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GOV. POYNTER'S MESSAGE

Splendid Condition of the Finances. All the State Institutions and Common Schools.

To the Senators and Representatives of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Legislature of Nebraska, Gentlemen: Complying with the provisions of the constitution of the state of Nebraska, I place before you a summary of the operations of the various departments of state during the past biennium, and offer for your consideration some suggestions as to what I deem the needs of the state.

I desire to congratulate you as the chosen representatives of a most progressive and intelligent constituency. It is a notable honor to be chosen the representative in any capacity of a people such as comprise the citizenship of our state. Without many difficult problems will present themselves for your solution. Upon the wisdom with which you deal with them will depend, in a large measure, the continued advancement and welfare of Nebraska.

Two much of our legislation is built upon a plan and the plan a system "of you help me and I'll help you" between legislators. Log-rolling is notorious in almost every legislative hall, and all the way up to the national halls of congress. The lobby exerts undue influence. As a result of these things we have a mass of ill-considered laws, countless many difficult problems will present themselves for your solution. Upon the wisdom with which you deal with them will depend, in a large measure, the continued advancement and welfare of Nebraska.

Many laws passed by the legislature would fall of enactment if the voters and taxpayers of the state had the opportunity of expressing themselves upon their desirability before they went into effect. If every law had to pass the test of popular approval the number of statutes would be much smaller than it is now, and the enforcement of those approved would be an easy task. Fairly partisan measures should be undertaken and the occupation of the lobbyist would be at an end. I believe it would be to the great benefit of the state if all acts of the legislature, except emergency legislation for the maintenance of public business and institutions, were submitted to the ratification of the people.

FINANCIAL.

The state treasurer reports a balance on hand at the close of business November 30, 1900, of \$615,918.34. The bonded indebtedness of the state has been entirely paid and a balance in the sinking fund of \$95,165.23. This year should transfer to the general fund and authorize the treasurer to credit any further moneys coming in to that fund to the general fund. No further levy for the sinking fund has been made, but some back taxes upon that fund will be collected from year to year. Our floating indebtedness represented by state warrants is \$1,737,599.72. The school fund has invested in \$1,165,762.12 of this amount, which has practically put the state upon a cash basis so far as the purchase of supplies and the maintenance of our state institutions are concerned. The interest arising from these warrants goes into the temporary school fund, and is distributed to the taxpayers through the school fund appropriation. The treasurer very justly remarks that a thorough revision of the revenue laws should be made, or an amendment authorizing a levy of seven (7) mills for the general fund instead of five (5) mills, and the present levy does not keep up with the appropriations, thereby increasing, rather than reducing, our floating indebtedness. To my mind a just assessment is much more preferable than an increased levy. Our present levy of seven (7) mills could be all sufficient to pay the interest on the school fund. The state's educational funds are invested in the securities designated by the constitution to the amount of \$4,265,544.63. Each year finds it more difficult to secure investment for these funds in the securities required by the constitution. The constitution should be amended allowing a larger scope for investment of the state's educational funds.

I concur in the recommendation of the treasurer, reducing the interest upon state warrants to three (3) per cent. This will enable the treasurer to secure practically all of the warrants for the school fund investment. The present condition of the state's finances, as compared with even so recent date as four years ago, must be a source of congratulation to the citizens of Nebraska. Should this condition continue, no special effort should be used and your wisdom device and means to keep the appropriations within the limit of the levy permitted by law.

SELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS.

One of the most important duties which you have is the selection of two senators of the United States. The experience of our own state, as well as that of other states, in times past, recall to us the difficulty attending this duty. The selection of senators would be best effected, if possible, more representative, if the people themselves chose them by direct vote. The time of the legislature, which is really too short for the careful consideration of legislation, is taken up and the minds of the mem-

bers distracted with the too often long drawn out struggles in the election of United States senators.

I would recommend that you memorialize congress to submit a constitutional amendment providing for the election of senators by direct vote of the people. Older states have very keenly felt the necessity of a change in the manner of election of United States senators. A number of states have passed resolutions upon this subject by their legislatures. The legislature of the state of Pennsylvania, at its last session passed the following resolution without a dissenting vote, legislatures have at various times adopted memorials and resolutions in favor of election of United States senators by popular vote; and,

"Whereas, The national house of representatives has on four separate occasions, within recent years, adopted resolutions in favor of this proposed change in the method of electing United States senators, which were not adopted by the senate; and,

"Whereas, Article V. of the constitution of the United States provides that congress, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments; and believing there is a general desire upon the part of the citizens of the state of Pennsylvania that the United States senators should be elected by a direct vote of the people; therefore,

"Resolved, (If the senate concur) that the legislature of the state of Pennsylvania favors the adoption of an amendment to the constitution which shall provide for the election of United States senators by popular vote, and joins with other states of

the union in respectfully requesting that a convention be called for the purpose of proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States, as provided for in article V. of the said constitution, which amendment shall provide for a change in the present method of electing United States senators, so that they can be chosen in each state by a direct vote of the people.

"Resolved, That a copy of this joint resolution and application to congress for the calling of a convention be sent to the secretary of state of each of the United States, and that a similar copy be sent to the president of the United States senate and the speaker of the house of representatives."

I would earnestly recommend the passage of like resolutions by your honorable body.

STATE OFFICERS—INSTITUTIONS.

The state officers and the heads of the various public institutions have presented full and exhaustive reports of the business management of the state and the needs of the departments for the next biennium. These reports show the great care and business ability with which the affairs of the state have been managed, and their recommendations should receive a careful consideration from you.

For your guidance in making appropriations for the next biennium for the several institutions of the state, I have had prepared and business submit a table showing the exact cost of maintenance of each institution in the state for the past nine years. A careful scrutiny of this table would be a most correct guide in making future appropriations. I commend this table to your careful scrutiny:

COMPARATIVE COST

NAME OF INSTITUTION.	Period.	Average Number.	EXPENDED FROM APPROPRIATION		Support Derived from Use and Sale of Products, Labor, Etc.	
			Current Expenses for Maintenance.	Extraordinary Expenses, Improvements, Etc.	Per Cap. Total Cost.	Per Cap. Total Sum.
Accommodating House, Hastings, Neb.	Dec. 31, 1892	41	190	75	265	6.46
Dec. 31, 1893	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1894	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1895	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1896	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1897	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1898	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1899	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Dec. 31, 1900	41	190	75	265	6.46	
Albion, Neb.	Dec. 31, 1892	325	229	72	301	9.25
Dec. 31, 1893	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1894	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1895	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1896	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1897	325	229	72	301	9.25	
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Dec. 31, 1900	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Albion, Neb.	Dec. 31, 1892	325	229	72	301	9.25
Dec. 31, 1893	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1894	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1895	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1896	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1897	325	229	72	301	9.25	
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Dec. 31, 1899	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1900	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Albion, Neb.	Dec. 31, 1892	325	229	72	301	9.25
Dec. 31, 1893	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1894	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1895	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1896	325	229	72	301	9.25	
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Albion, Neb.	Dec. 31, 1892	325	229	72	301	9.25
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Dec. 31, 1895	325	229	72	301	9.25	
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Albion, Neb.	Dec. 31, 1892	325	229	72	301	9.25
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Dec. 31, 1894	325	229	72	301	9.25	
Dec. 31, 1895	325	229	72	301	9.25	
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