

INDIAN DIFFICULTIES.

During the past year we have had our usual difficulties with some of the Indian tribes residing within our borders. In the month of May last several petitions were presented from a large number of citizens residing in Tehama County, representing: That a band of hostile Indians, inhabiting the eastern portion of that county had committed a number of murders and destroyed a large amount of valuable property, and, that the houses of Col. Stevenson and Mr. Hooker had been destroyed by fire, and the lives of seven human beings who occupied them, sacrificed. A public meeting was held at Tehama, also at Red Bluff, at which resolutions were passed invoking the aid of the State authorities. A company of United States Infantry had been sent to that vicinity with orders to catch the Indians and turn them over to the civil authorities. Being satisfied that no good whatever would result from an expedition of that character, I directed Adjutant-General Kibbe to muster into the service of the State a full company of volunteers. General Kibbe placed himself at the head of this force and proceeded at once to chastise those Indians, who had for several years been committing outrages upon the persons and property of our citizens. After several engagements, in which some two hundred Indians were killed, the remnant of the tribe (say four hundred and fifty souls) surrendered and were transported by sea to the reservation at Mendocino. They are there comfortably located, and it is hoped they will not again give us trouble.

As the Adjutant-General has not yet reported to me, I am unable to give you a detailed account of his operations and the expenses incurred. These, no doubt, will be furnished you in due time. The campaign was eminently successful, and great praise is due to General Kibbe and the gallant and patriotic officers and soldiers for the manner in which it was conducted. They have, indeed, rendered the State great service, and it is hoped that the Legislature will make an appropriation to remunerate them and to cover the other expenses of this Indian war. The State should pay troops called into its service instead of sending them to the Federal Government. It should present the claim against that government and urge its payment.

It is also my duty to inform you that, during the past summer, the Indians residing between the North and South Forks of Eel River, in Mendocino County, killed several of our citizens and destroyed a large amount of property. Satisfied, from their movements and repeated depredations, upon the representation of the county authorities and other persons, I was compelled to direct Captain W. S. Jarboe to organize a company of twenty men to pursue and break up this band. He has succeeded, to a great extent, in accomplishing this object. I am not aware of any recent disturbance in that quarter, and hence an order has been issued disbanding the force.

It is very difficult to devise any plan which will either protect or preserve the Indians within our limits, or prevent them from committing outrages upon the persons and property of our people. In many localities inhabited by these tribes, the game has been killed or driven out, and herds of cattle are now found there. The Indian, whose occupation is that of hunting, when unsuccessful in the chase, and pinched by hunger, steals from the miner or settler, and a whole tribe, to which he belongs, are denounced thieves, and pursued as such. It is quite likely that many of our difficulties with the Indians grow out of the imposition or outrages perpetrated upon them by degraded white men, with whom they are too often brought in contact. In this way hostilities are provoked, and good citizens are compelled to suffer the consequences.

For particular information on this subject you are respectfully referred to the correspondence which will be transmitted to-day with a special communication.

to advance private, rather than the public, interest, are frustrated. Whenever you find a strong lobby influence brought to bear in favor of a particular measure or claim, it will be well to give it your closest scrutiny before it receives your sanction. A greater portion of those laws which in past years embarrassed the treasury and seriously affected the public interests, were passed through the extraordinary efforts of lobby members.

It is exceedingly unfortunate that we have so many persons in this State who take but little interest in the administration of public affairs. This grows out of the fact, that a large number have come to seek their fortunes and then return again to their homes to enjoy them. Many, too, engaged in business, transmit their annual earnings to their families in the Atlantic States, and intend to depart as soon as a certain amount is realized. It cannot be expected that men thus situated care much about the present or future prosperity of the State. When our people bring their families here, settle down and look upon this as their future home, we may expect more stability in public sentiment and a diminution in the influence of itinerating politicians.

He who expects to find the Executive chair an easy one will be sadly mistaken. It is difficult, indeed, in a community like ours, where so many duties are imposed upon the Governor, and where there are so many conflicting elements at work, to administer public affairs satisfactorily to the people. His efforts to promote the general good, will not always be properly appreciated, and his motives will sometimes be misunderstood or misrepresented by the designing.

He has patronage to bestow, and this, in a community where applications for office are very numerous, is a fruitful source of difficulty. I have seen enough of public affairs to satisfy me, that frequently when an officer devotes his whole energies to the correction of a public abuse of long standing, there is a large and influential class in society who are once charged that he is acting from personal and other than patriotic motives; in other words, that he is seeking to advance his private interest, instead of the public good. Indeed, there seems to be a great many men here who think that selfishness alone controls the action of public officers, and that there can be no such motive as a sincere desire to promote the prosperity and happiness of the people. The faithful officer, although his labors may not be appreciated by his fellow citizens, will have his reward in the consciousness of having honestly discharged his duty to his country.

But to me, the cares, troubles, and anxieties of this office are over. They are to-day transferred to another, and I hope they may sit more lightly upon him than they have upon me. I trust, also, that he may be able to do more for the permanent interest of the State than I have accomplished during the past two years. That I have committed errors, is undoubtedly true, but I think they will prove of such a character as not to affect seriously the prosperity of the State.

I came into the executive office wholly unacquainted with its duties, and with but little knowledge of State affairs. I had been a greater portion of the six preceding years absent from the State, and during that time my mind had been absorbed in the exciting questions which were then being agitated upon a different theater. I do not, therefore, feel humiliated by the confession that I have committed errors. It is to be hoped, however, that the kindly feeling which the good people of California have always extended to me, will prompt them to throw the mantle of charity over them, and do me the justice to believe that I have served them to the best of my humble ability.

Allow me, in taking leave of you, the representatives of the people, to say that in the private walks of life, my constant prayer to the Giver of every good and perfect gift, will be for the peace, prosperity and happiness of our beloved State.

JOHN B. WELLER.

PLACER HERALD SUPPLEMENT

ANNUAL MESSAGE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
Sacramento, January, 1860.

Members of the Senate and Assembly:

It affords me pleasure to have an opportunity of again addressing those to whom I have been intrusted by the People with the Legislative Department of our Government. The Governor has, from time to time, recommended to your predecessors that they should be careful to reform abuses and diminish expenditures, but they have generally failed to receive either their sanction or attention. It is, upon reviewing my Annual Message of last year, it is found that a large number of the recommendations of this character received no consideration whatever. It was, no doubt, supposed by those who formed the Legislature, that it was their duty to communicate, by message to the Legislature, at every session, the condition of the State, and recommend such matters as he shall deem expedient, that from his position, where he could overlook all the operations of the government, he would be able to point out the evils which retarded our progress, and suggest appropriate remedies. The Legislature seem to have acted upon a different principle, or it may be that that department had very little respect for the opinions of the present Executive. They no doubt, over-estimated what they considered to be their duty, and, as with the departments of the government, derive power directly from the people, each, acting independently, and within its appropriate sphere, must be held responsible to the tribunal of public opinion.

FINANCES.

Although the expenses of our State Government, during the past year, have been much more than they ought to have been, nevertheless, it affords me pleasure to inform you that the Treasury is in a prosperous condition.

Amount of money received in the Treasury from Jan. 1st, 1859, to Dec. 15th, 1859,.....	\$1,170,833 03
Expenditures during that period.....	216,182 22
Exhibiting an excess of receipts over expenditures of.....	\$954,652 81

The interest upon our Public Debt was promptly paid, during the past year, amounting in the aggregate to two hundred and ninety-six thousand one hundred and eighty-eight dollars and fifteen cents. During that period the Treasurer of State, under the law of 1857, purchased outstanding bonds to the amount of fifteen thousand dollars. The Board of Examiners, in the meanwhile, under the Act of 1858, purchased twenty thousand dollars of said bonds, which have been properly indorsed, and placed to the credit of the Seminary Fund. This reduces the amount of outstanding bonds to three million eight hundred and fifty-six thousand dollars.

The old issue, for the payment of which no provision has yet been made, amounts, with the interest thereon to the fifteenth of last month, to one hundred and seventeen thousand six hundred and ninety dollars and thirty cents. In addition to this, there are Controller's Warrants which have never been paid nor bonded, amounting to five thousand one hundred and two dollars and twenty-five cents, which, together with claims admitted by the Legislature of 1857-58, (fifteen thousand eight hundred and fifty dollars and fifty-one cents) and the certificates of land sales, (twenty-five thousand one hundred and forty dollars and fifty-eight cents) make, in the aggregate, one hundred and sixty-three thousand seven hundred and eighty-four dollars and twenty-six cents. This will make the whole amount of our indebtedness, both legal and equitable, four million eighteen thousand seven hundred and eighty-four dollars and twenty-six cents. This is exclusive of the Indian War Debt, which is

ties, perhaps, where the burdens of taxation, owing to the inequalities of our revenue system, bear so oppressively on the landholder and those engaged in certain industrial pursuits as in this.

At the last session, acting upon the report of the Controller, a general revision of the revenue laws was recommended. The experience of the past year, has satisfied me that this will be impolitic, and that a few amendments will answer all purposes. As these laws are now pretty well understood by those charged with their execution, it is better not to make any radical changes. A good sufficient clearness in the details of the law does not define with sufficient clearness the duties of the officers in the collection of this revenue. Laws of this character have to be executed sometimes by gentlemen of limited education, and therefore the greater precision should be observed in defining their duties. It will be found upon examination that some of these acts are very vague, indefinite, and difficult to comprehend. Others again are in direct conflict with former acts. Take for instance the "Act concerning County Assessors," passed March 27th 1850, which fixes the term of office at one year, and the "Act concerning officers," subsequently passed, which states that this officer shall be elected at the general election in 1851, and every two years thereafter. One of them, should certainly be repealed, which the poll-taxes are collected. While there are, at least one hundred and fifty thousand persons subject to this tax, only forty thousand, taking the report of the Controller as the basis, have paid. If this law had been enforced, and collections promptly made, this tax alone would have yielded sufficient revenue into the treasury, to pay the interest on our public debt. In some counties very little attention appears to have been paid to this law. The whole taxes from this source, collected this year amount to twenty-four thousand five hundred and seventy-two dollars and seven cents more than the preceding year. The county of San Francisco, with a voting population of some six thousand more than Sixtyon, pays two thousand nine hundred and eleven dollars less poll-taxes. Seven counties (Butte, El Dorado, Nevada, Placer, Sacramento, Siskiyou, and Tuolumne) pay more than one-half the revenue derived from this source.

In view of this state of facts, I recommend that the collection of the tax be imposed upon the Collector instead of the Assessor, which, in my judgment, will materially increase the income. In this connection I deem it proper to call your attention to the necessity of reducing the expenses of collecting the revenue. In some counties, it will be seen by reference to the report of the Controller, that we pay as high as forty per cent. for collections. The expense of living has diminished very much since the act fixing the compensation of revenue officers was passed, while the facilities for traveling have been vastly increased, and therefore a reduction ought to be made in the rates allowed. Notwithstanding the reductions which I have recommended in the rates of taxation generally, it is to be regretted that it is not believed that if the government is wisely and economically administered, there will be a surplus over expenditures. It is our policy to pay interest upon bonds, when we have money lying idle in the treasury. Steps ought to be taken to the earliest moment to extinguish our debt.

Your predecessors were informed that a suit was pending in the Supreme Court of the United States, in which the constitutionality of an act in regard to the tax to be levied and collected upon foreign and inland bills. In the crowded condition of business before that tribunal, it is feared that the case cannot be reviewed in a year, as the Court refused the application of our counsel (Messrs. Benjamin and Howard) to take it up out of its regular order.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The annual reports of the Treasurer of State, the Controller, the Secretary of State, the Attorney-General, the Surveyor-General, the Register, the Commissioners of Reform Schools, the Directors of Insane Asylums, the Trustees of the Orphan Asylum of San Francisco, and also a statement of the financial condition of the State Agricultural Society, are herewith transmitted. The act of April 18th, 1858, donating money to certain Asylums, requires the Trustees or Directors, to report to the Governor once or before the 20th of December, a detailed statement of the expenditures of the

subjected to inconvenience and delay, can properly appreciate the necessity of this.

On one occasion, in my last Annual Message, to recommend a division of the State into districts, for the purpose of electing Representatives in Congress. Notwithstanding the laws of the United States require the election in the reason, that it is not only the best plan, but all of our sister States elect in this manner. As the census is about to be taken by the Federal Government, and it is hoped that our representation in Congress will be increased to at least 150, the duty of dividing the State will properly devolve upon the next Legislature. Your California is fully represented in that body, without first those measures which are so essential to her welfare will be adopted.

HOSPITAL FUND.

We have had a great deal of legislation upon this subject, under which great abuses have been practiced, and the Legislature finally passed the act of 1859, which is now in force. Section second reads: "That the Hospital Fund, together with all moneys collected for the benefit of said fund, shall be set apart by the State Treasurer, for the purpose expressed and directed in the first section of this act, and after the first day of April, 1859, shall be divided and apportioned among the counties of this State, in proportion to the population as ascertained by the census of 1855; provided, that until the official returns of the next census shall be made, the pro rata distribution shall be made upon the highest average vote of the different counties as returned to the Secretary of State's office at the last general election; and said fund shall be paid over by the Treasurer of the State, on the warrants of the State Controller, who shall issue such warrants upon receiving the order of the Board of Supervisors to the County Treasurer of each county. The Board of Supervisors of each county shall use the same for the support and care of the indigent sick in their counties, and for no other purpose, and shall render a semi-annual account of the use made thereof to the Controller of State, to be presented by him in a condensed form in his Annual Report. The amount appropriated after the first apportionment, shall be due to the counties on the first Mondays of March, June, September, and December, of each year."

This is a very unfair and unequal distribution of the fund. Some three or four cities contribute nearly all that goes into the fund, while because of their location with reference to the northern and southern winds, an undue proportion of the indigent sick are thrown upon them. The basis of distribution is in itself unjust. Again, the law ought to define what benefit of the fund, and the county of his last legal residence should be charged with his support. The time I think has arrived when poor-houses should be established in some of the counties, and as an institution of this character might not be desirable at present in all, it is recommended that authority be given to a vote of the people at the next election upon the question of authorizing the Board of Supervisors to levy a special tax for the purpose. As we have a very large number of cases of acute fevers, together with fever, for want of any other place, to the Insane Asylum, the establishment of such houses would relieve this institution from the care of a class which does not properly belong to it. As there is more money now paid into the Hospital Fund than can be usefully expended, it is recommended that one-half of the fees received upon commissions and other sources be paid hereafter into the Hospital Fund.

WINES AND BEER.

The manufacture of these articles has become a very important interest in our State, and the whole power of the Legislature should be used to prevent their adulteration. It is well known that a considerable number of persons are engaged in adulterating liquors to the great injury of those engaged in the culture of the grape. The grape-grower in attempting to gain a reputation abroad for his wine, is constantly injured by spurious articles manufactured at San Francisco and elsewhere. In fact, a goodly portion of the so-called wine consumed, within our own limits, never came from a vineyard or a wine-press. It is well established that it is dangerous to life, are used in adulterating liquors in common use, and it is not doubted hundreds have fallen victims to this practice. This evil exists to an alarming extent, particularly in our large cities, and therefore your attention is respectfully directed to it.