

We are indebted to Hon Isaac Benson, of the State Senate, an B. B. Strong, of the House, for legislative documents.

The National Cabinet is clear of secessionists by the resignations of Secretaries Thompson and Thomas, and is making favorable movements to put down treason. Gen. Scott has the management of the War department almost entirely.

Mississippi, Alabama and Florida have passed secession ordinances, and Georgia is soon to hold her convention. The rebel troops in New Orleans have taken possession of the forts and arsenals in the vicinity of that city. The forts in Georgia and Florida have also been captured by the rebels. A strong effort is making to bring North Carolina and Virginia into the secession movement. Gov. Hicks of Maryland holds out manfully against the movement.

We are indebted to Representative Strong for a copy of the Auditor General's Report for the year ending Nov. 30, 1860. The following moneys are credited as received from this source: From Eli Rees, Treas., for taxes, \$2,571 49; From Nelson Clark, former Treas., 1 33 02; From H. J. Olmsted, Prothonotary, 321 70; From T. B. Tyler, former Prothonotary, for accrued interest, 5 16; From T. Ives, Register, 68 00; From A. H. Butterworth, late Reg., 62 00; Tax on incorp. act of P. C. R. Co., 100 00.

Total, \$3,374 34. The County has received from the State, for Common School purposes, \$972 33.

The War Begun!

The Star of the West, a mercantile steamer, was recently chartered by the National government to carry reinforcements to Fort Sumter, and grived off Charleston with 250 soldiers from Governor's Island, under Lieut. Wood, on Wednesday morning at daylight. On attempting to go up the bay to Fort Sumter, she was fired into by some batteries at Morris' Island, when she ran up the stars and stripes, and proceeded up the bay. Some 15 or 20 shots were fired at her from the Morris batteries, two striking her hull, and two shots were fired from Fort Moultrie. Not having any guns on board, she could not return the compliment, and wheeled about and put out of the bay without landing the troops. She arrived at New York Saturday noon.

About 9 o'clock, Major Anderson sent Lieut. Hall to the City of Charleston with a flag of truce, and informed Gov. Pickens that if any more firing was done upon American vessels, he should open with hot shot upon Fort Moultrie and the City. Gov. P. returned a moderate reply (for him), and the next morning Maj. Anderson dispatched Lieut. Talbot to Washirgton the same day for further instructions. Great excitement was caused in all the cities and throughout the country by the above accounts. The U. S. sloop of war, Brooklyn, was lying off Charleston on Saturday.

LATER—South Carolina has sent another commissioner to Washington with power to negotiate for any peaceable measures in which South Carolina shall have her own way!

Mr. Hale's Proposition.

A week or so ago the Members of both Houses of Congress from the Border States—that is, those Free States bordering on Slave States, and those Slave States bordering on Free States—met to consider the state of the country and discuss measures for settling the difficulties. That body appointed a committee of one from each of the twelve States represented, and among the names on that committee we find that of Hon. Jas. T. Hale, of this District. The correspondent of the Tribune thus reports a meeting of the above committee:

"No concealment is desired in regard to the general character of the caucus deliberations, involving the proposed compromise, the previous history of which must be briefly stated to insure a correct understanding of the subject. The Committee of the border States on Friday night, by a majority vote, agreed upon various propositions covering the repeal of the Personal Liberty bills, an amendment of the Constitution to prohibit any interference with Slavery in the States, without the consent of every State, a perpetual prohibition of the African slave trade, a bill to repress armed invasions of the States, and modifications of the fugitive Slave law, so as to remove the features obnoxious to the North and render it more efficient for the South. Mr. Hale of Pennsylvania proposed the following basis for settling the Territorial question: 'The line of 36° 30' to be run through all the existing Territory of the United States and in all parts of that line Slavery shall be

prohibited; south of that line neither Congress nor Territorial Legislatures shall hereafter pass any law for or against African Slavery; and when any Territory, containing sufficient population for one member of Congress in an area of 60,000 square miles, shall apply for admission as a State it shall be admitted with or without Slavery, as its Constitution may determine.'

"Of the five Republicans on the Committee, Messrs. Hale and Nixon voted for it. Mr. Pettit did not vote. Mr. Sternerman voted against it, and Mr. Vandever was necessarily absent. The Southern men sustained it unanimously, Mr. Crittenden waving his own proposition, which covered the recognition and protection of Slavery south of the line in the present and future Territory, for this substitute. It was asserted confidently that the Border States could be restrained from joining the secession stampede upon this proposition."

We are not in possession of any means of knowing why Mr. Hale has taken such a position—which we cannot but regard as at variance with his previous record on the questions involved, and which, as an unexplained fact, involves his official popularity, at least in this end of the District. We are not disposed, however, to censure his course until we know more of the motive for it. It is with a view of eliciting an explanation from him that we now question its propriety; meantime, we annex what our observation assures us is the position of every sincere Republican in this county, and which is freely expressed here.

The universal sentiment here is—no more compromise—no surrender of the principles of the Chicago platform—the issue must be met now, and the question forever settled that there shall be no further extension of Slavery in the United States and Territories. We have the highest regard, personally and politically, for Judge Hale, and we believe he will take no position which he cannot satisfactorily explain to his constituents. We hope, therefore, that he will take an early occasion to explain away the irregularities contained in the above proposition.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable the Senators and Members of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN: In submitting to the General Assembly my last annual communication, it is the source of unfeigned gratification to be able to announce to the people, and to their representatives, that notwithstanding the present unfavorable crisis in the monetary affairs of this country, and the general prostration of business and credit, the financial condition of Pennsylvania is highly satisfactory.

The receipts at the State Treasury, from all sources, for the fiscal year ending on the 30th of November, 1860, were \$3,470,257 31, to which to add the available balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1859, \$839,323 09, and the whole sum available for the last year will be found to be \$4,318,580 40. The expenditures, for all purposes, for the same period, were \$3,637,147 32. Leaving an available balance in the Treasury, on the first day of December, 1860, of \$681,433 08. The following items are embraced in the expenditures for the fiscal year, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Loans redeemed (\$664,857 63), Relief notes cancelled (1,811 00), Interest certificates (2,439 52), Domestic creditors' certificates (5 40), Damages on the public works, and old claims (22,644 32).

Making of the public debt netted—paid during the year, the sum of 691,757 89.

The funded and unfunded debt of the Commonwealth on the first day of December, 1859, was as follows:

Table showing Funded Debt: 6 per cent loans (\$400,620 00), 5 do (\$7,225,153 37), 4 do (\$38,200 00), 4 do (\$100,000 00). Total funded debt: \$38,513,983 37.

UNFUNDED DEBT: Relief notes in circulation (\$101,213 00), Interest certificates outstanding (18,513 82), do unclaimed (4,448 38), Domestic creditors' certificates (802 50). Total unfunded debt: 124,977 78.

Making the entire debt of the Commonwealth, at the period named, \$38,638,961 07.

The funded and unfunded debt of the State, at the close of the last fiscal year, December 1, 1860, stood as follows:

Table showing Funded Debt: 6 per cent loans (\$400,620 00), 5 do (\$7,267,295 72), 4 do (\$31,200 00), 4 do (\$160,000 00). Total funded debt: \$7,849,125 72.

UNFUNDED DEBT: Relief notes in circulation (\$99,462 00), Interest certificates outstanding (16,074 30), do unclaimed (4,448 38), Domestic creditors' certificates (797 70). Total unfunded debt: 120,721 78.

Making the entire debt of Pennsylvania, on the first day of December last, \$36,969,847 50. To pay the principal and interest of this debt, besides the ordinary sources of revenue, the Commonwealth holds the following mortgage bonds, derived from the sale of her public improvements, viz: Bonds of Pennsylvania railroad company \$7,200,000 00; Bonds of Sunbury and Erie railroad company 3,500,000 00.

Table showing Bonds of Wyoming canal company: 281,000 00. Total 10,981,000 00. At the close of the fiscal year, on the first day of December, 1857, the public debt of this Commonwealth, funded and unfunded, was \$39,831,738 22.

It is now, at the close of the fiscal year 1860, having been reduced, during the last three years 1,911,890 72.

The available balance in the Treasury on the first day of December, 1857, was \$528,106 47. On the first day of December, 1860, it was 681,433 08. Exceeding the former balance in the sum of 153,326 61.

Add to this the sum paid at the Treasury during the past three years, for debts and claims against the Commonwealth arising out of the construction and maintenance of the public improvements, and which was substantially a part of the unfunded debt of the Commonwealth, amounting to 171,664 82.

And we have the sum of 324,991 42. By adding this sum to the amount on the public debt from December 1, 1857, to December 1, 1860, to wit: \$1,911,890 72, it will be found that during the past three years the State not only met all her ordinary liabilities, including the expenses of Government, and the interest on her public debt, but has diminished her actual indebtedness the sum of \$2,286,882 15.

When it is remembered that for the last three years the tax on real and personal estate has been but two and a half mills on the dollar, while from 1844 to 1857 it was three mills—that for the past two years and six months the State has received no part of the tax on tonnage due from the Pennsylvania Railroad Company—and that since July, 1859, the interest on the bonds held by the State against the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company has remained due and unpaid, it is certainly cause for hearty congratulation that, without aid from these important sources of revenue, so great a reduction of the public debt has been accomplished in comparatively so short a period. The funded debt of the State is now less than it has been since 1842, and the unfunded and floating debt, which at that time amounted to upwards of two millions of dollars, has been almost entirely redeemed. It is now reduced to \$120,721 78—and of this sum over ninety-nine thousand dollars consists of relief notes, most of which are undoubtedly either lost or destroyed, and will, therefore, never be presented for payment. The claims against the State, accruing from the construction and maintenance of her canals and railroads, are now reduced to a mere nominal sum; and, in the future, after providing for the ordinary expenses of Government, her revenues and her energies may be exclusively applied to the payment of the interest, and the discharge of the principal of her public debt.

The people of this Commonwealth have hitherto met, with promptness, the demands made upon them, from time to time, for the ways and means of replenishing the public treasury; and now that they see that the onerous debt with which they have been so long burdened, is each year certainly and rapidly disappearing—that the amount required to meet the interest is annually being diminished—that consequently a still greater sum can each year be devoted to the reduction of the principal of the debt, without resorting to additional sources of revenue—and that, with a proper husbanding of the resources of the State, the day is not far distant when direct taxation in Pennsylvania will cease altogether—the payment of such taxes as may for the time be required to meet the public necessities, will continue to be met with cheerfulness and alacrity. But they will unquestionably hold those to whose care they have entrusted the financial interests of the State to a rigid accountability. That there should, at this particular juncture, when the business and monetary affairs of the country are so greatly depressed, by the strictest economy in public expenditures, is so manifest, that it can scarcely be necessary to call attention to so plain a duty. It is equally clear that any legislation which would tend greatly to lessen the revenues of the Commonwealth, would, at this time, be peculiarly unwise and inexpedient. The exigencies of the future, no man can foretell—the prospect before us is beset with doubt and uncertainty. It is, therefore, no more than the part of wisdom to guard, with unceasing vigilance, all our present sources of revenue, and to thus be prepared for every possible contingency.

Since July, 1853, the Pennsylvania Railroad Company has refused to pay the tax on tonnage required to be paid by the act incorporating the company, and its various supplements; and there is now due to the State, on that account, exclusive of interest, the sum of \$674,295 22. Including the interest, the sum now due is about \$700,000. Before my last annual message was communicated to the Legislature, a case had been tried in the Court of Common Pleas of Dauphin county, between the Commonwealth and the railroad company, involving the question of the constitutionality of this tax, which was decided in favor of the State, and the imposition of the tax pronounced constitutional. In January last, another suit was tried between the same parties, in the same court, involving the same question, with a like result. In December last, a judgment was obtained in the District Court of Philadelphia, upon one of the semi annual settlements, for \$110,

000. So that judgment has been obtained for \$365,000 of the debt, being the whole amount which became due prior to 1860. The tax which accrued during the past year, amounts to \$308,820 08. The first settlement for the year is before the Dauphin county court, on an appeal taken by the company; and the second, or last settlement was made but a few days since, by the accountant department of the Commonwealth.

After the recovery, in the Common Pleas of Dauphin county, the cases were removed by writs of error, taken on behalf of the defendants, to the Supreme Court of this State, where they were argued in June last, and in October that tribunal sustained the decision of the Court of Common Pleas, and held the tax to be clearly constitutional; thus affirming with the law-making power in affirming the right of the State to tax a corporation under a law to which it owes its existence. But, notwithstanding this concurrence of opinion and action on behalf of the constituted authorities of Pennsylvania, the litigation is not yet at an end; for the railroad company has recently removed the cases, by writs of error, to the Supreme Court of the United States, where they are now pending. That the decision of that court will, when made, fully sustain the right of a sovereign State to enforce a contract between the State and a corporation, and entirely vindicate the power of a State to impose such taxes upon corporations as in her sovereign will she may deem proper, I cannot for a moment doubt.

To complete the history of this important litigation, and to show that every effort has been, thus far, made to compel the payment of this large sum of money into the Treasury of the State, it is proper to add, that the law-officer of the Commonwealth, being of opinion that the writs of error were not issued from the Supreme Court of the United States in time to prevent the collection of the judgment rendered in the State courts, executions were issued to the sheriff of the county of Dauphin, and proceedings are now pending in the Supreme Court of this State, to determine whether the Commonwealth can compel the payment of the judgments already recovered, before the final decision by the Supreme Court of the United States. The Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company having failed to negotiate its mortgage bonds in their present condition, the expectations confidentially entertained of an early completion of that most important improvement have not been realized. The work during the past year, however, although greatly retarded, has been continually progressing—upwards of one million of dollars having been expended on the line from November, 1859, to November 1860. The whole length of the road, from the borough of Sunbury to the harbor on the lake, at the city of Erie, is 288 miles; of which 143 miles are now finished and in operation, and 115 miles of the remaining portion of the line are graded, leaving but twenty-five miles yet to grade. Pennsylvania is largely interested in the early completion and success of this great thoroughfare, not only because she is the creditor of the company to the amount of three and a half millions of dollars, but for the additional and more cogent reason that the improvement, when completed, will open one of the most important channels of trade between the city of Philadelphia and the great lakes of the West, at the best harbor on Lake Erie, entirely within the limits of our own State, which has ever been contemplated. It will, moreover, develop the resources of a large portion of north-western Pennsylvania, abounding with the richest minerals, and a lumber region of unsurpassed excellence, which the magnificent hand of the State has hitherto totally neglected. By disposing of her branch equals to that company, in exchange for its mortgage bonds, the State has already largely aided in the construction of this great work; and it may be necessary, to insure its completion, that further legislation should be had in order to render the means of the company available. It is evident that a liberal policy, on the part of the government, will promote alike the interests of the Commonwealth, and the railroad company; nevertheless, great care should be taken to protect, as far as possible, the debt now due from the company to the State. If all propositions which may be made for a change in the securities now held by the Commonwealth, be carefully considered by the Legislature, and no more yielded than sound economy demands, with proper provision for the due application of whatever means may be realized, it is believed that sufficient relief can be granted to the company to enable it promptly to finish the road, while the security remaining will be fully adequate to insure the ultimate payment of the principal and interest of the bonds of the railroad company now held by the Commonwealth.

I commend this subject to the Legislature, one entitled to its most careful consideration, as well as of its vast importance to that portion of the State through which the railroad passes—to the cities of Philadelphia and Erie, and to the railroad company—as to the Commonwealth itself, promising that whatever policy it may be thought expedient to pursue, should be adopted solely with reference to the protection and furtherance of the public interests.

The attention of the Legislature is again invited to the subject of general education. At the present juncture it presents peculiar claims. The experience of a quarter of a century has satisfied the proverbially cautious people of Pennsyl-

vania of the adaptness of the common school system to their wants and condition. No less has the severe ordeal of the past three years shown its capability to endure those sudden reverses which occasionally prostrate the other interests of the community. Involving greater expenditure than the rest of the departments of government, and that, too, mainly drawn from direct taxation, it is a proud fact, that, while most of the enterprises of society have been seriously embarrassed, and some of them suspended, by the pecuniary crisis of 1857, our educational system has not been retarded in any appreciable degree. On the contrary, its operations have been maintained, to an extent which plainly indicates that our citizens fully appreciate its value. Contrasting its main results during the past year with those of 1857, we find that the whole number of pupils now in the schools is 647,414, being an increase of 44,422; these were taught in 11,571 schools, 621 more than in 1857, during an average term of five months and five and one-half days, at a cost of fifty-six cents per pupil, per month, by 14,065 teachers, being 529 more than in 1857. The entire expenditure of the system, for the past year, including that of the School Department, is \$5,938,550.80. These figures afford some idea of the magnitude of the operations of the system; but neither words nor figures can adequately express the importance of its influence upon the present, or its relations to the future.

In contemplating the details of a plan for the die training of the youth of a community, its large proportions and imposing array of statistics do not display the points of its greatest importance. Pupils may be enrolled by hundreds of thousands; school houses of the best structure and most complete arrangement may be dotted at convenient distances over the whole face of the land; the most perfect order of studies may be adopted, and the best possible selection of books made; but what are all these, without the learned and skillful, the faithful and devoted teacher? Without this animating spirit, all is barren and unfruitful. In this vital department, I am happy to announce that the improvement of the common-school teachers of the State shows more solid advancement, within the past three years, than any other branch of the system. This, therefore, being the point whence all real progress in learning and culture must originate, it is also the one to which the fostering attention and care of the public authorities should be mainly directed.

Our peculiar mode of training teachers under the normal act of 1847, has stood the test of practical experience, and, against the most adverse circumstances, has produced results decisive of its success. Already it has placed one institution in full operation in the south-eastern part of the State, equal in standing and extent to any in the Union. Another, with all the requirements of the law, has just applied for State recognition in the extreme northwest. I commend these noble and peculiarly Pennsylvania schools, to your favor. Aid to them will be the best investment that can be made for the rising generation. Good instruction for our children is the strongest earthly guaranty, that, whatever else we bequeath them, their inheritance will be a blessing and not a curse; and if nothing more is left, in the well-cultured minds, the willing hands, and the trust in God, of freemen, they will have all that is essential.

Nearly eleven thousand of our fellow-citizens are now devoting their efforts to the improvement of the common school system, as directors. Than this there is no more meritorious body of men. An increase of the annual State appropriation would not only be a material relief to the districts, at this time, but would to some extent disembarass directors in their local operations.

It is not, however, the common-school system, vast and honorable to the State as it is, that claims your entire attention in reference to education. Pennsylvania also boasts her collegiate, academical, scientific, professional and philanthropic institutions and numerous private schools of every grade. In this respect, she is second to no member of the Confederacy, but from mere want of attention to the proper statistics, she has thus far been ranked far below her just standard. The present is not the proper time to renew grants to institutions of these classes which heretofore received State aid. If it were, the public authorities do not possess the requisite data for a safe and just extension of liberality. The period will arrive when all public educational agencies must be included in one great system for the elevation of mind and morals; and when the State will, no doubt, patronize every proper effort in the good work.

For the details of the system, during the last school year, the attention of the Legislature is respectfully referred to the annual report of the Common School Department herewith submitted. I desire again, specially to call the attention of the General Assembly to the Farmer's High School of Pennsylvania, as an institution which proposes to accomplish an object which has never been attained in this country—the supply of a want which has ever been felt by the agricultural community: the education of their sons, at once, to scientific knowledge, habitual industry, and practical skill, to fit them for the associations of rural life, and the occupation chosen for them by their fathers. The gains of the farmer, however certain, are small. The education of his sons should, therefore,

be measured by the nature of his business. There seems to be no practical mode of cheapening education, but by combining an amount of expenditure, within the ability of the farmer, with the daily labor of the student, so as to make the institution so nearly self-sustaining as to bring it within the reach of that class who constitute so important a branch of the industry of our people. The original design of this school embraced the accommodation of four hundred students, a number essential to the economical working of the system; and, although the applications for admission are numberless, the utmost efforts of the trustees have not enabled them to complete more than one-third of the building, or to accommodate more than a corresponding number of students. Many individuals throughout the State, convinced of the merit of an institution which promises so much good, have contributed liberally to what has already been done; and the board of trustees have labored with a zeal which cannot fail to commend itself to the kind feeling of all our citizens. Scientific education has advanced the interests of every avocation of life—agriculture far less than any other—and for the manifest reason that it has not reached it to the same extent, and never will reach it unless the body be educated to the plough, as well as the mind to the philosophical principles which the plough's works develops.

I have always looked upon the Farmer's High School with peculiar favor, as well because of my own convictions of its promised usefulness as the favor which has hitherto been shown to it by the representatives of the people. Its charter requires an annual exhibition of its receipts, expenditures and operations generally, and these will doubtless be laid before you. (Concluded next week.)

OXEN FOR SALE. THE subscriber, residing near Ulysses Centre, Pa., has for sale on very reasonable terms, Three Yokes of Oxen. One yoke is four years old, and the others six. The cattle are well broken, and adapted to Farm work or lumbering. For further particulars, call at my farm as above, or address me by letter at Ulysses Centre, P. O. BARNEY HICKS.

WATERBURY'S BREWING. MRS. WINSLOW. An experienced Nurse and Female Physician, presents to the attention of mothers, her SOOTHING SYRUP. FOR CHILDREN TEETHING, which greatly facilitates the process of teething, by softening the gums, reducing all inflammation—will allay ALL PAIN and spasmodic action, and is SURE TO REGULATE THE BOWELS. Depend upon it, mothers, it will give rest to yourselves, and RELIEF AND HEALTH TO YOUR INFANTS. We have put up and sold this article for over ten years, and CAN SAY, IN CONFIDENCE AND TRUTH of it, what we have never been able to say of any other medicine—NEVER HAS IT FAILED, IN A SINGLE INSTANCE, TO EFFECT A CURE, when timely used. Never did we know an instance of dissatisfaction by any one who used it. On the contrary, all are delighted with its operations, and speak in terms of commendation of its magical effects and medicinal virtues. We speak in this matter "WHAT WE DO KNOW," after ten years' experience, AND PLEDGE OUR REPUTATION FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF WHAT WE HEREBY DECLARE. In almost every instance where the infant is suffering from pain and exhaustion, relief will be found in fifteen or twenty minutes after the syrup is administered. This valuable preparation is the prescription of the most EXPERIENCED and SKILLFUL NURSES in New England, and has been used with NEVER FAILING SUCCESS in THOUSANDS OF CASES. It not only relieves the child from pain, but invigorates the stomach and bowels, corrects acidity, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. It will almost instantly relieve GRIPING IN THE BOWELS, AND WIND COLIC, and overcome convulsions, which, if not speedily remedied, end in death. We believe it the BEST and SUREST REMEDY IN THE WORLD, in all cases of DYSENTERY and DIARRHOEA IN CHILDREN, whether it arises from teething, or from any other cause. We would say to every mother who has a child suffering from any of the foregoing complaints—DO NOT LET YOUR PREJUDICES, NOR THE PREJUDICES OF OTHERS, stand between you and your suffering child, and the relief that will be SURE—yes, ABSOLUTELY SURE—to follow the use of this medicine, if timely used. Full directions for using will accompany each bottle. None genuine unless the fac-simile of CURTIS & PERKINS, New York, is on the outside wrapper. Sold by Druggists throughout the world. Principal Office, 13 Cedar St., New York. PRICE ONLY 25 CENTS PER BOTTLE. Sold by C. S. & E. A. JONES, Condersport, Pa. 16-ly.

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