

Annual volunteer & Militia force of the State, will be the result of your deliberations &
Measures The present Militia system imposes on the State an annual expense of from one
to two thousand dollars, without affording any equivalent advantage. The 24th section
of the Act of 1834, Chapter 25, makes it the duty of the Adjutant General to furnish the Militia
Officers, annually, with proper forms & blanks, for their returns & reports, and directs the
Governor to draw on the treasury, for the cost of such forms & blanks. Since the passage
of this Act, the annual expense incident to the compliance with this provision, (for printing
& postage alone,) has been equal to one thousand dollars, and if this section remains in
force, will be increased, in the ratio of the increase of the number of officers now in
Commission, above the number heretofore commissioned. Since the adjournment
of the Legislature in March last, I have signed more than fifteen hundred ^{Military} commissions,
which would double the expense heretofore incurred, under this section of the Act
of 1834, and being satisfied, that no officer is, or should be in Commission, who is inca-
pable of making all the reports & returns required of him by law, I am sure you will
readily apply the necessary correction to save the State this unnecessary expense.
Gentlemen, I must now refer to the subject which will, above all others demand
your consideration and action.

Our State for the last six years has been unable to meet her liabilities,
from causes referred to, and fully explained, in my Message to the last Legislature.
For a portion of that period, the public debt had increased, by the accumulation of
interest, with fearful rapidity, and at the close of the fiscal year immediately
preceding my qualification as Governor the arrears of interest amounted to
\$1,452,154.51. The law imposing the direct tax had passed at December session 1840,
and with the other revenue measures, subsequently passed, were found wholly inade-
quate to arrest the progressive accumulation of interest, and consequent increase of
the public debt. To the total insufficiency of the tax which had been imposed,
if fully paid, to meet the demands upon the treasury, was superadded the more
alarming fact, that in seven Counties of the State, the revenue laws were unenforced.
In this disastrous condition of the public finances, it became my duty to devise
& recommend such measures as would be adequate to redeem the public
faith, & render justice to the creditors of the State. It was manifest to me at
this juncture, that prompt & efficient action on the part of the legislative &
executive branches of the Government, or permanent insolvency & dishonor,
were the necessary alternatives. At this crisis in the affairs of the State, I had
a right to expect the cordial support of every Citizen who valued the honor of his
State, and I was consequently unprepared for the opposition to some of the
measures recommended, which was manifested in some sections of the State. I
did, however, receive the cordial & efficient co-operation of the Legislatures of 1844 & 1845,
and the wisdom of their legislation is now vindicated by its results. The beneficial effects
of that legislation, united with the proper enforcement of the other revenue laws, will be
demonstrated by a comparison of the previous, with the subsequent financial condition
of the treasury. During the fiscal year ending on the first of December 1844, the
treasurer paid on account of interest \$395,059 ⁶²/₁₀₀, being less than one year's interest,
by the sum of \$260,361 ⁵⁴/₁₀₀, and the public debt was consequently increased
during that fiscal year by the amount of that deficit. In the following fiscal
year ending on the first of December, 1845, the treasurer paid, towards the liquida-
tion of interest, the sum of \$710,784 ⁵⁷/₁₀₀, being more than one year's interest.