

restriction. It is truly the greatest legislative monstrosity that I have ever seen. This company would stand like an independent sovereignty—it might commit every description of outrage and injury upon the people, and it could be cited to accountability no where. No provision is made for a forfeiture of charter, for an abuse of its privileges; and perhaps this is all right, for a charter without limits could not be violated. I call on Senators to pause and reflect before they cast their votes in favor of this bill. If we once part with the main line of our improvements, on the conditions proposed in this law, it is gone forever. There is no reservation in the Legislature, as there was in all former propositions to sell the public works, to repossess them after a given number of years. The right to do this never should be yielded. No matter how destructive the operations of this company may be upon the State, and upon the interests of individual citizens, there is no power reserved in the bill to cite them to accountability. Neither the Legislature nor the Courts are to have any jurisdiction over this monster. And I appeal to Senators to say whether they are willing to give any corporation such unlimited powers? Are you willing to confide the interests of the people, as connected with the public works, to the tender mercies of you know not whom? For, sir, under the provisions of this bill, any person may be elected a director, no matter whence he comes, or what his feelings towards the people of Pennsylvania may be. If the majority of shares were held in New York, the directors might be elected from among persons interested in the commerce of that city, and whose management might be fatal to the commercial welfare of our own metropolis. The Messrs. Barings, through Mr. Ward, their agent at New York, with their five millions of State stock, if they should see proper to invest in under this bill, might select directors for this company, and thereby, to a powerful extent, wield the destinies of our own beloved Commonwealth. The idea alone is enough to chill the blood in the veins of a true Pennsylvanian. Other laws, directing a sale of our public works, expressly provided that the directors should be residents and citizens of this State. If we are to sell this improvement at all, I hope we shall at least reserve its government and direction to Pennsylvanians, who will have some regard for the interest of our people and the honor of the State.

But, sir, I desire to call the attention of the Senate to another view of this subject. This company, as I have heretofore shown would have the right to indulge in almost any wild and imaginary scheme of improvements that the fancy of the directors might dictate—they could make railroads and canals through nearly every county from Philadelphia to Pittsburg, and construct a basin in the Allegheny river; and to all this new work, the State is to be a party to the extent of one-half of the whole capital of the company, without having a voice in deciding upon the propriety and utility of such work. Her direction would be a mere nullity, and thus she would be liable to be involved to the full extent of the income upon the ten millions of stock retained by her, and the whole thing result in the realization of not one dollar beyond the cancellation of the ten millions first to be subscribed. She is also to be a party to a steamboat company on the Ohio river, extending its operations down as far perhaps, as New Orleans; and, Mr. Speaker, to have made this modest scheme complete, this corporation ought to have the right to extend a line of packets to Liverpool; it were scarcely necessary to confine its operations to this Continent.

This company would not only own and control the main line to the full extent that it is now owned and controlled by the State—directing all its operations through its own officers and agents—but it is to monopolize the entire transporting business. It would at once and forever swallow up this branch of business, now conducted by individual enterprise, now conducted by the State, as well as the single individual with his horse and boat, following this business on the truck or section-boat system, are to be crushed by this monster. They are to be driven from a business that they have followed for many years, and in the pursuit of which they had reason to believe they never would be disturbed. Many of my constituents, Mr. Speaker, in the counties of Cambria, Indiana and Armstrong, are engaged in this business, and I am unwilling to have them and their business suddenly transferred to the tender mercies of a corporation of such unlimited powers.

If it is wise to sell this improvement, which I deny, it certainly is our duty in doing so, to have proper regard to the interests of those of our people, who are hereafter to transact business on it, under the company. The author of this bill seems to have overlooked these considerations entirely; his only object has been to confer powers and privileges upon the corporation. Now, sir, there are no restrictions in this bill in reference to the rate of tolls to be charged by this company. The directors can establish whatever rates of toll may suit their voracious designs. Competition may have the effect to save the through tonnage, such, I mean, sir, as may pass the entire distance from Pittsburg to Philadelphia, or from Philadelphia to Pittsburg; but the internal business would be entirely at the mercy of this corporation. The rates of toll might be such as to be oppressive in the extreme, and the people suffering such injury could have no remedy. The farmer in the interior of the State along the line of this improvement, with his wheat, flour, corn,

bacon, &c., might find himself literally shut out from the market by the charge of exorbitant tolls. The miner with his coal, and the iron master with his weighty productions, would find themselves in the same unfortunate position—competition could not come to their relief—they could not refuse to transport on this improvement and patronize another, for there is no rival route within their reach, and they would have to submit to whatever the company might decree. Thus the farmers and iron masters of the interior, through the operations of an unjust system of tolls—and such system would be in accordance with the voracious interests of this company, might find themselves unable to compete in the metropolis of our own State, with citizens of the States of Indiana, Ohio and Illinois, engaged in the same business with themselves. Such a system of tolls, while it would answer the purposes of the company, could not fail to have a most impoverishing effect upon the State. Then, sir, why should we not restrain this company to moderate charges upon the internal tonnage of the State. Truly, Mr. Speaker, this bill from beginning to end is a legislative curiosity. I venture the assertion that there is not the equal of it on the statute books of this or any other State of the Union. Its overshadowing power would be equal to that of the sovereign State that is called upon to give it existence. It would place itself by the side of other corporations, as was the tool of Aaron placed by the rods of the magicians, and suddenly it will swallow them all up.

But, sir, why should the legislature pass a bill to sell the main line on any conditions? Who has called upon us for such action? Surely not the people, for there is not a solitary memorial on your desk asking for any such measure, and I think we would do wisely to "let well enough alone." We are now realizing a handsome revenue from that work—more by \$200,000 annually, than we could have any certainty of receiving under this bill. This revenue is increasing every year, and it will continue to increase, until it reaches the entire interest on our debt. The present position of the State is an elevated and proud one. She meets the demands of her creditors with promptitude and fidelity, and if things are allowed to remain as they are she will continue to do so. Her revenues from all sources, are gradually increasing, and her expenditures are rather diminishing than otherwise. Why then should we sever from her the right arm of her treasury, by a bill of this kind? I recollect the condition of affairs here six years ago, when first I had the honor of a seat upon this floor. The State failed for the first time to pay the interest on her debt at maturity; she had over two millions of relief notes in circulation, at a ruinous discount, and she owed near three millions to her own citizens, which was demandable every hour at her treasury—some of those citizens were ruined by the inability of the State to pay them their just demands upon her. This state of affairs created a disposition in the minds of the people to sell the public works, or rather to hand them over to our creditors. But, sir, the State has been rescued from the humiliating position she then occupied—vigorous measures were adopted to re-organize her means, and increase her revenues, and she now stands on elevated ground. The debts to her own citizens have been paid—claims against the treasury, which had for years beenaped, pigeon holed and cobwebbed over, have been brought to light and paid. The relief notes are being cancelled quarterly, and we seem to have nothing in the future but prosperity and happiness; and now that there is no urgent necessity for such a measure, I trust the State will not part with the main line of her improvements, which I regard as the right arm of our treasury, the future hope of the people, and the pride of the Commonwealth.

**CRANS & BROTHER,**  
Curwensville, Pennsylvania,  
I HAVE and will keep constantly on hand, a large assortment of Dry-Goods, Hardware, Queensware, Groceries, Drugs and Dye-Stuffs, Tin-ware, Books & Stationery, Hats, Caps and Bonnets, Boots and Shoes, Tobacco and Segars, Umbrellas, Carpet and Carpet and Cotton Yarn, Confectionaries, Paints, Oils, Teas, &c. &c.,  
All of which they are prepared to sell on the most reasonable terms.  
CRANS & BROTHER are the Agents for the sale of Dr. Jaynes' celebrated family medicine.  
Goods exchanged for Lumber, Produce and Furs, for which the highest prices will be given.  
March 12, '47—tf.

**NOTICE.**  
THE subscriber respectfully informs all his customers that he is about closing his business in this place, and desires them to call and settle their respective accounts immediately.  
M. A. FRANK.  
Clearfield, March 11, 1847.

**Co-Partnership Notice.**  
THE subscribers have this day entered into partnership, under the name of "Crans & Brother." Their business will be conducted at the store lately occupied by Worrell & Crans, in Curwensville, Clearfield county, Pa.  
WILLIAM J. CRANS,  
Philadelphia.  
L. JACKSON CRANS,  
Curwensville.  
March 1st, 1847.

**REPROBATE TREASON & BENEVOLENCE.**  
**GEN. TAYLOR VICTORIOUS!**  
**BATTLE OF BUENA VISTA.**  
Mexican Loss 4,000—American loss 700.

**SIXTY THREE AMERICAN OFFICERS KILLED AND WOUNDED.**  
**LOSS OF COLONELS YELL, HARDIN, HENRY CLAY, JR. AND MCKEE.**

From the New Orleans Picayune.  
We lay before our readers in advance of our regular publication the glorious tidings from the Army brought by the schooner John Bell. Our reporter left the vessel in the river and came up to the town by express with the news.  
The following account was prepared for us by an officer of the army. It may be relied upon. We publish also Gen. Santa Anna's account of the battle, from which it will be seen that he has suffered a defeat, though he covers up his retreat with a flourish of words. It will be seen that victory has been won at a sacrifice of many brave men.

**Memoranda of the Battle of Buena Vista.**

Dr. Turner, of the U. S. A., who arrived at Matamoros on the 9th inst., from Monterey, brought the glorious intelligence of another brilliant victory over the Mexican army. The scene of action was at Buena Vista, about 6 miles west of Saltillo.  
The fighting commenced on the 22d of February and ended on the 23d. Santa Anna retired to Agua Nueva, a distance of 10 miles, leaving 4000 killed and wounded upon the field. The loss on our part was 700 killed and wounded. Santa Anna's forces amounted to at least 15,000 men. That of General Taylor's to about 5000, almost entirely volunteers.  
His army is composed of Washington's and Bragg's Artillery, and Thomas' Batteries, one squadron of the 1st and 2d dragoons, the Arkansas and Kentucky cavalry, a brigade of Illinois and one also of Indiana volunteers, the first Mississippi and second Kentucky regiments, and one company of Texas volunteers.

Dr. T. brought a list of sixty-three officers killed and wounded. I left in such haste that I was unable to obtain a copy, but recollect among the killed Capt. Lincoln, Assistant Adjutant General U. S. Army; Col. Yell, of the Arkansas Cavalry; Capt. Moore, Adjutant Vaugh, and three others not named of the Kentucky Cavalry; Capt. M. Kee, Lieut. Col. Clayton of Henry Clay, Capt. Willis, 24 Kentucky Infantry; Col. Hardin, and Major Gorman, of the Illinois Brigade; together with many of the Indiana Brigade, several of the Mississippi regiments, and two Lieutenants of the Texas volunteers. Among the wounded I remember Gen. Lane, Col. Jefferson Davis, First Mississippi regiment; Capt. Stone, 1st U. S. Dragoons; Capt. Conner, of the Texas volunteers; Lieut. S. G. French and O'Brien, U. S. Artillery; Lieut. Babour, 21 Kentucky Infantry; Lieut. Corwin, 1st Mississippi regiment, and Lieut. Whiteside of the Indiana Brigade.  
The official despatches of Gen. Taylor have been cut off.  
Col. Morgan's regiment of Ohio Volunteers, being reinforced by a command from Monterey, had reached that place in safety.  
Col. Curtis, of Ohio, with one company, Capt. Hunter's of the 2d U. S. Dragoons, his own regiment, one of Indiana volunteers, the Virginia regiment, and I think some Texas Rangers, in all about 2000 men, was about to leave Camargo, to attack Gen. Ureca, who is said to be about 30 miles south of that place with an army of 4000 to 5000 men, principally rancheros.

It is believed to have with him only 1500 regular troops. A great many, if not all of these rancheros, as soon as they hear of the destruction of Santa Anna's army, will disperse, and the gallant Colonel will no doubt obtain the victory.  
The news from above proves that the various reports which had been before received of General Taylor's retreat before Monterey, and the advance of a large force to attack our depot at the Brazos and at the mouth of the Rio Grande, to be untrue. Of the defenses at the mouth of the river I know nothing, but have been told that they are sufficient to make a strong resistance.

**SANTA ANNA'S ACCOUNT.**  
We annex Santa Anna's own account of the action of Buena Vista, as translated or the Tampico Sentinel. We have the original Spanish account in our possession:  
*Camp near Buena Vista, Feb. 23.*  
EXCELLENT SIRS—After two days of battle, in which the enemy, with a force of 8000 to 9000 men and twenty-five pieces of artillery, lost five of his positions, three pieces of artillery, and two flags, I have determined to go back to Agua Nueva to provide myself with provisions, not having a single biscuit or a grain of rice left. Thanks to the position occupied by the enemy, he has not been completely beaten, but he left on the field about 2000 dead. Both armies have been cut to pieces, but the trophies of war will give you an idea on which side has been the advantage. We have struggled with hunger and thirst during forty hours, and if we can provide ourselves with provisions, we will go again to charge the enemy. The soldiers under my command have done their duty and covered the honor of the Mexican nation with glory. The enemy has seen that neither his advantageous po-

sition, nor the broken nature of the ground, nor the rigor of the season, (for it has been raining during the action) could prevent the terrible charge with the bayonet, which left him terrified.

**SANTA ANNA.**  
**ADDITIONAL PARTICULARS.**

From the N. O. Delta, March 23, 12 M.  
On the 22d Santa Anna began the battle, by various manoeuvres, attempting to outflank and terrify Old Rough and Ready. On that day the battle was confined to skirmishing and cannonading with much effect on either side.

In the meantime Santa Anna had sent a large force to Taylor's rear, but our artillery opened upon them with great effect, and they were soon compelled to withdraw. On the 23d the battle commenced in real earnest, and raged with great violence during the day.  
The Americans did not wait to be attacked, but with the most daring impunity charged on the enemy with loud huzzas, their officers leading them most gallantly. Gen. Taylor was everywhere in the thickest of the fight. He received a bill through his overcoat, but was not injured.

Adjutant Bliss was slightly wounded at his side. Adjutant Lincoln, also of the General's staff, the intrepid young officer who so distinguished himself at Resaca de la Palma, was killed.  
The battle of the 23d lasted from early in the morning until about 3 P. M., when Santa Anna drew off his army, and retired to Agua Nueva, to await a reinforcement.  
It will be remembered that Santa Anna's Corps de Reserve, commanded by Gen. Vasquez, had been delayed in its march, and has no doubt joined him, a few days after the battle, but in the meantime his army is starving, and many of his men deserting.

Capt. Hunter's strong artillery company was not in the action, but had left Monterey to join Gen. Taylor, with six pieces of cannon, two of them being 18 pounders.  
On the 7th of March one of the Ohio regiments also left Monterey to join Gen. Taylor. If these and the artillery of Capt. Pentz arrive in time, the General's heavy loss will be fully repaired, and he will be ready to meet Santa Anna again.  
Gen. Taylor, at the last accounts, was still maintaining his position, undisturbed by the enemy. An exchange of prisoners had taken place and Old Rough and Ready's promise to General Marshall, to get back C. M. Clay and his party, by taking Mexican prisoners enough to exchange for them, has been fully redeemed.

Gen. Wool greatly distinguished himself in the action; and the officers fought like heroes. After the battle, Gen. Taylor demanded of Santa Anna an unconditional surrender of his whole army, which the latter declined; but in return requested Gen. Taylor to surrender immediately. Immortal be the reply of old Rough and Ready, as delivered by the gallant Lieut. Crittenden—  
**"General Taylor never Surrenders."**

**From the Washington Union, April 2.**  
**From Gen. Taylor's Camp.**

*Despatches from Gen. Taylor—The great loss of the Mexican army—Loss of the Americans—Agua Nueva again occupied by our troops—Retreat, starvation, desertion, and disorganization of Santa Anna's army.*  
We have never published a number of the Union, that was fraught with more interesting papers than the present. Independently of the important letter of the President, and the admirable letter of the Secretary of the Treasury, in reply upon the duties to be levied on imports into the ports of Mexico, we lay before our readers the very interesting despatches from Gen. Taylor, and a letter from Commodore Connor, concerning the landing of our troops at Vera Cruz. The two sets of despatches were brought by the southern steambath this evening. The despatches from Gen. Taylor were brought to the Secretary of War by Mr. Crittenden, a volunteer aid of Gen. Taylor.

**Headquarters Army of Occupation,**  
Camp on the field of battle, Buena Vista, Mexico, February 24, 1847.  
SIR: I have the honor to report that, having become assured on the 20th inst., that the enemy had assembled in very heavy force at Encarnacion, thirty miles in front of Agua Nueva, with the evident design of attacking my position, I broke up my camp at the latter place on the 21st and took up a strong line in front of Buena Vista, seven miles south of Saltillo. A cavalry force left at Agua Nueva for the purpose of covering the removal of supplies was driven in during the night, and on the morning of the 22d the Mexican army appeared immediately in front of our position. At 11 o'clock, a. m. a flag was sent, bearing from General Santa Anna a summons of unconditional surrender. To which I immediately returned a negative reply. The summons and my reply are herewith enclosed. The action was commenced late in the afternoon between the light troops on the left flank, but was not seriously engaged until the morning of the 23d, when the enemy made an effort to force the left flank of our position. An obstinate and sanguinary conflict was maintained, with short intervals, throughout the day, the result being that the enemy was completely repulsed from our lines. An attack of cavalry upon the rancho of Buena Vista and a demonstration upon the city of Saltillo itself, were likewise handsomely repelled. Early in the night the enemy withdrew from his camp and fell back upon Agua Nueva, a distance of twelve miles.

Our own force engaged at all points in this action fell, somewhat short of 5,400 men, while that of the enemy, from the statement of General Santa Anna, may be estimated at 20,000. Our success against such great odds is a sufficient testimony on the good conduct of our troops. In a more detailed official report, I shall have the satisfaction of bringing to the notice of the government the conspicuous gallantry of particular officers and corps. I may be permitted here, however, to acknowledge my particular obligations to Brig. Gen. Wool, the second in command, to whom I feel particularly indebted for his valuable services on this occasion.  
Our loss has been very severe, and will not probably fall short of 700 men. The Mexican loss has been immense. I shall take the earliest opportunity of forwarding a correct list of the casualties of the day.  
I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. TAYLOR,  
Maj. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

**Headquarters Army of Occupation,**  
Agua Nueva, March 1, 1847.  
SIR: I have the honor to report that the troops of my command occupied their original camp at this place on the 27th February, the last of the Mexican army leaving the morning of that day in the direction of San Luis. It is ascertained that the army is in full retreat, and in a very disorganized condition; the men deserting and dying of starvation in great numbers. I despatch a command this day as far as Encarnacion to harass his rear, and secure whatever military supplies may be found there.  
From the statements of Mexican officers, particularly of the medical staff left to succor the wounded, there seems to be no doubt that their loss in the recent actions is moderately estimated at 1,500, and may reach 2,000 men, killed and wounded, besides 2,000 or 3,000 deserters. Many officers of rank were lost. I enclose a list of the names of our own killed and wounded, made as complete as practicable at this time. One regiment (Kentucky cavalry) is not included, its return not being received.  
The enemy had fully reckoned upon our total rout, and had made arrangements to intercept our retreat, and cut off the army, stationing for that purpose, corps of cavalry, not only immediately in our rear, but even below Monterey. I regret to report that they succeeded near the village of Marin in destroying a train of supplies, and killing a considerable number of the escort and teamsters. Col. Morgan, 2d Ohio regiment, on his march from Cerralvo to Monterey, was infested by the Mexican cavalry, with which he had several rencontres, but finally dispersed them with small loss on his own part. Capt. Graham, A. Q. M., volunteer service, was mortally wounded in one of these affairs. I have no doubt that the defeat of the main army at Buena Vista will secure our line of communication from fur-

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Z. TAYLOR,  
Maj. Gen. U. S. A. commanding.

**[Translation.]**  
**[Summons of Santa Anna to General Taylor.]**

You are surrounded by twenty thousand men, and cannot, in any human probability, avoid suffering a route, and being cut to pieces with your troops; but as you deserve consideration and particular esteem, I wish to save you from a catastrophe, and for that purpose give you this notice, in order that you may surrender at discretion, under the assurance that you will be treated with the consideration belonging to the Mexican character, to which end you will be granted an hour's time to make up your mind, to commence from the moment that my flag of truce arrives in your camp.  
With this view, I assure you of my particular consideration.  
God and Liberty. Camp at Encantada, Feb. 22, 1847.  
A. L. DE SANTA ANNA.  
To Gen. Z. Taylor, commanding the forces of the U. S.

**Headquarters Army of Occupation,**  
Near Buena Vista, Feb. 22, '47.

SIR: In reply to your note of this date, summoning me to surrender my forces at discretion, I beg leave to say that I decline acceding to your request.  
With high respect, I am, sir, your obedient servant,  
Z. TAYLOR,  
Maj. Gen. U. S. A. Commanding.

**Headquarters Army of Occupation,**  
Saltillo, Feb. 25, 1847.

SIR: I have to report that the main Mexican force is yet at Agua Nueva. Our troops hold the positions which they have so well defended, and are prepared to receive the enemy, should he venture another attack.  
An arrangement has been made with General Santa Anna for an exchange of prisoners, by which we shall receive all, or nearly all, of those captured from us at different times, besides the few taken from us in the action of the 23d. Our wounded, as well as those of the Mexicans which have fallen into our hands, have been removed to this place, and are rendered comfortable.  
Our loss in the recent actions, so far as ascertained, amounts to 264 killed, 459 wounded, and 26 missing. One company of the Kentucky cavalry is not included in this statement, its casualties not being yet reported. I respectfully enclose a list of the commissioned officers killed and wounded, embracing many names of the highest merit.  
I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,  
Z. TAYLOR,  
Maj. Gen. U. S. A. com'dg.

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