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BY S. J. ROW.

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Annual Message of GOV. JOHN W. GEARY; Delivered January 7, 1868.

(Continued from our issue of last week.)

EDUCATION.

The report of the Superintendent of the Common Schools exhibits a full view of our excellent system of public instruction, which is widely diffusing its blessings by securing a sound and substantial education to all the children of the State. A brief summary will give an idea of the immense proportions it has attained and the vast amount of usefulness of which it is capable.

At the close of the year the number of school districts in the State 1,889; the number of schools, 13,455; graded schools, 2,147; school directors, 11,534; county, city and borough superintendents, 68; teachers, 16,523; pupils, 789,389; the cost of tuition, \$3,028,065.70; building, \$1,262,798.68; contingencies, \$790,675.33; tuition, building and contingencies, \$5,081,539.71; and the amount expended for all purposes relating to schools, \$5,169,750.17.

Your attention is particularly invited to the want of uniformity and constant change of books in the public schools. These are matters of serious inconvenience and needless expense to the poor, and might easily be remedied by judicious legislation.

The chief aim of our system of common schools is to place the advantages of an education within the reach of all the children of the Commonwealth; and when it is considered that intelligence and virtue are the principal safeguards of our free institutions, this system earnestly claims the fostering care and wise guidance of the Legislature.

The graded schools have largely increased during the past year. The system established by the State was designed, not only to furnish instruction to our youth in the elements of knowledge, but wherever practicable, to impart to them an education in the higher branches of learning. The multiplication of grammar and high schools should, therefore, receive every encouragement, for they are necessary to perfect the system and enable the State to avail itself of that talent which is born in the cottages of the poor quite as frequently as in the palaces of the rich.

Good schools cannot exist without good teachers, and good teachers can only be obtained by using the proper means to prepare them.

Recognizing these facts, the Legislature of 1867 passed a general Normal school law, dividing the State into twelve districts, and looking forward to the establishment, in each of them, of a Normal school. According to the provisions of this law four of these schools are now organized, the prosperous condition of which is exemplified by the fact that two thousand one hundred and eighty-five students attended them during the past year, of whom forty-six graduated.

Fourteen colleges and thirty-two academies have made reports to the School Department during the past year. Such institutions supply a great public want, as the common school system is not competent to perform the whole work of popular education. A State requires men of generous culture in all the walks of life, as well as in the profession of teaching, and the perfection of the system of public school instruction is one of the wisest and noblest objects of legislation. All of the different institutions of learning would be strengthened and their usefulness increased by bringing them together in a closer union, which possibly can be best accomplished by the creation of a general Department of Education.

Serious complaints have been made concerning the neglect of the education of the children in the almshouses and poor houses of some of the counties of the State. They are permitted to grow up in idleness and ignorance, and when sent upon the world to earn a living are better prepared to receive lessons of vice than those of usefulness. The directors of these institutions should be compelled, by law, to send such children to the common schools or provide proper schools for them, and it should be made the duty of common school superintendents to supervise and enforce the execution of the law.

SOLDIERS' ORPHANS' SCHOOLS.

The last annual report of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools was made up to include the 30th of November, 1866. The appropriation for that year, extending from January 1, 1866, to January 1, 1867, was insufficient to cover the expenses of the whole year, and consequently those of December, 1866, were unpaid. The next appropriation, under the present law, extends from January 1, 1867, to June 1, 1868. It was, therefore, determined that there was no legal authority to apply any part of it to the payment of expenses prior to January, 1867; hence those incurred in December, 1866, amounting to \$31,049.77, remain unpaid.

Hon. Thomas H. Burrows, who was appointed Superintendent by my predecessor, continued in office until May 1, 1867, when, under the act of April 9, 1867, I appointed Col. George F. M'Farland, Superintendent, Rev. C. Cornforth, Inspector and Examiner, and Mrs. E. W. Hutter, Assistant, who once entered upon the discharge of their duties by visiting and re-organizing the schools, correcting abuses which had crept into the local management of some of them, and in settling arrears, which was done with zeal, fidelity, and commendable promptitude.

The present Superintendent reports the expenditures for the eleven months ending November 30, 1867, as follows: Education and maintenance, \$341,889.85; Partial relief, \$210.00; Clothing furnished 1,898 children in advanced schools, \$37,187.83; Making and repairing clothing, freight, &c., \$3,350.74; General expenses, \$6,781.60; Total amount, from January 1, to December 1, 1867, \$394,420.02.

The expenses for the six months, from December 1, 1867, to June 1, 1868, are estimated by the Superintendent, as follows: Education and maintenance of 1,850 children in advanced schools at \$140 per annum, \$259,000.00; Education and maintenance for 200 children in primary schools, at \$125, per annum, \$31,250.00; Education and maintenance of 1,050 children in "Homes," at \$105 per annum, \$55,125.00; Clothing 1,850 children, at \$25 per annum, \$23,125.00; Transferring pupils, salaries, &c., \$3,975.00; Estimate for six months, ending June 1, 1868, \$242,975.00.

Total actual and estimated expenses for seventeen months, from January 1, 1867, to June 1, 1868, \$637,395.02; Or, at the rate of \$449,925.80 per annum. From which deduct total amount appropriated for seventeen months, at \$350,000 per annum, \$495,833.33; And a deficit for seventeen months is shown, of \$141,561.69; Or, at the rate of \$99,925.80 per annum.

Add the amount due for December, 1866, \$31,049.77; And it exhibits the total deficit from December 1, 1866, to June 1, 1868, to be provided for by special appropriation, \$172,611.46.

I do not deem it inappropriate here to state that if the bill which passed the House at the last session had become a law, making an appropriation of \$450,000 per annum for the orphans' schools, it would have been sufficient to have paid the total expenses.

The estimates for the year ending June 1st, 1869, will be found fully set forth in the report of the Superintendent. From that report it will also be seen that there are in operation thirty-nine orphan schools and homes, having in charge an average of two thousand nine hundred and thirty-two pupils for the year ending November 30, 1867, at an average cost of one hundred and forty-eight dollars and forty-three cents per annum.

These schools have doubtless reached their maximum numbers. Sixteen years being the age at which the orphans cease to be chargeable to the State, and they will henceforward decrease in the following ratio, viz: 374 will reach that age in 1868, 329 in 1869, 248 in 1870, 403 in 1871, 479 in 1872, 460 in 1873, 416 in 1874, and 344 in 1875, after which there probably will not be more than 600 remaining in the schools. Should the term be reduced to fifteen years, as has been proposed by some, fully one-fifth of the number now in the schools would enter upon trades or business within the present year.

No calculation can furnish an estimate of the benefits and blessings that are constantly flowing from these institutions. Thousands of orphan children are enjoying their parental care, moral culture, and educational training, who otherwise would have suffered poverty and want, and been left to grow up in idleness and neglect. Many a widow's heart has been gladdened by the protection, comfort and religious solicitude extended to her fatherless offspring, and thousands are the prayers devoutly uttered for those who have not been unmindful of them in the time of their affliction. In making the generous disposition it has done for these destitute and helpless orphans, the Legislature, deserves and receives the heartiest thanks of every good citizen, all of whom will cordially approve a continuance of that beneficence. In shielding, protecting and educating the children of our dead soldiers the Legislature is nobly performing its duty. These children are not the mere object of our charity, or pensioners upon our bounty; but the wards of the Commonwealth, and have just claims, earned by the blood of their fathers, upon its support and guardianship, which can only be withheld at the sacrifice of philanthropy, honor, patriotism, State pride, and every principle of humanity.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The act of Congress of July 2, 1862, granted land scrip to the several States, to be appropriated to the maintenance of colleges, whose leading object it shall be to give instruction in the sciences which minister to agriculture and mechanic arts. By the rule of apportionment, adopted by Congress, 700,000 acres fell to the share of this Commonwealth. The act of Assembly of February 19, 1867, appropriated the benefit of the whole of that grant to the Agricultural College of Pennsylvania, which has thereby become subject to the supervision and guardianship of the State. It therefore invites your attention to the organization and condition of that institution, as exhibited by the report of the board of trustees, in his report for the year 1867, which will be laid before you. The commissioners appointed by the Legislature to sell the land scrip have completed the sales, which amount to \$439,186.80. In accordance with the act of Assembly, the one-tenth of the proceeds has been applied to the purchase of sites for "Model and experimental Farms," and the residue invested as follows: \$126,000 in the United States 5-20 bonds; \$235,000 in Pennsylvania war loan, and \$235,000 in the Pennsylvania bonds of 1867.

The college has been thoroughly re-organized in order to make it fully respond to the object and requirements of the act of Congress and to the educational interests of the industrial classes, and to meet these ends it now gives courses of instruction in general science, agriculture, mechanical and civil engineering, metallurgy and mining; ancient and modern languages, and military tactics, employing a faculty comprising six professors and two instructors in the college department and three instructors in the grammar school. This important educational enterprise in the interests of agriculture and the mechanical arts deserves favorable consideration.

MILITARY.

An adequate preparation in time of peace is a preservative against the probabilities and contingencies of war. This oft repeated axiom was not sufficiently realized before the rebellion, for, when it broke out, it

found the nation wholly unprepared. Had it been otherwise, the war which continued through a period of four years, and cost the country millions of treasure, hundreds of thousands of lives, and an incalculable amount of suffering and want, would have been of comparatively short duration, it not crushed in its incipency. That war, however, has not been without its useful lessons. It has taught the necessity of adhering to principles in practice which we have heretofore only acknowledged in theory. It has trained many thousands of our young men in the science of arms and infused among them a spirit of military ardor which may safely be relied on in any future emergency, and paved the way for the establishment of military organizations that will prove a safeguard and honor to the State. The Legislature, availing itself of these facts, should adopt a liberal and effective system for increasing and regulating the volunteer militia.

The law of 1864, though excellent in many respects, does not meet the requirements of the times, and alterations and amendments are needed before it can accomplish all the contemplated and desired objects. The minimum of men necessary to form a company is entirely too high, and in many places where smaller companies would be formed, it is impossible to raise them in accordance with the ratio established by the act. From the report of the Adjutant General it will be seen that there are now but thirty-eight uniformed companies in the State, comprising only about three thousand men, whilst the suggested amendments, which should be made as early as possible, would increase these organizations to any desirable extent, and tend to renew and keep alive in our soldiers the proud memories of the service and to preserve the military ardor born of our recent struggles for national existence.

NEW ARSENAL.

The necessity for a new arsenal, affording a place of safe deposit for ordnance stores and a magazine, is so obvious as to require nothing more on my part than to call your attention to the subject, and to ask that authority be given and an appropriation made for the purchase of a site and for the erection of suitable buildings for the purpose indicated.

REYNOLDS MONUMENT.

Agreeably to the requirements of the act of Assembly, entitled "An Act to authorize the Governor to transfer to the Reynolds Monument Committee unserviceable and condemned ordnance," approved March 7, 1867, I caused the ordnance in the arsenal to be inspected and turned over to the committee for the purpose indicated five condemned six-pounder brass cannon, weighing in the aggregate three thousand seven hundred and forty-eight pounds.

HISTORY.

In 1864 the Legislature made an appropriation for the purpose of having prepared and published a complete history of the military operations of the State in reference to the late war. My predecessor appointed Samuel P. Bates, Esq., for the purpose of consummating the provisions of the act, who proceeded to collect the necessary materials and to prosecute the work.

Although the country has again been restored to peace, the people continue to feel a deep interest in all that relates to the struggle which so recently convulsed the nation. In the presentation of the war Pennsylvania always among the first to answer the country's call, gave additional evidences of her devotion to liberty and to the nation's glory. Over three hundred and sixty thousand of her sons stood in the ranks of the Union army. Many have fallen, and nearly thirty thousand by wounds and disease received in the field, repose in death. To commemorate their heroism, to preserve their names and perpetuate the record of their deeds are among the objects of the work in progress. In its pages will be found an account of each and every military organization of the State; the officers and men of whom they were composed; the name of every individual, with his place of residence, time of muster, date of discharge, and the special acts by which he was distinguished, as well of the dead as those who have survived.

TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.

The Department of Transportation, created during the war, has accomplished its purpose, and ceased to exist by the determination of the Legislature, expressed in the appropriation bill, approved April 11, 1867. The report of the Superintendent shows that for the year ending November 30, 1867, the whole number of claims settled and paid was eight hundred and eighty-two. These were for the disinterment of the bodies of deceased Pennsylvania soldiers on distant battle-fields and transportation to the homes of their relatives, and the total expenditures were thirty-two thousand five hundred and thirty-nine dollars and forty cents. There remain unsettled one hundred and twenty-three claims, amounting to about four thousand dollars, for the payment of which and some unsettled transportation, an appropriation of four thousand five hundred dollars will be required.

All the papers and business of the Department have been transferred to the office of the Adjutant General.

STATE AGENCY.

During the war a State Agency, for the examination, adjustment and collection, free of expenses, of military claims, was established at Washington, for the maintenance of which the Legislature, with commendable liberality, has annually made the necessary appropriations.

In January last, Col. John H. Stewart of Allegheny county, was appointed Agent, and Lieutenant Colonel Wm. A. Cook, Assistant. After a faithful and efficient performance of its duties until 31st of October, Col. Stewart resigned in consequence of domestic afflictions, when Col. Cook was promoted to fill the position, and Lieutenant Col. J. Copelan, appointed assistant.

During the year ending December 15, 1867, one thousand seven hundred and eighteen claims have been settled, and three hundred and twenty-one Treasury certificates collected, amounting to \$241,669.43. Two thousand one hundred and twenty-nine new cases remain unsettled, the most of which will probably be settled by the 30th of June next, at which period the appropriation terminates. When this is exhausted, the Department will have doubtless fulfilled its mission, and the documents and papers can be transferred to the Adjutant General's office.

CEMETERIES.

The reports of the commissioners appointed under the act of March 12, 1867, to investigate the transactions relating to certain cemeteries are herewith presented.

The work at the Gettysburg cemetery is progressing, but with less expedition than was contemplated, in consequence of the difficulty of procuring such blocks of marble as were required for statuary.

The appropriation of three thousand dollars to the cemetery at Antietam has been withheld, as it appears from the act of incorporation by the Legislature of Maryland and the resolutions of the board of trustees, that the rebel dead are to be interred within the enclosure and to be honored with the same memorials as the Union soldiers who are there buried.

The custom has ever prevailed to specially honor those in death who won special honor by meritorious lives. The monuments reared to the memory of departed worth bear ample testimony that our people have not been unmindful of this custom. But where were such memorials ever erected for men whose actions were infamous, and who perished in an ignoble cause? Who would glorify the treason of Benedict Arnold with such monuments as have arisen to the memory of Washington? Who would dare to insult the loyal heart of this nation by proposing to lay, side by side, in the same sepulchre, the body of the assassin Booth and that of Abraham Lincoln? No loyal man would take the headless Wirtz and the other demons that presided over the prison dens of cruelty, starvation and death, and the executed conspirators against the nation's illustrious chief, and deposit them in the same tomb with the patriotic men who sacrificed their lives in battling for "the right against the wrong." Yet it is proposed that the loyal States construct cemeteries for their heroic dead, and then desecrate them by the burial therein of those who prosecuted against the country a warfare which for its diabolical ferocity is without a parallel in the history of civilization, and even to erect monuments to their memory. Carry out this purpose and what inducement can be hereafter offered to the loyal citizen to fight against treason, when he feels assured that should he fall in battle the traitor's grave will be honored equally with his own?

The cause of the Union was a holy one, while that which opposed it must have been its converse. To one side alone the glory belongs. This was not a war of nations but of treason against loyalty. It was a contest of rebels who would have drained the life-blood of the government which had nurtured and protected them, against its patriotic sons who fought to save it from destruction. It was a war carried on by the defenders and promoters of oppression against the friends and lovers of liberty and their country's integrity.

While there is no reasonable objection to giving decent sepulture even to the rebel dead, those who consider them deserving of honorable testimonials may bestow them. It is our duty to render honor only to whom we believe honor is due.

MONUMENT TO DECEASED SOLDIERS.

The commissioners appointed under an act of the Legislature, approved April 22, 1858, "to contract for, and superintend the erection of a monument to the memory of citizens of Pennsylvania who were slain or lost their lives in the late war with Mexico," have contracted for the erection of a monument, in a prominent portion of the Capitol grounds, and the work is progressing as rapidly as circumstances will permit. The appropriation of \$6,000, to which the commissioners are limited, is inadequate for the object contemplated. The lowest bid for the contract was \$8,200. I join the commissioners, therefore, in requesting an additional appropriation of three thousand, to be used, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to complete the undertaking.

Your patriotism will doubtless give a favorable response to this request, and the enlightened people of the Commonwealth, rising above selfish and partisan feeling, will sanction such expenditure for the erection of this honorable memento. A State that has been prodigal of her millions in the employment of her physical resources and in the performance of every noble and disinterested act which philanthropy could suggest, cannot forget her gallant sons whose sufferings and sacrifices for their country have never been fully appreciated, and whose remains repose among strangers, in a foreign land, without a stone, however rude, to indicate their last resting place, or distinguish their graves from those of their fallen enemies.

TAX LAW.

The Auditor General, Secretary of the Commonwealth and State Treasurer, appointed by the Legislature at its last session to revise and digest the tax laws of the State, have discharged that duty. Their report will be submitted at an early day, and I bespeak for it that careful examination which the importance of the subject deserves.

PUBLIC NOTICE TO BE GIVEN OF CERTAIN BILLS.

Your attention is also invited to the acts of May 13, 1857, and April 2, 1860, (Digest, page 43.) requiring public notice to be given of the application for all private acts relating to real estate and for acts of incorporation. The wisdom and justice of these are manifest, and their enforcement cannot be otherwise than beneficial.

LEGISLATION.

At the last session certain bills were passed in which large numbers of citizens were

Detailed accounts of the affairs of the Pennsylvania State Lunatic Hospital, at Harrisburg, and of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, at Pittsburgh, will be found in the reports of the trustees and superintendents. Both these institutions, as well as others in the State for the care of the insane, are crowded. The infirmaries for the hospital at Harrisburg, for which appropriation was made last year, with a large number of additional wards, have been erected, and will be ready for occupation during the winter. A liberal appropriation for the Western Hospital was devoted to the erection of buildings, on the Ohio river, seven miles below Pittsburgh, known as the Dixmont Hospital for the Insane. The great increase of population renders necessary the establishment of other institutions of this kind. It is estimated that the ratio of the insane is one to every thousand persons, and on assuming the population of the State to be about three millions five hundred thousand, we have about three thousand five hundred insane. The hospitals in the State afford accommodation for only two thousand. Hence there are fifteen hundred for whom no provision is made, and many of them are languishing in the county prisons and almshouses.

REVISION OF THE CIVIL CODE.

Pursuant to the first section of a joint resolution of the Legislature, approved on the 10th of April last, Hon. David Derrickson, W. Maclay Hall, Esq., and Wayne M. Veigh, Esq., were appointed to "revise, collate and digest all such public acts and statutes of the civil code of this State, as are general and permanent in their nature." These gentlemen have commenced the work assigned them, and from which the following benefits are hoped to be derived:

1. The correction of the redundancies, omissions, repetitions and inconsistencies of the existing statutes. 2. The framing of general laws as substitutes for the innumerable local statutes, which for many years have comprised the bulk of the acts of Assembly and occupied the attention of the Legislature to the detriment of general legislation. 3. The conferring upon the courts many powers now exercised by the Legislature, and which, it is believed, will greatly relieve that body by decreasing the demand for special legislation and allowing ampler opportunity for the consideration of the public interests.

The gentlemen comprising the commission have prepared a large number of bills, most of which will be laid before you at an early day. The most important of these, which the commissioners, in harmony with my own views, are of the opinion should receive early and favorable action of the Legislature, are those relating to corporations, the poor, public highways, railroads, evidence and interest. The others, with perhaps, a few exceptions, might be left unacted upon until the entire work of revision is completed. The enactment of the bill on corporations into a law, at an early period of the session, would, doubtless, serve to prevent much legislation that might be called for on subjects which the bill itself contemplates and for which it makes ample provision. The bills relating to the poor and to public highways demand early attention, as the laws now in force on these subjects are so numerous and diversified that scarcely any two counties in the State are controlled by the same law, and it is earnestly to be desired that they receive the earliest practicable sanction of the Legislature.

The commissioners desire to be allowed, so far as possible, to complete the work and present it as a symmetrical whole, rather than in detached parts, and express their opinion relative to the time requisite for its satisfactory completion. They ask a repeal of so much of the first section of the joint resolution as exempts from their labors "those statutes revised, collated and enacted under the resolution approved March 23, 1830," and an amendment of the fourth section, so as to extend from "two" to "three" years, the time allowed for the completion of the work. The proposed amendments will give them control of the whole body of the statute law, and such allowance of time as they deem necessary for its satisfactory revision. The accumulation of our public statutes, during a period of nearly two centuries, can hardly be presented a confusion which it is only a recently desirable should be corrected; and the only practicable mode of accomplishing this is the one indicated by the resolution of the last Legislature, and having confidence in the gentlemen selected for this work, it is due to them, as well as to the public, that they should not be restricted, either as to time or by exceptions, which would prevent a perfect and desirable embodiment of public statutes.

The task is one of more than ordinary magnitude, requiring deliberate consideration, critical acumen, and careful comparison and arrangement, together with high order of talent, literary attainments, legal research, and energetic industry, to bring it to that perfection which its importance demands and the Legislature intended and will doubtless expect.

My attention has been called to the subject of insurance, and so important does it appear, that I deem it worthy of legislative consideration. Many millions of dollars are now involved, in the United States, in insurance, and the amount is being rapidly increased. To guard the interests of insurers, our laws are adequate, and therefore need a thorough revision. Laws have been established in several of our sister States, and so successful have been their operations that the insurance companies acting under them command a respect and confidence which is not extended to those of Pennsylvania. Whilst a large portion of the insurance business of New York is done in this State, some of our companies have recently abolished their agencies in New York, because as they say, no one there will insure in a Pennsylvania company, in consequence of the laxity of our insurance laws. The policies of many organizations, under our present laws, are alleged to be worthless; and although they are continually failing, others of similar character are starting into existence. Within a few months five fire insurance companies have failed, one of which had issued policies to over one million of dollars, and other serious defections are of frequent occurrence.

In view of these facts and the costly experience of the people, I would recommend the establishment of an Insurance Department, similar to those in New York and

deeply interested, the responsibility for which, after the adjournment, but few members could be found willing to assume, or even to admit any knowledge of their passage. It is expected that every legislator should be acquainted with all that is transpiring in the legislative halls. He is not simply chosen to give his support to certain bills which have been called to his individual attention, but to be constantly on the alert to frustrate every act that may have a tendency to jeopardize the public interests. To plead ignorance after a real or imaginary wrong has been done, is to acknowledge a want of attention to the trust reposed by his constituents. One bill, the authorship and knowledge of which has been generally disclaimed, passed both branches of the Assembly, and was sent in due form, with the signatures of the proper officers, for Executive approval, and in several instances bills were passed and sent for approval in duplicate. All such hasty and careless legislation should be avoided, and the members of the session now about to commence be enabled at its close to give an account of their participation in every act, however unimportant. The Legislature, coming as it does, fresh from the ranks of the people, should set an example in economy, retrenchment and reform. It is the custodian of the public interests, and any unnecessary extravagance or prodigality in the expenditure of public money is reprehensible. It was a matter of common notoriety at the last session that a number of subordinate officers, in both branches of the Assembly, were appointed, to whom liberal salaries were paid, and who were never seen at their designated posts, and rendered no service to the State. This practice has been emphatically condemned by the press and the people, and will not be continued by any Legislature which means to acquire a reputation for a faithful performance of duty. Your attention is respectfully invited to the law on this subject as contained in sections fifteen to eighteen of the act approved the 7th day of May, 1855.

ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Your attention is directed to the practice of withholding the annual appropriation bill until the latest moments of the session. In the public estimation great importance is attached to this bill, and no action of the Legislature undergoes a closer or more careful scrutiny. Its provisions concern the entire community, and in their enactment too much caution cannot be observed. Last year the appropriation bill was not passed until the last night of the session, when it was hurried through both branches of the Legislature, and on the following morning presented for approval, without affording time for the necessary investigation, and subjecting the Executive to the alternative of signing it with all its imperfections, or suspending, for the ensuing year, the indispensable means for the operations of the State Government. It is, therefore, earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed, and passed at a sufficiently early period during the session to enable it to receive that thorough examination which its importance demands.

PERQUISITES OF OFFICE.

Very many serious complaints have been made for many years past relative to the disposition of the debris which annually accumulates about the Capitol. This seems to have been regarded as legitimate perquisites of certain attaches of the several legislative and other departments, and has consequently led to practices which should be prevented. It is alleged that valuable property has thus been taken possession of and applied to personal uses, or sold for mere nominal sums, and the amount obtained privately appropriated. A remedy for this evil is to allow no perquisites whatever to any employees of the government. Salaries, sufficient in all cases for the services rendered, should be appropriated, beyond which no other consideration should be allowed. The adoption of this principle would remove the temptation for young men in the departments to resort to improper practices. All the public property, of every description, as well as the buildings and grounds, should be placed in charge of the superintendent appointed for that purpose, chosen for his known integrity and general capability, and required to give sufficient bonds for the faithful performance of his duties. All property and material not needed for public use, the superintendent should be required to sell at public sale, and pay over the proceeds to the State Treasury.

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

My attention has been called to the subject of insurance, and so important does it appear, that I deem it worthy of legislative consideration. Many millions of dollars are now involved, in the United States, in insurance, and the amount is being rapidly increased. To guard the interests of insurers, our laws are adequate, and therefore need a thorough revision. Laws have been established in several of our sister States, and so successful have been their operations that the insurance companies acting under them command a respect and confidence which is not extended to those of Pennsylvania. Whilst a large portion of the insurance business of New York is done in this State, some of our companies have recently abolished their agencies in New York, because as they say, no one there will insure in a Pennsylvania company, in consequence of the laxity of our insurance laws. The policies of many organizations, under our present laws, are alleged to be worthless; and although they are continually failing, others of similar character are starting into existence. Within a few months five fire insurance companies have failed, one of which had issued policies to over one million of dollars, and other serious defections are of frequent occurrence.

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