

specific plans for a regrouping of the administrative departments of the state government.

I believe that the legislature, in the interest of economy, should fix or limit the compensation paid to departmental chiefs, chiefs of sub-departments and amounts paid for skilled and professional services of those in the state's employ.

We have a great state, and our citizenship is second to none. The people of Nebraska are expecting definite and progressive results by this legislature and the chief executive. They want to see the state government put on a business basis by placing the authority to determine administrative policies and the responsibility for recommending appropriations into the hands of the constitutional officers of the state. They want the taxpayers to stand on an equal footing and be taxed in proportion to the benefits they receive from the laws. They want the cost of government brought within the taxpayers' ability to pay and all non-essentials in government eliminated. They want the natural resources of the state developed for the benefit of all the people of the state. They want the agricultural interests of the state to be recognized as the basic industry of the state and all handicaps in its development and progress removed—and with a broad, tolerant spirit of brotherly love between man and man, our state and its people will go forward as the leaders of all things that contribute to national greatness.

I am ready to join with you in a sincere and earnest effort to meet the expectations of the people.

CHARLES W. BRYAN.

GOVERNOR BRYAN

Life is crammed full of surprises and romance and adjustments and compensations and things like that. The result is constant stimulation and repeated renewal of interest in what we see of it and what we experience.

Take, for example, the Bryan brothers, Governor Charles, and Private Citizen William. There are Nebraskans still living who can remember clear back to the time when William took up the fight for democracy and reform, first in Nebraska, and shortly after throughout the nation, and some time after of the whole world. Long and renowned and dramatic has been his career, distinguished his service, notable his achievements. But like the old French peasant who lived within sight of its gleaming spires he never got to Carcassonne. His is the unique distinction of having been thrice nominated for president of the United States by a major party and thrice defeated at the polls. He wears that honor, along with his many others, modestly and with that winsome good humor which endears him to the multitude that habitually votes against him.

Charles, through all the memorable years of William's fame has been simply "Brother Charles." A devoted, faithful, loving, admiring and self-effacing brother; only that and nothing more, content to shine, if he shone at all, in William's reflected glory. If the scoffers called him a valet, a messenger boy, even a bad influence, he didn't give a darn. He kept right on serving and advising and boosting and working like a nailer at it. Much of the time he worked like a whole troop of nailers. On the memorable occasions when state or nation or nations did obeisance at the shrine of William, Charles was merely among those present, singing his little hymn of joy under his breath so as not to disturb anybody.

Today he is Governor Bryan of Nebraska, Charles is. And William journeyed all the way from Florida to be present at Lincoln yesterday when he was inaugurated. Came as one of the common people, on a common railroad train, and mingled with the crowd and listened and applauded while Charles was delivering his inaugural address. And he listened, if we may say so, to a corking good speech. Nobody knows that better than William himself, for he is an uncommon good judge of good speeches. Some people think he invented them. We are quite sure that his heart swelled with brotherly pride as he saw his big, bald brother up there, in front of all the people, enunciating plans and policies for the salvation of a great state that has been mighty near ruined by Republican misgovernment. Plans and policies that, taking them as a whole, are sound and just, wise and progressive, business-like and workable.

We think that about all of Nebraska, after a careful reading of the message, will join with Brother William in applauding Brother Charles, and in confessing to a sense of pride and confidence in him. He presents a clean-cut appear-

ance. He knows just what he wants done, what the state wants done, and he knows how to do it. He tells it to the legislature clearly, logically, fairly. There is no buncombe about his message, no vagueness, no trace of half-baked thinking. He has definite proposals for bringing about economy and simplicity in government, for getting the state house out of the Meddlesome Mattie business, for promoting equity and justice in taxation, for restoring the responsible rule of the people, for protecting them from their predeceous enemies, and for doing what a state properly can do to help get agriculture, our basic industry, back on its feet.

Governor Bryan's message will repay careful study. While we may not agree with its every line it speaks the purpose and spirit of Nebraska. It is progressive, it shows vision and courage in keeping with the temper of the day, and at the same time is notable for its common sense. The legislature will be well advised to give attentive heed to it, and to allow no spirit of partisanship to stand in the way of the adoption of the good things that are recommended.

Governor Bryan has started well and is to be congratulated. The people of Nebraska are to be congratulated on the fine initial showing their new chief officer has made. There is every indication that those who thought him wild-eyed, visionary, impractical, will have reason radically to revise their estimate. And particularly, while passing congratulations around, we feel like congratulating Florida's most distinguished citizen, Brother William. It was worth the long trip. We know just how he feels.

Gesundheit, with right good will, to the Brothers Bryan!—Omaha World-Herald.

GOVERNOR BRYAN'S MESSAGE

The message which Governor-elect Charles W. Bryan delivered to the legislature Thursday afternoon is a sane, progressive document. For clarity of views, and definiteness of purpose and program, it will rank well with any message in the archives of the state.

Mr. Bryan very correctly interprets the verdict in last November's election as a definite expression of what the voters wish and what they expect in state government. It was in no sense a personal triumph for the governor-elect, but a determined rebellion of taxpayers and voters against an extravagant system of government which had been foisted upon them by the preceding administration. In his message, Mr. Bryan reveals an intention of keeping the faith and fulfilling those pledges which he made to the people of Nebraska in his gubernatorial campaign.

Repeal of the civil administrative code act, to the end that taxation burdens may be lightened, is the keynote of Mr. Bryan's inaugural message. That was Mr. Bryan's basic pledge to the people of Nebraska. But the governor goes further than that. Those political enemies of Mr. Bryan, who expected him to fail because he was said to be destructive, rather than creative in his tendencies, must read his message with a great deal of disappointment. The message reveals a constructive capacity to provide a suitable substitute for the civil administrative code act which will delight his friends and well-wishers.

The governor-elect's proposal for an executive council to formulate the state's policies, the governor executing those policies, retains that element of strength which the code sought to introduce and at the same time eliminates those two fundamental weaknesses of bureaucratic government embodied in the code. Those two fundamental weaknesses of the code were the usurpation of authority and duties of the constitutional officers by appointive heads or chieftains of departments, and the continual and pressing temptation of those bureau chiefs to enlarge upon activities. Mr. Bryan proposes to return to the officials selected by the people the duties and powers conferred upon them by the constitution. That is the clearly expressed desire of the people of this state. But Mr. Bryan goes further by providing the necessary coordination between different state officers—a weakness existing previous to the code, and which the McKelvie system sought to correct. That inevitable temptation of bureau chiefs to greatly expand activities, noticeable alike in state and national officers, was the second inherent weakness of the code. The constitutional officers, constituting the executive council, have clearly prescribed the duties and responsibilities under the constitution. That is a guarantee against the extravagant and needless expansion of state ac-

tivities resulting from the code system of government.

The people of Nebraska will say amen to this portion of Mr. Bryan's message:

"I believe the government should be made more compact by curtailing and combining departments, by eliminating duplications of officers and employees connected with administrative work, and that all educational effort be discontinued in the state's administrative departments and confined to the state's educational institutions to avoid duplication of efforts and unnecessary expense.

"When the code law is repealed, useless departments can be abolished, others consolidated so that the number of inspectors, bureaus, commissions and inspections can be handled by local officials. When the regular state officers again assume the responsibility of recommending to the legislature the needed appropriations for the various state activities, the duplications, fads, theories and isms calling for an endless number of employees and every increasing and unnecessary expenditures of the people's money will cease.

"The first step in restoring the government to a business basis is to repeal the code law. Second, regroup the state's necessary departments with authority in the governor to appoint the heads and necessary assistants and with authority in the executive council to determine administrative policies."

Throughout his entire message Mr. Bryan reveals the same splendid determination to simplify law and government. His recommendation to unify the statute providing for municipal ownership of public utilities and his proposal for a uniform law governing bond issues will wipe from the statutes a multiplicity of measures covering these subjects.

His recommendation to abolish county truant officers and county highway commissioners is a step towards the elimination of useless figureheads. His warning to keep hands off the guaranty law is sound.

Mr. Bryan in his message has sensed Nebraska's wishes in state government and he has presented them with few exceptions, with a vigor and courage that will find reward in the appreciation and gratitude of the voters of this state.—Lincoln Star.

THE NEW STATE ADMINISTRATION

It is refreshing to read Governor Bryan's inaugural message to the legislature. It sounds like the utterance of an executive who has ideas about advancing the social, economic and political conditions of the people of this state.

Some of his recommendations are as encouraging as the matter which he properly regards as of supreme importance: The question of taxation.

On this topic he is not vague as are so many officials who ride into office on a lower taxation platform. He indicates to legislators how expenses may be reduced and how taxes may be more equitably distributed.

Evidently the code bill is up for a thorough airing, for not only does Governor Bryan recommend its repeal, but ex-Governor McKelvie joins issue, in his retiring message, in urging its retention.

Altogether there is promise that the state will benefit from the administration of the new governor if the legislature will give serious and non-partisan attention to his recommendations.

By which we do not mean that they should blindly pass, repeal or amend laws merely to meet the governor's desires.

But the people of this state certainly do expect the legislature to consider his recommendations with the sole idea of the public good. Not as Republicans. Not as Democrats. Not as opponents of Bryan, nor as his friends. But only as representatives of the people of Nebraska.

With governor and legislature co-operating on this common ground, we, the people, will get something.—Omaha News.

The conference at Genoa and Lausanne having failed to find any way to cure the ills of Europe, why is it not in order for some of our eminent protectionist friends like Senator Smoot to step forward and suggest that they pass a tariff bill? It is the cure-all the Republicans always apply whenever we develop any disease.

It is odd that when the Washington correspondents discuss the great problem of how to reconstruct the world that they do not tell us also what is being done by the national Republican party in the way of reconstruction. The world had nothing on it in that line after the November ballot hurricane hit.