

SHELDON'S FAREWELL MESSAGE

Advice He Has to Offer to New Lawmakers Regarding Many Matters of State Wide Interest.

Governor Sheldon's farewell message read to the legislature was a lengthy document, covering many subjects of state policy and legislation. Chief among the topics touched on which will attract more than ordinary attention are his recommendations relating to taxation, the revision of the state primary law and to liquor legislation. The portions of his message on these topics are quoted here.

Other recommendations and comments he makes are as follows.

That the governor be given discretion to refuse to review applications for pardon or commutation of sentence.

That an indeterminate sentence law be passed by the legislature and a board of pardons be established by an amendment to the constitution.

That a plant be established at the penitentiary to manufacture goods used by the various state institutions.

That the state institutions are in good condition and great improvements have been made during the last few years.

That the state carry its own insurance wherever suitable fire protection has been provided.

Commending the National Guard as deserving of the most loyal support by the citizens of the state.

Deploping that there are not better militia companies in Lincoln and Omaha and pointing out lack of means is the cause of inefficiency.

That the state build armories in those cities which are maintaining militia companies.

That officers of militia companies be appointed by the governor after a competitive examination.

Calling attention to the fact he has appointed a commission on the conservation of natural resources, to serve without pay and to report to the governor.

That the legislature make provision so that Nebraska can be represented at the Alaska-Yukon exposition.

That the state fair grounds be equipped as speedily as possible with permanent buildings.

Commending the National Corn Exposition as a credit to the commonwealth and praising the Nebraska exhibit.

Remarking that the state service announced by the state to the battleship Nebraska had been presented at San Francisco June 8.

Recommending the legislature appropriate \$15,000 to apply on the cost of a monument to Abraham Lincoln on the Capitol grounds.

Calling attention to the necessity of repairing and improving some portions of the capitol, more particularly the basement.

Concurring in the recommendation of the state veterinarian that a live stock sanitary commission be established.

Recommending an appropriation sufficient to enable the state authorities to maintain a live stock quarantine where needed.

Favoring an appropriation to enable the experiment station to make investigations for the cure and prevention of hog cholera.

Favoring means be provided for the establishment of a bacteriological laboratory.

Public Education.

Recommending liberal appropriations for the training of teachers in the state university and normal schools.

Favoring an appropriation of at least \$30,000 to further junior normal work.

Favoring an appropriation to assist weak school districts.

Directing attention to the fact that the increased valuation of assessment property will care for the normal growth of the state university and provide means for increasing the salaries of some professors.

Favoring an increase in the size of the university campus so that an athletic field and a place for cadets to drill can be provided.

Favoring appropriation for agricultural experiment work.

That the establishment of additional experiment stations, one to be in the sand hills district, another in the extreme western part of the state and another in the irrigated section.

That in grazing counties the county board or the people might require that crop land be fenced instead of grazing lands.

Reduction in State Debt.

There was a greater reduction in the state debt during the last biennium than ever before. On November 30, 1906, there were warrants outstanding against the general fund amounting to \$1,916,671.12. On November 30, 1908, this had been reduced to \$768,636.72. The reduction in 1907 amounted to \$218,034.40, and in 1908 the reduction was \$218,636.72, making a total reduction of \$1,148,034.50.

The 1-mill levy, provided for by law to reduce the debt, produced during the biennium, \$636,123.85. Therefore, the levy which was made for the general fund produced \$511,916.74 more than was necessary for the general expenses of the state government and that amount was applied on the payment of the debt. The levy for general purposes during the biennium was 5 mills, the same as in previous years.

Calling attention to the report of the commissioner of public lands and buildings to the effect the permanent school fund should be reimbursed \$25,587.50 and showing there is in all about \$8,290,000 of trust funds in the permanent school fund.

Recommending a change in the law for the securing of public funds, so that first mortgages on real estate or other securities of equal value may be used as security.

New Savings Bank Law.

Calling attention to the need in this state for a law that will encourage the establishment of private savings banks. The conditions are such in most of the smaller towns of the state that a savings bank of itself will not pay, and consequently none are established. Two plans are suggested: Either the enactment of mutual savings banks with the privilege of having branches in various parts of the state, or a law authorizing and providing for the establishment in commercial banks of a savings department, but requiring the business to be kept separate and distinct.

That legislation be enacted providing

for publicity of county funds and the interest paid thereon.

Taxation.

The state board of equalization under this administration has endeavored, so far as it was possible, to make the assessments of property uniform, so that each class of property should bear its just proportion of the burdens of taxation.

To this end, the Union Pacific railroad property, in 1907, was increased 25 per cent. Increases were made on other railroad property. Altogether the assessed value of railroad property in 1907 and 1908 was increased by the board, \$5,654,441.

Any one who has given the question of railroad assessment much consideration, and has familiarized himself with the facts, must realize that the railroad companies are, comparatively speaking, not equitably assessed. Some of the roads whose earnings are small are probably assessed at a higher value than some of the other and greater railroads, whose earnings are much larger. However, these inequalities must necessarily continue to exist until the railroad companies fall out with each other. At present there is an apparent disposition among the railroad companies to stand together and not give information concerning another company that would be helpful to the board of equalization.

In 1907 the lands of this state were assessed at approximately \$145,000,000, an increase of \$55,799,000. This increase was brought about from the fact that lands had not been assessed since the year 1904, and because since that time there has been a great increase in the value of lands throughout the state.

Difference in Valuation.

When the assessment of lands was returned to the state board of equalization, this year, it was apparent that county assessors had not used the same measure of value. The board endeavored to correct that condition and perform its duty as the law requires.

It is the duty of the board of equalization to equalize all classes of property so that the burden of taxation may be equally shared.

The first essential in a just system of taxation is to provide means for a uniform assessment. No class of tax payers will complain of their assessment if the property is assessed uniformly throughout the state.

The question of taxation is not an easy one. But anyone familiar with the history of the assessment of property in this country, will be sure to know that the property at the present time is by far more uniformly assessed than it was under the old revenue act.

It is true that it is difficult for the board of equalization to do justice in all instances, because no one can have knowledge of the actual value of all property in all parts of the state.

The board of equalization is composed of officers elected by the people of the state. There need be no fear that such a board will deliberately and intentionally do an injustice to the taxpayers in any portion of the state.

Powers of State Board.

The board should not be deprived of the right to lower any class of property or to increase the rate of assessment on a particular class of property. Experience demonstrates that it was necessary to change the law, and experience has also demonstrated that the change was a wise one.

The law in this respect should be left alone. There is no necessity for any change in the law in this particular.

So far as the assessment of land is concerned, it is a matter of common knowledge that the present rate of increase in the assessment of land values in 1908, with the exception of some parts of the sand hills district, increased from the east to the west. It is also a matter of common knowledge that the lands in the eastern part are assessed at more nearly their actual value than they are in the western part of the state. There should be no complaint that such is the case because the people in the western part of the state are still in that period of development when many sacrifices must necessarily be made, a good many of which are for the welfare of the whole state.

Assessment of Railroads.

So far as the lands and the railroads are concerned, I am firmly of the opinion that the railroads, with the exception of the Union Pacific Railroad company, are assessed as high in proportion to their actual value as are the farm lands of this state. I believe the assessment of the Union Pacific Railroad company should be still further increased. In justice to the other taxpayers of this state, and have so maintained while acting as a member of the assessment board.

So far as the election of assessors by precinct is concerned, that is a different matter, and to that I have no objection if you deem it wise to make the change.

If any amendments to the revenue law are made, the object should be to secure, if possible, a more just and equitable system of taxation.

A glance at the grand assessment rolls of this state will convince anyone that it is more necessary to devise ways and means whereby the owners of personal property may pay more nearly their proportion of the taxes than to make amendments which will restrict and tie the hands of the board of equalization.

In 1906 the personal property of this state, other than railroad and private car service, was \$75,053,000; in 1907, \$83,186,000, and in 1908, \$82,592,000.

Anyone who is familiar with the conditions in this state knows that the actual value of personal property in 1908 was greater than it was in 1907, yet the grand assessment rolls show a decrease of \$523,000.

The holders of the invisible personal property evidently have discovered various ways of concealing their property. When the new revenue act was passed in 1902, and first not into force, there was

a great increase in the assessment of personal property. It is well worth your while and attention to find out what manner and methods the personal property owners are employing to conceal their property from assessment, and to amend the law, if need be, so that such action can be prevented.

Record of Legislation of 1907.

I am pleased to inform you the railway commission estimates that shippers and passengers of this state have saved \$5,000,000 as a result of legislation passed by the last legislature, reducing passenger fares to 2 cents a mile; express rates 25 per cent; and freight rates, on grain, live stock, fruit, lumber and coal, and other commodities in carload lots, 15 per cent.

Experience has demonstrated that the terminal taxation law which was passed by the last legislature has provided a more equitable system of taxation, and on the whole has been beneficial to the taxpayers residing in the city of Lincoln.

The last legislature also passed an act to control lobbying and to prevent corrupt practices affecting legislation; abolished the free pass evil by enacting an anti-pass law; enacted a state-wide primary law, requiring political parties to nominate their candidates by direct vote of the people, and gave the railway commission power to put an end to rebates and discriminations in transportation; to make and to fix rates, and to control them properly in all particulars. Telephone, telegraph, express and street railway companies were also placed under the control of the railway commission.

That legislature passed a pure food law and an employes' liability act. It enacted laws providing for neglected children; provided for free high school privileges; normal training in high schools and assistance for weak school districts; prohibited pooling by bridge contractors, and provided a way to remove officers for willful neglect of duty and failure to enforce laws.

Primary Law.

The primary law should not be repealed but in some particulars should be amended. Provisions should be made for a rotated ballot. The precinct-committee method should be selected by the voters at the primaries instead of being appointed by the county candidates, as now provided.

There should be a different provision than that now contained in the law regarding platform conventions. Now, each county is entitled to one delegate. This is not representative of the other counties of the state. Another objection is that the platform convention is not held until after the primaries. A party platform should be promulgated before the candidates are nominated. Provisions should be made so that the platform convention should be held before the primaries or the matter of platform-making left to the candidates nominated by the respective parties.

Sterilization of Delinquents.

These dependents upon the state have been increasing year by year, and more particularly the insane and convicts. This is a matter for exceedingly serious consideration.

Society is justified in adopting such policies, and in carrying them out against individuals, as will in the long run tend to help elevate and perpetuate the human race. Careless and unwise decisions of the legislature have a great deal to do in increasing the dependent classes and in producing untold misery. I therefore recommend for your earnest consideration a change in our marriage laws so that it will be impossible for any man or woman to marry until a certificate from a physician licensed to practice in this state has been procured, certifying that the health of his wife is good and that she is capable of producing healthy offspring. Those who are a burden upon society should not be permitted to reproduce themselves.

In order to prevent the confirmed criminal and the incurable insane from producing offspring I suggest that you give careful consideration to the necessity of passing a law providing for the sterilization of that class of people.

Regulation of Liquor Traffic.

In my opinion the time has come for advanced legislation to better regulate and control the liquor traffic. At the present time there is no political party which publicly will "stand pat" on the Stocomb law. The demands of the hour call for legislation to conform to the present conditions and needs of the state. This question should not be permitted to drag along until legislation is enacted that will satisfy only the extremists. In that event the legislation will probably be that which a minority rather than a majority approve. Experience in the enforcement of the present law demonstrates that it is difficult to enforce these laws in any community where public sentiment is against such action.

The saloon as it now exists is indefensible. It breaks our laws, corrupts our politics, degrades our men and fills our prisons and asylums.

This question must be met in a practical and business-like manner. I believe I have come to the conclusion that the proper thing to do at this time is to pass a state-wide prohibition act, making provision so that any municipality may suspend such an act by a three-fifths vote, and in such instances by law liquor dispensed as may be provided by law. This will put the burden upon those who desire to make a profit out of the saloon business, rather than upon the people of the state who desire the saloons abolished. I therefore recommend that you pass such an act and that you also submit to the people of this state a constitutional amendment embodying such provisions.

The Anti-Treat Law.

In the early part of my administration I was requested by numerous petitions to enforce the anti-treat law. To such I replied that I stood ready to do all in my power to enforce that law, but that nothing could be done unless those who had knowledge of its violation would themselves take the initiative in securing the evidence, presenting it to the prosecuting attorney and standing behind the complaints.

This particular section of the Stocomb law has become obsolete and is a dead letter. If it could be enforced it would be one of the best possible measures to prevent intemperance that could be proposed.

Therefore, I recommend that you amend this particular section, known as Section 21 of the Compiled Statutes, so that the authorities who grant the saloon licenses will be compelled to revoke a license whenever any person dinks liquor in a saloon that he has not himself paid for.

At this moment the president arose and asked: "Is anybody here to answer to this speech?" The baron looked sneeringly around. The members all remained silent. Just then Barthel Szemere arose. He began: "Worthy gentlemen, what the orator said is from beginning to end incorrect, and then he began to show, in an able speech, the mistakes the baron had made.

"Don't you believe him, gentlemen!" the baron cried, angrily, interrupting him suddenly. "It was he himself who wrote the speech for me." Every one of the 52 members rolled in his seat nearly convulsed with laughter, and the baron made a vow never again to speak in public.

To Investigate Cause of Leprosy.

Prof. Ehlers, a Danish authority on leprosy, has secured the co-operation of some French workers, and it is proposed to organize a scientific expedition into the Danish West Indies in an endeavor to determine the part played by blood-sucking insects in the dissemination of leprosy.

Contagious Diseases.

A contagious disease is one in which the disease-producing organism goes direct from the person having the disease to a person who has not the disease without passing through an intermediary medium, as in tuberculosis for example. Malaria, on the other hand, is an infectious disease, because the organism which produces it is taken from a person by a mosquito, reproduces itself in the mosquito and is transmitted by the mosquito which is never have been in contact with

the person by whom the original organism was given off.

Honor Conferred on American.

Rev. Dr. John H. DeForest, a veteran Congregational missionary at Sendai, Japan, has been decorated by the imperial government with the Order of the Rising Sun, the distinction having been conferred in recognition of his services in dispelling anti-miscegenation among Americans. Dr. DeForest has been doing mission work in Japan for 25 years.

Girl's Head Encrusted—Feared Loss of All Her Hair—Baby Had Milk-Crust—Missionary's Wife Made Two Perfect Cures by Cuticura.

"For several years my husband was a missionary in the Southwest. Every one in that high and dry atmosphere has more or less trouble with dandruff and my daughter's scalp became so encrusted with it that I was alarmed for fear she would lose all her hair. After trying various remedies, in desperation I bought a cake of Cuticura Soap and a box of Cuticura Ointment. They left the scalp beautifully clean and free from dandruff, and I am happy to say that the Cuticura Remedies were a complete success. I have also used successfully the Cuticura Remedies for so-called 'milk-crust' on baby's head. Cuticura is a blessing. Mrs. J. A. Darling, 310 Fifth St., Carthage, Ohio, Jan. 20, 1908."

Opposed to Toll Roads.

Maryland, following the recent lead of Pennsylvania, is moving to abolish toll roads. Gov. Crothers has expressed the hope that before his term is ended every tollgate in the state will be abolished and every road free. He believes that the work of the good roads commission will ultimately result in wiping out the gates. "The tollgate," says the governor, "is not of this age and has no proper place in this time. It is ridiculous to think of charging people money for coming to your city."

BREAKS A COLD PROMPTLY

The following formula is a never failing remedy for colds:

One ounce of Compound Syrup of Sarsaparilla, one ounce Toris Compound and one-half pint of good whiskey, mix and shake thoroughly each time and use in doses of a tablespoonful every four hours.

This if followed up will cure an acute cold in 22 hours. The ingredients can be gotten at any drug store.

Valuable Conch Shells.

The conch shell is highly prized in India. In many of the temples they are blown daily to scare away the malignant spirits while the god receives his daily meal. A conch with the spiral twistings to the right instead of to the left is supposed to be worth its weight in gold. Some years ago a conch of that description was offered for sale in Calcutta, with a reserve price of a lakh of rupees placed on it. It was eventually bought in for \$20,000.

The Disturbing Telephone.

"The telephone has destroyed all the privacy of society," said the society girl. "It breaks in on everything. Nothing is sacred to it. You may be saying your prayers. The telephone. Or in the midst of your bath. The telephone. Or doing up your back hair, or, worst of all, a delightful man may be making love to you, when kling, k-ling, k-ling! The telephone breaks off the thread of his theme and he falls to resume it."

Rosy and Plump

Good Health from Right Food.

"It's not a new food to me," remarked a Va. man, in speaking of Grape-Nuts.

"About twelve months ago my wife was in very bad health, could not keep anything on her stomach. The Doctor recommended milk half water but this was not sufficiently nourishing.

"A friend of mine told me one day to try Grape-Nuts and cream. The result was really marvelous. My wife soon regained her usual strength and to-day is as rosy and plump as when a girl of sixteen.

"These are plain facts and nothing I could say in praise of Grape-Nuts would exaggerate in the least the value of this good food."

Name given by Postum Co., Battle Creek, Mich. Read "The Road to Wellville" in pkgs. "There's a Reason."

Ever read the above letter? A new one appears from time to time. They are genuine, true, and full of human interest.

SHALLENBERGER'S FIRST MESSAGE

Urges Passage of Bank Guarantee Law and Makes Other Recommendations and Suggestions.

Following is the principal subjects touched upon by Governor Shallenberger in his first message to the Nebraska legislature:

To the senate and house of representatives of the thirty-first session of the Nebraska legislature: I congratulate you upon being called to serve in your legislative capacity at a time when the state is enjoying general prosperity. Nature has been kind and her yield bountiful. Our people are industrious and the demand and prices for their products satisfactory. Our population is not dense, probably less than one and one-half millions of people dwell within our borders. A study of the records of our bureau of statistics will show how marvelous have been the achievements of these later years. So rich our soil, so matchless our climate, so wonderful the industry of our people that here upon Nebraska soil, American civilization in its highest development piles up each year a larger surplus of useful products than a like number of people can produce upon any other spot on earth.

With a clearness of vision and understanding as to the purposes and possibilities of legislative enactment, a steadfast and successful people will not expect of their government things or unreasonable laws. Great riches from a generous soil, they now know that they can prosper to abide with them always. They will however, expect of the party, whose members control this senate and the house, the specific legislation pledged in the platform upon which you were elected.

Governor Sheldon has detailed to you the result of his administration of state affairs, and you have listened to his recommendations. I urge that you give earnest and careful consideration to all that he has said.

I shall briefly call your attention to legislation, the prospect and hope of which, in my opinion, has brought about the change in the control of the executive and legislative departments of state government. It is first to be noted that no new or radical legislation is asked for. Every suggestion is to amend, correct, or improve some existing law.

As a general rule, we already have too many laws incumbent upon our statute books. Many are good, some imperfect, many are bad. The good should be left alone, the imperfect cured, the bad repealed.

What is needed, in my judgment, is an honest and fearless enforcement of the laws that we now have, rather than a constant cry for new laws, and new laws as an excuse for inaction.

The matters to which I wish to call your attention are not numerous, but I shall present them to you under separate heads.

Suggestions as to Improvements in our Banking Law.

Andrew Carnegie has said, "America has the worst banking system in the world." I scarcely think the facts warrant such a statement, but will venture the opinion that we have not the laws system that is the best should be good and nothing is possible for us to obtain.

Our present law is very much in advance in all that pertains to safe and proper banking to the law which preceded it. No one will venture to maintain that the one now in force, is perfect, therefore, we are warranted in asking for still further improvement. The primary purpose for the establishment of banks so far as the public is concerned, is first that the people shall have a safe place to deposit their money, and second that those who need them may conveniently obtain funds upon proper security after the money shall have been gathered together by the banking corporation.

The ideal system of banking will guarantee the return of every dollar deposited, and this will insure the greatest possible volume of loanable funds in banks for the needs of business. The state and nation should see to it that every safeguard shall be provided for the security of the depositor since they permit and authorize the receiving of deposits under the sanction of a charter granted by the state.

From time to time, these guarantees have been increased until losses to depositors are rare indeed. The report of the comptroller of the currency for 1903 shows that a tax of one twenty-sixth of one per cent levied upon the deposits in national banks during the forty-five years ending this period, had raised a sum so that no person, who had trusted his money to a national bank, would have lost a cent.

A study of the figures of our own state banking department shows even a more satisfactory condition. Only during the last eight years, has the law provided for a complete report from receivers of failed banks, an annual tax of one-tenth of one per cent on the deposits in the state because it is necessary under a proper system of insurance that the prosperous years should pile up a surplus fund to provide for the inevitable demands of less fortunate times. As an additional security against any possible emergency, such as extra ordinary demands upon the fund the state should be empowered to levy an assessment of not less than two per cent of the average deposits in any one year. While this assessment might never be levied, the power to use it would have a sustaining effect in times of possible panics. Such provisions would result in accumulating in eighteen months with the average of deposits remaining in state banks as at present a guaranty fund of \$62,351.05. This would be \$127,057.00 more than the entire amount of deposits involved in bank failures in this state in the last nine years. It is three times the amount that would have been necessary to have paid upon demand all the money due depositors in failed banks during the years with the heaviest failures in any one year. It is seven times as much as would have been required to pay immediately all of the deposits tied up in state banks during any one of the last seven years. With the additional amount that would be contributed to such a guaranty fund during the

years when no failures would occur and added to this the power to raise in any one year by extraordinary assessment as much as has been placed in jeopardy during the worst year that we have experienced since the present law was established. It is my judgment that such a system would be a rock of refuge for the banks and for the people in the fiercest financial storms that may come.

I desire at this time to congratulate and commend the management of our present banking department for the splendid results it has secured under the present law. It is the showing of exceedingly small losses sustained under our present management and system which gives us confidence to believe that with improvements in our laws as to capitalization, management and control a still better showing can be accomplished. The proposed guaranty fund under such a system as has been suggested should be deposited with the state banks under regulations similar to our present state depository law or with such additional security as the legislature may require. The proposed law should provide that national banks may avail themselves of the advantages and protection of the guaranty fund under suitable provisions and satisfactory showing as to the condition of such banks to the banking board.

The banking board should be empowered to fix the rate of interest to be paid depositors by banking corporations operating under the guaranty of deposits law, or if this be thought too great a power to confer upon them, the rate should be fixed in the statute by the legislature.

Revenue Law.

Our present revenue law should be amended in so far as is necessary to restore to the people the right to elect the precinct assessors and to limit in part at least the arbitrary powers which the present law gives to the state board of equalization and assessment, so that the people shall have restored to them some voice in determining the amount of taxes they shall be compelled to pay to support the state government. It appears to me too great a gift of power to give to the state and county boards the right to determine the amount of the levy which shall be laid upon the property of the citizen and at the same time empower the state board to determine through its mandates to the county assessors and his deputies the valuation that shall be placed upon the property of the tax payer. When we consider that the members of this all powerful board of assessment acting in their official capacity as the heads of different state departments are authorized to spend the money taken from the pockets of the people by the force of this same revenue law, the danger lurking in this excess of power becomes more apparent. It is to be remarked that different state departments have commended the present law because it provides much money for their use. It is generally to be noted that those who pay out money which others must pay in, view the magnitude of the amount to be expended with greater equanimity than those who have to provide it. The cost of our state government has increased enormously in recent years. It is to be impressed upon the state funds should be provided to meet every legitimate demand of the government, our different state institutions and our school, but every dollar that comes out of the treasury must have been paid in by some tax payer and the great bulk of the state's income is dug out of the soil by the unremitting toil of those who can ill afford to pay for extravagance or unnecessary expense.

The Primary Law.

Our present primary law is unsatisfactory and unfair in many of its provisions. The expense to the state in holding a state wide primary is enormous, and unless the election results in registering the will of the party majority of those voting and placing better candidates before the people than the convention method, the benefits of the law cannot be said to warrant its cost. Under the present law, the accidental alphabetical position of the candidates named upon the ballot is at times more potent in obtaining nominations than merit or ability. The number of names required upon the petition of a candidate for a state office, is grossly insufficient. The cost of elections both to the candidates and the state is greatly increased. It is doubtful if the average elector will ever have the required acquaintance with the long list of candidates for the different offices upon the ballot in a state wide primary to insure intelligent selection. I would suggest to you a county primary to nominate county officers and delegates to a state convention. The state convention to select two or more names for county officers to go upon the primary ballot and to make the party platform, which ought to be issued in advance of the primary, instead of subsequent to it, as at present.

Administration of State Institutions.

I would suggest that the constitution be so amended that a non-partisan board of control could be created to be appointed by the governor and have conferred upon it the entire management of our various state institutions. The state institutions should be removed from politics as far as may be done and merit alone should determine the right of any person to serve the state in the different departments made subject to the board of control. This board, in my opinion, should consist of three members and have at its command the state account and a qualified purchasing or business agent, who should have a general knowledge as to machinery, material and construction contracts and of all matters of business coming before the board. The board of control should purchase the supplies for all the state institutions by open competition among those desiring to sell to the state. The practice of maintaining a cash fund at the various state institutions should be abolished and the business of the state so far as it applies to the general conduct and administration of the different state institutions should be thoroughly systematized.

It is my most confident belief that if you provide satisfactory legislation relating to the question to which I have referred, you can go home with the certainty that you will meet a satisfied constituency. With a firm reliance upon the wisdom and justice of the board of control and together with your assistance, we may together in some fair measure fulfill the hopes and meet the expectations of the citizens of Nebraska, who have trusted us with power. I submit these questions to you, gentlemen of the house and senate.

Contagious Diseases.

A contagious disease is one in which the disease-producing organism goes direct from the person having the disease to a person who has not the disease without passing through an intermediary medium, as in tuberculosis for example. Malaria, on the other hand, is an infectious disease, because the organism which produces it is taken from a person by a mosquito, reproduces itself in the mosquito and is transmitted by the mosquito which is never have been in contact with

the person by whom the original organism was given off.

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GOOD JOKE ON THE BARON

Friend Wrote Speech for Him, and Then Bitterly Criticized It.

In the Hungarian parliamentary session of 1841 a certain Baron Szemere lived in Pressburg, the former capital of Hungary, with two intimate friends, George Majlath and Barthel Szemere. One day the baron became envious of their laurels. He called Szemere aside and said to him: "My good

Szemere, write me a speech." "Most willingly, my dear friend; about what would you like to speak?" "It is all the same to me," said the baron, "if the speech is only a nice one—wonderfully nice." "You will be satisfied with me?" Szemere answered, and next day brought the manuscript. The baron memorized the speech and delivered it on the third day. The chamber re-echoed with applause.

At this moment the president arose and asked: "Is anybody here to answer to this speech?" The baron looked sneeringly around. The members all remained silent. Just then Barthel Szemere arose. He began: "Worthy gentlemen, what the orator said is from beginning to end incorrect, and then he began to show, in an able speech, the mistakes the baron had made.

"Don't you believe him, gentlemen!" the baron cried, angrily, interrupting him suddenly. "It was he himself who wrote the speech for me." Every one of the 52 members rolled in his seat nearly convulsed with laughter, and the baron made a vow never again to speak in public.

To Investigate Cause of Leprosy.

Prof. Ehlers, a Danish authority on leprosy, has secured the co-operation of some French workers, and it is proposed to organize a scientific expedition into the Danish West Indies in an endeavor to determine the part played by blood-sucking insects in the dissemination of leprosy.