

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Continued From Second Page.

pace with the growth of the State in wealth and population. I doubt if any State in the Union can exhibit more gratifying results in this respect. There are sixty organized counties in this State, divided into over a thousand five hundred and ten school districts. The total number of children of school age is eighty-six thousand one hundred and ninety-one, being an increase of thirteen thousand and two hundred over 1874. Of this number fifty-nine thousand nine hundred and sixty-six attend the public schools. There are three thousand three hundred and sixty-one teachers employed, receiving an average salary of thirty-four dollars and twenty-four cents per month. We have nineteen hundred and eighty-four school houses, valued at \$1,586,738.60.

The total receipts of the last fiscal year from all sources for common school purposes were \$1,093,275.36. The total expenditures for the same period were \$1,095,974.75. The aggregate bonded and floating school debt is \$1,063,058.60.

There have been placed to the credit of the temporary school fund by the State Treasury, amounts as follows:

Table with 2 columns: Interest on lands sold, Interest on loans made, Interest on bonds, Interest on warrants, Interest on certificates, School tax collected. Total: \$487,178.32

There are still outstanding mortgages of the permanent school fund investment to the amount of \$99,000. Many of these are delinquent in the payment of interest, and in some cases tax titles have accrued against the property to such an extent as to greatly impair the security.

Such legislative action should be taken as will enable and require the proper authorities to proceed to the collection and adjustment of these loans in the speediest manner possible, and to reinvest the funds into safer and more permanent securities.

STATE UNIVERSITY

It affords me much pleasure to call your attention to this institution of learning; and I refer with satisfaction to its economical and wise administration, its prosperous condition and growing reputation. The recommendations specified in the Regents' report, herewith transmitted, are entitled to your favorable consideration. I refer particularly to the recommendation therein, asking for legislation in reference to the realization of an income from the land endowment, that the present moderate rate required for its support may be still further lessened.

As appears from the Regents' report, the cost of educating a single student in the State University of Nebraska, as compared with that in universities and colleges of this character in other States, is almost unparalleled in economy. The attendance has increased from one hundred and thirty-two in 1874, to two hundred and eighty-two in 1876; so that the legitimate expense of conducting the institution has not been increased. The amount now for its support is less than that expended during the first years of its existence. It is to be desired that such provisions will be made as to enable the University to continue in its work, and yet to leave no citizen on account thereof just cause for complaint of grievous taxation.

If not already arrived, the time is not far distant when this educational institution, under its present able management, will become the pride of the whole State.

NORMAL SCHOOL

This important branch of our educational system seems to be in excellent condition. The benefits of this school are already felt in the results that may be safely anticipated in the future fully justify its maintenance.

The total enrollment of students in the year 1876 was two hundred and sixty-eight, and the average attendance per term was one hundred and forty-two. For the last term of the year the enrollment was one hundred and ninety-six. The average cost of the school per term, as shown by the report of the principal, is \$88.66.

The board of education of the Normal School at their last session recommended to your honorable body that a levy of a tax of one-tenth of one mill be made annually upon the taxable property of the State for the support of this institution.

INSTITUTE FOR THE BLIND

The Legislature at its last regular session appropriated ten thousand dollars for the purpose of erecting an institution for the blind, to be located at Nebraska City, with the proviso that the State should donate the sum of one thousand dollars for the same purpose. This amount has been secured and paid over to the Trustees of the Institute as provided by law. A building was contracted for the sum of \$7,950.00, and was formally opened January 13th, 1876, and is well adapted to accommodate fifty pupils. The report of the Trustees shows that they have received for the institution during the past year \$19,457.82, and have expended \$17,007.07, leaving a balance on hand of \$2,450.75.

In addition to these expenditures there is a balance due the contractor for work on the building of \$1,209.38, making a total debt of \$3,659.13, for which amount the Trustees ask an appropriation. Having been already expended, it is deemed necessary and reasonable to command that you make an appropriation sufficient to cancel this indebtedness.

On the 30th of November, 1876, there were seventeen pupils in attendance. The management of the institu-

tion seems to have been in all respects satisfactory.

DEAF AND DUMB INSTITUTE.

This institution was opened in the city of Omaha for this unfortunate class in April, 1869. During the first year there were in attendance twelve pupils. Since that time there has been a gradual increase. The number connected with the school during the last two years was fifty-three.

The Legislature in 1875 appropriated \$1,700 for the payment of the Teachers, and other expenses of the Institute, and also appropriated \$15,000 for a new building, making a total of \$16,700. Of this amount there has been expended \$9,394.13, leaving an unexpended balance November 30th, 1876, of \$7,345.86.

The new building authorized by the Legislature is now approaching completion, at a cost, including heating, and other necessary fixtures, of \$14,495.00.

For information as to the good management of the Institute, and its successful operation, I would refer you to the reports of the directors and principal.

HOSPITAL FOR THE INSANE

On the first day of March, 1875, Dr D. W. Scott, Superintendent of the Hospital for the Insane, resigned, and Dr F. G. Fuller was appointed to fill the vacancy, and has had charge since that time.

The management of the hospital has been highly commendable, and the success most gratifying.

There is no class more deserving of our sympathy than the insane, and neither care nor treatment for their benefit should be withheld from them.

At the last regular session of the Legislature an appropriation of \$5,000 was made for the erection of a south wing to the main building. The trustees of the hospital were authorized to superintend its construction. It has been completed in a substantial and workmanlike manner, and furnished, within the amount appropriated; and has been occupied by patients during the past year.

The constant increase of this unfortunate class demands more room, and further improvements for their convenience and comfort. I would refer you to the reports of the Trustees and Superintendent of the institution, herewith submitted for their recommendations in this respect.

The Legislature at its last regular session appropriated \$0,000 for the care and maintenance of the insane. This appropriation was made February 24th, 1875, and the expenses of the hospital for December, 1874, and January, 1875, amounting to \$4,761.17, were drawn from the balance left from the appropriations of 1873 and 1874. For the maintenance of the hospital during the two fiscal years ending November 30th, 1876, there has been expended \$0,746.69, and the amount remaining unexpended in the State Treasury to its credit at that date was \$4,014.48.

As prescribed by law there has been \$2,992.49 paid to the contract for having patients in the hospital during the two years past. The larger part of this amount has already been paid into the State Treasury.

The total number of inmates in the hospital November 30th, 1874, was forty-six; admitted during the years 1875 and 1876 one hundred and eighteen; total number under treatment for the past two years, one hundred and sixty-four; number recovered during the same period, fifty; discharged, one hundred and six; escaped, one; died, five; remaining under treatment November 30th, 1876, ninety-three.

The daily average of patients for the year 1875 was fifty-four and one-half, and for 1876 was eighty-one. The weekly cost per patient for the year 1875 was \$10.33, and for 1876 was \$7.54.

The per capita cost per week for board and clothing for patients, and board for officers and employes for the year 1875 was \$2.91, and for 1876 was \$2.14.

It will be observed that as the number of patients increase, the per capita cost decreases, which, as a natural consequence, would be the case until the full capacity of the hospital is reached.

The reports of the Superintendent and Steward are very full, and to them you are referred for further details concerning the government of the institution.

STATE PRISON.

The Penitentiary has been completed under the contract made by the State, and is a substantial structure, well ventilated and heated, and is regarded as perfectly secure. With the addition of cells, it is of sufficient size to hold all the criminals likely to be sent there for years to come.

For a complete statement concerning its capacity and construction, you are referred to the report of the Prison inspectors, herewith submitted.

The appropriation made by the Legislature two years ago for the maintenance, care and custody of the convicts was \$0,000. And there has been received, on account of convict labor, gate money, etc., \$7,650.09, making a total of \$7,650.09. The amount expended during the two years ending November 30th, 1876, was \$7,558.07. The average daily cost per prisoner has been one dollar and twenty cents. The daily average of convicts in the prison, from November 30th, 1874, to November 30th, 1876, was sixty-three.

The committee appointed by the Legislature at its last regular session to examine into certain alleged abuses in the prison—of cruel and harsh treatment of officers in charge, and the conclusion of their investigation, resolved to refer the testimony and proceedings to me, for such action as in my judgment, the case and best interests of the penitentiary demanded. On examination I found the testimony taken by the committee, consisted largely of statements made by convicts; conflicting, and doubtless exaggerated; some testifying to the most cruel and inhuman treatment, while others had no knowledge of such, but testified to good treatment and sufficient food. One portion of

the prisoners were doubtless influenced by prejudice and malice towards the officers, while others were moved with a desire to curry favor, so that in either case, the testimony could not be fully credited. From the Warden's testimony, however, and from personal observation, I became satisfied that the discipline was, at least so severe, and that the Warden's influence over the prisoners had become impaired.

Believing the proper end to be sought with the majority of prisoners is reformation, instead of punishment, I deemed it my duty to make a change in the warden. I therefore removed Warden William Woodhurst, on the 24th of March, 1875, and appointed L. F. Wyman, of York county, as his successor. His confirmation by the senate will be requested.

The management and discipline of the prisoners has been satisfactory. The younger class of criminals have been separated from the more vicious, and hardened, and night schools during the winter have been established with excellent results. These reforms in connection with the "good time act," passed at the last regular session of the Legislature, giving prisoners an opportunity to shorten their term of sentence by good conduct, have been productive of much good.

There is sufficient room in the west wing of the building for a Reformatory School, which could be conducted by the same officers, and put in operation at small expense. This would completely separate the younger criminals from the older, and furnish better opportunities for educating and reforming them.

The contract for prison labor has expired. The penitentiary being completed, some branch of industry should be established at the prison, for the purpose of utilizing the convict labor. It is absolutely essential to the good government of the prison, that the inmates be kept at hard labor for a certain number of hours each day. It will be necessary for you to devise some means by which this can be done in the future.

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

An act of Congress requires each State to appoint an Adjutant General, whose duty it shall be to distribute all orders from the Commander-in-chief of the State to the several military organizations thereof. This office was recognized in this State by an Act approved February 15th, 1869. In 1871, however, this act was repealed, and the records of the office deposited with the Secretary of State.

Without a showing of an organized militia, the State's apportionment of military equipments would not be issued by the general government. My predecessor, recognizing the importance of this fact, and the necessity of authorizing some person to act, appointed his Private Secretary Adjutant General.

At its last regular session the Legislature appropriated four hundred and fifty dollars per annum, to the Secretary of State, for the care and custody of the records of the Adjutant General's office, and I thereupon appointed him Adjutant General.

Upon the taking effect of the new Constitution, the question was raised whether his office and salary as Adjutant General were not incompatible with Section 24, Article V of the Constitution. The supreme court decided that he was eligible to the office, and entitled to the pay.

I would call your attention to his full and satisfactory report herewith submitted, and recommend that the appropriation therein requested be granted.

It will be seen by his report that there are twenty-two organized and well-armed companies of militia in the State, favorably situated for the protection of the frontier.

Previous to 1875 there were but few militia companies in the State, and none properly prepared for active service. The outbreak of the Indian war last spring, and the consequent danger of raids by hostile Indians upon our extensive western and northwestern frontier, demonstrated the necessity of a thorough organization of these settlers into military companies for their own protection.

Many of the settlers fled from their homes, some took refuge in the forts, and others left the State. I received constant appeals from them for arms and ammunition, that they might be able to protect their homes and families. I applied to the General of the Army and the Secretary of War for a loan of arms, until these threatening hostilities should subside. But there was no authority for granting this request. However, through the active exertions of these officials, and our delegation in Congress, a law was passed under which one thousand stand of arms could be obtained from the nearest Government arsenal by each State exposed to raids by the Indians.

The law required the Governor of the State or Territory receiving arms to execute a bond to the Secretary of War, for their safe return whenever required by the general government, or payment of their value. I therefore executed a bond in the sum of eighteen thousand dollars and received the arms and ammunition.

Instructions were issued to the Adjutant General to proceed at once to the frontier, and organize independent militia companies provided by law; equipping them with suitable arms and ammunition; and taking thereof a joint and separate bond from the officers and men, for the safe keeping and return of the same when required, and for the judicious expenditure of ammunition. All of which was promptly and faithfully performed. This gave confidence to the people; they returned to their homes, and new settlers followed them to the frontier.

The expenses incurred for the transportation of the arms and ammunition has been paid from the incidental funds of the Governor and Secretary of the State.

As requested by the Secretary of War, I would respectfully ask that my action in executing the same be ratified by you.

INSURANCE

By the provisions of an act entitled "An act to provide for the care of the capitol building and other State property," the Governor is required to keep insured the public buildings and other property belonging to the State and liable to destruction or injury by fire.

The Legislature at its last regular session appropriated \$10,740 to pay premiums on insurance contracted by my predecessor, he having issued certificates of indebtedness for that amount.

Individually no appropriation was made for the payment of expiring policies. Believing the law to be obligatory, I caused the renewal of those policies that have expired during my term of office, and have issued evidences of indebtedness, subject to the action of the Legislature, for \$5,482.75, covering the amount of premiums.

It would seem proper that a sufficient appropriation should be made to keep the buildings and property of the State insured in advance, or modify the law on this subject.

The State saves one-third of the amount of the premiums by insuring for three years, and in the renewals made by me I have adopted this course. A tabular statement is submitted herewith, exhibiting the aggregate insurance on the public property, in what companies insured, the amount of premium thereon, and the terms of insurance and the time of expiration.

The total amount of insurance is \$27,550, and the premiums are \$1,152.75. The sum necessary to pay the present outstanding indebtedness and renew the policies expiring during the ensuing year is \$17,466.50. If it should continue to be the policy of the State to keep its property insured, I would ask that an appropriation for the above amount be made.

CENSUS.

As contemplated by the existing law, the census of the State is taken by the precinct assessors annually, and returned to the county clerks of their respective counties, and by them forwarded to the Secretary of State.

The compilation of the census reports by the Secretary of State shows the ratio of increase in our population from 1855, when the first census was taken, to and including 1876, when the last enumeration was had, to be 5,535 per cent., an increase almost unparalleled.

As appears from the census taken in the spring of 1876 the total number of the inhabitants in the State was 257,749.

The expense incurred in taking the census from year to year is quite large. I would recommend the law be made to conform with the constitution, which provides for the enumeration of the inhabitants in the year 1885, and every ten years thereafter.

This, with the census taken by the general government every ten years, would give us the enumeration of our State every five years.

THE SALT SPRINGS.

The Supreme Court of the United States has affirmed the decision of the Supreme Court of this State, in the case of J. Sterling Morton against the State of Nebraska, thereby confirming the title of the State to the valuable Saline springs near the city of Lincoln. It will be necessary for you to adjust the expense incurred in defending this suit.

In the year 1871, while the case was pending in the District Court, the Hon. George H. Roberts, Attorney General, engaged the professional services of the Bradford Bros., Attorneys and counsellors at law, of Washington, District of Columbia, to assist him, under a stipulated fee. They were in the case from the beginning until the final adjudication.

They have received nothing for their services, not even the amounts advanced by them for printing their briefs, and other expenses. It is not for me to say whether this contract made with these gentlemen is obligatory on the part of the State. They have worked faithfully and are entitled to such fee as would be reasonable for such services.

When the case was appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States, my predecessor, acting upon the advice of Attorney General Webster, and in view of the magnitude of the case, and the distinguished counsel employed on the other side, retained in behalf of the State, the Hon. E. R. Hoar, of Massachusetts, who ably argued the case before the Supreme Court. He was paid five hundred dollars, a retainer fee by Governor Furnas. On the termination of the suit he rendered a bill for one thousand five hundred and thirty dollars, thirty dollars for printing and one thousand five hundred dollars for professional services, leaving a balance in his favor of one thousand and thirty dollars.

In justice to these parties employed by the State, I recommend an appropriation be made to pay them for their services.

The title to the Saline springs is now undisputed, and it is generally conceded by those best informed upon the subject, that if properly developed, they would become a source of revenue to the State.

THE GRASSHOPPERS.

This destructive insect revisited our State in the months of August and September last, contrary to scientific theories with respect to their habits and nature.

It is supposed by entomologists that this insect was generated in the dry atmosphere of the table land of the Rocky Mountains; that they were not adapted to a humid climate, and that they would not exceed to the fertile plains except in very dry seasons. But the past season was very wet; vegetation grew rank and luxuriant. Notwithstanding this fact, the voracious grasshopper overran a wider territory than ever before. Indeed we may say they extended from the British Possessions on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and much farther east into Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri than in former years. Can it be doubted with the facts before us, that the grasshopper more becomes something more than a pest.

As the law now stands the penalty falls solely upon the creditor, and the temptation for the debtor to annul his contract is made very great. In fact it furnishes about the instance known to the law, where a person can successfully plead his own unlawful act.

If the acceptance of usurious interest is a wrong that demands punishment, the payment thereof must likewise be a punishable offense. It is a joint act, and all the parties to the transaction are violators of the law. Our law, however, rewards one of the parties and punishes the other. That this is morally wrong and mischievous in its results there can be no doubt.

If the usury law is to remain in force, I would suggest that it be so amended as to make the forfeiture only the excess of the legal rate instead of all interest.

Territories? or that unless this insect is checked in its rapid procreation it will in a very brief space of time, subject the whole country to devastation. To say that any portion of the country is exempt by nature from their ravages, is, in my opinion, unwarranted and disapproved alike by history and the condition of our climate the past season.

Although our State was not seriously damaged by this last incursion, great quantities of eggs were deposited in our soil, and from these we have reason to be apprehensive for the safety of our coming crops.

For the purpose of gaining information and exchanging views on this subject, there was held in Omaha, in the month of October last, a convention of the Governors of several western States and Territories. Their proceedings have been published, and will be transmitted to your honorable body, and circulated among the people.

CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

As the time drew near for the opening of the national centennial and international exhibition, a general desire was expressed that Nebraska should not go unrepresented.

The Legislature at its last regular session failed to make an appropriation for this purpose, believing our financial condition at that time would not warrant the outlay. But with the return of prosperity and an abundant harvest, it was felt that a golden opportunity would be missed should the rich products of our soil be not in some manner displayed at Philadelphia. Besides, it was believed that we would as a State be failing in the performance of a patriotic duty in the Centennial year of our republic.

On consultation with the State officers and many prominent citizens from different parts of the State, and having received numerous letters and petitions to the same end, I assumed the responsibility of borrowing from a number of our banks on the credit of our State, subject to your approval, the sum of thirty-five hundred dollars. I was impelled to this course rather than assemble the Legislature for the purpose of securing an appropriation, for the reason that a special session would cost the State more than the amount to be expended. The total cost of the display was forty-five hundred and nine dollars, for which I hold vouchers.

I would ask that an appropriation for this amount be made.

This outlay is small compared with the great advantage gained in advertising the State, by the very respectable display that was made.

Over sixty thousand pamphlets and reports, showing the resources and advantages of the State were distributed.

I am informed that Nebraska received the first premium on soil and apples, and made a very creditable showing in general fruits and grasses.

Already the good results are beginning to appear in the increased inquiry concerning our State by capitalists, and persons seeking homes in the west.

BANKS AND BANKING INSTITUTIONS.

Under the provisions of a law of Congress the comptroller of the currency is required to report annually to Congress the resources and liabilities, exhibiting the conditions of the banks, banking companies and savings banks, organized under laws of the several States and Territories. This information is obtained by the comptroller from the reports made by such banks to the legislatures or officers of the different States and Territories. This State has been unable to give the information asked for by the comptroller, as we have no law requiring this class of corporations to furnish official statements of their condition.

This law of Congress seems eminently proper, as it affords protection to all parties transacting business with banking institutions.

I would therefore recommend that the law regulating corporations of this character be so amended as to require all banks, banking companies, and savings banks doing business in this State to annually report under oath to the Auditor of Public Accounts on their condition, showing their resources and liabilities.

This law should also apply to firms, and individuals engaged in banking.

USURY.

The statutes of this State provide that the party receiving any rate of interest above that allowed by law shall forfeit all interest and pay the costs of suit. The forfeiture goes to the borrower. This appears to be simply awarding a premium on dishonesty.

There is no reason why the law should limit the market value of money any more than it should that of wheat or any other commodity. It has been so frequently and clearly demonstrated by almost every political economist, who has written on the subject, that I will not attempt a lengthy discussion of the question here. Yet notwithstanding these natural laws of business and settled rules of political economy, nearly all the States have assumed the right to affix a penalty for loaning money at a higher rate of interest than that prescribed by the laws of the several States.

As the law now stands the penalty falls solely upon the creditor, and the temptation for the debtor to annul his contract is made very great. In fact it furnishes about the instance known to the law, where a person can successfully plead his own unlawful act.

If the acceptance of usurious interest is a wrong that demands punishment, the payment thereof must likewise be a punishable offense. It is a joint act, and all the parties to the transaction are violators of the law. Our law, however, rewards one of the parties and punishes the other. That this is morally wrong and mischievous in its results there can be no doubt.

If the usury law is to remain in force, I would suggest that it be so amended as to make the forfeiture only the excess of the legal rate instead of all interest.

This would mitigate the evil effects of the present law.

COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS.

The constitution creates the office of Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, and such an officer was chosen at the last general election.

To him in a degree is committed the supervision and disposition of the liberal land endowments for the State University and common schools and all other lands belonging to the State. The magnitude and importance of these endowments is such that there should be careful and well guarded legislation for protecting the interests of the State.

Such provision should be made as will enable the commissioner to perform the duties of his office contemplated by the constitution. The constitution further provides that "the Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, Secretary of State, Treasurer and Attorney General shall form a board which shall have general supervision and control of all the buildings, grounds and lands belonging to the State, the State Prison, Hospital for the Insane, and all other institutions thereof, except those for educational purposes, and shall perform such duties, and be subject to such rules as may be prescribed by law."

It will thus be seen that this board will have to perform, in addition to the duties of their respective offices, what heretofore was required of the Inspectors of the State Prison, Trustees of the Hospital for the Insane, the Blind and Deaf and Dumb Institutions. The duties imposed upon this board are important, and legislation will be required to empower it to fulfill the spirit of the Constitution.

I would urge upon you the necessity of such early action on this subject as your wisdom may dictate, to the end that the board may be vested with its responsibilities without delay.

AMENDMENTS AND ENACTMENTS OF LAWS.

The wise and well-settled legislation of a State should remain undisturbed; nor should laws be amended or repealed for experiment's sake. However, the adoption of a new Constitution will require many new enactments, as well as the repealing and amending of laws now in force.

I will here briefly refer to a few of the more prominent provisions of the constitution that will require legislative action, while many others will doubtless suggest themselves to your minds.

Section 22 of Article VI, of the constitution, provides that the State may sue and be sued, and the legislature shall provide by law in what manner and in what courts suits shall be brought. This is an important provision and proper legislation will be necessary to make it operative.

Section 8 of Article IX, requires "that the legislature at its first session shall provide a law for the funding of all outstanding warrants and other indebtedness of the State at a rate of interest not exceeding eight per cent. per annum." I have previously named the amount necessary to fund the outstanding indebtedness and redeem the warrants issued by the State and remaining unpaid.

Section Nine of Article IX declares that "the Legislature shall provide by law that all claims upon the Treasury shall be examined and adjusted by the Auditor and approved by the Secretary of State before any warrant for the amount shall be drawn." This in effect it seems, makes the Secretary of State a second auditor and will require him to keep additional records and accounts, necessitating an increase in his clerical force. An appropriation for these purposes and to enable him to fully meet the provisions of the law should be made.

Again, the Constitution says that "the Legislature may provide that at the general election immediately preceding the expiration of a term of a United States Senator from this State, the electors may by ballot express their preference for some person for the office of United States Senator. The votes cast for such candidates shall be canvassed and returned in the same manner as for State officers."

To make this provision effective, suitable legislation by you will be necessary.

Our electoral law is defective and should have your attention. By an act of Congress the electors for each State are required to meet and give their votes for President and Vice President of the United States upon the first Wednesday in December, in the same year in which they are appointed. Our statutes provide that the votes cast for electors of the President and Vice President shall be canvassed in the same manner and by the same officers as should have your attention. By an act of Congress the electors for each State are required to meet and give their votes for President and Vice President of the United States upon the first Wednesday in December, in the same year in which they are appointed. Our statutes provide that the votes cast for electors of the President and Vice President shall be canvassed in the same manner and by the same officers as should have your attention. By an act of Congress the electors for each State are required to meet and give their votes for President and Vice President of the United States upon the first Wednesday in December, in the same year in which they are appointed. Our statutes provide that the votes cast for electors of the President and Vice President shall be canvassed in the same manner and by the same officers as should have your attention.

There are various interests that will demand your attention, and the time allotted for their consideration is but short. Those of a private nature will be carefully looked after by parties interested. Those of a public character will require labor and careful consideration.

During the next forty days you make the financial record of the State for the ensuing two years. As you shape it so it will be for that period.

We have a State Government to maintain, with a population and resources small as compared with many other States.

Having assumed the responsibilities of a sovereign State, you are called upon to devise and provide means necessary for the discharge of all the functions thereof, by imposing as light a burden upon the tax-payers as the public exigencies require. This will cheerfully cooperate with you upon all matters pertaining to the public welfare, and with pleasure furnish all your request such other information as may be in my possession.

(Signed) SILAS GAMBER.

work in constant need of being performed. It is a well known fact that the geological deposits of Nebraska are alike remarkable for their number and variety and for their scientific value of her fossils.

The professor of natural science in the State University is frequently called upon to identify fossils and minerals and to make other geological determinations. Requests are frequently made for copies of the geological survey of the State, which cannot be furnished except the paper published last year by Prof. Anceby on the surface geology of Nebraska.

The report of the geological reconnaissance made by Professor Hayden under the direction of the General Government is published in the same volume with the reports on the geology of Kansas, Dakota, Colorado and Wyoming. The edition containing his final report on a portion of the geology of this State made in 1872 is now exhausted, and copies are difficult to obtain.

As far as they go, Professor Hayden's reports are exceedingly valuable, as they accurately outline the boundaries of our State, but unfortunately they cover in detail only a small portion of our territory.

A comprehensive geological survey of the whole State embodied in volumes that may be stereotyped and furnished the public at cost is demanded.

An elaborate geological survey is approaching completion in Illinois. A survey is in progress in Indiana which has added much to her wealth. Iowa has already had two geological surveys, and surveys are now in progress in Kentucky and Missouri. Kansas is agitating the propriety of resuming her second geological survey.

Since Prof. Hayden's survey of Nebraska there has been a marked advance in geological knowledge and the means for prosecuting such investigations. The development of our State in the way of deep borings, shafts, quarries and railroad cuts afford increased opportunities for prosecuting researches of this nature. It is believed that minerals might be discovered lands made known, soils analyzed, water courses and supplies investigated, and information obtained concerning our manufacturing capabilities that would immeasurably overbalance the expense of such an enterprise. The probability, or at least the possibility of finding coal in quantities sufficient to supply the State with cheap fuel is alone a consideration that would justify a geological survey. Indeed the experience of all State surveys yet made have developed resources that repay many times the entire cost.

The reports would indicate the locality of beds of peat, marl, coal and other valuable deposits; the building qualities of our lime and sandstone, determine their resistance, strength and fitness for ordinary and ornamental architecture.

All States owe much to science and scientific inquiry, and in no way could