

Trinity Journal, Volume 1, Number 6, 13 January 1855 — THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE. [ARTICLE]

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THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

The Message was delivered to the Legislature on the 5th inst., and we received a copy of it on Sunday, the 10th, through Cram Rogers & Co.'s Express. The document is extremely lengthy, but could not well have been curtailed, and at the same time have done justice to the numerous topics of public interest of which it treats. We regret that we can only give our readers extracts from the most important portions of it.

After the usual congratulatory remarks upon the prosperity which the State has enjoyed during the past year, it gives us an exhibit of the State Finances, from which we learn that the total amount of State debt unprovided for on the 20th of December, 1854, was \$1,284,142 23. Total amount of reduction of State indebtedness since December 20th, 1853, \$1,717,303 47.

In connection with the foregoing truly encouraging exhibit of the financial condition of the State, I cannot refrain from expressing the hope that you will, during the present session, by the passage of judicious enactments, warrant the announcement that California has not only made ample provision for the speedy payment of her entire debt, but has also matured and adopted salutary reforms, so far lessening necessary and legitimate State expenditures, as to render entirely unnecessary, in the future, the contraction of indebtedness by her agents, or the levying a tax exceeding thirty cents on each one hundred dollars of valuation for the support of Government.

Prompt and judicious action on your part being alone now wanting to secure all that is desired in the premises, I sincerely trust that you will, without delay, consummate measures so much required, and thus fully realize the cherished expectations of our common constituents.

INDIAN WAR DEBT.

By reference to the report of the Comptroller of State, it will be seen that on the 20th of December, 1854, the War Debt, interest included, amounted to the sum of

\$1,030,530 33

Amount appropriated by Congress,

924,259 65

Excess over appropriation, \$116,280 68

Congress having assumed the debt, and directed the Secretary of War to examine into and settle the same, will unquestionably provide for the payment of the balance. Indeed, I have ever regarded the entire War Debt as an *apparent* rather than *real* debt of the State; the General Government being clearly liable for the payment of every cent of it.

SAN FRANCISCO WATER FRONT.

Although fully satisfied that the rapidly increasing commerce of San Francisco, will, in a very few years, require for its accommodation, an extension of the entire Water-Front of the city, and that it can and will be consummated without the least injury to the harbor; it would, perhaps, for the present, be advisable only to authorize it at the several points where all now concede it may be safely done.

The extension at points, as proposed, although but partial, will, it is believed, place under the control of the agents of the State, a sufficient amount of property, if judiciously disposed of, at proper intervals, to liquidate the balance of her indebtedness.

LIQUIDATION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT

The sale of a sufficient amount of the property of the State to liquidate her entire

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indebtedness is recommended.

The liquidation of our entire debt, at this time, as proposed, would not only save to the State a large sum of money, and justify a reduction of taxation, at the present session, equal to at least thirty cents on each one hundred dollars of assessment, but it is confidently believed, would in other important respects, promote immensely the prosperity of California.

The announcement to the world that this, the youngest member of the Confederacy, with her vast and unequalled resources of individual and State wealth, is exempt from public debt, and consequently free from onerous taxation, would, it is believed, largely increase the immigration to our shores of a hardy, industrious and enterprising population; thus opening new sources of commerce and wealth, and forming a powerful and much needed element in the destiny of prosperity and greatness which awaits this young State.

CIVIL FUND.

The amount expended by the State prior to her admission into the Union, I have no doubt, can be obtained during the present session, if proper representations be made to Congress. In order to effect this important object, I would respectfully recommend that a certified statement of the expenditures be prepared and forwarded, without delay, to our delegation in Congress, accompanied by a memorial setting forth the facts of the case, and asking the General Government to refund the same.

AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION.

With a view to lessen the expenditures of Government, and justify a proportionate reduction in the rates of taxation, I respectfully renew and earnestly invoke your attention to the recommendations made in my Annual Messages of the years 1853 and 1854, in relation to amendments to the Constitution of the State, which are regarded as highly necessary and important.

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Some of the proposed amendments, as remarked in my last Annual Message, are deemed necessary, in order that the instrument may the more perfectly conform to the spirit of our popular form of government; others, as conducive to simplicity and economy in the administration of its affairs.

By the adoption of the reforms proposed in my Annual Messages of 1853 and 1854, it is believed that an annual saving to the State will be effected, exceeding in the aggregate the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand two hundred dollars, as follows, viz.:

By biennial sessions of the Legislature,	\$171,000 00
By reducing pay of members to eight dollars per diem, and mileage one-half,	110,000 00
By limiting session to ninety days,	43,200 00
By reducing cost of transportation of prisoners, from one dollar to fifty cents per mile,	10,000 00
By reducing Governor's salary to six thousand dollars,	4,000 00
By reducing salary of Supreme Judges to six thousand dollars	12,000 00
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	\$350,200 00

In engrafting on the Constitution the amendments believed necessary, I would again recommend the mode prescribed in the first section of the tenth article of that instrument.

By adopting this mode of amendment, the expense of a convention, amounting to not less than three hundred and fifty thousand dollars, and the excitement incident, will be avoided, and the changes required to free the Constitution of objectionable features secured in a shorter period of time than by the other mode, provided in the second section of the same article.

A curtailment of Legislative expenses is also recommended.

FEES OF OFFICE.

The law of 1851 should be amended in many respects, but the most important change demanded is a reduction of the fees of the

to a fair standard.

The services for which fees are allowed can now be performed at much less expense to the officer than at the date of the passage of the act, and there exists no good reason why a reduction should not be made; on the contrary, every consideration of regard for the interests and wishes of the people, demands a speedy relief from this burden of taxation,

The subject is, therefore, without further remark, commended to your careful and favorable consideration.

In this connection, I would also respectfully recommend the repeal of so much of an Act entitled "An Act to regulate proceedings in civil cases in courts of justice in this State," as relates to attorneys' fees, in all cases, matter of contract, and payable by clients.

SWAMP AND OVERFLOW'D LANDS.

I would recommend the adoption of proper measures to secure all the land granted, and also judicious legislation for their disposal by agents of the State, with such limitations, restrictions and requirements as may be regarded necessary to protect the rights of all interested.

Since the donation of these lands to the State in September, 1850, hundreds of enterprising citizens have located upon them, and at considerable expense and labor, made valuable improvements.

Justice to those who have thus heretofore hereafter to make similar selections and improvements, requires legislative action to secure occupants in their possession, on the most liberal terms consistent with the requirements of the act of Congress. In truth, the more liberal the terms, so as to effectually secure the object of their donation, the more certain and prompt will be their reclamation and improvement.

I have heretofore recommended the donation of swamp and overflowed lands to actual settlers, in fixed quantities, upon the same terms that the State receives them from the General Government, and would still favor that plan, if it were possible by individual enterprise, to secure compliance with the act

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of Congress, and by the construction of levees and drains, effect their reclamation.

But consultation with persons now located upon the overflowed lands, as well as more careful examination and reflection, have satisfied me, that, in order to secure fully the accomplishment of the object of their donation, it will be necessary to establish a fixed price per acre, not exceeding one dollar, and authorize warrants to be issued, for fixed quantities, as was done in the case of the School Lands.

PUBLIC LANDS IN CALIFORNIA.

A careful examination of the subject has fully satisfied me, that all who give it consideration will be best subserved by a cessation of the State of all the public lands in California.

The policy of making the public lands a source of revenue to the General Government, has, for the last quarter of a century, been opposed by many of our wisest statesmen, as contrary, not only to the true interests of the people, but of the Government itself.

The plan of disposing of them at a cost barely sufficient to defray the necessary expenses of the land office, of survey, etc., thus placing a homestead within the reach of every man at a mere nominal price, has not only been regarded with favor by the people, but has shaped and moulded the character of our laws in relation to the public domain.

It is recommended to the Legislature to memorialize Congress to relinquish to California any claim which the General Government may assert to unsold public lands in the State.

PROTECTION TO ACTUAL SETTLERS.

Judicious legislation for the protection of actual settlers on the public domain, is a subject of deep interest to a large and enterprising portion of our fellow citizens. It is demanded by the wants of the people—and by the present unsettled condition of land titles is rendered actually necessary to the permanent welfare of the State.

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More perfect security in the homestead is required to insure the complete development of the agricultural resources of the State and secure the prosperity and happiness of her citizens.

COMMON SCHOOL EDUCATION.

The great and growing importance of an efficient system of Common School Education, embracing in its benevolent and comprehensive design the whole people, irrespective of condition in life I rejoice to be enabled to assure you, is properly appreciated by the citizens of this young State—as the progress made during the past year in its organization abundantly demonstrates.

The increase in the number of Schools organized and children in attendance exhibit a state of things truly gratifying to the friends

of popular education, and evidences the fact that our people are fully alive to the importance of early education, and not unmindful of the many real blessings of which alone it is the source.

In 1853, the whole number of Public Schools was 51; number of Teachers, 57; number of Children reported, 10,953; number attending School, 4,193.

In 1854, number of Schools, 167, being an increase of 116; number of Teachers, 213— increase, 156; number of Children reported, 20,075—increase, 9,122; number attending School, 9,773—increase, 5,580.

The early and decided action on the part of the Legislature to secure the speedy selection of the lands appropriated to the Public School Fund, is strenuously urged.

ESCHEATED ESTATES.

Although I have heretofore, and more than once, invoked the Legislature to adopt the measures necessary to secure for the State, the Lienesdorff and other estates, believed to have escheated to the State of California, amounting, in value, in the aggregate; to more than *two and a half millions of dollars*

the recommendation has not as yet, in any effectual manner been sanctioned, and the agents of the State have been left without the necessary means to secure the rights and protect the interests of the people in this highly important matter.

If unwilling to litigate these cases and have these estates declared in legal form, to have escheated to the State, you can by a carefully framed legislative enactment, direct the sale of the State's interest in them, and in the same act, or another, if deemed more proper, authorize purchasers to institute in her name, proceedings for the recovery of the property in the United States Courts, or any other of competent jurisdiction,

Careful examination of the questions involved has fully satisfied me that these vast estates rightfully belong to the State of California, and that efficient measures should, without delay, be by you adopted for their recovery.

THE MINES.

From this portion of the Message we learn that there were during the past year, eighteen Quartz companies in operation, with a total capital of \$1,007,900—expenses \$652,128—receipts \$1,671,000.

Fourteen other companies have also been in successful operation during the year, in different parts of the State; but no returns have been received from them. During the latter part of the year sixteen new companies commenced operations with a total stock of 240,000.

CANALS AND DITCHES.

		Value.
El Dorado,	173	\$380,000 00
Calaveras,	180	369,000 00
Tuolumne,	185	400,000 00
Amador,	129	298,000 00
Placer,	160	330,000 00
Nevada,	208	400,000 00
Sierra,	129	117,000 00
Total	1,164	\$2,294,000 00

In addition to the above in the same count

ties, and in others, there is quite a number of canals and ditches, which, within a few months will be in actual use, contributing greatly to the general prosperity of the mining region.

AGRICULTURE.

The products of the year are amply sufficient for the supply of the home market. wheat, not less than three million bushels have been raised, and more potatoes, more than will suffice for the consumption have been produced; such is also the case as regards vegetables of all kinds, the yield during the year in the northern counties, the grape and other crops have been exceedingly abundant, and other fruits extensively and profitably cultivated. I am also assured that extensive preparations are there being made for the manufacture of wine of various qualities and flavor.

In fifteen counties, being less than one-half of the State, the beef cattle number three hundred and twenty thousand four hundred and seven, (320,407.)

The number which arrived within the last year by the overland route, is as follows:

Through Noble's Pass, twenty-four thousand and twenty, (24,020); Beckwith's, ten thousand one hundred and fifty-one; (10,151); Gila route, nine thousand and seventy-five, (9,075); Sonora Pass, five thousand one hundred and six, (5,106); Carson River Route, twelve thousand nine hundred and ten, (12,910); whole number, sixty-one thousand four hundred and sixty-two, (61,462).

PACIFIC RAILROAD.

The gigantic project of connecting the Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean by means of a railroad over the continent is properly appreciated by the people of this, the youngest of the sovereign States, and it is perhaps needless to add, that their aid will be cheerfully extended to the accomplishment of the work in every form consistent with their own and the Constitution of the United States.

The wants and necessities of California eminently and peculiarly demand the speedy

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completion of this great work, which, when fully consummated, will not only incalculable advance all her substantial interests and add immensely to her wealth and prosperity, but will connect in interest as they are now united in feeling, the people of the extreme sections of this great confederacy.

Regarded as a national undertaking, and as the great work of the nineteenth century, it is eminently worthy of the enterprise, power and wealth of this young Republic, as a means not only of commanding the commerce of the world and the riches of the Indies—of developing the vast resources now hidden in the desert, and opening to the industry and skill of our rapidly increasing population, the interior of a continent, but as binding together with hooks of steel and iron bands, the now widely separated portions of the Union.

That it is the province of the General Government, in some form, to act upon this momentous question, is most true, but in view of its immense and universally conceded importance to the Pacific country, I cannot re-

train from suggesting to you the propriety of again memorializing Congress on the subject, and giving expression to the wishes and views of the people of this State.

OVERLAND ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA.

Congress should, at least, by the establishment of a sufficient number of military posts along the entire route, afford ample protection to immigrants against the aggressions of hostile Indians.

The establishment of such posts is regarded as a matter of vital importance to the interests of California, and one to which I trust you will in some form, at an early day, invite the attention of the General Government.

The establishment and maintainance of a sufficient number of military stations, at intervals of seventy-five or one hundred miles, with fifty men at each post, it is believed, would afford the security required, and incur the expenditure of but a trifling sum.

compared with the great and manifold advantages which would certainly result, not only to California, but to the whole Union.

From information before me, I am satisfied that not less than ten millions of dollars are annually remitted to the Atlantic States, by increasing the facilities and diminishing the expense of transit from the eastern to the western portions on the continent. These ten millions, if expended by consumers in our midst, for the products of our own soil, would not only increase largely the direct wealth of California, but stimulate to a very great extent the agricultural interests of the country, and add immensely to the general prosperity as well as to the amount of taxable property within the State.

The proposed plan, it is confidently believed, will obviate the only formidable obstacle remaining, and enable thousands of useful and worthy citizens, to become permanent residents of our State, who now cannot command, without great sacrifices, the amount of means required to defray the transit expenses of a family by the Ocean Route; and who are, therefore compelled either to forego immigration to California, or leave behind them the only sure basis of State prosperity and permanent welfare—the family circle, and the blessings of home.

CORPORATIONS—MONOPOLIES.

Since the adjournment of the last Legislature, the existing laws in relation to Corporations have been carefully examined and all found more or less defective. I therefore deem it my duty again to commend the subject to your early consideration.

Under our government, where the will of the people should prescribe the kind and character of the laws, it should be the earnest endeavor, as it is the bounden duty of their representatives, so to frame enactments as to effectually protect their interests from the beyond individual enterprise.

the protection and prosperity while extending to capital and enterprise, liberal and proper inducements, should not neglect those checks and limitations which alone can prevent them from being made in

struments of oppression and extortion.

The fact that the interests of the people of California are identified with labor, and opposed to extending the influence of government to the advancement of the few at the expense of the many, should determine legislation in favor of the protection and security of individual enterprise and industry rather than to the maintenance of the Mineral Lands by

I have, ~~the~~ government, for the the reason ~~it~~ believed the inevitable result of the sale of these lands would be the gradual formation in our midst of fearful monopolies, and that these monopolies, by combination, would be able to regulate the prices of labor as circumstances or avarice might dictate; such monopolies, it is believed, would exert a blighting influence on the rapidly advancing prosperity of the State, and paralyze the energies of thousands of industrious and enterprising men, whose well directed efforts are now successfully developing the varied resources of this young State.

ASIATIC IMMIGRATION.

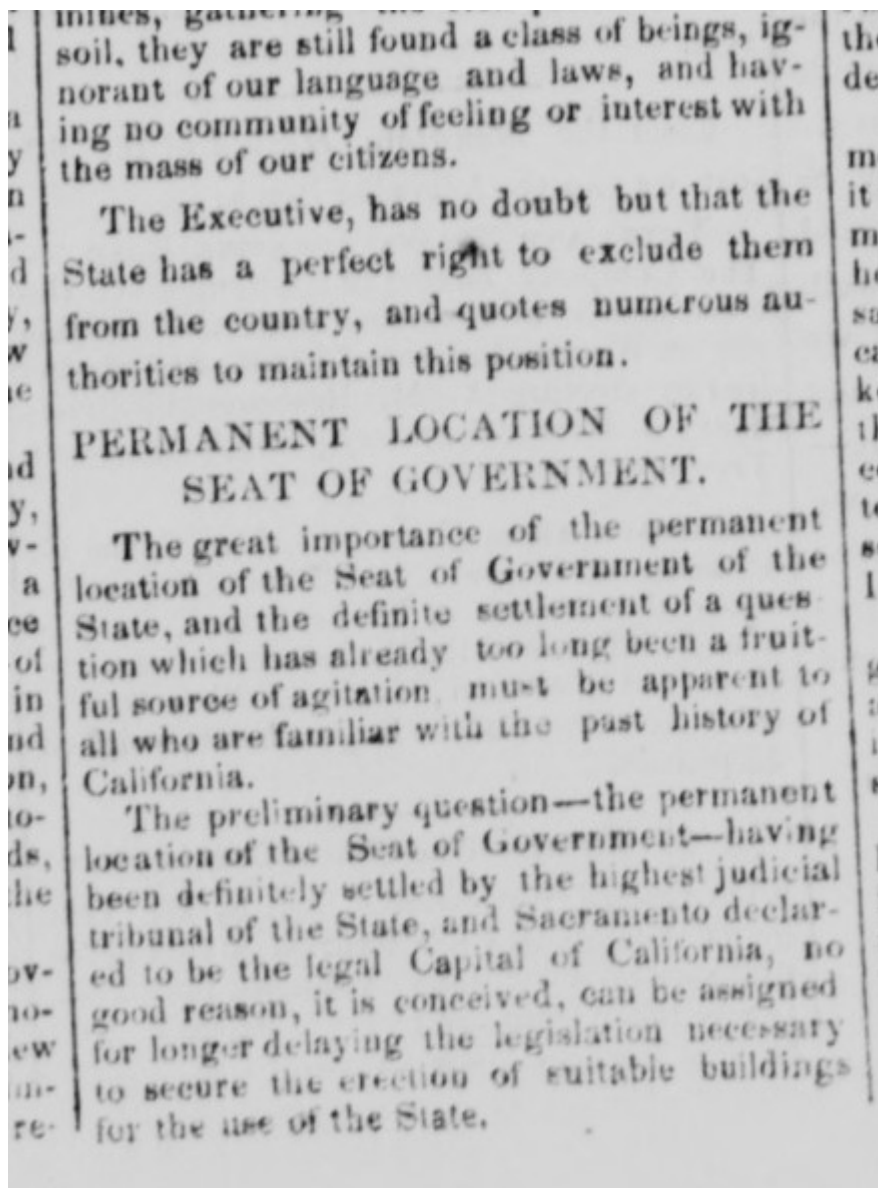
Among the most important of the subjects, which, it is presumed, will engage your serious and immediate consideration, is the large and increasing Asiatic immigration to California.

In the month of April, 1852, I had the honor of transmitting to the Legislature, then in session, a special message inviting their attention to this growing evil, and have since seen no reason to change the views then expressed. In fact, the numbers who have since that time arrived in the State, filled our cities and crowded the mines, have more fully satisfied me of their entire correctness.

At that date, the entire Asiatic population of the State did not, perhaps, exceed twenty thousand; while at the present time there are not less than sixty thousand scattered throughout the length and breadth of California.

They are now to be found in vast numbers in the north, the south, the east and west—in the cities, herding together and forming distinct and separate communities; in the

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