

LINCOLN.

The Governor's Message is Long and Exhaustive.

And Treats of the State's Interests Only.

The Principal Aim of the Session is To Amend

Minor Statute Particulars, and Provide Railroad Legislation.

The Officers of the State Institutions Confirmed.

The Appointment of Dr. Mathewson Met With a Considerable Opposition.

THE MESSAGE.

LINCOLN, January 8.—The following is a synopsis of Gov. Dawes' message, delivered before the two houses of the legislature in joint convention, this afternoon. The governor opens his message with a detailed exhibit of state finances, which shows an aggregate collection of \$3,179,301.14 since 1882, and disbursements \$2,736,574.15 during the same period. Amount of money in state treasury at present time, \$442,816.99. Total state debt is \$199,267.35, of which \$50,000 issued in railroad relief bonds ten years ago will fall due on the 1st of March; the remainder is held by the permanent school fund.

The assessed valuation of taxable property or 1884 was \$123,015,868.95, showing an increase of \$13,072,242.37 over the preceding year. The rate of taxation for state purposes is nearly eight mills. The governor recommends repeal of present tax law imposing penalty for non-payment of taxes by 1st of January, and enactment of laws similar to those now on statute of Ohio and Indiana, where any persons charged with taxes may pay the full amount on or before the third Monday in April, or May 1, at his option, pay in two installments, payable in April and November.

This governor assures the legislature that the present management of the state institutions is without exception in excellent hands. The governor reviews in detail the various public charities and benevolent institutions, including the deaf mute institute, hospital for the blind and insane asylum. He recommends appropriations for the erection of a home for the aged at Lincoln and establishment of an institute for feeble minded children in connection with the deaf and dumb institute.

The state reform school at Kearney now contains sixty-three inmates and the penitentiary 259 convicts. Governor Dawes dwells at some length on the execution of the death penalty in the commutation of sentences of death to life imprisonment. He says his action in both the case of H. J. Hays and the case of J. W. Hays was determined by letters filed in the judge of the supreme court who were unanimous in recommending that sentences should be commuted to life imprisonment.

The governor reviews with satisfaction the condition and management of our educational institutions, the public schools, normal schools and universities. The permanent school fund has reached the aggregate of \$3,977,216.81, of which \$2,801,216.61 is held in the hands of permanent school fund. The governor recommends legislation to secure greater uniformity of the text book in our common schools. The attendance at the state normal school is 410. Number graduated last year, 28. Attendance at the state university, 282, of whom 54 are in the college of medicine. The governor endorses the report of the secretary of state for increased clerical help owing to the multifarious duties imposed on that officer. A specific appropriation is recommended for the state historical society.

The work pertaining to the office of fish commissioners is in practical and economical hands. Needed improvements at the fisheries in the making of new ponds, spawning races and repairs to the old ponds, have largely increased the facilities for successfully handling. The matter of catching the streams of our state with valuable fish is progressing favorably, with a comparatively small outlay of money, and the disposition of fish to private parties who have prepared ponds for their reception has been quite general.

The recommendations of the adjutant general for holding annual encampments of the state militia and an appropriation of \$5,000 a year for the support of the militia are endorsed. The half mill levy for the erection of the main building of the state school has realized over \$120,000 and the duty of making further appropriations for completing the capitol rests with the legislature.

In order to insure reliable census returns under the provisions of the constitution that require a census to be taken in 1880 the governor recommends the appointment of special enumerators. Considerable space is devoted to Pat O. Haves and a Tom Keenan's claim for collecting money due the state from Uncle Sam for five per cent on the sales of the Pawnee reservation, militia expenses incurred in 1861 in suppression of an Indian raid, etc. The governor ventures to suggest that these state claim agents be paid on condition that they cancel their contracts and retire from further business.

Since the last session of the legislature, the necessary papers have been filed in the executive office asking for the organization of the counties of Louisa, Cherry, Brown, Dundee, Sioux and Hayes. Organization has been perfected or is now progressing in all save and excepting the county of Sioux, in which county the papers commencing a temporary officers having refused to serve as such, and no further action having been taken, the county of Sioux remains unorganized. The governor reviews his recommendation of a geological survey. He regards the present mode of submitting constitutional amendments as rather inefficient and the secretary recommends the suspension of the legislative amendment increasing pay of members at time of session. In the absence of an immigration bureau, whose duty it would be to prepare

such documents for circulation, his recommendation that the legislature provide means for the preparation and publication of a pamphlet containing a brief historical and descriptive statement of Nebraska, her development, resources, and attractions of soil and climate, to be followed by statistical information both vital and material. Said pamphlet to be prepared under the direction of some authorized state officer, and approved and authenticated for general distribution. This the governor earnestly recommends.

The governor earnestly recommends the appropriation of \$10,000 to defray the expenses incurred by Governor Furness in New Orleans in exhibiting Nebraska products. The creation of a state board of health and a state board of charities is urged, and stringent laws for protecting live stock against the introduction of the Texas fever are recommended. That these laws may be intelligently carried into effect, there should be created the office of state veterinarian surgeon, and also a board of stock commissioners, to consist of not less than three persons, the duties and powers of said officers to be thoroughly defined.

The governor closes his message with the following comment on the school land and railroad legislation: "The great volume of business transacted in this department during the past two years is fully and clearly set forth in the detailed report of H. A. Kendall, commissioner of public lands and buildings, whose industry and valuable services to the state I cannot too highly commend. His report is filled with interesting information. The following statement covering the years of 1883 and 1884, will be found of interest in showing the business of this important department, and showing the present status of our lands."

Number of acres of all lands leased during the years 1883 and 1884: Common school, 616,369 67; Agricultural college, 54,780 65; University, 16,039 81; Normal school, 322 93. Total, 687,472 46.

Number of acres of all lands sold at public sale during the years 1883 and 1884: Common school, 5,170 43; Agricultural college, 1,928 85; University, 16,039 81; Normal school, 1,040 00. Total, 22,479 80.

Number of acres of all lands sold at private sale during the years 1883 and 1884: Common school, 225,185 33; Agricultural college, 54,780 65; University, 7,788 81; Normal school, 5,878 97. Total, 244,632 76.

Number of acres of all lands reverting to the state during the years 1883 and 1884: Common school, 46,172 24; Agricultural college, 240 00; University, 1,234 10; Normal school, 480 00. Total, 48,126 34.

Number of acres of all land deeded by the state during the years 1883 and 1884: Common school, 24,804 40; University, 129 10; Normal school, 169 00. Total, 25,102 50.

Number of acres of all lands deeded and confirmed to the state during the years 1883 and 1884: Common school, 45,535 34; University, 1,234 10; Normal school, 169 00. Total, 46,938 44.

Number of acres of all lands owned by the state December 31, 1884: Common school, 2,746,582 92; Agricultural college, 89,689 67; University, 44,996 68; Normal school, 12,362 39; Penitentiary, 676 71. Total, 2,907,177 04.

SCHOOL LANDS. The total number acres of indemnity school lands owned by the state is 6,938,882 acres, and of this amount 39,194.20 acres have been confirmed during the term of the present commission. The Nebraska Stock Yards company of Lincoln, to lease certain described lands in Lancaster county, has been reported to me from the board of school lands. The governor recommends legislation to secure greater uniformity of the text book in our common schools. The attendance at the state normal school is 410. Number graduated last year, 28. Attendance at the state university, 282, of whom 54 are in the college of medicine. The governor endorses the report of the secretary of state for increased clerical help owing to the multifarious duties imposed on that officer. A specific appropriation is recommended for the state historical society.

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ment, and my belief, is that the law has been actually executed and that no state can show her school lands and school funds in better shape than those of Nebraska to-day. If, however, there remains reasonable ground for a belief as to the mal-administration of the trust, then it becomes your bounden duty to examine into the matter, to the end that doubt may be set at rest.

RAILROAD LEGISLATION. The power is yours under the constitution to establish a reasonable maximum rate of charges for the transportation of passengers and freight on the different railroads in this state. Our largely increasing and rapidly increasing population would seem to indicate that the time had come when the passenger traffic of Nebraska had reached such proportions, that it would be for the benefit of the people, I might, therefore, recommend the enactment of a law providing for a maximum passenger rate of three cents per mile, and that such law be made applicable to the several lines of railroad in the state, with reference to their ability to earn money. While the legislation above referred to will afford a measure of relief, the question of chief importance to the people of an agricultural state like our own, is that of rates for the transportation of their produce and live stock. The demand for legislation of some kind looking to the regulation of freight rates is general, and this demand should not be unheeded by you.

The power placed in your hands by the people is not to be used wisely and conscientiously. You will not be led away by clamor, but you will do as your best independent judgment, considering all interests involved. The question of the proper adjustment of freight rates is one of the most important and delicate, and varied and intricate that men unskilled in the details of railroad management may well hesitate to offer advice in the matter. There are those who would have legislation enacted which would establish maximum freight rates. In respect to this my observation has been, that when such legislation has been enacted it has failed to accomplish the end desired. If it is true that under our constitution you cannot create a board of railroad commissioners, then I have no objection to legislation which has failed to accomplish the end desired. If it is true that under our constitution you cannot create a board of railroad commissioners, then I have no objection to legislation which has failed to accomplish the end desired.

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SENATE. WASHINGTON, January 8.—Among the bills introduced was one by Allison relating to the fees of the pension claims agents and attorneys. He said he did not wish to be responsible for all its provisions, but they were the identical provisions found in the pension bill recently passed by the house. He said it was the legislation, and it repeated all the legislative provisions contained in the appropriation bill of last year. There was now a great complaint against the legislation, and he had failed to accomplish the end desired. If it is true that under our constitution you cannot create a board of railroad commissioners, then I have no objection to legislation which has failed to accomplish the end desired.

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Graver for the killing of Babcock, an insane patient, was held to bail in \$3,000 by Judge Parker. Special Correspondence of THE REP. LINCOLN, Neb., January 8.—The house convened for its third day session at 9:30 o'clock this morning. About one-half hour was taken up by the usual preliminaries of roll call, etc. A group then moved that a committee of three be appointed by the chair to determine whether or not the amendments to the constitution which yesterday were declared lost by the speaker had failed of securing the necessary majority. The resolution was adopted and Messrs. Troup, Stevenson and Peterson were constituted the committee. The speaker then announced the names of Griff E. Taylor, W. R. Watson and D. W. Cronse as assistant doorkeeper and assistant janitors respectively.

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