

# The Alleghenian.

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I WOULD RATHER BE RIGHT THAN PRESIDENT.—HENRY CLAY.

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## Governor's Message.

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

GENTLEMEN—The past year has afforded us new cause of thankfulness to the Almighty for the moral and material blessings which He has bestowed upon us.

The balance in the Treasury Nov. 30, 1862, was \$2,172,844 10  
Receipts during fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1863, 4,289,451 05  
Total in Treasury for fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1863, 6,462,295 75  
The payments for the same period have been 4,314,964 05

Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1863, 2,147,331 70

The operations of the sinking fund during the last year have been shown by my Proclamation of the 8th day of September last, as follows:

Amount of debt of Commonwealth reduced, \$954,720 40  
As follows, viz:  
Coupon Loan Act, 100,000 00  
May 4, 1862, 799,716 50  
Four and one-half per cent., 63,000 00  
Ref. notes cancelled, 963 00  
Domestic creditors' certificates, 13 00  
Interest certificates paid, 27 90 \$954,720 40

Amount of public debt of Pennsylvania as it stood on the 1st day of Dec., 1862, \$40,446,213 82

Deduct amount redeemed at the State Treasury during the fiscal year ending with Nov. 30, 1863, viz:

Five per cent. stocks, \$888,459 78  
Four and a half per cent. stocks, 63,000 00  
Ref. notes, 169 00  
Domestic creditors' certificates, 8 26 \$951,617 04

Public debt Dec. 1, 1863, \$39,496,596 78

Franded debt, viz:  
6 per cent. loans, \$400,030 00  
5 per cent. loans, 35,709,986 45  
4 per cent. loans, 268,200 00 \$36,378,916 45

Unfunded debt, viz:  
Ref. notes in circulation, \$97,251 00  
Interest certificates outstanding, 15,356 63  
Interest certificates unclaimed, 4,443 38  
Domestic cred. certificates, 724 32 \$117,780 33

Total indebtedness, \$39,496,596 78

By the act of May, 1861, authorizing the military loan of \$3,000,000, a tax of one-half mill was laid on real and personal property, to furnish a fund for redeeming the same. I recommend that the commissioners of the sinking fund be directed to invest the proceeds of the tax in State loan, so that it may be drawing interest, to be in like manner invested, or that they should apply such proceeds directly to the purchase of certificates of the military loan, and cancel such certificates as shall be purchased.

Although our finances are still in a healthy condition, it is necessary to invite the serious attention of the Legislature to the consideration of the means of maintaining them unimpaired in future.

By the act of 12th June, 1840, it was provided that the interest on the State loans should always be paid in specie or its equivalent, and that whenever the funds in the Treasury should be of less value than specie, the difference in value should be ascertained and certified to the Governor, who should thereupon issue his warrant to the agents or banks authorized to pay such interest on behalf of the Commonwealth, to allow such difference to parties receiving the interest, or at the option of the parties to pay the same in specie.

By the act of 11th April, 1862, it was provided that, for the purpose of paying in specie or its equivalent, all interest that should thereafter be due by the Commonwealth, as required by the act of 12th June, 1840, the several banks who should avail themselves of the provisions of that act, (of 11th April, 1862,) and who should refuse to redeem their notes in specie, on demand, at any time within ten days upon or after the time when such interest should become due, should thereafter, when required by the State Treasurer, by notice in writing, pay into the State Treasury, in proportion to the capital stock paid in of each bank, their ratable proportion of such premium for gold or its equivalent, as should have been actually paid by the State.

By the act of the 30th January, 1863,

it was provided that the State Treasurer should exchange with the banks an amount of currency sufficient to pay the interest on the State debt falling due on the first days of February and August, 1863, for the same amount of coin, and should give to the banks specie certificates of exchange, not transferable, pledging the faith of the State to return said coin in exchange for notes current at the time, on or before the first Monday of March, 1864, such certificates to bear interest at the rate of 2 1/2 per cent. per annum.

Under the provisions of the act of 1862, certain banks paid into the State Treasury \$140,768 30 as an equivalent for coin for the payment of interest on the public debt.

Under the act of 1863, specie certificates have been given to the banks amounting in the whole to \$1,963,904 97, which, with the accruing interest, will fall due on the first Monday of March next.

As the provisions of this act were of a temporary character, the only acts now in force on the subject are those of 1840 and 1862, above mentioned, under which it will be the duty of the State authorities to pay the interest on the 1st February, 1864, and thereafter, in coin or its equivalent, and look to the banks that may be liable under the act of 1862 for reimbursement of the premium paid by the Commonwealth.

In the face of all difficulties, this Commonwealth, actuated by a sentiment which does its people honor, has hitherto paid its interest in coin or its equivalent.

Existing circumstances make it necessary to consider now the fair extent of her just obligations.

The exigencies of the times have compelled the Government of the United States to issue large amounts of Treasury notes for circulation, which are not redeemable in coin, and which form the great mass of our circulating medium.

It is our duty as a loyal State—it is our interest as a State whose welfare, and even safety, depend emphatically upon the maintenance of the credit and the success of the military operations of the General Government—to do nothing to impair its credit or embarrass its measures. On the contrary, we owe it to ourselves and to our posterity to give an active support to its efforts to quell the monstrous rebellion which is still raging, and thus restore peace to our distracted country.

It is our own Government, and we could not, without gross indecency, attempt to refuse its currency in payment of taxes and other debts due to the Commonwealth.

In 1840 the case was very different.—The difficulties then arose from the suspension of specie payments by our State banks, mere local and private corporations, and the State very properly, by the act of that year, intended to provide against loss to its creditors by reason of such suspensions. An exigency like the present could not then have been foreseen by the Legislature, and it is to be inferred therefore that they could not have intended to provide for it.

We derive our system of public loans from Europe, and the true extent of our obligation is to be ascertained by referring to the known established practice of European governments prior to the dates when our loans were effected. I mean of course such of those governments as were held to have maintained their national credit.

It is believed to have been the uniform practice of such governments to pay their interest in paper currency, however depreciated, during a legalized suspension of specie payments. An observable instance of this is afforded by the course of the British Government, which, during twenty-five years, from 1797 to 1822, during which the bank was prohibited by law from paying out coin for any purpose, paid the interest on its public debt in bank notes, which during a great part of that time were at a heavy discount, sometimes amounting to 30 per cent. or thereabout. Their necessities then were not greater than ours are now.

Among ourselves, at the present time, Massachusetts (whose debt is believed to be very small) pays the interest in coin. Ohio and Indiana pay in currency. In New York it is not known what will be done. Her Legislature, by concurrent resolution, ordered the interest to be paid in coin to foreign stockholders, in April last.

At the present rate of premium on gold, the sum necessary to pay on an amount sufficient to discharge the annual interest on the State debt, would be more than \$1,000,000, and to meet this, additional taxation to that extent would be unavoidable. The demands on the Treasury for other necessary purposes must probably be such as to render it imprudent to throw any part of this expenditure on the existing surplus. To borrow money from

year to year to pay the interest on past loans would, of course, be wholly inadmissible. To leave the act of 1862 in force, and attempt to throw the payment of this large premium annually on the banks, would not only be flagrantly unjust, but quite impracticable. I recommend the whole subject to the careful and immediate consideration of the Legislature. Some legislation ought to be had on it before the close of the present month. In my opinion the Commonwealth will have fulfilled her obligations by providing for the payment of her interest in the currency of the Government. If the Legislature should think fit to continue to pay it in coin, it will be their duty to levy forthwith the heavy taxes necessary for that purpose. I must in passing observe that the plan adopted by one of the States of paying coin to foreign, and currency to domestic loan holders, appears to me to be wholly unwise, and founded on no legitimate principle.

At the close of the last session, nineteen bills renewing the charters of certain banks for another period of five years, were presented to me. Of these I have (for reasons which will hereafter be communicated,) withheld my signature from one, and approved the remainder. I have been led to sign them by the considerations that the banks of the Commonwealth pay a large revenue which the State can ill afford to lose, and that in the present condition of the country, it would be impolitic to drive so much capital out of active use, or force it into new employments.

If the National Banking system afford sufficient inducements, capital will voluntarily take that direction. It is proper to observe that the charters of most of the banks in question expire at an early period, while, in consequence of the invasion of the State, during the last summer, they could not have been reasonably expected to give the necessary notice of renewed applications for re-charter.

I recommend an extension of the time during which the banks are now relieved from penalties for not paying their obligations in coin.

The increased expenses of living invite attention to the salaries of our public officers. Those of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, Auditor General and State Treasurer, and of the Clerks in their employment, are, in my opinion, too low, especially as the exigencies of the times have greatly enhanced the labors and responsibilities of all, and in the case of the heads of those departments, enforce a constant attendance at Harrisburg, which was not formerly required.

Under the Act of 16th April, 1862, and its supplement, passed 22d April, 1863, the Adjutant General, Quartermaster General and Commissary General have been acting as the Board of Military Claims.—They have, up to this time, approved claims to the amount of \$166,415 81, and others have already been presented to the further amount of \$332,120 29, which have not yet been acted on.

Under the Act of 22d April, 1863, (P. L. 529,) the Court of Common Pleas appointed three appraisers to ascertain the damage done in the counties on the Southern border by the militia called into service in Sept., 1862, by the Anderson Cavalry in the same month, and by the rebels in their raid on the 10th and 11th October, 1862.

The appraisers have not yet completed the performance of their duties. When their report shall have been made to the Court of Common Pleas and affirmed in whole or in part, by that court, it will be the duty of the Governor to claim the payment of the amounts from the General Government, and on failure to secure the same, then to report to the next Legislature, recommending such action as he may deem just and proper.

The expenses of the Transportation and Telegraph Department during the past year have been as follows:

Paid (out of appropriation made by Military loan act of 1861.) \$13,658 87  
Unpaid (the appropriation being exhausted.) 13,764 79  
Outstanding liabilities estimated at 5,000 00 \$34,423 66

These expenses have been mainly incurred in keeping up the necessary correspondence of the military departments, and in the transportation of sick and wounded and the dead bodies of our volunteers, as will be seen by the report of the Chief of Transportation, herewith communicated. I recommend an appropriation to meet the deficiency, and also to carry on the service of this department hereafter.

By the thirteenth section of the act of the 15th May, 1861, the sum of \$20,000 was appropriated to be expended by the Governor for the compensation of such persons as he might require to serve the Commonwealth in the military organization of the State or the General Government,

and for the expenses incident to the business in which they might be employed. I have, according to law, settled annual accounts of the expenditure of this fund in the Auditor General's office, to which the Legislature is referred. The unexpended balance is now \$1,521 98. A further sum should be appropriated in like manner. Out of this fund I have paid the persons whom I found it necessary to employ in the military department, and the expenses of the agency which I was compelled to establish at Washington to attend to the interest and welfare of our volunteers. The continuance of this agency and the establishment of a similar one in the West, are of vital importance to them. I recommend the passage of an act authorizing the appointment of agents at Washington and Nashville, and defining their duties, which should include the collection of all bounties, back pay, pensions, etc., due to Pennsylvanians.

On this subject I refer the Legislature to the report of Col. R. Biddle Roberts, late Agent of the State, at Washington, herewith communicated, and commend it to your careful examination.

On the invasion of the State during the last summer, the President made a call for militia, and with his assent I subsequently made a call for volunteer militia, for the defence of the State. Under these calls men were assembled and organized with promptness, after the reality of the emergency came to be understood by our people. The General Government clothed and subsisted this force, and agreed to pay it, but as no appropriation for that purpose had been made by Congress, the President and Secretary of War promised if the money should be advanced from other quarters to recommend its immediate repayment on the meeting of Congress.—It is understood that steps have been already taken to fulfill this pledge. Several of the banks cheerfully and readily advanced the necessary funds to the amount of \$671,476 43, on my promise to recommend to the Legislature an appropriation to repay them, in case Congress should fail to make one. I accordingly make that recommendation most emphatically. Should it be necessary, I will hereafter, in a special message, give the details and correspondence relating to this subject.

New York and New Jersey, under the President's call, sent regiments to assist in our defence, for which our thanks are due to those States, our good neighbors.

After the battle of Gettysburg, in which loyal volunteers from eighteen States, including Pennsylvania, were engaged, it appeared to me proper that all those States should unite in establishing a cemetery on the spot, in which their soldiers who had fallen in that conflict, should be honorably interred. I accordingly appointed David Wills, Esq., of Gettysburg, my agent, and through him, a site was purchased at a cost of \$2,475 87, and the conveyances made to the Commonwealth. On communicating with the authorities of the other States, they all readily agreed to become parties to the arrangement, and on the 19th day of November last, the cemetery was dedicated with appropriate ceremonies in the presence of the President of the United States, the Governors of the States concerned, and other high officers, State and National. On the 19th day of December, on the invitation of Mr. Wills, commissioners representing the States interested in the cemetery, met in Harrisburg, and agreed upon a plan for its improvement and care in the future, and the apportionment of the sum of money required, to the several States, which is herewith communicated. The expenses attending the establishment of this cemetery, including the cost of the site and of removing the bodies of the slain, have thus far amounted to \$5,209 38, and an appropriation will be required to pay these expenses, and to meet our portion of those attending its future maintenance. It will appear by the proceedings of the commissioners that their due proportion of the expenses already incurred are to be refunded by the States on whose account they were made. It is just to say that Mr. Wills has discharged his delicate and important duties with fidelity and to my entire satisfaction.

The act for the relief of families of volunteers in service may require some revision. It is alleged that in some parts of the State the county authorities are backward in executing the law. If this be so, the members from the different counties will be aware of the fact, and will be most ready to make such further enactments as may be proper.

I commend to the prompt attention of the Legislature the subject of the relief of poor orphans of our soldiers who have given, or shall give their lives to the country during this crisis. In my opinion, their maintenance and education should be provided for by the State.—

Failing other natural friends of ability to provide for them, they should be honorably received and fostered as children of the Commonwealth. The \$50,000 heretofore given by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, referred to in my last annual message, is still unappropriated, and I recommend that this sum, with such other means as the Legislature may think fit, be applied to this end, in such manner as may be thought most expedient and effective. In anticipation of the adoption of a more perfect system, I recommend that provision be made for securing the admission of such children into existing educational establishments, to be there clothed, nurtured and instructed at the public expense. I make this recommendation earnestly, feeling assured that in doing so, I represent the wishes of the patriotic, the benevolent and the good, of the State.

I invite the attention of the Legislature to the condition of the loyal people of East Tennessee, which is represented to be most deplorable, and appeals with irresistible force alike to your sympathies and your sense of justice. Their whole country has been laid waste by the contending armies of the Government and the rebels. Four times large armies have passed over that District, destroying or carrying off all that had been gathered for the approaching winter, and now the women and children are left in a state of destitution.

The representations made by sundry gentlemen of the highest respectability, from that State, are of the most heart rending character. Starvation, actual and present, now exist. Can we, in the midst of affluent abundance, for a moment hesitate as to what our action shall be towards the people whose only crime has been their loyalty and devotion to the Government? Even if a portion of our charity should reach the starving families of those in sympathy with the rebellion, better it should than that these devoted, self sacrificing people who have so unhesitatingly adhered to the Government, be left to suffer. Whenever pestilence and famine distressed the people of any portion of our country, we have always been foremost in relieving them, and the people of Pennsylvania have extended their open handed benevolence and broad charity to the starving people of foreign countries. Shall it be said that the appeals of these people for bread fall upon the heart of Pennsylvania in vain, and that we who have so recently given thanks for our abundance have no relief for them in their extremities? I commend the subject through you to the people of the State, as worthy the immediate attention and active exertions of the charitable and the liberal.

I should be glad if the Legislature would make a general revision of our Revenue Laws, with a view to their increased productiveness. It ought to be observed that for a period of more than twenty years, no material change has been made in the Revenue Laws of this Commonwealth. During that time some interests have grown into new importance, and should be made to bear their just proportion of the public expense, since all taxation should as far as possible, press equally upon the property and employments of our people.

Failing such revision, I recommend to the consideration of the Legislature, the following suggestions connected with the subject.

1. There are several companies in the State which, in addition to large mining privileges, have the control of the routes of transportation, by which alone the products of the mines of individuals in their respective districts, can reach a market. These companies thus enjoy substantial monopolies, by means of which they not only receive the fair profits of their own property, but are enabled to make additional heavy gains at the expense of individuals. In my opinion such privileges ought never to have been granted, but as they exist it appears to be just that the class of companies which enjoy them, should pay therefor additional specific tax.

2. Very large sums are due to the Commonwealth for unpatented lands.—Forbearance, clemency, and liberality have been in vain tried in the numerous attempts to procure the payment of at least a part of this debt, from the larger portion of those who are indebted on that account. The continuance of this state of affairs is unjust to the Commonwealth and to the vast majority of her people who have honestly paid for their lands. It has become unendurable. I recommend that the Legislature provide that the Surveyor General shall file of record in the office of the Court of Common Pleas of each county a description of the lands subject to the lien of the Commonwealth for purchase money, and a statement of the amount of principal and interest now due to the

Commonwealth, together with the patents on each tract and ten per cent. on the amount so due for the cost of making and filing such statement, and the aggregate amount thus stated, for each tract, shall be held to be the amount now due thereon to the Commonwealth, which shall bear interest at the rate of twelve per cent. per annum, till paid, and shall continue to be the first lien on the land, till paid, and shall not be divested by any judicial or other sale whatever. I also recommend the adoption of a suggestion contained in the Surveyor General's report that a specific tax be laid on all unpatented lands.

3. By existing laws municipal corporations are required to deduct and pay into the Treasury the tax on all loans contracted by them. It is believed that a large addition would accrue to the revenue by the extension of this provision to all counties and to all corporations private or public.

I recommend that it be so extended.

4. A tax on the gross receipts of all railroad and canal companies would, it is believed, be productive and not oppressive.

Upon satisfactory reports, according to law, made by Colonel John A. Wright, I have drawn my warrants for the delivery to the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad company of another million of the bonds deposited in the State Treasury. Four millions of said bonds have therefore been now delivered. There can be no reasonable doubt of the early completion of the work, and, when completed, it is confidently expected that the bonds held by the State, secured on the road for \$3,500,000, will become good interest-paying securities.

I renew most earnestly the recommendation made in my last annual message of a revision of the militia laws. They are at present shamefully defective. Indeed, if by a militia law is meant a law intended to provide for so enrolling and organizing the military force of the State that it may be put into service when required, we may be said to have no militia law. In each of the last two years I have been obliged to call out the militia, but in fact those who obeyed the call were volunteers and, with some exceptions, were wholly unorganized, so that almost in face of the enemy, time had to be consumed in distributing the men into companies and regiments, in electing officers and in other preparations for effective organization.

In the report of the Adjutant General will be found a list of the Pennsylvania regiments and a statement showing the several armies and departments in which they are now serving. In this connection, I suggest the propriety of legislative authority being given for the preparation of a history of each of our regiments and other organizations, to be preserved among our archives. The necessary documents are now accessible, and as they may in time be lost or destroyed, the making of such a record as I propose should not be deferred. It is due alike to the living and the dead that this subject should be promptly acted on.

I recommend that the proposed amendments to the Constitution, giving to citizens in the public service out of the State, the right to vote, be passed promptly and submitted to a vote of the people at as early a day as possible, so that such citizens may exercise their right of suffrage at all future elections. This would be only doing justice to the brave men who are periling their lives in our defence.

It is highly important that we should replenish the ranks of our regiments in the field and supply the places of those volunteers whose terms will soon expire and who may decline further service. I am happy to say that a large proportion of our regiments are re-enlisting. Efforts are making by myself and by the people in various portions of the State to procure a sufficient number of volunteers, and with a promise of success, provided a reasonable time be allowed for the purpose. Meanwhile persons professing to be officers and agents from some other States are most improperly endeavoring to seduce our citizens into their service by extravagant bounties and promises.

The 12th section of the act of 15th May, 1861, prohibits any volunteers from leaving the State without the authority of the Governor, and I now recommend the passage of a law imposing penalties by fine and imprisonment on all individuals who shall endeavor to procure or aid or assist in procuring any person in this State to enlist in the volunteer service of any other State. Many of our counties and townships have filled their quotas at a large expense, and in others they are in course of doing the same by offers of liberal bounties and provisions for the families of volunteers, and it is not right that these patriotic efforts should be embarrassed by