

GOVERNORS MESSAGE

From page 3

United States. Another fireproof building should be provided for housing the girls.

The employment institution for the blind, at Portland, fills an urgent need. I recommend that the activities of that institution be increased so that the blind may learn more trades and thus become self-supporting.

Training School

The old training school for boys, near Salem, should be converted into a reformatory, where should be confined the younger and unhardened criminals sent to the penitentiary, and also the older boys who are now being sent to the training school.

To that end I recommend the construction of at least two new buildings at Woodburn. The cottage plan is undoubtedly the best plan for caring for these boys in the state training school.

Tuberculosis Hospital

Oregon now has one of the finest tuberculosis hospitals in the United States, and, it is most efficiently managed. A new hospital was provided by the people and has been located at The Dalles. Liberal appropriations should be made for these institutions.

Industrial School For Girls

The industrial school for girls has been under most able management. I earnestly recommend the full amount approved by the budget commission be appropriated for this institution.

Institution For Feeble-Minded

The institution for feeble-minded has been under its present official management for several years. The sterilization law passed at another session has been in full operation. When once committed to this institution the patients are not discharged or allowed furloughs until they have been sterilized. In a few years this will result in a marked decrease in the number of those unfortunate sub-normals.

Self-Sustaining Commissions

From time to time commissions have been created by legislative act and authority given to these commissions to collect fees and license and to spend the money so collected. I repeat my former recommendations that all fees collected by these so-called self-sustaining commissions be turned into the general fund of the state treasury, and that the commissions be obliged to present their budgets to the ways and means committee and receive from that committee their appropriations for the coming biennium. It is not good business or good government, to allow a commission to collect fees, often aggregating many thousands of dollars, and then vest in that commission authority to spend the fees as it sees fit, without audit or supervision by elected state officials.

New State Office Building

I recommend that a new state office building be erected in Salem. The necessary money can be borrowed from the funds belonging to the State Industrial Accident Commission. Interest should be paid on the money so borrowed.

The building should be of modern class A construction, and at least six stories high. One floor each should be given to the state library, the highway commission, the bonus commission, the accident commission and the motor vehicle department. State records are now scattered through many different offices in buildings that are not fireproof. It would be a serious disaster to have the records of any one of these departments destroyed. A fireproof state building is absolutely necessary to insure the safety of state records.

Fairs and Expositions

I ask you to continue the appropriations for the Pacific International livestock exposition, the state fair and the various county and district fairs. The annual visit to these various fairs in the fall is the only bright spot in the isolated, lonely lives of many men

and women who are engaged in the production of food and clothing for the world. It is also a source of inspiration to hundreds of boys and girls in the state to have held before them constantly throughout the year the possibility of earning a free trip to these fairs. I ask you to make these appropriations as they mean so much to so many people in the humble walks of life.

Old Age Pensions

An old age pension should be adopted by the state. There are today many men and women in the state who have reached their declining years and are unable to support themselves. Their unfortunate plight is due partly to economic conditions and partly to their inability to do the things worth while at which they can earn a livelihood. Many of them, in early life, held prominent places in the business and social world. It would be far more dignified and better for society to provide for pensioning these dependent ones than to have them spend their last days in a poorhouse. This is one of the prices we must pay for living in a complex civilization.

Irreducible School Fund.

I again call attention to the fact, as I did two years ago, that there is a serious impairment in the irreducible school fund. The loss in this fund may reach a total of \$500,000. This resulted from loaning more money than should have been loaned in certain counties in the state, and the organization of irrigation districts, which included lands mortgaged to the school fund.

I recommend that the legislature by joint memorial to congress, ask that body to pass legislation now pending so that title to school lands will be confirmed to the state; and that the federal government relinquish its reserve claim for the minerals that may be found in said school lands. It is not right or just for the federal government to give to the school fund of Oregon, as it did, sections 16 and 36 of each township, and then reserve to itself all mineral rights, coming back years afterwards and claiming said mineral rights and disturbing titles long standing in private individuals.

World War Veterans' State Aid Commission

It is probable that many loans made by the World War Veterans' State Aid Commission will be found to be over-loans. A number have already abandoned their farms and homes and have turned their property over to the state. The total loaned to date is about \$21,000,000, and when all applications are acted on this amount will probably reach \$30,000,000. The impairment in this fund may amount to 10 per cent of the appraised value is decidedly too high, and it is certain that this result in serious losses to the state.

On account of the cash bonus paid there is a deficit in this fund of \$1,499,088. The state is collecting one-half mill on all assessed property in Oregon for this fund. It will require three years collection to take up the present deficit. It is my judgment that \$500,000 must be contributed yearly from the general fund to the World War Veterans' State Aid Commission for eight years in order to take up the deficit now existing and the further losses that will surely accrue in the future.

Public Service Commission.

By reason of various court decisions I know full well that the Public Service Commission is severely limited in its power to grant relief to the people from excessive charges and terms exacted by public utilities. However, seriously handicapped the commission may be, it is nevertheless my belief that it should either show a disposition to help curb and correct the arbitrary practices of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company and other utilities of the commission should be abolished.

Arbitrarily and unreasonably, with all the power of an autocrat,

the telephone compels its patrons to pay for the use of the telephone before it is installed; rates are collected in advance; the patron's money is used without interest. Our Public Service Commission has not made any effort to redress these wrongs, but sits idly by, condones, and at least tacitly right in allowing the local telephone company to pay four and one-half per cent of its gross earnings to the American Telephone & Telegraph Company, under the guise of "supervision," and then compel the local companies to buy all of their costly equipment and supplies at an unknown profit from the Western Electric Company. The Public Service Commission of this state has failed to regulate except in the interests of the utilities and against the people.

I know the excuse is made that the courts would set aside the decisions of the commission, but it would be a relief to have the Public Service Commission evidence a desire to try to help. I called the attention of the legislature to this matter two years ago.

I now recommend that you appropriate sufficient money to enable the governor to conduct a hearing before the Public Service Commission and in the courts, giving authority to summon witnesses, employ experts and engineers, and compel the production of books and records, that a full and complete hearing may be had on the doings of the telephone companies in the state of Oregon.

To the end that responsibility may be fixed, I recommend that the elective public service commission be abolished, and that the members of the commission be appointed by the governor.

Particularly interested in this telephone matter must be the large delegation from Multnomah county in this legislature, for in the city of Portland the franchise of the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company expires in a short time, and the city council of Portland should have the assistance of this legislative body, so that the new franchise granted by Portland to the telephone company will properly and adequately protect the people from excessive rates and arbitrary practices. The city council of Portland can refuse to grant the franchise unless the "supervision" charge of the American Telephone & Telegraph Company is omitted. This is a matter affecting the pocketbooks of many people, and should you fail to set the people will have the right to believe that you have forgotten your duty and the interests of the common man in your desire to serve the special interests.

Some years ago many of the public utilities and corporations which depend largely for their existence upon the good will of the people began selling their shares of stock, using "high-power" salesmen and effecting their sales chiefly among the most influential citizens of the community. One hundred dollars in stock, paying 7 per cent interest, often influences several votes on election day when the utilities desire to nominate or elect a friend on an important commission or to a high office. In this distribution of stock it is noticeable that the control never passes from the hands of a select few, and the wider the distribution of stock the easier the control. If the American people can be duped by this scattering of stock throughout the country, then the administration of government by the utilities and for the utilities will be perfected.

Consolidation of State Activities. It seems to be utterly impossible to bring about consolidation of state commissions in Oregon. I now recommend that you make a start by consolidating all agricultural activities under one head. This will demonstrate the effectiveness and the economy of such a system.

Stream Pollution

Whole hearted support and assistance should be given to our state board of health and to other efforts toward the prevention of million dollars a year in Oregon to help train and equip these men. We are not a war-loving nation; we do not believe in militarism, but simple precaution dictates that we at all times be prepared to defend our country and our institutions of government, whether it be from foes within or from the enemy without.

Educational Institutions

We should never forget that the most important business in the state of Oregon is the training and education of our children. Soon we older men and women must pass from the stage of action. Those who take our places should have all the training that school and home can provide. The stream pollution. This is vital to the health of every community.

Oregon National Guard

All Oregon should be proud of our National Guard. The Oregon

National Guard is the finest in the United States. The federal government expends more than a million dollars a year on the guard. The perpetuity of American institutions and of civilization itself depends largely upon our schools. Free institutions of government rest entirely upon the intelligence of the masses. The centuries that have rolled by bear testimony to the immutable law that education is the one great bulwark of democracy; that mankind has progressed in proportion to the degree that education has been disseminated among the people; that civilization has stagnated and gone backward when the least among the citizenry have been denied the right to knowledge.

Next to the homes of the nation, public schools exert the greatest influences on the character of our citizenship. They are the foundation upon which our intellectual development is built; they aid in rounding out the physical well-being of the youth of the land; they call out the best that is in the minds of the young and direct it into the proper channels. In brief, they determine in large measure the mental and moral character of our citizenship. From the public schools of our country have come our leaders, our great men, those who have left footprints on the sands of time. Our public schools have been our salvation in the past. They are the star of hope for the future.

Oregon Agricultural College

The Oregon Agricultural College stands at the head of land grant colleges in the United States. For twenty years no educational institution has had more able management. The entire state has been benefited and vastly improved through its activities.

University of Oregon

Our state university at Eugene is one of the great educational institutions of America, made so largely by the leadership of its late president. Under new management its power and influence should continue.

Normal Schools

Our normal school at Monmouth has 1,000 students. This is a very fine institution for the training of grade teachers. In order to provide needed buildings and equipment, more money must be given for this institution than is collected by the millage tax. I recommend the full appropriation that was approved by the budget commission. The new normal school at Ashland has exceeded the anticipation of its friends, and new buildings and equipment are necessary. The new normal school located at La Grande should have an appropriation of at least \$175,000 for the construction of the necessary buildings. These normal schools are necessary to train properly the teachers who work so faithfully in the grades with the thousands of future citizens of our country.

State Library

The importance and value of the library is equaled only by the common grade schools. It is reaching, helping, assisting and inspiring thousands of people in-home and communities isolated and distant from the educational centers of the state. I recommend the full appropriation approved by the budget commission for this deserving and valuable state activity.

Women in Public Life

Since women have been given the privilege of voting, and have taken their places in various vocations in the business world, I have watched with deep interest the ability displayed by those who have been placed in charge of important functions of government. I wish to testify that my observations are that they have made good, and I know of no position in the affairs of state government that a woman cannot fill creditably, provided she has the proper training and peculiar qualifications for the work. There are several outstanding examples that may be seen by calmly and impartially appraising the work performed by women of Oregon, i. e., secretary of the state fair board, district judge, superintendent of the girls' training school, regents of the university and agricultural college, and state librarian. No quixotic spirit of gallantry is needed to commend them for their loyal service to the state. Simple justice dictates that we accord to them our sincere appreciation and thanks for their loyal, unflinching devotion to duty; for their ever present sense of responsibility, and for the able, efficient manner in which they have acquitted themselves in managing the various departments of state.

For four years my every official act has been controlled by my earnest desire to do that which was best for all the people. Fear of opponent, friendship, or hope of reward have in no way swayed me or affected my decisions. Bit-

ter and unjust criticism has been the cause of much worry and many headaches, but has in no way affected my official course. I faced threat of recall because I would not bow to a powerful group that demanded certain action from me. I knew at the time that their full power and strength would be used to prevent my reelection. I felt their effectiveness in the campaign just closed. In my inner consciousness I knew I was right, and I held for the verdict of the future. I believe that in the years to come my administration will be given credit—

For arousing interest in hydro-electric development;

For an earnest effort to bring about a state reforestation program;

For beginning the movement to collect the money necessary for state activities from sources other than a tax on visible property;

For arousing the people to the necessity for more equitable assessment laws;

For creating public sentiment for law enforcement, including prohibition;

For changing the policy in regard to guaranteeing interest on irrigation bonds and the use of state credit;

For initiating a program that will eventually make the penitentiary self-supporting.

For changing road construction from "black-top" to oiled macadam, and

For an active, earnest interest in all matters pertaining to education.

I am laying down my work as governor of this state with ill will toward none, with friendship for all. I again reaffirm my faith in American institutions. I am grateful for the opportunity to live in this wonderful age of human activity, in a country of which we are all a part and parcel, reaching from ocean to shining ocean, using one language, of practically one religion, with free public

schools and libraries everywhere, without tariff walls at state boundaries, and with modern means for the transportation of freight and intelligence that are the marvel of all the centuries.

I extend to my successor the kindest of greetings. It is my sincere hope that his administration may be as successful as I believe the future historian will proclaim mine to have been. Let me close my message to you and the final moment of my term as governor of Oregon, with these thoughts:

I hold that man alone succeeds,

Whose life is crowned by noble deeds,

Who cares not for the world's applause,

But scorns custom's outgrown laws.

Who feels not dwarfed by nature's show,

But deep within himself doth know

That conscious man is greater far Than ocean, land or distant star; Who does not count his wealth by gold,

His worth by office he may hold, But feels himself, as man alone, As good as king upon a throne, Who, battling 'gainst each seeming wrong,

Can meet disaster with a song, Feel sure of victory in defeat, And rise refreshed the foe to meet,

Who only lives the world to bless, Can never fail—he is Success!

For SALE or TRADE

I have a 40 acre ranch that I will sell, or trade for town property.

Thirty acres under cultivation and 10 acres in timber. Good house and nicely fixed inside.

It is the former Mellinger ranch. If you know where it is call and see it. It is 1 1/2 miles from town on stony point road below city reservoir. If you don't know where it is, inquire at the Eagle office for Ratcliffe and I will be glad to show you where it is.

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