

Mr. Hendricks' Circular.

WASHINGTON CITY, June 30, 1836.

Another Session of strange and peculiar character is drawing near to a close, and as heretofore has been my custom, I purpose on the present occasion, to give to the People of the State, a brief outline of the business transacted by it, and pending before it. It has been a session of great interest, novel in its character and incidents, and calculated to produce a strong and exciting action upon the body politic throughout the United States.

The Surplus Revenue, strange as it may appear, has been the most difficult question of the Session. The surplus on hand, was admitted, by a report of the Secretary of the Treasury, of the 9th of June last, to be upwards of thirty-three millions. This in the vaults of the Depository Banks, was withdrawn from circulation, or its circulation in all respects, subjected to the discretion of those institutions. Various plans have been proposed for getting rid of it: such as Distribution among the States; building Fortifications on the sea board, and ships of war; and the Land Bill. These several schemes have had their advocates, but, until a late period of the Session, the probability was, that the whole surplus would be expended, in building fortifications, and ships of war, and in arming them. The friends of the Land bill were not however opposed to a gradual increase of the Navy and fortifications, nor to appropriations much enlarged for these objects; but they contended for a distribution of the proceeds of land sales, leaving the revenue from all other sources, for the current expenditures of the Government.

I voted for the Land bill; think the distribution it proposes, the best that we in the new States can ever hope to get, and believe that unless we get this, we get nothing else valuable to us on that subject. Reduction of price, and graduation, have been unsuccessfully tried for ten or fifteen years.

I have heretofore in letters like this, given my views in this matter, and entered into calculations to show the amount which this bill, in five years, would divide to the State of Indiana. Such however has been the great increase of land sales of late, and especially within the last year, that all my calculations have been left far on the back ground. The receipts from the Public Lands during the past year exceeded fifteen millions, and there is good reason to believe that during the present year, they will exceed twenty millions. The dividend to which Indiana would be entitled of the sum on hand, the 27th January last, is agreeably to a report of the committee on Public lands, \$917,213 and this is little more than two-fifths of the sum which would have been distributed by the bill. This is in my opinion better for us, than building ships to rot in our docks and harbours, before we shall ever find use for them, for we have at present more than are ever employed at the same time. It is better than building useless fortifications, which must be abandoned in a great measure to dilapidation after they are built; for unless we greatly increase our Army, we shall not have men enough to garrison them.

It is believed by many, whose opinions are entitled to great respect, that the amount which would be distributed by the Land Bill, in five years, would be upwards of \$50,000,000, and that the surplus for distribution by the other mode, will be somewhere between thirty and forty millions. The Land Bill had long been before the House of Representatives, having passed the Senate, and no action upon it promising a favorable result having been had, other dispositions of the surplus were proposed.

The propositions to deposit in the State Treasuries, the surplus which shall be on hand on the first of January next, leaving \$5,000,000 in the Treasury of the U. States, has been adopted by a large majority of both Houses, and received the sanction of the President. From 35 to 40 millions will in all probability be deposited in the State Treasuries under that law. But the distribution of the same sum by the Land Bill, would have been better for the new States by ten per cent., because by it, they would have received ten per cent. of the moneys received from the sales, before any general division would have taken place. By the other bill no such advantage is given to the new States. This however can be better illustrated by figures than in any other way. On the 27th of January last, agreeably to a report of the Committee on the Public Lands of the Senate, there were for distribution as proposed by the Land Bill, \$20,571,213. The dividend of Indiana out of this sum, is \$917,213, agreeably to the other bill it is ten per cent. less.

But the Land Bill does not terminate on the first of January next, as the other bill does. It distributes the proceeds of the Land sales till the 31st of December, 1837, ten or fifteen millions in all probability after the other bill will cease to operate on the receipts into the Treasury. In addition to this, the Land Bill contained an appropriation of 115,000 acres of land in favor of the State of Indiana, which if judiciously selected in the new lands, not yet brought into market, would have been worth from three to \$500,000. Taking then these three items, the difference in the amounts distributed under the two bills; the ten per cent., and the 115,000 acres of land, and it is a calculation perfectly safe, that the difference to Indiana between these two bills, would exceed one million of dollars. The time however will soon come, in which this whole matter will be told in dollars and cents at the Treasury. On the first of January next it will be known how much will be deposited in the Treasuries under the law just passed, and on the 31st December, 1837, it will be known how much has been received from the land sales in five previous years. Besides the distributions under the Land Bill were final payments to the States. By the other bill the money deposited in the State Treasuries are liable to be recalled whenever the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine that such recall is necessary for the Government. Such recall however, is by no means probable. The law which has just passed is worth to the State, probably more than a million of dollars.

I voted for both bills; think the provisions of either better in all respects than the former condition of things, and have given my reasons for preferring the Land Bill. Had both bills passed, the land proceeds would have first been distributed, because the Land Bill designates a particular fund, and makes a final disposition of it. In that event, the other bill would have merely regulated the deposits of the current revenue, for the time being, in the local Banks.

A law has passed, fixing the boundaries of Michigan, and admitting her as a State into the Union, on condition that she call a Convention and modify her constitution as the law prescribes. This fixes the boundary between Michigan and Ohio, so as to include within the State of Ohio, the North Cape of the Maumee Bay, and, of course, the eastern outlet of the Wabash and Erie Canal, its points of union with the Lake. It recognizes also the Northern boundary of Indiana, as fixed and established by our constitution, and puts to rest the pretension of Michigan to a portion of our territory in the North. Michigan will then, on compliance with the requirements of the law, be entitled to seats for her Senators and Representatives, in the next Session of Congress.

A law has also passed for the admission of Arkansas, as a State of the Union.

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But little prospect exists of removing the Miami Indians from our State, in any short period of time. The Potawatamies will, no doubt, soon be gone; but the Miamies own large and desirable reservations on the Upper Wabash, contiguous to the canal. These have become valuable, of which the Indians seem well advised, and the treaty of 1834, by which they agreed to sell a part of their possessions, contained provisions objected to by the President, and has never been submitted for ratification. Two unsuccessful efforts have been made to have it modified, and so the matter rests. Believing that time would increase rather than diminish the difficulty of treating with them, I have, with others of the Delegation, been anxious for the ratification of that treaty.

The bill making appropriations for the construction of the Cumberland road in the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, has at length become a law. The sum for the road in Ohio is \$200,000; that for Indiana, \$250,000; and for Illinois, \$100,000. More difficulty and delay than usual heretofore have been experienced in this matter; and it is much to be regretted that so much of the working season will have passed by, before operations upon it can be commenced.

A bill appropriating \$50,000 for the improvement of the Wabash river passed the Senate, at an early period of the Session, but has not yet been acted on by the House.

An appropriation of \$25,000 for a harbor at Michigan city, has passed both Houses, and an additional appropriation for a lighthouse at that place, has also been made.

The Louisville and Portland Canal bill has passed the Senate, and is before

the House. It authorizes the purchase of the private stock at sixteen per cent. above par, provided so much of it can be procured as to give the Government the control of the Canal. The object is to make the Canal free except such tolls as shall be necessary to keep it in a state of preservation and repair. The obligation of the government to improve the navigation of the Ohio river at the Falls, and to remove the obstructions there, seems to be fully admitted, and should the Louisville and Portland Canal Company refuse to sell their stock, and carry into effect the objects of the bill, the People of the West will have almost a guarantee that Congress will not hesitate hereafter to appropriate money for the purpose of making a free canal on the other side of the river. There a much better canal can be made than the Louisville and Portland Canal. One that would unite Jeffersonville and New Albany, would be a perfect work, and be more valuable for its water power than perhaps any other establishment in the United States. No such appropriation, however, can be expected, until the Stockholders of the Louisville and Portland Canal shall have refused a liberal proposition from Congress in relation to that work. Without such proposition, it would be ungenerous, if not unjust, for Congress to render that work valueless, by making a free canal on the other side of the river.

The Territory of Wisconsin has recently been formed; a Governor and Judges appointed, and a Territorial Government will soon be established there. It embraces all our territory from Lake Michigan West, and from the Northern boundaries of Illinois and Missouri, to the British line. It includes the Mississippi river from its source to the mouth of the Des Moines. A Territory, large and some of it fertile, and which must at no very distant day, include two or more States.

A bill establishing many additional Post Routes has become a law. This will create, and increase, mail accommodations in various quarters, and especially in the northern parts of our State.

The question of Slavery has agitated considerably the present Session, and there is great danger that it has not yet been put to rest. The Abolitionists of the North are actuated by a zeal no doubt misguided, for with the question of Slavery, except in the District of Columbia, this Government has nothing whatever to do. Slavery in the States is a question exclusively belonging to themselves. The expediency of abolishing it here was, however, the chief question, and the petitioners have no right to complain of any thing, unless it be the disinclination to receive their petitions, and the rejection of the prayer of their petitions without consideration, or the ordinary reference to a committee. Slavery, it must be admitted, is a dangerous and deep-rooted evil in our political system; but it is one for which there seems to be no remedy, and the less the subject is agitated here and elsewhere, the better it is for the peace and welfare of the Union.

The present Congress met at a period when the Foreign Relations of the country were lowering and portentous. When the country was on the very verge of a French war, which no one seemed to have realized or expected, and of which the danger was not discovered until it was exhibited by the Message at the opening of the Session. The extraordinary demand for explanations on the part of the French Government, as a preliminary condition of her fulfilment of the solemn obligations of a treaty, and the indignant tone, and universal determination of the American People, that no humiliating explanation should be given, seemed at one time to leave little hope of a peaceful termination of our difficulties with France. And we are perhaps more indebted to the condition of Europe; the menacing attitude and the mammoth power of Russia for the pacific disposition of France, than to any other cause. France, England, and Spain, seem to have determined on checking the progress of Russia southward, and on confining the Emperor Nicholas more to his original limits. A war cloud has been gathering over Europe, and it would have been bad policy to have permitted the resources of France, to be crippled or exhausted, by a causeless and fruitless war with this country at a time when she is in danger of a war with Russia. This is no doubt the secret of the mediation of England which was offered and accepted; whose maritime and commercial interests, would otherwise have been much better consulted by war between France and the United States. What-

ever the true motive or reason of the conduct of France may have been, she has taken as sufficient explanation, the Message of the President at the commencement of the present Session, and so has terminated all apprehension of a French war.

Our intercourse with all the civilized nations of the earth, are of the most friendly character. We have ambassadors and other diplomatic agents wherever the interests of the country require. Our commerce has of late been greatly extended. It floats upon every ocean and sea, wheresoever the enterprise and cupidity of man has tempted him to go, and Squadrons of our Navy for the protection of this commerce, are cruising in the Mediterranean, the West Indies, and the Pacific Ocean.

The Session, which has been much too long, will terminate on Monday next, the 4th of July.

With great respect,

WILLIAM HENDRICKS.

TEXAS.

NEW ORLEANS, July 6.

The schr. Col. Fannin arrived this day from Velasco, which place she left on the 29th of June.

By a passenger we are informed that the Mexican troops were advancing towards Guadalupe, where the Texian troops were posted, but who it was presumed would march towards the Colorado, there to await the advancing Mexicans. Col. M. B. Lamar, late Secretary at War, had been raised to the chief command of the army, and Mr. Somerville appointed in his place as Secretary.

The people were returning from their farms and cotton plantations in great numbers, flocking to their country's standard with the zeal of patriots determined upon the expulsion of their invaders, or death in the conflict.

We are further informed that the schrs. Fanny Butler, Camanche and Watchman had been taken at Copano, by about twenty Texian cavalry, and detained in consequence of being laden with provisions for the Mexican army.

Santa Anna is still at Columbia, on the Brasos, in close confinement, and under a strong guard.

From the Natchitoches Gazette, July 2.

We have been favored with the following copy of an express from Gen. Rusk, addressed to Gens. Sam'l Houston and Gaines, dated,

IN CAMP, June 10, 1836.

Major Miller, Captain Teal, Captain Kerns and four soldiers were ordered to Matamoras, to receive some prisoners that were to be delivered up, according to treaty with Gen. Filasola. They were furnished with passports by Filasola, and promised protection. On their arrival at Matamoras, they were put in prison and their passports taken from them. They found means to procure a faithful Mexican, who promised to deliver a letter to Gen. Rusk, for two hundred dollars. He concealed the letter in the butt end of his riding whip. The letters from Major Miller, Captain Teal and Captain Kearns inform us that four thousand soldiers will leave Matamoras in four days, by land. Four thousand by water, in 15 days. Four thousand from Vera Cruz, shortly after. The Mexican soldier is compelled to take the following oath when he enters the army: "He swears to exterminate every American, or never to return to Mexico." Gen. Urrea is the commander of all the forces. The American prisoners at Matamoras write to Gen. Rusk thus, "Don't delay a moment on our account; we are willing to be lost, if Texas can be saved." The Texian army is not over 800 strong; but on the receipt of the last express, every man shouldered his rifle and started to the camp.

We learn from the express, that Santa Anna will be forwarded to Nacogdoches, under a strong guard. He will be tried by a Court Marshal, and it is expected that he will be condemned!

BLACK HAWK.—A ridiculous story is going the rounds of the eastern papers, that Black Hawk has sent the wampum to the Indians of the Northwest for the purpose of uniting with them in a war against the whites. Strange that intelligent people should continue to remain ignorant of the power to do injury of this broken-spirited red man. Black Hawk is no more nor less than a simple individual. He is no chief, and can muster no men. He still lives down near the Rapids; and from his advanced years we should suppose him incapable of any acts of aggression, either in thought or deed. The people of this frontier do not apprehend the least danger from the Indians; and were these reports, intended for this section, they would be laughed down in less than no time.

Galena Gazette.

PUBLIC WORKS IN INDIANA.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS.

Sealed proposals will be received at Lafayette, on the 23d day of August next, by J. B. Johnson, Acting Commissioner, for the construction of all the heavy sections on that portion of the Wabash and Erie canal lying between Georgetown and Lafayette, 32 miles in length. The work to be let embraces several of the most important and expensive jobs in the state, amongst which are 3 Dams, one across the Wabash, one across Deer creek, and the other across Wildcat; two Bluffs, each near one and a fourth miles in length, along which the canal will be formed in the river; 6 Lift Locks and 3 Guard Locks; together with several sections of deep cutting and high embankment.

Also at Brookville, on the 13th day of September next, by Elisha Long, Acting Commissioner, for the construction of about 34 miles of the White-water Canal, extending from Brookville to Lawrenceburgh. This division embraces 2 Dams across the White-water, 14 Lift Locks to be built of stone, 2 Aqueducts, several large arched Culverts of stone, 6 or 8 heavy Bluff sections, and some deep cutting, together with the usual variety of earth work common to all canals.

Also at Madison, on the 27th day of September next, by John Woodburn Acting Commissioner, for the grading and bridging on 22 miles of the Madison and Lafayette Rail Road, extending north from the Ohio river. The line to be let embraces some heavy work, consisting of the usual variety of cuttings, embankments and bridges common to works of this kind. The road-bed to be graded for a double track.

Also at Indianapolis, on the 4th day of October next, by D. Burr, Acting Commissioner, for the construction of 25 miles of the Central Canal, extending from the feeder dam above Indianapolis to "the Bluffs." This line embraces a Dam across the White river, an Aqueduct over Fall creek, 3 Lift Locks, most of which will be built of cut stone, 2 or 3 Bluff sections, and several large Culverts.

Also at Paoli, on the 18th day of October next, by John G. Clendenin, Acting Commissioner, for the grading and bridging on 41 miles of the New Albany and Vincennes McAdamized Turnpike road, extending from New Albany to Paoli, and embracing such a variety of cuttings, embankments, and bridges as is common on turnpike roads.

Also at Evansville, on the 1st day of November next, by Samuel Hall, Acting Commissioner, for the construction of 26 to 30 miles of the Central Canal, extending from a point near the head of Big Pigeon creek, to Evansville. The work to be let on this line is of the ordinary character embracing several Locks, to be built of stone, and one or more Aqueducts, with a number of culverts.

Also at Terre-Haute, on the 15th day of November next, by Thomas H. Blake, Acting Commissioner, for the construction of about 20 miles of the Cross-cut canal, extending from Terre-Haute to Eel river. This line embraces a deep cut of considerable magnitude, a Dam across Eel river and 8 or 10 cut stone Locks.

The several lines to be let, will be divided into sections of suitable length for the convenience of contractors. The length of time given for the completion of the work, the terms of the contracts, the manner of performing the work, &c. & c. will be fully made known at the time and place of letting. The various lines will be staked out and ready for the inspection of contractors, ten days previous to the day of letting; and the plans, profiles and estimates of qualities, will be at the place of letting for three days immediately preceding the day of receiving bids. Bidders are requested to make themselves fully acquainted with the character of the work, so that they may not be mistaken in regard to its value.

Bidders who are not personally known to the Acting Commissioner or Engineer in charge of the work, will be expected to present with their proposals, satisfactory testimonials as to their qualifications and character.

Dated Indianapolis, 4th July, 1836.

By Order of the State Board of Internal Improvement.

DAVID H. MAXWELL, Pres.
JAMES MORRISON, Secy.

BEAT THIS.—Three ladies from one neighborhood, in Montpelier, Vt., accidentally happening in at a store in that place, one day last week, just stepped into the scales to see how light they were. Their aggregate weight was 600 pounds.