EUGENE CITY GUARD.

SUPPLEMENT.

THE GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly: On the recurrence of another biennial session of your Assembly, we are called to acknowledge the hand of a beneficent Providence manifest in every step of our progress as a State. We are surrounded with every natural resource for the enjoyment of life, for the accumulation of wealth and for the pursuit of happiness. No State has greater productive forces, and it is probable that no State has greater mineral wealth yet undeveloped.

You assemble here in this spacious structure, now for the first time dedicated to public use, as the people's chosen Representatives, to take counsel together how best to subserve the general good and to promote the public honor.

In obedience to my constitutional duty, I now tender to you such information of the present condition of our public affairs as appears to me to be pertinent to the occasion, and to make certain recommendations for your consideration.

The following is a condensed statement of the financial condition of the State, as gathered from the reports of the several branches of the public service, detailed reports of which will be laid before you:

Finances.

The balances in the Treasury at the close of the financial year, September 14, 1874, were $138,178 97, to the credit of the several funds as follows:

General Fund, coin	$ 1,546 19
General Fund, currency	1,606 00
Common School Fund Principal, coin	4,081 95
Common School Fund Principal, currency	2,585 63
Common School Fund Interest, coin	561 83
Common School Fund Interest, currency	1,726 85
University Fund, currency	2,144 83
Escheat Fund, coin	7,421 27
Escheat Fund, currency	1,785 57
Bounty Fund, coin	21,613 97
Relief Fund, coin	21,054 88
State House Building Fund, coin	10 00
State Land Fund, coin	15,850 47
State Land Fund, currency	4,945 98
Five Per Cent. U. S. Land Sale Fund, currency	5 58
Agricultural College Land Fund, currency	201 50
Swamp Land Fund, coin	51 18
State Capitol Building Land Fund, coin	649 00
Tide Land Fund, coin	171 51
Total balance as above	$138,178 97

Received since into the Treasury, the sum of $679,380 04, to the credit of the following funds:

General Fund, coin	$104,177 93
General Fund, currency	12,054 51
Common School Fund, principal, coin	18,200 63
Common School Fund, principal, currency	6,399 95
University Fund, coin	9,247 97
University Fund, currency	723 52
Soldiers' Bounty Fund	80,636 46
Soldiers' Relief Fund	40,313 23
Common School Fund, interest coin	53,914 47
Common School Fund, interest, currency	19,080 95
Escheat Fund, coin	799 88
Escheat Fund, currency	247 10
State Land Fund, coin	9,818 83
State Land Fund, currency	10,241 28
Swamp Land Fund, coin	275 00
Tide Land Fund, coin	1,759 70
Five per cent. U. S. Land Fund, coin	1,719 63
Agricultural College Land Fund, currency	9,000 05
Total	$679,380 04

DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid since, the sum of $753,624 47, to the debit of the following funds:

General Fund, coin	$ 20,500 04
General Fund, currency, exclusive of amount transferred to "General Land Fund, coin,"	2,685 78
Legislative Fund, coin	23,916 56
Legislative Fund, currency	421 24
Penitentiary Fund, coin	69,467 19
Penitentiary Fund, currency	3,575 76
Judicial Fund, coin	31,000 35
Insane Asylum Fund, coin	114,174 94
Convict Fund, coin	10,693 39
Printing Fund, coin	31,359 47
Fugitive Fund, coin	5,167 77
Incidental Fund, coin	24,591 97
Incidental Fund, currency	646 81
Common School Fund, principal coin, on loans	21,201 00
Common School Fund, principal cur., on loans	7,795 54
University Fund, coin	8,940 81
University Fund, currency	2,508 00
State Land, coin	75,505 83
State Land, currency, exclusive of amount transferred to "State Land Fund, coin"	6,049 00
Common School Fund, Interest, coin	53,108 41
Common School Fund, Interest, currency	20,355 79
Penitentiary Building Fund, cur.	156 37
State House Building Fund, coin	85,812 61
Executive Fund, coin	14,968 89
State Agricultural College Fund, coin	10,138 78
Escheat Fund, coin	8,024 96
Escheat Fund, currency	1,853 89
Soldiers' Bounty Bond Interest, Coupons	3,824 25
Soldiers' Relief Bond, Interest, Coupons and Bonds	21,583 85
Modoc War Bond, Interest, Coupons	10,631 99
Indigent Fund	3,543 84
Agricultural College Land Fund, on loans	8,087 96
Tide Land Fund	50 00
Total	$753,624 47

Leaving balance in the Treasury, September 11, 1876, $63,894 54, to the credit of the several funds, as follows:

General Fund, coin	$ 14,039 31
General Fund, currency	1,635 93
Common School Fund, principal coin	1,081 58
Common School Fund, principal currency	1,190 04
University Fund, coin	317 11
University Fund, currency	330 35
Soldiers' Bounty Fund, coin	781 78
Soldiers' Relief Fund, coin	27,057 46
Common School Fund, interest coin	1,367 89
Common School Fund, interest currency	461 01
Escheat Fund, coin	198 19
Escheat Fund, currency	228 58
State Land Fund, currency	7,640 14
State Land Fund, coin	650 97
Swamp Land Fund, coin	326 18
State Capitol Building Land Fund, coin	649 00
Tide Land Fund, coin	1,881 21
Five per cent. U. S. Land, currency	5 58
Five per cent. U. S. Land, coin	1,719 63
Agricultural College Land Fund, currency	1,956 59
Total	$63,894 54

Liabilities of the State.

BONDS.

Outstanding Soldiers' Bounty	$26,500 00
Outstanding Soldiers' Relief	640 00
Total	$27,140 00

LOCK BONDS.

Payable out of Internal Improvement Land Fund	$100,000 00

MODOC WAR BONDS.

Payable out of General Fund	$130,801 30

WAGON ROAD WARRANTS.

Payable out of Swamp and Tide Land, and Five per cent. U. S. Land Sale Funds and other land funds	$109,154 60

STATE WARRANTS.

Outstanding, on all accounts, payable out of State Revenue, issued prior to Sept. 14, 1874	$283,400 83
Outstanding State House Building warrants	5,539 75
Outstanding Escheat Fund	624 43
Total	$289,665 01

There has been a reduction of outstanding warrants since last biennial report of the Treasurer to the amount of $1,053 17; while all of the warrants drawn on account of current expenses during the last two years have been fully paid.

As the outstanding Soldiers' Relief bonds are not presented for payment, and are not due, the excess of that fund over requirments for interest can be transferred to the General Fund, to pay the expenses of the present Assembly, as required by the Act authorizing the military levy.

CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS ON STATE DEBTS.

In my last biennial message, the special attention of the Legislature was called to the subject of incurring State debts, as follows:

"Our State Constitution limits the indebtedness of the State to fifty thousand dollars. The provision is as follows: 'Article 10, Section 7. The Legislative Assembly shall not loan the credit of the State, nor in any manner create any debts or liabilities which shall singly, or in the aggregate with previous debts or liabilities, exceed the sum of fifty thousand dollars, except in case of war,' etc. It is contended by some that this provision refers to funded debts only, and not to the margin of outstanding warrants issued for current expenses. But it appears to me that the form of the liability does not vary the binding force of this restriction. The aggregate of all indebtedness against the State should be within fifty thousand dollars. In fact, it was the evident intention of the framers of our State Constitution that the State should be absolutely free from debt.

"Article 9, Section 2, provides that: 'The Legislative Assembly shall provide for raising revenue sufficient to defray the expenses of the State for each fiscal year, and also a sufficient sum to pay the interest on the State debt, if there be any.' Section 6, of the same article, provides that, 'Whenever the expenses of any fiscal year shall exceed the income, the Legislative Assembly shall provide for levying a tax for the ensuing fiscal year, sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the deficiency, as well as the estimated expense of the ensuing fiscal year.' These are positive mandates of our fundamental law. The Legislative Assembly is made responsible that the State be free from debt.

"I desire to co-operate with you to enforce these requirements literally."

These restrictions were also brought to the notice of the Legislative Assembly of 1872, in a special message, but their injunctions have remained unexecuted.

The practice has been to make such appropriations as were deemed proper, without inquiring whether the revenues would pay the warrants drawn on the appropriations. The facts are that the appropriations have exceeded the revenues of the State currently for many years, resulting in outstanding unpaid warrants in considerable amounts, bearing interest.

The public buildings have been erected without levying a building tax, or accumulating a building fund from other sources; and other special appropriations have been made in large amounts, drawing upon the resources originally intended for the ordinary current support of the State Government.

There has been no power in the hands of the Executive to check this excess of appropriations, without vetoing general appropriation bills on the heel of the session, thereby clogging the wheels of government, or without setting aside leading projects of State policy.

THE REMEDY.

In view of our constitutional restrictions, the general appropriations should be kept absolutely within the strictest estimate of the revenues, and no appropriation for public buildings, or for any other extraordinary outlay of money, should be made without providing, at the same time, by special tax for revenue, sufficient to meet such extraordinary expense. No better criterion can be adopted by which to judge of the expediency of any special appropriation, than the inquiry whether the people will approve a special tax to cover such public expenditure. In the present condition of our State finances, no measure, unsustained by special provision for revenues to meet the expenditure required by its enactment, will meet with Executive approval.

WEIGHT OF TAXATION.

The people justly complain of the increasing weight of taxation. A general misapprehension exists as to the source of this increase. Some surprise may be manifested when I say that in this State the rate of general taxation has remained the same for twelve years—five mills on the dollar, while during much of that period only four mills have been collected, for reasons not entirely clear. Had the five-mill tax been levied and collected, there would have been no outstanding warrants on the Treasury at this time, and as it is, the amount of outstanding warrants is less than the amount drawn from the Treasury on account of public buildings. I here present a statement of the taxation of property in the city of Salem, as an example of what the people bear in some localities, and on account of what they are assessed:

State Tax	5 Mills on a dollar
Military Tax	1½ " " "
General School Tax	3 " " "
Local School Tax	3 " " "
School Building Tax	1½ " " "
County Tax	10½ " " "
Road Tax, equal to	2 " " "
City Tax	9 " " "
Total	35½ Mills ₱ dollar

Being over three and a half per cent. on all property valuation for taxes. Of this seven mulated taxation, but five mills are for current State expenses, and thirty and one-half mills for other purposes. A strict limitation should be placed on the increase of taxes in counties and cities. There are cities in several of the States, which are now burdened with public debts greater than the public debts of the respective States in which they are situated. County and municipal liabilities are becoming great public burdens. Our State Constitution, Art. XI, sec. 10, provides that "no county shall create any debts or liabilities which shall singly or in the aggregate, exceed the sum of five thousand dollars, except to suppress insurrection or repel invasion." Also, in Sec. 5, of same article, it is provided that "Acts of Legislative Assembly, incorporating towns and cities, shall restrict their powers of taxation, borrowing money, contracting debts, and loaning their credit."

The first provision here referred to, has been practically a dead letter, for want of legislative enactment to enforce it; and it has been violated by three-fourths of the counties of this State. This limitation should be made a living injunction, by making the county authorities creating unconstitutional liabilities, personally liable for the excess over the limitation. Stronger guards should be thrown around private property in municipal corporations, to save it from being absorbed by local taxation. It bankrupts private economy. Let us have public retrenchment also.

OUTSTANDING STATE WARRANTS.

Since the last meeting of the Legislature, a decision has been rendered by the Supreme Court to the effect that under the plan of our Constitution the current expenses of each fiscal year must be defrayed by the current revenues of that year; and whenever the expenses of any fiscal year shall exceed the income, the Legislative Assembly shall provide for levying a tax for the ensuing year sufficient, with other sources of income, to pay the deficiency, as well as the estimated expenses of the ensuing fiscal year. The court also held that no outstanding warrants dated anterior to the beginning of the last biennial fiscal period could be paid by the Treasurer out of funds derived from current revenues accruing during said period, but that such funds must be devoted to the payment of current warrants as presented.

This is, without doubt, sound doctrine, and most beneficial to the State, as by its enforcement all public debt will be avoided. Under this rule the revenues of the last two years have been applied directly to the payment of the expenses of the last two years; and these expenses have been fully paid, leaving a surplus to be applied on other accounts, as the Treasurer's report shows. This is a demonstration that the State current expenses can be paid with less than a five-mill revenue. But the outstanding warrants have now to be met. They exist as the representative of the excesses of many years, not provided for as the Constitution requires. This class of indebtedness was greatly increased by the failure of the Legislature of 1868 to make any appropriations for general current State expenses, leaving the State to be conducted on exorbitant and uncertain vouchers and unlawful warrants, and interest to accumulate in large amounts, while the revenues in the Treasury were locked up and dormant. It has also been legitimately increased by appropriations for public buildings out of the general fund, while no building tax has been levied.

These deferred warrants must now be met by special taxation for their payment, according to the Constitution. As they have not been accumulated in a year, they cannot be paid in a year, but they should be paid gradually. There should be no increase of general taxation, but a decrease of general expenditures, so as to leave a margin of revenues to be applied in payment of these warrants.

HOW CAN A DECREASE OF EXPENDITURES BE EFFECTED? The State is now free from public rents, the new Capitol being now occupied for public purposes, and no expenditure will be required for that purpose. The support of the Penitentiary will not hereafter cost the State $10,000 per annum more than will be derived from that institution as earnings of convicts paid into the Treasury, and the margin may be less. Further restrictions should be placed upon expenditures for the conveying of prisoners to the Penitentiary and Insane Asylum, and in arresting fugitives from justice. The allowances in these cases should be limited strictly to actual outlays in performing the services, and a per diem for actual time necessarily employed; and in case of two persons taken by the same officer, a single per diem only should be allowed. I think the appropriations for these purposes can be properly cut down from $25,000 to $15,000, if proper restrictions be made and enforced. The appropriation for public printing for the last two years was $49 125 28; but of this amount $19,125 28 were paid to the former State Printer for the new Code, which will not necessarily be repeated for ten years to come. The State printing appropriation will, therefore, be much less than that made by the last Assembly.

By reference to the condition of the Agricultural College fund, it will appear that the interest-bearing resources for the coming two years will exceed $40,000 in currency. The customary appropriation of $5,000 per annum out of the Treasury for the support of this institution can properly be reduced one half or more, the balance of the usual assistance from the State being made up from interest accrued from the college fund proper. Many other reductions can properly be effected. The tug-boat subsidy need not be repeated, as the original contract is expired, and no further encouragement is necessary to establish shipping into the mouth of the Columbia River.

In order to give the Assembly a clear idea of the existing rate of expenditure for the different departments of the State government, for the purpose of furnishing a means of scanning the cost of each, I append a statement of such expenditure, estimated for one year, at the rate of the expenses of the last biennial period.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

For Governor's salary	$1,500
For Private secretary's salary	1,200
Total	$2,700

No fees, no perquisites, nor any contingent Executive fund allowed this Department.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

Secretary's salary	$1,500
Assistant secretary's salary	400
Clerical aid	1,600
Contingent expense fund for all current State purposes, to be administered by the Secretary of State	12,000
Total	$15,500

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

State Treasurer's salary	$800

No clerical aid, no fees.

JUDICIARY DEPARTMENT.

Salaries of five Judges, at $2,000 each	$10,000
Allowance for traveling and contingencies	5,000
Salaries of Prosecuting Attorneys	2,500
Total	$17,500

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT.

Per diem, mileage and incidental expenses	$23,667 88

STATE PENITENTIARY.

For current expenditures, one-half of biennial sum	$25,000

STATE LIBRARY.

Annual allowance for books	$750
Salary of Librarian	500
Total	$1,250

STATE GEOLOGIST.

Salary of	$1,000

PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Superintendent of	$1,500
Traveling expenses, etc.	

BOARD OF SCHOOL LAND COMMISSIONERS.

Chief Clerk	$1,800
Recording and School Fund Clerk	1,500
Expenses of maps, stationery and contingencies, approximate	1,000
Total	$4,300

INSTITUTION FOR THE BLIND.

Annual allowance	$2,000

INSTITUTION FOR DEAF MUTES.

Annual allowance	$5,000

ORPHANS' HOME

Annual allowance	$1,500

INSANE ASYLUM.

Annual support	$30,000
Visiting Physician	500
Total	$30,500

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Annual allowance	$5,000

HEALTH OFFICERS.

At Astoria	$1,000
At Coos Bay	400
Total	$1,400

CONVEYING PRISONERS AND INSANE.

Annual allowance for conveying prisoners to the Penitentiary and to the Insane Asylum, and arresting fugitives from justice	$12,500

PILOT COMMISSIONERS.

Salary of Pilot Commissioners on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers	$300

on the Umpqua River, fees.

The total general appropriations for current expenses of last biennial period amounted to $ 88,743 16, one-half of which would show an annual expenditure of $194,871 58. I believe this sum could be reduced to the annual state expense of $180,000, by retrenchment in the directions already indicated, without impairing the vigor or usefulness of the various branches of the State government; and this sum could be paid by a levy of four mills on the dollar on our respective valuation, assisted by the revenue derived from the Penitentiary. I therefore recommend that the general State tax be reduced to four mills; that the military tax of one mill and a half be reduced to a half mill tax, which will be sufficient to pay interest on outstanding military bonds. Then levy a special tax of two mills for the gradual liquidation of the outstanding State warrants. By this method, State taxation would remain the same as it has been for many years, but the State finances would be placed in a much better condition, and shortly admit of greater reductions.

INTEREST ON STATE WARRANTS.

The payment of interest on State warrants drawn for current expenditures, as practiced in this State, I believe to be contrary to the custom of other States, and is of doubtful propriety. A very large proportion of our present arrearages on State warrants is accounted for by the accumulation of interest. The plan of our Constitution is that the warrants for current expenses each year shall be paid by the revenue of each year. We must live up to this requirement. I therefore recommend that hereafter all interest-bearing warrants upon the Treasury be dispensed with. At the same time, care must be taken that the expenses of the State do not exceed the revenues, so that all such warrants will be paid on presentation to the Treasurer.

PUBLIC LANDS OF THE STATE.

Nearly all of the public lands of the State, required by law to be selected by the Governor, have been so selected, and they have been finally approved by the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior, with the exception of the swamp land. These include the grant of 500,000 acres for Internal Improvements, the Indemnity Common School lands, the Agricultural College lands, the University lands and the Public Building lands.

The Swamp lands are in full course of segregation, and 324,219 acres have been selected in the manner required by the rules and instructions of the General Land Office, most of which will, without doubt, be finally approved to the State. A large amount of swamp lands are yet to be selected, which are not within the present surveys. After devoting six years of careful labor to the State titles in our public land grants, I am gratified to be able to report general success in the work.

SWAMP LAND CONFLICTS.

In relation to swamp lands, I recommend that, in all cases where, by reason of conflicts and resulting litigation by which the claimant under the State is excluded from possession for the purposes of reclamation, as authorized by existing law, an amendment be made to the swamp Act of October 28, 1870, granting such claimant the same time for reclamation which we would have been entitled to, had such adverse possession not occurred.

STATE WARRANTS ON SWAMP LAND FUND

The outstanding State warrants on the swamp land fund bear interest. In order to secure their earliest liquidation, on principles honorable and economical to the State, I recommend that all such warrants be authorized by law to be received at par, interest included, in payment for swamp lands. This would be the most direct mode of payment, and would hasten their liquidation, as well as an early adjustment of swamp land purchases.

THE PENITENTIARY.

The biennial report of the Superintendent of the Penitentiary is herewith submitted. Marked success is shown in the management of this institution. The appropriation of $50,000, made two years ago for the support of the prison, considered a limited allowance at the time, has not been exhausted, the total expenditure under the same having been $49,308 93. The earnings of the convicts during the same period amount to $37,521 80. Of this sum, $10,322 85 is cash paid into the Treasury; $7,733 08, bills and accounts receivable for convict labor, sales of brick, etc., and keeping United States prisoners, all shortly available for cash to be paid into the Treasury; $11,994 87, convict labor and brick turned over to the State Capitol Commissioners, as provided by statute; the balance represented in labor upon permanent improvements within the prison grounds, such as constructing tannery, boot and shoe shops, blacksmith shops, and improvement of water power, prison grounds, etc. In estimating prison labor bestowed upon public work, fifty cents per day only has been estimated, while the real value to the State may have been much more, as in cases of skilled labor engaged upon the construction of shops and machinery. A striking instance of this may be given by referring to the item in the Superintendent's report, giving account of convict labor on tannery, boot and shoe shops, blacksmith shops, mill-race, penstock, etc., as consuming 7,414 days' labor, at fifty cents per day, valued at $3,707. The improvements represented by this labor are of a permanent and valuable character, and are estimated by a prominent and skilled builder of Salem to be worth at this time the sum of $10,312 92, by builders' specific cash estimates, exclusive of machinery. A certificate of this estimate is herewith submitted.

The loss of the old shops by fire, within the last biennial period, was a very serious drawback against the Penitentiary appropriation, and against the productiveness of prison labor, but the disaster has been more than overcome by diligence in management, and within the resources of the narrow appropriation of the last Assembly; so that the improved condition of this institution in workshops, water power, tannery and facilities for the employment of convict labor for cash wages to go into the Treasury, is noticeable. The general cost of conducting our State prison for the last two years has been less than one-half the expense incurred during the corresponding period under my predecessor in office, in proportion to the number of prison inmates. A reduction of $10,000 in the appropriation for the coming two years is recommended by the Superintendent, in which I concur.

The sum of $20,000 per annum will now support our Penitentiary; while, at the same time, with the new facilities for employing prison labor and the discipline of the convicts in their new employments, a very large proportion of the sum will be returned to the Treasury in the form of earnings. Thus, by slow degrees we are attaining a self-sustaining State prison.

I recommend an appropriation for a rotary force pump, as suggested by the Superintendent. Its cost will be limited, and it can be attached to the water power now in motion. I also recommend an appropriation for lumber for a new stockade.

The moral discipline of the prison has been good, and the voluntary services of charitable and religious persons in aid of the unfortunate convict have been constant. I call your special attention to the report of the Prison Physician, as establishing the success of the sanitary arrangements of the new Penitentiary, as well as of the medical attendance. No death has occurred within the last two years from causes arising within the prison. The Physician says:

"It is a gratifying source of pleasure to state that while our city in the last two years has been scourged by two alarmingly fatal epidemics, neither of them have invaded our prison—a fact which speaks in the highest terms possible for the thoroughly efficient sanitary regulations of the institution, and demonstrates the fact that convicts must be well fed, clothed and cared for."

The fact that the prison roll of 1876 shows a reduction in the number of prisoners, as compared with that of 1874, ought to be a ground of public satisfaction. The report of September 1 1874, showed the inmates of our Penitentiary to number 113; that of September 1, 1876, 114; while the number of deaths and pardons has been less than at any former period. I attribute this gratifying fact to the firm hand of our judiciary and the intelligent and discriminating co-operation of our juries in the careful administration of public justice, whereby the progress of crime has been arrested.

PRISON LABOR.

As prison labor is an important means of reform, as well as a part of the penalty denounced by the law upon convicts. It is one of the first duties of lazy ...rilities for the peri... Me. The labor of the con... State, if properly direct... several of the other Sta... been made to the employ... certain industries, for the ... same interfered with free l... ity. The industries now be... our State prison are not op... but they are such that s... with articles not ma... such as saddle-trees, ... wagon irons, machine-made ... leather, etc., large amounts ... stantly imported from the ... of California and the Easte... class of prison labor should ... tered both for the purpose ... articles manufactured at ho... ing our money from leaving t... the purpose of saving the pe... tion for the support of the ... convict leased for a long time ... dinarily certain to be no furth... the public. I therefore commen... tion of the Superintendent of the ... made in his report, that long leases ... labor be authorized. In adjusting ... convict labor, the superintendent ... invested with the right to make ... ductions for inexperience at the be... service.

PARDONS.

I lay before you a list of pardons ... during the past two years, numbering ... out of 210 convicts in and received ... Penitentiary during that period. El... these only were based on the usual grou... clemency; five having been issued to ... between the ages of 10 and 16 years, wh... proper subjects of a reform school. In t... sence of such an institution, after a t... imprisonment, these boys have been r... ticed to responsible persons, who have ... an interest in their welfare. A commun... of the sentence of death has been gran... one instance, after a reprieve for the p... of a hearing before the Supreme Court o... tion for a new trial.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The Hospital for the Insane and Idiot... been conducted with its usual succes... has been noticeably enlarged and impr... Dr. J. C. Hawthorne, the contractor on... of the State. Without doubt, this inst... is deserving of commendation for its s... arrangements and the uniform good c... of discipline, medical treatment and ... conduct. I call your special attention ... report of the State contractor, herewi... mitted. The number of patients in ... September 1, 1874, was 195; admitted up... tember 1, 1876, 142; discharged during ... period, 119. Total remaining now in h... 218. This institution has been co... within the appropriation of last session.

INSTITUTIONS FOR MUTES AND BL...

The institutions established for mut... the blind, have continued to do good w... those who have been denied any one ... senses. Both have been under good ch... and the progress of the pupils has been ... was expected. These schools are only ... of what the future will develop. While ... liberal appropriations might be well emp... in these institutions, I do not recommen... increase of appropriations over those o... years ago.

COMMON SCHOOLS.

I am gratified to be able to remark upon t... growing interest now taken in the comm... schools of this State, and to commend th... zeal and energy manifested in their behalf ... for the past two years, by the Superintendent of ... Public Instruction. His report will be duly ... laid before you, to which I call your special attention.

COMMON SCHOOL FUND.

The active labors of the Board of School Land Commissioners have increased the common school fund from $504,216 46, reported two years ago, to $525,381 82, the present amount of that fund. Besides this sum, there has been distributed $68,408 85 for the support of common schools within the last two years.

STATE UNIVERSITY FUND.

The fund accumulated for the support of the State University now amounts to $75,192 20, an increase of $17,111 83 within the past two years. The amount of land remaining unsold, belonging to this institution, and yet available, is 22,826 acres.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE FUND.

The fund on hand, on account of sales of agricultural college land, is $7,996 65; instalment notes due on purchases, $8,234 43. Total present fund available, $16,231 08. Applications for the purchase of more than ten thousand acres of these lands, which have been lately approved and now on file, and will shortly mature into instalment payments and notes, to be added to that already in hand. It will thus be seen that the funds of this College are so rapidly accumulating that after this session the institution will be sustained by its own proper resources.

MANAGEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural College has evidently been under excellent management and correct discipline. The report of the President of the institution is herewith submitted, with special commendations, as evidencing its efficiency and usefulness. It behooves the welfare of the State that this institution be sustained.

ORGANIZATION OF THE STATE UNIVERSITY.

I am gratified to be able to report to you the completion of the new State University building at Eugene City, which, together with the grounds on which it is situated, of the value of $12,000, has been made a free gift to the State by the people of Lane County, in consideration of the permanent location of the University in their midst. This institution is now fully organized by the selection of an excellent and experienced corps of professors and teachers. The special fund invested for its support will now, for the first time, be brought into active and current use, adding great impetus and strength to the educational agencies of the State.

SALMON FISHERIES.

I renew my recommendation of two years ago, that there be a voluntary commission appointed, composed of citizens interested in the salmon fisheries of the Columbia River, to devise a measure best adapted to the protection of these fisheries. They are assuming an importance in the productive resources of this State that careful preservation is now called for. As was said in my last Message, the river fisheries of all countries, where the laws have not intervened for their preservation, have one uniform history—first, decimation, then destruction.

The fact that the Columbia River forms a mutual boundary line between Oregon and Washington, will require that whatever measures shall be adopted by Oregon shall be submitted to the legislative authorities of Washington Territory for co-ordinate enactment, before they can become effective force. This class of legislation is not uncommon between older States of the Union, situated in like manner. The shad fisheries of the Delaware River have been regulated by joint legislation of Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Other instances of like legislation exist in other States having a common river boundary. The salmon fisheries of the Columbia are the largest in the world, and can easily be maintained as such for all time. The product of these fisheries this year have exceeded in export value two million dollars in gold.

RIVER AND HARBOR IMPROVEMENTS.

The great future prosperity of this State depends peculiarly upon the improvement and free navigation of our large rivers and the opening and protection of our harbors. No seaboard State so greatly needs the fostering hand of the General Government in appropriations for said general commerce. Our accessible harbors are few in comparison with our extended sea coast. We need the construction of a harbor of refuge at Port Orford, and improvements at Coos Bay. We need jetties to direct the currents and control the shifting sands at the mouth of the Columbia River, which would give thirty feet of water, or more, on the bar at low tide. The magnitude