

EXTRA.

LEWISBURG, PA., JANUARY 5, 1859.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN:—Although the year just closed has been one of great depression in the business and monetary affairs of the country, I am happy to be able to announce to the Representatives of the People, that the finances of Pennsylvania are in a most satisfactory condition.

The receipts of the Treasury, from all sources, for the fiscal year, ending on the 30th day of November, 1858, were \$4,139,778 45; and the expenditures, for all purposes, during the same time, were \$3,775,837 06. Leaving an excess of receipts over expenditures of \$363,941 39.

This exhibit shows that there was actually in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1858, the sum of \$363,941 39, more than there was on the first day of December, 1857. In addition to this, among the expenditures for the year, were:

Loans redeemed,.....	\$80,296 85
Loans, Notes, redeemed,.....	41,671 00
Interest Certificates,.....	116 70

Making of the public debt funded and unfunded paid during the year the sum of..... \$121,494 55

If we add to this the excess of money on hand, at the end of the fiscal year, over what remained in the Treasury, at the same time last year, viz..... \$363,941 39

We have the sum of..... \$789,415 84

But this is not all. The amount paid on the public improvements, including damages and old claims, during the fiscal year, was..... \$941,036 58

While the amount of revenue, from the same source, for the same period, was only..... \$5,070 06

Making an excess of expenditures over receipts, which happily will be relieved from in the future of..... \$245,966 52

This sum should, also, be credited to the operations of the Treasury during the year, for it was an extraordinary expenditure, which cannot again occur; and was, in fact, a reduction of the liabilities of the Commonwealth, to that amount.

If we add this sum to the amount of debt here for the year, a balance in favor of the receipts, over the ordinary expenditures, amounting in the aggregate to \$1,031,382 36.

But from this, however, should be deducted the extraordinary receipts, which were,..... \$245,966 52

14. The amount paid by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, on the principal of the debt due by the said Company, for the purchase of the Main Line..... \$100,000

21. The amount received from the Girard Bank, for loans of the Commonwealth sold by that bank..... 28,000

In pursuance of the act entitled "An Act for the Sale of the State Canals," approved on the 21st day of April, 1851, and the Governor of the Commonwealth, on the 19th day of May, 1858, conveyed to the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, all the public works belonging to the Commonwealth, then remaining unsold, consisting of the Delaware Division—the Upper and Lower Branch Divisions—the West Branch Division—and the Susquehanna Division of the Pennsylvania Canal, with all the property thereto belonging, or in anywise appertaining, and all the estate, right, title, and interest of this Commonwealth therein, for the sum of three millions five hundred thousand dollars. To secure the payment of this sum, the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company paid to the State Treasurer its bonds, secured by a mortgage, as directed by the act, for the amount of the purchase money. The company, also, complied with the provisions of the Act which required it, as additional security, to execute and deliver to the State Treasurer a mortgage on the Susquehanna and West Branch Divisions for half a million—and a mortgage on the Upper and Lower Branch Divisions for half a million of dollars. The deeds and mortgages were all executed under the immediate supervision of the Attorney General, and were in strict conformity with the requirements of the law.

After the conveyances were duly executed and delivered, possession of the canals was given to the railroad company. The act further provided that the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company should not sell or convey any part of the same, without the consent of the Governor; and if it should be made for a greater sum, in the aggregate, than three and a half millions of dollars, seventy-five per centum of the excess should be paid to the Commonwealth, in the bonds of the purchasers. It was also provided that upon a resale, the mortgages given by the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company to the Commonwealth should be cancelled, and the same should be made until the Governor should be satisfied that the new securities to be given were sufficient to protect the interests of the State; and that his written approval of the change should be filed in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth.

The Upper and Lower North Branch Canal, for..... \$1,600,000

The West Branch and Susquehanna Canal Company, for..... 500,000

The Delaware Division, to the Delaware Division Canal Company, for..... 1,775,000

In all the sum of..... \$3,875,000

Upon investigation and inquiry, it was ascertained that these sales were made for fair prices, and upon such terms, and to such persons composing the various purchasing associations, as to insure the payment of the purchase money, they were severally approved.

After the contract for the sale of the Delaware Division had been made, and the same had been verbally given, and seventy-five thousand dollars of the purchase money had been actually paid by the purchasers, upon the faith of the contract, and my assent thereto, I was informed that a higher price had been offered, by responsible persons, for the canal, and under the circumstances, my opinion was that the offer came too late, and the Delaware Division Company considered itself bound to consummate the agreement by a delivery of the deed and possession of the property to the first purchasers, I could not, in good faith, withhold my assent. The North Branch Canal Company, subsequent to the purchase of that division, had been informed that a higher price had been offered, and under the circumstances, my opinion was that the offer came too late, and the North Branch Canal Company considered itself bound to consummate the agreement by a delivery of the deed and possession of the property to the first purchasers, I could not, in good faith, withhold my assent.

On the 13th of September, 1858, bonds of the various companies owning the different canals, secured by mortgages, were in pursuance of the act, and by my approval, deposited with the State Treasurer to the amount of two millions of dollars; and the mortgages on the canals given by the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, were cancelled by the State Treasurer, and surrendered by me to the company, in accordance with the directions of the law.

At the same time a settlement was made between the Commonwealth and the Railroad Company, by which the latter paid to the State seventy-five per centum of the proceeds of the resale over and above the contract price of three and a half millions. This amounted to two hundred and eighty-one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, and was paid in the following manner, viz:

Bonds of the Wyoming Canal Company, secured by mortgage on the canal from Wilkesbarre to Northumberland, payable in twenty years with interest at six per cent semi-annually..... \$281,000

Cash..... 250

Total..... \$281,250

These bonds are well secured, and the accruing interest and principal, when due, will doubtless be promptly paid.

From information of a reliable character recently communicated to me by the President of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, it appears that the prospects of an early completion of that public highway are very encouraging. A large amount of work has been done on the line of the road during the past season, and at this time, very considerable portions of the road are graded and rapidly approaching completion. It is the opinion of the President of the company that within two years the work will be entirely finished, so that cars will be running directly from the city of Philadelphia to the harbor of Erie.

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In this great enterprise shall be consummated, and the desire of its friends finally accomplished, the payment of the three millions and a half of mortgage bonds, which the State has received in exchange for the canals, will unquestionably be well secured—the railroad, itself, will prove of incalculable advantage to our great commercial enterprise, as well as to the important, but long neglected region through which it passes. Its construction will undoubtedly add to the value of the real estate of the Commonwealth many times its cost, and develop and bring into use the rich resources of a country which heretofore has been almost entirely barren.

Whatever difference of opinion may, at any time, have been entertained in regard to the propriety of the details of the legislation authorizing the sale of the main line, or the branches, it can scarcely be doubted that the public welfare will, in every respect, be vastly promoted by the transfer of the management of the public works from the State to individual owners.

The short experience that we have had already, proves conclusively that the Commonwealth is greatly the gainer, in a financial

point of view, and it has been equally demonstrated that the people at large have been as well, if not better, accommodated, by the change.

It would, in my judgment, be a public calamity, if, by the happening of any contingency, the Commonwealth should be constrained to again become the owner, and resume the management of any portion of the public improvements.

The power of the General Assembly to pass the Act of the 21st of April, 1858, relative to the sale of the State canals was questioned before the Supreme Court of the State, since the transfer of the Canals; and, after full argument, the Constitutionality of the Act was sustained by the unanimous judgment of the Court.

Since the sale of the public works, and the settlement of the principal outstanding claims against the State, it is obvious that there is no further necessity for a Board of Canal Commissioners, or a Canal Department. I, therefore, recommend the abolition of the Board, and that provision be made for the transfer of the records to the office of the Auditor General.

In view of the foregoing exhibit of our resources and financial condition, it is apparent that a most interesting era has been reached in the history of the Commonwealth. Relieved from the entangling embarrassments of an extensive system of internal improvements, the means of the State are now ample for all legitimate purposes, and her public debt is rapidly and certainly disappearing.

From this and other causes, governmental action has become greatly simplified, and the nature of the subjects of its operation has changed in a degree no less remarkable.

The almost entire disposal of the lands which belonged to the State, and the other property, with one of the Departments created for their care, and will, ultimately, render the other unnecessary, except for preserving the evidences of their transfer.

The sale of the public works has relieved the Executive branch of the Government of many of its most important and perplexing duties, and, in effect, dispensed with one of its most formidable and difficult departments.

In the same proportion, the action of the Legislature will, if the representatives of the people be true to the interests reposed, and steadily refuse to entangle the public with those projects of speculation and enterprise, be continually seeking its alliance, be simplified and economized, purified and strengthened.

And it is as remarkable as it is propitious, that an era which has thus relieved the State authorities of burthens that consisted, either of mere material interests, or the care of local administration, committing the one to the local society, and the other to the private or associated enterprise, should also present for consideration and promotion intellectual and moral claims of peculiar importance.

It is at this period in our history that the system of public education challenges the attention of the most observant. And I shall be much mistaken in the cautious but steadfast character of the people of Pennsylvania, if their Legislature do not make it the first object of their solicitude.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Common Schools will lay before you the present condition of the Common School System, and of its operations during the past year.—Your close and scrutinizing attention is invited to the report, and the people are invited to participate in the same.

Including the city of Philadelphia, it will be observed, that there were in the public schools of the State, during the year which terminated on the first Monday of last June, 628,201 pupils; there were instructed during an average term of a little over five months, in 11,284 schools, 13,556 teachers, at a total cost of \$2,427,632 41.

Here is a public interest, which, whether we regard its ramifications into every portion of our social fabric, its large cost, the important powers over the present which it wields, or its incalculable influence upon the future,—undoubtedly transcends all others committed to the secular authorities. The Legislature, in the case, I have no hesitation in asserting that the time has arrived when its full importance should be recognized, and that its due administration should be made the duty of a fully organized and effective, as well as a separate department in the Government.

But the mere care and promotion of our system of common schools, important and extensive as it obviously is,—should not be the sole object of such a Department. If it is true that the power to punish crimes includes also the right to prevent it, by providing for the proper intellectual and moral training of the criminal, it would seem to follow that the department charged with the latter momentous duty, should also be in possession of all the sources and subjects of information, calculated to shed light upon the object of its action. Hence the collection, arrangement, and practical deductions from population and industrial statistics, from natural defects, habits, and diseases, blindness and lunacy; from crime in its various forms and developments; together with such control over all the literary and scientific institutions in the State, as shall bring their full condition into view, should also belong to the same Department.

Therefore, I most respectfully, but earnestly, urge upon your favorable consideration, at the present propitious moment, the organization of such a Department, in the room of those for the care of mere matter whose agency has been or soon will be discontinued by the onward and upward progress of the Commonwealth.

The Finance Department of Public Instruction, will not, however, of itself, effect all that is needed in this direction. The general results of the Common School system, already cited, show the importance of its nature, and the magnitude of its operations. If we look, also, into its special statistics, the fact of the enormous increase of the population, and the rapidity of its growth, will be manifest. It is needless to attempt to prove the truth that the property qualified teacher is the life and success of the school. But the facts are startling, that of the 12,828 teachers of our public schools, exclusive of those in Philadelphia, only 5,687 are reported as "qualified;" for their important trust; while 5,687 are returned as "medium," or such as are only tolerated till better can be obtained; and that 2,313 are stated to be "unfit."

In other words, of the 569,880 children attending the schools out of Philadelphia, only about 290,000 (less than one half) are under proper instruction from inferior teachers; 100,000 are actually in charge of persons wholly unfit for the task.

This presents the subject in a light that cannot be shut out; and, though the great and commendable efforts recently made by the teachers of Pennsylvania, for their own improvement, are fully recognized, it can not be denied that there is a work yet to be done, in this relation, which will seem to be beyond their unaided power to accomplish.

When, however, we look further into the special statistics of this branch of the system, the material for improvement is found to be of the most promising kind. Of the 12,828 teachers of our common schools, 10,946 are natives of Pennsylvania; and a larger proportion than in most of the other States are permanently devoted to the profession of teaching. To render these fit for the position to which they aspire—undoubtedly one of the most useful and honorable in the world—and to raise up a constant supply of well qualified successors, is the work to be done.

Various modes of effecting this object have been suggested or tried; but, after mature reflection, I am led to prefer that devised by the

Act of May 20, 1858, entitled "An Act to provide for the due training of teachers for the Common Schools." It places, in the hands of the State, the teacher on the same footing with the members of such of the other learned professions as have been recognized by public authority; and it is to be regretted that the prostration of business and scarcity of money, that so soon followed the passage of the act, had the effect of checking many valuable efforts to carry out its provisions for the future. Under these circumstances, does it not become the duty of the State to afford such aid, or at least hold out such inducements as shall enable this measure to be fairly tested?

The passage of a law guaranteeing the payment of a moderate sum to one Teachers' Institute in each district created by the act of 1857, would not doubt cause a sufficient number to establish the efficiency and practicality of the plan, to be completed in a few years; the money not to be paid till the schools were in full and approved operation. It is not probable that this grant would cause any considerable draft on the Treasury; but, even if the whole twelve schools should ultimately be established, the boon would neither be out of proportion to that which has been conceded to other institutions, nor the number of graduates beyond the wants of the community.

Up to the present time, Pennsylvania has appropriated about \$200,000 in aid of fair Teachers' Institutes, and this mainly in the hope of obtaining from their teachers for the common schools. Though the benefits of this munificence have been, in other respects, quite equal to the amount given, it will be asserted by no one that the avowed object has been to effect the improvement of the teachers; but, therefore, it is to be feared that the aid of the State should be brought directly to bear in favor of the great object so long contemplated.

I have thus briefly laid before you the condition of our noble educational system. It will afford me sincere pleasure to concur in the adoption of the one, or any other measures, for the improvement of the teachers, and the wisdom of the Legislature may devise.

In this country, the want of a school which shall combine the elements of learning and agricultural labor, and thus adapt itself to the education of the farmer, has been most seriously felt; for, whilst our many colleges well fill the sphere of instruction in the liberal and scientific sphere of influence, it must be conceded that the training they impart is badly adapted to the art of practical agriculture. In Pennsylvania that interest is so important as to demand at all times our anxious attention, and active support.

The Farmers' High School of Pennsylvania, now projected and about to be opened, is a public spirit individual, and which has received, to some extent, the patronage of the State, and the contributions of a number of our patriotic citizens, is destined to afford a place where young men may be educated at an expense commensurate with their means, and to a condition qualifying them for the pursuit of agriculture, and the other useful occupations of the country.

The design of the institution is to afford a sphere of influence, in the agricultural and mechanical arts, to the youth of the State, and to the training they impart is badly adapted to the art of practical agriculture. In Pennsylvania that interest is so important as to demand at all times our anxious attention, and active support.

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