

MICKEY'S MESSAGE

Legislature Listens to Its Reading Thursday

URGES PROPER ECONOMY

Favors Retention of Supreme Court Commission and Believes a Board of Pardons Necessary—Views in Regard to Taxation

WHAT GOV. MICKEY SAYS IN HIS MESSAGE.

Harmony, full and complete, should exist between the executive and the legislature. There should be "strict economy without parsimony." We should have Divine guidance in the affairs of state. The increase in public debt is caused by undervaluation by the assessors. Law should be changed so that all forms of real and personal property must be listed. An experimental farm should be established in Western Nebraska. The supreme court commission should not be abolished. Six of the nine members should be retained. A board of pardons should be established. Educational institutions should receive generous treatment. Oil should be carefully inspected. An adequate and less expeditious should be made for the St. Louis exposition. The unfinished portions of the penitentiary should be completed. The Norfolk asylum should be rebuilt. The scope of the pure food law should be broadened. A state accountant should be employed to scrutinize and verify accounts of state officers.

NEW EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

A Station in Western Nebraska and Its Advantages. Nebraska is distinctively an agricultural and live stock producing state. These two industries, with horticulture, are the basis of the major part of the prosperity enjoyed by our people. Whoever tends to promote these interests increases the general wealth in the same ratio. In wise recognition of these facts the state has long established an experimental farm near Lincoln in connection with the state university, where careful and elaborate tests are made in the production of grains, grasses and forage plants under varying conditions, where the several kinds of live stock which add wealth to the farm are kept under the most thorough and scientific horticulture is systematically promoted, and from which is disseminated from time to time facts and data relative to the work accomplished. As has been stated, the experimental farm is located near Lincoln, in the humid part of the state, where the climatic conditions are very different from those which prevail further west in the arid and semi-arid portions of the commonwealth. The conditions there, in my judgment, demand the establishment of an experimental farm, also in connection with the state university and under the most thorough and scientific supervision, which shall give special attention to tests in agriculture, stock raising and horticulture, under the peculiarities of soil and climate there prevailing. Such an institution would give an impetus to the rural interests of that part of the state and would prove an important factor in the more thorough development of a section which is sometimes regarded as being handicapped by nature but which is rich in natural resources of agricultural energy is directed along proper lines. Our congressional delegation has received assurance from the general government that it will gladly co-operate in the work, in connection with its irrigation and reclamation plans, and if Nebraska takes the initiative it is possible that our station will become the seat of the government's tests and experiments conducted in behalf of the same states in this same region. I therefore recommend that the legislature make an appropriation for the purchase, equipment and maintenance of a farm upon a suitable point in the west part of the state, to be under the control of the state university and known as an adjunct of the same, for the purposes mentioned.

SUPREME COURT COMMISSION.

Recommends That the Existing Body be Continued. Your attention is urgently called to the necessity of providing for the continuation of the supreme court commission. The present commission has performed commendable service and reduced the volume of litigation for years pending in the supreme court. While the number of commissioners might be increased, I am firmly of the opinion that the number should not be less than six, considering the rights of litigants and the imperative demand of the people that every case should receive fair and full consideration. I therefore recommend the enactment of a law similar to the one passed by the last legislature creating the present commission, so modified as to provide for a board of nine commissioners.

A BOARD OF PARDONS.

One is Necessary to Consider Worth of Applications. While I have no disposition to shrink from the constitutional and statutory responsibility imposed on the chief executive in the matter of exercising clemency, I believe that the public good would be greatly enhanced by the creation of an advisory board of pardons to which all applications for pardon should be referred for their consideration and recommendation. Such a board should be authorized to hear and weigh all evidence on which the application for pardon is predicated and within a reasonable time to report its findings to the governor with a recommendation for or against the exercise of executive clemency, as each individual case may seem to require. I therefore recommend that such a board of pardons be created, the details to be arranged by your honorable body.

LIBERAL TO FREE EDUCATION.

Institutions of the State Commended to Best Consideration. The people of Nebraska are justly proud of their educational institutions. The foundations of these interests have been laid broad and deep and made properly regarded as the corner stones of that degree of eminence and distinction which the state now enjoys. No other part of our country is blessed with so small a per cent of illiteracy or has so much to show, in proportion to population, in the way of good school buildings, the equipments and specially fitted instructors. At the head of these interests stands the state university with its numerous departments, closely secured by the state normal. The institutions have done, and are doing, for the state a work greater than can be estimated, the influence of which will be felt throughout all time. Their interests should receive the careful attention of your body and such appropriations should be made as will insure the continuance of their beneficent work on a scale commensurate with the state's development.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

An Amendment to Section 1, Article XV, is Advocated. During recent years a number of attempts have been made to secure needed changes in the organic law of the state by submission to the voters of proposed amendments to the constitution. Under these constitutional provisions all proposed amendments must be submitted at the general election at which members of the legislature are voted for. By the present law such proposed amendments, in abbreviated form, are made a part of the regular ballot and a majority of all votes cast must be recorded affirmatively for each proposition that can be adopted. In the greater interest attaching to the election of candidates for the various offices, the importance of constitutional changes and a majority of them fail to vote on the propositions submitted. As each failure to vote is in effect a negative vote, the question, or questions, it becomes practically impossible to amend the constitution by such means, even in cases where the people are generally agreed that the change should be made.

tion of indebtedness. To harmonize these divergent necessities is the task devolving upon your honorable body. As a first step it seems to me that the assessment roll should be increased to the proportions contemplated for it by law. section 1, article 9 of the constitution makes it obligatory on the legislature to provide for the assessment of real and personal property by levying a tax by valuation, so that every person and corporation shall pay a tax in proportion to the value of his, her or its property and franchises the value to be ascertained in such manner as the legislature shall direct, etc. The legislature has declared that all personal and real property shall be valued at its fair cash value and the plain intention of the statutes is to impose upon every person connected with the assessment the duty of enforcing that idea. I recommend that existing laws be corrected so as to insure that all forms of real and personal property will be listed at full valuation for purposes of taxation; also that the laws governing the assessment of taxes be made more efficient and effective. I further recommend that the duties of the state board of equalization be broadened so that it shall have ample power to raise or lower assessments for state purposes in harmony with the full valuation plan, and that county boards be given such additional authority as may be needed in order to carry out the same idea. It is important that these matters receive immediate attention, as the result of the assessment may be operative for the coming assessment.

CONDITIONS AT PENITENTIARY.

Money Needed For Reconstruction and Enlargement. By reason of the failure of the last legislature to make a sufficiently large appropriation for the rebuilding of the center and west wing of the penitentiary, destroyed by fire two years ago, is not yet completed. The stone is practically all laid but the interior cannot be finished and made ready for occupancy until another appropriation becomes available. To this duty I trust you will give early attention. It is also equally imperative that the west wing be equipped with from fifty to seventy-five cells, to replace the present cell room being entirely inadequate to the needs of the institution.

At this time three convicts are crowded together in an almost barbarous manner and in violation of the promptings of humane reason and the laws of health. This condition is in no sense a reflection on the management of the penitentiary but is unavoidable on account of the lack of room. I recommend that sufficient appropriations be made, both for the reconstruction of that part of the penitentiary which is now in process of construction and for the addition of new cells as suggested.

POOR QUALITY OF OIL.

More Careful Inspection of the Shipments is Necessary. For some time there has been very general complaint of the quality of oil which is shipped into Nebraska for illuminating purposes. The trouble seems to be a general one, the oil being freed from its natural impurities, but not refined so that it is not sufficiently refined. Our present inspection law, adequate so far as the points covered by it are concerned, was intended to protect the public from the use of illuminating oil which might volatilize at so low a temperature as to occasion the danger of explosion. It does not provide for a test of these impurities which measure and weigh, and the presence of which detract materially from the illuminating quality of the oil with which they are compounded. I recommend that the oil inspection law be amended to include a test for impurities and that a standard of purity be established.

ST. LOUIS EXPOSITION.

Proper Representation For Nebraska Desired. During the year 1904 the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will be held in the city of St. Louis. It is estimated that not less than 20 million dollars will be expended on this enterprise. The general government has already given it substantial recognition, and the other states will undoubtedly do so as their respective legislatures take the initiative. It is the acquisition of a most important territory ever added to the national domain, a territory from which the state has derived some of its most brilliant jewels. Your body should make a liberal appropriation for the proper representation of Nebraska at this exposition, subject to such details as the details of expenditure as prudence may suggest.

NORFOLK SHOULD RETAIN ASYLUM.

More Comprehensive Operations Are Necessary. The food commission law should be made more comprehensive. At present it covers only the dairy, fowl, eggs and vinegar products, and while the commission having charge of the department has done excellent service in its limited operations, it is evident that broadening of the enactment would be largely dependent on the character of the food products to be regulated. A matter so intimately connected with the very existence of our people should be covered by proper legislation. The scope of the present law should be broadened so as to include the regulation and control of food products for the state, exclusive of those which should be placed on the market strictly for their merits and deception as to purity and quality should be made a penal offense. The cost of such a law should be paid from the general fund and a direct appropriation should be made for that purpose.

NORFOLK SHOULD RETAIN ASYLUM.

Governor Mickey Thinks Conditions Favor Reconstruction. In September, 1901, the main building of the Norfolk asylum at Norfolk, Va., was partially destroyed by fire and rendered unfit for further use. At that time the institution was caring for about three hundred patients, these being afterwards divided between the similar institutions owned by the state at Lincoln and Hastings and were there given the best of care. These patients, as they were demanded, as well as could be done under the crowded conditions then imposed. Since that time a new building has been built at the institution at Hastings, affording additional accommodations which have temporarily relieved the embarrassment. It is estimated that the time the state could continue to care for its unfortunate at the two institutions named, but it should be borne in mind that the Lincoln asylum is in a well equipped hospital. The state now has at Norfolk an investment of about \$55,000 in the way of land, unimproved buildings and equipment, exclusive of the value of the ruins of the main building which also represent a considerable money value. In view of this investment, of the growing population of the state and the corresponding increase of dementia and as a matter of convenience to the North Platte country, it seems that the institution at Norfolk should be rehabilitated and I recommend a reasonable appropriation for that purpose. I further advise that this, and all other buildings authorized by your body, be made as nearly fire proof as possible, to the end that damage to human life and the destruction of property on account of fire be reduced to the minimum.

TO HANDLE STATE ACCOUNTS.

An Office Should be Created to Assist the State Board. With the gradual increase of state business it becomes more and more necessary that a state accountant should be provided as an adjunct of the board of public lands and buildings, whose duty it shall be to scrutinize and verify the accounts of the various state officers and state institutions, and who shall have authority over the books and records of said institutions with a view to reducing them to a uniform system. Being that such an officer would render valuable service to the state and would serve as a check on his own conduct in the conduct of state affairs, I recommend that the position be created.

JOHN H. MICKEY.

As a correction of this difficulty and as a means of securing the needed constitutional modifications I recommend that your body propose an amendment to section 1, article 9 of the constitution which will provide that amendments to the constitution may be submitted to the electors for approval or rejection at a general or special election and I further suggest that the present election law be so changed as to authorize a separate ballot for the submission of such questions.

CHAPTER IX.—(Continued.)

"One is wanting of the dozen, both at the last cake-baking, with the lish of cake sent to Joanna it went. Back it has not come."

"For it you might go, Katherine. I like not that my sets are broken." Katherine blushed scarlet. This was the opportunity she wanted. She wondered if her mother suspected the want; but Lysbet's face expressed only a little worry about the missing damask. Slowly, though her heart beat almost at her lips, she folded away her work.

The nights were yet chilly—though the first blooms were on the trees—and the wadded cloak and hood were not far out of season as to cause remark. As she came down-stairs, the clock struck seven. There was yet an hour, and she durst not wait so long at the bottom of the garden while it was early in the evening. And this singular reluctance to leave home assailed Katherine. If she had known that it was to be forever, her soul could not have more sensibly taken its farewell of all the dear, familiar objects of her daily life. About her mother this feeling culminated. She found her cap a little out of place; and her fingers lingered in the lace, and stroked fondly her hair and pink cheeks, until Lysbet felt almost embarrassed by the tender, but unusual show of affection.

"Now then go, my Katherine. To Joanna give my dear love. Tell her that very good were the cheesecakes and the krullers and that to-morrow I will come over and see the new carpet they have bought."

And while she spoke she was retreating Katherine's hood, and admiring as she did so the fair, sweet face in its quiltings of crimson satin, and the small, dimpled chin resting upon the fine bow she tied under it. Then she followed her to the door and watched her down the road until she saw her meet Dominie Van Linden, and stand a moment holding his hand. "A message I am going for my mother," she said, as she firmly refused his escort. "Then with madam, your mother, I will sit until you return," he replied cheerfully; and Katherine answered, "That will be a great pleasure to her, sir."

A little farther she walked; but suddenly remembering that the dominie's visit would keep her mother in the house, and being made restless by the gathering of the night shadows, she turned quickly and taking the very road up which Hyde had come the night Neil Semple challenged him she entered the garden by a small gate at its foot, which was intended for the gardener's use. The lilacs had not much foliage, but in the dim light her dark, slim figure was undistinguishable behind them. Longingly and anxiously she looked up and down the water way. A mist was gathering over it; and there were no boats in the channel except two pleasure shallops, already tacking to their proper pier. "The Dauntless" had been out of sight for hours. There was not the splash of an oar, and no other river sound at that point, but the low, peculiar "wish-h-h" of the turning tide.

All her senses were keenly on the alert. Suddenly there was the sound of oars, and the measure was that of steady, powerful strokes. She turned her face seaward and watched. Like a flash a boat shot out of the shadow—a long, swift boat, that came like a fate, rapidly; and without hesitation, to her very feet. Richard quickly left it, and with a few strokes it was carried back into the dimness of the central channel. Then he turned to the lilac trees.

"Katherine! My love, my wife, my beautiful wife! My true, good heart! Now, at last, my own, nothing shall part us again, Katherine—never again. I have come for you—come at all risks for you. Only five minutes the boat can wait. Are you ready?"

"I know not, Richard. My father—my mother—"

"My husband! Say that, also, beloved. Am I not first?"

"If one word I could send them! They suspect me not. They think you are gone. It will kill my father."

"You shall write to them on the ship. There are a dozen fishing boats near it. We will send the letter by one of them. My wife, do you need more persuasion?"

She had no time to consider. Richard was wooing her consent with kisses and entreaties. Her own soul urged her, not only by the joy of his presence, but by the memory of the anguish she had endured that day in the terror of his desertion. She clung to her husband's arm, she lifted her face to his, she said softly, but clearly, "I will go with you, Richard. With you I will go. Where to, I care not at all."

They stepped into the boat, and Hyde said, "Oars." Not a word was spoken. He held her within his left arm, close to his side, and partially covered with his military cloak. All the past was behind her. She had done what was irrevocable. For joy or for sorrow, her place was forever on her husband's side. Richard knew that every doubt and fear had vanished when her hand stole into his hand, when she slightly lifted her face and whispered, "Richard."

During that same hour Joris was in the town council. There had been a

The Bow of Orange Ribbon

A ROMANCE OF NEW YORK

By AMELIA E. BARR
Author of "Friend Olivia," "I, Thou and the Other One," Etc.
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During that same hour Joris was in the town council. There had been a

stormy and prolonged session on the Quartering Act. All the way home he was pondering the question, and when he found Dominie Van Linden talking to Lysbet he gladly discussed it over again with him. Lysbet sat beside them, knitting and listening. Until after nine o'clock Joris did not notice the absence of his daughter. "She went to Joanna's," said Lysbet calmly. Still, in her own heart there was a certain uneasiness. Katherine had never remained all night before without sending some message or on a previous understanding to that effect.

In the morning Joris rose very early and went into the garden. Generally this service to nature calmed and cheered him, but he came to breakfast from it silent and cross.

He reached his store in that mood which apprehends trouble, and finds out annoyances that under other circumstances would not have any attention. He was threatening a general reform in everything and everybody, when a man came to the door. "If you are Joris Van Heemskirk, I have a letter for you. I got it from 'The Dauntless' last night, when I was fishing in the bay."

Without a word Joris took the letter, turned into his office and shut the door. It was Katherine's writing, and held the folded paper in his hand and looked stupidly at it. The truth was forcing itself into his mind and the slow-coming conviction was a real physical agony to him. Through a mist he made out these words:

"My Father and my Mother—I have gone with my husband. I married Richard when he was ill, and tonight he came for me. When I left home, I knew not I was to go. Only five minutes I had. In God's name, this is the truth. Always, at the end of the world, I shall love you. Forgive me, forgive me, mijn vader, mijn moeder."

"Your child,"

"KATHERINE HYDE."

He tore the letter into fragments, but the next moment he picked them up, folded them in a piece of paper and put them in his pocket. Then he went to Mrs. Gordon's. She had anticipated the visit, and was, in a measure, prepared for it. With a smile and outstretched hands, she rose from her chocolate to meet him. "You see, I am a terrible sluggard, councillor," she laughed; "but the colonel left early for Boston this morning and I cried myself into another sleep. And will you have a cup of chocolate?"

"Madam, I came not on courtesy, but for my daughter. Where is my Katherine?"

"Truth, sir, I believe her to be where every woman wishes—with her husband."

"Her husband! Who, then?"

"Indeed, councillor, that is a question easily answered—my nephew, Capt. Hyde, at your service."

"When were they married?"

"In faith, I have forgotten the precise date. It was in last October."

"Who married them?"

"It was the governor's chaplain—the Rev. Mr. Somers, a relative of my Lord Somers, a most estimable and respectable person, I assure you. Col. Gordon and Capt. Earle and myself were the witnesses."

"Twice over deceived I have been, then—"

"In short, sir, there was no help for it. And, if you will take time to reflect, I am sure that you will be reasonable."

"I know not, I know not—O, my Katherine, my Katherine!"

"I pray you sit down, councillor. You look faint and ill. I protest to you that Katherine is happy; and grieving will not restore your loss."

"For that reason I grieve, madam. Nothing can give me back my child."

"Come, sir, every one has his calamity; and upon my word, you are very fortunate to have one no greater than the marriage of your daughter to an agreeable man, of honorable profession and noble family."

CHAPTER X.

Popular Opinion.

Then Joris went home. On his road he met Bram, full of the first terror of his sister's disappearance. He told him all that was necessary, and sent him back to the store. "And see you keep a modest face and make no great matter of it," he said. "Be not troubled nor elated. It belongs to you to be very prudent. I will not have Katherine made a wonder to gaping women."

Lysbet was still a little on the defensive, but when she saw Joris coming home, her heart turned sick with fear. "Thee, Joris; dinner will not be ready for two hours! Art thou sick?"

"Katherine—she has gone!"

"If, if she his lawful wife be! Say not 'if' in my hearing; say not 'if' of my Katherine."

"When a girl runs away from her home—"

"With her husband she went; keep that in mind when people speak to thee."

"What kind of a husband will he be to her?"

"Well, then, I think not bad of him. Nearer home there are worse men. I think my Katherine is happy; and happy with her I will be, though the child in her joy I see not."

While they were eating an early dinner, Joanna came in, sad and tearful. "What, then, is the matter with thee?" asked Lysbet, with great composure.

"O, mother, my Katherine! My sister Katherine!"

"I thought perhaps thou had had news of Batavius. Thy sister Katherine hath married a very fine gentleman, and she is happy. For thou must remember that all the good men do not come from Dordrecht."

"I am glad that so you take it. I thought in very great sorrow you would be."

"See that you do not say such words to any one, Joanna. Very angry I will be if I hear them. Batavius, also, he must be quiet on this matter."

"O, then, Batavius has many things of greater moment to think about! Of Katherine he never approved, and the talk there will be, he will not like it. Before from Boston he comes back, I shall be glad to have it over."

"Joanna, many will praise Katherine, for she to herself has done well. And, when back she comes, at the governor's she will visit, and with all the great ladies; and not one among them will be so lovely as Katherine Hyde."

And, if Joanna had been in Madam Semple's parlor a few hours later she would have had a most decided illustration of Lysbet's faith in the popular verdict. Madam was sitting at her tea table talking to the elder, who had brought home with him the full supplement to Joanna's story.

Neil had heard nothing. He had been shut up in his office all day over an important suit and was irritable with exhaustion, though he was doing his best to keep himself in control, and when madam his mother said pointedly, "I'm fearing, Neil, that the bad news has made you ill; you arena at a' like yourself," he asked without much interest, "What bad news?"

"The news anent Katherine Van Heemskirk."

"What of her?" he asked.

"Didna you hear? She ran awa' last night w' Capt. Hyde; stole awa' wi' him on 'The Dauntless.'"

"She would have the right to go with him, I have no doubt," said Neil with guarded calmness.

"Do you really think she was his wife?"

"If she went with him, I am sure she was." He dropped the words with an emphatic precision, and looked with gloomy eyes out of the window; gloomy, but steadfast, as if he were trying to face a future in which there was no hope.

"But if she isna?" persisted madam.

In a moment Neil let slip the rein in which he had been holding himself, and in a slow, intense voice answered, "I shall make it my business to find out. If Katherine is married, God bless her! If she is not, I will follow Hyde around the world until I leave his false heart in two." His passion gathered with its utterance. He pushed away his chair, and put down his cup so indifferently that it missed the table and fell with a crash.

Joris tried to put the memory of Katherine away, but he could not accomplish a miracle. The girl's face was ever before him. He felt her caressing fingers linked in his own, and as he walked in his house and his garden, her small feet pattered beside him. For as there are in creation invisible bonds that do not break like mortal bonds, so also there are correspondences subsisting between souls, despite the separation of distance.

(To be continued.)

Oh, He's All Right.

Of course, every young mother thinks her baby the center of the universe. There have been several boy babies born in the little town of A— during the past summer. This is not intended as a startling piece of news, because their arrivals have been duly and appropriately chronicled, but it is only stated as the basis of a little joke.

Some days ago four of the happy young mothers, all of whom had fine boys at home, met in one of the large shops. They completed their purchases about the same time. As they were all leaving the place, within speaking distance of each other, a fresh young assistant, in an effort to be pleasant, fired the stereotyped question at one of them, "How is the boy, to-day?"

In an instant four beaming faces were turned towards him and four pleased voices answered in chorus, "Oh, he's all right, thank you." The assistant nearly fainted.

Had She an X-Ray Eye?

They had not been married very long, and that complete blissful trust which young husbands and wives have in each other had not yet been broken. But one morning wife meekly remarked:

"I mended the hole in your trousers-pocket last night after you had gone to bed, John dear. Now, am I not a thoughtful little wife?"

Husband (dubiously): "Well, er—ye-es, you are thoughtful enough, my dear. But how the mischief did you discover that there was a hole in my pocket?"