

to a great extent if not entirely to supersede the pecuniary sacrifices which have been heretofore considered necessary to ensure the completion of the canal to Cumberland.

By the last report of the Directors of the Penitentiary which will be laid before you, it will appear that valuable improvements have been introduced into the management of that institution. The net revenue for the year 1840 was \$450.16. The entire production of the labor of the convicts during the last year was \$38,997.37 while the expenses of every description amounted to \$39,462.53 leaving a clear profit of \$9,534.84. The number of persons now in confinement is 280. The policy adopted by the Directors, so to employ the convicts as to interfere as little as possible with the mechanical pursuits of our citizens is highly praiseworthy. I will venture however to suggest to the Legislature that there are considerations affecting the future destiny of that unfortunate class of beings who may be incarcerated for violations of the laws not worthy the serious attention of our wise and humane Legislature. Much special care be taken to teach the convicts such trade as may be pursued profitably in the country which is to become their home having so home it means of support they will, we may fear relapse into their vicious habits and become a terror to the Society of which they may become members.

The laws making provision for the education of the congenitally blind and deaf and dumb impose the duty on the Governor to inform the Legislature annually what amount has been expended within the year for these objects. For the past year the sum of \$1,665.30 was expended for the education of the deaf and dumb, and \$1,406.00 for the education of the blind. The principal of the Pennsylvania Institution for the education of the deaf and dumb recommends that pupils of that character shall not be sent to that institution until they shall have attained the age of 10 or 11 years, and shall not be withdrawn until they shall have had at least the benefit of six years tuition. If you concur in these opinions an amendment of the laws on this interesting subject will of course be necessary.

The usual report has been received from the Superintendent of the State Canal Road. It will be laid before you. It appears from the report that the Road is in excellent condition and does credit to the officer having charge of its affairs.

A full and detailed report of the Joint Committee of the two Houses of the General Assembly appointed under resolution No. 8 of December Session 1840 has been made to the Governor in compliance with resolution No. 38 of the last Session, from which it appears that the duties imposed upon the Committee have been diligently and faithfully performed. The report will also be communicated.

The Congress 1836 for the purpose of establishing an uniform standard of weights and measures throughout the United States, directed the Secretary of the Treasury whose name and address to the Governor.