

BOYD'S INAUGURAL.

Gentlemen of the senate and house of representatives:

Assembled here by the direction of the people of this great and growing commonwealth of Nebraska, to promote their interests, and under obedience to their expressed will, I hope, that in all things concerning the dignity of citizenship and public weal, we may go hand in hand toward the faithful fulfillment of our accepted trust; guided by our best wisdom—ambitious in the performance of our labors; and at all times true to the honor and escutcheon of the state. We meet here instructed by the public voice, you in your sphere and I in mine, different in action, yet the same in end. As public servants, with express commands, we shall be held to strict account by those who sent us here. Subterfuges and strategies and weak expedients will all be swept away when we are called upon to explain the record made within these walls. Our principles abandoned and our pledges unperformed, the people disregarded and the state betrayed, means tomorrow, as it meant yesterday, swift and complete political death. In all that pertains to blooming fields and prosperous homes; in all that brings the people of the prairies in close alliance with the people of the towns; in the promotion of their welfare; in the protection of their rights; in the redress of their wrongs; in lifting their burdens and the speedy granting of their appeals, and finally in strict and evenhanded justice to all, I herewith extend you my hearty approval in advance.

I have the honor, therefore, gentlemen, to present briefly for your consideration, a few suggestions of what has appeared to be essential to the welfare and contentment of the people of this state.

ECONOMY IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS.
The public business should be conducted on the same business principles that characterize the prudent man in the management of his own private affairs. Unnecessary expense should not be indulged. The public service should not be a nest for useless appointees. As disbursements of the public funds, your duty and your official trust should be considered too sacred to be thus prostituted and abused. No official, high or low, should be generous at the expense of the people. The administration of every state institution should be conducted with strict fidelity to its object and purpose and on a basis of exact economy; and in every instance, if such be found, all superfluities should be promptly dismissed. In the management of that branch of public affairs confided to my charge, all those clothed with power by me shall be held to the line of impartial duty; their fitness made paramount, and full and complete service exacted and required. As trustees of an express trust, let us get together on all matters of state, to the end that our people may be made prosperous, and the commonwealth exalted to a proud position in the history of the land. From the length and breadth of the state comes the cry of oppressive taxation. Living is high and the markets are low; while back in the stricken sections we hear the plaint of suffering and distress. It is our duty to lessen these hardships and soften these pains. Every dollar paid out to a useless employe is a theft from the pockets of the poor. In my judgment, it would be well that you designate a committee to examine and inquire into the executive offices of the government and all institutions of the state, with a view to learning their condition, the number of attachés, the character of their respective labors and the cost of their maintenance and support. I believe that as a result thereof many sinecures would be abolished and idle officers discharged. This would be one step towards the peoples' relief.

USURY LAWS.
Nebraska is comparatively a new state. Its grand resources are yet in process of development. Immigrants are flocking to its public lands, and strength, energy and enterprise are making its fields blossom and its factories hum with toil. Borrowed capital, therefore, must enter largely into the work of such development. Interest rates are higher and rank usury more often demanded and enforced in new communities than in the old. Two and three per cent per month are too often exacted in this state from the lowly and the poor. Our present interest law fixes seven per cent per annum as the legal rate, but permits ten per cent per annum by special contract, if more than the latter amount is reserved or contracted for, the penalty is forfeiture of all interest, and the lender can only recover the amount actually loaned. Whether legislation reducing interest below its present rate would be wise is a serious question at this time. It is an argument of much force and consistency, that any material reduction from the present legal rates would tend to divert capital from our state and thus produce a stringency in our money circulation. The result would be to cripple our commerce, and work injury to every line of industrial aid. That the many wrongs inflicted by the usurer should be checked is a crying demand. It rests with you to do so. I suggest and recommend the enactment of a law with severe penalties, ample to reach and destroy that class of extortion and punish those who practice it.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.
State is to be congratulated on the efficiency of its public teachers and the high educational standard to which our youth has attained. In public education, as in every line of progress, the state has made a proud record. In the past twenty years our school districts have increased from 797 to 6,243, and our school children from 23,789 to 332,243. State interference, or state supervision over private, parochial or denominational schools ought not to be encouraged. Ample constitutional guards exist against the diversion of school funds to any such institution. Though the state furnishes education free, it should at the same time accord to all the right to receive the benefits of education from any source they may select. Any action taken by you for the advancement of public education and the dissemination of knowledge will receive my most cordial endorsement. Much complaint is heard regarding the excessive prices

demanded for most of the standard books used in our public schools. We need such legislation as will furnish books to our schools, if not free, at least at the publishers' wholesale price. A large sum of money can be saved to the people annually by inaugurating effective reforms in the method of school book supply.

SUFFRAGE.
The state of Nebraska should be fully abreast with the reform movements elsewhere looking to the better regulation of the suffrage. The sacredness of the ballot should be protected by guarding its secrecy. Purity in elections should be enforced by stringent regulations. The voter should be removed from all opportunity to be corruptly influenced. This subject is entitled to your earnest and early attention. I have the honor to recommend:

First—An exclusive official ballot, issued to the voter by election officers, after he shall have passed the ordeal of challenge.

Second—A separate booth wherein he may retire and prepare his ballot, fold and vote it without the knowledge of any one as to the character of his vote.

Third—Keeping all persons not offering to vote, except election officers and challenger a reasonable distance away from the polls.

Fourth—Limiting to each precinct a certain number of voters, not exceeding two hundred.

In my judgment it would be a wise provision to require all establishments employing a large number of men to be closed for at least two hours during the voting time of each election day, under severe penalties. The consensus of opinion, public and private, is that the operation of laws containing the features I have referred to, has been most satisfactory in those states where practically tried, and that their continuance in such states is an assured fact. Such a ballot reform movement is no longer an experiment. It has been and is a successful effort toward a free and honest expression by the people in the exercise of the right of suffrage. Such legislation tends to give to free men the protected right of voting a free and secret ballot uninfluenced and uncoerced by improper interference. Above all, it removes the barrier so frequently obstructing the man of merit and education, yet poor in worldly goods, from entering the race for honor and distinction in office against an influential and wealthy rival. When the opportunity to use money in elections is cut off, political assessments for the purchase of votes will not prevail. The result will be that no excuse will exist for placing this or that man upon a ticket solely because he is able to meet such assessments, but any citizen will have an equal chance with his fellows irrespective of the condition of his means. Every safeguard should surround the voter. Upon the exercise of his judgment and free-will, depends the integrity of our institutions and the purity of our laws. The Australian ballot system, or any similar measure tending toward the untrammeled exercise of this right will receive my unqualified support. This need of reform is intensified by the present aspect of our November result. Public money has been wasted in a contest directly tending to the defects in our present election laws. Funds are not only possible but easily made to succeed. The reputation of the state is impaired by the published testimony of the reckless and irresponsible. The legislature should prevent its future repetition. A law to that end is imperative. If trust you will examine the different election systems which now prevail and frame therefrom a measure ample to determine these evils and accomplish these reforms.

SUMPTUARY LAWS.
The people of this state have recently declared themselves on that class of legislation known as sumptuary laws. The question of the manufacture and sale of liquor, after full investigation, broad discussion, and cool contemplation was duly presented to the people at large. The result is known. What was then a matter of vital import to the state's onward march to prosperity and renown would seem to be wrapped in that sleep of death which has neither resurrection nor remorse. So pronounced a speech by the people should not by you be ignored. The line of duty would seem to be to accept the people's declaration and lay all thoughts of such enactments aside.

JUDICIARY.
On this question I beg leave to say that something should be done to relieve the supreme judiciary. The need of at least two more judges is best emphasized by the crowded docket of the court, and the powerlessness of the present able and worthy bench to dispose of business as rapidly as it accumulates. This matter is of positive importance and direct interest to the people in every section of the state. Causes entitled to immediate hearing, rights demanding the fullest legal research, and wrongs that should receive speedy remedies go on from day to day, month after month without decision or decree, to the serious inconvenience of those unable to bear the delays and costs of litigation and to the great grievance of the people at large. A constitutional amendment to meet this emergency was rejected at the last election. Without any special advocacy it was left to its merits. These were not well understood. The people looked upon it as one more burden and so voted it down. It is, however, not a burden, but a measure for the speedy relief of one. My examination of this subject induces me to submit to you the advisability of calling a constitutional convention for the purpose of making such changes in the charter of the state as will best affect the end desired. Whether it would be well so to do I leave entirely to you to decide. Our judiciary holds so important a relation to the business affairs of our people, in the adjustment of controversies at all times arising, affecting the rights of persons and property, that anything that can be done to place it on a high plane must be to the interest, advantage and satisfaction of the whole people. An addition in the salaries of the judges will undoubtedly secure the services on the bench of those best qualified to judge the law and administer justice. In a state of strength and sterling intelligence of Nebraska, it would seem to be reasonable enough to blush with shame that the clerks and subordinates of our courts receive more than double and treble the pay of the judges whose whole time is spent in upholding and enforcing the law.

RAILROADS.
The platforms of the political parties represented in this legislature, all favor revision of our law relating to the subject of transportation by rail. Our present system permits the practice of unjust discrimination and extortion. It is claimed to be carried on to such extent as to rob the farmer of prosperity and impede the advancement of the state. To provide such relief as the condition requires is one of your most serious tasks. Your discretion will be taxed to remedy one grievance without imposing another. Remembering the important rights at stake on all sides, your actions should be well studied, deliberate and free from prejudice or personal pride.

Study for yourselves the cause of public complaint and grant the due relief; but do not unjustly burden and oppress the heavy vested rights in these lines of transportation which have done much and promise more for the full development of this state. Of all substitutes offered for our present mode of controlling such transportation, examine each and every one, select the most salutary features and embody them into a just and dispassionate law. The object to be attained is the union of the interests of the corporations with those of our people. If these companies were made to share the vicissitudes of the public; to suffer by its depression as well as to profit by its prosperity, complaints of discrimination and extortion would not be heard. In solving this important but much vexed problem, it should be your duty to weld together the rights and interests of the owners of and the patrons of these numerous lines. Situated midway between the two seaboard, our people are vitally interested in the question of cheap transportation. Legislative attempts hitherto to establish low rates of transportation for the product of our farms have not been satisfactory to the producers. These corporations are creatures of and under control of the law, and you should so legislate between them and the people as to protect all and injure none. Having full control of the inland carrying trade of the country, these corporations are in position to exact unjust tribute from the people, and that they will do so, unless carefully guarded rates is not denied. Such legislation, however, is deemed to rest on delicate ground, because of the vast diversity of commodities and the many peculiar and distinguishing features which enter into the carrying trade. The present board of transportation has the right to establish reasonable maximum rates, though it has never exercised its authority. If your honorable body, however, should decide to take this matter in hand, I would respectfully suggest that your work in this direction be confined to a limited number of commodities in carload lots, such as coal, grain, live stock, lumber and others. My individual judgment is that it would be more advisable so to amend our constitution as to permit the election by the people of a non-partisan commission, whose exclusive business should be to regulate and adjust tariff rates, and at all times stand between the railroads and the people of the state.

PUBLIC WAREHOUSES.
The state of Nebraska is known to the world over as a vast agricultural state. All measures tending to protect and advance this great interest are of prime necessity. I have long observed the value of a law whose effect is to regulate the handling and storage of grain in elevators and warehouses. The system now in vogue in the state of Nebraska is wholly in the hands of rival parties and corporations uncontrolled by and not responsible to any statute of this state. To afford that protection which is due to the agriculturalist, I would earnestly recommend that the legislature formulate a measure somewhat similar to the law of Illinois, which seems to have given satisfaction to all parties interested.

COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.
I deem it of prime importance that the natural resources and productions of our state be fully made known, and industries of our people be adequately represented at the forthcoming Columbian exposition.

The several states of the union will be represented at this exposition, and they are making liberal appropriations in that behalf. It behooves Nebraska to maintain her proud standing in the front rank.

I would recommend that the funds derived from such an appropriation be placed under the supervision of a board composed of three members, to be appointed by the governor; and to the end that such board be non-partisan, I suggest that one member be selected from each of the three principal political parties of the state.

MILITIA.
A great public emergency, exceptional in its character, required the calling out of the Nebraska National guard. They were sent forward at once and took a position in the field which covered the settlements on the northern border, which enabled them to act as a reserve for the United States forces at the Pine Ridge agency only a few miles away. I have not as yet a report of the campaign from Brigadier-General Colby, who commanded the forces in the field, but despatches from Major-General Nelson A. Miles, U. S. A., confirm the efficiency of our officers and men, and bear testimony to the material and moral aid to the forces under his command.

To your honorable body a complete statement of all expenditures, to enable you to make the necessary appropriation for the expenses incurred. It goes without saying that this will be only a temporary expenditure on the part of the state, as the United States government will duly reimburse to the state all the money thus expended.

I take this opportunity to congratulate the Nebraska youth who have taken part in this, the first campaign in which the Nebraska national guards have been engaged; they left their homes at a moment's notice, taking their lives in their own hands, and hurrying to the front in the midst of winter, subjecting themselves to the hardships consequent thereto; and I dare hope that you will duly recognize the services of the Nebraska national guards.

DROUGHT SUFFERERS.
Owing to the extreme drought of the last season in the western part of the state, many of the settlers are in needy condition; they will require aid from some source until the crops of next season will afford them sustenance. Some doubt may exist as to the power of the legislature to make an appropriation in this behalf, but if aid can be lawfully given, I will readily sanction a generous appropriation for the relief of our suffering citizens.

PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS.
A great political evil, confined to no section of the country, and affecting all political parties the same, is the present method of selecting our presidential electors. You should remedy the present injustice. You are at liberty to name these electors in whatever manner you may see fit. Under the constitution of the United States each state is allowed a number of such electors equal to the number of its senators and representatives in congress. It is in my judgment the spirit of that instrument that such electors should be chosen by the people in the same manner. These electors are now nominated and voted for at large. This results in the selection of the nominees of the dominant party of the state, though such party in certain congressional districts may be in the minority. The injustice of the system is thus apparent. It is the people who select the nation's lawmakers. Each district, therefore, should have the privilege of manifesting its presidential choice, along with the choice of its representative in congress. In a democratic district the presidential elector would and should be democratic; in a republican district he would and should be republican. This condition is as keenly felt in the south as in the north; is as unfair in democratic Texas as in republican Nebraska. The present plan really confers the choice of president upon four states whose political complexion is never to be relied on. Narrowed down to this area we can see the value and power of corrupt methods and means. The vast moneyed and political strength that centralizes in New York, Indiana, New Jersey and Connecticut, every four years, would find a field too broad for effective manipulation in every state if the union would choose such electors as it chooses its congressmen. This quartette of so-called pivotal states would no longer monopolize the honor of electing the chief magistrate of the entire country. The power to begin this reform is in your hands. Under the next congressional apportionment this state will be entitled to eight presidential electors. The election of two at large and one in each congressional district would prevent the disfranchisement of minorities and secure a more equitable expression of the popular will in a vote for the president of the United States. Start this reform and you will find in a short time that every state in the union will imitate your system and copy your law.

In conclusion, gentlemen of the senate and house of representatives, I am prompted to ask of you that close communion which should always exist between your honorable selves and the executive of your state. Let all personal and political considerations, for the time, be laid aside. Let us be distinguished in our labors for the good of our fellow-citizens in the glory of electing the chief magistrate of the entire country. Let ambition which arises above party affiliations and party strife, and when, at last, we part and go out from the scenes of our public service, let us bear away with us that high consideration and respect, each for the other,—that endearing remembrance of our public and social relations and that sterling confidence in the sincerity and honor of us all, without which, official life loses its most pleasing charm.

Immediately thereafter the house adjourned until Tuesday at 10 a. m. and the senate until 2 p. m. today.

JAMES E. BOYD.

Slaughtered by the Railroads.
In Illinois there were 176 railroad employees killed and 1,059 injured during 1890. If, during the present Indian war, the killed and wounded should equal these numbers, what a wail would go up all over the country! And yet these railroad men were as brave and faithful as any soldier in the army, and their lives were as valuable to the world and as dear to their friends and relatives. These 1,235 were men killed and wounded in a single state during a single year. The aggregate of railroad employees killed and wounded in the United States each year reaches into the thousands.

But railroad men fall one at a time, not in battalions. Those who die today will be forgotten in the list that will follow them into eternity tomorrow. Some faithful helper, whose glove is caught between the "bumpers," sees a car moving to crush him out of the semblance of a human being; or some poor mother's son, who treads the brakeman's plank in the darkness of the night, slips and falls, and Heaven only sees the agony of the death struggle under the cars. It is a steady stream of unfortunates going to their account, and the world takes little note of them or of their awful death.

But the saddest thing about all this loss of life and limb is that much of it might be prevented. Safety couplers and safety brakes are no longer experiments. They are practicable, and have been so pronounced by the best railroad men in the country. Legislatures have been slow to act, and railroad corporations have been slower to make the necessary outlay to equip their cars with safety appliances. But the time is coming when the lives of railroad men will no longer be jeopardized. It can come none too soon to relieve anxious wives and worrying mothers of the gallant railroad men.—Des Moines Register.

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8	Neuritis, Toothache, Faceache...	25
9	Headache, Sick Headache, Vertigo...	25
10	Dyspepsia, Bilious Stomach...	25
11	Suppressed or Painful Periods...	25
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14	Salt Rheum, Erysipelas, Eruptions...	25
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16	Fever and Ague, Chills, Malaria...	25
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