NEBRASKA.

Some cases of destitution are reported from Sioux county. The Falls City creamery building was completely destroyed by fire.

The citizens of Beatrice favor ward reduction in the interest of reform. All the churches of Fairbury have

united in a series of revival meetings. John C. Edmondson, a prominent citizen of Fremont, died last week from appendicitis.

North Platte has a bachelor ladies' club numbering twenty-eight. It recently held a banquet, at which the bill of fare was sandwiches, coffee and pickles. V. Barton, a farmer living west of

Hay Springs, caught his hand in the running gear of his wind mill and smashed it so badly that amputation was necessary. H. Fishback, a Beatrice dealer in

poultry, last week received nearly 10,-000 pounds of rabbits from points in Kansas. There were about 2,000 of them cotton tails.

The doors of the Standard glass and paint company, one of the largest wholesale houses in Lincoln, were closed last week by local creditors on mortgages aggregating slightly over

1 Forty thousand pounds of twentyfour-inch iron tubing came in over the Burlington from Columbus, O., says the Tribune, for the Crawford citizens' ditch, a portion of which is to be used at the dam at the reservoir.

William Dacy, one of the early settlers of Box Butte county, became tired of trying to dig a fortune out of his farm and went to the Black Hills to prospect. He staked out a claim last fall and sold it the other day for \$14,000.

The marriage record in the Cass county judge's office shows 148 licenses issued in 1896. This is a decrease of fifteen as compared with 1895, the hard times probably affecting the matrimonial market as much as any other line of business.

Church services were resumed in Osceola last Sunday, and the school has also commenced. The school was cosed for three weeks. It is thought the danger from diphtheria is passed, as there are but a few cases, and they all of a mild type.

The directors of the Platte county fair association, after having advertised for many months for bids to sell the fair grounds and all equipments, held a meeting last week and reviewed the bids. All were rejected. The fair will be held this year as usual.

John G. Kramer of Nebraska City has brought suit against Joe Snyder and his sureties for \$5,000 damages. Snyder runs a saloon in Dunbar, where, on Sept. 14, 1896, Kramer was beaten over the head with a beer bottle by Snyder. He claims to have lost his power of speech, which he thinks is worth \$5,000.

Frank Yocum of Ogallala, who shot and killed James Van while charivaring a newly married couple at the Union Pacific depot in that place, December 23, 1896, had his preliminary hearing and was bound over to the district court under the charge of manslaughter. His trial will take place at the next term of court.

An agent who has made his headquarters at McCool Junction for a couple of months has succeeded in selling a large numbers of pairs of spectacles to the farmers, their wives, and even as a chapel. This would render it less the children and the hired men. He has convinced nearly everybody that with the more hardened class. they need glasses, and has taken in nearly a thousand dollars.

The city attorney of Hastings has decided that the last election held in that city for the purpose of voting found to work not very satisfactorily. Its \$8,000 bonds for water works improvement was illegal. His decision was made on the grounds that the legal publication notice had only been run ten days, when it should have run thirty days prior to the election.

J. M. Russel & Son of Wymore have recently leased 160 acres of land one mile east of Lincoln Normal for fifteen years for orchard purposes. Their intention is to grow fruit nearer to railroads, Lincoln being a good distributing point for fruit in car lots or locally, having favorable freight rates. Their peach orchards at Wymore are from four to nine miles east of the station. Their crop in '96 was 75,000 baskets, selling at 50 cents down as low as 20 cents per basket at wholesale. They will plant extensively this

spring. Thomas Cooley, a highly respected young man, 19 years of age, and the only son of S. R. Cooley, was kicked in the breast by a horse and killed instantly. It occurred at their home adjoining Waverly. The shock to the parents is extremely great, it being the death of the second grown son and one daughter within the past fifteen

John Connors of Fort Scott, Kan., was in Sioux City en route to Wayne, Neb., where he has been negotiating with John T. Bresslor and others of Fort Scott to erect a beet sugar factory in the Nebraska town. It is proposed to build a factory with a capacity of 200 tons of beet sugar a day. Mr. Connors says the plant will cost about \$150,000 and is confident it will be

Bessie Montgomery, youngest child of John Montgomery of Greenwood, died of membraneous croup. The mother of deceased is said to be a Christian science healer. The little sufferer passed away surrounded by a few of these believers, and no physician was summoned.

The Cloride (New Mexico) Black Range brings to W. F. McLaughlin of authority of the board to make, and ought Grand Island, the following as a sort not to be recognized as a legal and bindof New Year's greeting: "John Yaple has completed assessment work on the Melissa mining claim of W. F. Mc-Melissa mining claim of W. F. Mc- tract. The controversy was submitted to Laughlin of Grand Island, Neb. The the supreme court, and an opinion renclaim is A 1 prospect and is showing | dered to the effect that the attempt to | The Hastings institution is denominated up in good shape.

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 THREE.

Penitentiary.

By the census of 1890 it was shown that Nebraska had a population of 1,658,910. A the present time it is fair to assume that the population has increased to 1,250,000. By an examination of the report for the biennial period ending November 30, 1894, it will be found that the average number per year sentenced to the penitentiary was 1751/2, and the average number per year for the blennial period just closed as shown by the report of the present warden, is 1761/2. The number of prisoners confined in the penitentiary November 30, 1894, was 351; while the number imprisoned November 30, last, or at the end of the biennial period, was 275, thus showing a considerable decrease. It will also be observed, by the report of the pardons and commutations submitted herewith, that executive clemency has been exercised with less frequency than during the years previous, and the number paroled only a little in excess thereof. These statistics disclose Nebraska standing in a very enviable position respecting the low percentage of criminality, as well as that of illiteracy, thus confirming the axiom that

ignorance and vice go hand in hand. The condition of the penitentiary upon the whole is very good. The present management has taken advantage of the opportunities which have been offered for improvement. A careful study of the history of the penitentiary since its organization will not disclose any two years of its existence during which greater progress was made than during the biennial period just closed. Credit for this condition is due to the efficiency of the management of the present warden, who by a wise and judicious policy has improved the standard of morals in the penitentiary, as well as made large reductions in the expenditures. This good record has been made by the warden, despite the fact that he has failed to receive the co-operation of most of those with whom he has had official relations in its management. MANAGEMENT.

The question of the management of penal institutions, is of course, difficult under most favorable circumstances. There are various methods of management, each having warm advocates. While the encouragement of any method of manage-ment that will develop the reformatory features of prison life appeals strongly to the sympathetic and humans sentiments of mankind, yet it is to be borne in mind that the place should not be made so inviting that the careless and wickedly disposed will commit deeds of lawlessness without fearing the punishment to follow. The humanity of the present age demands that punishment for violation of law by imprisonment or otherwise shall not be inflicted barbarously, inhumanly, or in any manner that would tend to stifle the better sentiments of a man, even though a violator of the law; but rather that the punishment shall be humane, yet reasonable, fixed, certain and determined in its character. This may be brought about by confinement in the penitentiary in solitary cells, in restraint of liberty, in strict and rigid discipline, in plain, simple fare, yet plenty and wholesome, clothing of the most common quality and some particular uniform color and hard, steady and continuous labor during the period of confinement. I do not believe in a sentimentality that would supply to the prisoner, convicted frequently of the most henious crimes known to mankind, with every luxury, form of amusement or intellectual recreation that would be regarded as special privileges by many who lead a humble, yet honest and upright life. I believe in classification of the prisoners, so far as it can be done, with the view of separating the older and more hardened criminals from those who have committed, perhaps under mitigating cicumstances, their first offense, and who sincerely repent, desiring to pay the penalty for the broken law, retrieve the mistakes of the past, and lead an honest and upright life. Such prisoners should receive all reasonable encouragement. This, it seems to me, might properly be done by constructing new cells in the new cell house in the east wing of the penitentiary, which is now used difficult to maintain this class of prisoners without coming so much in contact

While some advocate changing the striped clothing customary to be used in prisons all over the country, I doubt the proprlety of it. I understand it has been tried only in very few prisons and there advocates say it is degrading and humiliating for the offender to be required to wear this badge of a broken law. It can be said with equal propriety that it is humiliating to be put in prison and restrained of one's liberty. The logical sequence of such reasoning would be to discharge all the prisoners and tell them to go their way and sin no more. We must come face to face with the practical side of depraved humanity and prison management of such, as well as to have the

theoretical. We have had in this state almost ever since its organization a form of prison management that has been debasing and degrading, a system of leasing the penitentiary and the convicts therein to selfish individuals for the purpose of private gain. We have at least rid ourselves of this one objectionable feature of prison management. The last session of the legislature passed an act providing for the annulment of the lease of the prison and prisoners and also providing an appropriation for the payment of what should be found to be due the lessee by the cancellation of the lease. Under the provisions of the act the lease was cancelled, the appropriation being made by the legislature for that purpose being exhausted in the payment. This report is on file in the office of the land commissioner. The state is to be congratulated upon the consummation of such a laudable object as that of cancelling this lease, even at the expense it incurred.

CONVICT LABOR. After the state had taken full control and possession of the penitentiary and the labor of the convicts, an effort was made by the board of public lands and buildings to again lease the penitentiary grounds, machinery and labor, thus returned to the objectionable system from which we had just freed ourselves. As soon as the intention of the board came to my notice, I took occasion to cummunicate to them my views in regard to the matter, in the nature of a protest, asking that the state should assume control of the penitentiary and of the labor of its convicts, except as the same had been contracted out under the old lease, and which by the terms of the act for its cancellation, were to be continued in force during the period for which they were made. The board, however, proceeded to again lease the penitentiary grounds and property, as well as the labor of its convicts, subject to the subcontract mentioned. It occurred to me that this contract did not properly protect the interests of the state, was beyond the ing contract on the part of the state. The warden, being of the same opinion, declined to recognize the validity of the conthe convicts was illegal and that the

board had exceeded its authority. After the decision of the supreme court, the board called in Mr. James Whitehead and under the designation of agent of the board, he assumed to perform some duties connected with the management of the penitentiary, which might very properly have been done by the warden, under the direction of the board. The report of the board's agent is presented with the report of the land commissioner. I am satisfied that he has accomplished nothing that might not have been done by the warden and that the expenses occasioned by his appointment were utterly needless. It is disclosed by the report of the agent that there has been collected by him, as the proceeds of the labor of the convicts. \$14,280.73. Of this amount there was expended \$10,014.97, and paid into the state

treasury \$4,115.08. These expenditures I regard as baving been made without authority of law. All moneys derived from the labor of convicts should, it would seem, be turned into the state treasury to be drawn therefrom on approved vouchers, as in other cases, in the manner provided by law. The board having the power to make provisions for the proper employment of idle convicts seems not to have exercised this authority, except temporarily from time to time, as shown by the report of the agent of the board. It also appears that the contracts or agreements temporarily entered into were at a much lower figure than heretofore secured. NEW LAW NEEDED.

I have thought it proper to go into details to some extent regarding the history and condition of this institution, as it seems necessary that there should be an entire revision of the law respecting its future management. Under the lease system there have been established different industries at the institution for the purpose of utilizing the labor of the convicts. These industries have been maintained by sub-contractors of the lessee and are yet owned by them. There are now in operation a broom factory, a harness factory, a cooper establishment and an iron foundry. The capacity of these several industries is perhaps large enough to utilize all of the labor of the convicts not required in the management of the institution. If arrangements could be made for the continuance of the work performed in these different establishments at a reasonable rate of wages for the labor of the convicts, with suitable provisions and restrictions to fully protect the rights of the convicts and the morale and discipline, it becomes a question whether at the present time the state should attempt to employ all convicts on its own account. It would seem advisable to inaugurate some system looking towards the ultimate control on the part of the state of all the labor of the convicts and that the penitentiary should be made self-sustaining, or as nearly so as possible. Prisons in several states are, as I am advised, entirely self-sustaining. In adopting a plan of conducting the penitentiary entirely on state account, it would seem the better part of wisdom to begin cautiously and in a moderate way, and by careful experiment determine the best method of utilizing the labor of the convicts without unnecessary expense on the part of the state or loss occasioned by inaugurating an enterprise which cannot successfully be carried out. In this is also involved the question of bringing into competition convict labor with that of free labor. The penitentiary should be so conducted as to reduce to the lowest degree possible, with due regards to the interests of the state, all competition with free labor. I can see no objections to the inauguration of a system looking to the manufacture and production of numerous articles required in the maintenance of the different state institutions as a means of providing employment for prison labor and making the prison self-sustaining. This plan has many warm advocates among those who have studied the subject of prison labor. This could be introduced in a small way, and gradually developed as wisdon; and experience would suggest until, perhaps, the larger portion of the

inmates can thus be employed. This whole question is submitted to you for your consideration with the hope that a law will be enacted providing for the state's management of the penitentiary. in a manner such as to place the institution on a higher moral plane and provide for the proper utilization of the labor of the convicts while in confinement.

Hospitals for the Insane.

Nebraska has three hospitals for the insane, located at Lincoln, Norfolk and Hastings, respectively. I choose to treat all of them together and in a gene al way. They have each been managed in a wise, careful and economical manner. The professional treament has been of a high order and the welfare of the unforiunate wards of the state confined in these institutions has been carefully looked after in all respects. A visit to any one of these institutions cannot but ilmpress one with the high professional sk'll and orderly management which characterizes it. The welfare of the inmates is improved wherever possible and the utmost kindness and gentleness in caring

for them prevails. A considerable saving has been made in expenditures. Some further can doubtless be made and yet I am inclined to the view that in these institutions the minimum expenditures in their maintenance has been very nearly reached. In caring for the unfortunate insane, it is apparent to the ordinary observer that the necessary employes, as well as officers of such an institution, are more numerous than are required in any other institutional work. The proposition of reducing expenditures further by a reduction of salaries has been suggested to me. I submit it to you for your careful and judicious consideration, without recommendation on my part farther than to say that I approve of any effort which may be made to place all salaries and wages of employes of the state upon a basis of equality, as near as may be done, with reference to the character of the work to be performed. "The laborer is worthy of his hire" and all servants of the state, in whatever capacity employed, should receive fair and just compensation and their services should be the very best obtainable, honestly, faithfully and intelligently performed.

The management of each of these institutions has made request for appropriations to provide additional room. Each is now crowded to its utmost capacity and yet there are a number of insane persons being cared for by the different counties of the state who could be much better and more economically treated in state hospitals. Reasonable provisions should be made to meet the increasing demands upon these institutions in the most economical manner compatible with the welfare of the unfortunate for whom such institutions are maintained. It will be observed that the population of the Hastings asylum and the Lincoln hospital are much larger than the Norfolk hospital. The best results as to economy and efficiency in treatment and management can be obtained as the population of these institutions increases up to a certain limit, which as yet has not been reached in any of them. In view of the fact that the institution at Norfolk has less room than either of the others, it seems to me that if the legislature shall determine to make appropriations for additional room and it can be provided for with as elsewhere, it would be advisable to enlarge that institution until its capacity has reached 350 to 400 inmates. The suggestions made by the superintendent of the Lincoln hospital present some features of economy in the way of procuring additional room with a minimum of expense, which I submit to you for your careful

consideration.

egain lease the prison and the labor of an asylum for the chronic insane and receives its inmates from the other two. by transfer of inmates after a period of time has shown that the hope of recovery very hospital emall. This the insane, if the intention of for the lawmakers in its establishment be carried out to its fullest extent, will have to have its capacity still further increased, although it now has the largest population of the three. Some interested in the subject of caring for the insane favor the placing of all three of these institutions on an equality, that is, making them all asylums for the insane, without qualifying the different degrees or types of insanity. I do not believe it would be advisable to make any change of this kind at this time and am inclined to the view that the present arrangement has advantages that perhaps overcome any disadvantages or objections that might be urged against its continuance. The request for an appropriation for additional buildings at the Hastings institution is with a view, I assume, of increasing its capacity so that it may be able to receive inmates from the other two institutions by transfer as rapidly as it shall appear that the condition of the patients renders it advisable to place them in this institution for permanent treatment, as contemplated by the law creating it. It will be obsevred, however, that no fixed or definite rule can be made in determining just what patient shall be transferred. It will, therefore, fulfil reasonably well its mission by receiving those seemingly best adapted to transfer only so fast as vacancies occur by death or recovery, after its maximum number of inmates has been reached. I invite your attention to a careful perusal of the biennial reports of the superintendents of these three institutions, which will give you much valuable

information. State Industrial Schools. By constitutional enactment the legislature may provide by law for the establishment of a school, or schools, for the safe keeping, education, employment and reform of all children under the age of sixteen years, who, for want of proper parental care or other cause, are growing up in mendicancy or crime. Under this provision the industrial school at Kearney, for both girls and boys, was first established. Afterwards the legislature, in its wisdom, very properly made provisions for the separate institutions. The one at Kearney was maintained as an industrial school for boys, and another established at Geneva of the same character for girls. The reports of the superintendents of these two institutions are quite complete and show them to be in a satisfactory condition. While I do not think there has been any extravagance in the management of either of these institutions, I am of the opinion that there is opportunity for greater frugality than heretofore exercised without interfering witht the efficiency of the work or reaching the line of demarcation between parsimony and rigid economy. I invite your attention to the improvements suggested by the superintendents. Some of them are well worthy of your careful consideration. I am prepared to favor appropriations for additional buildings at either

of these institutions. Institution for Feeble-Minded Youth The work of the institution for feeble minded youth, located at Beatrice, appears to be in a satisfactory condition, and I knew of no suggestions for improvements to make to you, unless perhaps it is along the line of more rig'd economy in its management. I coincide with the views of the superintendents respecting the advisability of making further provisions for a class of citizens who are past what might be termed the school period in an institution of this kind and are yet not fit subjects to be again returned to the county of their residence, there to struggle for a living and be subjected to unfavorable comment, rendering their lives miserable. I am impressed with the view that a large number, afflicted as are these wards of the state, should be cared for and looked after with the same spirit of humane regard as that given to the insane; and yet I am doubtful of the propriety of this legislature making additional appropriations sufficient to accomplish this much desired result.

Institutions for the Deaf and for the Blind.

I desire to call the attention of the legislature to the urgent necessity for suitable legislation making proper provisions for the control, government and maintenance of the institution for the blind at Nebraska City and the institute for the deaf and dumb at Omaha. These two institutions are so nearly alike in character that I am of the opinion that each can be provided for by the passage of a single act. In the treatment of this subject, in speaking of one, I take it that the same remarks will apply as well to the other. The law at present governing the institute for the deaf and dumb is found in chapter 22 of the compiled statutes of 1893; while the law governing the institution for the blind is found in chapter 42 of the same statutes. The law for the governing of the institute for the deaf and dumb was passed in 1875, prior to the adoption of our present constitution, as was also the law governing the other institution. The present constitution provides that a board of public lands and buildings consisting of the commissioner of public lands and buildings, the secretary of state, treasurer and attorney-general shall have general supervision and control of all buildings, grounds and lands of the state, the state prison, asylums and all other like institutions except those for educational purposes. It was intended by the original enactment of the law governing these institutions that the institute for the deaf and dumb should be controlled by a board of directors, as mentioned in the original act, and the institution for the blind should be governed by a board of trustees to be selected by the legislature, as therein pro-

Under the provisions of the present constitution these institutions could no longer be governed as originally intended. and in the case of the institute for the deaf and dumb the board of public lands and buildings assumed control, the governor exercising the authority to appoint the managing officers. This institution has been conducted in this manner until

the present time. Respecting the institution for the blind, in an early decison of the supreme court, found in the 6th Nebraska, page 2.6, in the case of State vs. Bacon, it was decided that this institution was not an educational institution within the meaning of the section of the constitution heretofore cited and was within the control of the board of public lands and buildings. Thereafter this institution was under the control and management of that board, the governor appointing the managing officer. In a recent decision, found in the case of Curtis vs. Allen, 43 Nebraska, 181, the supreme court reversed the decision above mentioned and held that this was an educational institution and not under the control of the board of public lands

SCHOOLS, NOT ASYLUMS. That both of these two institutions are educational in their aims and objects rather than asylums or permanent abiding places for the unfortunate blind and deaf it seems to me hardly admits of argulittle cost at the Norfolk institution as | ment. The latter decision of the supreme court was in accord with the spirit and intention of the law establishing and providing for the maintenance of these two institutions and if either is found to be educational in its character by a proper tribunal, it must follow as a logical sequence that the other is likewise of the purpose of educating the unfortunate children of the state who have lost the stored to him."

sense of sight and the other for those who have lost the sense of hearing. Viewing the subject in this light, and yet not wishing to exercise any control or supervision that might not have the approval of my fellow state officers composing the board of public lands and buildings, I requested the attorney-general for an opinion as to whether the institute for the deaf and dumb was of the same character and standing as the institution for the blind; in other words, whethr it was an educational institution or an asylum, within the meaning of the constitutional provisions cited above. In an opinion which will be found in his report, the attorney-general passes upon the question adversely to the position taken by myself. With all due deference to the opinion of the attorney-general, I am convinced that both of these institutions are educational in their character and should be treated as such. This view is held by their superintendents and the method of the work in operation in each of them clearly demonstrates it to be cor-

After the latter opinion of the supreme court respecting the legal status of the institution for the blind, some effort was made by the last legislature to enact a law respecting its government, but for some reason it failed to pass both branches of the legislature. An effort was then made to fall back on the old law enucted at the time of the creation of these institutions and elect trustees by a joint session of the legislature, as provided by the original act. This section having been abrogated by the adoption of the constitution, I deemed it my duty to refuse to recognize these so-called trustees or any of their acts, believing the action of the legislature to be in conflict with section 10 of article 5 of the constitutional provision governing the appointment of officers created by the constitution or by law. This resulted in another case in the supreme court, in which it was decided that the position taken by me in this matter was correct and that the action of the legislature was in conflict with the constitution. The institution has since been under the control of a superintendent appointed by the governor and

responsible to the chief excutive for the proper discharge of his duties. This state of affairs renders the situation in regard to these two institutions unsatisfactory. Assuming as I have that the institute for the deaf and dumb is, notwithstanding the action of the board of public lands and buildings in assuming control, in exactly the same situation as the institution for the blind, I recommend a revision of the two chapters referred to. The revised law should provide for the appointment of a board of control or trustees of three or five members to erve for stated periods with compensation fixed at a certain amount per diem, together with actual expenses, and not exceeding altogether a fixed sum during any one year. They should be required to meet not oftener than once in every three months for the purpose of examining into the general condition of these institutions and taking such action as shall be deemed advisable for their proper conduct and management.

Nebraska Industrial Home, and Home

for the Friendless. With a view to aid in the suppression of prestitution, the legislature of 1881 made provisions for the establishment of the Nebraska industrial home, to provide shelter, protection, employment and means of self-support for penitent women and girls. The government was placed under the supervision of the "woman's associated charities of Nebraska" and an appropriation of \$15,000 was made to purchase a site and erect buildings. This institution was located at Millord and has since been in operation, doubtless accomplishing great good in the direction

intended by its founders. In 1887 the legislature saw fit to make an appropriation of \$5,000 to establish and provide for the erection of a home for the friendless at Lincoln, its management to be under the supervision of the society of the home for the friendless. Hundrees of homeless children and aged women have been cared for at this institution during its existence.

The similarity of these two institutions is marked. Each originated with an organized society of benevolently disposed, Chirstian women, who desired to benefit society by rescuing fallen women and providing a comfortable home for those whom unfortunate circumstances had cast

helpless upon the world. At each recurring session of the legislature liberal appropriations have been made for the maintenance of these institutions. and at the present time the state is almost the entire support of each of them. I am in some doubt regarding the propriety of the state assuming the financial responsibility and not having equally the responsibility for the government and management of them. The conditions under which they are now managed and maintained bring a sense of responsibility and primary duty upon the part of the governing officers to the associations referred to. rather than to the state. Heretofore there has been more or less contention and controversy respecting the authority of the state in the management of them, though I am pleased to say that for the two years past the relations have been of the most pleasant and amicable character. It seems to me it is a sound proposition, however, that the state should have the complete and absolue control and manage ment of all of its institutions and that the officers should be responsible alone to the state for the faithful and intelligent discharge of their duties. The institutions under consideration are of a peculiar character, and as the women seem to be better adapted to know the needs and best methods of conducting them, it might be well to povide for a government by a board of women, who should be directly responsible to the state for the manner in which they discharge their duties. This plan would serve the purpose and fulfil the objects sought by their founders, and yet bring the institutions within the complete control of the state, where, in my judgment, they properly belong, if the state is to be held responsible in any way for their management and government.

Control of State Institutions.

The interest of the state in these public institutions amounts to millions of dollars and there are expended annually large sums of money for their maintenance in conducting the business for which they were constructed. They should each be governed and controlled in such a way as to bring about the greatest harmony between the several institutions, as well as the greatest economy in their management in the interest of the taxpavers of the state. Their control and management heretofore by different bodies, and as many different methods, has been productive of much needless expense and friction as to the policies which should obtain. This fact, I doubt not, has become quite apparent to every executive of the state of Nebraska. Governor Boyd in his closing message to the legislature speaks of this matter as follows: "And in this connection I would further

call your attention to the fact that there are a number of state institutions over which the authority of the executive has seen by the statute taken from him. In the case of the industrial school for boys at Kenarney, of the industrial school for girls at Geneva, of the institution for feeble minded at Beatrice and of one or two others, the appointing power is vested in the board of public lands and buildings. This board is also by the tution given full control of all Institutions, and the executive has no check on them whatever. This should not be so. The governor should have the power to appoint the superintendents and managing officials in every one of the state institutions; and I would recommend that same character; the one being for the this legislature so amend this statute, that the appointing power shall be fully re-

My predecessor, Governor Crounse, likewise too'r occasion to express his views on this same subject in the following language:

"In the case of some of the institutions of the state the governor appoints the superintendents and other officers, while in others this authority is given to the board of public lands and buildings. This iswrong. The governor should be charged with the appointment in all these cases, and he alone be responsible to the people for his action. The responsibility for a bad appointment should not be a divided one, and one not directly traceable or hanrgeable to any one person. Considerafions of a political or partisan character may be opposed to a favorable acceptance of this recommendation at this time, still sound legislation should not be avoided for fear of the loss of some partisan advantage. It is unfortunate that the heads of some institutions, in cases where fitness and experience has been added, should become the sport of political fortune, and for good reason only should tried and experienced officers be replaced." ONE RESPONSIBLE HEAD NEEDED,

To all that has been said by these two

gentlemen on this subject, I can give my

hearty approval. I am' quite well con-

vinced that a more satisfactory adminis-

tration of the affairs of these various in-

stitutions can be secured when there is

one responsible head to whom each must

be required to account for the faithful discharge of the duties of his position, and that a fixed and well defined policy deriving its source from one head may be inaugurated which will work advantageously in each of the institutions. In my judgment, it was never intended by the constitution that the board of public lands and buildings, therein created, should have the control and supervision of the administrative and governmental part of these different institutions, but rather, as their name implies, and as expressed in direct terms by the constitution, they should have control of the public lands and buildings, to look after, to care for the repairs and improvements, the erection of new buildings when provided for by the legislature, and such other control and supervision as pertains to the buildings and lands belonging to the state, as distinguished from the care, maintenance and control of the inmates of such institutions. There has been almost continually, since the enactment of the law defining the duties of the board of public lands and buildings, more or less difference between that board and the executive regarding the powers and duties of each, and this without regard to whom may have been occupying of the respective each tions. This ought not to be permitted to exist, and the duties of this board should be made clear, specific and well defined, and provisions made so as to prevent any differences respecting the duties of executive officers and this as well as other boards created by statute. This board by aw is now required to approve vouchers for expenditures made by many different boards, as well as the vouchers required in its own expenditures. An auditing board should doubtless exist to approve the vouchers issued by the heads of the different departments in state institutions, as well as by boards when created with authority to incur indebtedness or make expenditures in the discharge of their duty. This board might very properly be composed of two or three state officers, the auditor being one, as these duties pertain very naturally to the duties of hisown office, each voucher upon the state treasurer having to be presented to him and there approved before the Issuance of warrant. The board of purchase and supplies incurs much indebtedness in supplying the different state institutions, This board should be required to approve its own vouchers and then be passed to the auditing board for final approval before the issuance of a warrant on the state

treasury for the amount of the claim. A very slight modification of the law regarding these subjects would obviate needless confusion, and encourage a more harmonious administration of state affairs, It would also provide for a better system. of appoving vouchers upon which warrants are drawn against the state treasury.

University of Nebraska.

The state university is in a very flourishing condition. The excellent work in the educational field occupied by this institution under the direction and efficient management of the chancellor, is very gratifying to all citizens of the state. The high rank which it occupies among similar institutions of the kind testifies to the excellent work which has been performed. The university educational work has been extended so as to provide a practical training for a short period of time in the varied branches of agriculture for those who are unable to avail themselves of the opportunity offered to take the prescribed course in the college of agriculture and yet wish to prepare themselves for active and intelligent work in agricultural pursuits. In a state such as ours, where the agricultural interests are paramount to all others it seems to me that an effort to promote this feature of university education must find much cordial support by the people generally. In considering the needs of the institution especial attention is requested to this branch of the work which is now

in process of development. The law provides for two funds to be used in support of this institution, first. the endowment fund, to be invested and the interest of which only can be used in its support; and, second, the regent's fund, which shall consist of the proceeds of the investment of the endowment fund. the annual rental of the university and agricultural college lands, the matriculation and other fees paid by students and tax of three-eighths of one mill on the dollar valuation on all taxable property. From this it would appear that it was the intention to have the university supported from these funds rather than from an appropriation from the general fund, unless for repairs and permanent improvements. The condition of the state's finances would seem to emphasize the necessity for adherence to this method of deriving revenues for the current expenditures of the institution as nearly as possible, without injuring its usefulness. The estimate of expenditures calls for an appropriation from the gene | fun | of \$24,500, and, also, \$50,000 for permanent improvements.

While I am strongly impressed with the necessity of economizing wherever possible in making appropriations for the expenses of state government, I bespeak for this highly useful institution a liberal support sufficient to maintain its various depart-ments unimpaired. The report of the regents for the biennial period just closed will be submitted to you and is worthy of your careful consideration. It is an improvement on all past reports in its thoroughness and the attention given to details respecting the past management and the future requirements of our university.

(CONTINUED) Doctors in China.

European doctors in China find the Celestials somewhat trying patients. John Chinaman rarely obeys the instructions how to take his medicine, but consults with his friends on the subject, and follows the advice of the majority. As the native practitioners furnish very large doses, John is apt to think that the foreigner has been mean in giving him a small quantity,

and so takes two or three doses at once. Women Benting Teales.

FORT SCOTT, Kan., Jan. 5 .- Olive and Clara Lowe, two young women who had been employed in Kansas City, left there for Hot Springs, Ark., paying their fares as far as Paola. Then being out of money were put off the train, They boarded the next train and hid nutil they were found near here and arrested