

Staunton Spectator.

Tuesday, January 21, 1873.

Message of Governor Walker. Gov. Walker has sent a special message to the Senate, in response to a resolution from that body requesting him to give his views as to the best mode of raising money to pay the interest on the public debt and defray the expenses of the State, &c.

It recommends certain changes and reforms in the State government, thereby reducing its annual expenses to \$600,000. It recommends the equalization and correction of assessments and the more thorough assessment of personal property, by which the total assessed valuation of real and personal property will reach four hundred millions, the annual tax upon which is estimated at \$800,000, making a total source of \$2,800,000, of which \$400,000 is to be appropriated to schools, leaving a balance of \$2,400,000 available to pay the interest on the public debt, and pay the current expenses of the State government.

The Governor says the interest upon the bonds funded under the act of March 30, 1871, that is, the funding act, must be paid, and no mode of avoiding it can be devised, even if we desired it. He shows that the interest due and unpaid on these bonds on the 1st of January, 1873, and that which will fall due by the 1st of January, 1874, will amount to nearly \$2,000,000, which amount, added to other indebtedness falling due during the current year, makes a total of over \$4,200,000 to be provided for by the first of January, 1874.

The Governor concludes by saying that his opinion has been deliberately formed, and every calculation and estimate carefully made, and if his recommendations are adopted, every result stated will be realized.

The Valley Railroad. From the Baltimore Sun of Saturday last, we copy the following:

There are now in this city an important delegation from the Valley of Virginia, who have come here with the view of having reconciled the misunderstanding which has arisen with our finance commissioners, delaying payment of the city's subscription of \$1,000,000 to the Valley railroad, and by which the putting of the road under contract beyond Staunton is for the time frustrated. The delegation consists of United States Senator John F. Lewis, Hon. John T. Harris, of Harrisonburg, Col. M. G. Harman, of Staunton, Judge H. W. Sheffield, of Staunton, Col. Wm. Allan, of Lexington, Col. Edmund Pendleton, of Botetourt, Col. G. W. Hansbrough, of Salem, Capt. W. H. Tams, of Staunton, and James E. A. Gibbs, Esq., of Rockbridge.

This Valley road, as all the citizens of Baltimore believe, is to be one of the greatest importance to our city in the future; and when the city made its subscription, and the people ratified it on the condition of \$2,200,000 of additional stock being subscribed by other parties, it was no doubt in dead earnest on the subject, and expected thereby to secure this great work, carrying us through that rich valley clear down to a connection near Salem with the Virginia and Tennessee railroad, leading thence far away into the whole Southern and Southwestern country by the system of roads in that quarter. Those required subscriptions have been secured some time since, and now, as is known, the hesitation of our finance commissioners is an interpretation by the city authority of a certain provision of the ordinance about "no payment" on the city subscription being made until they be satisfied that the means are provided by "additional subscriptions of stock or otherwise" to complete the road. A writer in a Lexington (Va.) paper reasonably takes exception to the whole strength of the ordinance being centered in this one proviso, and says:

"It is known that the meaning and understanding of the framers of the ordinance, of most (if not all) the members of the council that passed it, of the then mayor who approved it, and every subscriber to the stock of the company, whether individuals, corporations or counties, was that in no possible way could the road be completed, except by mortgage, in addition to its stock subscription, and that the words 'or otherwise' in this proviso were inserted to meet this identical point."

As we have indicated before, the city could not have been otherwise than in earnest about this road, and hence this is a fair presumption in regard to the ordinance. Yet, while the technical interpretation given to one clause may be felt to be imperative by officials charged with its execution, there can hardly be a doubt that the spirit of the ordinance as a whole is broad and practical, with the purpose of insuring the construction of the road, and as it is estimated to cost nearly \$6,000,000, Baltimore will secure that expenditure by investing a single million on her part. If, on revision of the subject, a satisfactory solution cannot be arrived at, it is understood that application will be at once made to the mayor and council for a declaratory resolution on the subject.

APPOINTMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS.—Rev. Dr. W. H. Ruffner, superintendent of public instruction, has made an appointment of 25 cents per head of school funds, on the basis of the old census.

County superintendents are advised that they may use the old or new census, according to their judgment as to which is the more correct. On the basis of the old census, Staunton got \$418.75; Augusta county \$201.00; Rockingham \$215.00; Rockbridge \$145.25; Bath \$312.00; Highland \$332.25; Alleghany \$355.25.

The J. R. & K. CANAL.—We learn from Washington that the Committee of Commerce of the House of Representatives will report in favor of the application for Government aid in constructing the James River and Kanawha canal, with an appropriation of eight millions to begin with. Rumor says that the scheme is received with favor in quarters not heretofore looked to for support, and that its friends in Washington are in high hopes that it will be approved by Congress.

THE NEW MISSOURI SENATOR.—The Hon. L. V. Bogy, who has just been elected to the United States Senate from Missouri to succeed Francis P. Blair, starts with a good platform. In his speech, returning thanks for his election, he pledges himself to the support of economical government, decentralization, amnesty, and defense of local industry.

SHENANDOAH IN BARN.—The Shenandoah Herald says that the amount realized in Shenandoah from the sale of butter and eggs is more than sufficient to pay the entire taxes of the county. With this fact in view, it requires a vast amount of credulity to believe that Virginia could not realize her debt because her people are not able to pay it. Let the true sentiments of our people be known, and Shenandoah will not be classed with those in favor of repudiation of any kind. The people know what they are able to do better than many who presume to speak for them. Our people want an honest government, and do not believe in the policy of spending money to get rid of the payment of an honest debt. Straightforward, honest liquidation of our debt has been the policy of Shenandoah, and she is not willing at this day to adopt another.

We are gratified to re-publish the above admirable article from the Shenandoah Herald. It proves that the miserable demagoguism which is now so rampant in some portions of the State, finds no favor in the eyes of the people of the staunch old county of Shenandoah. Those men who, while they are thrusting their own arms into the treasury, to deposit it of money which they have not earned, and then raise a hue and cry about the poverty of the State, will find ere long that the people understand their tricks.

It really makes every right-thinking Virginian blush with shame, when he thinks of the degradation that has been brought upon his State by men professing to be conservatives. Repudiation, disguise it as you may, is dishonesty. Resistance to the judgments of our Supreme Court of Appeals is revolution. Better lose all we are worth, than sacrifice our honor. During the war, Virginia presented a noble spectacle to the world. There was no burthen which she was not willing to bear to maintain the cause in which she was engaged. She freely gave her sons, her horses and her cattle, her accumulated wealth—in a word, all she had, as a willing sacrifice on the altar of liberty. But what a spectacle does she now present! Many are now seeking to cover her with disgrace by making her the part of a swindling debtor seeking by every shift and device, to evade the payment of her honest debts. Verily the lamented Lee did not die too soon. He was at least saved the humiliating spectacle which his native State now presents to an astonished and indignant world. We trust the day of swift retribution will come to those who would sullify the fair escutcheon of proud Old Virginia!

The State Debt. The State is sick, very sick and every quack is putting forth his "only reliable panacea" for the disease. Most all are on the easy cure plan and dodge the great remedy "pay out." It would fill our paper twice over to publish all the remedies offered and kill a "boa constrictor" to digest them. We believe Old Virginia will yet rise in her might and pay her way out honorably, and we be to them who use temporary power to make her do otherwise.

The following from that Conservative old journal, the Abingdon Virginian, is the last plan, we have seen. "The State should recognize the whole debt at the market value of the bonds, collect as much in taxes as it can bear, and apply the amount to the liquidation of the principal, issuing coupons for the interest bearing interest, redeemable after the liquidation of the principal, or sooner, at the option of the State, notify the bondholders, that, on the 1st day of January each year proposals for the purchase of stock will be received, and that offered the lowest will be the first redeemed."

This view is also sustained by other papers and, we learn, meets great favor with the anti-fundlers in the legislature.

THE PLEA OF POVERTY.—The assessed value of the real and personal property of Virginia is, we believe, about three hundred and sixty millions of dollars. Our debt is about thirty-three millions, or about one-tenth of our property. A large sum no doubt, if, in the present impoverished condition of the State, she were called on at once to pay up the whole principal. But no such demand is made. All that is asked is the interest, according to contract. Suppose when the members of the Legislature apply for their per diem, especially that charged for the Christmas recess, they should be told that the State is too poor to pay it! How would they like this application of their own logic?

A PRACTICAL VIEW.—The Richmond Enquirer thinks the "best way to get out of our present embarrassed condition would be for every farmer to come to a fixed determination to buy no moreinery for his daughters on credit, to make his sons support themselves, to hire but few laborers on his farm, (no more than are necessary in connection with the family labor,) to sell all the land that he cannot conveniently cultivate, and to get out of debt as rapidly as possible." Farmers may not only get out of debt in this way, but, persevering in it, will in time get rich. Indeed, to be out of debt is richness itself.

SPEAK OF REBELLION.—There is a menace of war in Vermont. Three counties of that State, Chittenden, Franklin and Grand Isle, complain of an unequal and excessive valuation of their real estate. A convention of Franklin county taxpayers has voted to resist the levy of taxes, and if they persist, the State will have to deal with the case as open rebellion. It is expected that there will be no occasion to call out the militia, as the brigadier generals are sufficiently numerous to put down the insurrection.

Capt. G. G. Gooch, one of the most enterprising merchants of West Virginia, concluded, on the 17th inst., a contract with M. L. Lobbitz to build for him a handsome store house at Goshen by the last of March, and he will soon build in Staunton. He is a clever gentleman and an enterprising man, just the kind we want to become citizens of our city.

The news of the great storm continues to be received from Minnesota. Whole herds of cattle were caught in the storm and frozen to death. A man named Christopher left Glyndon, Minnesota, for home, on Tuesday night, and was found under the snow frozen to death. A young man named Berry, of the same neighborhood, shared a similar fate.

Goodloe, at Goshen, keeps one of the best houses in the State and makes many improvements in the Spring. Goshen is looking up, and when "Calf Pasture" becomes a county with Goshen as the county seat and Goodloe as County Judge, it will be as attractive a place as we need go to for law, order and comfort.

The Sioux and Pawnee are at war. High ways generally have prevailed throughout the Valley,.... Wytheville wants a Town Hall.... A bill is before Congress for the improvement of New River between its mouth and the lead mines in Wythe, to cost \$750,000. The gold crop of Virginia last year exceeded a million dollars. Judge Charles G. Lane, of Hagerstown, Md., committed suicide. A party of young men recently travelled 510 miles on skates on the Mississippi River. Two lashes is the penalty for every pound of turkey stolen in Georgia. When Brigham Young dies, 37 widows will mourn his loss. For nearly two months snow fell every day at Portage Lake, Michigan. American wood-working machinery is awarded first premiums in Europe. A colored woman near Earlysville, Albemarle, produced three boys at one birth last week. Rev. Wm. Hobart Hare has been made Episcopal Bishop to the Indians. Adam Link, of Union, Jefferson co., aged 75, died on 4th. The Charlottesville W. Va., people are agitating the liquor question. Beecher's pews rented for \$60,230.50 for this year. The old Court system has gone into operation in W. Va., and everybody rejoices. It is now said that Napoleon died from the chloroform given him to relieve pain. Reeves S. Scruggs, of Bedford, died there recently. The Strasburg brass band recently delighted the Moorefield people, with a visit. The agitation over the Capital question has ceased in West Va. The preliminary survey of the Texas Pacific Railroad is progressing satisfactorily. Santa Anna, the Mexican hero, has gone to Vera Cruz. He is nearly 70 years of age. Only one person in sixty-one is comfortable in England. Comfortable means \$600 a year. The confession of Mrs. Sherman, of Connecticut admits the poisoning of eight persons. A bill calling a Constitutional Convention in May has been passed by the Ohio Legislature. A full famine is apprehended in portions of the Northwest. Mrs. Charles Sumner lives in Venice, it is said, because Charles bored her to death, reading up her speeches to her. In his annual message, the Governor of Illinois says that State is substantially free from debt. A hundred and seventy-six negroes started from Atlanta, Ga., on the 1st inst., to settle in Arkansas. Wm. Johnson, aged 18, was killed by a falling tree, near Kernesville, Jefferson co., on 9th. The printers everywhere are liberally responding to the appeal for a Type Metal Statue to Horace Greeley. Lower Valley Terms.—Land is selling at from \$22 to \$42 per acre in Clarke and Berkeley.... A tree 4 feet through was cut down by the ice freshet at Harper's Ferry.... Over \$12,000 have been subscribed to Martinsburg's new daily paper. Winchester asks for a charter for a R. R. from the Potomac to the Coalfields via herself.... Mrs. Ross Richmond committed suicide in Berryville recently.... Foxes are plentiful in Lower Valley.... Dr. Besser is increasing his Winchester revival to Staunton proportions.... The levy for Frederick is 8 cts on \$100, and 50 cts on titubables. BOTETOURT.—The Herald reports some damage along James river by breaking up of ice.... Capt. H. C. Douthat has sold his farm to Jas. B. Moore for \$6,800.... A revival is in progress in Fincastle.... The rumor of death of C. W. Wolfe is incorrect.... R. P. Kyle qualified as Sheriff with H. R. Burger, M. S. Caboon and Sam'l Hedrick as Deputies at last Court. A special grand jury found indictments against Harvey Oley, Jas. Oley and Henry Thompson for arson, and against Chas. Wallace for house breaking.... The people are biting McAdams road.... Chas. W. Spittle, aged 24, died of consumption on the 12th, and Mrs. Jady Echols, on the 11th, aged 38.... A drunken man contributed \$5 to the county on last Court-day.... Much sickness reported, and one man has the epilepsy.

The Legislature. The votes taken on the interest bill indicate that the six per cent rate will be adopted. The amendment allowing persons to contract for any rate not exceeding nine per cent, was defeated in the Senate on Wednesday last, and reconsidered and again defeated on Friday. Attorney General Taylor has given the First Auditor, Mr. Wm. F. Taylor, a written opinion to the effect that no legislation on the part of the General Assembly is essential to make coupons now receivable for taxes—the Supreme Court of Appeals having decided that the act prohibiting the reception was unconstitutional. In the House on Thursday, under suspension of the rules, Mr. Hill had leave to introduce the following joint resolution, which was placed upon the calendar: Resolved by the General Assembly, That the auditor of public accounts do and he is hereby instructed not to issue any instructions to the collectors of taxes in regard to the reception of coupons for taxes until some plan of settlement of our financial difficulties shall be adopted by the General Assembly.

"The play of Hamlet with Hamlet left out"—the chartering of an icebergs [Home and making no appropriation to carry it on. Is there a man with the courage to propose such an appropriation will \$5,000 in the Virginia Legislature?

New Advertisements. Wall Papers at Cost! In order to make room for Spring Stock we will sell our LARGE ASSORTMENT of WALL PAPERS AT COST FOR CASH! until 1st of March. Prices—From 7 cents to 22 cents per roll. HUNTER & CO., Booksellers, Staunton, Va.

9999 GOLD PENS—Fairchild's celebrated Gold Pens—a variety of styles, for sale by HUNTER & CO. A good assortment of POCKET BOOKS, POCKET KNIVES, Fancy Inkstands, and Paper Weights, at HUNTER & CO's, Booksellers.

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