

# Rafferty's Journal.

BY S. J. ROW.

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## Annual Message of ANDREW G. CURTIN, Governor of Pennsylvania.

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

GENTLEMEN—We have cause to be thankful to Divine Providence for the blessings of peace within our borders, abundant crops, unanimity among our people, and that thus the Commonwealth has been enabled to do her full duty to the country, to herself and to posterity.

I apprised you in my message of the 27th of 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 adjourn for a time in a warmer climate. I returned from Cuba refreshed and invigorated, and have resumed the discharge of my public duties. I cannot omit to acknowledge, with profound gratitude, the kind, considerate and affectionate course which you pursued during my constrained absence.

A heavy addition has been thus made to the debt which I already owed to the people of the Commonwealth and their Representatives.

The balance in the Treasury, November 30th, 1865, \$1,912,363 63. Receipts during the year ending Nov. 30, 1865, \$7,212,269 67. Total in the Treasury for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1865, \$9,124,633 30. The payments for the same period have been \$7,588,225 16. Balance in the Treasury, Nov. 30, 1865, \$1,536,408 14.

The operations of the sinking fund, during the year ending on the first Monday in September last, as stated in my proclamation, were as follows: Amount of debt reduced, \$719,311 20. To wit: Five per cent \$151,824 62; Coupon Loan \$239,000 00; War Loan \$170,000 00; Int. on certificates \$2,985 04; Domestic creditors \$378 50.

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 fiscal year, arises from the fact that the one closes on the first Monday of September, and the other on the 30th of November.

Amount of the public debt of Pennsylvania, as shown on the first of Dec. 1865, \$39,573,493 94. Amount reduced at the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1865, to wit: Five per cent stocks \$1,703,517 88; Four and a half per cent stocks \$20,000 00; Domestic creditors certificates \$778 00; Military loan, act of May 15, 1861, \$170,000 00; Total \$1,875,305 88. Public debt, Dec. 1, 1865, \$37,700,188 06.

Assets in the Treasury: Bonds Penna. Railroad Company \$6,700,000 00; Bonds Phila. and Erie R. Road Company \$3,000,000 00; Interest on bonds of P. & E. Railroad Company \$1,450,000 00; Cash in Treasury \$2,773,068 00; Total assets \$13,623,068 00. Liabilities in excess of assets \$24,077,120 94.

Liabilities in excess of assets, November 30, 1865, \$29,498,193 94. Liabilities in excess of assets, Nov. 30, 1865, \$25,852,289 22. Improvement in condition of Treasury, since Nov. 30, 1865, \$3,645,904 02.

By the report of the State Treasurer, it will be observed that the extraordinary expenditures growing out of the war, not repaid by the General Government, have been \$4,028,627 21. This includes the direct tax paid to the United States by the State, which is not reimbursable. In the balance is included the \$671,476 43 paid to the militia, which with a good portion of the remaining expenditure, is clearly due the State from the General Government.

The necessity for 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, Lunatic Asylums—these appear to me to be proper objects of State bounty, because a few of them are sufficient for the whole State, and to leave them to be provided for by the local authorities would, in fact, be to deprive the protection, the unfortunate classes for whose benefit they are designed. But mere local charities, however meritorious and effective, should, I think, be left to the support of the benevolent parties who established them. It is unjust 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, conducted by private associations, especially when it is remembered that hitherto but a small proportion of the private charities in the State have asked for such appropriation. I recommend, therefore, that no appropriation be made for charities, beyond the Institutions which I have above specified.

The taxes at present laid on corporations are unequal, and to a certain extent thereby unjust. I recommend the subject to the attention of the Legislature, with a view to the revision of the system.

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 led to abuses. 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 to be applied, and designating the officer by whom it is to be expended, and providing that the accounts shall 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 \$2,555,379 12 better than it was then, and I am proud to be able to state further, that on the last day of December, 1865, the State debt was \$40,290,661 less than it was on the 1st of January, 1861. These are truly gratifying facts. Under these circumstances, it may be possible, with entire safety to our finances, to reduce or even repeal the ordinary State tax of two and a half mills on real estate. The tax of one half mill laid by the act of May 16, 1861, was by that act ex-

pressly pledged for the repayment of the loan of \$3,000,000, thereby authorized, and of course cannot be repealed or reduced until that payment shall have been made. I recommend this subject to the careful and deliberate consideration and judgment of the Legislature, and if it should be found that the tax can be repealed, I recommend that all laws authorizing the levying of local taxes on bonds, mortgages, loans and all property of that kind be also repealed. Such a repeal would largely encourage the investment of capital in the State, and add immensely to the wealth of the State, while the local authorities would lose very little, as it is notorious, they receive very little from these sources. In case of such repeal, I recommend the adoption of some effectual measures for enforcing correct returns of such objects of taxation, with appropriate penalties for the neglect or refusal to make them. I make these recommendations, believing that it will lead to more equitable local taxation and to greater economy in their disbursement.

Many acts are on our 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, but a few of the men now remain in the service. The spirit which animated our people, at the outset of the rebellion, has never flagged; 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 would, under any circumstances, render a 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 proportions as it in a brief time assumed. My confidence in Pennsylvania, in her every step towards war, her ability and resources have 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, I made 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 demanded by any existing public exigency, had been formed in certain parts of the State, and that, whilst Pennsylvania yielded to no State, in her respect for and willingness to protect, by all lawful guarantees, the constitutional rights and national independence of her sister States, she contemplated no attempt to resist the enforcement of the National Law, could meet with sympathy or encouragement from the people of this Commonwealth, and asked for authority and means to organize a military force at the Capital, and to so amend and modify the militia laws 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. It will be remembered that this patriotic action of the Legislature occurred before it was known that hostilities had actually commenced—and it is believed to be the first official action by the authorities of any State, or by the National Legislature.

The first call made by the President for troops to aid in suppressing the rebellion, was on the 15th of April, 1861, for seventy-five thousand men; and that of this number, the quota of Pennsylvania was fourteen regiments, to serve three months, unless sooner discharged. With unsurpassed alacrity and earnestness, volunteers answered to this call, in such numbers as manifested the intuitive conviction of the people, that the monstrous wickedness which had conceived an armed rebellion against the Constitution and the laws, could not be suppressed but by a colossal force.

Major General Robert Patterson was assigned, by the General Government, to a command, which included the forces raised in Pennsylvania. Within a week after the call of the President, communication with Washington was almost entirely cut off. General Patterson, prompted by the necessities of the situation, made, on the 25th of April, a requisition upon me for twenty-five additional regiments of infantry and one of cavalry, to be forthwith mustered into the service of the United States. Under this requisition, I accepted, from amongst the many pressing to be admitted into the service, a sufficient number of companies to fill it; care being taken to allow to each county, as nearly as possible, a fair representation. Only eleven regiments, however, in addition to the fourteen called for by the President, were organized and mustered into the service, before the order of General Patterson was countermanded by him, under instructions from the War Department.

On the 14th day of May, 1861, the Secretary of War, in a letter communicating the plan of organization for three years regiments, confirmed the recreation of the regiments 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 further than enlarge this number, and in no event, to exceed it. Let me earnestly recommend to 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 stated, comprised 20,979 men. The ardor of our people was unabated. Many 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 anticipating that, in case of reverse to the fortunes of the assessment, they would be the portals 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 power of the State as available and efficient as it should be, for the common defense of the State and the General Government; and accordingly, on the 20th of April, 1861, issued my proclamation, calling for the meeting of the General Assembly, on the 30th of the same month.

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

The Legislature acted promptly upon this suggestion, and made full provisions for its effectual accomplishment. The result was the early and complete organization, clothing and equipment of the Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteer Corps, with its thirteen regiments of infantry, one of light artillery and one of cavalry, under the supervision of George A. M'Call, who was selected to command it, with the commission and rank of Major General. This corps contained 15,856 men, and the whole expense of raising, clothing, equipping, 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, except two of the regiments, commanded by Colonels Chas. J. Biddle and Seneca G. Simmons, and two batteries of artillery, 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 Colonel Wallace, at Cumberland, Maryland, 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 requisition 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 corps, forwarded 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 the Nation, was fully shown by subsequent events. Most of the men who filled its ranks, had been accepted by me under the call for twenty-five regiments, but 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 future enlistments.

By acts 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. In the meantime authorities had been granted by the President and the 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 embarrassments arising from this conflict of authorities became at length so serious that I was constrained to call the attention of the President and Secretary of War to the subject, by a communication, dated the 1st of August, 1861, and on the 25th of September following, an order was issued requiring these independent regiments to report to the Governor, and 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 a draft was ordered by the General Government, which was executed under the State authorities. Of the quota of the State, under the call of July 7, 1862, forty-three regiments of volunteers, aggregating 40,883 men, were put into service, and under the draft, ordered August 4th of the same year fifteen regiments, containing an aggregate force of 15,000 men, organized and sent forward. During the same period nine independent batteries of artillery were organized in the State, with an aggregate strength of 1,358 officers and men. It will be remembered that the ardor and promptness of our people, under such trying circumstances, in pressing the troops forward, was such as to call from the President special thanks and to request me to express them to the people of the State.

During the year 1863, forty-three thousand and forty-six (43,046) men were furnished for the service, principally to fill regiments in the field which had been reduced by the exigencies of the war.

During the year 1864, under the various calls of the General Government, thirty-two regiments, two battalions and eight unattached companies of different arms of the service, and for various periods, were organized and sent to the field, aggregating, with re-enlistments in the field, amounting to 17,876, an aggregate force of 91,704 men, furnished for that year.

The citizens of the town were suddenly reduced to poverty, and, for a time, were sustained by the active benevolence of the people of other parts of the State, aided by an appropriation of one hundred thousand dollars from the Commonwealth. They

have struggled energetically to revive from the calamity, but it is now feared that few of them will be able to succeed. I submit, therefore, to the wisdom of the Legislature, whether it would not be proper to extend to that people some additional relief.

The number of troops furnished the service, by Pennsylvania, during the rebellion may be stated as follows, to wit: During the year 1861, 130,594; during 1862, 71,100; during 1863, 43,046; during 1864, 91,704; during 1865, 25,840; Total, 362,284. This statement is exclusive of militia and enlistments for the United States navy.

I refer for more perfect details of all the military operations of the State to the reports of the Adjutant General of the other military departments of the State and to my previous annual messages. This brief military record would be imperfect if I failed to commend the fidelity, zeal and industry of the military departments of the State, and to express my personal obligations for the ready obedience and constant support I have uniformly received from the Chiefs of the Departments and officers of my personal staff. An approximate judgment of the amount of labor performed by these departments, and in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, may be made, when it is stated that over forty-three thousand (43,000) military commissions were issued during the war.

The first request for troops from this State was dated at Washington, on the 15th of April, 1861, and on the 16th the telegraph announced to the War Department that over 4,000 men were at Harrisburg, awaiting marching orders. It is our proud privilege to have it remembered, that the first military aid from the loyal States, which reached Washington, was the force of 460 Pennsylvanians, who arrived there on the 18th day of April, and that, when the Capital of the Nation was, the second time threatened, after the battle of Bull Run, the regiments of the Pennsylvania Reserve Corps, were the first troops sent forward. From the beginning of the war to its close, the State has never faltered in its support to the Government.

Proceeding in the strict line of duty, the resources of Pennsylvania, whether in men or money, have neither been withheld or squandered. The history of the conduct of our people in the field, is illuminated with incidents of heroism worthy of conspicuous notice, but it would be impossible to mention them in the proper limits of a message, without doing injustice, or perhaps, making invidious distinctions. Arrangements are in progress to have a complete history of our regiments, such as has been contemplated and is provided for in an act of Assembly already passed; and on this subject I commend the report of the Executive Military Department to your favorable consideration. It would be alike impossible to furnish a history of the associated benevolence and of the large individual contributions in the field and hospital, or of the names and services, at all times, of our volunteer surgeons, when called to assist in the hospital or on the battle field; nor is it possible to do justice to the many patriotic Christian men who were always ready to respond when summoned to the exercise of acts of humanity and benevolence. Our armies were sustained and strengthened in the field, by the patriotic devotion of their friends at home; and we can never render full justice to the heaven-directed, patriotic—Christian benevolence of the women of the State.

During the war I had occasion, from time to time, to communicate freely with the Legislature on subjects bearing upon the interests of the men representing the State in the armies of the Republic. It is with a sense of unfeigned gratitude that I acknowledge how cheerfully and promptly the Legislature and the people acted upon my suggestions, whether for the support of the Government, the enlistment and organization of troops, or for the comfort of our people already in the field. Without this generous confidence and liberal support, the labors of the Executive would have been in vain; the treasure that has been expended would have been wasted, precious lives lost would have been an empty sacrifice, the bruised hearts of kindred and friends would have been without solace, the strong men, whose health has been broken and whose bodies have been maimed would have been monuments of heroism, wasted, and the honor of this great Commonwealth would have been degraded amidst the ruins of the institutions of the Republic.

The report of Hon. Thomas H. Burrows, shows the gratifying result, under his active management, of the system adopted by the State, for the maintenance and education of the orphans of our soldiers. His report exhibits the fact, that 1,242 orphans are now actually admitted to the schools, and that 1,846 applications in all have been allowed, and orders issued for their admission, many of whom have been admitted since his report. It will also be seen, that the largest appropriation, that ever will be required, will be for this and the two ensuing years, and that then the amount will be gradually reduced. I have heretofore commended this charity to you, and I deem it unnecessary to add another word, in asking a continuation of an appropriation, which is to provide for and support the living legacies which have been bequeathed us by the men who laid down their lives for the country. When we remember that every sort of public and private pledge that the eloquence of man could devise or utter, was given to our soldiers as they went forward, that if they fell, their orphans should become the children of the State, I cannot for an instant suppose, that you will hesitate to continue an appropriation, which is to bless their little ones, providing comfortable homes, instead of leaving them in want and destitution, many of them to fall victims to vice and crime.

At the time of the invasion of the North, in 1863, by the rebel Army, the President made a requisition on me for militia to serve

during the emergency. The men came forward promptly, to the number of 36,588, of whom upwards of 25,000 refused to be mustered into the service of the United States, in consequence of circumstances of prior occurrence not necessary to be here stated.

In this embarrassment, the emergency being very pressing, after consultation with the President; he authorized and requested me to call them on behalf of the State, and for the defence of the State, the United States paying all the expenses of their clothing, equipment, subsistence, &c. It was, however, alleged that there was no appropriation for their pay. To remove this difficulty the General Government applied to banks and other moneyed corporations in Philadelphia to advance the amount of the pay, on a pledge that, when Congress met, the passage of a bill to reimburse them should be recommended. These institutions declined this proposition, but expressed their willingness to make the advances if I would pledge myself to recommend to the Legislature the passage of such an act in case Congress should not provide for reimbursing them. Under these circumstances, I received from the Executive of the United States the pledge which he had proposed to give to the banks, &c., and upon that I gave the necessary pledge to them, and they advanced the required funds accordingly. They following telegram from the Secretary of War will show in part the ground on which I acted:

WASHINGTON, July 22, 1863.—To His Excellency, Gov. A. G. Curtin: Your telegram respecting the pay of militia called out under your proclamation of the 27th of June, have been referred to the President for instructions, and have been under his consideration. He directs me to say that, while no law or appropriation authorizes the payment by the General Government of troops called out not being mustered into the service of the United States, he will recommend to Congress to make an appropriation for the payment of troops called into the State service to repel an actual invasion, and that those of the State who have been called into the service, you can raise the necessary amount, as has been done in other States, the appropriation will be applied to refund the advance to those who made it. Measures have been taken for the payment of troops mustered into the United States service, as soon as the muster and pay rolls are made out. The answer of this Department to you, as Governor of the State, will be given directly to yourself whenever the Department is prepared to make an answer. (Signed) EDWIN M. STANTON, Secretary of War.

When Congress met, the Executive of the United States did not recommend the passage of the necessary act. I have understood that the subject was called to the attention of the proper committee, by the Secretary of War, but, as the President did not send a message explaining the circumstances of the case, the appropriation failed, as the members of Congress had thus no means of explaining to their constituents the difference between the case (which was in substance a loan to the United States, upon the pledge of the Executive for its repayment) and the case of the voluntary expenditure of money for military purposes of Pennsylvania and most of the other States. I will add that the men came into the service for the emergency only, and on the faith that they should be discharged as soon as, in my judgment, the emergency should have ceased. The emergency ceased immediately after the battle of Gettysburg, which commenced on the 1st of July 1863; the men, against my urgent and repeated remonstrances, were kept in the service long afterward and used by the United States for various purposes. The last of them were not discharged till in September. I recommend that the Legislature adopt measures to bring the subject again before Congress, and obtain repayment of this sum, amounting to \$671,476 43, with interest on the same, which the General Government has thus far so unwarrantably withheld.

Great injustice has been done to private soldiers, who went into service under the provisions of the act of Congress, by refusing to pay them the full bounties offered by the terms of that act. The following letter, which I addressed to the Secretary of War, sufficiently explains the position of this affair.

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, HARRISBURG, PA., JUNE 5, 1865.—DEAR SIR: There are two subjects connected with the discharge of volunteers to the remainder of their bounty which I feel justified in calling your attention to them.

FIRST: The men are being paid only to the day of their arrival at the place they are to be discharged. This will cause a loss of the bounty pay, depending principally upon the promptness and disposition of the officers of the United States having the matter in charge. It is a matter of little moment to Government, but the men feel it so much injustice, and under the motto of Congress they can be paid until discharged, I think you will agree with them.

SECOND: In circular No. 29 from Provost Marshal General's office, dated July 19, 1864, under which the volunteers now to be discharged were raised, it is stated, that the bounty provided by law is as follows: "For recruits, including representative recruits, white or colored, \$100." And it is further added, that the first payment of the bounty will be paid when the recruit is mustered in, as follows: "To a recruit who enlisted in the army for one year, \$33 33."

On these terms the men enlisted, and they are of opinion that they are entitled to the remainder of their bounty when discharged from service. It is proposed, however, to pay them but a part of this remainder, because the Government does not require their services for the full term of their enlistment, and appears to be a breach of the contract between the Government and the men. The bounty was held out by the Government as an inducement to enlist, not as an additional pay for services rendered. The men became entitled to it by the fact of enlistment, and not only for that which remained unpaid by some misconduct, of which such forfeiture should be a legal penalty. These matters are creating much unpleasant feeling among the men. I need not say to you, they have behaved gallantly, and the country owes them everything, and it is possibly by avoiding it they ought not to be sent home under the feeling that the Government, when their services are no longer required, takes the first opportunity to treat them unjustly and violate its contract with them. I assure you that unless these difficulties are relieved there will be created a general discontent which will be injurious hereafter, and it is my fervent desire for the success of your administration which leads me to bring them directly to your notice. Very respectfully, your obedient servant, A. G. CURTIN.

To the President.

The refusal has been persisted in, under an o-