

# THE BILLS

## URGES THE LEGISLATURE TO CARRY OUT PLEDGES.

### WARNS AGAINST ANY EXTRAVAGANCE

#### Years of Prosperity Time When the State Debt Should Be Reduced—

#### Revenue Law Should Be Materially Strengthened,

Governor Sheldon's message to the legislature was delivered to the two houses on Thursday, December 30, and was as follows:

To the Senators and Representatives, Thirtieth Session of the Legislature of Nebraska:

I am pleased to greet you upon this occasion. I appreciate beyond expression the confidence the people of Nebraska placed in me at the last election. I appreciate deeply the high honor thereby conferred upon me, and I wish to thank my friends throughout the state for the loyal and enthusiastic support they gave me during the campaign. I feel especially grateful for the assistance and support of the loyal republicans and the independent voters who belong to other political parties than the one to which I have the pleasure of belonging and by which I was nominated.

To the members of the legislature I desire to offer a few suggestions, which, I hope and trust, will be taken in the same kindly way, and with the same good will, as they are given.

You will remember that we are pledged against extravagance and bound not to raise any more taxes for current expenses than will be necessary to conduct our state government in the most economical manner. The total estimates for current expenses during the next biennium made by the heads of the various departments are so large that it will be necessary for you to investigate thoroughly the needs of these different institutions before making the appropriations. Promiscuous junketing is expensive, and in the past that has given the legislature a bad name. Therefore, sincerely recommended that a joint committee be appointed for the purpose of visiting the several state institutions

certainly foreign mortgages should be an interest in real estate. Being assessed an interest in real estate where the land is and not where the mortgage is. The value of the mortgage is assessed on the value of the real estate assessed upon the equity business.

It is contended by many that the result of such a law would increase the value of the mortgage, and thus drive a creditor state. If such is the case the possibility of an increase in the interest rate may be avoided by permitting the privilege of contract whereby the owner of the land may, if he chooses, pay the tax on the mortgage. This would afford to do that and to secure the benefit of the law as at present. Certainly if the domestic capital that is available for the investment of mortgages is driven out of the state non-residents may be no longer permitted to compete with longer competition by domestic capital.

During the past ten years we have been paying off our indebtedness and accumulating a surplus. It is my duty as your Governor to see that this surplus is not frittered away at home. The present law discriminates against domestic capital and in my opinion it is the responsibility of this legislature to invest their capital in securities and lands of other states. The present law discriminates against domestic capital and in my opinion it is the responsibility of this legislature to invest their capital in securities and lands of other states.

### GEORGE L. SHELDON, Nebraska's New Chief Executive.

tutions and inquiring into their actual needs before the appropriations are made. The indebtedness of the state should be decreased, which the state is prosperous. By an act of the last legislature provision was made for payment of the outstanding indebtedness of the state. This act will insure the payment of the debt within a few years if future appropriations are kept within reasonable bounds. The current expenses must be kept within the income of the state. It will not do to increase the public debt at this time. The constitution of the state will not permit the permanent school fund to be invested in any other securities than registered county bonds of this state, United States and state securities. The bond for investment of this fund should be enlarged. There are other forms of investment equally as safe that would increase the interest return to the fund. If it were possible to invest in school bonds, or in Nebraska mortgages, the interest would be credited on account of the interest being paid on the bonds. The one-half levy will reduce the floating indebtedness of the state about \$300,000 each year. There will be a net benefit of about \$300,000 of the permanent school fund each year to be reinvested on this account.

It is urgently recommended that this legislature submit an amendment to the constitution so that the permanent school fund will remain in the hands of the treasurer when the state indebtedness is paid. This would be a permanent fund for the benefit of the state. Therefore it will be for the best interests of the state that this section of the constitution be amended so that the permanent school fund will remain in the hands of the treasurer when the state indebtedness is paid. This would be a permanent fund for the benefit of the state. Therefore it will be for the best interests of the state that this section of the constitution be amended so that the permanent school fund will remain in the hands of the treasurer when the state indebtedness is paid.

### The American Magazine Has Changed Hands.

For 30 years it was Leslie's Popular Monthly.

Ida M. Tarbell, who wrote Lincoln and the famous "Story of Rockefeller"; William Allen White, the well-known Kansas editor; F. D. Dunne, creator of "Mr. Dooley"; Ray Stannard Baker, and Lincoln Steffens are under the leadership of John S. Phillips, now editing "The American Magazine."

Never before has such a brilliant group been gathered together, and they are not only contributing themselves, but are filling the magazine

# THE MESSAGE

## GOVERNOR MICKEL'S LAST WORD TO LEGISLATURE.

### SUGGESTS WHAT SHOULD BE DONE

#### Urges Legislation in Behalf of the Economy and Pleads for Strict Economy in Appropriations—

#### —Able Document.

Following is Governor Mickel's message delivered to the legislature, January 1, 1917, to the Members of the Thirtieth Session of the Legislature of Nebraska—Gentlemen:

The organic law makes it the duty of the chief executive to call the attention of each recurring legislative body to the general condition of the state and to make such suggestions and recommendations as in his judgment the needs of the state require. It is the duty of this assembly to consider the suggestions and recommendations of the chief executive and to take such action as may be deemed wise and proper. It is the duty of this assembly to consider the suggestions and recommendations of the chief executive and to take such action as may be deemed wise and proper.

The condition of our state revenues is not satisfactory. The hostility which has been engendered in the campaign of 1914, and the measure has been regarded as both wise and beneficial. It is the duty of this assembly to consider the suggestions and recommendations of the chief executive and to take such action as may be deemed wise and proper.

I realize somewhat the grave responsibilities that are about to be placed upon me by the legislature. I have been elected to carry out a definite program. It is to be the policy of my administration to carry out a definite program. It is to be the policy of my administration to carry out a definite program. It is to be the policy of my administration to carry out a definite program.

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### THE MESSAGE

After many years of effort congress has enacted a pure food law, very comprehensive in its scope. It covers not only the food products but also the drugs and chemicals that enter into the compounding of medicines. It covers not only the food products but also the drugs and chemicals that enter into the compounding of medicines.

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# FOLLY OF THE WILD GOOSE

## Born Foolish, It Gots Worse Yearly, Says a Maine Hunter.

"Mebbe," said old Jed Darling, "mebbe, a wise Creator may have made some kind of bird or animal that is a bigger fool than a wild goose, but if so He never made enough to cause people to worry any."

"Not only is a wild goose a blamed fool from birth, but it grows fooler and fooler as it gets older. It is the only critter that refuses to learn sense from age and experience."

"It is scared half to death by a bleating calf tied out to a crowbar in an open field, but a whole flock of geese will sit out in the middle of Coldstream lake and let an otter swim up under water and drag the members down one after another, and not a goose in the bunch will have sense enough to get scared and fly away."

"I have seen a flock of geese get scared and fly clear out of the state because a playful fox terrier ran along the edge of the lake, but when a flock of geese is feeding on the roots of new clover a fox or a raccoon can roll over and over and pitch somersaults right into the middle of the group and pick out the fattest one and not a goose will show signs of fright until the one which has been captured lets out a squawk when it is bitten to death."

"The way the boys have been killing wild geese along the shores of Coldstream lake this fall is something scandalous. The old hunters and fishermen hereabouts have a saying that when the buffaloes go into the mud for the winter they never dig deeper than the length of a goose from the tip of its bill to its breast bone, which is just 2 1/2 inches for every goose that lives."

"No matter what kind of soil it is, and no matter how hard or how easy the digging is, every frog in New England makes it a rule to burrow 2 1/2 inches and then turn around head to the outside and settle down for its winter nap. No matter how hungry a goose may be or how soft the mud is, no goose will ever know to dig an inch with its shovel bill for the sake of getting a frog to eat, though all geese will peck their way into half frozen ground when they want a mess of raw turnips for breakfast."

"Because they know to the fraction of an inch how deep the frogs burrow in winter, and because they know the length of a goose's neck, the boys have made a contrivance for catching wild geese that works every time."

"First of the boys spear a number of fat buffaloes from their winter apartments, taking pains to drag the bodies of the frogs across the surface of the meadows where the geese feed. Later they make round holes in the mud that are about two feet in depth, after which they bait a strong hook with a live frog and attach it to a stake, the top of which must be driven until it is 2 1/2 inches below the surface of the ground."

"The rest is easy. The geese smell the frog odor about the field and follow it up until they come to one of the holes, when they reach down the regulation distance, find the frog with a hook in it, swallow the whole outfit and are anchored until the boys come along and kill them and set the trap again."

"The strangest thing about it is that no goose will ever negotiate frog bait that is set less than the regulation depth under ground. If a baited hook were left on top of the ground, or ten inches below the surface or even 20 inches down, it might stay there all winter and not a goose would look at it."

"In fact, the length of a goose's neck when stretched out straight has become a standard of measurement in several of the river towns. When a fisherman goes to a blacksmith to order a new eel spear or frog spear he specifies that the total length of the iron from tip of spear to the beginning of the wooden handle shall be 2 1/2 inches, no more and no less. Again, when the length of a boy's leg reaches goose-neck altitude, measuring 2 1/2 inches from hip to heel, he has passed from the period of boyhood and puts on trousers."

### No Chance for Argument.

"George," said Mrs. McQuinn to her liege lord, who was tossing his shins before the fire, "I suppose you'd credit for sweeping the snow off our front walk."

"I reckon I do, Cynthia," responded George.

"And you know you don't do a lick of it. You know I do it myself."

"You do, Cynthia. There can't be any doubt about that."

"Well, what sort of a man do you think you are?"

"I'm a blamed small specimen of a man, Cynthia," said George, still serenely toasting his shins. "I have no doubt I am meaner and more contemptible than you think. Lord, love you, Cynthia, you can't get into any argument with me on that proposition. I'm the laziest, good-for-nothingest, oneriest man in the neighborhood. If it wasn't that I've got such a good wife, I'd go and blow my worthless brains out. Supper ready yet, dear?"

### Rest Content.

No restlessness or discontent can change your lot. Others may have other circumstances surrounding them, but here are yours. You had better make up your mind to accept what you cannot alter. You can live a beautiful life in the midst of your present circumstances.—J. D. Miller, D. D.

"Wanted to know."

"I hope," said the fond parent indignantly, "that you fully realize the value of the prize you are getting in my daughter."

"I can't say that I do," replied the young man. "What is the worth in round figures?"—Milwaukee Sentinel.

Started In For Himself.

"'Quaintance—Were you ever buncoed?"

"Skinflint—Was I? Why I was buncoed so many times that it taught me the game.—Detroit Free Press.

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