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STONE WANTS PUBLIC SCHOOLS PAID IN FULL

**The Governor Will Urge
an Appropriation to
Meet Deficiency.**

GREAT INCREASE IN REVENUE

**DELINQUENT CORPORATIONS MADE TO
PAY TAXES, AND A DEFICIENCY OF THREE
MILLIONS OF DOLLARS IS CHARGED TO
A SURPLUS OF TWO MILLIONS, AND THE
FULL APPROPRIATION OF \$5,000,000
FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS CAN NOW
BE MET.**

(Special Correspondent.)
Harrisburg, Oct. 2.—Governor Stone has completely taken the wind out of the sails of his critics, the Democrats and their insurgent allies, by a public announcement that in view of the present condition of the state finances he proposes to recommend to the legislature which meets in January that a deficiency bill be passed, so as to permit the payment in full of the complete appropriation of \$5,000,000 for the public schools.

It will be recalled that at the close of the last session of the legislature Governor Stone was informed that there would be a deficiency of about \$3,000,000 in the state treasury, owing to the failure of the legislature to pass certain revenue raising bills which he had recommended in order that the expenses of the state might be met.

The combination between the Republicans and the Democrats in the house defeated all the bills which Governor Stone and other influential Republicans proposed for the raising of revenue.

The defeating of these bills and the passage of many measures involving large expenditures of money resulted in a condition of affairs which involved the financial credit of the commonwealth. Governor Stone decided that the state must not undertake to pay more than its revenues would meet, and he accordingly cut down a number of appropriations and decided that the state could not pay the full amount appropriated for the schools until the revenues would justify that.

With Governor Stone's cooperation, Attorney General Elkin and Auditor General McCauley at once went to work to collect monies due the state from delinquent corporations and others, and the success which has crowned their efforts has been marvellous.

Respectfully yours,

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Tax on gross receipts of corporations | 145,000 |
| Bonus on charters | 148,000 |
| Collateral inheritance tax | 60,000 |
| Mercantile licenses | 300,000 |
| Personal property tax | 60,000 |
| Tax on bank stock | 28,000 |
| Premiums on foreign insurance companies | 128,000 |
| Total | \$2,580,000 |

DEFICIENT TAXPAYERS WAKENED UP.

It might be proper to add that this large excess of receipts is partly accounted for by the vigorous collection of delinquent taxes by the attorney general and auditor general's departments.

Third.—The deficit of about \$3,000,000 which existed at the beginning of the fiscal year 1899 has been fully paid.

The following appropriations, etc., remain unpaid:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Appropriation to the common schools | \$4,500,000 |
| Other appropriations passed by the last legislature | 700,000 |
| Due to counties on account of personal property tax | 475,000 |
| Total | \$5,675,000 |

AN ENORMOUS BALANCE.

Fourth.—There was at the close of business today a balance of \$6,785,677.11 in the state treasury available for current bills.

Fifth.—I think it can be safely estimated that there will be a balance in the state treasury at the end of the present fiscal year of not less than \$2,000,000 over and above any sums that may be then due.

The present satisfactory condition of the treasury is also partly due to the executive vetoes and reductions of the appropriations of the legislature of '99, as well as the economy which has prevailed in all the departments of the state.

Recapitulation:

Deficit in the treasury Dec. 1, 1898 \$3,000,000

Estimated surplus at the end of the present fiscal year \$2,000,000

Total \$5,000,000

Executive reductions of appropriations made by the last legislature \$1,500,000

Excess of receipts over and above amount estimated for the year 1899 \$900,000

Excess of receipts over and above amount estimated for the year 1900 \$2,580,000

Total \$4,980,000

Respectfully yours,

JAMES E. BARNETT,
State Treasurer.

Upon receipt of the above Governor Stone sent the following congratulatory letter to Col. Barnett, under date of Sept. 14:

"Replying to your communication of the 11th inst., I desire to congratulate you and the people of the state on the splendid condition of the treasury.

"In the statement of my reasons for reducing the appropriation to the common schools from \$11,000,000 to \$10,000,000, I said:

"If a large deficit did not already exist in our treasury on account of these appropriations and if the anticipated revenues of the state would justify their continuance I should most cheerfully give my approval to this section of the general appropriation bill."

"At that time the legislature had appropriated all of the estimated revenue for the years 1899 and 1900 and there was a deficit in the treasury of about three millions of dollars. After making all the reductions in other appropriations that justice would warrant, I felt constrained to reduce the school appropriation one million dollars for the two years to partially liquidate the deficit in the treasury and maintain the credit of the state.

"Owing to the great prosperity of our people and the activity of the auditor general and attorney general in making collections our revenue has greatly increased. The deficit in the treasury has been fully paid and there will be sufficient funds to warrant the payment to the school districts of the million dollars withheld from them in the last general appropriation bill; and if the legislature which meets January next shall pass a deficiency bill appropriating the one million dollars to the school districts for the years 1899 and 1900, I will cheerfully give it my approval. It is my intention to recommend this in my message.

Very truly yours,

WILLIAM A. STONE.

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