

DRASTIC ECONOMY IS SUGGESTED BY GOVERNOR JAMES W. WILCOX IN HIS MESSAGE TO THE OREGON LEGISLATURE

Pruning of \$461,000 From Budget Recommended, Together with Increase of Inheritance and Insurance Premium Taxes to Raise Additional \$260,000. Legislators Told, People Expect Fulfillment of Their Desire for "Bone-Dry" Law—Military Training in State University and High Schools Is Advised.

SALLEM, Jan. 8.—The text of Governor Wilcox's message to the Legislature: As citizens of a commonwealth we owe a debt of gratitude to the Legislature for the opportunity to express our views on the general progress of our people. We have been blessed with a bountiful harvest and increased activity which brings plenty and contentment to the home. It is with sincere pleasure that I greet the old and new members of the Legislature upon their return to the capitol for another two years of state administration. Oregon is gratulated upon the high type of capable citizenship represented here. There are difficult problems before us, but I have confidence in the members of this body are equipped to solve them with intelligent foresight, fearless honesty and public-spirited patriotism. This, I trust, is to be a session of businesslike accomplishment and wise economy productive of many opportunities to establish a record for excellence, sanity and brevity. Such, I am sure, would be the desire of every citizen of the state and would best fulfill existing requirements.

Decentralization Is Depreciated. In my inaugural message attention was directed to decentralization, which has developed in Oregon governmental procedure during the last decade, and now again it seems fitting to refer to this tendency. In a large measure Oregon has a commission form of government. The Governor has been more and more invested with authority. As a member of the Board of Control, in most important state matters he has identical powers. He has no one else, regulates the release of prisoners, and is in a measure responsible for their subsequent conduct. He must be familiar with their records in the institution and the conditions surrounding them there, as these facts naturally upon the application of executive clemency.

Governor Should Control Penitentiary. The penitentiary properly should be under the Governor's jurisdiction. He should either directly control its administration or be empowered to appoint non-political boards of supervisors, as is done in many states. The constitution gives the executive the exclusive power to pardon and parole. He has no one else, regulates the release of prisoners, and is in a measure responsible for their subsequent conduct. He must be familiar with their records in the institution and the conditions surrounding them there, as these facts naturally upon the application of executive clemency.

Budget Reductions Advised. Below are listed the amounts asked under 21 heads, together with the amount which has been appropriated from each estimate without impairing the essential activities of the department in question:

Table with 2 columns: Department Name and Amount. Includes State Fair Board, University of Oregon, Oregon Agricultural College, etc.

Proposed Reductions Explained. Following is a brief statement of the explanation of the various items covered in the proposed budget reductions. The \$120,000 suggested for the State Fair Board, should be sufficient to provide for the framework of a coliseum whose interior could be equipped temporarily, and also for premiums and other necessary expenses.

Health Board's Duties Increased. The State Board of Health can conduct the work of the Social Hygiene Society with greatly reduced overhead cost and without lessening efficiency. Here also the work of the social hygiene work should be represented by a committee co-operating with the board to the end that the meritorious

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY OREGON GOVERNOR TO LEGISLATURE.

Hope expressed that session will be businesslike and economical and establish record for excellence, sanity and brevity. Tendency toward decentralization of state government deprecated. Belief expressed that Governor should control Penitentiary administration. Pruning of \$461,000 from amounts asked for by state departments and institutions advised, together with legislation to increase revenue by \$260,000. Some of reductions suggested are: Limit of appropriations to \$100,000 each for State University and Oregon Agricultural College. Reduction of military bounty about 25 per cent. Absorption of Child Labor and Industrial Welfare commissions by Industrial Accident Commission. Reduction of work of Social Hygiene Society by State Board of Health. Reduced appropriation for State Dairy and Food Commission and transfer of food inspection duties to Board of Health. Reduced amounts for Livestock Sanitary Board, Forestry Department, Department of Mines and Geology, State Engineering and Water Board and Public Service Commission. It is suggested that Forestry Department's expenses be met to greater extent by timber owners. Only one salaried Tax Commissioner. Mining Department of Weights and Measures self-sustaining. Penitentiary will require less because of reduced population, due to enactment of "bone-dry" law. Decrease in commitments to State Hospital also expected. Abolition of office of State Labor Commissioner at expiration of present term and transfer of duties to Industrial Accident Commission. Lastly, decrease in expenditures of present Legislature suggested. Two suggested feasible sources of new revenue are: Readjustment of inheritance tax. Increase of insurance tax from 2 per cent on net premiums to 2 1/2 per cent on gross premiums.

Impairment of road work suggested, with moderate increase in automobile taxation, total revenue to be devoted to road work. Legislators told that people expect legislation making absolutely effective the provisions of the "bone-dry" liquor amendment. Better credit amendment required for State Penitentiary recommended. Flax experiment reviewed. Soundness of movement asserted. Outstanding features are work for business and blazing of trail for new Oregon industry. Investigation of feasibility of convict-operated lime quarry suggested. State Supreme Court is overburdened. Limitation of appeals recommended. Military training in State University and high schools recommended—not compulsory, but with credits given on school work. Absentee voters' law for soldiers recommended. Rural credit amendment required to make it operative. Provision for arbitration of industrial disputes. Passage of sane sterilization act to check increase of the mentally unbalanced. Establishment of child welfare department at State University. Creation of office of fire marshal recommended as good economy. Increase of anglers' license fee from \$1 to \$1.50 advised, additional funds to go to propagation of trout for restocking streams. New fish ladder at Oregon City advised. State Fair needs coliseum. Workable irrigation law suggested. Fruitful field for public economy lies in local administration. Waste in printing of state reports should be eliminated. Recognition of services of Oregon pioneers recommended as early date as state's finances will permit.

activities of the former may in nowise be neglected. I believe the appropriation for the Dairy and Food Commission can be reduced without curtailing the efficiency of his department. In this connection the subject of food inspection's work be more exclusively devoted to the dairying interests under his jurisdiction, and that an arrangement be made whereby the timber owners, who are the chief beneficiaries, and less by the tax-paying public. The tax commission is now practically self-supporting and the appropriation asked for can be eliminated. A cut in the expenditures of the department for mines and geology, is, I believe, justified. In view of the fact that the state is not conducting any constructive work in the details of prison administration. The state budget calls for appropriations totaling \$715,336 more than the budget provided for. The provisions of the recent constitutional amendment. The situation can be met only by pruning the budget, and the provisions of the recent constitutional amendment. Both these are subjects which should be approached cautiously, considering the mistakes made in the past and without bias.

Proposed Reductions Explained. Following is a brief statement of the explanation of the various items covered in the proposed budget reductions. The \$120,000 suggested for the State Fair Board, should be sufficient to provide for the framework of a coliseum whose interior could be equipped temporarily, and also for premiums and other necessary expenses. While no departments of state administration are more fundamentally important, and none have been more creditably conducted than our educational institutions, I feel that under existing circumstances the appropriations asked by the university and college are more than can properly be allowed at this time. Therefore, I suggest an equal appropriation of \$100,000 to each of these two institutions, thereby eliminating from the budget as now prepared, the sum of \$121,000. The bounties on wild animals might well be reduced about 25 per cent, which would accomplish the desired saving of \$25,000. The work of the Child Labor and Industrial Welfare Commissions, which is more or less purely legislative, may better be handled by the Industrial Accident Commission's organization without additional cost, thereby eliminating from present appropriations of the two commissions named. An advisory council representing the social features should co-operate with the commission.

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Low present outstanding liabilities... 10,310 Original appropriations... 448,999 Apparent profit... \$ 3,724

First Year's Loss Not Unexpected. The loss sustained during the first year of the flax project was neither unexpected nor extraordinary, as the entire enterprise was experimental and operated under unfavorable conditions. While the financial outcome is a proof of the soundness of the movement, yet the points for congratulation are that many of the prisoners have been provided with work, and that we have blazed a trail for the development of the Oregon industry. Flax will not only prove a boon to the state from an agricultural viewpoint, but the manufacturing industry will be of far-reaching economic importance. Another system of utilization of prison labor worthy of your serious consideration is presented in the production of inexpensive agricultural lime—a field which is open to the state, and the benefits to Oregon farmers. The feasibility of a state lime quarry operated by prison labor merits investigation.

Supreme Court Overburdened. The Supreme Court is constantly burdened with minor cases which it seems to me, it should be relieved. Existing conditions encourage litigation which is comparatively trivial and result in an unnecessary expense to the state, while impairing the efficiency of the court through overburdening the Justices. It is suggested that the court recommend legislation to the end that no appeal may be taken to the Supreme Court unless it appears in the judgment of the Board of Health that the money thereby required to be paid, exclusive of interest thereon, costs or disbursements, exceed \$500, or unless the appeal involves a child by birth, the constitutionality of an act of the Legislative Assembly of the validity of municipal charter or ordinance or the right of franchise last November. The establishment of facilities for the training of Oregon soldiers in military and in Oregon high schools is recommended. This need not be compulsory, but it should be available for Oregon boys and young men. The count in their school credits. I believe such training is invaluable for physical development and the upbuilding of discipline. The training would do much to make the boys of their country in time of military need.

Absent Soldiers Should Vote. I suggest legislation similar to that existing in several Eastern states, which would permit Oregon soldiers on duty outside of the state the privilege of voting in state and National elections. The franchise last November because of their franchise last November because they were detained in Southern California serving their country. On behalf of the citizens of the state, I hereby express my own and Oregon's deep satisfaction at the splendid way in which our soldiers have responded to the call to duty last June, when they went with the colors to the Mexican border. Their patriotic spirit and willingness to sacrifice for their country in seeming emergency deserve recognition and praise. The passage of the rural credit act necessitates the enactment of legislation to put its provisions into operation. As this is vitally important to the entire state, it is especially desirable that the department most directly concerned should be exercised in devising ways and means for the most efficient application of the rural credit benefits of the reform.

So far as the Governor's office is concerned, it may be stated that during the past biennium I have actively co-operated with the Legislature in the adequate enforcement of the prohibition law, and have found the officers of the various counties and cities deserving much praise for their energy and marked efficiency with which they have administered the act. There has been returned to the Treasurer by my office approximately \$1,200,000 of the \$7000 appropriated by the last Legislature to aid in the enforcement of the prohibition and other laws. To permit continuation of the office of executive aid in law administration and especially as regards the new and more strict prohibition measure, an appropriation of \$10,000 is requested, which would be the last Legislature, but of \$6000 instead of \$7000.

Penitentiary Needs Improvement. The outstanding needs of the penitentiary are better housing facilities and employment for prisoners. The present buildings and equipment are antiquated and inadequate. It is not advisable to provide for a new penitentiary building just now, but a small appropriation might well be made which will enable the warden during the next two years to complete the erection of such a building. The penitentiary makes its own brick and has an adequate labor supply. Much of the rough construction work is accomplished with prison labor at a minimum cost, creating something of value to the state and at the same time providing needed occupation for the inmates. Our laws forbid the sale of prison-made articles in competition with those manufactured by free labor. The inception of the flax industry two years ago was largely with a view to alleviating the condition of non-employment resulting from these laws. It has done much toward this end, as an average of 153 men have been given some employment each month, while the average number employed each working day is 72. In all there has been paid to prisoners for flax work \$8356.

Status of Flax Experiment. Below is a brief statement showing the financial status of the state's flax experiment: Appropriation utilized for flax—Permanent plant... \$13,713 Labor, straw, etc... 20,222 Total... \$33,935 Flax value products on hand, 1916 crop—Flax straw, 282 tons, 250 pounds... \$41,000 10 per cent fiber, \$2 tone, 250 pounds... 2,400 Tow, 5 per cent value of fiber... 2,050 Total... \$45,450 1915 crop—755 bushels of seed, \$2.40 bushel... \$ 1,814 98,000 pounds straw at 26 pounds... 2,500 Total... \$43,264 Less estimated cost of handling prior to their sale... \$115,000 Labor (Dec. 16 to July 27, inclusive)... 1,600 Rural setting tanks... 2,125 Miscellaneous... 2,125 Net value of products on hand... \$41,639 To which should be added original value of plant, less 10 per cent depreciation... 72,842 Total... \$214,481

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zealously safeguarded. The feebleness, the incurably insane and the criminally insane should be segregated upon. Each case, it seems to me, should be considered by a commission, or jury, composed of members of the State Board of Health, the superintendent of the two State Hospitals and the superintendent of the Feeble-Minded Institution. Another desirable that the needs of our indigent crippled children be given consideration. Perhaps they best can be cared for through the State Board of Health in connection with this increasingly important subject I refer you to the first report of the Oregon Child Welfare Commission, and I recommend that there be established in the State University a child welfare department in connection with its extension activities, so that the important work conducted under this head may hereafter have official recognition. It is also suggested that the State Board of Health operate a child by birth, the constitutionality of an act of the Legislative Assembly of the validity of municipal charter or ordinance or the right of franchise last November. The establishment of facilities for the training of Oregon soldiers in military and in Oregon high schools is recommended. This need not be compulsory, but it should be available for Oregon boys and young men. The count in their school credits. I believe such training is invaluable for physical development and the upbuilding of discipline. The training would do much to make the boys of their country in time of military need.

average county goes to state expenses, while the other nine are devoted to the costs of the county school, district or city. This is no apology for state extravagance. Such as exists should be eradicated. But it does mean that by far the largest and most fruitful field for economies lies nearer home. No doubt this Legislature will devote special attention to economical measures in some of the laws affecting expenditure of this nine-tenths of our taxes. In smaller fields of possible economy it seems well to mention the rather abundant output of reports, which are published from time to time by the various departments. Occasionally there is useless duplication in the subject matter covered. Often editions are adopted by the various officials, and the printer's bill, would benefit if the subject matter was reduced. It is also occasionally true that officials take advantage of their printing appropriation for the issuance of matter designed primarily for political purposes. I suggest that means be devised whereby all publications handled by the various departments, and the State Printing Board, to the end, least, that duplications and waste be eliminated.

Fire Marshal Worth His Cost. As 25 separate bills relative to insurance presented in 1915, the last Legislature wisely decided to place the codification of insurance laws and the enactment of new measures before the consideration of an Insurance Code Commission. This commission, after exhaustive study, has made its report. The subjects covered are of vital importance to every citizen of the state, and I recommend the commission's recommendations for adoption. To combat the increasing state-wide loss by fire, a fire marshal bill has been prepared. Twenty-six states already have fire marshals, and it is suggested that the state which pays its way in reducing the cost of insurance and in direct elimination of fire waste, because of its economic value, be recommended by those who have given the subject thorough consideration, the passage of a fire marshal law for Oregon is urged by the Insurance Department. It does also the Corporation Department, merits commendation for its businesslike and economical administration during the past year.

Newlands Committee Continued. WASHINGTON, Jan. 9.—The Senate joint resolution, continuing the Newlands-Adams railroad investigating committee until December 3 next, was adopted by the House today by a vote of 196 to 61. The resolution now goes to the President for signature. Pocatello now has one of the largest railroad stations in the country. It is a division point on the Short Line and its membership is composed largely of the employees of that company. The growth of the association has been so rapid that an addition to the building and some more equipment are needed. I. B. Rhodes, state Y. M. C. A. secretary for Oregon and Idaho, has gone to Pocatello to assist in a \$10,000 campaign for improvements for a railroad Y. M. C. A. The Oregon Short Line has announced the gift of \$10,000 for the building fund, and the people of the city are expected to match that amount. Pocatello now has one of the largest railroad stations in the country. It is a division point on the Short Line and its membership is composed largely of the employees of that company. The growth of the association has been so rapid that an addition to the building and some more equipment are needed.

Fish and Game Board Efficient. The workings of the Fish and Game Commission under the provisions of the act passed by the last Legislature, have been most gratifying, and I believe, give satisfaction. Certainly the public-spirited attention to the duties shown by the Commissioners deserves commendation. The Commission itself is submitting recommendations to you. Without going into details covered elsewhere, it seems desirable to mention here two important points which should be given attention. A new fish ladder is vitally needed at Oregon City, and a moderate appropriation to meet this requirement would be a wise investment. It is believed that the anglers' license fee, which is now \$1, should be increased to \$1.50. There has been a decrease in license receipts during the last few years, and on the other hand, there is a rapidly increasing need for restocking of our fishing streams upon which the anglers are dependent. It is my expectation that the increased revenue from this source would be devoted almost exclusively to the propagation of trout in the building of our angling resources.

WINTER AND SPRING TONIC Winter is a hard season for those who have no stored up reserve of strength. The coming of trying spring weather means sickness for many because debility robs the system of its power to protect itself. One person may suffer exposure to cold and wet without any ill effects while another whose blood is thin and whose nerves are run-down will be confined to bed after sitting in a draught. Keeping the blood built up is the secret of keeping well in winter and spring. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People are the best and most complete tonic for the blood. Put up with complete directions for use they are a family remedy that can be depended upon in conditions of thin blood, debility and many common forms of weakness. The blood goes to practically every part of the body and if it is rich and red it carries health and strength to every organ. The digestion is toned up, the nerves are strengthened and aching muscles are made strong. Dr. Williams' Pink Pills are especially useful to run-down women who worry about their daily tasks and duties. A few weeks' treatment has in hundreds of such cases brought the most remarkable improvement.

State Fair Needs Coliseum. The State Fair is recognized not only as a large event in Oregon life, but as one of real importance from educational and state-wide development standpoints. The big need of the Fair is a coliseum, where stock shows and other gatherings can be held in the night or during inclement weather. Such a building would, in any case, pay for itself in a few years by attracting increased attendance. The exterior structure might at least be completed now and the interior left more or less unfinished at the outset, as I have suggested in connection with the budget for 1917.

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Reproduction of Unfit Is Wrong. The prevalence and increase of feeble-mindedness and mental disease is one of the greatest problems of our day. It is estimated, for instance, that probably 2 per cent of Oregon children are mentally defective, and that probably 1 per cent of those who are mentally incompetent and whose unrestricted propagation simply means the creation of a new race of human beings. I am more and more convinced that the reproduction of the mentally unfit is absolutely wrong. Through our shortsighted action we are populating our state with imbeciles and criminals, insuring ever-increasing public expense and opening the way for disease, sorrow and tragedy for generations yet unborn. To mend this situation, I earnestly urge the passage of a sane sterilization act. Its application, should be

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