THE RED CLOUD CHI[EF]

FRIDAY, JAN. 1[6]

A. C. HOSMER

[illegible] Has to [the] Legislature.

Finances—The State Debt—Pub[lic] Institutions—Educational Matters—Agriculture and Horticulture—The State Historical Society and Other Matters.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

It is required by the constitution that the Governor shall, at the commencement of each session, and at the close of his term of office, give to the Legislature information by message of the condition of the State, and shall recommend such measures as he shall deem expedient, accounting also to the Legislature and accompanying his message with a statement of all moneys received and paid out by him from any funds subject to his order, and at each regular session present estimates of the amount of money to be raised by taxation for all purposes. In compliance with these provisions, I submit the following message:

STATE FINANCES.

Your attention is, in the first instance, invited to the highly satisfactory condition of our State finances, as shown by the reports of the State Treasurer and Auditor of Public Accounts.

Balance on hand, Nov. 30, 1882, was	$ 472,114.50
Amount received	2,707,276.64
Total amount received	$3,179,391.14
Total amount disbursed	2,736,574.15
Balance in Treasury, Nov. 30, 1884	$ 442,816.99

The amount on hand November 30, 1884, is credited to the several funds as follows:

State general fund	$ 44,908.35
State sinking fund	27,967.80
Permanent school fund	45,963.84
Temporary school fund	148,320.56
Permanent university fund	2,946.34
Temporary university fund	56,667.87
State bond fund	19,731.15
Insane hospital fund	33,976.47
Normal interest fund	18,033.41
Normal library fund	667.73
Normal endowment fund	557.35
State convict fund	3.36
State library fund	284.00
State funding fund	67.25
Saline land lease fund	3,808.45
University library fund	975.00
Capitol building fund	11,224.67
Interest charged County Treasurers	657.49
Interest on surplus investments	13,531.25
Total as above	$ 442,816.99

As will be seen from the Treasurer's report the balance of $657.49 interest charged County Treasurers and the balance of $13,531.25 interest on surplus investments are unavailable and should be transferred.

STATE DEBT.

State indebtedness is represented by the following bonds:

State relief bonds due March 1, 1885	$ 50,000.00
State funding bonds due April 1, 1897	449,267.35
Total State debt	$499,267.35

By the act of 1877, in the matter of payment of principal and interest of State relief bonds, it was provided that payment should be made from the sinking fund, and in order that said bonds may be paid promptly it is recommended by the State Treasurer that the balance in the State bond fund, together with the amount hereafter collected, be transferred to the sinking fund and thus made available for the purpose for which it is collected.

REVENUE AND TAXATION.

The assessed valuation of the taxable property of the State in 1883 was $110,533,441.58, and in 1884 it was $123,615,846.95, showing an increase of $13,082,242.37. The rate of taxation for State purposes for the year 1883 was 7 4-10 mills, and for the year 1884, 7 5-8-100 mills on each dollar valuation, and there has been collected during that period the sum of $1,307,122.05, distributed as follows:

General fund	$ 931,037.19
Sinking fund	92,065.34
Common school fund	209,584.81
University fund	76,434.71
Total	$1,307,122.05

The levy of 1884 will yield the following amounts:

General fund, 4 82-100 mills	$593,379.48
Sinking fund, 6-8 mill	91,811.21
Common school fund, 1 mill	115,615.85
University fund, ⅜ mill	46,305.91
Capitol building fund, ½ mill	61,807.95
Reform school building fund, ¼ mill	30,903.95
Total	$951,875.09

Your notice is directed to the Auditor's statement showing amount of taxes delinquent, with the hope that you in your united wisdom may succeed in devising some plan for the better collection of the revenues, and that without imposing unnecessary burdens upon the people.

There is a general demand that the law of 1883, making taxes delinquent January 1 of each year, and providing for a penalty of five per cent., shall be repealed. I would cite for your examination the revenue laws of the States of Ohio and Indiana. The law of the last named State provides that any person charged with taxes on the tax duplicate in the hands of a County Treasurer may pay the full amount of such taxes on or before the third Monday in April, or may, at his option, pay the first installment on or before such third Monday, and the remaining installment on or before the first Monday of November following, providing that all road taxes shall be included in the first installment, and that in all cases where the first installment shall not be paid on or before the third Monday in April, the whole amount unpaid shall become due and be returned delinquent with proper penalties added. This plan is that of semi-annual payment—a division of the burden. Taxes are defined as being the enforced proportional contribution of persons and property, levied by the authority of the State for the support of the Government and for all public needs. Applying this definition to our own case and we will agree that best legislation upon the matter of taxation is that which, while it shall meet the wants and needs of the State Government, will at the same time, as far as it may with safety be done, lighten the burden to him who so contributes.

In relation to the present management of the public institutions of the State it may be said that without an exception they are in excellent hands.

HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS.

The act of 1881, providing for the erection of a Home for the Friendless, was carried into effect by the purchase of a site near the City of Lincoln and the erection of a building thereon. The government of the Home was assumed by the Society of the Home for the Friendless, and it is now under the active care and management of a board composed of earnest practical Christian women, who with well directed energy are striving to make it what it should be. The Home was opened to receive inmates January 1, 1882, and since that time has received, adults 95, children 133, making a total of 228. There have been surrendered to the Home 75 children, and of this number 57 have been placed in good homes in this State. An appropriation is asked for by the society in charge for the purpose of erecting and furnishing additional buildings, and to aid in the maintenance of the Home. In my judgment their request to a reasonable amount should be granted. It must be remembered that the title to this property remains in the State. A visit to this institution will convince you of its utility and worth.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE, AND FEEBLE MINDED CHILDREN.

Organized in April, 1869, this institution has since that time received for instruction 211 pupils. For the last biennial term there has been a reported attendance of 141. The health of the students has been good, and the methods of instruction the same as heretofore reported. When we consider the available means and accommodations at his command, the condition of this institution under the present management is admirable. Instruction in the trades, printing, carpenter work, sewing, fancy work and housework, is still continued, and funds are asked for to place the trades upon a more efficient basis looking to the power of self-support upon the part of those receiving instruction. Your attention is called to the deficiency of $6,500 in the appropriation for this institution by reason of failure of the last Legislature to make provision for the year ending March 31, 1885, in the matter of wages of employes. Attention is called to the frequent applications for the admission of "feeble minded children" to this school, a class who are not fit subjects for a deaf mute school. By reference to the census of 1880 it is shown that we had at that time 356 persons classed as feeble minded, 209 of whom were under twenty years of age. The State has undertaken to care for the insane, the blind and the deaf and dumb. In view of these facts, together with the experience of other States in this work, I am prompted to call your attention to the importance and urgency of their claims, and the advisability of making some provisions in Nebraska for this hopeless class.

INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND.

The total number of pupils received at the Institute for the education of the blind from the date of its opening in January, 1876, until the present time is sixty.

The building was intended to accommodate fifty persons, and there has been an attendance of thirty-six pupils during the biennial term just closed. Of those who would be admissible under the rules, and residing in the State, there are but five known to the Superintendent who are not in the school. The term is reported as one of general prosperity. The health of the students has been excellent, and in the several departments of study consisting of literary, musical and industrial, commendable progress has been made. This school in its work in the literary department [illegible] compare favorably with those [of] like character in other States. All receive musical [instruction], [and in the industrial] department [the] [in]struction and the work in this department is becoming more thorough each year. An exhibit from the industrial department has been sent to the New Orleans Exposition. The appropriations made by the last Legislature have been ample in every respect, and in the item of living expenses there will be a small balance returned to the Treasury. Appropriations are asked for, covering the matter of water supply and improvements to buildings and ground, in addition to the general support of the Institute, and should be granted.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE.

This most unfortunate class are entitled to our deepest sympathy, and to our constant care and watchfulness, that so far as may be possible their condition shall be improved.

From the report of the Superintendent for the biennial term ending November 30, 1884, it appears that at the date of last report, November 30, 1882, there were remaining in the hospital 273 patients. There have been received during the past two years 410 patients, making a total number of 683 that have been treated during this period. Of the number treated 323 have been discharged, 144 of whom were restored to mental health, sixty-nine were much improved, sixty-three unimproved, harmless and incurable, were returned to their counties to make room for recent cases; forty-three have died during the two years, leaving in the hospital November 30, 1884, 390 patients which exhausts the utmost capacity of the present building. At the rate of increase for the past two years, it is estimated by the Superintendent that not less than 600 applications for the admission of patients will be made during the coming two years. Additional room must be furnished by the State. The Superintendent recommends the building of a new institution as preferable to increasing the size of the present one, and advises that the new hospital should be as large as the one we now have, and that it be erected as a whole and not by sections, as being more economical, and for the further reason that it will be needed by the time it can be completed. These recommendations are concurred in by the Commissioners of Public Lands and Buildings, and have my approval, as do also the requests for special appropriations for needed improvements. Your attention is called to the large amount due the hospital from the several counties having patients chargeable thereto, in many cases the delinquency being of long standing.

It has been urged upon me that our hospital is, as its name implies, a place for the treatment of those who may be suffering from temporary mental derangement, and not a lunatic asylum, a place for the confinement of the incurable or chronic insane. And it is further urged that in a new State like our own the counties are not prepared to care for them in a proper manner, and that special provision should be made for this class of patients instead of returning them to their respective counties to make room for more recent cases, as is done under the present system. The thought is submitted that the care of the insane is a burden that should be assumed entirely by the State, for the reason that proper care and treatment can not be, or is rarely given them, in what are known as county houses, that are intended more especially for the care of the needy poor.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

Under the law regulating the management of this institution, boys and girls under sixteen years of age found guilty of any crime except murder or manslaughter may be received. This school was established and intended, not for punishment, strictly speaking, but rather for education and reformation. A place of restraint and correction for those for whom such treatment may suffice to restore them to an upright life and fit them for future usefulness. Standing between the youthful offender and the institution prepared for and which should only receive hardened criminals, the interests of society demand that a liberal policy should be pursued in carrying out and promoting the objects for which it was created. The school has, at the present time, sixty-three inmates. In August, 1883, the contract was let for an additional building, at a cost of $37,410. This building has been completed, and is now ready for use, and I am informed that applications for admission now on file will exhaust the increased accommodation so furnished. I would impress upon you the great importance of the work we have undertaken in the organization of this reform school, and would recommend for it all reasonable support and encouragement.

STATE PENITENTIARY.

Needed improvements have been made at the State Penitentiary during the past two years, under the direction of the Warden and Board of Public Lands and Buildings, among which, and worthy of special mention, are the erection of a fire proof hospital building, a more perfect water supply, and a thorough change in the system of sewerage and drainage, greatly improving the sanitary condition of the prison. Discipline is thoroughly maintained, the government being kindly, yet at the same time firm. The medical supervision is excellent, and the state of health among the prisoners is good. Under the contract system the convicts are furnished steady employment, and their wants are well supplied by the present contractor.

Warden Nobes in his report of November 30, 1882, gave the number of prisoners as 261. Since that time there have been discharged 151, the number received being 178. The total number confined in the penitentiary November 30, 1884, was 259, and of that number twenty-three are under sentence for life. Pertinent to the subject in hand, and to which I will, in passing, call your attention, are the questions of the inequality of sentence as proportioned to the crime or the circumstances under which it was committed, as we have so often seen; and that of indeterminate sentence, the advocates of which proceed upon the theory that the purpose of law being to reform, we should in all cases, other than those meriting death or imprisonment for life, take into consideration the antecedents of the criminal and his conduct after sentence. This principle we have in a measure recognized in the enactment of what is known as the Goodtime Act, and I may add, that legislation is rapidly becoming more liberal in this direction.

PARDONS, COMMUTATIONS AND REMISSION OF FINES.

The pardoning power invested in the Executive has been exercised by me in but one instance, that of Jacob Smith, of York County, convicted for the offense of shooting with intent to kill, and sentenced to the State Penitentiary for the term of one year. Entering upon his sentence February 5, 1883, and a pardon issued the 20th of September, of the same year. In this case, the provocation to crime was great, and while it does not justify, yet it serves to extenuate, and my action in the premises was based upon the petitions of a large number of the citizens of said county, fourteen members of the grand jury by whom he was indicted, and upon the recommendation of the Prosecuting Attorney and the District Judge who passed sentence upon him.

The power of commutation has been used by me in two cases, viz: George Hart, under sentence of death, from Hall County, and John R. Polin, under sentence of death from Cass County. In these two cases the sentence of death was changed to imprisonment for life in the State Penitentiary. My action in this matter was determined by letters filed by the Judges of the Supreme Court, who were unanimous in recommending that such action should be taken, and with the feeling that I would not be warranted in disregarding a recommendation coming in such manner and from such a source.

In the matter of the remission of fines, I have acted in but one instance. At the October term, 1882, of the Gage County District Court, one C. E. Gifford was fined one hundred and fifty dollars for the crime of selling intoxicating liquors without license. It appearing later that the facts were not fully understood, and that he was entitled to relief upon the merits of the case, the fine was remitted upon the recommendation of the Judge who imposed it.

The pardoning power is to be used prudently, sparingly and conscientiously. Standing between society at large, the people of the State, and those who are under conviction and sentence for transgression of its laws, I have striven to so act and am fully justified in this connection in saying that the attorney who prosecutes upon the part of the State, and the Judge who, after hearing the evidence adduced upon the trial of a cause passes sentence, should be slow indeed, either by petition or letter of recommendation, to embarrass in any degree the action of him in whose hands this power is placed, and upon whom in the full and faithful discharge of duty the sole responsibility rests.

EDUCATION.

Nebraska is justly proud of her common schools, and much of their efficiency is due to the wise planning and well directed efforts of our present State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The following statistics will be found of interest as showing the development of our State in the direction of her dearest educational interest, the common school: Total number children of school age, 209,476; boys, 108,998; girls, 100,445. Total enrollment, 137,618; boys, 71,680; girls, 65,938. Total number of teachers employed, 6,055; males, 1,906; females, 4,144; school houses built in 1884, 399. Total number school houses, 3,662. Total value school property, $2,786,365.

The present permanent common school fund is as follows:

Cash in Treasury Nov. 30, 1884	$ 45,953.34
State funding bonds	326,167.35
Registered county bonds	762,600.00
Mortgages	4,000.00
U. S. 4 per cent. bonds	15,000.00
Claims in hands of Attorney General for collection	21,900.09
Notes from sales of school lands	2,801,495.80
Total	$3,977,216.79

The following statement of the temporary common school fund will show the sources of revenue to this fund, the amount apportioned since December, 1882, and the dates of the several apportionments:

Balance in Treasury Nov. 30, 1882	$ 10,357.45
State tax received	208,584.81
Interest on school land sold	262,503.75
Interest lease of school land	71,658.73
Interest permanent investments	166,648.53
Rent Gillespie property	457.39
Total received	$1,021,229.65
Paid on Auditor's warrants	856,391.89
Balance Nov. 30, 1884	$ 164,836.76
December, 1882	170,656.19
June, 1883	200,066.48
December, 1883	182,394.26
June, 1884	201,644.35
December, 1884	164,836.85
Total	$1,021,197.04

Legislation is needed to secure a greater uniformity of text books in our common schools, and if such result can be effected, it will prove a source of great benefit to the people.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The attendance of the State Normal school during the past two years has been 470. Number graduated, 89; the greater number of whom are now engaged in teaching schools of the State.

This school is constantly growing in public favor, the attendance for the past two years being twenty per cent. greater than for any like period in its history. The entrance fee of five dollars for each student is placed in the State Treasury for the use of the Normal Library, and is paid out upon the warrant of the Normal School Board. An act of the Legislature appropriating the money so paid into the Treasury is necessary to make it available for the purpose intended. The library at this time numbers over two thousand carefully selected volumes. The rapidly increasing attendance creates a necessity for additional room, and an appropriation is asked for that purpose. Trained teachers improve and influence others with whom they come in contact. This school is an important aid to our common schools, its object and purpose being to educate teachers. The beneficial results of its work are felt among the common schools of the State, in which the great body of the people are directly interested, and for that reason it should receive your abundant care.

STATE UNIVERSITY.

This institution is today better fitted for its work, and is filling its place in the educational system of our State with more of vigor and general efficiency than at any previous time in its history. At the meeting of the Board of Regents, December 1, 1883, a Chancellor was elected, his term of office to begin January 1, 1884. A much needed want was thus supplied and the unfortunate controversy, standing for so long in the way of the best interests of the University, has been forgotten and the new era of prosperity which is the result of harmony of purpose between the Chancellor and other members of the faculty.

The attendance during the last term in all departments was 282. In accordance with the provisions of "An Act to Establish the University of Nebraska," approved February 15, 1869, a College of Medicine was added. There are at present fifty-four students in attendance. The College of Medicine should be well sustained and as soon as may be practicable, provision should be made for the addition of a college of law, as contemplated by the organic act.

The Industrial College has been reorganized throughout. This department of the University will now take its proper rank, and in point of relative importance should stand second to no other. An experienced stock-grower and farmer has been secured as Superintendent of the Industrial College Farm, the management of which had hitherto been in the hands of the faculty, and the change of system has already proven highly beneficial. The various recommendations of the Board of Regents contained in their biennial report are referred to you. Their requests for needed appropriations should be granted. In all matters relating to our educational interests the State should bestow with a liberal hand.

ESCHEATED ESTATE.

It is provided by the constitution and statutes that all property that may come to the State by escheat shall be managed by the Governor and Superintendent of Public Instruction and the proceeds thereof placed in the permanent school fund. Official notice was received from the County Judge of Kearney County, that in the matter of the estate of Peter Anderson, deceased, proceedings had been closed in that court, and that after diligent search for kindred by publication and otherwise, none had been found, and that after the payment of the just claims against the estate, there remained in his hands a balance of $246.60, which sum has been turned over to the State Superintendent, and by him paid into the State Treasury as required by law, the Treasurer's receipts for same, together with all papers relating to the settlement of said estate, as furnished by the County Judge of Kearney County, remaining on file in this department.

SECRETARY OF STATE.

The Secretary of State calls attention to the need of increased clerical force in his department, made necessary by reason of his duties as exofficio secretary of the several boards. Also recommends a graded fee in the matter of filing articles of incorporation, together with many other valuable suggestions relating to the printing laws, registration of bonds, and matters of general interest.

AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE.

Agriculture is the leading and most important industry of the State. You will carefully guard its interest in all matters that may in any manner affect them, or that large class of people whose vocation it is to till the soil.

An examination of the report of the State Board of Agriculture, which gives a detailed statement of their proceedings, plainly shows that their work has been well done, and that the aid given this board has been well bestowed. While the prices received for our farm produce are not as remunerative as at other periods in our history, yet speaking in general terms, our agricultural interests, as shown by crop statistics, were never in a more prosperous condition than at the present time.

The horticultural interests of the State are in a flourishing condition, and it has been established beyond a doubt that Nebraska is a fruit State. The matter of successful fruit culture is one that enters largely into the economy of home life, and I am safe in saying that no one thing has done more to attract favorable attention to our State than the magnificent displays made by our Horticultural Society at the different competitive exhibitions in which, in the majority of cases, they have received for Nebraska the first prize for their display of fruits. The Agricultural and Horticultural Societies deserve your fostering care as most serviceable agents in developing our State, and as aids in placing her in the rank to which she may justly aspire.

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

By an act of the Legislature, approved February 27, A. D., 1883, the Nebraska State Historical Society was recognized as a State institution, and by the terms of said act it was provided and made the duty of the President and Secretary to make annual reports to the Governor, said reports to contain the transactions and expenditures of the organization, together with all historical addresses read or furnished as historical matter, said reports and addresses to be published at the expense of the State; and by the terms of this act there was appropriated annually the sum of $500 for the use of the society, to be used under the direction of its officers exclusively in defraying expenses, collecting and preserving historical matter, data, and relics for the benefit of the State. The appropriation for printing having been exhausted, the reports of this society could not be had. I would recommend specific appropriations in the matter of printing and publishing in addition to the amount named for incidental expenses, much valuable matter having been collected. The acquisitions of the society are becoming constantly larger and are increasing in value rapidly. Great care should be taken to preserve what has been gathered at such expense of time and labor. To the end that our historical collection may become such a source of attraction and interest as of right should be, a room in the Capitol building should without further delay be set apart for their use.

FISH COMMISSION.

The work pertaining to the office of Fish Commissioners is in practical and economical hands. Needed improvements at the fisheries, in the making of new ponds, spawning race, and repairs to the old ponds, have largely increased the facilities for successful handling. The matter of stocking the streams of our State with valuable food fish is progressing favorably, with a comparatively small outlay of money, and the distribution of fish to private parties who have prepared ponds for their reception has been quite general. Intelligently conducted, this branch of industry has proven successful and profitable. All measures calculated to increase the food resources of the people are entitled to great consideration.

STATE LIBRARY.

The number of volumes in the library, as shown by the biennial report of the State Librarian, covering the years of 1881 and 1882, was 21,457. The number of volumes in the library at the present time, as given in the biennial report for the years 1883 and 1884, is 23,448, making an increase for the last two years of 1,[9]91 volumes.

The library is in good order, a catalogue having been completed, and many valuable additions made. For a statement of its management, wants and needs, you are referred to the librarian's report.

INSURANCE OF STATE PROPERTY.

By section six (6) of chapter eighty-three (83) of the compiled statutes, the Governor is authorized and empowered to insure the public buildings and other property belonging to the State liable to destruction or injury by fire. The Legislature of 1883 appropriated for insurance of public property the sum of $10,000, as recommended by my predecessor. An appropriation of $15,000 is recommended for the ensuing two years, $8,000 of which will be needed for renewals of existing policies before an appropriation by a succeeding Legislature will be available; the balance to be used in placing insurance upon the central or main portion of the Capitol building, and for such additional insurance as may be deemed advisable upon other State property. In the appendix submitted herewith will be found a full and accurate statement of policies in force at the present time. Contemplated insurance will exhaust the small balance of appropriations heretofore made.

MILITIA.

The present condition of the Nebraska National Guard is clearly shown by the very full report of Adjutant General E. P. Roggen, which embodies the reports of Inspector General Major Franklin Sweet, Quartermaster General Cyrus N. Baird, and Leonard W. Colby, Colonel commanding First Regiment, and as appears from these various reports, the command is in excellent shape, and has sustained and improved upon its high standard of efficiency. As at present constituted the Guard is composed of nine companies of infantry and one of artillery. The law requiring that an encampment shall be held at least once in two years has been complied with, an encampment which was in every respect a successful one, having been held at Crete, Nebraska, August 21, 1884, and continued for four days.

The Adjutant-General recommends that provisions should be made for the holding of annual encampments, and that the appropriation for the support and maintenance of the State militia should be increased to at least $5,000 per annum, which recommendation I cheerfully endorse, believing that it is for the best interests of the State that this organization should be encouraged and strengthened. Neighboring States, recognizing the need of a properly disciplined and well armed force, are taking an increased interest and are placing their militia upon a permanent basis. We should not be behind them in this matter.

CAPITOL BUILDING.

The contract for the erection and completion of the main building of the Capitol was, after duly advertising as required by the act of February 24, 1883, providing for the erection of said building and the levy of one half of one mill on the dollar, and appropriation of the moneys arising from said levy to pay for said buildings, awarded by the Board of Public Lands and Buildings on the 9th day of July, 1883, to W. H. B. Stout, for the sum of $439,187.25, the building under the terms of the contract to be completed by the first day of December, 1886. The contractor filed his bond in the sum of $[illegible], which was approved by the Governor and the work was entered upon under the plans and specifications adopted by the Board, and furnished by W. H. Wilcox, the architect of the plans for the east and west wings now completed. With you rests the duty of making an appropriation for the continuance of the work.

CENSUS.

Your attention is called to the necessity of passing a law and providing means for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions of section two of article three of the constitution, in matter of a census, wherein it is made the duty of the Legislature to provide for an enumeration of the inhabitants of the State in the year 1885, and every ten years thereafter. Results reached under the present law requiring precinct assessors to make an enumeration of the total number of persons residing in the several precincts in each County each year, are far from being satisfactory. Best results will be reached by the appointment of special enumerators, and to their duty as such might be added that of collecting statistics of a general nature, such as would be of interest and importance as showing our development and resources.

SPANISH EXHIBITION.

The Attorney General in his report makes a detailed statement of all cases now pending and those disposed of in which the State is interested. The schedules hereto attached and marked "A," "B" and "C," will show the exact status of the several cases.

I would call special attention to the report of the Attorney General as to the needs of the law department, as well as to the general recommendations therein contained.

NATIONAL LINCOLN MONUMENT.

The Governor states that according to act of the Legislature he had forwarded $500 to aid the completion of the Lincoln monument at Springfield, Ill.

MONEYS RECEIVED.

The Governor says there have been received from the United States the following sums which were placed to the credit of the permanent school fund: In September, 1883, $11,246.67, five per cent. upon the sales of Government lands. In June, 1884, $17,485.96, five per cent. upon the net proceeds of the sales of lands. In the month of November, 1884, $485 upon claim of the State for expenses incurred in suppressing Indian hostilities.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE.

Reference is here made to the claim of Patrick O. Howes and that of T. P. Kennard, State Agent, for commissions on moneys collected from the General Government. The Governor continues:

In view of the entire record in this matter, and without discussion the question as to whether the contract was or was not a provident one upon the part of the State, I venture to suggest that it would be in furtherance of the idea that the obligation of the State is no less sacred than that of an individual, as well as being in the line of economy to cancel this claim in full, stipulating, however, for a full and absolute release from further obligation under said contract, and all contracts with collection agents, as it would seem that the time had been reached when Nebraska, through her Senators and Representatives in Congress, could be fully protected in her interests in this regard.

NEW COUNTIES ORGANIZED.

Since the last session of the Legislature, the necessary papers have been filed in the executive office, asking for the organization of the counties of Loup, Cherry, Brown, Dandy, Sioux and Hayes.

Proclamations in form required by the statutes have been issued, providing for the organization of the counties named above. Organization has been perfected or is now in progress in all save and excepting the county of Sioux, in which county the parties commissioned as temporary officers having refused to serve as such, and no further action having been taken by this department, the County of Sioux remains unorganized.

FORMATION OF NEW COUNTIES OUT OF EXISTING COUNTIES.

Pursuant to the provisions of chapter eighteen, sections ten and eleven of the compiled statutes, relating to the formation of a new county out of one or more of the then existing counties, it has been certified to me by the Honorable the Secretary of State, that on the 4th day of November, 1884, the majority of the electors of the county of Wheeler at a general election then duly held, voted to form a new county of said County of Wheeler, to be known as Garfield County, and that on the 4th day of November, A. D., 1884, at a general election then duly held, the majority of the electors of the County of Brown voted to form a new county out of said County of Brown, to be known as Keya Paha County.

The constitutional and statutory requirements having been fully complied with, I have by virtue of the authority in me vested by the statutes of Nebraska in such case made and provided, issued my proclamation ordering that an election be held for the election of county officers and for the location of a county seat, respectively, in the counties of Garfield and Keya Paha.

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.

Results hoped for and that may reasonably be expected from a properly managed geological survey are such as in my opinion will warrant the necessary expenditures for that purpose. It may be said of the other States lying in the Mississippi and Missouri Valleys, a majority of which in their general characteristics are not unlike Nebraska, that without an exception they have made provisions for such surveys, and so far as I am advised with results gratifying in the practical demonstration of the existence of resources before unknown, and the discovery of which is in point of profit or return to the State not only commensurate with but vastly in excess of the outlay made.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

Amendments to the constitution of our State can be submitted to a vote of the people for their approval or rejection at the general election at which members of the Legislature are chosen, and at no other time. Proposed amendments were submitted at the last general election, and in respect to one of them it may be said that its adoption would have been for the best interest of the State, and that public opinion largely sustained this view of the matter. I may add that its rejection is a source of general regret, and, in great measure, if not wholly, due to the excitement of a heated political contest, in which personal and party interests so absorbed and engaged the public mind that questions of a purely public nature were neglected. The question of a change in the fundamental law of our State is one upon which the people in their action can not well be too conservative, and such a proposition should come before them in such manner, and at such times, as will enable them to judge of its merits, standing alone, and relieved from disturbing side issues. This view of the subject can be made practical by such provision as will enable the people to vote upon amendments at a special election for that purpose, and by providing for the canvass of the vote cast at such election. I would recommend that you provide for a resubmission of the amendment to section four of article three of the constitution, increasing the duration of legislative session and compensation of members.

IMMIGRATION.

The matter of the frequent requests of parties residing in the East for pamphlets containing reliable information concerning Nebraska has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Legislature, but thus far no action has been taken upon the recommendations made in connection therewith. In the absence of an immigration bureau, whose duty it would be to prepare such documents for circulation, I would recommend that you authorize and provide means for the preparation and publication of a pamphlet containing the a brief historical and descriptive statement of Nebraska, her development, resources, and attractions of soil and climate, to be followed by statistical information both vital and material said pamphlet to be prepared under the direction of some of the State officers and properly authenticated for general distribution. This is a subject eminently worthy of your attention and favorable consideration.

REQUISITIONS.

After referring to the law governing requisitions for criminals who have fled to other States, and who have, as a rule, been captured, or otherwise, entailing heavy expense to the State, the Governor says:

The Governor can not adopt an arbitrary rule as to a certain class of cases, and is powerless to prevent the abuses that exist under the present law. A remedy is suggested through the enactment of a law providing that in all cases excepting those of murder, assault with intent to kill, rape or assault with intent to commit rape, arson, robbery and treason, the person applying for the requisition shall advance the expenses incident to apprehension and return of the fugitive, to be reimbursed by the State upon proper proof being made as to prosecution and conviction. It may be urged that such a law would discriminate as against those who might be unable to make such an advance. For such, an exception could be made, upon the filing of proper affidavits, setting forth their inability. Such a law as herein indicated, will be a source of great saving to the State.

NEW ORLEANS EXPOSITION.

An act of Congress approved February 10, 1883, authorized and provided for a World's Exposition to be held at the City of New Orleans in the year 1884. In accordance with this act President Arthur issued his proclamation inviting each State to participate in the exhibit, and calling upon the Governors of the respective States to name a Commissioner and Alternate to represent their State. In compliance with this request I named as Commissioner Hon. Robert W. Furnas, and as Alternate Commissioner Hon. Albinus Nance, to represent Nebraska at the exposition. As an aid and to encourage the work, the National Government loaned the Exposition management one million dollars and appropriated three hundred thousand dollars for a Government display. From the sum so loaned to them the management placed to the credit of the several States, conditioned upon their raising a like amount within the State, the sum of $5,000. This matter came to me too late for presentation to the Legislature of 1883 and as it was deemed of the greatest importance to the interests of Nebraska that she should be represented in this matter, steps were taken to raise the money. Public spirited citizens interested themselves in the matter, meetings were held and plans discussed. At length at a joint meeting of the State Agricultural and Horticultural Societies they agreed to advance $1,000 each from the funds at their disposal, and look to the Legislature to reimburse them. The remainder, $3,000, was obtained from the banks at Lincoln and at Omaha upon the personal notes of myself and the members of the societies above named, for which you will be asked to provide. With his characteristic energy and enthusiasm, Mr. Furnas entered upon the execution of the work placed in his hands, and the result of his work so untiringly and intelligently performed is witnessed in the magnificent display of the varied resources of Nebraska now upon exhibition at New Orleans—a display that has called forth encomiums from the press of the country, attracting general attention, and eliciting from those who have not visited Nebraska expressions of wonder and astonishment at the great extent and variety of her resources.

This is Nebraska's opportunity, and she must not fail to improve it. To meet the necessities of said increased [illegible] and to meet the necessary expenses of a proper conduct of the exhibit until the close of the Exposition, May, 1885, will require $5,000, and I would recommend such appropriation as a measure of the wisest economy. The act should be passed at once with the emergency clause attached.

In making recommendations that involve the creation of various boards I do so fully unmindful of the fact that obstacles may seem to stand in the way of such action on your part, but they are nevertheless submitted, with the hope and belief that you may be able to surmount the difficulty, if it in reality exists.

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH.

A communication has been received at this department from the National Board of Health setting forth very fully the danger that menaces the people of this country in the apprehended appearance of Asiatic cholera, and earnestly requesting that the attention of the Legislature be called to this subject, and to the urgent necessity of appropriate legislation providing means whereby the most thorough sanitary service, State and local, may be immediately organized. Communications have also been received from the Nebraska State Medical Society, through its Chairman, and from leading physicians expressing their views, fully sharing the fear of danger from the source named above, and all without exception urging the duty of the Legislature in the enactment of a law providing for the organization of a state Board of Health, with power to establish auxiliary boards in such parts of the State as in their judgment might seem necessary. An imperative demand for such action has been created by the large increase of our population, and the rapidly increasing number and size of our towns and cities. The subject is referred to you for such action as the great importance of the interests involved would seem to dictate.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES AND REFORM.

It is recommended that you provide for the organization of a board to be known as the State Board of Charities and Reform. After consultation with those whose long experience in work of this character justly entitles their views to great weight, and adopting in the main their suggestions, I would say that such a board should be clothed with full power to see and learn all that is needful to a full understanding of what the state county city and private institutions of a charitable or correctional nature are doing. Abuses never flourish in the light, and it should be the business of such a board to turn on the light, and let a healthful public opinion do the rest. For the starting of the board this will be sufficient. After it has proved its usefulness it may be found expedient to give it other powers, but at the first the only legal powers it should have should be those of inspection, recommendation and public reporting. The creation of a board of this character will be a step in the direction of securing a more just, human and economical administration of public charity and correction.

LIVE STOCK INTERESTS.

Protection to the live stock interests of Nebraska is one of the most important subjects that will claim your attention. Stringent laws should be enacted to prevent the spreading of infectious or contagious diseases among our domestic animals, as well as laws conferring the power to create and enforce quarantine against the introduction into our State of cattle affected with the disease known as contagious pleuro-pneumonia, or those affected with Texas or Spanish fever, and against all domestic animals that may be affected with any disease that is infectious or contagious.

That these laws may be intelligently carried into effect there should be created the office of State Veterinary Surgeon, and also a Board of Stock Commissioners, to consist of not less than three persons, the duties and power of said officers to be thoroughly defined.

LAND DEPARTMENT.

The great volume of business transacted in this department during the past two years is fully and clearly set forth in the detailed report of Hon. A. G. Kendall, Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, whose industry and valuable services to the State I can not too highly commend. His report is filled in with useful information.

The following statement, covering the years 1883 and 1884, will be found of interest, as showing the business of this important department, and the present status of our lands.

Number of acres of all lands leased during the years 1883 and 1884:

Common school	608,310.97
Agricultural college	54,789.65
University	[illegible]
Normal school	221.21
Total	667,472.46

Number of acres of all lands sold at public sale during the years 1883 and 1884:

Common school	8,170.41
Agricultural college	12,668.96
University	1,640.00
Total	22,479.3[illegible]

Number of acres of all lands sold at private sale during the years 1883 and 1884:

Common school	235,185.30
Agricultural college	7,790.41
University	5,891.22
Normal school	5,975.97
Total	244,003.[illegible]

Number of acres of all lands reverting to the State during the years 1883 and 1884:

Common school	46,172.24
Agricultural college	240.00
University	1,352.10
Normal school	430.00
Total	48,178.24

Number of acres of all lands deeded by the State during the years 1883 and 1884:

Common school	71,804.43
Agricultural college	[illegible]
University	[illegible]
Normal school	[illegible]
Total	75,181.[illegible]

Number of acres of all lands deeded and confirmed to the State during the years 1883 and 1884:

Common school	47,238.[illegible]

Number of acres of all lands owned by the State December, 1884:

Common school	2,786,[illegible]
Agricultural college	[illegible]
University	[illegible]
Normal school	[illegible]
Saline lands	[illegible]
Penitentiary	[illegible]
Total	2,906,177.[illegible]

The total number of acres of indemnity school lands received by the State is 11,628.83 acres, and of this amount 10,196.23 acres have been confirmed during the term of the present Commissioner.

An application of the Nebraska Stock Yards Company, of Lincoln to lease certain described saline lands in Lancaster County, has been reported to me from the Board of Public Lands and Buildings and is referred to you for such action as may seem for the best interests of the State.

The property belonging to the permanent school fund, and known as the Gillespie property, is in a bad condition and is returning but small revenue to the fund, [illegible] its sale.

Your attention is called to the [illegible] lots in the City of Lincoln [owned] by the State, now occupied by private parties, and from which the State derives no rental whatever.

The total [amount] of temporary school funds disbursed since the organization of the State is $[illegible], and of this amount $[illegible], or one-half of the entire amount has been disbursed during the past five years.

The following statement will show the revenue of the temporary school fund from educational lands:

December [1], 1884, there were under lease [illegible] acres of educational lands, appraised at $[illegible], bearing an annual rental of $[illegible], an average valuation of $[illegible] per acre. There were under sale [illegible] acres of educational lands, the unpaid principal of which is bearing six per cent. on $[illegible], amounting to $[illegible]. There were $[illegible] of the permanent funds invested in securities, the annual interest on which is $[illegible], making in all a temporary fund from these receipts alone of $[illegible] per annum. There are still vacant and unappraised [illegible] acres of common school lands, or about one-half of the original grant.

Results reached under the present law have been placed before you. It now remains for you to decide what shall be the future policy of the State regarding this grant, [illegible] as to what that policy should be [illegible] wide diversity of opinion. Here is [work for] your best thought. The entire [illegible] school land legislation is one [illegible] with reference only to the best [interest] of the school fund. The constitution provides that our educational lands shall not be sold for less than $7.00 an acre nor for less than their appraised value. The Legislature has the power to increase the minimum price of these lands. The question, as well as that of striking out the sale clause, or if sales are to be continued of striking out the private sale clause, and the further question of some method of appraisement in matter of sale whereby the school fund may obtain a more just valuation upon its lands, will come before you for decision.

[Continuing] the lease system with proper restrictions, my own judgment would favor retaining the title of all educational lands in the State for at least a period of twenty-five years. [Be]cause the great advance in value of such lands due to the rapid development of the State may be added to the school fund.

[Theories] have been put in circulation that were calculated to reflect on those who [have had] the duty [and] trusts of sacredly [guarding the] interest of our common school fund. My judgment and belief is that the law has been faithfully executed and that no State can show her school lands and school fund in better shape than those of Nebraska. If, however, there remains reasonable ground for a belief as to the maladministration of this trust, then it becomes your bounden duty to examine into the same to the end that doubt may be set at rest.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

The power is yours under the constitution to establish reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freights on the different railroads in this State. Our largely increased and still rapidly increasing population would seem to indicate that the time has come when the passenger traffic of Nebraska has reached such proportions as that, without injustice to the railroad, the people may ask for a reduced passenger rate. I would therefore, recommend the enactment of a law providing for a maximum passenger rate of three cents per mile, and that such law be made applicable to the several lines of railroads in the State, with reference to their ability to earn money.

While the legislation above referred to will afford a measure of relief, the question of greatest interest to the people of an agricultural State like our own is that of rates for the transportation of their products and live stock. The demand for legislation of some kind looking to the regulation of freight rates is general, and this demand should not be unheeded by you.

The power placed in your hands by the people is to be used wisely and considerately. You will not be led away by clamor, but you will do what your best judgment may dictate, considering all interests involved. The question of the proper adjustment of freight rates is one most difficult. It presents features so varied and intricate that men unskilled in the details of railroad management may well hesitate to offer advice in the matter. There are those who advocate the enactment of laws establishing maximum freight rates. In response to this my observation has been, that when such legislation has been enacted it has proved unsatisfactory to the people, and has failed to accomplish the end desired. If it is true that under our constitution you cannot create a Board of Railroad Commissioners, that I have no plan to recommend, as I believe the relief demanded is to be had through a Board of Commissioners properly constituted and clothed with power to arbitrate and decide between the people and the railroads upon all existing matters of difference.

REPORTS AND STATEMENTS TRANSMITTED.

Transmitted herewith for your information are reports containing many useful and valuable suggestions recommendations to which I ask your early and careful consideration is asked. These are the biennial reports of the Secretary of State, State Treasurer, Auditor of Public Accounts, Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Adjutant General, State Librarian, Principal of Institution for the Blind, Principal of Deaf and Dumb Institute, Superintendent of Reform School, Superintendent of the Insane Hospital, Warden of State Penitentiary, Principal of the State Normal School, Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska, and the annual reports of Board of Fish Commissioners, State Agricultural Society and State Horticultural Society.

Appended hereto and made a part of this message will be found the following tabular statements:

Number of convicts discharged from November 30, 1882, to November 30, 1884. Pardons and communications granted and remission of fines. Statement of the insurance policies now in force covering public property and buildings belonging to the State. Report of expenditures for executive office for the two years ending November 30, 1884. Statement of moneys received from the General Government and paid into the State Treasury during the two years ending December 31, 1884. Statement of railroads in the State, giving name, number of miles, the assessed valuation per mile, and total assessed valuation. Statement showing number of miles of railroads constructed in the State during the years 1883 and 1884. Statement showing the appropriations needed for the operating expenses of the government from the 31st day of March, 1885, to the 31st day of March, 1887, as estimated by the heads of the several departments, and by the Auditor of Public Accounts when not otherwise estimated.

CONCLUSION.

I deeply appreciate the uniform kindness and courtesy received by me from all connected with my administration, and desire to tender them the assurance of my personal regard.

The office of Legislator carries with it grave responsibilities, and those whom you have the honor to represent in this capacity will justly hold you to a strict accountability. In bidding you welcome, I may express the hope that your deliberations may result in such action as shall prove most beneficial to the varied interests of the State.

JAMES W. DAWES.

Executive Chamber, Lincoln, January 6, 1885.

LOVE STORIES.

Otter Zimmdoos Left in the Lurch—[illegible] Shake.

HARRISVILLE, W. VA., January 12.—A sensational elopement occurred here today. Miss Alice Patton, a blooming girl of twenty-three, was to have been married to Otter Zimdoos, a man of seventy. He had given the girl money to purchase the trousseau, and everything was in readiness for the event. The hour for the ceremony approached and the guests assembled. Mr. Zimdoos arrived and all was in readiness but the bride herself was missing, nor could she be found. Late in the afternoon it was ascertained that she had eloped with the engineer running the train that passed at the hour for the ceremony.

"[illegible] NOT GO TO [illegible] HOME FOR ME."

KANSAS CITY, MO., January 12.—Mr. Frank Simpson, one of the junior member of the firm of Dowell, Lawson & Simpson, of New York, who was jilted at the eleventh hour by Miss Millard, of Washington, several weeks ago, returned to his home in this city today. He is looking well and declares that he has ceased to think of the trick his affianced played on him. When asked if he had heard anything from Mrs. Paxton since her marriage, he replied that he had not heard a thing about her and did not even know where she is at present.

Railroad Accident.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., January 12.—An accident occurred on the Pensacola & Atlantic Railroad between Chysley and Bonifay. A number of persons were seriously injured. The passenger train with two Pullman coaches for this city was followed by a freight. At the locality indicated the train broke in two and the Pullman was left standing on the track. The cars had just rounded a curve so the freight train could not be seen, and before it could be stopped it came dashing around the point and struck the rear of the Pullman, telescoping the [illegible] and making a complete wreck.

WINTER.

An Essay Thereon by a Man Who Sees No Charms in Cold Weather.

Winter hath no charms for us. We would always have the birds here. We desire the eternal presence of the flowers, the beautiful leaves, the duster and the ice-wagon. There are many things about winter that makes us tired. We can stand it to get up in the morning and run all over the house, and across oil-cloths, on our bare feet, looking for another match. But it is hard to endure the man who comes half a block out of his way to tell us it is awfully cold, and to lie to us about his thermometer. If these fellows will leave us alone we will get along without sensing the cold so much. Every time they strike us with one of their thermometer lies it seems to freeze an ear or frost a toe. We actually believe if the thermometer were above zero a liar might tell us it was fifty degrees below, and after that we would freeze stiffer than a wedge in trying to walk down town. On the other hand, if it were forty degrees below zero we would not know it was very cold if nobody gave it away. People who love to talk about the weather are generally the greatest falsifiers in the land. They don't feel the slightest pang at lying three or four degrees, while some of them will go to extremes. We had a neighbor last winter who would come out and stick his head over the tight-board fence every cold morning, as we were feeding the pigs, and say to us in a quivering voice: "Awfully coo-cold this morning. Mom-my thermometer's twenty-th-three degrees below zero-ero." We learned, after the thing had been going on most of the winter, that he had never had a thermometer in the house.

The nights are periods of terror, too. Sometimes we feel tempted to sit up till morning, on extra cold occasions. There is a sort of listless delight in hugging the stove, with your heels on the fender and your knees under your arms, and gaping and looking at the clock, and saying to yourself: "I must go to bed in just a few minutes."

Just think how nice it is when you enter the chamber, and a volume of frozen breath from your mouth shoots across the room. Then it's fun to jump into bed when the sheets are frozen stiff, and have them almost take the skin off, while a shudder runs your whole length that almost unjoints every joint in your body! You think you might as well go boldly about getting the bed warm the whole length. So you shove your feet down, till they strike the red-hot flat-iron that has been hidden there by your affectionate grandmother, and you jump upward and hit the head-board a bang with your skull that splits it clear across. It isn't all in taking the first chill out of a bed. A fellow will perhaps drop to sleep for an hour. He then wakes up, and finds the clothes half-way down his body, and his shoulder cold. He pulls the clothes up, and his feet stick out about ten inches below. And he pulls and pushes the blankets till morning, and keeps half frozen at both ends. We are not ordinarily superstitious, but we do believe bed clothes shorten up about three feet on very cold nights.

There is not the fun in winter that there was years ago. Last season we started in with the first snow, resolved to make the most of winter. We would enter into what joys there were, and see if it wouldn't lighten up the gloom. We started down town. A crowd of boys were snow-balling on a corner. "Give us leave?" one of them asked, as he pulled a ball way back. "You bet," we called, as we reached down and scooped up a handful of snow and shaped a ball as large as a baby's head. They let fly and hit us in three places. We pulled back, with the intention of annihilating the whole crowd. We slipped as the missile left our hand; the effort nearly threw our shoulder out of joint, and the snowball hit a hired girl who was sweeping off a porch, in the back of the neck. We looked the other way, and walked briskly down the street. "Yes, sir, winter is a fraud, and we would trade our share off for a yellow dog."—*Aurora Blade.*

DRESSES FOR GIRLS.

The Latest Fashions in Young Ladies Wear Carefully Described.

Girls just in their teens have tailor-made dresses of Cheviot or of twilled flannel for school or general wear in the dark quiet colors in vogue for ladies. These are made in very simple styles, with a plaited and belted basque, and a plaited skirt on which is draped an apron over-skirt. The belted basque may be double or single breasted, and has two plaits down each front and in the back, stitched like two narrow tucks turned away from each other, yet made to represent a box plait. Only one dart is in each front, and when the bust is not developed even this dart is omitted, and the slight sloping needed is given by curving the seam that joins a side form to the front; this is an under-arm piece, and must not be considered the side form of the back. The neck is finished with a broad standing band, or else there is a turned-over collar, which may be a plain Byron collar, or else notched like that of a man's morning coat. The sleeves are plainly stitched or braided near the wrists. The basque is of even length all around, and its edges, with the belt also, are either stitched or braided. One or two rows of half-inch mohair braid is the trimming most used. The lower skirt reaches just to the top of the boots, and is laid in kilt plaits at least four inches wide; these are attached to a very deep yoke-like piece, and the slight drapery is sewed to the belt above it. This dress is neat and girlish when made of the rough finished Cheviots that have illuminated threads, on a ground of brown or of very dark maroon. Navy blue serge is similarly made, and trimmed with either black, blue, or cardinal red braid. Tailor blouse suits of blue flannel, with the skirt in wide box plaits, are still liked for school dresses, and are [illegible] [warm for win]ter.

For still better dresses the finer broadcloths and closely twilled Oxford suitings are used in golden brown, dull [reds], blue and green cloths. These are trimmed with rows of soutache braid of the same shade, and perhaps a little [gilt is] added. The basque is [made] up shorter in the back, and the [illegible] narrow vest of some contrasting color, or else it is braided. Some of these dresses have tucks for their only ornament, the entire front and sides [being] tucked, while others have wide [rows of] braid set on in parallel rows. Here [illegible] [the] skirt is laid in box plaits, two tucks each an inch wide at [the] [illegible] pretty finish.—*Harper's Bazar.*

—John A. Macdonald, Prime Minister of Canada, predicts the Canadian Pacific Railroad will be completed to the Pacific Ocean by October, 1886.