

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania: GENTLEMEN:—From the days of William Penn, the great and pious founder of our Commonwealth, it has been the universal custom of my predecessors, when making their annual communications to the General Assembly, to acknowledge their gratitude and dependence upon the Great Law-giver of the Universe. In imitation of their noble example, let us earnestly invoke His blessing and guidance in our efforts to perform the great work of legislation now before us, in such manner as to meet His approbation, as well as that of our common constituents.

In transmitting to you the seventy-ninth annual message since the organization of the present State government, it affords me the highest gratification to congratulate you and my fellow-citizens generally on their enjoying, to an unusual degree, the blessings of health and unstinted prosperity; and that our principles and institutions—the price and boast of every true-hearted patriot—although tried again in the crucible of a heated political contest, the heaving of popular passion, and the collision of parties, from which we have just emerged, remain unimpaired and vital in every part.

Under such auspicious circumstances you have assembled, for the purpose of discharging the important duties, and assuming the special responsibilities which devolve upon you, with the greatest care and attention, to enact laws that will fully meet the expectations and approval of all the people; but much of this difficulty may be overcome by avoiding the interests and being unimpaired of the magnitude of the interests of the State, and of its rapidly advancing population, wealth and influence to desire the realization of the great vision. A noble heritage was never given to man that should be squandered; and the political and political of the greatest importance, an area of more diversified with mountains, valleys, plains, rivers; mountains covered with majestic forests of valuable timber of almost every variety; plains dotted with comfortable homesteads, and luxuriant fields marked by the advancement of agriculture—the parent, supporter and stimulator of every species of industry, exchange and commerce; and the valleys with their fertile soil, and the various minerals; with farmers, mechanics, woolgrowers, coal and iron miners, oil producers, and merchants full of activity and enterprise, and thousands of miles of railroads and canals to transfer vast products to market, and accommodate the travel of four millions of happy and prosperous people. Nor should we forget the public charities, prisons, reformatories, the collection of properly imposed taxes, the speedy reduction of the State debt, the preservation of order, and the more certain protection of life, liberty and property. All these interests and perhaps others of equal importance, demand legislation of the most enlightened, liberal and comprehensive character.

In conformity to the requirements of the Constitution, it is my duty to invite your attention to such measures as are deemed necessary for your consideration, and to assure you of my willingness to share with you the anxieties and responsibilities of all legislation. I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, through the Clerk of your Honorable body, a copy of the following resolution, passed on the 12th inst., to wit: "Resolved, That the Governor be requested to submit some plan to the Senate to secure the State from loss by the accumulation of large amounts of surplus funds in the Treasury."

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Since making these suggestions, and maturely deliberating upon the subject, I have seen no reason to change my views in relation thereto, and would submit the same plan, more specifically set forth, based upon the following statement of the loans of the Commonwealth, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Description of loans and their amounts. Includes items like 'Amount of notes, including bank charter debt', 'Total in the Treasury during the year ending Nov. 30, 1869', 'Ordinary expenses paid during the year ending Nov. 30, 1869', etc.

It will be observed from the above, that part of the loans and part of the interest are paid at the Treasury, and part of both by the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund. This produces a complication of accounts; which in order to avoid, and to simplify the financial statement, I recommend that authority be given by law to charge the Commissioners with the whole amount of the State debt, and also with all the money applicable to the payment thereof, and that they alone be credited with all payments on both principal and interest of State Public Debt.

Table showing the nature of the indebtedness of the Commonwealth, on November 30, 1869. Columns include 'Funded debt, viz.', 'Unfunded debt, viz.', and 'Total public debt, Nov. 30, 1869'.

Reduction of the Public Debt. At the commencement of the present administration in January, 1867, the total outstanding indebtedness of the State was thirty-seven million, seven hundred and four thousand, four hundred and nine dollars and seventy-seven cents. Since then, and up to November 30, 1869, the sum of four million, eight hundred and eighty-nine thousand, eight hundred and eighty-eight dollars and fifty-two cents have been paid, and at five per cent, the sum of \$244,493 44, in interest, is annually saved to the Commonwealth. Consequently, the total amount of indebtedness of the Commonwealth on November 30, 1869, was thirty-two million, eight hundred and fourteen thousand, five hundred and forty dollars and ninety-five cents.

ing November 30, 1869, amounts to four hundred and seventy-two thousand four hundred and six dollars and eighty-four cents. The assets remaining in the Sinking Fund are as follows, viz:—Bonds of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, six million, three hundred thousand dollars. Agreeable to an act dated March 30, 1869, the Sinking Fund Commissioners delivered all the obligations of the Sunbury and Erie Railroad Company, being third mortgage bonds, to the Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, and received therefor thirty-five second mortgage bonds of one hundred thousand dollars each, making in all three million, five hundred thousand dollars, executed by the said Allegheny Valley Railroad Company, and guaranteed by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, the Northern Central Railroad Company, and the Philadelphia and Erie Railroad Company payable to the Commonwealth, viz:—

The principal of one of said bonds (\$100,000) shall be payable each and every year beginning January 1, 1870, and so continuing annually thereafter until the said bond is fully paid. The interest on the said bonds shall be paid, with interest thereon from January 1, 1870.

The citizens of Pennsylvania have always borne taxation not only patiently but cheerfully, and they are still as willing as ever to contribute to the payment of all the obligations resting upon the State, but they expect their public servants who are intrusted with the management of their affairs, to act with the most prudent and economical care, and to demand no more from the State, and as far as possible, the retrenchment of all unnecessary expenditures.

On the 30th of January last, replying to a resolution of the Senate, I said: "I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, through the Clerk of your Honorable body, a copy of the following resolution, passed on the 12th inst., to wit: 'Resolved, That the Governor be requested to submit some plan to the Senate to secure the State from loss by the accumulation of large amounts of surplus funds in the Treasury.'"

The peculiar interest which is always manifested by the people in the subject of education, is an inducement to lay before you, more at length than would otherwise be done, the principal statistics of the system drawn from the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools.

There are within the State 1,971 school districts; 13,936 schools; 2,445 graded schools; 12,900 school directors; 76 superintendents; 71,132 pupils; and \$15,733 per capita. The average cost of tuition for each pupil is ninety-seven cents per month. The whole cost of tuition for the year is \$3,500,704.26. Total cost including expenditures of all kind, is \$4,100,000,000.

Notwithstanding the fact that our school law was made general in the year 1848, it is remarkable that the State which has not yet conformed thereto. Hopes are entertained that four of these will soon accept the conditions of the law, and the remaining one, Hermit, will be brought under the control of the "Economic," having a good school of its own, will probably not adopt the public school system so long as the present organization of that society exists. It is, therefore, a subject worthy of hearty congratulation that our school system has been so universally adopted by the voluntary consent and general acquiescence of the people.

As important as charities to our common schools, the Normal schools are entitled to assume the front rank. Their flourishing condition may be understood from the following statistics: The whole number of students, that have attended the four Normal schools is 10,217, of whom 321 have graduated. During the past year there were in these institutions 76 teachers, and 4,178 students. Since my last annual communication to the General Assembly, has been fully established and recognized at Bloomsburg, Columbia county. Its buildings are of the most finished and substantial character, and it commences its career under the most auspicious circumstances. Another Normal school is now in a state of preparation at California, Washington county, and will probably be completed during the current year.

of elections, whatever may be his position or pretensions. And then every one who shall have performed his whole duty to sustain the interests of the State and to maintain the high dignity of her character, may return unpolluted and with a clear conscience to his constituents, who will receive him with open arms, and with the joyful exclamation, "well done good and faithful servant."

Liberal appropriations are made annually to our penitentiaries, lunatic asylums, and other charitable and beneficial institutions, without requiring from those who have received the money any satisfactory evidence that it has been faithfully applied to the objects intended. This is wrong, and should be corrected without delay.

All officers of the State who receive public moneys, not excepting the Governor required by law and usage to settle their accounts, on proper vouchers, in the Auditor General's office. This is a subject upon which it is good reason why the same accountability should not be enforced against all those who receive annually such large sums of money from the bounty of the Commonwealth. I, therefore, recommend that law be passed requiring all persons who receive and disburse State appropriations, to take proper vouchers for all moneys so expended by them, and to make quarterly settlements of the same in the Auditor General's office. This is important, not only to protect the interests of the State, but also the good name of those who receive and disburse the money, and of the members of the Legislature through whose hands the appropriations are represented to be procured.

For many years the general appropriation bills have been signed on the day of the adjournment of the Legislature, and I here repeat my suggestions of last year on this subject. The Governor has been forced either to sign the bills without proper investigation, notwithstanding any objections he may have; suspend the means of enforcing the provisions of the act for the ensuing year; or call an extra session of the Legislature. It is therefore earnestly desired that the appropriation bill be taken up, discussed, and passed at the early period during the session to enable the Governor to give it that thorough examination which is so essential to the common good.

Common Schools. The peculiar interest which is always manifested by the people in the subject of education, is an inducement to lay before you, more at length than would otherwise be done, the principal statistics of the system drawn from the report of the Superintendent of Common Schools.

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Your attention is again invited to the fact that there are about seventy-five thousand children in the State that do not attend schools of any description, and who are permitted to grow up in ignorance and without employment, and in many instances, from want of industrial and educational training become not only the votaries of vice, but a prolific source from which the inmates of our prisons and penitentiaries are supplied.

Many of the children throughout the State attending private schools, is estimated at eighty-five thousand. The aggregate of these educational condition of the children of the Commonwealth, may be thus stated: Attending public schools, 815,753; Attending private schools, 85,000; Not attending schools of any kind, 77,000; Whole number of children, 977,753.

mates by one hundred and seventy-five. The number of applications for admission on file and not acted on, was seven hundred and one; some from every county in the State except six.

The sanitary condition of the children in these schools has been remarkably good. And from the foregoing statement it appears that during the four years in which they have been in operation, the whole number of deaths has been less than one-third of one per cent, per annum.

The entire cost for maintenance, education, clothing and general expenses, for the year ending May 31, 1869, differs but little from the original estimate of the Superintendent, and amounts to \$509,971 62. To pay which there was appropriated: Unexpended balance of \$6,000 74; Appropriated April 11, '68 400,000 00; Appropriated March 13, '69 50,000 00.

For which sum there should be a special appropriation without delay, to meet the pressing wants of the teachers of the different institutions, who have been already compelled to await its payment for more than seven months.

In his last annual report, the Superintendent estimated the expenses for the current year terminating May 31, 1870, at \$494,760. The sum recommended for the year ending April 15, 1869, was \$450,000. As the Superintendent reports the expenses will not materially vary from his estimate, there will therefore be a deficit of \$44,700 for the current year, to be provided for during the present session.

For the maintenance of these schools during the year ending May 31, 1871, it is estimated that \$504,500 will be required. Which sum I recommend to be appropriated, with the proviso, that the exceeding of the expenditures shall not exceed that amount.

We are astonished by the rapid expansion of the system, and by the constantly increasing desire to obtain additional teaching tools, that some definite limit should be determined upon by law. It is therefore recommended that the indigent children of Pennsylvania soldiers, who served in Pennsylvania regiments, and who died prior to Jan. 1, 1866, from wounds received or disease contracted in the service of the United States during the late war, shall be hereafter admitted, and none other.

With unparagoned patience, well considered measures, and earnestness of purpose, many defects have been eradicated, and the schools have been advanced to a more perfect and efficient system than that by which they were at first conducted. It is therefore recommended that no similar institutions in the country. This humane and philanthropic service is being performed by intelligent officers and faithful teachers, which will be more fully appreciated by the people of the Commonwealth, so far as the volunteers of this State are concerned, in the camp and in the field, throughout the most terrific conflict of arms that has ever occurred in the history of the world.

The establishment of this college was undoubtedly intended as a progressive movement, and one that in its progress would contribute much to the easy acquisition of a combined knowledge of agriculture, science and literature, and to promote the practical education of the rural population of the Commonwealth. It has been fostered by the most liberal legislation, and is endowed with the sum of \$381,500, invested in United States and Pennsylvania bonds, yielding an aggregate interest of \$25,531 90, which has been paid to the trustees of the institution. Thus far the most satisfactory results from the workings of the college have not been realized. But it is now under the direction of a president, and in many instances, the education of its pupils only makes over the age of fifteen years, qualified for admission by a good common school education.

There are in present forty-five students, with a fair prospect of an increase in the number. Tuition, board and the ordinary necessities of life, are there furnished at a less rate than is generally demanded for boarding in the city. It is therefore recommended that the Legislature be authorized to appropriate the sum of \$25,531 90, which has been paid to the trustees of the institution. Thus far the most satisfactory results from the workings of the college have not been realized. But it is now under the direction of a president, and in many instances, the education of its pupils only makes over the age of fifteen years, qualified for admission by a good common school education.

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The military movement is one of importance to the honor of the Commonwealth, and to that of her citizens individually. It is the custodian of all the military records of the State, embracing that of every soldier, and the history of every military transaction performed by the State for the suppression of the rebellion. It has also in its custody all the regimental, State and National flags borne by our soldiers, and many trophies of war won by their valor on the field. All of which should be systematically and carefully preserved and perpetuated.

soldiers, and their relatives and attorneys, but by other States and by the War Department at Washington. All these circumstances, connected with the present flourishing condition of the volunteer militia in the State, induce me to request the continuance of legislation for the support of the Adjutant General's department, and that it may be generally supplied with such appropriations as have been requested by the Adjutant General for that office.

An unusual martial activity prevails throughout the Commonwealth, and especially in Philadelphia. The encouragement which has been afforded to the volunteer militia has been responded to with alacrity, and is exhibited as follows: In 1867, there were eight volunteer companies; in 1867, thirty-eight; in 1868, sixty-seven, and in 1869, one hundred and eighty-four. No less than one hundred and seven companies were organized during the year ending November 30, 1869, of which fifty-six are in Philadelphia, and fifty-one in other parts of the State.

This is a small but efficient and well equipped force, which, in case of riot, rebellion, or other public disorder, would be ready at once to imperil itself for the enforcement of the laws, and the protection of the lives and property of the citizens. It is, therefore, desirable that the Legislature should give the volunteers such practical aid as would, in some degree, compensate them for the time and money expended to maintain their organizations, in which the people are as much interested as the volunteers themselves.

The report of the State Historian is deserving of your careful attention. In your report you will find a detailed account of the operations of his department from its commencement to the present time. The work entrusted to his care is one of no ordinary character and responsibility, requiring talents of high order, and industry, careful research, and unbiased judgment. The labor to be performed is immense, and can only be properly appreciated by those fully acquainted with its magnitude. It is therefore recommended that the State Historian be provided with the necessary funds to enable him to perform his duties with efficiency and honor.

The work of the Historian, when completed, will embrace four large volumes, in which the name of every Pennsylvania volunteer will have its appropriate place. Two of these volumes are already completed, in a manner highly creditable to the progress and ability of the Historian. The third is rapidly progressing, and with a generous appropriation on the part of your honorable body the entire history will be executed. It is therefore recommended that the Legislature be authorized to appropriate the sum of \$100,000, to be used in the purchase of the necessary materials, and in the payment of the Historian's salary and other expenses.

Home for Disabled Soldiers. There is, probably, no State in the American Union that has contributed more liberally towards the support of charitable and benevolent institutions than that of Pennsylvania. The appropriations annually made for the benefit of the soldiers' orphans' schools, asylums for the deaf and dumb, blind and idiotic, and many similar establishments in which the poor, helpless and otherwise friendless are cared and provided for, reflect great credit upon the Legislatures who have donated the requisite means for their support. But the most noble and praiseworthy service, and the claims for which are more strongly urged by every principle of humanity and patriotism, than any other now in existence, which has not yet received the attention of your honorable body, is the establishment of a home for disabled soldiers.

This is a home for the soldiers who have "borne the battle" in defence of the Union, integrity and perpetuity of the American Union. No man living has a more powerful and noble sentiment, and a more noble and praiseworthy service, and the claims for which are more strongly urged by every principle of humanity and patriotism, than any other now in existence, which has not yet received the attention of your honorable body, is the establishment of a home for disabled soldiers.

The military movement is one of importance to the honor of the Commonwealth, and to that of her citizens individually. It is the custodian of all the military records of the State, embracing that of every soldier, and the history of every military transaction performed by the State for the suppression of the rebellion. It has also in its custody all the regimental, State and National flags borne by our soldiers, and many trophies of war won by their valor on the field. All of which should be systematically and carefully preserved and perpetuated.

tablishing in the State an insurance department similar to those existing in other States. But the Legislature has not yet given the subject that consideration which interests of such magnitude to the people seem to demand. Insurance departments in some of the States are regarded of paramount importance, as they effectually guard the interests of the insured, and through their labors influence frauds and swindlers, as common in Pennsylvania, are rendered almost impossible. The greatest benefits would certainly accrue to the companies and policyholders, as has been demonstrated in the States of New York and Massachusetts, where the subject of insurance has received the most careful study and attention, and been reduced to a science which commands the approval and confidence of the public. Protection, with full powers to organize and examine all insurance companies, is sanctioned by the wisdom of experience. And I have heretofore remarked, the result of the protection thus afforded, is that whilst foreign companies do immense business in this State, so little confidence is had in those of Pennsylvania that their business is almost entirely confined within the State limits, and even here foreign companies maintain an ascendancy. To this same defect is attributable the operations of the number of worthless companies that have suddenly sprung into existence without any solid basis, and as suddenly expired in the hands of those whose confidence they obtained, and to the dishonor of the Commonwealth.

In view of these facts, I earnestly repeat the recommendation made to the Legislature at its last session, that an insurance department be established, and a superintendent appointed by law, who shall have supervision and control over all insurance companies allowed to transact business within the State. The community is deeply interested in this matter, and demands legislative protection.

Our laws in relation to life insurance companies are defective and need revision and correction. Without the protection referred to these laws bear unequally upon our own citizens, and in some instances are being protected by legislative enactment, are enabled to transact an immense amount of business within the limits of this Commonwealth, whilst our companies, having no such protection, are driven to other States. The consequence is, that foreign companies can readily afford to pay a license of five hundred dollars to conduct their extensive operations in Pennsylvania, whilst our companies are compelled to pay the license tax in States where their operations are exceedingly limited. And yet these other States have retained upon our insurability, by adopting its provisions and demands from our country, careful research, and unbiased judgment. The labor to be performed is immense, and can only be properly appreciated by those fully acquainted with its magnitude. It is therefore recommended that the State Historian be provided with the necessary funds to enable him to perform his duties with efficiency and honor.

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of soot or carbon upon the frame work, it might result from the ascending sparks or from the heat of the furnace, and a conflagration ensue. To guard against this, it should be made obligatory, if the ventilating furnace be still allowed, to build the chimneys, the sides of the shaft, and the buildings surrounding it at the top with incombustible materials. But even this precaution is not a safe safeguard, for the fire is liable, at any moment, to communicate with the "fire damp" or other gas vapors that, despite of all known means of prevention, generate in the best regulated mines. The propriety of discharging entirely, therefore, with the furnace, has received the serious consideration of scientific miners and engineers, and the fan in that instance, has been substituted, which being worked by machinery at the surface, produces a more constant current of air, dispenses it more freely through the gangways and chambers, and, in all respects, accomplishes the object desired with better effect; and when the shafts and surface buildings are fire-proof, without the possibility of danger, this system of ventilation, with advantages so palpably obvious, will, no doubt, be universally adopted. But the very nature of the system, as it is now practiced, which resulted in the death of ten persons, hence it is absolutely necessary, and should be imperatively demanded, that every mine should have more than a single avenue of ingress and egress. Whether of the present design, or any other source of danger to which the mine is exposed, the surest promise of safety, whatever system of ventilation may be approved, or safety lamp adopted, the means of escape from the mines, when danger occurs, will depend upon the nature of the provision made for the exit of the mine.

The best method of constructing, ventilating and working the mines, should be unhesitatingly adopted; and the system adopted rigidly enforced. The inquiry, therefore, into the cause of the various accidents being a catastrophe—the various theories that have been promulgated concerning it, the remedies for the prevention of similar occurrences hereafter, the construction and ventilation of the mines, and the means of conducting their operations so that the operators may prosecute their labor without imperiling their lives, are proper subjects for legislative consideration.

In accordance with an act of the last Legislature, the Board of Public Charities has been appointed, consisting of the following gentlemen, viz: Gen. Thomas L. Kane, for five years; F. B. Pennington, Esq., four years; Hon. G. Dawson Coleman three years; George L. Harrison, Esq., two years; and Hon. Wm. Worthington, Secretary and General Agent. The Board is composed of the high character and qualifications of the gentlemen who have consented to assume its important trusts and responsibilities, we have reason to hope for the most beneficial results. This change in the management of our charitable affairs is deemed of the highest importance by many persons intimately conversant with the workings and management of these institutions.

A thorough review of the establishment of the Board of Public Charities, by the State by this board, will give an assurance to the Legislature and the people, which they have never heretofore possessed, that their benefactions will be worthily bestowed and properly employed.

Some time during the present session, a report of the condition and requirements of the various institutions that have been recipients of appropriations from the State, will be recommended to the Legislature, and, therefore, no information concerning them, except the annual reports of the superintendents, will at present be laid before you.

Inspection of Gas. At the last session a law was passed creating the position of Inspector of Gas, and in accordance therewith, I have appointed an inspector possessing the necessary scientific qualifications. The necessity for such a law has been long and extensively felt, and it has been earnestly demanded by a large number of highly respectable citizens, whose opinions are eminently worthy of consideration. I therefore respectfully recommend that the Legislature be authorized to create the position of Inspector of Gas, and to extend to such counties in which gas is largely consumed.

Revision of the Civil Code. The law on this subject does not contemplate a full report from the Commissioners to revise the general statutes of the State before the session of 1871. It may, however, be important to state that this work has so far progressed as to make it almost certain that it will be completed and ready for the press soon after the close of the present session, and will show me to bring within the code such of your enactments as may with propriety be incorporated.

The Commissioners will report to your consideration, the revised school laws, as well as the various bills that have been introduced, and which it would be inexpedient to reprint them when they might be superseded by others in the course of the current year. A general road law, and one for the support and maintenance of the poor, have been reported, and the frequent demands made for such enactments to correct many existing abuses, and supply a common public want, render it desirable that these enactments should receive your early attention. The State census will be taken during the year, and the law for its regulation having in some provisions not now required, a revised bill will be presented by the Commissioners for legislative action. In view of the changes which the revised code is expected to produce, it is desirable that no new laws of a general character be enacted than is indispensably necessary, as they might occasion a necessity for a revision of what has already received appropriate attention, and cause delay in the completion of the work.