

DEMOCRATIC BANNER.

"UNITED WE STAND—DIVIDED WE FALL."

VOL. 2.

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Governor's Message.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

GENTLEMEN—Your body—the fourteenth General Assembly elected since the formation of our State Government—meets again to consult about the interests of the people.

Our constitution provides "that the Governor shall, from time to time, give to the General Assembly information in relation to the state of the government, and shall recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall deem necessary and expedient." In discharging my duty under this provision, I shall notice some matters very briefly, which it will become necessary to explain more in detail as your session progresses.

Since the last meeting of the Legislature, the State Government has moved on in its usual peaceable and quiet course. The laws have been generally respected and but little resistance has been any where made to their faithful execution. Every proper effort has been made to bring offenders to justice: and but few have thus far eluded the vigilance of our officers, or escaped the merited penalties of the law. The pecuniary engagements of the State, except some delay with her own officers, have been every where promptly met and discharged.

An action was commenced, during the last year, against one of the citizens of the City of Jefferson, to recover a lot covered by the New Madrid or De Lisle claim.—Several efforts were made to employ counsel to defend the suit, as required by an act of the Legislature, passed in 1841, but the defence was not undertaken—the fee being deemed inadequate to the responsibility to be assumed in undertaking the case. The suit now stands continued; and, as it involves the title to much property which has been sold by the State, it may require further attention from the Legislature.

The Northern boundary case still remains unsettled. Preston Mulnix, for whose defence against the charge of exercising the duties of his office of Sheriff, over the disputed territory, an appropriation was made by the last Legislature, was pardoned by the Governor of Iowa, before coming to trial. The agreed case, provided for by another act of the same session, between the State of Missouri and the State of Iowa, as then supposed, about to be admitted into the Union, was never made up; the State of Iowa refusing to accept the conditions upon which Congress agreed to admit her into the Union, and thus failing to qualify herself to become a party to the suit. At the last session, Congress provided for taking the case to the Supreme Court of the United States; but since then, Iowa has adapted another Constitution, and before the boundary question can be settled, will probably be admitted into the Union. When Iowa is admitted into the Union, the United States may no longer be a party to the case, and her admission may thus interfere with the settlement of the question again. If, further legislation seems to be required on this subject, an agreed case between the two States, as provided by the last Legislature, may be the proper measure.

In connexion with the foregoing subject, it may be proper to observe, that although some excitement has prevailed among the citizens along the border, yet the friendliest feelings seem to have existed between the authorities of the State and Territory; and a most anxious desire to have the question of boundary amicably and speedily settled.

The last Legislature passed a law distributing the five hundred thousand acres of public land granted the State, among the several counties, share and share alike. I had serious objections to this bill, and found much difficulty in giving it my sanction; and being satisfied that a large majority of both branches of the Legislature were in favor of the bill, and not being satisfied that the veto power should be extended to such a case, although it amounted to little more than the mere delay of a measure, a bare majority being sufficient to pass any measure over the veto, it was finally approved.

Since the adjournment of the Legislature, I have been induced to examine this subject more attentively; and, although I would prefer a different disposition of the fund, and would now recommend a repeal of the distribution law, yet I am less dissatisfied with the measure than I was at the time of its adoption. It carries out fully the intention of the grant, the lands being both granted and distributed for purposes of internal improvements. The roads, bridges, causeways, levees, embankments and other works which may be constructed by the counties, may benefit more people, and may give additional value to more public lands, and more of that value, and may bring more public lands into market, than the application of the five hundred thousand acres to any one, two or three of our large rivers, where nature has already done much for the country; and where the best of the public lands have already been sold. It is not uncommon, however, for that country which has been favored with a good navigable stream, to think itself entitled to the public

funds to improve that stream, while the country which is destitute of any navigation is denied even the means of bridging and improving the common roads.

It has been urged that the counties would not make the best application of this fund; if it were certain that they would do so, then that should be a conclusive argument in favor of the distribution law, because it is very certain the State will never make a proper application of it. Public funds are seldom properly applied either by States or the United States. They are funds to be wasted. This has been proven by almost all experience.

If the Legislature should repeal the distribution law, then the proceeds of the lands could be applied to the improvement of the Osage, Grand, White and the Current rivers, and the southern swamps, in such a manner as to be of much service to the several sections of country in which the money is applied. No extensive improvement, however, of a permanent character, could be made with so small a sum divided between so many objects; yet such improvements as are best adapted to the condition of the country, and such as would answer our purposes till an increase of wealth and population justified a larger expenditure and other improvements, might be made with the proceeds of the distributed lands, if properly expended. The improvement of these rivers would be of great service to the people interested in diminishing the cost and danger of sending their produce to market, and in bringing back the merchandise received in exchange. It would be of great service also to the State, by enhancing the value of the property within the influence of the improved rivers, and thus increasing the revenues. One of the richest, most interesting and best located parts of the State—the south-eastern corner, embracing several counties—might be greatly improved by some small appropriations judiciously applied, in making roads, and for other purposes. The plan of asking alternate sections, to enable the State to reclaim the submerged part of that country, is probably the best which has been suggested for that purpose, and the Legislature would do well to urge the matter upon the attention of Congress, in the shape of a memorial. South Grand River, lying beyond the limits of our territory, is an object which cannot be improved by the State, and yet the improvement of that river is a matter of the greatest importance to several of the south-western counties. The propriety of bringing this subject to the attention of Congress, is also recommended.

The action of the General Government in reference to our large navigable rivers, is found to be of the most uncertain character. If one Congress makes an appropriation, several others may fail, and by the time the work of improvement is fairly in operation, all hands are stopped, the boats are laid up to rot, and the benefits of the improvements made are mainly lost for the want of continued attention. The obstructions in the Missouri and Mississippi are of two kinds—the bars & snags. The first are troublesome only in low water; and the Missouri, and perhaps the Mississippi too, might be improved by dredging. In the Missouri, the bars are generally short, and are formed of light, loose sand, which gives way easily before a rapid current.—The time which each steamboat loaded a little below the depth of water, spends in dragging through one of these bars, would be sufficient for a boat properly constructed to open a channel, which, in most cases, would continue to improve till the next rise in the river. No work of this kind would be permanent in the Missouri; yet there is probably no other river upon which such a work would be so easily performed and at so little expense, compared to the value. If we reflect that hundreds of boats are stopped for hours on the same bars, and that all are heavily laden with rich freights and many passengers, and detained at heavy costs; and that one dredge at half the expense of an ordinary boat, could remove the obstruction, and let the steamers pass without loss, expense, injury or detention, then we can form some estimate of the value of such a mode of improvement.—The next obstructions are the snags, made of the green trees, with heavy roots, which fall from the washed banks, and roll to the deep channel, and there settle and fasten in the mud and sand. The number of these snags is constantly increasing. A trip along the river will show thousands of trees which a heavy freeze in the winter and a sudden thaw in the spring, or the annual flood in the summer, will add to the snags which already impede the navigation. So that if the river were cleared of snags tomorrow, it would be full again by the last of July. These one thousand trees could be removed from the banks of the river, roots and all, for one thousand dollars, if removed before they fall into the river; but

if they are suffered to fall and fasten in the deep channel, the U. States would not remove them for less than twenty-five or fifty thousand dollars; and the State could not for less than five or ten thousand. Such is the importance and necessity of attending to this matter in time. Only that timber which is likely soon to fall should be removed. Nor should the timber be deaded near the banks. The green roots protect the banks. Clearing farms to the water's edge is ruinous to the farms and to the river.—The farms are washed off, the river is widened, the water is dissipated, the bars are multiplied, and the channel filled up.—Some governments protect their lands and people by the construction of dikes and levees. Ours might protect the river, and the bottom lands, and the people to some extent, by saving the timber along the margin of the river. These matters are respectfully recommended to the consideration of the Legislature.

It is believed by some men informed on the subject, that for five or ten thousand dollars, the snags in the Missouri river to the north western corner of the State, could be removed from the channel so as to let boats pass free of obstructions of that character at all stages of water. From the best information in my possession, I am disposed to concur in the above opinion, and would at least recommend the matter to the consideration of the Legislature. Several plans for removing the snags have been suggested by citizens of the State, some of which may be communicated to the Legislature if perfected and presented during the session. An ordinary snag boat could be constructed, or perhaps one could be procured from the General Government, if that government has one of a draught sufficiently light for the purpose. Such a boat should be kept at all times upon the river to operate upon dangerous and difficult points as they are discovered. The increased speed of the vessels, the advantage of being able to run at night, the additional safety for boats, cargo and passengers, and the diminution of freights, would well justify such an expenditure.

Of the seventy-five thousand dollar loan, authorized by an act of the last Legislature, to meet an estimated deficiency in the revenue for the last two years, thirty thousand dollars were procured—twenty from the Branch of the Bank at Jackson, and fifteen from the Branch at Palmyra—the mother Bank and their branches refusing to loan any sum—being forty thousand dollars less than the act authorized the Executive to borrow. The bonds for these sums have been renewed, and other renewals will be necessary unless means are provided to pay them off.

The revenue from taxes for the last two years amounted to \$320,753 60. The ordinary expenses of the State government for the same period—including the expense of holding the State Convention, about \$15,000—amounted to \$247,274 78. This shows an ordinary revenue above ordinary expenses of \$73,478 82. The bonus and dividends from the Bank, for the same period, were \$29,817 27; and the interest upon the State bonds outstanding, not including \$35,000 due the Jackson and Palmyra branches, amounted to \$142,000, for the same period. This makes an excess of interest on State bonds over the income from the Bank to the State of \$113,182 73. The ordinary receipts and expenditures for the next two years, and the income from the Bank, and the interest upon the State bonds for the same period, may not vary far from the statements for the last two years. If not, the excess of ordinary revenue, added to the income from the Bank, will fail to meet the interest upon the State bonds, for the next two years, by \$38,703 91. To meet this sum, it will be necessary to provide for a permanent increase of the revenue. In addition to this sum, the Bank claims from the State \$95,000, the most of which is interest paid upon the bonds sold to raise capital for the Bank; and the branches at Jackson and Palmyra hold the bonds of the State for \$35,000 as above stated—making, in all, a debt of \$130,000, for the payment of which provision should be made.

Only three bonds of one thousand dollars each, were sold under the act of the last legislature, authorizing a sale of bonds bearing a rate of interest not exceeding eight per cent. for the redemption of the ten per cent. bonds, redeemable in 1846 and after. With the proceeds of these bonds, six five hundred dollar ten per cent. bonds were redeemed. No other bonds were sold because no offers were made to take them, which were then deemed reasonable; and because it was believed at that time that the new constitution would be adopted, and that it would be advisable to invest a portion of the school fund created under that instrument, in the redemption of these State bonds. The act authorizing the sale of the bonds was also deemed defective in not pro-

viding a place for the redemption as well as the payment of the bonds. Since the rejection of the new constitution, however, the whole amount of the bonds issued under the act of the last legislature, has been offered for sale at eight per cents., at par; and, judging from the correspondence with the bondholders, the probability is, that the tens now redeemable will be exchanged for eights, except a small amount which should be at once redeemed.

The part which the State has taken in the war now being waged between the government of the United States and that of Mexico, and the action which it may be necessary for the legislature to take on matters connected with that subject, will form the material for a separate message, at an early stage of the session. It may be proper to add here, that Missouri has shown herself ready and willing, and prompt to meet every requisition for troops, having sent one of the first volunteer regiments to Texas, two regiments and two extra battalions to Santa Fe, and having raised a third regiment, one of the largest and best which has been organized during the war, also for the Santa Fe expedition; the regiment to Texas being footmen, the two first for Santa Fe, horsemen; one of the extra battalions foot and the other horse; and the last regiment for Santa Fe, footmen. But nine companies of the last regiment reached Fort Leavenworth, the place of rendezvous, when they were ordered by the War Department to be paid off and honorably discharged, with the assurance that they would be called for if more troops were needed in that direction, and they desired the service. They were discharged because the commanding General informed the War Department, from Bent's Fort, on the first of August last, that the forces then under his command were sufficient to take Santa Fe, and because the urgency of the service did not seem to justify the trouble, expense and hazard of marching troops across the plains at so late a season of the year.

The present war has drawn the attention of many persons to the character of our military system. This is found to be utterly useless. The system is a subject of ridicule and burlesque, and is calculated to bring—what is intended to be a serious preparation for the defence of our country—every effort to discipline the militia of the State, into utter contempt. Our militia officers, many of whom have exerted themselves to introduce some sort of organization and discipline, and who have had cause to examine the whole subject throughout, are well satisfied of the fact above stated, and for the honor and interest of their country, have regretted the existence of a system so defective.

It is idle and useless, in time of peace, to force men to perform military duty who do so against their will. Such men prefer a farce, while on parade and under duty, to any serious preparation to defend their country; and being generally in a majority on such occasions, they not only refuse to learn themselves, but prevent even very competent officers from learning others—they not only refuse to be subject to the order and discipline of the soldier, but they teach disobedience and disregard of all order and discipline. And, although no good, but much harm, is the result of forcing such men to perform duty, yet the system imposes a heavy tax upon that part of the community capable of bearing arms. Each man subject to duty under our system, is required to muster four times annually. Estimating the value of his labor at but fifty cents per day, this loss of time is equal to a tax of two dollars per year upon every man capable of bearing arms; and where the service is rendered reluctantly, it amounts to a clear loss both to himself and his country.

It is better to require military duty of such men only as discharge it voluntarily, and as a matter of choice. The service of the balance, whenever they prefer it, should be computed for a small tax. Let each man who prefers it, join a volunteer company, and serve regularly in that for a given number of years, and then be discharged. And let each man, who prefers the other course, pay his small tax annually, and get a full exemption from military service in time of peace. Let the money thus collected be applied to the support, encouragement and discipline of the volunteer companies. Let it be expended in the purchase of colors, musical instruments, and particularly in the instruction of musicians, the purchase of books of discipline and the laws, rules regulations of the army for each officer, and in the employment of a few competent drill officers, and for other purposes, such as time and experience may prove necessary. It is believed that such a system would be much less expensive than the present one, and much more efficient and useful.

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arms from the United States. Very few of the arms received are fit for efficient service. The common gun smiths of our country, with very inferior preparations and machinery, make an article much more efficient and servicable than the guns received from the United States armories where they should have the best mechanics and the very best machinery for making them. Prepared as our armories ought to be, with good machinery, good materials, and good mechanics, an inferior gun should never be distributed. This subject is important, and merits attention. To send our countrymen to war with defective arms, is to send them to the slaughter pen, to be butchered.

In two years which has passed since the meeting of the last Legislature, a reasonable share of the blessings of a kind Providence has been bestowed on our country. In the first, the crops were generally good; in the latter they have been more varied, in some places being superabundant, in others abundant and in others short, as the rains happened to be more or less plentiful or the drought great; but enough has been made to supply our wants and much to spare.

We have a rich soil and a climate adapted to the growth of many products, and with proper culture and favorable seasons, the husbandmen reap abundant harvests. Yet it is a fact, which it is needless to disguise, that, which our rich soil and genial climate and all our industry, care and economy, we are not a prosperous and thriving people—the great mass of us are not growing in wealth, nor accumulating many of the comforts or even of the necessaries of life.

The causes of this want of prosperity, are various. The mass of us have not yet learned enough. For want of more skill and science, and better implements of husbandry, we do not cultivate the soil to the best advantage. The people of some other countries make more, and better articles, from inferior soils, than we produce from our rich lands. We sell our productions with the rudest preparations for market, and of course at the lowest prices, while others prepare them for consumption and re-sell to us, and of course at the highest prices. We make too much of the same articles, or of the same class of articles, and thus reduce the price by glutting the market and destroying the demand for our products; while we make none of another article, or class of articles, equally necessary to supply our wants and thus we create a market and a demand for those articles and enhance the prices. In this way our system reduces the price of all that we make to sell, and enhances the price of all that we have to buy. Almost our entire population are engaged in agriculture, and partly in consequence of this, our corn, wheat, hemp and tobacco brings us but little wealth, and our beef and pork, horses and mules, pay but little more than the bare expenses of raising them. The tariff of our own and other countries cripples our foreign trade in some articles, and destroys it in others. What is intended to be our home market—our domestic manufactures—proves to be no market at all to us, partly because it is not at home. It costs about as much to send our products to Massachusetts as it does to send them to Europe; and, if it cost us nothing, the eastern manufactures would always be mainly supplied by their neighbors, before our produce could reach them. We not only make less for want of more skill, but many of us often sell for less, for want of more information; and the shrewd speculators not unfrequently make more in a few weeks, by dealing in our products, than the producer makes by the whole year's hard toil. Another disadvantage under which we labor, is that we sell almost every thing we produce at its first and very lowest price, and before any of the profits of trade have been attached to it; and that every thing which we do not produce, we buy at its last and very high price, and after all the profits of trade have been attached to it. Another and a greater evil, is that there are many valuable articles, and necessary ones to supply the wants of life, which we do not pretend to produce at all, or else produce but partially. Of this class are the various manufactured articles. We do not avail ourselves of any of the advantages of the improved machinery of the age—the labor saving machines as they are aptly called—of the money making machines as they might be more appropriately called. We depend on physical labor, and reject the superior advantages of mental labor—we depend on brute force, and reject the advantages of skill and science.

These disadvantages under which the mass of our population labors, might be remedied to a great extent: 1st, by encouraging the common school; 2d, by increasing the variety of our pursuits; 3d, by establishing manufacturing and 4th, by improving our roads and navigable streams. The common school would prepare our population to apply their labor to the best advantage, to make and use the improved machinery of the age, and to avail themselves of the benefit of skill and science in all their operations. An increase in the variety of our pursuits, would diminish the amount of loss

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