

SPECIAL MESSAGE.

STATE OF IOWA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

DES MOINES, January 15, 1868.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In obedience to the provisions of Section 27, Chapter 93, Acts of the XI General Assembly, making an appropriation for extraordinary expenses for the Executive Office, and the liquidation of unpaid claims—contracted under the prior term,—I have the honor to report the following as the amounts drawn and disbursed up to the present date:

Since the date of the report made in the Senate, February 1, 1866, and before the taking effect of the above mentioned act, there was drawn, under Section 27, Chapter 32, laws of 1864, for payment of demands existing against said fund, the sum of \$3,052.08.

Under the Act of the Eleventh General Assembly there has been drawn the sum of \$455.25, making the total drawn under both appropriations, since the date of my last report, the sum of \$3,507.33.

To this amount should be added the sum of \$32.20, being amount on hand at the date of said last report, thus leaving me chargeable altogether with the sum of \$3,539.53.

Of the amount thus debited to me, I have expended in liquidating old claims properly chargeable to the fund, as contemplated by law, and for extraordinary expenses of the Executive office, the sum of

\$3,343.71, as will be seen by reference to vouchers 1 to 31 inclusive, now on file in the office of Secretary of State, leaving in my hands unexpended the sum of \$195.82. This amount I have passed over to my successor, and taken his receipt therefor, which is on file as voucher 32, with those above mentioned.

CLAIM OF COL. GEORGE COWIE.

I desire to call the special attention of the General Assembly to the claim of Col. George Cowie, who, since the 11th day of May, 1866, has been acting under executive appointment as agent for this State in procuring back pay, bounties, commuted rations, and other claims for our soldiers at Washington City.

This gentleman has devoted assiduous labor and great attention to the business pertaining to this agency, and through his individual efforts, as the accredited agent of the State, much valuable work has been accomplished for the soldiers of Iowa, and thousands of dollars collected and paid over to them, which had been unreasonably delayed for the want of proper attention at the several departments. I am personally aware that he has devoted much time to, and expended his own means in the transaction of this business, and that for the service he has received no compensation from the State, or from the soldiers for whom he has labored.

Knowing that much of this kind of business would receive more prompt attention, and be greatly expedited if presented and urged by one having authority as a general agent of the State, than if dependent upon the efforts of private agents, acting for a compensation from the claimant, I deemed it advisable to constitute some reliable person agent to perform this duty. I was also advised that one class of military claims, under a rule adopted by the Department, would not be sent to any other than a State agent duly appointed and recognized.

There having been no appropriation made for this purpose, Col. Cowie accepted the appointment, knowing that compensation for his services depended entirely upon the ratification of my appointment by the General Assembly, and agreeing, in view of this fact, that, if it was not ratified, no remuneration could be received.

In my judgment these faithful and efficient services and generous

expenditure of private means are deserving of recognition, and some reasonable compensation should be awarded.

I therefore recommend an appropriation of eight hundred dollars for this purpose, which amount will be no more than a fair compensation for services actually rendered, and but a tithe of the sum which the soldiers thus served would have been compelled to pay to private agents.

COMMISSIONER TO PARIS EXPOSITION.

An arrangement was entered into between the General Government and the Imperial authority of France, by which the privilege was extended to each of the American States to appoint one Commissioner to represent it at the Universal Exposition at Paris during the spring and summer of 1867.

The Commissioners thus selected were authorized to take charge of all articles forwarded by their respective States, and designed to be exhibited at this industrial exhibition. Congress having provided means for the transportation and selected an agent to represent this country and exercise a general supervision over its productions after arrival at their destination. The Government however did not undertake to defray the expenses of the State Commissioners, and inasmuch as the General Assembly failed to make any appropriation for this purpose, I was not prepared to have our State represented on that occasion in a manner at all compatible with its high standing and just fame as an industrial and producing country. But through the energetic efforts and commendable perseverance of Dr. J. M. Shaffer, Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, many valuable specimens of our geological, mechanical and agricultural productions were obtained and forwarded through the channels prescribed by the Federal Government, and were, as I am informed, exhibited in a proper manner at the Exposition.

Dr. Otto Thieme, of the city of Burlington, accepted the Commission to act for this State, and rendered whatever service it was possible under the circumstances, in having this State favorably represented during the continuance of the exhibition. The report of his doings and observations is herewith transmitted for the consider-

ation of your honorable body. No promise was made by me that this Commissioner should receive any compensation for his services, and he accepted the commission with an understanding that an account of his doings should be presented to the General Assembly for such action in the premises as might be considered expedient. This report contains much interesting and practical information, and I respectfully recommend that it be printed, in order that its contents and merit may be more fully understood, and that you may thereby determine more satisfactorily whether the Commissioner has entitled himself to any compensation for the services rendered.

W. M. STONE.

GOVERNOR'S SPECIAL MESSAGE

AND REPORT OF

COL. J. N. DEWEY, COMMISSIONER OF CLAIMS.

STATE OF IOWA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
DES MOINES, January 15th, 1868.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

I have the honor herewith to present to the General Assembly the report of Colonel J. N. Dewey, containing a full and satisfactory account of the settlement which has recently been obtained with the Treasury Department at Washington, of the claims for military disbursements made by the State, and alluded to in my recent biennial message.

The total amount of claims on file at the United States Treasury, on account of expenditures incurred in raising troops for the Federal Government, was \$647,563.78, of which the sum of \$619,717.24 has just been allowed and passed to the credit of the State.

Against this credit the State stood charged with the sum of \$384,274.80 as our proportion of the direct tax levied upon the several States, under the Act of Congress approved August 5th, 1861, as fully explained in my message to the Eleventh General Assembly, and the payment of which was assumed by the Act of the General Assembly approved January 31st, 1862, and charged against us by the United States Treasury.

In addition to this the State stood debited at this Department with the sum of \$100,000.00, advanced by the General Government on account of military expenditures in 1862, making a total charge against the State of \$484,274.80, which being deducted from the amount allowed the State, as above mentioned, leaves a balance of