this State, and fourteen regiments were promptly furnished.

The National General Government, which was granted by the President and War Department to a number of individuals to raise regiments in different parts of the State, which seriously interfered with the action of the State authorities in filling requisitions regularly made under the acts of Congress.

The subalterns arising from this conflict of authorities became a serious matter, and I was constrained to call the attention of the President and Secretary of War to the subject, by a communication, dated the 1st day of August, 1861, and on the 25th of September following, an order was issued requiring these independent regiments to report to the War Department, placing them under his authority and control. Acting under this order, many of the independent regiments were filled up, others consolidated and seventy-three regiments, with an aggregate strength of 89,048 men were promptly sent forward.

During the year 1862—admiral was ordered by the National General Government, which was executed under the State authorities.