

THE RAFTSMAN'S JOURNAL.

and twenty cents, bearing interest at the rate of five per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually, on the 1st day of February and August in each year, and redeemable on or after the 1st day of August 1855, were issued. The minimum period fixed by law for the redemption of these certificates, expired on the 1st day of August last. No provision has been made for their renewal or redemption.

Although by the terms of the act authorizing these certificates of State stock, as also by the conditions of the certificates issued in pursuance thereof, the time of payment after the expiration of the minimum period, is optional with the debtor—the Commonwealth—yet a due regard to the credit of the State requires that provisions should be made for their renewal or redemption. To redeem these certificates a loan would become necessary, and as a loan cannot be effected, in the present financial condition of the country, on terms more favorable to the State, than those on which these certificates were issued, I would recommend that authority be given to issue the bonds of the Commonwealth in renewal of said certificates bearing interest at the rate of five per cent, per annum, payable semi-annually, and redeemable on or after the expiration of twenty years; and that the bonds be issued with coupons or certificates of interest attached, in sums and in amount to the semi-annual interest thereon, payable on the first days of February and August in each and every year, at such place as may be designated. This change in the form and character of the certificates, it is believed, will be so advantageous to the holders, without increasing the liabilities of the Commonwealth, as to induce a willing and prompt exchange, at a premium, for the new securities.

The condition of the public works, their general operation, and the receipts and expenditures for the past fiscal year, will be presented to you in the report of the Canal Commissioners.

The aggregate receipts at the Treasury, from public works, for the year ending November 30, 1855, were \$1,932,376 71. The aggregate expenditures, including ordinary expenses, amounted to \$1,839,791 18, showing an excess of receipts, over all expenditures, of \$192,585 53.

The extraordinary payments for the same year excluding \$138,100 00 paid for re-laying the south track of the Columbia railroad, and \$28,000 00 for re-building the Freeport aqueduct, were \$890,427 78. The ordinary expenditures were \$1,148,363 40. Aggregate receipts above stated, \$1,932,376 71. Ordinary expenditures \$1,148,363 40. Net revenues for the fiscal year, 794,013 31.

This balance exhibits a small increase in the net revenues, as compared with the net revenues of 1854; and notwithstanding the withdrawal of the transportation lines from the main line of the canal, the aggregate revenues for the past year have exceeded the revenues of 1854 by more than twenty-three thousand dollars. From the abundant crops of the past year, the improved condition of the monetary affairs of the country, and the general revival of business, a large increase in the revenues for the current year may be confidently expected.

The sum of \$61,125 25, has been paid into the Treasury by the Pennsylvania railroad company and other railroad companies, as the tax on tonnage passing over their roads. This amount largely exceeds the sum paid by the same companies in 1854.

The Delaware division exhibits a satisfactory result. The total receipts were \$392,573 42; expenditures, \$399,957 86; showing a net revenue of \$69,395 56. If all the receipts and expenditures exhibit a similar balance sheet, the people would have less cause of complaint and more confidence in the general operation of the system.

There has been a large increase in the business and tonnage of the Columbia railroad, and a corresponding increase in the receipts therefrom. The operations of the road, for the past year have been highly satisfactory. The operations of that part of the main line from the Junction to Pittsburg, including the Portage railroad, do not present so favorable a result. The receipts have greatly diminished and were not sufficient to meet the ordinary expenditures. The revenues from the main line do not equal the receipts of the previous year. The cause of this reduction is apparent, and some of them have been referred to and enumerated. It is but just to add, that the expenditures on this line have been much diminished by the avoidance of some of the inclined planes on the Portage railroad.

I regret to inform you that the railroad to avoid the inclined planes on the Allegheny mountain, has not been completed as was confidently anticipated. The delay in the completion of this work has occasioned much inconvenience to the business of the main line and a loss to the revenues of the Commonwealth. The expenditures have largely exceeded the original estimates for its construction; and although the sum of \$277,739 00 was appropriated at the last session—a sum covering the estimate of the engineer—yet after the expenditure of the whole amount thus appropriated the road is unfinished; and to complete it and pay the debts contracted, the further sum of \$177,573 95 as now estimated by the engineer, will be required. Either the estimates have been very carelessly made, or large sums of money were expended in an unproductive and unprofitable manner. As the business of the main line, reducing still further its expenditures and relieving the Treasury from these constant demands, the announcement of its early completion will be hailed with pleasure by every citizen.

Although the completion of the North Branch Canal, was certainly expected, yet this expectation has not been realized. The efforts of the present Superintendent, Mr. Maffit, during the past year, to complete and put in successful operation this canal, deserves the highest commendation. Every thing that skill, energy, and industry could accomplish, has been done. The labor to be performed was great, and rendered more difficult and perplexing by the imperfect and fraudulent construction of the old work and some portion of the new. The large quantity of rocks, trees, stumps, and roots placed in the bottom of the canal, and the defective material used in the embankments, suffered the water to escape almost as rapidly as it was admitted, and rendered a re-construction of the work in many places, indispensably necessary. Its successful completion, it is hoped, will soon be announced.

It will appear by the report of the committee of Ways and Means made to the House of Representatives in 1849, that the entire amount necessary to complete and put in operation the unfinished portions of this canal was estimated at the sum of \$1,106,037 00. The amount actually expended since that period, as appears from the reports of the Superintendent, Engineer and Canal Commissioners, is \$1,857,277 52, being an excess of expenditures over the original estimates of \$751,240 52; and the canal not yet in operation. With such facts before us—such evidence of mismanagement and reckless expenditure as the history of this canal shows, it is not matter of surprise that the Commonwealth and people are burdened with debt and taxation.

In pursuance of the act of the 8th of May last, providing for the sale of the main line of the public works, after giving the notice required by law, I caused the same to be exposed to public sale, at the Merchants' Exchange

in the city of Philadelphia. No offers were made and consequently the works remain unsold. Several proposals for the sale or lease of the main line, were subsequently invited, as directed by the 17th section of the said act, and the proposals received are herewith submitted to the legislature for their action and final disposition.

Having on a former occasion presented my views of the propriety and policy of a sale of this branch of our public improvements, a repetition of the sentiments then expressed becomes unnecessary. In relation to this subject my opinion has not changed. The experience of the past and a careful examination of the question in its economical and political relations, have strengthened and confirmed it. That the State should, long since, have been separated from the management and control of these works, the history of their construction and management clearly demonstrates. Public policy and public sentiment demand this separation; and every consideration of present and future interest requires their sale. The late financial embarrassments of the country—the imperfect character of some of the provisions of the bill authorizing the sale, together with the adverse influence of rival interests, defeated the recent attempt to sell. The difficulties have been, or can be, removed; and a sale yet effected on terms equally protective of the rights and interests of the people, and at the same time just and liberal to the purchasers.

To reduce the State debt and relieve the people from taxation, are objects worthy the earnest and anxious consideration of the Legislature. To accomplish these objects speedily and certainly, a sale of the whole or part of our public improvements becomes important and necessary. The revenues of the State under the present system of management of the public works, are but little more than sufficient to pay the interest of her debt, and the ordinary expenses of the government. A sale of these works, for a fair consideration, and upon terms just and liberal, would constitute a beginning in the process of liquidation, and would free the Commonwealth from debt and her people from consequent taxation. In every measure calculated to produce these desirable results, I will cheerfully co-operate with the Legislature.

The currency of the State, in its relation to banking institutions, and their increase, is a subject that demands careful and intelligent consideration. From the notice given of numerous interpositions to the Legislature for new banks, and an increase of banking capital, this subject will doubtless be presented to, and strongly urged upon your attention. Shall the number of banks and the amount of banking capital be increased? and if so to what extent, and in what localities? are questions of absorbing public interest.

Without desiring to assume a general and unqualified opinion, in relation to the propriety of an increase of banking capital, I cannot discover the necessity that requires, or the circumstances that would justify the incorporation of all that may be demanded from the Legislature. The incorporation of new, or the recharter of old and solvent banks, when indispensably necessary and clearly demanded by the actual business wants of the community in which they are to be established, should be refused; under no other circumstances should their incorporation be permitted.

The necessity of increasing the number of banks should be determined more by the actual wants of legitimate trade, than the number of applications and the wild fancies of stock-jobbers and speculators. The sudden and unnecessary expansion of the currency, which would be invited, and whatever tends to produce such a result ought to be discontinued and prevented. In the creation of banks the true interests of the State and people should be consulted; and a just and honest discrimination, as to number, locality and the demands of trade, be exercised by their representatives. Public sentiment does not demand, nor do the necessities of the community require, the creation of numerous banks.

In the present condition of the finances, and in aid of the revenue of the State, (in addition to the taxes now imposed by law,) a reasonable premium should be required to be paid by all banks or saving institutions that may hereafter be chartered or re-chartered by the Legislature. It is appropriate to this subject, and intimately connected with it, I cannot forbear to express my disapprobation of a practice, that has heretofore obtained to some extent, of using the names of members of the Legislature as copartners in bills pending before them for the incorporation of banks and other companies. Such a practice is pernicious, and cannot be too strongly and publicly rebuked. The independence of the Legislature—exposes him to unjust suspicions, and stamps with selfishness, at least, his legislative action in the premises.—Legislation should be free, even from the appearance of improper motive; and every undue and corrupting influence, inside or outside of the Legislature, should be resisted.

It is a cause of more than ordinary congratulation, that agriculture, the first as it is the noblest pursuit of man, has in its progress of development, vindicated its own importance and assumed, in public esteem, the honorable position to which it is so justly entitled. Consulting as it does the sustenance of our great mechanical, manufacturing and commercial interests, it should ever be regarded as the chief source of State and National prosperity. First in necessity, it is the highest in usefulness of all the departments of labor, sustaining and promoting in their varied and multiplied relations, all the other industrial interests of the country. Our financial and commercial prosperity is largely dependent upon the success of agricultural industry.

An interest so important should receive the encouragement of all classes of society. No longer a mere art—an exertion of physical strength—it has reached the dignity of a science; and to its progress and improvement the people and their representatives should cheerfully contribute. State and county agricultural societies have done much to promote this cause, and through their agency much valuable information has been collected and diffused. Much yet remains to be done. More information is demanded. More efficiency in the collection and diffusion of useful knowledge is required. To secure this result, the establishment of an agricultural bureau, in connection with some of the departments of State, would largely contribute. The importance of such a bureau, properly organized, as an aid to the advancement of agricultural knowledge and the success of agricultural industry, cannot easily be over-estimated. The subject is earnestly commended to your attention.

By an act of the last session, an institution designated as the "Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania," was incorporated. The charter was accepted by the trustees, and the institution duly organized. An eligible site for the college has been secured in Centre county, and two hundred acres of valuable and highly cultivated land donated to the trustees, for the use of the institution, and the trustees, for the use of that country. The citizens of the county, with a liberality highly commendable, have pledged and secured to the trustees, for the use of the college, ten thousand dollars in addition to the land donated. This liberality shows that the farmers of Pennsylvania fully appreciate the importance of such an institution, and will support and sustain it. The

course of instruction will be thorough and practical. Scientific and practical agriculture, with the usual branches of academic education, will be taught, and the effort will be made to make good farmers, good scholars, and good citizens.

Whilst individual liberality and energy have done much and will do more for this institution, an appropriation by the State, in such sum as the Legislature may deem proper, would not only aid and encourage this laudable enterprise, but would be an honorable and just recognition of the important interests involved.

The laws now in operation, regulating manufacturing and other improvement companies, are in some of their provisions too severely restrictive, and should be modified. Legislation on these subjects has heretofore tended to restrain the investment of capital—check industry, and curtail the energy of the people in the prosecution of those enterprises that aid the development of our immense resources, and contribute so largely to the wealth and prosperity of the State. Liberal and judicious legislation—encouraging individual enterprise—inviting the investment of capital, and stimulating the various departments of manufacturing and mechanical industry, would greatly promote the interests of the people—increase our revenues, and give to the Commonwealth that prominence and position, in the sisterhood of States, to which the character of her citizens and her illimitable natural resources justly entitle her. To this subject your attention is invited.

The Report of the Superintendent of Common Schools will exhibit to you the condition of the general operations of the system throughout the Commonwealth, during the past year. To the valuable and useful suggestions of the report, I would earnestly ask the attention of the Legislature.

The operation and results of the system as detailed are highly interesting. Our educational system is slowly, but surely, conquering prejudices and gaining the confidence of the people. Under the fostering care of liberal and judicious legislation its ultimate triumph is certain. When the system was first introduced, it was supposed that it could be perfected and forced into general and vigorous operation by the mere will of the Legislature. Experience has proven that in this, as in every other great, social and moral reform, time and that consent which arises from a radical change in the popular mind, are required. This slow and gradual process of the acclimation of the new system to our social and moral atmosphere, has been in operation for nearly twenty years; and it is now evident that the period for another effective interposition of legislative aid and authority in favor of our noble system and common schools, has arrived. In whatever form this obviously proper and necessary interposition may present itself, if calculated to promote the general good, in your view, it shall receive my cheerful support.

After a careful examination of the subject, it is my clear conviction that the system is now prepared for and requires increased efficiency in its general supervision—increased qualification in its teachers, and increased means of support.

The experiment of the County Superintendent, who ever faithfully carried out, has not disappointed the expectations of the advocates of that measure. The improved condition of the schools, and the greater efficiency of the system, clearly establish the propriety and utility of such supervision. The official visits of an officer of the school department to some counties of the State, in connection with the process of the currency, have demonstrated the voice of public authority to sustain, and the presence of an official agent to encourage, have largely contributed to excite and maintain the deep interest now felt by the public in our educational progress and improvement.

The most marked improvement recently effected in the system, has been in its corps of teachers. The most unparalleled distinction and honor, and the noblest cause in which they are engaged, the common school teachers of the State have, in almost every county, been using all the means and appliances within their power for self-improvement. These efforts, so creditable to them, have been highly beneficial in their results, and clearly prove the necessity, and point with unerring accuracy to the remedy. Teachers' meetings for a day have given place to institutes for a week; and these again to numerous Normal meetings, continuing from one to three months. At every step in this progression, it has become more apparent that permanent institutions, with their proper professors and appliances, which nothing but the power of the State can provide, are demanded by the real wants of the system and the occasion.

In conceding this boon to our children, thro' their teachers, we are encouraged by the example of other countries, and the experience of the past. It is a remarkable fact, that no State of our Union, nor nation of the Old World, has perfected its system of public instruction, until its schools have been supported by the public authority and means; and it is no less remarkable, and still more encouraging, that no such institution has ever yet been abandoned. From Prussia, whose experience in this regard, is that of a century and a quarter, to that of our young sister Michigan, whose existing system is so well adapted to the needs of the State, and representing the vitality of its republicanism, will be the firm support and sure guarantee of its republican policy.

It is time also that the teaching mind should resume its true place in the schools. In the communication of knowledge, to be effective and, in sympathetic contact, must act upon the mind of the learner. Briefly stated, its impress there. The Great Master himself thus trained the school which was to reform a world. But now the book has to much intruded itself between the teacher and the taught.—The teacher has too much become the mere exponent or the printed page, and the mind of the learner the impressed copy of the text in his saying, the value and importance of books as a means of knowledge, are not intended to be over looked or decried; but the use of our best agencies have their limits; and when we find the book usurping the place of the teacher, to the injury of the mind of our youth, we should restore each to its proper position—require from each the performance of its appropriate functions; and thus confer upon both the full measure of their usefulness.

As an expedient to supply the place of regular Normal schools till established and as a valuable auxiliary to them when in operation, the Teachers Institute would be of unquestionable value. It would bring together the teachers of a county under the best influences for cultivation and improvement, and exhibit them before their fellow-citizens in their proper professional character. A portion of the means of the State, or of the respective counties, applicable to educational improvement, could not be more profitably applied, than to the encouragement of the meeting of at least one such institute annually, in each county. An experiment of this kind recently made in the county of Chester, is said to have been eminently successful and strongly indicative of the wisdom of the measure.

In addition to these, or similar measures, the Legislature should feel warranted—and the measure has all the sanction this executive document can give it—to make a large addition to the annual State appropriation to common schools, I believe that all will be done which the patriotism of the people's representatives can now effect; and I do not hesitate to express the opinion that the time has come for this prompt, firm and decisive action. Let the integrity of the system, in its great purposes and objects, be maintained; and if changed, changed only to render it more efficient, and to increase its power for greater usefulness.—Whatever else may distinguish your present session, it is hazardous little to predict, that more honor and benefit will result from the perfection of the common school system of the State, than from any other exercise of your legislative power.

The public schools of Philadelphia are deserving of special notice and approval. In their various gradations, from the primary up to the high school, they are models worthy of imitation; and their management and efficiency reflect great credit upon those to whom have been committed their supervision and control. It is to be regretted that these schools could not receive the great moral, literary and literary purport, and so honorable to our Commonwealth, should find no place in the annual report of the Superintendent of common schools. As at present organized, these schools are independent of the State Superintendent, and do not report to the school department of the Commonwealth. As everything that relates to the operation of the common school system, and the condition of the public schools in the State, is important and interesting, the statistics of the number of pupils, and generally such information in relation to their government as may be deemed useful to the cause of education, is respectfully recommended.

To improve the social, intellectual, and moral condition of the people—reclaim the erring, and ameliorate the human suffering, are objects that commend themselves to the benevolent mind of all true patriots and statesmen. Our educational, charitable, and reformatory institutions are justly the pride of the State, honorable alike to the wisdom that devised, and liberality that founded and sustains them. They have strong claims upon the bounty of the people, and I cordially recommend them to your care and the liberality of the Commonwealth.

The State Lunatic Hospital, at Harrisburg, in its objects and results, merits our highest approbation. The expectations of its projectors and founders have not been disappointed. Kindness and love, with their softening and subduing influence, constitute the rule of its government. Many of its former unfortunate inmates have been restored to reason, to friends and home, and the enjoyment of social life. Those who remain require our sympathy and aid. They should not be withheld. The report of the directors will exhibit, in detail, the operations of the institution.

The necessity and importance of providing additional accommodation for the insane of Western Pennsylvania, have been strongly pressed upon my attention. The present accommodations are clearly insufficient, and the necessity has been provided principally by the contributions of benevolent citizens. It is urged that the rapid advance of our population—the gloomy increase of the insane—and the inadequacy of the present asylums for their care and management, render it imperatively necessary that effective aid should be given to this portion of the State, for a new and entirely distinct Western Insane Hospital, as a home to those of our fellow-citizens whose only alleviation is to be found in their own ignorance of the frightful malady with which they are burdened. The subject is worthy of calm and dispassionate inquiry. I will cheerfully co-operate with the Legislature, in all proper efforts, to accomplish this object.

Should you decline to act upon this subject, I would recommend that an additional appropriation be made to the Western Pennsylvania Hospital for the purpose of extending its accommodations for the care of the insane, as distinct as may be practicable from the other class of patients and inmates. The charter of this institution is liberal in its provisions, and comprehensive in the objects liable to be brought under its care, embracing the insane, idiotic, feeble-minded, and imbecile.

In this connection I would commend to your attention the Pennsylvania Training School for Idiotic and Feeble-Minded Children. The aid of the Commonwealth has heretofore been extended to this institution. It is a noble charity, and appeals to the best feelings of the heart. It deserves to share the bounty of the State.

The House of Refuge in Philadelphia, and the Western House of Refuge near Pittsburg, are institutions of great excellence, having for their object the reclaiming of wayward and erring youth—the employment of the idle—the instruction of the ignorant—the reformation of the vicious and depraved and the relief of the wretched. They are schools, not prisons—homes, not places of punishment; they are a refuge to the neglected and outcast children and youth of our Commonwealth.—The success of the past is a sure guarantee of their future usefulness. They should receive your aid and encouragement.

The "Blind" and the "Deaf and Dumb Asylums," in Philadelphia, invite our sympathy, and ask to share the benefactions of the Commonwealth. The blind, in their darkness—the dumb, in their silence—will cherish the gift, and bless the generous donor.

Legislation, in relation to all questions of moral and social reform, should be carefully and wisely considered and matured. On no subject, within the constitutional authority of the Legislature, are the people so sensitive; and no one more deeply interests every class and condition of society. Sumptuary laws, as a general rule, are of doubtful expediency; and as abridgments of the liberty and privileges of the citizen, can only be justified on the ground of necessity. Whilst this is admitted, it cannot be denied that the evils resulting from intemperance, create a necessity for regulating and restraining by legislative acts, the traffic and sale of intoxicating liquors. To what extent this traffic should be restrained by positive law, must depend on the will of the people, determined by considerations of their own moral, physical and social welfare. Whatever may be the opinion of the Legislature, or that of the law, the law last session "to restrain the sale of intoxicating liquors," it must be admitted that a full return to the license system, in operation prior to the passage of the present law, is not demanded by enlightened public sentiment, and would not promote the good order or hap-

piness of the community. That the laws then in existence were imperfect and failed to check or control the evils of intemperance, is a proposition too plain to be doubted; that they need revision must also be conceded. In our large cities and towns, the evils of the system were more severely felt. The facility and cheapness with which licenses were obtained operated as a premium to vice and immorality, and multiplied tipping houses and places where intemperance, under the authority of laws, was not only permitted, but encouraged. My immediate predecessor, in his last annual message to the Legislature, in reference to the license law, says: "So far as relates to the city of Philadelphia, they are peculiarly prejudicial to public morals, and seem to have been constructed to promote the convenience of drinking far more than to restrain its evil consequences." In this opinion I fully concur.—That a remedy was demanded, will be conceded.—Whether the law of the last session was the proper remedy, it is not my province now to determine. Enacted by the representatives of the people, I give that act my official approval. Recognizing the people as the source of all political power, and their representatives as the immediate exponents of their will, upon you will devolve the responsibility of further legislation, if any, on this subject. In all its relations, economical, political, social and moral, the question is important, and its proper determination involves fearful responsibilities. It deserves, and should receive, your serious consideration. If action is had, we may not hope that it will be such as will promote the virtue, morality, and true interests of our people and Commonwealth.

Legislation, so far as practicable, should be general and uniform. Local and special legislation should not be encouraged, when the desired object can be obtained by general laws. Such legislation is not only local and special in its character, but frequently temporary—the act of one session being repealed by the act of the next, and perhaps replaced by one still more objectionable, which, in turn, soon shares the fate of its predecessor. It crowds the statute book with needless and unnecessary laws—violates private rights, creates confusion, and certainly—deserves a uniformity of practice and decision—prolongs the session of the Legislature, and increases the public expenses. Our general laws regulating roads, highways and bridges and providing for the support and employment of the poor, constitute a well digested system, for the accomplishment of those objects and ends, and the system of local legislation heretofore practised, was frequently in different townships of the same county, local laws regulating these subjects, not only differing material from the general law, but from one another. Reform in this regard is required, and to this I respectfully ask your attention.

"Omnia legibus" having been commended to the consideration of the Legislature, it cannot be permitted to legislate on subjects of legislative action. It cannot receive my approval.

Numerous applications will doubtless be made for the incorporation of insurance, gas, water and boom companies. To facilitate action on these questions—economize time—reduce the expenses of legislation—secure uniformity and confine the companies hereafter incorporated to the legitimate purposes of their creation, I would recommend the enactment of general laws regulating such corporations. Already laws of this character for coal, iron, canal, railroad, trunpike, plank, and bridge companies have been passed, and in practice have been found highly useful and economical. Such laws, well regulated and carefully guarded, would be productive of similar results on the application to insurance and other companies named.

The propriety of limiting and restraining corporate bodies, and powers, and the creation, will not be denied or controverted. In relation to the powers and privileges of insurance companies, this plain principle has been overlooked and disregarded. By successive acts of legislation, the powers and privileges of such corporations have been extended, and nearly all the powers of banks, without their guards, restrictions and liabilities. This has been effected by the magic of a general provision in the act incorporating the company, or by reference to some foreign supplement concealed in the folds of an "omnibus bill," or lost in the mazes of the pamphlet laws. General laws, which they would confer on such companies, and under the authority of the Legislature, the objects of their incorporation, would at the same time prevent an extension of privileges foreign to such associations. This subject is commended to your consideration.

The jurisdiction of the courts in relation to real estate, trusts, the incorporation of literary, charitable and religious societies, manufacturing and other associations, has been greatly extended by recent legislation. The enlarged jurisdiction conferred for the purpose of relieving the Legislature from the pressure of numerous applications for special legislation in the premises. The courts are, therefore, the proper tribunals to determine such questions; and in cases where the subject-matter is within their jurisdiction, the Legislature should refuse to entertain the application. Divorce, unless in cases of extreme necessity and clearly beyond the jurisdiction of the courts, should not be granted by the Legislature. By the act of the 16th of April, 1855, entitled "An Act to increase the revenues and diminish the legislative expenses of the Commonwealth," it was provided that, in all cases where a tax or duty described and taxed, should be enrolled in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, or published, or have the force and effect of law, until the party applying therefor, should pay into the Treasury of the Commonwealth the respective sums named in said act. A large number of acts passed by former Legislatures, and subject to this tax, remain in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, the tax on them having been paid. The number has been annually increasing, and will continue to increase, unless a summary remedy be afforded for the collection of the tax on the same. The tax on the same, after a certain period, the act themselves be repealed. The amount of enrolment tax now due the Commonwealth is large, and should have been paid long since. I would, therefore, recommend the passage of a law, resuming all acts repealed after a certain period, subject to the tax be paid within one year thereafter, and further, to provide that all such acts hereafter passed shall have the force and effect of law, unless the taxes respectively due thereon be paid within six months after their approval. Such a law would secure the payment of these taxes, increase the revenues, and at the same time check the demand for private acts designed to be used or abandoned on a calculation of chances, or the loss or gain of the parties in interest might determine.

By a resolution of the Legislature, passed the 27th day of March, 1855, requiring the New York and Erie Railroad company, to communicate to the Legislature of this Commonwealth, a statement certified under oath by their president, setting forth what quantity of land said company now holds in Pennsylvania—its location, and whether they have heretofore disposed of its value—the value of what they now hold, and when the titles to said lands were acquired; it was made the duty of the Governor to transmit a copy of said resolution to the president of said company. A copy of the resolution was transmitted as directed, and the answer of the president of the company, communicating the information required, is herewith submitted to the Legislature.

By a resolution of the 25th day of April, 1855, I was requested to procure from the Attorney General, his opinion of the right of the State of New York to divert water from the natural bed and channel of the Chemung river, to the prejudice of the public improvements of Pennsylvania, the said river belonging to both States, and communicate the same to the Legislature. At the request of the Attorney General, his opinion has been obtained, and is herewith communicated to the Legislature.

On the sixth day of October last, I approved and signed the bill, entitled "An Act to repeal the charter of the Erie and North East Railroad Company, and to provide for the disposition of the same." In pursuance of its provisions, I appointed the Hon. Joseph Vasey to take possession and have charge and custody of the road. Before possession was taken, application was made by the company to one of the judges of the Supreme Court of this Commonwealth for an injunction to restrain the agent of the State from taking possession of the road, and subsequently a cautionary order was made by the Supreme Court, in a suitable stay his proceedings under the act. The questions involved in the application for an injunction are now pending before that court, and will, it is expected, be determined early in the present month. The result will be made the subject of a special communication to the Legislature.

The recent fraudulent, if not felonious abstraction of a large quantity of arms from the arsenal at Harrisburg, has shown the necessity of additional provisions for the protection of the arms and other public property of the Commonwealth deposited in the arsenals of the State. The taking and sale of the public arms and property without authority of law, by the keepers of the arsenals, or by others having them in charge, should be declared a felony, and punished with severity, and all persons purchasing or receiving the same, without proper authority, and knowing them to be the property of the Commonwealth, should be regarded as principals, and punished accordingly.

The bonds now required to be given by the Adjutant General and the keepers of the arsenals, for the faithful discharge of their duties, are insufficient in amount to secure the Commonwealth against loss from the fraudulent sale of the property committed to their care. The sum in which these bonds are taken should be increased to an amount proportionate to the value of the property which is or may be deposited in the arsenals.

Since the sale of the Arsenal in Philadelphia, the public arms in that city have been placed in a room or out-house, and for that purpose. As a depository, it is unsafe and insecure, and a provision should be made for their safe keeping. The sum of thirty thousand dollars, arising from the sale of the Philadelphia Arsenal, is now in the Treasury, to be expended under the direction of the Governor, in the purchase of a new Arsenal and the erection of a new Arsenal. This sum is wholly inadequate for that purpose, and without additional appropriations, which are not commended, the Arsenal cannot be completed. As arms and munitions of war can, when required, be transmitted with facility and rapidity, to distant parts of the State, the necessity for more than one Arsenal is strongly urged. If the Arsenal at Meadville can be completed, and a provision made for its safe keeping, I would suggest your consideration the propriety of authorizing the sale, and sale of the one at Harrisburg, and with the funds arising therefrom, and the money in the Treasury applicable to the purchase of the Arsenal of a large and commodious Arsenal at Harrisburg, or elsewhere, as may be deemed most economical, safe and convenient.

The Legislature, at their last session, having failed to elect a Senator to represent this State in the Senate of the United States, for six years from the 4th of March last, it becomes your duty to provide for an election, by electing a Senator in preference to existing Senators, by electing the election of Senators to represent this State in the Senate of the United States, it will be perceived that their provisions do not embrace a case like the present.

Having at this time, as a Senator in office, declared to my fellow citizens, and the people, my sentiments in relation to questions connected with our national politics, their reiteration will not be expected. To the opinions then expressed, and now reiterated, I have no dissenting referred.—To maintain in their integrity, the Constitution of our Republic, and the Union of the States—protect the civil and religious privileges of the people—guard with jealous care the general and essential principles of free government—freedom and human rights—and vindicate by a true and single devotion to home and country, the great doctrine of American nationality, are objects which awaken the patriotism and claim the energies and the heart of every American citizen.

In obedience to the requirements of the Constitution, and Laws of the State, as the representative of the people, you have assumed the high and responsible duties that devolve upon you. As a co-ordinate branch of the government, it will be alike my duty and pleasure, to unite with you in the enactment of such laws as will protect the rights of the people, and advance the honor and prosperity of the Commonwealth. With a sole desire for the public good—actuated by a spirit of enlarged and enlightened patriotism and guarded by the wisdom and discretion which begin in the fear of God, may our efforts, in harmonious action be directed to the accomplishment of these objects, and to the promotion of that righteousness, which exalts a nation, and constitutes the true glory of a free and civilized people. JAMES POLLOCK, Executive Chamber, Harrisburg, Jan. 1, 1855.

TERMS.
THE JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, at ONE DOLLAR AND FIFTY CENTS per annum in advance, or Two DOLLARS within the year. Advertising at the rate of FIFTY CENTS per square, for the first, and twenty-five cents for each additional insertion. A liberal deduction made to those who advertise by the quarter, or year. The Terms will be strictly adhered to, and no paper discontinued without payment of arrearages, unless at the option of the publisher.

SURVAY HORSE.—Came to the residence of the undersigned, living in Decatur township, a Bay Horse. The owner is hereby notified to come forward, prove property, and breed his horse, or him away, otherwise he will be disposed of according to law. ABRAHAM J. GOSS, January 9, 1855.—St.

DISSOLUTION.—The partnership heretofore existing between John S. Williams and William H. Smith, in relation to the business of a real estate agent, Smith having disposed of his interest to John S. Williams. JOHN S. WILLIAMS, WILLIAM H. SMITH.

New Millport, Dec. 22, 1854. The books and accounts of the firm are in the hands of John S. Williams for settlement, where those indebted will please call immediately. J. B. BENJAMIN & CO. William H. Smith.

APPLICATION FOR LICENSE.—To the Honorable the Judges of the Court of Quarter Sessions of the County of Clearfield.—The petitioners the subscribers respectfully represent, that they are desirous of obtaining License to sell, vitreous, spiritous, malted and brewed liquors, at their place of business, in "Lumber City," in the township of Penn, in the County of Clearfield; that they, or either of them, are not keepers of any hotel, inn, tavern, restaurant, eating house, or other place of entertainment, amusement or refreshment; that they are citizens of the United States; that they are prepared and ready to give bond in every way to conform to the act of Assembly, relating to Liquors, passed the 14th day of April, A. D. 1855. They therefore pray the Court to grant them a license for the above purpose; and they will pray, &c. BENJAMIN FRISBORN & THOMAS MCCRACKEN, acting as partners. January 1, 1855.

VALUABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE.—THE undersigned offers at Private Sale, 269 acres of Land, more or less, in Penn township, Clearfield county, situated mostly on the banks of the Allegheny river, and covered with valuable TIMBER, and having thereon the following improvements—

A GOOD SAW-MILL, with LATH-SAW, Resaw, &c., on a good stream of water, which will enable the mill to run about eight months in the year.
A LARGE TWO-STORY HOUSE, well furnished, plastered and painted throughout, with a never-failing Spring of water in the cellar.
ALSO, A FRAME BARN BARN, well furnished with recently floor, stable, &c., all new, having but recently been erected. Also, convenient and substantially erected.

OFFICE-BUILDINGS, consisting of a Wood-Shop, Spring House, Smoke House, &c., &c.
There is no more desirable property in the County. Any person wishing further information, can apply to SAMUEL WIDEMIRE, living in Pennsylvania, or to JOHN WIDEMIRE, Clearfield County, Pa.
JOHN WIDEMIRE, SAMUEL WIDEMIRE, Penn Township, Dec. 28, 1855.—Geo