

GOVERNOR BOYD'S MESSAGE.

Condition of Affairs As Viewed by the Retiring Executive.

By a wise provision of the constitution, it is the duty of the executive to furnish to the legislature at the opening of each session, an account of his stewardship, and a statement of the condition of the state's affairs, with such recommendation as will, in his judgment, best promote the welfare of the state and the public good.

State Finances.

That which, in my judgment, is at this period of most concern to the state, is the condition of our state finances. For the first time in a long period of years the state treasury is depleted to the extent that the current obligations of the state cannot be met; and the state warrants are thus bearing interest and causing greatly increased running expenses through interest charges, necessitating an increase in taxation. The last legislature greatly increased the appropriations for the conduct of the state, but made no provision for an increased levy to meet the additional expense. The general fund of the state treasury Dec. 1, 1892, shows a balance of \$16,633.05; against which sum outstanding registered warrants have been called for payment. The appropriations of the last legislature were:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes General Fund, Hospital for Insane Fund, Normal School Interest, etc.

The general assessment roll will average \$180,000,000 annually, and for two years, \$360,000,000. The limit of the levy is five (5) mills, the total revenue thus derived, if every dollar was collected, though on an average but 99 per cent. is, would amount to but \$1,800,000.00, showing a deficiency for the two years of \$750,000.00.

In compliance with the act amending section 3, chapter 53, of 1887, relating to registration of warrants, which act was approved April 8, 1891, the state treasury began the registration of warrants August 1, 1891; and from that date to November 30, 1892 there was registered for payment in regular order as presented, warrants on the general fund to the amount of \$1,718,256.62. Of this latter amount \$1,680,872.79 has been called; leaving a registered indebtedness against the general fund of \$37,383.83, drawing 7 per cent interest per annum. The average period of registration before payment is about ten days. In addition to this constantly being obligated, there was paid during the sixteen months of the period named, interest on general fund warrants to the sum of \$28,912.15. It is plain, therefore, that the state indebtedness is increasing in a decidedly unsatisfactory manner. I would therefore recommend to the honorable body, the increasing of the levy now fixed at a limit of five (5) mills to six (6) mills. I do this in the belief that the state should raise revenue to meet the deficiency and discharge its indebtedness as bearing a high rate of

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Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Hospital for Insane Fund, Normal Endowment Fund, Normal Interest Fund, etc.

Total balance to funds \$1,181,085.93. The receipts, amounting to \$3,982,576.11, were derived from various sources, viz:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes State taxes received, From counties for care of insane, Principal on school lands sold, etc.

Total receipts \$3,982,576.11. The disbursements, amounting to \$4,401,628.58, were made as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes General fund warrants redeemed, Appropriations of 1887 and prior years, Appropriations of 1888, etc.

Total disbursements \$4,401,628.58. Money paid in by the Governor. The following are the different sums of money received by me and paid into the state treasury, as is evident by receipts on file:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Amount. Includes Extractions and other fees, May 6, 1891, Paid state treasurer, Oct. 12, 1892, Paid state treasurer, etc.

Monies paid in by the Governor. The following are the different sums of money received by me and paid into the state treasury, as is evident by receipts on file:

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administration, I am constrained to lay special emphasis on the necessity of a thorough reform in the management of the public institutions of the state. Particularly is this true with regard to the extravagant, and, in some instances, dishonest expenditure of the funds provided for the maintenance of those institutions. While the most flagrant instances of this have been revealed in the conduct of the hospital for the insane at Lincoln, and for which the former superintendent was and should be held liable, I am entirely satisfied that a like condition has heretofore existed in connection with other institutions.

I may recall to you the circumstances which led to the investigation and exposure of the unsatisfactory condition of affairs which had prevailed at the Lincoln institute. With a view to an honest and economic administration of the affairs of that institution, I instituted a system of comparative statements between a given number of months under the present administration and a like period under preceding managements, and found such an enormous difference as could not be ascribed to parsimony. So pronounced was this difference in the matter of supplies consumed, being about 35 per cent. less, that I became convinced that there had been dishonesty connected with the transactions of the former management; and on the 29th day of September, 1892, I called upon the board of public lands and buildings to make a thorough investigation of charges which had been made at a public meeting by E. C. Rowick, esq.

The investigation which followed developed such a state of affairs as warranted an investigation by the grand jury, with the result that a number of criminal indictments were found, with which the courts have yet to deal. Corroborative of my opinion that the state institutions may be conducted more economically than has been the custom, I cite you the following showing from the official report of the superintendent of the hospital for the insane at Lincoln, a comparative statement of expenditures from March 31, 1891, to November 30, 1892:

Table with 3 columns: Item, 1891, 1892. Includes Employees' Wages, Board and Clothing, Fuel, etc.

Other Institutions. I may also add that the report of the superintendent of the asylum for chronic insane, at Hastings, with an average increase of twenty patients, makes a comparative showing for a period of ten months of a saving of \$7,671.60; and a comparative statement for a month shows a saving of \$2,719.00 at the hospital for the insane, at Norfolk.

From the facts and figures thus brought to my attention by the officials in charge of those institutions, whom I have been permitted to appoint, I am convinced that the said institutions can be conducted in their running expenses, exclusive of salaries, for about sixty-six per cent. of the amount heretofore consumed. And, in this connection, I would further call your attention to the fact that there are a number of state institutions over which the auditing commission has had organized.

As soon as Mr. Brown had finished the reading Speaker Douglas of the A. G. Isaacson drove across the railroad track at Central City in front of a moving train. The new wagon cost him \$70.

Gothenburg is still going ahead with improvements, and its business men have no fears for its future as a manufacturing center.

The postoffice receipts at Wakefield for the last fiscal year entitle the office to be raised to the presidential class with a salary of \$1,100.

Enterprising farmers near Bellwood are building the third elevator in that village. They propose to do a little speculating in the 'staples' themselves.

Dr. Johnson, superintendent of the Hastings asylum, is suffering from a very sore hand made so by the teeth of a violent patient whom he was trying to subdue.

Daniel Wenrick, an aged farmer of Platte county, was killed in an attempt to prevent his team from running away. The wagon loaded with straw passed over his body.

A. F. Warner of Plainview had a stroke of paralysis while at work in the field alone, and died shortly after being removed to the house. He leaves a wife and one son.

W. R. Fox, a farmer of Adams county, has 14,000 bushels of corn which he is willing to sell to the first man who will offer \$4,000 for it. Mr. Fox stands up for Nebraska.

James White, a Saunders county farmer fell from his hay mow, a distance of fifteen feet, and landed head foremost in the middle of a wagon. Beyond a few disfiguring lacerations and abrasions he suffered no injury.

John Dalton of Wabash is in the hospital for the insane. He was recently discharged as cured, but he took to chasing his neighbors with a gun and it was thought advisable to send him back till he got rid of that odd notion.

An escaped lunatic tried to force an entrance into the dwelling of Nels Dredoy near Weston, but two shots from Mrs. Dredoy dissuaded him from persisting, and he will die.

1. That the artillery and cavalry be mustered out as useless and expensive appendages. 2. That the strength of the companies be increased to conform with the new tactics, and that each company have a maximum of one hundred enlisted men.

Public Education. The report of the Commissioner of public lands and buildings, so far as it relates to educational lands and funds, presents some matters which should be a source of pride and satisfaction to every citizen of the state. Tabulated statements show that Nebraska has had granted to it for educational purposes a total of 2,969,415 acres of land of which amount 2,734,894 are common school lands. Of the total amount title is yet vested in the state to 2,482,704 acres; of this amount 573,380 acres are under state contract; 1,492,797 are under leased contract, and 446,627 acres are neither leased nor sold.

The report further shows that there is now invested in the United States, bonds, state securities and registered county bonds belonging to the permanent school fund, the sum of \$3,263,872.33, including in the state treasury amounting to \$100,398.33; making a total of \$3,016,274.74. An increase in the permanent school fund during the last two years of \$270,963.53.

This common school lands now under lease produce an annual rental of \$84,716.08. This, with the annual interest and unpaid principal on said contracts amounts to \$230,170.11, which with the added interest amounting to \$5,542.31 makes a fund of \$235,712.42 to be annually appropriated to the school districts of the state in addition to the revenue derived from the investment of the permanent school fund on the state treasury.

This is a magnificent showing for the educational advantages of our state, and reflects great credit upon those founders of our state who in the early days conserved its school interests.

The honorable commissioner also calls attention to the imperfect and ambiguous laws regulating the procuring of right of way over state lands by irrigation companies, which I consider especially worthy of your attention.

The state superintendent of public instruction in his report, also deals with some subjects relative to public education which I consider worthy of your consideration. 1. The equalization so far as possible, of school taxation in the various districts of the state.

2. Legislation requiring a uniform course of study for district schools. 3. Legislation making the boundaries of government townships the school district line with a board of trustees for each with the power to make necessary provision for the educational needs of the youth of the district, and the bringing of such boards into closer relations with the county and state superintendents.

State University. The report of the board of regents of the state university makes a particularly gratifying showing. The growth of the university during the last biennial period has been phenomenal. The attendance has more than doubled; the present enrollment being nine hundred and fifty-seven (957). This registration represents twenty states besides Nebraska, and sixty-four Nebraska counties.

The close connection of the university with the public school system is shown by the fact that three hundred and eighty-seven (387) pupils come from public high schools and three hundred and fifteen (315) from public schools. The advanced standing of the university and its strong hold upon all the educational needs of the youth of the state is manifested by the fact that one hundred and twenty-five (125) of the students come from other colleges and universities, largely within this state. That it is ministering in a helpful way to the great mass of people of the state and not to any preferred class, is shown by the fact that double the number of students are here as in any other state.

The regular annual meeting of the board of regents of the university had a brief holdover in the office of the state superintendent of public instruction, which I always carried in those days. I got it out and clipped my way right and left, cutting their heads off. I don't know how many of the birds I killed, but a whole lot.

Of the curious tropical birds there were some with only two long tail feathers. They were singularly beautiful. The Kanakas pulled them out right and left. I have some of them yet.

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