A Sesquicentennial Moment

June 23-29, 1861

Disputes are bound to arise over a variety of issues when one state operates with two separate governments, especially issues involving money.

Toward the end of this week in 1861, Virginia's government in Richmond halted work on the Northwestern Lunatic Asylum in Weston in Lewis County, and repealed a loan for West Liberty Academy in West Liberty in Ohio County.

Because the action affected loyal northwestern counties, Virginia's government in Wheeling commissioned the 7th Ohio Infantry to seize gold for the projects from the Weston bank where it was being stored. In all, the Wheeling government retrieved $27,000 worth of gold from the Richmond government on June 30, 1861.

HARPER'S WEEKLY
A JOURNAL OF CIVILIZATION

Vol. V.—No. 236.] NEW YORK, SATURDAY, JULY 6, 1861.

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This sesquicentennial moment is brought to you by the Archives&History Section of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History.

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