

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

A VERY LONG AND ABLE DOCUMENT.

The Nebraska Executive Dismisses State Affairs Thoroughly and With Becoming Dignity—Defends the State and Makes a Number of Recommendations.

SECTION FOUR.

State Normal School. The state normal school at Peru, appears to be performing the work for which it was constructed in a very satisfactory manner, and meeting the full expectations of the friends of education all over the state.

Maximum Freight Law. It is provided in section 4, of article II, of the constitution, that "railways heretofore constructed, or that may hereafter be constructed in this state, shall be free to all persons for the transportation of their persons and property thereon, under such regulations as may be prescribed by law, and the legislature may, from time to time, pass such laws establishing reasonable maximum rates of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on the different railroads in this state."

Under the constitutional power thus conferred, efforts have been made from time to time by the different legislatures to enact laws which would establish maximum rates and to prevent discrimination and abuses to the patrons of such roads. The legislature of 1893 enacted a maximum freight law which was approved by the governor, and thereby became one of the laws of the state.

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Board of Transportation. Under the second constitutional provision, the legislature has established a board of transportation, giving to such board power to prevent unjust discrimination, and to fix reasonable rates for the carrying of freights, and in general to carry out the provisions of the act creating such board.

Many other states have commissions either created by the constitution or otherwise, which are authorized to regulate and control railroad, telegraph and express traffic. The work of these commissions in many states seems to be very satisfactory.

I am of the opinion that our board of transportation laws may be amended in many respects so as to give greater powers and more latitude in the operation of the board in the enforcement of the law, thereby assuring a better administration of the important features of government.

Nebraska National Guard. The report of the adjutant-general shows that during the past two years, the national guard in this state has made great improvement in its knowledge of military duty, and that the equipment is sufficient, with the exception of a few articles, to enable it to take the field for active service in or out of the state.

State Fish Commission. An honest effort on the part of the fish commission to perform the greatest possible service to the state with a small outlay for expenses, has evidently been successful. The various streams of the state and many public and private lakes and ponds have been well stocked with the best varieties of fish.

Live Stock Inspection Law. The live stock industry of the state of Nebraska is and will be, so long as present conditions exist, one of the principal sources of revenue to the state. In recognizing this fact, the legislature at different times has enacted laws to prevent the spread of contagious or infectious diseases and providing for the appointment of a live stock sanitary commission.

Labor Bureau. The bureau of labor and industrial statistics has been greatly handicapped by the meagre appropriations made by the legislature. This bureau should be maintained and suitable appropriations made in order to carry on the work intended by its creation.

Department of Banking. A banking board, composed of the state treasurer, auditor and attorney-general, has been created by law for the purpose of examining into and reporting at frequent intervals upon the financial condition of the several banking institutions of the state, excepting those organized under the national banking law.

Fire and Police Board. Experience and thoughtful consideration, on the part of law-making bodies seem to have demonstrated the wisdom of retaining as far as possible from political influences matters pertaining to the fire and police departments and the regulation and sale of intoxicating liquors.

Boundary Commission. By joint resolution of the legislature of the state of South Dakota and the legislature of this state, the governor of each state was empowered to appoint three members to ascertain and report to the governor of each said state prior to the next session of the legislature a true and correct boundary line between the states of Nebraska and South Dakota.

Beet Sugar Industry. Nebraska is essentially an agricultural state. Her growth, prosperity and increase of wealth of her citizens depend very largely on the success which we may be able to achieve in the many different branches of agricultural enterprise.

Constitutional Amendments. The last session of the legislature, by joint resolution, submitted twelve constitutional amendments to the voters of the state for their ratification.

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