continuation of the state aid which has been granted to it in the past.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

Its Principal Work, the State Fair, Is Commended.

Under the requirements of a law passed at the last session of the Legislature the Governor was directed to appoint an entirely new Board of Agriculture, which was to take immediate control of the management of the State Fair. This duty was performed and the result of the change has proven of the highest benefit to that institution. For the first time in many years a fair was held last September which met the expectation of the public, proved a financial success and established its reputation as a State Fair in fact as well as in name. This result was attained in spite of unfavorable weather during two days of the fair by the application of purely business principles and unceasing industry. It was regarded by competent judges as the largest and best exhibition of fine stock ever made west of the Rocky Mountains, the estimated value being little less than $500,000. The competition thus engendered has already resulted in the importation of a large amount of blooded stock of various kinds and has aroused an interest among stockmen in all parts of the state. A state fair to be worthy of the name and of state support, should be so managed that the people generally will be interested in its success and benefits. The lack of this fact has been back of the repeated failures that have attended our State Fair in its past history. Now that it is on a better footing, has proven a financial success and has taken on a character that has removed it from the charge of being a merely local exhibition, I cheerfully bespeak for it a generous consideration at your hands, of its actual necessities. The state is now the actual owner of the lands pertaining to the fair grounds, and whatever improvements made there are simply investments on its property. I call your attention to the report of the State Board of Agriculture for a detailed statement of the facts here outlined.

ELECTION OF U. S. SENATORS.

This Should Be Accomplished by Direct Vote of People.

Among the first and one of the important duties confronting you will be the election of a Senator of the United States for the ensuing six years. It is to be hoped that you will, without unnecessary delay, unite upon some citizen of the state well qualified to discharge the duties of the office, and thus be better prepared to approach the consideration of the questions of purely local importance to the state. In this connection I desire to earnestly urge upon you the unquestioned necessity of passing a resolution calling upon Congress to call a convention for the purpose of submitting an amendment to the National Constitution providing for the election of United States Senators by a direct vote of the people. Article 5 of the Constitution of the United States provides that on the application of two-thirds of the states, Congress shall call a convention for proposing amendments. The National House of Representatives has, within recent years, adopted resolutions on four different occasions in favor of electing Senators by a popular vote, but the Senate has never concurred, and for obvious reasons probably never will. The present National House of Representatives passed such a resolution by the decisive vote of 240 to 15. The other method provided in the National Constitution for its own amendment is for two-thirds of the states, through their Legislatures, to make application to Congress to call a National convention for the purpose of proposing amendments to that instrument. This method is feasible, easily followed and will quickly reach the desired result. The election of United States Senators by the state Legislatures is the one feature of our system of government, as handed down by the fathers, that is out of harmony with its otherwise ideal plan, and I trust you will not adjourn without formally passing a resolution conforming with the terms of this recommendation.

SCALP BOUNTY LAW.

Warrants Must Be Paid Even If From General Fund.

The last Legislature passed a law providing for the payment from the state treasury of a bounty amounting to $2 on each scalp of certain wild animals mentioned therein, when presented to and verified by the proper officers. The different County Courts were instructed to make certain levies on property mentioned to provide for payment of the expense incurred under said law. The law went into effect at once, and the people of the counties where wild animals abound began to avail themselves of its provisions. But since no levies were at that time made, and could not be for nearly one year, an enormous number of certificates for warrants were presented to the Secretary of State before any funds were provided for their payment. At the same time, the courts of several of the counties decided that the law is sectional, and therefore unjust, and therefore unconstitutional, the result being that we now have on hands two years of warrants against a fund that does not, in fact, exist, save in small degree. Many of the larger counties have never paid anything into this fund, and evidently do not intend to. Probably the friends of the measure have been surprised at the large number of animals which have been caught that come within its provisions, the total amounting to 50,000, representing warrants against the state treasury to the amount of $100,000, for the payment of which only $10,000 have been paid by the several counties. This leaves outstanding warrants to the amount of $90,000, bearing interest. It will be your duty to provide for their payment in some manner. If there is no way of compelling the payment of this money into the treasury in the manner provided by law, it should be paid promptly out of the general fund. The state has incurred the obligation to pay these warrants, and if the method provided for doing so is inefficient, then a direct appropriation should be made for that purpose. Nothing less than this will maintain the good name and credit of the state. Whether it will be wise to continue the policy of paying bounties for scalps is for you to determine. I wish to add, only, that if you adopt the principle of disallowing every appropriation that does not directly benefit all parts of the state alike, you will most surely lessen the total amount by more than one-half.

RECLAMATION OF ARID LANDS.

Probable Benefits Under Government Act Should Be Looked Into.

I desire to call your attention to a provision of the laws of the United States, approved August 18, 1894, providing for the reclamation of arid lands. In this act the Secretary of the Interior is authorized and empowered, upon the proper application by a state containing arid lands, to contract with said state to grant to it an amount of such lands not to exceed 1,000,000 acres, free of cost, upon sufficient proof being furnished by the state that tangible steps have been taken to actually irrigate the tracts in question. Under the provisions of this law, the state may proceed to make contracts to cause the said lands to be reclaimed and sold to actual settlers, in tracts of not more than 160 acres, and the money derived from such sales in excess of actual cost of reclamation to be held by the state as a trust fund to be applied to the reclamation of other desert lands. Within recent years the Oregon Railway & Navigation Company has, through its industrial agent, demonstrated that the possibilities of hundreds of thousands of acres of our arid lands just south of the Columbia River would be, under proper conditions, almost beyond belief. The same may be said of other sections of Eastern Oregon.

By many who have given the matter thoughtful consideration it is believed that modern inventive genius will devise some method by which enormous quantities of water from the Columbia will be raised above its banks by ponderous pumps or other contrivance, and large tracts of desert lands, now utterly valueless, be made into productive and prosperous homes for thousands of worthy people. Similar undertakings in other parts of Eastern Oregon might be inaugurated with proper encouragement, and I especially request the members from that section of the state to examine this proposition of the General Government and ascertain if it is not worth while for the state to avail itself of its liberal provisions.

HISTORICAL SITE AT CHAMPOEG.

State Should Take Immediate Steps to Mark It.

At the request of the Oregon Historical Society, I went last May to the historic town of Champoeg, and, with Hon. F. X. Matthieu, located the spot where the celebrated meeting was held by the early pioneers on May 2, 1843, at which Joe Meek called for that division which resulted in the first, and for many years, the only governmental organization on the Pacific Coast. Mr. Matthieu is the only survivor of that great meeting, but, having lived in that immediate vicinity for 60 years, had no difficulty in designating the exact spot where that band of brave and patriotic pioneers, standing in a little glade within 50 paces of the bank of the Willamette River declared their allegiance to the Government of the United States. It was a critical moment, and its right decision was the result largely of the impulsive nature and decisive character of that famous trapper and frontiersman, Joe Meek. The State of Oregon should take immediate steps to permanently mark this pot that it may not be lost to future generations. A stake was driven, cut from an adjoining oak tree that had grown since the meeting in 1843, and it was left to be cared for further by the State of Oregon. I recommend that you make provision for the erection of a plain stone at that site, which will remain permanently. It should not be gaudy or expensive, but in keeping with the characters of our forefathers, serve to unostentatiously mark the birthplace of a great commonwealth.

QUARANTINE MEASURES.

More Stringent Laws Against Spread of Disease Necessary.

The prevalence of smallpox in different parts of the state within the past two years caused frequent appeals to the Executive Office for aid in establishing quarantine measures to prevent the spread and ravages of this dreaded disease. These appeals served to emphasize the fact that Oregon has no quarantine laws, the only resort, in cases of danger, being to the United States quarantine law, which can only be enforced under United States authority. In order to do this, the whole matter of quarantine and prevention would have to be turned over to the Treasury Department of the United States and placed in the hands of the marine military service. This would be a slow method for reaching quick results and would be so indirect as to be inefficient. While there was some danger during the last year of the introduction of the bubonic plague the various state health officers were instructed to be vigilant in the matter of inspecting all incoming vessels and their efforts were crowned with successful results, but some measure should be enacted that would give the necessary authority to establish quarantine stations when necessary to prevent the spread of any epidemic that might arise. There are several distinguished members of the medical profession who occupy seats in your honorable bodies, and I desire to invite their attention especially to a serious consideration of this important question.

EMPLOYMENT OF CONVICTS.

They Should Not Be Allowed to Work at State Schools.

On account of the reduced appropriations allowed by the last Legislature for the support of some of the state institutions, as compared with former years, and, through a desire to meet these reductions as nearly as possible, I have detailed convicts to assist in the work at the Reform School, the Mute School and the Blind School. After reducing the number of employes in some instances and consolidating their duties in others, it was still found impossible to conduct some of the institutions without going beyond the appropriation, and, as a last effort, I detailed two convicts to work regularly for several months at the Reform School, and a large share of the time there has been one at the Mute School and one at the Blind School. But I shall not adopt this course any longer unless specifically directed to do so by the Legislature. The State of Oregon is not a mendicant that it must resort to this method of paying its bills. These three institutions are for the care of unfortunate children who are the wards of the state, and I question the moral effect of having convicts around them, especially at the Reform School, where they are necessarily thrown in many ways in direct contact with the boys. Aside from this view of the question I doubt the public policy of encroaching, even in this indirect manner, on the rights of free labor. Of course, the convicts should be employed, but there is legitimate work at the penitentiary for all the convicts there at this time and for even more. There is, in my judgment, valid objections to the employment of convicts as attendants around other state institutions, and, while I believe in and urge economy in the expenditure of public money, I trust you will provide sufficient funds to support our state schools without the necessity of drawing on the penitentiary convicts to lessen or avoid a deficit. The moral effect of having convicts around the schools for the blind and deaf children of the state is, at least, questionable, and as to the Reform School, certainly to be deprecated.

STATE LAND AT UNION.

Disposition Therof in Some Manner Should Be Authorized.

At the session of 1893 provision was made for building a branch asylum in Eastern Oregon, in accordance with which a tract of land, consisting of 620 acres, was purchased near Union, in Union County. After passing through various stages of litigation the state has secured a clear title to the land, but since the Supreme Court has held that construction of state buildings away from the state capital would be unconstitutional, the proposition has been abandoned, and, awaiting the action of the Legislature as to its final disposition, the State Land Board has temporarily leased the same to a private party for the sum of $150 per annum. To authorize the sale of this property and the placing of the proceeds in the proper fund, or some other disposition of it, will be one of your duties during this session.

It has been urged in some quarters that, since practically all of the state appropriations are expended in Western Oregon, nearly one-half of which is paid by the eastern section of the state, it would be an act of justice and good policy to erect an agricultural college on the tract of land referred to. It is claimed in justification of this proposition that since agricultural colleges are largely supported by the general Government, the constitutional objection to the erection of an asylum at Union would not apply to the former. I feel disposed to call your attention to the fact that the development of Eastern Oregon in population and wealth justifies its claim for more generous consideration at the hands of the state's Legislators than it has always received. It should be remembered that that section comprises over one-half of our area; that probably two-thirds of our common school fund arises from the sale of lands east of the Cascade Range; that fully two-thirds of the 500,000-acre grant was selected in Eastern Oregon, nearly the whole of the Grand Ronde Valley being covered by this selection. This has principally gone into the common school fund, excepting what was used in the construction of the locks at Oregon City. Nearly 90 per cent of the Agricultural College land grant was selected in Eastern Oregon. When we consider that more than one-half of the gold and wheat and sheep and cattle exported from the state is produced in that section, we begin to realize that it is a magnificent domain, worthy of equal legislative recognition at all times.

It will be well, therefore, for you to give thoughtful attention to the suggestion that the object of the Federal law providing for the establishment of experiment stations at the agricultural colleges in the several states, had in mind the location of them at different points in the same state when thought needful or expedient. Several of the states now have two or more stations, which is necessary to secure practical results. It is sometimes urged that Oregon should be divided into two states for the reason that its western and eastern sections are so unlike in climatic conditions and general character, but this very fact—this very diversity of character and possibilities—makes a perpetual union the more desirable and probable. It simply increases the variety of its products and adds to its natural wealth. It makes it more nearly self-sustaining. But for this very reason, an experiment made at the station at Corvallis had as well been made in Kansas so far as any fact has been developed that will be of any value in Eastern Oregon. In this respect the object of the law providing for experiment stations is not being fulfilled so far as Oregon is concerned. This is a Federal fund, and it is believed that a part of it could be diverted from its present use and applied to a similar purpose in Eastern Oregon.

For the purpose of establishing an experiment station, it would be difficult to find a tract of land better fitted for that purpose than that referred to near Union. It would not require more than one-half of it for the uses indicated. In any event, the State Land Board should be authorized to dispose of this valuable land in some manner, and if sold, the proceeds turned into some designtaed fund in the public treasury.

DIRECT PRIMARY LAW.

Practical, Uncomplicated Measure Should Be Enacted.

Considerable public interest has developed within the last year in favor of the enactment of a direct primary law, and there seems to be a general demand in that direction. This is the outgrowth of the abuses of the present convention system, under which the power to name candidates for office is often centered within the control of a few persons. Several propositions have been made along the line of this proposed reform, and if one can be formulated whose benefits will not be overcome by its inconvenience or inadaptability, it should receive your favorable consideration. The principle of the plan is right, and if the people of the rural districts could be induced to take sufficient interest in it to make its practical working a success, it would no doubt secure a much more faithful expression of the popular desire in the matter of naming candidates for public positions. A law that will eliminate the convention system altogether will necessarily require the nomination of all candidates for all offices by the direct method. In other words, it would require two elections instead of one—an election of candidates and an election of officers. This system, if neglected by the farming classes and other people living in remote districts, would be of doubtful improvement over the present one. It would have a tendency to increase the power to name candidates by the cities because of the increased opportunities of their people for personal consultation. In fact, it is believed that if the system could be applied to some of our larger cities only, it would remedy all the complaint that is justly made in Oregon today. But a direct primary law to include the selection of all candidates must include the entire state. The object to be attained is admirable. One-man power, or anything approaching it, should be excluded from our nominating system. The more nearly the people can be consulted on all propositions the more nearly will good results be obtained. The proposed system, however, involves such a radical revolution from that to which the people have been accustomed that a new law not carefully considered would probably soon become very unpopular. I desire to assure you that any measure which promises to be practical, uncomplicated and to curtail the power of those who may indicate a disposition to become what are known as "party bosses," will meet my hearty approval.

PAN-AMERICAN EXPOSITION.

Small Appropriation Would Be a Good Investment.

The management of the Pan-American Exposition to be held at Buffalo, N. Y., this year has invited Oregon to make an exhibition of its resources at that place and time. I believe this invitation should be accepted, and that you should make a reasonable appropriation for that purpose. In the matter of internal development and securing increased population, Oregon has fallen behind her sister states during the past decade, and that for no other reason than that we sit still and do not advertise our wares. This is the only explanation of the fact that Washington at this time exceeds us in population more than 100,000. There is at this time no state in the Union that has such a variety of undeveloped resources as ours, and the exhibits that could be made at Buffalo would meet the eyes of more wealthy men seeking opportunities for investment of idle capital than has ever before been possible. The farmers of the state are continually suffering in purse from the plain fact that we have fewer manufacturing establishments for our population and possibilities than any other state in the Union. At Buffalo will be the opportunity, by means of a display of our resources, to induce men of means to want to see a country that can produce such samples of nature's bounties, astounding to them, but so familiar to us that we pass them by unheeded. I believe a small appropriation carefully guarded in every detail as to its expenditure would be a good investment, and ultimately for our poorer people especially.

THE STATE PRINTER.

A Public Expenditure Which Is Wholly Unnecessary.

One of the public expenditures which is wholly unnecessary, but which has the sanction of law, is the matter of public printing. No blame whatever attaches to the State Printer, but the amount of printing required by law is far in excess of the public needs. For a number of years the biennial appropriation for printing has been about $80,000. This has always been exhausted, and has been followed by some deficiencies beside. The present state officers have used every effort to curtail this matter, and have succeeded in returning a surplus of $6000 after paying $8000 for the former printing and binding of "The Resources of Oregon," making a practical saving of $11,000. But if you will change the present law in several particulars a still further saving can be made. At the beginnig of this administration there were found several tons of useless reports of various kinds stored in the basement of the Capitol, which were carted out and sold for junk in order to make room for an accumulation of another supply of the same kind of useless merchandise. The law now requires 1000 copies of all kinds of reports printed when 250 of each would furnish an ample supply for all purposes. For instance, the printing of the report of the State Board of Agriculture cost $1800, and they are stacked up in the basemnt of the Capitol, and nobody can be induced to take them away for any purpose. The thousand copies of the report of one of the Eastern Oregon district fairs were sent to the Secretary of State last Summer, and, having no use for them, were sent to the secretary of the fair interested. The secretary refused to pay the freight bill on the shipment, which, upon being presented to the Secretary of State, was paid, and it is supposed the reports have long since been destroyed. Section 2964, Hill's code, requires the printing of 2000 copies of the session laws. After supplying all possible demands for the session laws of 1899, there are now 800 copies on hand. Of the session laws from 1880 to 1898 there are now on hand over 4000 copies for which there is no possible use. There are piled up in the basement at this time 3200 copies of the Senate journals, and 2775 copies of the House journals prior to 1898. The law requires the printing of 800 copies of each report of the Supreme Court. There have been four reports during the last four years, and there are on hand at present an average of 370 of each. Of the reports made prior to 1899 there remain on hand over 7000 copies. The cost of these volumes prior to 1899 made an average of $4 each, making the cost of the surplus volumes now on hand fully $28,000. Without going into further details, I ask your earnest consideration of the necessity of providing for a reform in this matter. The number of all reports and documents should be limited to not more than 250 copies.

In addition to this it may be said that the present cost of all state printing is believed to be far above what it should be, and since the term of the present State Printer, who has made a most excellent officer, will have expired before the printing for the next session of the Legislature will become necessary, this is the proper time to revise the fees for future state printing. This is an important matter and should under no circumstances be overlooked, especially since the Constitution provides that the rates fixed for state printing shall neither be increased nor diminished during the term for which a State Printer shall have been elected.

MONEY FOR CONVICTS.

Re-enactment of Present "Discharge Fee" Recommended.

The general appropriation bill passed in 1893 contained the following clause: "The superintendent of the Penitentiary shall, out of the foregoing appropriation for general expenses of said institution, pay to each convict, on his discharge, at least $5 in money, and shall furnish him with a suit of clothes worth $15, and shall procure transportation for such discharged convict from Salem to the place at which he was convicted, or for an equal distance to any other place in this state selected by such convict." I believe this is a sound policy, and recommend the re-enactment of its general features. If there is any possible combination of circumstances that will incline a man to commit a crime who may have already, through heredity or association, the criminal instinct, but who also may be possessed with a desire to reform, it is the one surrounding a discharged convict when he is turned out without money, friends, influence, or acquaintances, with the usual avenues of employment turned against him and no means to get away from the place of his recent incarceration and disgrace. It is believed that a large proportion of the discharged convicts emerge from the doors of the prison with a determination to not again commit a penal offense, but through a system of neglect in the matter referred to the state virtually surrounds him with an environment that instead of destroying really stimulates whatever inclination to commit crime has not been fully eradicated from his nature. This is altogether wrong, and even ignoring the humane aspect of the case it will be cheaper for the state to remove this temptation to violate the law by making some provision similar to the one referred to. My attention has been specially called to this subject by the frequent visits of discharged convicts to the executive office asking for personal aid. Under the present appropriation for that purpose the sum allowed has not been more than $1.50 per man, an amount scarcely sufficient to pay for a night's lodging and two meals, or, if used for railroad fare, then only to take him a few miles from Salem, to be left absolutely stranded. If it is thought unnecessary to grant all that is included in the provisions referred to, at least some more liberal one than that now in practice should be made. I leave the question for you to determine whether a continuation of the present system is either just, humane or economical. At the same time, while in seeming conflict with this position, it should be said that the number of convicts in the state's prison is more than 100 less than it has been in former times.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Should Be Kept Down, But Not to an Extent of False Economy.

While the Legislature should be very careful in the matter of appropriating the public funds, and should examine every appropriation for that purpose critically, there is nothing gained by carrying the policy of economy so far that it results in actually crippling the state institutions. While actuated at all times by a desire to reduce expenses to the minimum, the present administration has, in some instances, been handicapped by insufficient appropriations to meet actual requirements. No appropriations of any kind were made in 1897, and, for that reason, the special session of 1898 passed an appropriation bill covering the biennial expenses of the state government for the years 1897 and 1898. That Legislature found it necessary, for instance, to appropriate the sum of $61,000 to defray the general expenses, including electric lighting, for the Reform School for the preceding two years. But at the regular session of the same Legislature and by the same committee on ways and means, four months later, the sum of $35,000 only was allowed for the following two years for identically the same purpose, and that, too, for an institution that is, with the state, gradually growing. More than that, the next item in the general appropriation bill, which allowed this sum of $35,000, is an allowance of $2277 for deficiencies for the same institution that had already been allowed $61,000. If it required nearly $64,000 to defray the expenses of that institution for the two preceding years, it is difficult to understand by what system of reasoning it was concluded the same work could be done for nearly $30,000 less for the following two years. It is believed this institution has been conducted on an economical basis since its inception, and why it should be crippled is difficult to understand. On account of the nature of those sent there for reformation, it can well be imagined that it requires constant attention to the matter of repairs to the buildings to maintain their efficiency and appearance. Some of these improvements could not be longer deferred, and while in this institution economy to the verge of parsimony has been practiced, a deficiency of nearly $14,000 has been incurred, though the total expense is still about $15,000 below the amount expended and allowed for the two years previous.

I wish to repeat that in all this constant attention should be given to economy by all state officers and heads of departments, at all times, in the interests of those who toil to pay the taxes, but deficiencies, with the attendant obligation to pay interest on warrants, for the sake of a brief reputation of economy by those in public position, is not economy for those who finally foot the bills.

REFORM SCHOOL.

Institution for Great Good and Worthy of Support.

It is not believed to be possible to conduct the Reform School on any cheaper basis than that which has prevailed during the past two years. A large majority of the boys are necessarily too small to be of any real service on the farm, and since it is a school for children on a plan not unlike other common schools, whose pupils cannot be sent home during the Summer vacation (as the blind and deaf children are), its expenses never cease.

This school is productive of incalculable good, in the way of turning unfortunate and homeless and incorrigible boys in the right direction. Industrial teaching along several lines is now and has been for several years engaging the attention of the school, and facilities for it should be extended.

Boys who have nothing to do and do not know how to do anything useful, are the ones most likely to drift into wrongdoing. Boys of this character, taken up and trained in the right way, and taught something useful to do by the time they are ready to be discharged, are far less likely to drift into criminal ways than those who have not been taught how to do some useful work.

Hand training should be a feature, especially of the Reform and Mute Schools. In fact, more attention should be given to this idea in the common schools generally. It is cheaper to teach boys trades in the schools first mentioned than to turn them out without employment or knowledge of some practical sort. The tendency in our modern schools is to teach away from manual labor, anyway. The average graduate is inclined to the conclusion that if his schooling does not enable him to live without doing manual labor, he will be regarded as a failure. This idea and tendency can be eradicated only by not encouraging it. After the average young man becomes "highly educated" his next effort is to become a lawyer, or doctor, or, failing in that, it is preferable to get a life job as stenographer or typewriter than to undertake clearing 10 acres of land by actually doing it. All of our schools, so far as they tend to foster this idea, are doing a great degree of harm, and it should be remedied by encouraging education toward practical things that will fit our young people for practical affairs.

Viewed merely from the mercenary standpoint of dollars and cents, the Reform School is an economical investment. It is a waste of time to say that parents should look more carefully after their children. The condition remains just the same and the only question confronting the state is whether it will undertake the reformaton of these children, or wait until a later period and care for many of them in the penitentiary after untold crimes have been committed. No one will say that it is not necessary that the morals of the children of the commonwealth should be looked after. In such extreme cases as where parents will not perform this filial duty the state cannot afford not to. Most of the states of the Union have reform schools for wayward girls, and Oregon needs one as much as it does for boys. Surely no rule of ethics can be cited in justification of the process of reforming boys and neglecting the girls of the state who, in equal numbers, need the fostering care of a protecting commonwealth. This system of flagrant partiality and statutory neglect has been the policy of the state ever since the erection of the Reform School, and it is altogether probable that one-half the effort bestowed upon the boys is wasted by the state's indifference toward the equally deserving girls, who through parental disregard of duty, or other unfortunate circumstances, are allowed to drift along the paths of immorality. I trust you will see your duty in the direction of acting upon this important matter in some manner that will produce tangible results.

SOLDIERS' HOME.

Money for Repairs and Several Changes Is Necessary.

Under the provisions of a law passed by the last Legislature the board of trustees for the management of the Soldiers' Home was abolished and the control of that institution placed under the direct charge of the Governor. This change has proven very beneficial, as there has been no complaint from any quarter of any kind. From a recent consultation with the members themselves, I was assured that they receive uniformly kind treatment, and all their wants are supplied. As compared with nearly all other Homes in the United States, our own is at a great disadvantage. There is a National law which allows $100 annually to each State Home for every member who is drawing a pension from the National Government. In all the Eastern Homes practically every member is a pensioner, but here fully 80 per cent of them are Indian war veterans, whose care and maintenance are patriotically provided for by our laws, but who, nevertheless, diminish the financial resources of the Home to that extent. Ever since its erection the state has made an annual appropriation of $12,000 for its support, until at the last session it was, very unwisely I think, reduced to $10,000. Thus crippled in its means of support, all needed repairs which, in public institutions, should be met as they appear and not allowed to accumulate, have been forced to remain unattended to. This is not a sound policy nor real economy. It would not be on the part of a business man, and, since the public institutions belong to the whole people, it is not in the case of the state.

The Home owns 40 acres of land on the Umpqua River, 30 of which are in use, and few tracts in the state, if any, are in better state of cultivation. An unusually large amount of produce was raised this year, the labor being mostly furnished by the soldiers themselves. It is a positive discredit to the state, however, that there is but one horse, and that of uncertain age, belonging to the Home, the team work being largely done with horses borrowed from kindly disposed neighbors. The mere reference to this condition should insure its reformation. If the former appropriation cannot be increased, it should at least be reinstated. For reasons easily understood the expense of maintaining a Soldiers' Home cannot at this time be supposed to be decreasing, for, as the members grow older, a greater percentage of them require hospital treatment. The hospital facilities there at this time are crowded, and the central idea of a state home implies that the more helpless the members become the more binding is the duty of the state to care for them.

There are at this time in many parts of the state indigent soldiers who are as much entitled to the care of the Home as those who have been there for years, and when they appeal to the executive office for admission the only response to be made is that there is no further room either in the Home or the hospital. I make this appeal to the humanitarian side of your natures, and for detailed information as to the workings of the Home and its necessities, I call your special attention to the report of the commandant.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.

Penitentiary and Asylum Improvements Within Appropriations.

Without going further into details of the management of the different state institutions I will refer you to the very complete reports of their several superintendents. It is confidently believed that they are all well officered and that the object for which each was established is being realized in a manner that will fully meet the public expectation. The last Legislature made appropriations for the construction of additions to the asylum and penitentiary, and a new cottage at the asylum farm. These requirements have been met, and although the rapid increase in the cost of all kinds of materials made it impossible to complete them all in the manner intended, the expenditures have been kept practically within the appropriation. I earnestly urge that the committees appointed to examine the various institutions make their investigations complete, especially for the reason that the general public has the right to be fully informed as to the disposition of the public funds and the results derived.

The last Legislature enacted a law providing for the number of committee clerks to be employed and for the manner of their selections. The principal features of this law have been demanded by the people for many years. You are to be congratulated upon finding such a law on the statute books, as it will afford you a helpful fortification in the matter of defending ante-election promises for possible and necessary retrenchment.

MEDALS FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Expense of Securing Them Has Been Carefully Guarded.

As a testimonial of the appreciation which the people of Oregon feel for the gallant services of the Second Oregon Regiment of Volunteers in the Philippine War I ordered a sufficient number of appropriate bronze medals struck to present one to each member of that regiment. A similar step was taken by nearly every other state that had a regiment in that war, and, so far as I know, by every one. The regiment of model young men, volunteering as they did, from among the best families of the state, conducted themselves while in active service and at all other times when under fire or when making forced marches in a manner that reflected credit, not only upon themselves, but upon the state that sent them forth to support and defend the flag of their country. One hundred and fourteen of them were college graduates, 156 were students, 15 were lawyers, 141 were clerks, 123 were farmers and the others were drawn from different walks of life, the creditable fact being that nearly every man left a good position in order to respond to the call of his country.

The reputation this regiment earned by its superb and never-failing soldierly qualities, is best recorded in the famous order of General Wharton, "Orderly, overtake those Oregon greyhounds on the road to Polo and order them to Melinto. Go mounted, or you will never catch them."

Under the most trying circumstances, they remained in the service after the terms of their enlistment had technically expired, and, after reaching Manila on their way home, were detailed on another two days' march after the skulking and treacherous Filipinos. By their soldierly bearing at all times they not only honored themselves, but added new lustre to the fame of Oregon in every civilized nation on earth. They are entitled to the grateful remembrance of every patriotic citizen of the state.

Before ordering medals, I corresponded with several firms in the East, and in California, and, after securing their most favorable prices, found a firm in Portland that offered to do the work at a cheaper rate than any of the competitors.

By a personal application to Secretary Root, of the War Department, a bronze cannon, which had been captured from the Spanish at Manila by our forces, was shipped to Portland for the express purpose of furnishing the material for the medals. Their design is suggestive of state as well as national patriotism and pride, their workmanship is of the best character, and I am sure the expense of securing them, which has been carefully guarded, will be gladly borne by the people of Oregon.

STATE SEWER.

Should Be Completed from State Buildings to Willamette.

Your attention is called to the necessity of making provision for the completion of the state sewer leading from the state buildings to the Willamette River. A few years ago, by direction of the Legislature, a permanent and ample sewer was constructed from the river to a point opposite the Capital building, on Court street, but was there abandoned by reason of the exhaustion of the funds provided. It was the intention to build this sewer to the asylum and penitentiary, and it seems imperative that its completion should not be longer delayed. The immense amount of sewage coming from the asylum and penitentiary is discharged into the city sewers, which already have all they can carry. There is now nearly an acre of roof surface on the asylum building alone, and when a hard rainstorm occurs, which sometimes happens, the result is the inundation of many private and public basements in the city. During the present Winter the furnaces in the basement of the City Hall were submerged and the fires extinguished. This has happened also in many private residences. Not only so, but it impairs the health of the city and the inmates of the state institutions concerned. The state has no right, and should have no desire to thus impose on the rights of its citizens, and I earnestly recommend that you make provision for the remedy suggested.

STATE HOUSE IMPROVEMENT.

Acoustics of Hall of Representatives Bettered.

Ever since the completion of Representative Hall its accoustics have been so very unsatisfactory that it has been almost impossible to transact business in it with any degree of certainty as to what was being done. Various experiments had been tried without apparent improvement, when the last Legislature directed the Board of Building Commissioners, consisting of the Governor, Secretary of State and the State Treasurer, to appropriate the sum of $11,634 for the purpose of putting in a ceiling and diminishing the height of the hall by something like one-half. This sum was at first thought to be wholly inadequate for the purpose named, but, after advertising for bids, a firm was found willing to undertake the work, and it has been completed, as you now see it, practically within the appropriation. The workmanship and material have been first-class, and it is believed the result attained will fully justify the expenditure.

ELECTRIC LIGHTING CONTRACT.

Steps Should Be Taken to Secure More Reasonable Terms.

In April, 1893, the state made a contract with the Salem Light and Power Company, in Salem, by the terms of which that company agreed to furnish certain state buildings with electric lights for the term of ten years. It is believed that the price paid for these lights is quite excessive, and that upon the expiration of the contract some steps should be taken to provide lights on more reasonable terms.

Unless better conditions can be arranged with the company now providing the lights, or with some other company, it will be necessary for the state to install a plant of its own. I suggest that at this session you authorize the Board of Capitol Building Commissioners to consult with different lighting companies as to the best terms upon which another contract can be made, and with experts as to the probable cost of installing a state plant, and to report the result of its findings to the next session of the Legislature.

The present contract will expire on the first of April, 1903, and at that time the state should be ready to act promptly in the matter.

NORTHWESTERN STOVE FOUNDRY.

Affairs Reported to Be in Excellent Condition.

Upon the authority of an act approved February 25, 1895, the Board of Managers of the Oregon Stove Foundry, composed of the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer, entered into a contract

SALIENT POINTS IN THE MESSAGE.

Governor Geer urges—

- Enactment of a law which will secure uniform assessments.
- That provision be made for investment of funds arising from sale of public school lands.
- Recognition of the service of Indian War Veterans by pensions.
- That probable benefits under Government arid land act be looked into.
- Adoption of a practical, simple primary law.
- A small appropriation for Pan-American Exposition.
- Revision of fees for future state printing.
- Recognition of the need of improvements and changes at the Roseburg Soldiers' Home.
- That steps be taken to secure more reasonable terms for lighting of state buildings.
- Legislation for the perpetuation of the fishing industry.
- That the necessities of the State Fair and State Board of Agriculture be met.
- The election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people.
- Prompt payment of outstanding scalp bounty warrants, even if from the general fund.

BAD COMPLEXIONS

Dry Thin and Falling Hair and Red Rough Hands Prevented by

CUTICURA SOAP

MILLIONS Use CUTICURA SOAP, assisted by CUTICURA OINTMENT, for preserving, purifying and beautifying the skin, for cleansing the scalp of crusts, scales and dandruff and the stopping of falling hair, for softening, whitening and soothing red, rough and sore hands, in the form of baths for annoying irritations, inflammations and chafings, or too free or offensive perspiration, in the form of washes, for ulcerative weaknesses and for many sanative antiseptic purposes which readily suggest themselves to women, and especially to mothers, and for all the purposes of the toilet, bath and nursery. No amount of persuasion can induce those who have once used it to use any other, especially for preserving and purifying the skin, scalp and hair of infants and children. CUTICURA SOAP combines delicate emollient properties derived from CUTICURA, the great skin cure, with the purest of cleansing ingredients and the most refreshing of flower odors. No other *medicated* soap ever compounded is to be compared with it for preserving, purifying and beautifying the skin, scalp, hair and hands. No other foreign or domestic *toilet* soap, however expensive, is to be compared with it for all the purposes of the toilet, bath and nursery. Thus it combines in ONE SOAP at ONE PRICE, viz., 25c., the BEST skin and complexion soap and the BEST toilet and baby soap in the world.

Complete External and Internal Treatment for Every Humor, $1.25,

Consisting of CUTICURA SOAP (25c.), to cleanse the skin of crusts and scales and soften the thickened cuticle; CUTICURA OINTMENT (50c.), to instantly allay itching, inflammation and irritation and soothe and heal, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT (50c.), to cool and cleanse the blood. A SINGLE SET, costing but $1.25, is often sufficient to cure the most torturing, disfiguring skin, scalp and blood humors, with loss of hair when all else fails. Sold throughout the world.

Pears'

Pretty boxes and odors are used to sell such soaps as no one would touch if he saw them undisguised. Beware of a soap that depends on something outside of it.

Pears', the finest soap in the world is scented or not, as you wish; and the money is in the merchandise, not in the box.

All sorts of stores sell it, especially druggists; all sorts of people are using it.