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Daily Alta California, Volume 3, Number 32, 2 February 1852 — MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2 or. Bigler'a Special Message. [ARTICLE]

MONDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 2.

Gov. Bigler's Special Message.

Want of room has compelled us to prefer remarking upon the message of Gov. Bigler which we published a few days since, but we gladly take the first opportunity to do so. It is a well written, lucid, and able document. Its statements of the financial condition of the State, and the suggestions presented in connection therewith, are exceedingly pertinent, and must command the careful attention of the Legislature, if that body have the slightest desire to promote the permanent progress of the commonwealth.

The total debt of the State, on the twenty-first of December last, was \$2,242,339.74—as follows :

Civil debt outstanding.....	\$796 963 95
War Bonds "	212 000 00
War Loan Warrants outstanding	233,375 79
Indian Expeditions, (estimated)	1,000,000 00
Total.....	\$2,242,339 74

The remarkable feature in this statement of the public indebtedness is that relating to Indian wars. Whilst the whole civil debt of the State is only \$796,963.95, the war debt is \$1,445,375.79, of which \$445,375.79 has already been ascertained and adjusted, and \$1,000,000 is estimated as the cost of the Indian expeditions which have been conducted during the past summer. This enormous expenditure is entirely the fault of the inefficient protection afforded us by the General Government, and is not in justice or in equity a demand against the State, and we are therefore glad to find Gov. Bigler taking the position that it is the duty of the United States to pay the expenses incurred in repelling Indian depredations.

The arguments which the Governor adduces, and the examples which he cites, are conclusive upon the subject.

Were this extraordinary indebtedness on account of Indian hostilities assumed by the U. S. government, the remaining civil debt could be easily funded at seven per centum, and the State would be speedily relieved from the onerous taxation which now afflicts her; and could we, in addition to that, procure the return of the duties collected under the military government, the State would be at once relieved from all financial disabilities and embarrassments.

By an act of the last Legislature the Comptroller was authorized to fund \$700,000 of the State indebtedness, at the rate of seven per cent. per annum interest. Under this law, \$379,500 has been funded. The Governor recommends that the law be so amended as to permit Comptroller's warrants of any date to come within the province of the law, in order that bonds may be issued for the remaining \$320,500, in sums of \$100, \$200, \$300, or \$500. The suggestion should certainly be adopted, as ample provision has already been made for paying the interest upon the whole \$700,000.

The Governor says that the respective Treasurers of the counties of Calaveras, Klamath, Sonoma, San Luis Obispo, Tuolumne, Mariposa and Trinity have not paid a dollar into the State Treasury during the past six months, although the Department has been advised that, in most of those counties, the inhabitants have cheerfully paid their taxes.

There is one suggestion made by the Governor which strikes us as particularly judicious and just, and that is, the making Comptroller's warrants receivable in payment of dues to the State. Independent of all other considerations, the State is bound in honor to accept its own obligations in payment of its own demands, and any law which contravenes

such course is a practical repudiation, which is as wrong and unworthy as it is unnecessary and impolitic. The effect which such practices inevitably produce upon the public mind are so justly described in the following brief paragraph from the Governor's message, that we cannot forbear quoting it:—

In a financial point of view, too, it cannot be doubted that the system now in force operates injuriously upon the pecuniary affairs of the State. The injustice of the requirements to receive nothing but gold and silver, notwithstanding the taxpayer may hold an ascertained and adjusted indebtedness of the State, is by many deemed so flagrant, that even well disposed persons, in view of it, are inclined to resist what they very naturally regard as illegal and burdensome exaction, and seek to avoid the payment of taxes, which, under other circumstances, would be cheerfully contributed. I cannot do less, therefore, than to earnestly recommend that the law be so changed as to authorize and direct collectors of taxes to receive these Warrants.

ARRIVAL OF THE CLIPPER TRADE WIND.—The magnificent clipper ship Trade Wind, under command of Capt. Osgood, arrived last evening, from New York. She has performed the trip in 121 days, during the greater portion of which time she reports calms and head winds. The Trade Wind is one of the largest and most superb ships that has ever entered this port. Her model is elegant and graceful, and her capacity for carrying enormous. She is registered at 2029 tons, and has on board 2800 tons of measurement goods. Her dimensions are 244 feet length, 43 feet breadth of beam, and 23 feet depth of hold. Her run to Cape Horn occupied 60 days, where she was detained 10 days by heavy gales, and 18 days from the line to this port. She has been off the harbor, with light weather, four days, and has had a pilot on board two days. She comes consigned to Messrs. Ritchie, Osgood & Co.

THE STOCKTON JOURNAL.—We have, on several occasions, noticed this sheet, and the vindictive spirit which it has displayed toward the Alta, and felt surprised that, among the editors of that paper, Mr. Wilson should be one to lend encouragement to, or countenance in the least, the unjust imputations

which have been brought against the integrity of our motives, that gentleman having for many months corresponded with this paper, and possessed advantages for communication with or through its editors which should have afforded him an insight into its private as well as public character. We say we are surprised that, without bringing a shadow of proof to sustain the dishonorable accusations which are made or implied, they still persist in their mysterious, vague, and ungentlemanly allusions. We challenged these libellous editors to specify and sustain a single charge against the Alta, but they have replied in indefinite, vapid, and malicious finuendoes. We shall not again notice through our columns their assaults, and we advise the editors of the Stockton Journal to discontinue them.

HAVANA AND THE CRITTENDEN EXECUTION.—In another column will be found a highly entertaining chapter, treating of Havana, and commenting upon the closing events of the late Cuban revolution. It is from a gentleman of talent and observation, and the views which he expresses regarding the recent difficulties in Cuba are the same as those we have entertained on the subject.

IMPORTANT BILL.—We acknowledge the receipt, from the Hon. Mr. Wood, of a copy of the bill introduced by him into the Assembly, for the purpose of amending the act now in existence prescribing the mode of assessing and collecting the public revenue.

STATUTES OF CALIFORNIA FOR 1851.—We return our thanks to G. KENYON FITCH, Esq., State Printer, for a copy of the "Statutes of California, passed at the second session of the Legislature." It is in the royal octavo form, well bound and printed.

PUB. DOC.—We tender our thanks to Hon. Mr. McCorkle, M. C. from this State, for a copy of the President's Message.