

Amilerson

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GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, COLUMBIA, November 28, 1871. Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Repre

You have assembled for the fourth time since the establishment of a system of free government in South Carolina. Pursuant to the Constitution, it is the duty of the Governor to "give to the General Assembly information of the condition of the State, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge

necessary or expedient." The present financial condition of the State especially demands a rigid and unshrinking compliance with this constitutional requirement, in order that the General Assembly, and every department of the State Government may unite in a common effort to correct such evils as are remediable, and prevent their recurrence In this, the last Annual Message that I shall transmit to the General Assembly, I propose to state my views frankly upon the chief matters of public interest, and to give all the facts within my knowledge, without reserve, as alike due to the people, and imposed by my official obligation. I will thus, I trust, be enabled to correct gross exaggerations that are being diligently circulated in reference to our finances and the artists administration of the State and the entire administration of the State.

In performing this duty I shall not shrink from charging upon others any just share of their responsibility for evil consequences of their acts, and will not hesitate fully to admit tion consists of bonds issued to meet the ma-

The following is the Treasurer's exhibit of and credit of the State. the actual debt of the State. I know, from severe personal scrutiny, that this exhibit is full and correct. It shows the present debt of the State in its entirety, suppressing nothing:

ON HAND IN STATE TREASURY. Sonds conversion State Securities, not signed. Bonds relief of Treasury, (7 per cent.)... Bonds reyment interest Public Debt.... Bonds redemption Bills Bank of State..... DEPOSITED FOR SAFE-KEEPING WITH AMELICAN BANK NOTE COMPANY. BIXDS CANCELLED AND DESTROYED.

STATEMENT OF DEBT. \$6,453,908.96 .\$9,514,000.00 New Bonds
Less in hands of Financial Agent, to the credit
of Sinking Fund Communication..... 200,000.00

Amount of New Bonds sold....

\$9,314,000.00

The facts and data upon which the foregoing statement, which has been examined and approved by the Financial Board, is based, are open to the inspection of the public, both at the State Treasury and at the Financial Agency, in New York. The Financial Board report that, "the bonds have all been issued and used that, "the bonds have all been issued and in under the authority of the Act of August 26, 1868, entitled 'An Act to authorize a loan to redeem the obligations known as Bills Receivable of the State of South Carolina;' the Act of August 25, 1868, entitled 'An Act to authorize a loan to pay the interest on the public debt,' the Act of February 17, 1869, entitled 'An Act to authorize a loan for the relief of the Treasury; the Act of March 27, 1869, entitled 'An Act to provide for the appointment of a Land Commissioner, and to define his powers and duties; the Act of March 1, 1870, entitled "An Act to amend an Act entitled 'An Act to provide for the appointment of a Land Commis-sioner, and to define his powers and duties, and for other purposes therein mentioned;" the Act of March 28, 1869, entitled An Act to provide for the conversion of State securities; and the Act of March 26, 1869, entitled An Act to authorize the Financial Agent of the State of South Carolina, in the city of New York, to pledge State bonds as collateral secu-

rity, and for other purposes."

The three first named Acts authorized the borrowing of two million five hundred thousand dollars, on coupon bonds. Owing to the constant and increasing depreciation in the value of the bonds, it was found necessary, in order to carry into effect the purposes of these several Acts, to issue a much larger number of bonds. The Act for the conversion of State securities, giving authority for a more available and uniform class of bonds than the one which had, in the first instance, been issued under the sexeral Acts referred to, the remainder of the bonds required to raise the amounts of money authorized by the several Acts were prepared, in accordance with the Act for the conversion

of State securities, to the amount above named. The indebtedness of the State being as above stated, the State authorities now hope to be able to retire the bonds in New York, and to save the securities now hypothecated from sale. It is also intended to discontinue the Financial Agency in New York, except to designate some banking institution as the place for the payment of the interest on the Public Debt." TAX LEVY, TAXES COLLECTED, AND DELIN-

QUENT TAXES. Many and extravagant statements have been made regarding the assessment and collection of taxes, and those not familiar with the actual enue for the same purposes in other States, are asy that no State in the Union has collected less tax in the same length of time in proportion to its population and resources. The foltion to its population and resources. The following is a correct exhibit of the appropriation talist would touch 'bayonet' bonds issued by that conferred its benefits only upon a limited that conferred its benefits only upon a limited that conferred its benefits only upon a limited to the state, at is without a lower that conferred its benefits only upon a limited that conferred its benefits only upon a limited to the state, at is without a limited to the state, at limited to the state, at

STATEMENT OF AMOUNT OF TAXES LEVIED, AMOUNT COL-LECTED, AND APPROPRIATIONS MADE, DURING YEARS 1868, 1869 AND 1870.

Delinquent
Total appropriations for the year
1869, including interest on public
debt
Total terration for 1870, rate State,

\$1.137.457.51

ment, had been paid, as they should have been, it would have saved the State at least two milions and their of handed deht. L. BONDED DEBT.

It must not be presumed that the increase in the bonded debt of the State is the creation, in any considerable degree, of the existing administration. This increase represents mostly liabilities contracted under previous adminis-trations, the form of the obligation, in some tured principal and accruing interest of the

The seven hundred thousand dollars of bonds issued for the Land Commission form the only portion, of the debt, actually created by the present Administration, and for this the State has an ample equivalent in the lands purchased, which will ultimately repay both principal and

By reference to the various Acts cited in the foregoing statement of the Treasurer, it will be seen that, with the exception of those authorizing the issue of bonds for the Land Commission, they severally provide that a specified spm of money shall be raised on bonds of the State, and not simply that a given amount of bonds shall be issued.

The amount of bonds to be issued for this purpose was not specified by law, as our secu-rities were untried, and therefore had no determinable market value. If the General Assembly had attempted to approximate the probable market value of the new State securities, they would doubtless have rated them at not more than five or ten cents on the dollar, provided that in this they had been guided by the views of the opposition press, which, in its upon these securities, in advance, the stigma of a threatened repudiation, and declared that they would be worthless to the holder.

But it was believed by the Financial Board that our securities might be so made to appre-ciate as to be negotiated at par, and that a million in bonds would thus purchase a million of As the result of the financial policy adopted,

these new bonds commanded, in the early part of 1870, from 80 to 85 per cent of their par value, and so well satisfied was I that our secuas they did six per cent interest, payable in gold-would, in the natural order of things, further appreciate, that I refused my consent to sell even at those comparatively high rates. This apparent confidence of capitalists in the State Government aroused its opponents to a combined effort to depreciate the bonds, and not only were the most active individual efforts made to discredit our securities, but even the Chamber of Commerce and the Board of Trade of Charleston lent their aid to the scheme of depreciation. The exchangeable value of a State bond depends: First, upon the ability of the State to pay the interest upon it as it accrues, and to redeem it at maturity; and, second, upon the recognized and acknowledged disposition and intention of those who administer the affairs of the State, to provide for the punctual liquidation of all its just obligations. As the resources of the State were and are unquestionably ample, even on an ordinary cale of taxation as compared with its indebtdiess, the class of persons especially hostile to the State Government, and the principles upon the representation of the syndics, or agents for the negotiation of the make it appear to capitalists that the State administration was corrupt and profligate, and that a popular reaction had taken place that would soon bear them into power. Founding this loan from loss, through any possible sub-their claims to consideration upon these false sequent action of the General Assembly in retheir claims to consideration upon these false pretences, and pretending to represent the peo-ple of South Carolina, they boldly proclaimed their purpose to repudiate all debts contracted subsequent to the adoption of our new State

the State peculiarly at heart, the purchasing value of the bonds was seriously dimininished, thereby requiring an increased amount in bonds to raise a given amount in money, it followsthat they, and not this administration, are responsible for any undue increase in our bonded debt, upon the just legal principle that every man is accountable for the natural consequences of his own acts. Added to these causes for the decline in the value of our securities was the manifest want of confidence among capitalists in the management of our finances by

our Financial Agent in New York.

In proof that this scheme to discredit the Government of the State has its origin in political causes, I cite the following extracts from the Charleston Daily News, a widely circulated journal, published at the commercial centre of \$3,000,000, necessarily sacrificed in the negotifrom the issue of that paper of date of July 17, 1868, but ten days after the new State Government went into operation, makes it evident that the determination to depreciate our securities was formed almost simultaneously with the advent of the present administration, and before it could have rendered itself, by any act of its own, obnoxious to the charges of corruption or improvidence :

"BAYONET' BONDS .- It would doubtless be State could be paid, or the interest funded, until the people, under a legitimate government, are able to meet their public obligations. But this cannot be done by the motley Legislature now in cession in Columbia; nor can they, by the issue of 'bayonet' bonds, provide, as proposed, for the deficit in the annual revenue of

"The Legislature will, of course, bleed freely every property house in South as long as they usurp the machinery of the law, may compel the payment of taxation.—

the many toiled and suffered for the benefit of the opposition—those who had capital and those that he will have the active sympathy and the few, and its Government subserved the the opposition—those who had capital and those that he will have the active sympathy and every property holder in South Carolina, and, facts, when compared with collection of rev- as long as they usurp the machinery of the is extravagant and unusual. I undertake to Constables may distrain, and there the scheme and exercising a prescriptive right to govern joined in this scheme. I am ready to take my legislative department.

of moneys, the levy of tax, collection of reve- our begus Legislature. Would New York or and select class of its people. They are essented the market value of its securities, cannot nue per annum, and the delinquent list for the years 1868, 1869 and 1870:

They are essentially of the proper in the period of the proper cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions, and it became the duty per cent to the \$30,000,000 value of the action of the Financial their political opinions are constant.

"The State debt of South Carolina-the debt now existing—will be paid to the last cent, whatever the General Assembly may do; but no 'bayonet' bond, for whatever reason issued, will ever be recognized by the white people of

Refering to the Act of the General Assembly providing for the payment of the interest on our State bonds in specie, the same paper says, under date of December 1, 1869:

"We can pay our debt as it stands. The rule will not so largely swell the total that the people will, at the first opportunity, shuffle off the weight of care, and repudiate every dollar of debt contracted after the war.

upon the blood, and muscle, and sinews of whose hard-handed laborers these privileged few so long fattened. Professing to be the of debt contracted after the war.

vancement of a cause in which our people embarked fortune, life and honor-an attentive ear and willing heart would have met the proposal, and the whole subject would have been considered with kindly and generous care.

"Every merchant or financier does see, or swindle. Beyond this, there is the certainty that the law of specie payments will assuredly he repealed as soon as property holders and beneficiaries of the State own long rows of honest men have a majority in the councils of houses, untaxed and untaxable, which they the State. This majority we shall have in less buy and sell on speculation.

The cry of repudiation thus raised by a large portion of the press, and continued, with a burdens that they have aided to create by their shameless pertinacity, in the interest of a small treasonable acts, it would better become these and malignant political organization, has done much to produce the recent depreciation of our securities, coming, as it did, at a time when the money markets were rendered peculiarly sensitive and stringent by various causes.

The debt statement made at the meeting of the Tax-payers' Convention, in May last, and that furnished by me to the Congressional Committee, in September, were correct, to the best of my knowledge, at those dates. My information as to the sale of bonds was then necessarily limited to the amount reported by the Fi-

nancial Agent and Treasurer. \$2,200,000 of the amount of conversion bonds, issued as above stated, were signed by me for the benefits arising from the creation of which the express purpose of withdrawing from the market and cancelling an equal amount of those issued and hypothecated under the Acts for relief of the Treasury, the payment of the formula is the largest number of her people have shared. On such a financial dooms-day the last would surely not be the first.

In dismissing this branch of my message, I in dismissing this branch of my message, I for relief of the Treasury, the payment of the interest on the public debt, and for the Land Commission. They were signed about the time the Tax-payers' Convention assembled. Subsequently, the Financial Agent represented that the rapid decline in the value of our State securities disabled him from getting control of the bonds deposited as collateral, and to relieve which these conversion bonds were signed at that date.

that date.

The action of that body, and of the Charleston Board of Trade, in reference to the proposed sterling fund loan, warning capitalists abroad against its negotiation, and declaring that, if negotiated, it should never be paid, had a most disastrous effect upon our securities, and thereby compelled a large and rapid increase in the volume of our bonded debt. At the time the sterling fund bill was enacted, I deemed its policy a wise one, and it was endorsed as a good financial measure, by many leading financiers, both in this State and in New York. Its design was to replace our securities, already issued, with a uniform class of bonds, many of for the State, the General Assembly authorized such securities not being a good delivery at the Stock Exchange in New York. This loan was urer, "to appoint, under a commission signed calculated to commend itself to capitalists, for. while it changed the form of the debt advantageously, it was guarded with the irrepealable restriction that its proceeds should be "exclu-sively used in exchange for, or in payment of, the existing public debt of the State."

Its very terms thus show how unwarranted was the action of the Convention in stigmatizing it as an intended increase of the bonded debt of the State. In view of all the facts in the premises, the sterling loan, thus discredited

in advance, was not put upon the market. The gentlemen who guided the action of the Convention, on questions of finance, expressed, as a further objection to the loan, their want of confidence in the Financial Agent in New York. In evidence of the real purpose, and the wantonness of these systematic attacks upon the State credit, I would mention that I loan, both in London and New York. I further proposed, with the unanimous consent of the Financial Board, to guard holders under gard to it, by entering into such stipulations on behalf of the State with the syndics, charged with negotiating the loan, that no further Legislature could divert its proceeds without at-Constitution.

As, by this course of action on the part of men professing to have the honor and credit of ted States jurisdiction, should a question of the United States jurisdiction, should a question of the kind ever arise, involving the rights of the bond-holders and the faith of the State. I instanced to them, in this connection, the decision in the case of Minnesota, where, under a similar stipulation, the rights of the bond-holders were enforced by the Federal Courts, on ex post facto grounds, even against a provision in the Constitution of that State, adopted subsequent to the creation of its debt. Nothing, however, could change their pre-determined purpose.— Had they and their allies displayed the same diligence in co-operating with the Financial Board for the negotiation of the sterling loan that they have shown in their efforts to discredit the securities of the State, our entire bonded debt would not now exceed \$10,000,000, and the State would have been saved near the State. The first of these extracts, taken ation of its depreciated bonds. For them now to complain of our immense bonded debt and transactions, command the same high degree of high taxation, and to claim commiseration for confidence, on the part of capitalists, that a these direct and inevitable consequences of their own acts, is to imitate the criminal who, when the basis of the proposed negotiation having murdered his parents, plead orphanage in mitigation of sentence. On this question of market, at a time, too, when there was an acresponsibility between them and the State ad- tive speculative movement in the stocks and ministration, I invoke, and fearlessly await, that just judgment which always springs from of the curreucy to holders was constantly made a very comfortable thing if the debt of the state could be paid, or the interest funded, unmight, with propriety, end this branch of my message here, but I deem it both proper and timely to show who these men are that arrogantly and falsely assume to represent abroad the wealth of the State, and the sentiment of rassed and checked as he was by constant "bear" condition of the State will not admit of an unthe people of South Carolina. They are a movements, originating in the State, as a part necessary expenditure of money. All the inremnant of the class who ruled this State when of an organized scheme to discredit its existing fluence of the Executive of the State will be largest good of the smallest number. Asserting who had none, but pretended to have itwrong, in times past, they made the laboring share of the responsibility for our present finan-

test of the white people of the State? Would not our Northern brethren prefer to wait until after November?

exported products of the State. Claiming to Board, when, in law and in fact, the Governor has no more power in the Board than any priare chiefly found upon the arrear list, when vate citizen who might be a member of it. pretence that they are the guardians of the honor and credit of South Carolina, would be supremely Adiculous, if it were not so supremely shameless.

Their present cry of "repudiation" is not sur-prising. Repudiation is their chronic disease. When they were in power in 1862, they repudi-ated all their debts due the loyal men, both repudiated by the people of South Carolina, property, they created numerous railway and other corporations, exempting them from all taxation forever. These corporations, although owning millions of property throughout the State, pay not one dollar of taxes into its treasury, and even successfully claim, in the courts, exemption from all municipal taxation will see, that the whole scheme is a job and a for their residences, and pleasure carriages and swindle. Beyond this, there is the certainty horses of their officers in our towns and cities, where, in nearly every street, these wealthy beneficiaries of the State own long rows of

Remembering the general private suffering that they have caused, and the great public self-styled representatives of South Carolina to walk more humbly, and to show a grateful appreciation of the generous magnanimity that they have received at the hands of the National and State Governments, by honestly endeavoring, in some measure, to repair the ruin that they have made. As these persons have been pleased to except from their proposed scheme of "repudiation" the "old bonds" of the State, it may be well to inform them that should the evil day ever come for South Carolina to pro-claim her perfidy or insolvency, by repudia-ting any part of her valid debt, she will not first dishonor that class of her obligations in

would observe that the local combination against our finances was simply Ku Kluxism applied to the State credit, and naturally had, upon the exchangeable value of our securities, the same depressing effect which that infamous system has had upon the material prosperity of the State.

THE FINANCIAL AGENT OF THE STATE

augurated, (July 6, 1868,) there were only \$45 in the State Treasury. A large bonded and floating debt, incurred by former administrations, had to be provided for. The ancient credit of the State, that had once stood so justly high in the money markets of the world, was gone. It had been blown away with the smoke of the first gun fired at Fort Sumter. In order to meet the current expenses, until

money sould be realized from the tax levy, it was necessary for the State to borrow on its seurer, "to appoint, under a commission signed by them, some responsible bank or banker in the city of New York, to act as Financial Agent of the State." To this end, I visited New York, and conferred with leading banks. They all declined the agency, alleging that the du-ties were arduous and the time of payment uncertain; that we were only borrowers in the market. While thus endeavoring to secure the services of a responsible and efficient Financial Agent, the name of Mr. H. H. Kimpton was presented. He was highly endorsed by promment officials in the State, and by leading bankers in New York, among whom were the Presidents of the Broadway Bank and the Bank of the Republic. Although averse to ap-pointing any individual banker Financial Agent, for reasons which time has since fortified, there then appeared to be no other alter native, and I, therefore, as one of the Financial Board, gave my assent to the appointment of Mr. Kimpton, but on the condition that he would give a bond to the State in the sum of \$500,000, conditioned for the faithful discharge of his trust as Financial Agent. Mr. Henry Clews, a prominent banker of New York, was proposed and accepted as bondsman, and I was afterwards informed by the Treasurer that Mr.

Kimpton had executed and filed his bond, It is proper that I should here remark, that the law did not require the Financial Agent to give a bond, nor are bonds ever required of their financial agents by other States; but I insisted upon it, out of an abundance of caution in the interest of the State. I mention this fact simply to show that this trust was not carelessly conferred. In referring to it, I do not mean to intimate that the depreciation in our securities bears any relation to the bond of the Financial Agent, for, even though his bond had exceeded in amount the total value of our securities in his hands, that depreciation and the consequent loss to the State could not have been thereby prevented, as it would have in-demnified the State only in the event of damage received through neglect or fraud on the part of the Agent, neither of which is alleged against him. Subsequent events have made it manifest that it was a grave mistake to appoint an individual instead of a chartered company as our Financial Agent. An individual banker, whatever may be his capacity as a financier, cannot, in the management of large money corporation can. Especially is this the case consists of a class of securities new to the a year ago, for the purpose of effecting a change Agent, and could not then arrange to liquidate

that indebtedness. The Financial Agent has probably done the

are chiefly found upon the arrear list, when vate citizen who might be a member of it. I found at all in the tax books, and nearly all of would add, in reference to the Financial Agent, them have long since voluntarily recorded that he has been greatly embarrassed by the themselves upon the roll of bankrupts. Their practice, on the part of the Treasurer, of drawing upon the agency for funds to meet the current expenses of the State, in the interim be-tween the periods fixed for the payment of taxes, thus creating a floating debt constantly in advance of the revenue. I do not mean to censure the Treasurer for this course, as he doubtless thought it warranted by the exigencies of the Treasury; but the practice is a bad mestion, whether one year more of Radical private and public, and have themselves been one, and I would recommend that it should be prohibited by proper legislation, which should at the same time provide that hereafter no money shall be borrowed or debt contracted to defray the current expenses of the State Government, but let all those to whom money is due from the State await the collection of the

> prevent their recurrence in the future.
>
> For a detailed statement of the transactions of the Financial Agent, I refer you to his report to the Comptroller General, for the quarter ending September 30, 1871.

> taxes. This course, coupled with a system of

rigid entrenchment, will soon lift the State

above all present financial embarrassments, and

EXPENDITURES OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT. While holding the political opponents of the State Government responsible for the great de-preciation in the market value of our securities -a depreciation directly due to the conspiracy against the credit of the State-I am bound by my sense of public duty to expose to the reprobation of the people the improvident expendi-tures incurred by the General Assembly, and duce the expenditures on this account to a sum the extravagant and improper disbursement of the State moneys, to which the legislative department has given either its express or imolied sanction. In so doing, I do not wish to a decided diminution of the clerical force embe considered as wanting in a due and proper respect to a co-ordinate branch of the State Government, but I desire to appeal, in plain clerks to perform duties that should be, and can and earnest language, to the sober judgment, be, discharged by the officers themselves. In the decent self-respect and the public spirit of my opinion, the salaries of all officers, except each member of the General Assembly, to give the Judges, should be reduced one-third. his active aid in effecting an instant reform in this direction; for the whole people, with uni-ted voice, demand it, and the condition of our should be required to perform the duties of his finances, and every instinct of self-preservation, require it at your hands.

It would scarcely have been possible for the men who combined to destroy the credit of the State, to have executed their purpose so successfully, had not the General Assembly lent them its practical co-operation, by exhausting, through its extravagance, the funds in the Treasury, thus leaving the State without any reserve balance to meet the financial exigency.

I instance the following, among many other tems of extravagant expenditures: The money drawn upon the orders of the presiding officer of the two Houses during the last session for current printing amounts to \$68,904.90. In addition to this large sum, \$30,000 were appropriated for current printing for the same session, making a total of \$98,904.90 expended on this item alone. There was further drawn from the Treasury and disbursed by the Clerks of the Senate and House, for printing the laws, &c., the sum of \$103,651.44. These figures show the enormous aggregate of \$202,556.34 expended on printing alone during and incident to the last session of the General Assembly; while large claims for public printing are still outstanding. In addition to these expenditures, the sum of \$29,814.05 was drawn upon ders of the President, of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, for purposes not very well defined, but designated as "contingent expenses and repairs," making an aggregate, for the above specified objects, of \$232,370.39—a sum startling in its magnitude for one session of the General Assembly, and which may well bid the legislative department pause in the

path that it has been pursuing.

The appropriations, including those vetoed by the Executive, aggregate a total of \$480,000.

To this, is to be added the amount of \$103,651. 44, as shown above, drawn upon the certificates of the Clerks of the two Housee of the General Assembly, on account of printing the laws, and the grand total of expenditures, on account of 'legislative expenses," amounts to \$583,651.44.
As an evidence of the pernicious consequences of permitting this "money order" system on the part of the presiding officers of the Senate and House, I refer to the facts, well known to the members of the General Assembly, that during the past year, upon the order of the Speaker of the House, an alleged liability against the State was contracted, to the amount of \$91,500, for furniture for the State House. This was entirely without warrant of law, and if the principle is admitted that moneys can be thus drawn from the Treasury, or lebts contracted without "appropriations made by law," then all proper safe-guards of the

enue in advance, or deprive it at will of the means of meeting its legal liabilities. THE PAY OF MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL AS-

Treasury are broken down, and a few ministe-

rial officers in the State may mortgage its rev-

SEMBLY. The first important measure of retrenchment demanded by our financial condition, is a great reduction in the amount received by members of the General Assembly for their services. The Constitution provides, (Article II, Section 23,) that "each member of the first General Assembly, under this Constitution, shall receive six dollars per diem, while in session, and the further sum of twenty cents for every mile of the ordinary route of travel in going to and returning from the place where such session is held, after which they shall receive such com-pensation as shall be fixed by law; but no General Assembly shall have the power to increase the compensation of its own members." I would recommend that, in lim of a per diem, each member shall receive a ...nual salary, to be fixed at such a rate as will greatly diminish the cost to the State of the sessions of the General Assembly, as compared with the amount now paid under the system of per diem com-pensation. It will also enable the General Assembly to provide an assessment for the amount required for the pay of its members, and will enable them to obtain their pay with certainty. bonds of all the Southern States, and the value I am satisfied that a moderate, yet adequate, salary could be provided by law, and a great the sober second thought of the people. The depreciation in our bonds, therefore, springs gold market. Hence, I again visited New York, the incidental expenses of the General Assemture temporary. The State can, and will redeem, all her obligations, to the last cent. I practicable, as the State was indebted to the ducement to many members to prolong the ses-

I cannot refrain from expressing the hope that the present session of the Legislature will best he could, under the circumstances, embar- be a short and economical one, as the financial

The large amount of money paid to the atmembers, that most of these were men who had

of the General Assembly to provide means for that it may have devolved upon the State Government to provide some means for their pretection and support, yet a very unusual and expensive mode of extending that support was adopted. It might have been but justice to have made a regular appropriation, and levied it upon the Counties from which these men were driven; thus the victims of political pre-judice would have been provided for and the actual perpetrators of these outrages made to feel that it was an expensive way of controlling political opinions.

The commission to codify the laws have been in existence for nearly three years, and has cost the State about \$50,000, and its work is not yet completed. It is the opinion of some of the best legal minds of the State that this work could have been done thoroughly at a cost of not more than \$5,000. I would, therefore, recommend that this standing reproach to the State Government, and unnecessary drain upon the Treasury, be removed without delay, by abolishing the Code Commission and employing a competent jurist to complete the codification of our laws.

I recommend that the office of Land Commissioner be abolished, and that the duties of the office be devolved upon the Secretary of State.

GENERAL REDUCTION OF SALARIES. The thirty-one School Commissioners, at their present salaries, which are exceedingly large for the amount of service that they render, cost the State \$31,500 per annum. I, therefore, recommend a material reduction in the salaries of School Commissioners, so as to re-

There is a great and instant need for the reduction of the salaries of State officers, and for vloyed in many offices of the Executive Department. In some cases the State is paying clerks to perform duties that should be, and can

The office of Assistant Adjutant-General

The office of State Auditor should be abolished, and its duties performed by the Comptroller-General.

The office of County Auditor can be dispensed with without injury to the public service, and the duties of that office devolved upon the County Treasurer, thus effecting a saving to the State of not less than \$50,000 per annum, and securing even increased efficiency in the collection of taxes.

TRIAL JUSTICES.

I invite your early attention to the recom-mendations of my last Message in regard to Trial Justices. The aggregate cost of this class thousand (120,000) dollars annually. The Trial Justices in the city of Charleston alone entail upon the County an expenditure of about thirty-five thousand (85,000) dollars a year. I would therefore urge, in addition to my former recommendations on this subject, that the office of Trial Justice be abolished in the City of Charleston, and that, in lieu thereof, three Po-lice Judges be created for that city, who shall receive adequate salaries, and shall exercise the jurisdiction vested in Trial Justices, I would further recommend the appointment of one Police Judge in each of our principal towns dispensing with Trial Justices therein, and vesting in such Judges the judicial powers now exercised by the Mayors' Courts, as, under existing Acts, the Mayors and Intendants of our cities and towns may crowd our jails with prisoners sentenced for trifling offences, thus increasing the expenses of the several Coun-

RECORDER OF THE CITY OF CHARLESTON.

I recommend that the office of Recorder of the city of Charleston be abolished forthwith. This is a State office created by Act of the General Assembly many years ago, but it has for a long period fallen into utter disuse. Although the Recorder receives a salary of twenty-five hundred (2,500) dollars per annum, and has a clerk at six hundred (600) dollars per annum; payable by the city, I am credibly informed that he has not held more than two sessions of the City Court, for the trial of criminal and civil causes, during the past ten or twelve years: It is a mere excrescence on our judicial system, and the people of Charleston should no longer be taxed to sustain it.

CLERKS OF THE SENATE AND HOUSE. I would especially direct your attention, in this connection, to the propriety of reducing salaries of the Clerks of the Senate and House: Taking the number of days on which these officers are presumed to be employed, their compensati/m per diem, respectively, is more than five times greater than that received by a member of the body in which they are subordinates, while the annual salaries of each equals the highest received by any officer in the State, except the Chief Justice. This is an anomaly without precedent in any other State, and unwarranted by the present condition of the State

ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION REQUIRED TO REG-ULATE PUBLIC PRINTING.

I recommend that the present system for the public printing be changed without delay, and the great drain upon the Treasury, caused thereby, checked at once. The authority vested in the Clerks of the Senate and House, in regard to the printing, should be rescinded, and a proper safeguard, and a rigid system of accountability instituted, to insure the strictest economy in this very considerable branch of the public expenditures. It should not be left to the discretion of subordinate officers of the General Assembly, however honest and judicious they may be in the discharge of such & trust. The existing system has involved an expenditure for printing so great as to have proved a real calamity to the State. It has certainly eventuated in a contract for the pub-

lic printing which is a flagrant fraud upon the reasury, and should be instantly annulled. I have ascertained that the company with which the printing contract has been made, to wit: the Republican Printing Company, neither owns nor controls any journal or printing tence, but has the work executed in this city at the regular market rates, and thus derives an immense profit from the Treasury of the State, without any outlay on their part.

STATE REVENUES.

Under existing laws for the assessment and collection of taxes, real estate is made to bear an undue proportion of the burdens of taxation. For the purpose, therefore, of raising a sufficient revenue to defray the current expenses of an economical administration of State, and meet its obligations to its ereditors, while at the same time lessening its tax on rewrong, in times past, they made the laboring masses, without regard to race, their packmasses, without regard to race, their packhorses, to bear the burdens of a Government

combined against the credit of the State, at is without a parallel in the history of legislaThese recommendations, if judiciously carried It was claimed at the time by the out, will secure the payment of taxes on classes of property hitherto practically exempt from

(Concluded on Fourth Page.)