



# The Daily Express.

Editor & Proprietor JULIUS VAN RYDER.

Official Journal of the United States.

Official Journal of Texas County.

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TUESDAY, JAN. 26, 1873.

The Governor's Message.

Dated January 14th instant, was received on Saturday last too late for comment. To be compelled to wait more than six days for the transmission of such a document over a distance of 80 miles, will appear remarkable to those living in more favored localities; but when it is considered that a transmission of the same by telegraph would have cost us a large sum of money, which somebody would have been willing to have assisted in paying; and that the home disease has given the mail contractor an excuse for consulting their own profit and convenience rather than that of the public, or their obligations to the government, it could hardly be expected that we should make extraordinary sacrifices for those who would fail to appreciate them.

But the substance of the message is better late than never. The matter of it is so unexpectedly calm, dignified and straightforward as to command the respect of the most prejudiced foe of the present State Executive. He has done that which he ought to have done from the beginning of his administration—lifted himself above the influence of selfish, designing and unscrupulous men. The late overwhelming and ignominious defeat of the Democratic party in this State seems to have had a salutary influence upon the executive mind. The Governor has at last fully won him self, and the result is, that he appears once more in his true light. In sheer desperation and sorrow, he has inflicted a message of his own; and does credit to himself as a man of native integrity, of good intention, and, ~~wise~~ ~~uninformed~~, of reasonably sound judgment.

He has inspired old friends with a new trust and confidence in the principles which first elicited his power, and created a better faith in the manhood of himself. Let him go steadily and undismayed, and he will have the support of those who had reason to question his ability to adhere to the intentions which he failed to have been the rules adopted when he entered upon the theory path of ruling a State more inclined to anarchy and confusion than any other—Louisiana, not excepted. Let him but feel and realize that there are others, holding and seeking no positions of ascendancy, but strongly devoted to the welfare of this great State; he will know that in all good works, whether of word or deed, there is still a power at his back which the enemies of Democracy will shrink from ignoring or despising. —  
The Agricultural Association of Western Texas.

Many, but perhaps not persons do not understand the proposed change in this organization. Heretofore it has partaken more of the character of a charitable institution than any other, the necessary funds being raised through assessments, or supplied by them, together with infinite trouble and labor devoted in efforts to make the Association worthy of success. The public, however, responded to it as ought to have done. The heavy burdens have fallen upon the shoulders of a limited number of public spirited men who have devoted themselves to the business, and expended not only their own labor, but money without reward, or hope of reward. The present effort is not merely to make it a self-supporting institution, but even more; but to which every active producer, whether agricultural, mechanical or otherwise, can not afford to lose the advantage of being an owner of the stock; and whose benefits shall be in proportion to the stock owned. When every person interested in the development of the vast resources of Western Texas shall have become interested in the effort, and shall feel that he is getting back his investments whether in time, labor or money, then he will not fail to regain his backwardness in making his bid in the financing.

There are associations in the other states which have insurance companies, which pay large divi-

dends to the owners of the stock; and the public advantages are not only conferred, but constantly increased, by means of it. There is nothing to gain, and a bare possibility of losing anything under the plan. If everyone who feels an interest in any branch of industry in this country will subscribe and pay for a single share of stock the small sum of \$25, there is assured an organization powerful enough to control legislation, immigration and a general progress which individual or group combined, efforts can never accomplish. It remains to be seen whether there is sufficient life in this community to adhere to the accomplishment of the best of purposes. If it proves impossible, the most profitable speculation next in order will be, the organization of a company to promote emigration from, instead of immigration to, this section of the country.

## The Governor's Message.

It would afford no satisfaction to publish the message of Governor Davis in full, as we have no space. As a State paper it is better written, more commendable in tone and spirit, and fuller of good sense than any message directed to a Texas Legislature since the last day of Sam Houston. It opens with a general statement of the confined progress of the State in the direction of peace and order, internal improvements, increase of population, wealth and public education, &c., & the changes which the adoption of the laws and other causes, have achieved in this State.

The message says:

"The great change which in the condition of the State, will best be appreciated by a comparison of what we see around us—the results of a few years of peace and enforcement of the law—and the picture of affaire given by the Hon. Pendleton Murrah, in his message to a legislature which occupied your Hall since the close of the late struggle."

It says:

"Impartial duty requires of me to call your attention to the fearful demoralization and crimes prevailing throughout the State. In some sections society is almost disorganized—the voice of the law is hushed and its authority seldom assert ed. It is a dead hand—an unbroken string upon the thread page of the statutes. Men, women, thefts, outrages of every kind against property—against human life—against everything sacred to a civilized people—a frenzied and general. Whole communities are under a reign of terror, and they utter their groans upon themselves, and their agonizing cries of distress in vain. The rule of the mob—the bandit of unbridled passions—rides over the spurious ordinances of the government. Crime is committed, and the criminal, escaped in guilt and branded by his own dark deeds with eternal infamy, goes unwhipped of justice. Not even a warrant is issued for him—in efforts made by the sworn officers of the law, or by the community, to bring him to punishment. Too often the dead is announced—the community is divided in opinion as to the guilt, and the criminals screened from justice—using an exceeding chance to touch some popular influence, or prevailing notions—and thus, without trial and without the forms of justice, he is led by a mob."

Whether or not the bright contrast in this picture, which commemorates the day of your assembly in the same Hall, is now to be inscribed, rests with us. If, without passion or prejudice, we address ourselves to legislation for the good of the people, whose voluntary sacrifice for the time being we demand ourselves; assuming error in what has been accomplished by our predecessors, only where error is manifest, and amending only where amendment will clearly benefit with a purpose either to build up and perfect them to bear down and annihilate—that all will be well. I trust that this spirit animated all branches of the law-making power of the State, and that whatever of evil might have been imagined or threatened during the existence of the late political parties, it will, under the prompting of sober second thought, be put out of sight and not permitted to enter legislation or obstruct its progress.

The Governor thus discusses the importance of the state, and condemns the present law for assessing and collecting taxes, as being such that the burden falls mainly upon the poor or too honest to evade the taxes; the result of which, as reported Sept. 1st, 1872, the sum of \$441,402.50 (being more than one-third) of the State's taxes needed for the previous year, remain unpaid. The statement is also made that the property owner being practically permitted to fix the amount of taxes he ought to pay, the large property owners, individuals and corporations, by filing assessments, evades the proper tax. The Western Union Telegraph Company is named in this category, which were paid, previous to last year, taxes on over \$3,000; but after the Governor set an foot inquiries, it returned part of all kinds, being 1872 at \$60,000. The President of the company swore before a committee of Congress that the sum in the State had not cost less than \$100 per mile, so that a fair assessment will be at least \$60,000, plus local valuation.

The measure of property assessed in 1871 was \$100,000,000, so that the amount should have exceeded \$200,000,000. The message fails to mention the fact, "The whole tax on property for the fiscal year 1871-72, are, net, \$100,000,000; and the whole of that part of the cost of the public schools to be paid by local taxes for the same period, is shown by the report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to be \$1,000,000,000, being, therefore, only \$1,000,000,000, less the sum that the County Sheriff retained and disposed of of the sum of \$100,000,000 for Valence lands,

and the sum of \$105,000,000 occupation taxes in that year. In brief, the County Courts have assessed the tax payers more than half a million dollars more than it has cost the people during the same time, both to carry on our extensive system of public schools, and to support the State Government in all its departments and various services. There seems to be no effective restraint of wanton extravagance or malversation of public funds on the part of the County Courts provided by law."

A full account is given of the dispersion of the State bonds; and to the misrepresentation with regard to the State indebtedness which defeated the sale or hypothesis of nivis of the last issue.

## GOOD FINANCIAL CONDITION OF THE STATE.

The financial standing of Texas ought to be the best, and it will be so when it becomes known to the world that her people are too enlightened to permit repudiation of her engagements.

Her obligations are these:

\$50,000 per cent. Frontier Defense gold bonds sold..... \$350,000,000  
\$57,000 per cent. currency bonds issued for the State of Texas under date of May 2, 1871, for auditing public debt..... \$67,000,000  
Amount due Williams & Gwin, of New York city, for which above 450 bonds are marked, (oversized)..... \$27,074,70  
Six per cent. currency bonds issued to fund old debt under the provisional act of November 29, 1866..... 125,100,00  
\$12 per cent. currency bonds issued for the State of Texas under date of May 2, 1871, for auditing public debt..... 44,500,00  
Certificates of indebtedness issued to claimants in last mentioned act and act of May 22, 1871, currency..... \$31,167,00  
Amount of outstanding warrants on the first day of this month..... \$15,000,00  
Amount for deficiencies in former acts of the Legislature and estimated as due to judgments of officers and employees of government since September 1, 1872, and up to 1st Inst., for which no appropriation has yet been made..... 150,000,00  
Amount erroneously collected by Comptroller for commissions of assessors and collectors in 1871, which must be returned to tax payers..... 131,167,03  
Total..... \$1,608,996.77

These are the total of debts or claims which are known to exist against the State, except the claim of the International Railroad for their bond subsidy for completed railway.

The Governor afterwards remarks:

"Thus the total of actual indebtedness of Texas amounts to the small sum of \$1,608,996.78. An amount which could be paid off by a TAX FOR A SINGLE YEAR OR LESS THAN A HALF OF ONE PER CENT on the taxable value of property within the State. On the other hand, we have in the Treasury up to this date \$40,379.61 in specie, and \$804,036.07 currency, belonging to special funds, and (as will be seen when I alight to the School and Land Departments) our large school fund in United States bonds and lands, and our many millions of acres of public domain."

After a brief statement concerning the Treasurer's report and Mr. Money, the message takes up the

## PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

And the conclusion arrived at is that, "the Public Schools of Texas have been, as a WHOLE, conducted since their inception, on a cheaper plan, have had less expensive machinery, have had a better average of teachers, and have educated more children in proportion to the population than those of any other, since the war, of the so-called. Reconstructed States, some of which have had their systems under way for many years, and better in several of these respects than those of many of the Northern States. A comparison will, I think, sustain this favorable report."

The estimates of expenditures will be sent to you within a few days.

I will close this communication by inviting a close scrutiny of the accounts and disbursements of all State officers. This is due to the people as well as honest officers, who, being so, are entitled to relief from the scandalous imputations which in this day blacken the good and bad alike.

EDMUND J. DAVIS,  
Governor.

THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES FOR STATE GOVERNMENT.

The Comptroller has failed to make me the annual report and estimate due from his office on the first Monday of last month. I can therefore only approximately estimate the receipts during the current and ensuing fiscal years. On the basis of the taxes assessed for the fiscal year 1871-2, the State ad valorem and occupation taxes for this year ought to be about \$1,630,000, one-half of these sums going to the available school fund. Unless our means of collecting the taxes is bettered, a large part of these amounts will not reach the Treasury during the years for which they are assessed. If our tax laws are corrected we may expect full collections, and the assessment for next year will also be considerably greater than I have estimated.

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