

Successful five days' bible meeting was held at Chadron.

Henry Brockman, who lives four miles northwest of West Point, dropped dead in the kitchen at his home, from heart disease.

Andrew McCart was bound over to the district court at Indianola by Squire Beck, charged with assault with intent to commit rape on a Mrs. Eberling of Lebanon.

The state board of school lands and funds last week purchased \$100,000 worth of Saunders county 4 1/2 per cent bonds and the treasurer issued his check for the amount.

While running to a fire recently one of the members of the North Platte fire company fell and was run over by the hose cart. He was badly bruised, but not dangerously injured.

The McCook band, which played at the state fair in Omaha, had a concert recently, and the proceedings were wound up by presenting Director Sutton with a gold mounted baton.

Hog cholera has been raging in Saunders county for some time, but is now abating. One man lost 122 head, another 137, one 47. In some localities there is not a pig left to tell the tale.

The citizens of Long Pine are becoming very much interested in the culture of game fish, especially the rainbow trout and brook trout. At no place in the west have the reports been as favorable as there.

The Omaha Savings bank, the oldest of its kind in the city, has suspended. The liabilities are nearly a million dollars. The president claims that the deposits are well secured and that the bank will pay out in time.

Leander Jones, an old man who has been working at what he was able to do for a Pierce county farmer for several years for his board and clothing, froze his hands while at work some time ago. His injuries were neglected until it is feared he will not recover.

A farmer named Worth, living in north part of Burt county, was robbed by his hired man last week of \$61, the proceeds of a sale of cattle made the day before. Worth's son took the cattle to Lyons and returned in the evening with the money. His father not being at home he retained possession of the money. He slept with the hired man that night, and in the morning both man and money were gone.

Henry C. Zehring, one of Lincoln's best known business men, committed suicide last week by hanging himself to a rafter in the loft of the barn at his residence on C street. Mr. Zehring was connected with the Standard Glass and Paint company, and with his partner had bought out all the other interests since the organization three years ago. The business is said to have been fairly prosperous.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. John Maxwell was celebrated at the poor farm adjoining Nemaha, which has been kept by them for about twenty-five years. No people are more highly esteemed than Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell. About 125 people were present at the reception, besides the children, grand-children, and one great-grandchild. Friends presented Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell with gold watches in addition to other valuable presents.

The case of the state of Nebraska against William Baker on a charge of burglarizing, was tried in the district court at Wahoo. The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty. Baker broke into a barn at Valparaiso, June 1, last, and stole a set of harness. He escaped to Lancaster county, where he was arrested by Sheriff Trompen, who found the stolen harness in Baker's wagon, and brought him to Saunders county, and he has lain in jail until now.

The records of the office of the county recorder show that in Otoe county twenty-two farm mortgages were filed during December, aggregating \$25,535.66. Fourteen releases were filed, in amount of \$17,768. Six city mortgages, amounting to \$2,553.38, and ten releases, \$3,945, were placed on record. The record for the year shows 394 farm mortgages filed, aggregating \$421,239.08; 241 releases, \$305,679.88; 79 city mortgages, in amount of \$59,252.66; and 83 releases, \$48,970.13.

At Elmwood Rev. Pallister accused the church janitor of going through his desk and appropriating \$15 which he had left there. The janitor denied the charges and after a wordy war the minister struck him over the head with his cane, breaking it into three pieces, then he seized a chair and tried to complete the chastisement with that. During the encounter the janitor seized the stove poker and endeavored to return blow for blow. Later on the two met at the minister's house and each apologized for his hasty actions and bad conduct.

The Fremont beet sugar company was incorporated last week with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000 divided into shares of \$50 each. The articles were signed by Nils Johnson, L. D. Richards, L. M. Bene, B. W. Reynolds, E. B. Schneider, W. H. Munger and Wm. Ruwe. Work on the organization of this company has been in progress several months. It is not the expectation of the company to furnish money to erect a factory and carry on the business, but to be in shape to enlist the co-operation of capitalists elsewhere in the enterprise.

George Popp, a young man living with his parents five miles southeast of Sutton, committed suicide by taking strychnine. He left a letter in his pocket bidding his father and mother good-bye. They were in Lincoln on a visit at the time, and a messenger was sent for them.

The coroner's jury summoned to examine into the suicide of Henry C. Zehring of Lincoln returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by his own act, while laboring under a spell of temporary insanity. So far as ascertained the verdict seems to be sustained by the facts and meets the approval of those interested in the case.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE

A VERY LONG AND ABLE DOCUMENT.

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

SECTION ONE.

To the Members of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Legislature of Nebraska.—Gentlemen: In the discharge of the obligation imposed on me as the chief executive officer of the state to communicate to you such information and recommendations as may suggest themselves, I deem it not inappropriate to express my gratification that this message is presented to a legislative body, a majority of the members of which have reason to believe are in harmony and sympathy with the executive department; and that we can hopefully look for a hearty accord between the executive and legislative branches of this state government, in the respective capacities to which we, the servants of the people, have been chosen by their suffrages to act, respecting the plans to be adopted and the policies we shall pursue. The existence of such harmonious relations will, I am sure, enable us to accomplish much good for our state. I feel confident that every branch of our state government is imbued with an earnest desire to promote the general welfare of the people, advance the prosperity of the state; guard, protect and encourage every interest which will add to the development of its resources and preserve the rights of its citizens.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude to my fellow citizens for the confidence manifested in me by my re-election, and desire only in the future to profit by the experience of the past and thus prove myself worthy of the high honor bestowed upon me.

In administering the affairs of the people in a government such as ours, those chosen for that purpose are but instruments to be used by the people.

The Omaha Savings bank, the oldest of its kind in the city, has suspended. The liabilities are nearly a million dollars. The president claims that the deposits are well secured and that the bank will pay out in time.

Leander Jones, an old man who has been working at what he was able to do for a Pierce county farmer for several years for his board and clothing, froze his hands while at work some time ago. His injuries were neglected until it is feared he will not recover.

A farmer named Worth, living in north part of Burt county, was robbed by his hired man last week of \$61, the proceeds of a sale of cattle made the day before. Worth's son took the cattle to Lyons and returned in the evening with the money. His father not being at home he retained possession of the money. He slept with the hired man that night, and in the morning both man and money were gone.

Henry C. Zehring, one of Lincoln's best known business men, committed suicide last week by hanging himself to a rafter in the loft of the barn at his residence on C street. Mr. Zehring was connected with the Standard Glass and Paint company, and with his partner had bought out all the other interests since the organization three years ago. The business is said to have been fairly prosperous.

The golden wedding of Mr. and Mrs. John Maxwell was celebrated at the poor farm adjoining Nemaha, which has been kept by them for about twenty-five years. No people are more highly esteemed than Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell. About 125 people were present at the reception, besides the children, grand-children, and one great-grandchild. Friends presented Mr. and Mrs. Maxwell with gold watches in addition to other valuable presents.

The case of the state of Nebraska against William Baker on a charge of burglarizing, was tried in the district court at Wahoo. The jury, after a short deliberation, returned a verdict of guilty. Baker broke into a barn at Valparaiso, June 1, last, and stole a set of harness. He escaped to Lancaster county, where he was arrested by Sheriff Trompen, who found the stolen harness in Baker's wagon, and brought him to Saunders county, and he has lain in jail until now.

The records of the office of the county recorder show that in Otoe county twenty-two farm mortgages were filed during December, aggregating \$25,535.66. Fourteen releases were filed, in amount of \$17,768. Six city mortgages, amounting to \$2,553.38, and ten releases, \$3,945, were placed on record. The record for the year shows 394 farm mortgages filed, aggregating \$421,239.08; 241 releases, \$305,679.88; 79 city mortgages, in amount of \$59,252.66; and 83 releases, \$48,970.13.

At Elmwood Rev. Pallister accused the church janitor of going through his desk and appropriating \$15 which he had left there. The janitor denied the charges and after a wordy war the minister struck him over the head with his cane, breaking it into three pieces, then he seized a chair and tried to complete the chastisement with that. During the encounter the janitor seized the stove poker and endeavored to return blow for blow. Later on the two met at the minister's house and each apologized for his hasty actions and bad conduct.

The Fremont beet sugar company was incorporated last week with an authorized capital of \$1,000,000 divided into shares of \$50 each. The articles were signed by Nils Johnson, L. D. Richards, L. M. Bene, B. W. Reynolds, E. B. Schneider, W. H. Munger and Wm. Ruwe. Work on the organization of this company has been in progress several months. It is not the expectation of the company to furnish money to erect a factory and carry on the business, but to be in shape to enlist the co-operation of capitalists elsewhere in the enterprise.

George Popp, a young man living with his parents five miles southeast of Sutton, committed suicide by taking strychnine. He left a letter in his pocket bidding his father and mother good-bye. They were in Lincoln on a visit at the time, and a messenger was sent for them.

The coroner's jury summoned to examine into the suicide of Henry C. Zehring of Lincoln returned a verdict that the deceased came to his death by his own act, while laboring under a spell of temporary insanity. So far as ascertained the verdict seems to be sustained by the facts and meets the approval of those interested in the case.

fort and happiness of her citizens; and she does not appeal as a dependent to have accorded to her citizens the same respect and consideration which should, and usually does, exist among the people of one common country, all having a mutual interest in the development of the whole. Rather, she demands this treatment because of the elements of strength in her position, and the ability to extend inducements to the business world, which make her territory an inviting field for the investment of capital and development of industrial enterprises.

PROPERTY RIGHTS SACRED.—That all property interests now in existence or that may hereafter be established will be treated with sacred regard and scrupulous honesty should not be questioned. To question it is to doubt the honesty of mankind, a challenge to the integrity of a nation. Our people deserve friendly relations, commercially and socially, with the citizens of other states, and realize that in the maintenance and extension of mutual, cordial regard all are benefited.

One and a quarter millions of patriotic, law-abiding people inhabit the state of Nebraska. They have built thriving cities and villages. They have broken the sod over which the Indians and the buffalo roamed a few decades ago. They are a hardy, independent people, and are proud of the great fields and growing commonwealth they have created. The fertile fields of Nebraska yield grain sufficient to supply the nation. Horses, cattle, and sheep fatten upon her broad prairie and meadow lands. Thousands of car loads of pork are shipped annually from her farms to feed the people of other states and countries. Her transportation facilities are unexcelled. She has factories for sugar, for cherry, for the manufacture of dry goods and various other commodities. She has mills for grinding grain; great packing houses and dairies all over the state—in fact everything which makes a people prosperous in a great agricultural country, and goes to build up a magnificent nation.

These are the advantages which an intelligent, industrious, thrifty and energetic people present to the business world, and they will enable her to maintain, by virtue of merit alone, an honorable position among the great industrial commonwealths of our country.

The more important of the subjects to be considered by you were generally discussed during the recent campaign and the people made known their desires by the vote they cast. They are committed to reforms in the management of our affairs, thereby rendering less difficult for you to perform your duty in executing the will of the people thus expressed. I will merely call your attention to such of these important matters as have come under my observation during my term of office.

By a wise provision of the constitution, the officers of the executive department, and the heads of all the public institutions of the state, are required at least ten days before the opening of the session of the legislature to make a report to the governor concerning the condition of the state's business in their charge, such reports in turn to be submitted to the legislature. These reports were not all received by the legislature, and I have therefore been unable to give them the consideration I would have desired. They are submitted to you for your careful consideration as they contain much valuable information as to the condition of the state, and in determining the needs of the different departments of the state government and of the various institutions for their proper management for the coming biennium.

Right of Suffrage.—One of the most important duties devolving upon you as legislators is the amendment of the election laws of the state. The legislature of 1891 wisely adopted the Australian ballot system and it has since that time had an appreciable effect in purifying our elections. The success in the use of the Australian system suggests many improvements which will have a tendency to render the perpetration of frauds still more difficult and give to every voter the right to vote in the exercise of his right franchise.

FORM OF BALLOT.—I heartily approve the general form of our ballot and believe it to be vastly preferable to the so-called "blanket" ballot system, in which the party tickets are placed in envelopes, and the voter, with provisions generally by which the elector can vote the entire ticket by one mark or stamp. The independence of the voter is encouraged by our system which usually requires the voter to read the names of the candidates, and he is encouraged thereby not to rely solely upon party designation. It has been urged by some as an objection to the form of our ballot that it is in effect the establishment of an educational system, and I do not regard this as a very serious objection. The voter has become accustomed to this form of ballot, and any marked change in the general form, in my opinion, is entirely unnecessary and would serve no good purpose.

PARTY DESIGNATIONS.—Other objections, however, and more substantial which I regard more the result of abuses than of the law itself and which can be remedied by proper amendments. An objection is made that the party designated by the democratic party for the presidency, afterward he was also nominated by the people's party for president, and later, styling themselves "national democrats," nominated John H. Palmer for president. The candidates placed in nomination by the Palmer wing for electors, as well as for state officers, were designated on the official ballot in Nebraska as "democrats" with no means of distinguishing them from the nominees of the democratic party. The result of such a course was necessarily the deception of many voters. I would respectfully recommend that such amendments be made to the law as would prevent the use of the term "democratic" for the purpose of deceiving voters. The regular party nominees only should appear on the official ballot with the designation of the party which nominated them. Where one candidate has been nominated by the democratic party and the other party the party designations should be so arranged as to permit the elector to express by his vote his party preference as well as his preference for the candidate. Protection should be secured to the voter who, unacquainted with the names of all the nominees on the ticket, is desirous of casting his ballot for the nominees of the party he espouses.

ELECTION BOARD.—I would also suggest that each party having a fair and equal representation in the state be given representation on the precinct election boards, and that no more than two members of any one political organization be made judges in any election precinct. The representatives of no one political organization should have entire control of any election booth, and where competent men representing different political parties can be secured, the result must be more satisfactory to all concerned. I believe this matter might be satisfactorily arranged by vesting the power of naming the judges and clerks of election in the county commissioners (and the mayors of the cities) and by restricting them to a choice from lists furnished by the chairman of the county (or city) committees of the various political parties. Provision could be made allowing at least one representative on the election board to express his preference by casting a certain percentage of votes cast at the last general election held in the state, and providing that, in no event, should any one party have to exceed

two judges and one clerk on any election board.

NO COERCION.—In order to secure a free and untrammeled ballot for every elector steps should be taken to prevent coercion, intimidation and undue influence on the part of the employers. Every citizen who votes may be held responsible for the exercise of his citizenship. Our states have seen fit to enact very stringent legislation to prevent undue influence on the voter by his employer. As an instance the state of Indiana provides, "whenever, for the purpose of influencing a voter, threatens to enforce the payment of a debt, to injure the business or trade of an elector, or, if an employer threatens to withhold wages or to dismiss from service any laborer in his employment or refuses to allow employees time to attend to the place of election and vote, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 nor less than \$50, imprisonment in the state prison not more than five years, nor less than one year, and disfranchised and rendered ineligible for any term of office, trust or profit for any determinative period. The enactment and strict enforcement of some such provision in the election laws of Nebraska would lessen the intimidation of voters and give encouragement to free expression of the will of the people at the polls. Provisions should also be made directing all employers to allow each voter sufficient time on election day to deposit his ballot.

RAILROAD DISCRIMINATION.—Some action might very properly be taken to discourage discrimination between political parties by railroad corporations operating within the state. The issuance of passes to an army of political workers and the giving of special rates for the political meetings make the railroad companies a power in shaping the political destiny of the state. Where this power is all wielded in the interest of one party and to the prejudice of another party, it would cannot well be overestimated. Railroad companies do the business of the public and should be restrained by wholesome legislation from active participation in party politics. The officers and employes of such railroad companies should be free to vote as may seem to them for their own best interests. Charges of undue restriction to the larger cities of the state have been frequently made and I would suggest the advisability of having the last day of registration at least ten days prior to election day in order that the complete list of voters be scrutinized by all inquiring citizens and ample time be afforded for the apprehension of those who fraudulently register.

THE USE OF MONEY.—It is obvious that one of the chief sources of corruption in elections is the use of money in providing means or hiring voters to go to the polls and vote, by this means placing him under obligation and thus unduly influencing his vote, or to hire the voter to stay away from the polls, thereby causing him to neglect his duty as a citizen.

In order to encourage and stimulate the free and honest exercise of the elective franchise it has occurred to me that it might serve a good purpose were a non-partisan fund to be established, to be relieved against each elector who wishes to relieve himself by voting at the general election, or by producing a certificate of sickness or disability or by absence from the county or state. Such a provision might incidentally be made a source of revenue to the state, and the burden fall upon a class of citizens who fail to discharge a very important duty devolving upon every qualified citizen. I suggest this idea to you for your consideration. If you will take the necessary steps for the enactment of such laws in our election laws with a view to giving every possible opportunity for a free and fair expression of the will of the people at the polls.

Relief of Drought Sufferers.—When I assumed the duties of the office of governor of the state, two years ago, the people of Nebraska were distressed, not only by reason of the general depression in business affairs, low prices and steady and continued depreciation in the value of property, but also from the result of an unprecedented and disastrous drought. These adverse climatic conditions were not confined to Nebraska alone, but prevailed in various parts of the country. It was an abnormal condition and one which has not been again during a generation of our people. Absolute want and distress could only be prevented by prompt and efficient organization for the purpose of supplying the pressing needs of the unfortunate drought sufferers until the next season should bring the usual bountiful harvest.

GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS.—I found that, under the direction of my predecessor, steps had been taken looking to a systematic method of collecting and distributing contributions to alleviate the immediate wants of the people in the afflicted portion of the state. When it became generally known that provisions would have to be made to relieve those impoverished by the drought, there was a generous and spontaneous response from all sections of the nation. The contributions became so liberal that it taxed the ingenuity of those in charge of the distribution of these free offerings to place them in the hands of those most in need of assistance and, at the same time, to not tax the generosity of the benevolent people to a greater extent than absolutely required to prevent suffering. I deem it my duty, in behalf of the unfortunate people who were affected by this calamity to express to all who so nobly responded to this distressing situation, my appreciation of their generous contributions of provisions or money, and also to the railroad, express, telegraph and telephone companies which so liberally assisted in the work of alleviating suffering, and whose gratitude and lasting sympathy for the manifestation of human sympathy and benevolence exercised during this trying period. Since that unfortunate calamity, as before, Nebraska has been blessed with bounteous crops and the disagreeable experience she passed through appears to her people as a hideous dream.

THE RELIEF COMMISSION.—After the organization of the legislature an act was passed creating a relief commission, composed of five well known citizens, to have entire control and management in the discharge of this important work. The report of the relief commission has been submitted to me and you will doubtless be supplied with copies. You will observe by this report, as well as by reference to the acts of the last legislature, that the state contributed \$50,000, which was placed at the disposal of the relief commission, and an additional sum of \$200,000, which was by the relief commission distributed among the several counties of the state where the same were regarded as being entitled to assistance of this character for the purpose of purchasing seed grain for the following crop season, making a total appropriation by the legislature of \$250,000. In addition to the cash donations by the legislature and the people of the country at large, an immense amount of supplies and provisions of different kinds were contributed, to obtain an accurate estimate of which requires a careful study of the report in detail of the commission. The work of the commission was of the most difficult character, carried on under trying circumstances and I am of the opinion that the work of distributing supplies in a most thorough and systematic manner, was of the importance at the time, and have since found no reasons to change my views, that the organization and method of distribution of relief supplies was upon a cumbersome and unwieldy basis, and in examining the report it will be observed that there were funds donated in the sum of \$28,998.38 and realized from the general and special appropriations of the legislature

the further sum of \$22,227.00, making a total of \$51,225.38. Of this amount there was expended \$48,113.52 in printing, traveling and transportation charges and office expenses. The freight charges amounted to \$36,809.03, divided into two items, one denominated "transportation" in the sum of \$20,157, and the other designated "in-freight" being in the sum of \$16,652.36, leaving the sum of \$11,301.79 to represent the other expenses of the relief commission in carrying on this work from its inception until its close.

NEBRASKA CONTRIBUTIONS.—It is perhaps proper to remark in this connection, and it is a source of gratification to myself, as I have no doubt it will be to all others who examine into the details of this work, that our own people who were most fortunately situated than their brethren contributed most generously to this work of relief and did their full share in alleviating want and distress among their fellow citizens. With a generosity unequalled, the people of every section of our state promptly responded to each other in doing everything necessary to prevent want and suffering. It is to be sincerely hoped that no such calamity will again reduce our people to the necessity of asking or receiving aid from their more fortunate fellow countrymen, nor is there occasion to believe that under the influence of the ordinary laws of nature they will ever again be called upon to do so. Appreciating the magnificent generosity of our fellow countrymen, distinction in this instance, Nebraska will ever stand ready to extend a helping hand to the unfortunate and suffering of mankind wherever they may be found.

DROUGHT LESSONS.—The drought has been without its lessons, which will doubtless add much to the material welfare and permanent prosperity of our people. In no state in the union is the rainfall more uniform, both in time and amount, nor can the scarcity of the moisture be determined with greater accuracy. In any portion of Nebraska a study of the climatic conditions will disclose with reasonable certainty the average amount of rainfall during the crop growing season, thus affording the people the means by which a portion of the state they may safely engage in agricultural pursuits, relying upon the natural rainfall to cause the crops to grow to maturity and ripen in perfection. In the extreme western portion of the state, experience has demonstrated that agriculture cannot be carried on with reliance upon the natural rainfall for a sufficiency of moisture to successfully grow and mature the crops. This condition has been made more apparent by the disastrous season of 1894, in which the people have probably never before had attention to irrigation, which has been developed with great rapidity and which has replaced partial failure of crops with its attending disappointment, want and suffering, with bounteous crops which can be relied upon with certainty as regular as the seasons follow each other. The non-irrigable portions of the country within this territory being exceedingly well adapted to the raising of stock, the western part of Nebraska is thereby made one of the most inviting fields for incoming settlers of any part of the great west.

Irrigation.—In the reports of the secretary of the state board of irrigation will be found much interesting and useful information. It is very gratifying to note the rapid development of this important agricultural industry. The work is as yet in its infancy, but so much has been accomplished it may confidently be predicted that that portion of our state which is in the semi-arid region will soon become one of the most attractive and fertile agricultural communities. Millions of acres of Nebraska land will be brought under the favorable influences of irrigation and made to produce the most bountiful crops, and there is no limit to the development which will be the result of the work accomplished. The immense wealth brought into existence through the development of irrigation and that which is created annually by the production of abundant harvests, give assurance of plenty and prosperity to the inhabitants of this favored portion of the state.

NEW CANALS.—It will be seen from the records in the office of the secretary of the board of irrigation that there have been completed 2,740 miles of canals and that there is in process of construction 1,045.6 miles, making a total mileage at the present time of canals completed and in process of construction of 4,785.6. The estimated cost will exceed \$2,000,000, and over half has already been expended. The work being under irrigation 1,297,366 acres of land, increasing the value of the land nearly \$10,000,000. In addition to this there are applications on file for contemplated canals of a total mileage of 2,346. These canals can be improved with water of importance of giving to this subject such further consideration as may be necessary to correct any imperfections existing in the present law, and of providing for a continuation of the work so auspiciously begun.

IRRIGATION LAWS.—The first general law upon the subject of irrigation was enacted in 1889. This law was found entirely inadequate for the proper development of the irrigation interests of the state. This law was superseded by a much more comprehensive one enacted by the last legislature, since which the work has progressed more satisfactorily and with much greater rapidity. Any suggestions have been made respecting the wisdom of amending the present law. In considering the subjects of amendments, however, I deem it advisable to call attention to the fact that no amendments should be made which would materially change the underlying principle of the present law, which has the sanction of the highest judicial tribunal of our land. The principles involved in this subject have been forever settled by a judicial declaration of the character referred to. It would seem unwise, except upon urgent necessity, to so change them by legislation as to render less certain the principles involved and perhaps invite further litigation with its attending tediousness and expense. The amendments to the irrigation interests, as I understand it, favor amending the law relating to the organization of irrigation districts so as to provide for uniform issues of bonds under the direction of the state board of irrigation, as well as legislation touching the issue and negotiation of the bonded obligations of the irrigation districts so as to afford the taxpayers all needed protection, as well as having due regard for the interests of those who purchase such obligations. It has also been suggested that an amendment might properly be made with reference to the organization and control of irrigation districts so as to permit every resident freeholder to participate and have a voice in the selection of officers and all other matters pertaining to the affairs of such districts; also that the officers of district treasurer and assessor might be abolished and the duties of these officers be imposed upon the county and township treasurers and assessors. Other amendments to the present law of more or less importance have likewise been suggested, and will no doubt be presented to you for your consideration. I earnestly hope that you may be able to make such amendments as may seem advisable to encourage further and to the utmost extent this very important feature of the agricultural development of the state, and that all necessary appropriations may be made in order that the work may be carried on with renewed vigor.

State's Finances.—I desire to earnestly call your serious attention to the condition of the state's finances. This is a subject of more than

ordinary concern to every taxpayer in Nebraska. Several factors contribute to the unfavorable condition of the financial interests of the state as we at present find them. The very general depression in business and the low prices received for the products produced by the people of our state are of themselves sufficient to render the state's finances much more unsatisfactory than might be expected under normal conditions. This has prevented the prompt collection of taxes due the state, and required in order to meet its necessary expenditures, so that at the present time it appears there is a very large amount of delinquent state taxes.

In addition to this the method of handling the finances of the state and meeting its obligations, could, in my judgment, be very much improved upon. Not only is it commendable to secure the prompt collection of taxes levied for the purpose of meeting current expenditures, but also the prompt payment of the taxes thus collected in satisfaction of the state's obligations. Good business judgment would dictate the prompt discharge of the state's outstanding obligations as rapidly as money may be accumulated by the ordinary method of collecting taxes to meet the same.

STATE OBLIGATIONS.—From the report of the state treasurer a brief summary disclosing the following as to the state's obligations: Bonds outstanding, issued in funding the state's indebtedness at the time of the adoption of the present constitution, \$ 449,275.38 Bonds issued under the present constitution in 1891 and yet outstanding 19,000.00 General fund warrants outstanding \$1,924,061.13

Total \$2,422,336.51 To meet these obligations we have the following credits: Sinking fund to meet bonds first above mentioned \$ 217,349.04 Sinking fund to meet bonds above mentioned 324.39 Uncollected taxes due to the general fund \$2,330,692.79 Cash in the treasury, general fund 589,970.39

Total \$3,228,277.58 In addition to the liabilities already incurred, and of which mention has heretofore been made, there is also the additional liability for certain expenditures yet to be made for the remainder of the biennial period for which the last legislative made appropriations and which can be approximated by ascertaining the total unexpended balances as shown by the report of the state treasurer. There will have to be met from the uncollected taxes above mentioned.

(CONTINUED)

DIFFERENT WAYS OF SLEEPING.

Europeans Like Soft Pillows, but Eastern Races Like Blocks.

Though it is true, as the author of a school composition once asserted, that "sleeping is a universal practice among all nations," it is also true that there is a great diversity in the methods of sleeping among people of different nations and different ways of life, says the Youth's Companion. The things that one needs to make him sleep are precisely the things which would keep another awake all night. Even the sedative medicines which put one person immediately into a heavy slumber excite another into a condition of nervous restlessness.

The European or American, in order to sleep well, ordinarily requires a downy pillow under his head; but the Japanese, stretching himself upon a rush-mat on the floor, puts a hard, square block of wood under his head, and does not sleep well if he does not have it.

The Chinese makes great account of his bed, which is very low, indeed—scarcely rising from the floor—but is often carved exquisitely of wood; but it never occurs to him to make it any other softer than rush-mats will render it.

While the people of northern countries can not sleep unless they have plenty of room to stretch out their legs, the inhabitants of the tropics often curl themselves up like monkeys at the lower angle of a suspended hammock, and sleep soundly in that position.

The robust American often covers himself with a pair of blankets and throws his window wide open to the air, even in the winter time, and he does not complain if he finds a little drift of snow across the top of his bed in the morning.

The Russian, on the contrary, likes no sleeping-place so well as the top of the big soapstone stove in his domicile. Crawling out of this blistering bed in the morning he likes to take a plunge in a cold stream, even if he has to break through the ice to get into it.

The Laplander crawls, head and all, into a bag made of reindeer skin and sleeps warm and comfortable within it. The East Indian, at the other end of the world, also has a sleeping-bag, but it is more porous than the Laplander's. Its purpose is to keep out mosquitoes more than to keep the sleeper warm.

While the American still clings to his feather pillow he is steadily discarding his old-fashioned feather bed in favor of the hair or straw mattress. The feather bed is relegated to the country and many people who slept upon it all through their childhood find themselves uncomfortable upon it in their maturity.

The Germans not only sleep upon a feather bed, but underneath one. The feather covering used in Germany, however, is not as large or thick as the one which is used as a mattress, and the foreigner who undertakes to sleep beneath it often finds his feet suffering from cold, while his shoulders are suffering from heat.

A Big Shower of Meteors.

Of the 14 huge masses of meteoric iron which fell on a spot less than 64 square miles in area, near Fort Duncan, Mexico, the largest is bee-hive shaped and is buried five feet in the soil and rises four feet above the surface. The second mass in point of size has been moved to the national museum at Washington. It weighs over 4,000 pounds. The other 13 pieces weigh from 97 1/2 to 650 pounds. The whole mass of fragments as mentioned above are scattered over an area of 64 square miles with Fort Duncan at about the center of the point of dispersion.