SUPPLEMENT.

GOV. DAWES SPEAKS.

He Addresses the Citizens of Omaha on Current Political Topics,

In a Temperate and Fercible Manner Sets Forth the Situation

And With Facts Sliences the School Land Standerers.

The following are the remarks of Gov. Dawes at the grand rally at Omaha last Thursday night:

Mr. Chairman and Fellow Citizens-The subject of school lauds and funds has been seized upon by democrats and assistant democrats, by those who wish to compass the defeat of the republican party in Nebraska, or of some portions of the republican state ticket, and they have not hesitated to distort both the facts and the figures, and when these have failed they have invaded the realms of fancy and imagination for some new horror with which to play upon the public mind, hoping thereby to influence the judgments of men. Standing at the head of the republican state ticket, representing my party that has so honored and trusted me, I am here this evening to speak regarding these matters, f r that through the blow aimed at myself it reaches my party. For yet another reason I am here. A reason that is personal, a reason that takes hold of me with the tenacity of purpose and resolve, such as incites to action him who is conscious of the fact that he carries an honest heart in his breast, and is not afraid to look a people in the face. As the governor of your state, sworn under the constitution to a faithful performance of the duties of my office. Understanding

Strong language. Yes it is true, and the facts warrant the language used. The cause of education is a sacred one. It has become an accepted truth or axion that "that the first duty of the state is to educate all its people." This feeling was no less strong in the early days of the country than it is at the present time. Looking into he history of legislation, looking to the advancement of the cause of education, we find that the two ordinances for the government of the northwes ern territory, enacted in 1785 and 1787, set apart section number sixteen of every township for the purpose of maintaining public

the responsibilities and sacredness of

the trust placed in my hands, I am pre-pared to say that no duty has been ne-glected, that no trust has been betrayed.

As a justification for an act by which a un ion gave i's ii le to these lands away, and as a con ideration that would forever hold good in defense of such an act, they inserted this declaration: "Redigion, morality and knowledge being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools and the means of education shall be torever encouraged?

In the ordinance of 1787 more than common schools were provided for. Two complete townships were given for the purpose of a university; and in full compliance therewith every state organized since then has received their two townships. When in 1789 the constitution was adopted, the ordinance was renewed, and all the states down to 1848 received the specified sixteenth section. Upon the organization in 1848 of Oregon as a territory, a further provision was made, by which section vision was made, by which section thirty-six of each township was also set apart for public schools, and all states and territories organized since then have received the two sections instead of one 78,957.41. Number of acres own the September 1, 1884, 2,746,936.94. Number of screen under contract of sale,

Number of acres under lease, 865,471.

Number of acros vacant including lands not appraised 1,480,360,43. I will state at the beginning that it is my firm belief that in no state will the educational lands and funds be found in better condition than are those of Ne-

braska at this time. LEASED LANDS.

Under article 8 section 1 of the constitution, the governor, secretary of state, tution, the governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, attorney general and commissioner of public lands and buildings are constituted as a board of commission for the sale, leasing and general mana ement of all-lands and funds set grant for educational purposes, and for expert for educational purposes, and for apart for educational purposes, and for the investment of school funds as may the investment of school funds as may be prescribed by law. By the act of February 24, 1883, the commissioner of public lands and buildings was made

The fact that a large amount of land has been leased, and in a few cases in large amounts to one person, has been made the pretext for wholesale charges of fraud and corruption upon the part of the membership of the board. The case made against the board or any member thereof rests solely upon assertion and in invation. When I speak in this in invation. When I speak in this manner I am charged with rushing to the defeace of the board. Not at all. I am simply staing a fact. Charges have been made both loud and longer to division of saids but in a continuous stains. long of collusion, of raids, but in no one instuce have they offered anything in the nature of proof Honest differences of opinion have exis ed among the members of the board. The case of the lands in Keith county will explain my meaning. An application had been made for the appraisal of these lands, and the matter came up for our decision. All were in favor of leaving the lands if it could be lawfully done, and the astorney general was of the opinion that it could be done without offering for sale. It was an off-mooted question with the board, as it is with many thoughtful persons, as to the policy to be pursued by the state in the matter of parting with title to our matter of parting with title to our be offered for sale, and being concept to be offered for sale, and being opposed to selling until the legislature should have an opportunity to voice the

SENTIMENT OF THE PEOPLE upon this question, my vote and that of the state treasurer were recorded against appraising these lands; but it has never

occurred to me to impute a dishonest motive by reason of that difference of opin-

When charges of fraud in the matter of appraising these lands are brought to the attention of the board they at once sent a telegram to the treasurer of said county instructing him to

RETURN ALL LEASES.

They were returned, and were cancelled. Instead of approving this action on the part of the board we are met with the charge that tear of disgrace prompts the action. In the absence of proof of an evil or wicked motive I would rather believe that men are honest, and give them credit for an honest act when performed. Mistakes in judgment may occur, but to make such mistake the basis of a charge of dishonesty is without reason or justice, and should meet with the condemnation of all fair minded men. It is true that lands were leased in

CEDAR AND GREELEY COUNTIES without notice of sale, but is not true as to Lincoln county. In Cedar county 21,760 acres of land were returned as appraised under date of May 5, 1883, and in Greeley county twelve sections were returned as appraised under date

of May 8, 1883. The appraisal lists of these lands showed them to be appraised below the mini-mum value at which they could be sold; and in neither county did the appraisers note any settlers or improvements upon the lands appraised. These lands were leased to the highest bidder; but that the citizens of Cedar or Greeley county, were not advised of such fact, will not be substantiated by an examination of bids filed, rejected, or awarded to citizens of these counties, and the board had reason to believe from representations made by reliable parties residing in these counties that none of the lands if offered could be sold at the minimum price. The lands so lea ed in Cedar county were agricultural college lands, and those in Greeley county were com-mon school lands. These are the only instance of lease without notice of sale. During the spring and early summer of 1883, there are an unprecedented demand for Nebraska lands. The During the spring and early sumyears of successive good crops were bearing their legitimate fruit, and the throng of land seekers became so great that in a day, so to speak, lands that hitherto had remained untaken and unsought were eagerly taken. Land grant roads had discosed of the remnant of their lands, and soll they came. When such lands as could be bought in fee, or at low prices and on long time, were absorbed the demand for school lands became great as the terms of lease, and sales have always been made easy by legislative enact-ment, although the minimum price at which they could be sold is much above the average price of other wild land. It is easy indeed to prophecy after the fact, and we will all agree that could the leg islature have f rseen the demand and the results under the present law their united wisdom would no doubt have devised some means to check the evils complained of under the present law. If we consider this matter from the standpoint of the fund to be benefitted by leasing and the rents so derived, then the object for which these lands were given is in a fair way to be accom-plished, but if we are to consider it alone from the standpoint of individual interest, then we are at once confronted with the questions of policy regarding these lands and the proper disposition to be made of them, considering both the claims of those present and those of the future—questions that will call for the careful and conscientious action of our law-makers, and demand their best

Speaking of the reappraisal of lands of school land within the past two years county since May 9, long provided after forty days notice, as provided law, 160 acres were sold at seven dollars law, 160 acres were sold at seven dollars per acre. It will be noticed that under the public sue, with notice full and sufficient, land is yet sold at the minimum price per acre as fixed by the constitution. In Lancaster county there is been ne public sale since July 8, 1879.
The reason why is clearly apparent when we refer to section seven of the school land laws, where it appears that no lands can be offered at public sale. that no lands can be offered at public sale, save such as are unsold, or unleased, and the lands in these counties being under sale or lease, the anly sales that could be made were under the private sale act to lessees. It may perhaps be urged that we have since 1879 leased lands in these counties. By reference to "An Act for the Relief of Purchasers of School Lands" approved February 26, 1879, it will be found that purchasers of school lands were allowed to surrender their lands were allowed to surrender their lands on terms that were advan ageous to themselves and this act brought back to the state lands in these counties, which were again leased under the lease law. This applies especially to large quantities of lands sold to a few persons in the older counties during the years 1868 and 1869.

Why are lands sold at private sale? By reference to the act of February 27, 1879, it will be found that the legislature amended sections number 17 and 19 of the act of February 19, 1877. Amending section 17 by making the minimum rate section 17 by making the minimum rate upon lands leased 6 per cent, instead of 8 per cent of the appraised value, and section 19 by providing that "any lessee of educational lands may at any time approved the content transfer of the content transfer of ply in writing to the county treasurer of the county in which the land is situated to have such land appraised for the pur-pose of sale." The section further propose of sale." The section further provides hat upon payment of \$6 the county tressurer, county clerk and county judge shall appoint three disinterested free-holders, whose duty it shall be to appraise the land at its full value, exclusive praise the land at its full value, exclusive of improvements, and make return under oath, within twenty days. The applicant shall then, within sixty days sarrender his lease, and "may purchase such lands at their appraised value, but for not less than \$7 per agree. than \$7 per acre, AND A CONTRACT OF SALE SHALL

be executed and recorded in all respects in the same manner, and shall have the same force as in case of public sale."

Under this law the state board had no power to reject an appraisal so made un-der oath of the three di-interested free-holders, nor any power to review the act of any such officer or appraisor. Under the act of Februar, 24 1883, this sections was so amended, that if in the judgment of the land commissioner the appraisal was not made upon a full valuation, he could refer it to the board, and they had the power to order the contract made, or the laud reappraised, or the application rejected. This law has been strictly followed, and the commissioner, es he informs me, has instructed every county tressurer in the state in counties where lands are in the market and have been so appraised by circular letter to report with every application his judgment as to the fairness of the valuation r. turne, by the appraisers. The cases referred to the board have in most instances been rejected and would indicate that the commis-sioner had done his duty in the prem-

It is fair to presume that county officials have been faithful in the discharge of their duty in the matter of the ap-pointment of appraisers. We are bound to believe that men sworn to do their full duty, and who make their return under oath as provided by law, that they have so acted, are swearing to the truth and are not committing perjury. I repeat that in the absence of proof to the contrary we are bound to believe this. The action of the commissioner and of the board is based upon the sworn statement provided for by law. If i be true that under the present law the state cannot secure a fair and just valuation upon her school lands then let the remedy be applied by the enactment of a law that will furnish the needed protection. If local influences stand in the way of a fair appraisal than remove the difficulty by a change in the method of appraising. Clearly the remely for existing evils does not consist in unfair unjust and unmarkly attack or unfair, unjust, and unmanly attack or criticism intended to reflect upon officers who are in the faithful discharge of

INVESTMENT OF PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND.

It has been charged by insinuation that the board had been neglectful of duty in the investing of permanent school funds and the following detailed statement is in answer to the demand for dates and amounts:

January 9, 1883, when the present board came into rower, the permanent school fund on hand, as reported by the

state treasurer, was \$137,487.77. Investments have been made as fol-

March 13, 1883. \$5,000. Howard county 8 per cents; netting the state 6 per

March 13, 1883, \$10,000. Platte county 8 per cents; netting the state 6 per cent. April 10, 1883, \$25,000. Dakota county

6 per cents, at par.
September 20, 1883, \$24,000. Kearney county 6 per cents, at par.
October 10, 1883, \$2,000. Dakota county, 6 per cent at par. October 26, 1883, \$7,000. Dawson coun-

ty, 6 per cent at par. November 13, 1883, \$11,000. Kearney county, 10 per cents, to net state 6 per

December 11, 1883, \$12,000. Dawson county, 6 per cents, at par.

December 15, 1883, \$33,500. Phelps county 7 per cents, to net state 6 per

January 8, 1884, \$1,000. Phelps county, 7 per cents, to net state 6 per cent. January 8, 1884, \$9,000. Dawson county, 6 per cents, at par. February 8, 1884, \$4,000. Hall county,

6 per cent at par.
February 21, 1884, \$500. Phelps county, 7 per cents, to net state 6 per cent.
March 4, 1884, \$7,000. Dawson county,

October 14, 1892, 17,0 Making the total amount invested during the lite of the present board, covering a period of twenty-one months of

October 26, 1883, Secretary Roggen introduced a resolution which was spread upon the records of the board, providing that the moneys on hand belonging to the permanent school fund, should be invested in three per cent government bonds, and that when in the future a state, or registered county 6 per cent bond was offered as an investment, and there was not sufficient money on hand to make such investment, the treasurer should be instructed to reconvert a sufficient amount of U. S. three per cents to make such high rate

There was a doubt in the minds of the investment. board as to their power to direct such sale, and the resolution went over until November 13, 1883, when the board went to the supreme court with the following

"Have the board, after purchasing U. question: S. three per cent bonds for the permaneat school fand, the power under the high ra'e interest registered county bonds?"

It will be seen that this question and the answer to it involved the success or f-ilure of the intention of the resolution. Upon this question the supreme court made answer as follows (in 15 Nebraska

Reports, page 684): "Af er investment in U. S. three per "Af er investment in concent bonds, the board cannot sell or concent bonds, the coller securities. When vert them into other securities. paid, they may be re-invested as the

The act of February 28, 1883 authoriz ing count es to issue bonds for refundinz their bonded indebtedness, and provide for registering, and certifying the same, and for levying a tax to pay the interest and principal thereof, held out to the board such promise of opportunity for investment in six per cent registered county bonds, as to render it in their judgment advisable to defer active. Investments made since that time couclusively demons rate the wisdom of the course per-

The Dakota county finding bonds of which there has been much said that is untrue, and of which the permanent school fund holds \$27,000 were issued under the fin ling act of 1877. They were issued, and dated July 1 1882; and preseated to the auditor and secretary of state, for registration, and certification, which was refused by such officer. Application was made to the supreme court for a writ of mandamus to compel the officers to act. was issued and observed by the registry officers. The case is fully reported in the Fourteenth Nebraska Reports, page

The bonds were offered the board as an investment April 10, 1883. It appeared that the bonds had been regularly issued, the proper levies made to pay the accruing interest and is now in the hands of the county treasurer. These are not the bonds that have been in litigation. There is no doubt but the bonds owned by the state will be paid in full, in-terest and principal. These are the only bonds owned by the permanent school fund upon which there has ever been even a temporary suspension in the payment of interest. Applying this gratifying state of affairs to the results of payment- of interest your own experience. All will agree that care and caution have been exercised by the board in the matter of investments.

Where, it is asked, are the school moneys deposited? Can it be that toose who ask this question are not aware that under our law the state treasurer is they custodian of these funds and that the state board of school lands and funds has no control of them save as an investment is made and the tressurer instructed to make payment in accordance therewith. When investments have been made the money has been ready. The treasurer is responsible for that part of it. To hold this board responsible for the safe keeping or the place where the money may be kept would be as wise and lair as to hold the board of county commissions responsible for the acts of your county treasurer. It is said that the board are anxious

to obtain a revenue from the leasing of educational lands and then keep \$130,000 to \$300,000 uninvested because they cannot invest it, and it is said, "Why are they so desirous to rent land for three cents per acre, when they claim they cannot invest the money after obtaining it?" Is it possible that the author of such a statement does not know that the board of school lands and funds has no juri-diction whatever over the es on notes or state school taxes, but that all these go, to the state treasurer, and are apportioned twice each year per capita to the school children of the state? The leasing of every are of school land in the state will not increase the permanent school fund in the least. It simply increases the amount apportioned to the school children of the school dren of the state, and goes directly to the payment of teachers' wages, and in this way lessens the rate of taxation for that purpose. This temporary fund amounted to \$485,805 84 for the year end-ing May, 1884, as against \$221,014 36 for the year ending May, 1881, and it is safe to say that it will never be less than \$500,000 per annum from this time forward. This large sum of money goes directly to the lessening of your school tax, and the fund thus divided is greater than that now used to support the whole state. May, against that now used to support the whole state government, including its penal, reformatory, charitable and educational institutions. I sm informed that a certain democratic sta esman in his perambulations around the state is recommending a change of plan and that this money be distributed directly and taxation for school purposes be done away with; utterly oblivious of the fact that of all education to the fact that On September, 1, 1884, at ambedied in by cash on hand

TWELVE THOUSAND FOUR HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE DOLLARS, AND SIXTY CENTS;

bonds and securities, \$1.010,939.37; notes given for nine-tenths of lands sold estimated, \$2,800,000. Making a total interest bearing fund of \$3,810,939.37.

Since September 1, 1884, an actual count of notes given for nuce-tent's of principal of lands sold, places the sum at \$3,-040,034.54. Showing the estimate, modestly made, and the actual interest bearing found to be at the present time \$4,050,973.91.

Public officials should rightfully, at all times be held to a strict accountability, and should be ready to account for any trust placed in their hands. Recognizing these truths the foregoing statement of facts is respectfully submitted to the people of Nebraska. A public official is never above, or beyond just crit cism, and in turn it is due to him who fills such sta ion that our criticism be just. It setemen s are made such as reflect upon the integrity or faithfulness of an official street will consider well the source from whence they come; you will ask yourselve what is the motive that prompted the attack-what is the object sought by him, or those who make the charges. Is the public good alone the motive that impels them to action, or on the other hand, is the object they seek to accomplish the advancement of a personal end, a personal interest, or a personal ambition. An end, an interest, an ambition to be reached at any cost, even at the expense of tearing down the reputations of honest men. I repeat, weigh well their statements, consider well their source, ha mo ive that prompts well their source, homo ive that prompts them, and the time. The people can of be too exacting in asking that duty be well performed, nor can the people of a well performed nor can the people of a great state afford to do an act of injustree. I am proud to say that I believe the great mass sof the people are always the great mass sof the people are always instand fair, and so believing shall in just and fair, and so believing shall in p-r'est faith and confidence await their verdict.