

Message of the Governor.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

—BALDWIN, November 17, 1868. To the Honorable the General Assembly of North Carolina.

RECAPITULATION.—It is proper that I first recapitulate to you the work of a Commission, I should by before you "Information of the affairs of the State" and recommend to your consideration such measures as may be deemed expedient.

The people of the State have reorganized their government on the basis of the equal rights of all. The State is quiet and tranquil. There is no ground for apprehending that serious war will again be attempted, or that the peace of the country will be disturbed.

The year now closing has been richly crowned with harvests. The seasons have been propitious. A plentiful supply of bread has been produced for our whole population, so that want in this respect will not be felt during the coming year by any well-to-do farmer or laborer. The crops of grain, cotton and tobacco are affording a good return to those who have produced them, while from lumber and mineral stores a considerable portion of our people are realizing good returns, as in former years. Our commerce is increasing, our mineral resources are more in process of development, our railroads are recovering from the depression under which they formerly labored, and promising better returns than heretofore to the State and to the stockholders; while new lines of communication are being laid out, destined to penetrate and develop the great natural resources of portions of the State heretofore unexploited by the hand of improvement. State credit has been re-established on a solid basis, there being no ground to apprehend that at any distant day the bonds of the State will command as much in the market as those of the most favored and prosperous States.

We have great cause to be thankful to Almighty God for the manifold blessings which He is bestowing upon us; and we can confidently look forward, under His protection and guidance, for a condition of prosperity and happiness which we have not heretofore enjoyed.

STATE DEBT AND FINANCES.

The State debt and finances will doubtless receive the thoughtful and careful consideration of the General Assembly. The amount of the State debt on the 1st of October, 1868, was nine hundred and eighty-four thousand five hundred and forty-five dollars (\$919,209.54). This includes an estimated amount of post-voucher interest to be funded under act of August 20, 1868, of two millions of dollars (\$2,000,000). The above amount (\$3,919,209.54) is inclusive of bonds issued for internal improvement purposes since May 20, 1861, and prior to the year 1866. The amount of these bonds is one million one hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$1,128,000), and the estimated interest thereon due and unpaid is one hundred and eighty thousand five hundred and ten dollars (\$180,510).

The amount of interest which has matured October 1st, 1868, and been paid in cash, is one hundred and twelve thousand one hundred and one dollar (\$121,101). The interest maturing at subsequent dates during the present fiscal year is as follows: January 1st, 1869, three hundred and eighty thousand one hundred and ninety-seven dollars—(\$380,197); April 1st, 1869, three hundred and four thousand one hundred and one dollar—(\$3,041.01); July 1st, 1869, three hundred and eighty thousand one hundred and ninety-seven dollars—(\$380,197); October 1st, 1869, three hundred and eighty thousand one hundred and ninety-seven dollars—(\$380,197). Total for fiscal year ending September 30, 1869, one million three hundred and thirty-four thousand and ninety-six dollars (\$1,334,583). The amount of interest above stated as falling due April 1st, 1869, includes interest on bonds four millions five hundred thousand dollars (\$4,500,000) yet to be issued, bearing date October 1st, 1868.

The balance remaining in the hands of the Public Treasurer October 1st, 1868, was one hundred and fifty thousand thirty-four dollars eighty-four cents (\$150,034.84). The amount from taxes and payments in October, is two hundred and twenty-six thousand one hundred and six dollars forty-two cents (\$226,706.42). The taxes from several counties remain unpaid, but we cannot expect more than seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) from this source.

The estimated probable expenses of the State government during the present fiscal year will be three hundred and seventy-five thousand two hundred and thirty dollars (\$375,230). Add interest falling due during fiscal year, of one million three hundred and fifty thousand and ninety-six dollars (\$1,334,583), will leave the amount to be provided for one million five hundred and seventy thousand and eighty-two dollars (\$1,570,813). Bonds, four million two hundred and thirty-four thousand dollars, (\$4,234,000). Interest, four hundred and seventy-two thousand five hundred dollars, (\$472,500). Making a total of thirteen million two hundred and forty-one thousand dollars, (\$13,241,000). I recommend that some mode be provided to ensure the payment of this interest, and of such interest as may be due the State in future from corporations.

The report of the Public Treasurer will contain full details of the public debt, with recommendations as to the best means for providing for interest. I have full confidence in that officer, and respectfully commend his statements and views to the consideration of the General Assembly. The estimated value of all the property in the State, lands and their improvements included, is two hundred and fifty millions of dollars (\$250,000,000). I do not regard this as an extravagant estimate, but assuming that it is, and putting it at two hundred millions, (\$200,000,000), it is clear that the people of the State are fully able to carry on their government and at the same time provide for the payment of the interest on their debt. An *ad valorem* tax of one per cent on two hundred millions would raise two millions. At a half per cent, it would be one million. A citizen worth five thousand dollars clear of debt, would pay twenty-five dollars to the State, in order to raise the million that will be necessary—and so on in proper proportion. The interest on the State debt should be met promptly and in good faith, and the taxes necessary to meet it should be levied. The Constitution which we have all sworn to support, provides that the public debt "shall never be questioned." If we hesitate to meet the interest of the debt, or if we fail from any cause to make due provision to meet it, we thereby "question" the debt, and do violence

to the General Assembly during its present session, possibly to a general and total suspension of public schools. The schools for the white and colored children should be supported in order to support the State, or in the provision made, to support them.

The Board of Education and Trustees of the University will doubtless make reports to the General Assembly at an early day as to the condition of the educational interests connected with them. Both these boards are fully organized, and have transacted some important business. The Constitution provides that "The General Assembly shall provide by proper legislation, for giving to mechanics and laborers an advantage in the subject-matter of their law."

In the conflict always going on between capital and labor, the latter is more likely to suffer than the former, first, because money of capital is generally controlled by a greater class of holders, so that which class controls labor. Labor cannot afford to come into competition with capital for the right of the means that it can not, but capital, after within itself and with itself. Both should be protected to such an extent as to prevent either from encroaching on the rights of the other. Contracts in writing should be encouraged, and should be strictly enforced. The mechanics of labor should be required to perform his contract with scrupulous fidelity, and on the other hand, no opportunity should be afforded to the contractor or employer to evade the payment of the contract when the latter has fully complied with his obligation. The former should be secured, while laboring, that the reward of his labor will be realized, and, to effect this, there should be a lien in every case until he is paid. The remedy should be plain, speedy and cheap. As a general rule the mechanic and laborer cannot afford to engage in suits of law and pay fees.

This is a subject which every one should be interested in. The State should be protected, and the presumption should be, as it fairly and justly is, that an habitual liar with no known or visible means of support, is a condition for his removal from the State. It is the duty of the State to see that all such persons are removed, and that all such persons are removed, and that all such persons are removed.

The law of creditor and debtor is the first in importance. The relations of these two classes should be plainly and carefully defined, and contracts should be promptly enforced. Our State government will not be in complete operation and enjoyment until the civil rights of all are secured. The law of creditor and debtor is the first in importance. The relations of these two classes should be plainly and carefully defined, and contracts should be promptly enforced. Our State government will not be in complete operation and enjoyment until the civil rights of all are secured.

The University of the State is inseparably connected with the free public schools—both should be fostered. Education in agriculture, mechanics, mining, engineering, and in all the useful arts and sciences, should be encouraged. Normal instruction should be provided for all, that we may have well educated teachers of our own for our public schools. Nearly all the State school land, the proceeds for the most part of the funds deposited with this State by the general government in 1836, has been lost. It is unnecessary to show how it was lost, or to dilate upon the advantages thus snatched from us. Regrets are vain for what is past. Let us improve the present, and address ourselves to the future. We must have free public schools for all the children of the State at whatever cost. This is a duty which can neither be postponed nor evaded. So thoroughly am I impressed with this duty, and so sincerely am I committed to every feasible measure that will render its full performance certain, that but for the assurance that it will be thus performed I would despair of free public government in North Carolina. "Education is the cheap defence of nations," not only from without but within. It is that light which distinguishes refined and civilized from barbarian races. It forms and compacts the only society among men which is worthy of the name. It touches the earth, and it blossoms with luxuriance; its soil yields its choicest fruits, its mines open and pour out their varied treasures, and the rivers and seas are whitened with commerce, which carries with it not only exchangeable wealth, but ideas in government, literature, science and art. It is the only sure basis of good morals, for without it the Divine Word, the fountain of all truth, would be a sealed book. It is the strongest bulwark that can be erected to protect the rights of property. Property holders are therefore, especially interested in promoting education. Taxes for such a purpose should be cheerfully and promptly paid. The affluent and the indigent can afford to care in this respect for the poor and the ignorant, since it is not merely their duty, but their highest interests are thus best served. But little, if any of the money expended for education is sent out of the State. It remains with us, and while our people are thus enriched with knowledge, they are not rendered poorer even in money, as the latter is collected from the citizens by one hand of the State and immediately disbursed to them by the other.

The people of the State are so fully committed to internal improvements that I deem it necessary to say but little on the subject. Since the close of the rebellion, Charlotte has been extended to the Wilmington, Charlotte and Norfolk Road—to the Fayetteville and Western Road—to the Charlotte and Uncliffable Road—to the Tarboro and Wilmington Road, and to the Western North Carolina Road. The work on the latter Road is being vigorously prosecuted by the Western Division and Asheville. A compromise has been suggested, under an act of the General Assembly at its last session, for the Western Division of this Road, and it is expected that during the coming year the route will be surveyed, and much of the work put under contract. A careful and proper estimate of the length of the line, and the proper estimate of the value of the extension west of the Blue Ridge. These items are in the hands of the Board, and the Board will be open to investigation, and will greatly improve and benefit a large portion of the State which has heretofore been neglected, and which is equal to any in the world in natural resources. There is no work to which the people of the State are more fully committed, both by interest and inclination, and I have every confidence that it is in their hands that will press it to speedy completion.

The Constitution provides that "there shall be established, in the office of the Secretary of State, a Bureau of Statistics, Agriculture, and Manufactures, under such regulations as the General Assembly may prescribe." The attention of the General Assembly is especially invited to that portion of the report of the Secretary of State herewith transmitted, which refers to this subject. No State in the Union presents greater inducements than ours does to immigrants. I feel sure the General Assembly concurs with me as to the importance of encouraging immigration, and I trust that body will at once adopt such measures on the subject as it may deem proper, timely and effective in their operation. We have a valuable climate, a varied and fertile soil, inexhaustible water power, fine grazing lands, vast forests of timber of all kinds, a long sea coast, and, in fine, everything material and physical, which in a country in some respects almost new, can attract immigrants and fill the measure of their expectations. Our government is now settled on a solid basis. The laws are over all alike, and are faithfully and honestly administered. Society is peaceful and tranquil. Immigrants, therefore, will not only be welcomed by our people, but will be protected and received, and a fair field will be opened to them in common with those who are here, to improve their condition.

EDUCATION.—The attention of the General Assembly is respectfully invited to the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, herewith transmitted. That officer is diligently engaged in his duties. I am satisfied, from my knowledge of his character and qualifications, that he will be able to put in operation, at an early period, under the sanction of the General Assembly, a system of "schools and normal schools" in all respects similar to, and more extensive than any heretofore in existence in the State. The University of the State is inseparably connected with the free public schools—both should be fostered. Education in agriculture, mechanics, mining, engineering, and in all the useful arts and sciences, should be encouraged. Normal instruction should be provided for all, that we may have well educated teachers of our own for our public schools. Nearly all the State school land, the proceeds for the most part of the funds deposited with this State by the general government in 1836, has been lost. It is unnecessary to show how it was lost, or to dilate upon the advantages thus snatched from us. Regrets are vain for what is past. Let us improve the present, and address ourselves to the future. We must have free public schools for all the children of the State at whatever cost. This is a duty which can neither be postponed nor evaded. So thoroughly am I impressed with this duty, and so sincerely am I committed to every feasible measure that will render its full performance certain, that but for the assurance that it will be thus performed I would despair of free public government in North Carolina. "Education is the cheap defence of nations," not only from without but within. It is that light which distinguishes refined and civilized from barbarian races. It forms and compacts the only society among men which is worthy of the name. It touches the earth, and it blossoms with luxuriance; its soil yields its choicest fruits, its mines open and pour out their varied treasures, and the rivers and seas are whitened with commerce, which carries with it not only exchangeable wealth, but ideas in government, literature, science and art. It is the only sure basis of good morals, for without it the Divine Word, the fountain of all truth, would be a sealed book. It is the strongest bulwark that can be erected to protect the rights of property. Property holders are therefore, especially interested in promoting education. Taxes for such a purpose should be cheerfully and promptly paid. The affluent and the indigent can afford to care in this respect for the poor and the ignorant, since it is not merely their duty, but their highest interests are thus best served. But little, if any of the money expended for education is sent out of the State. It remains with us, and while our people are thus enriched with knowledge, they are not rendered poorer even in money, as the latter is collected from the citizens by one hand of the State and immediately disbursed to them by the other.

THE MILITIA.—It is expedient that the Government of the State should be organized on a basis of self-reliance, and that the militia should be so organized as to be able to defend the State in case of emergency. The militia should be organized on a basis of self-reliance, and that the militia should be so organized as to be able to defend the State in case of emergency.

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HUBBS & BROTHER.

Wholesale Dealers in Groceries and Provision, Dry Goods, Wine, Liquors, Cigars, &c., Middle Street, New Berne, N. C.

Table listing various commodities and their prices, including coffee, sugar, and other goods.

MINERAL SPRINGS.

Table listing mineral springs and their locations, including New Hope and other towns.

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Table listing naval stores and their prices, including turpentine and other products.

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Its Causes, Character, Conduct and Results. By Hon. Alex. H. Stephens.

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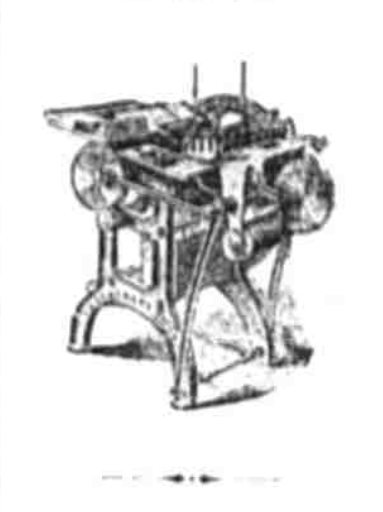
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