

GOV. CHAMBERLAIN OF AFFAIRS OF STATE

Delivers His Bi-Ennial Message to Legislative Assembly—Both Bodies Adjourn Over Sunday—Committees on Monday.

The Governor will send to the Legislature early next week the four bills he vetoed after the last session, one of which is very important to the people, more than any. It has been before them for a long time, many things refer to the bill to amend the Australian ballot law so that a voter may be permitted to vote the straight ticket of his party if he so desires with the making of a single cross on the ballot. This is undoubtedly one of the most equitable laws passed by the Legislature in recent years, and that there is no doubt at all that Governor Chamberlain vetoed it for purely party reasons, say all who were interested in the passage.

The bill will benefit the party entailing the largest vote is not questioned by anyone who has studied the bill, and therefore it is not to be wondered at that party influence and political conditions may have induced the Governor to veto the bill but that the amendment to the law is correct and just is not questioned by any one who knows of the intricacies of the Australian ballot law.

There is every reason that Republicans should assent this bill over the Governor's veto, said a member of the state Senate yesterday afternoon, and I do not doubt it will be done. I cannot imagine the frame of mind that a Republican could get into that would prevent his supporting the law as passed by the last session of the Legislative Assembly. I feel that if there is any question of all the Republicans voting to ratify the bill over the Governor's veto that a general caucus of the Republican members should be held with a view to "laboring" with the recalcitrant brethren.

Other Republicans spoke of the measure as one in which they felt that the party was deeply interested in the same as the general public, as it is a measure in line of the right, and that they thought there could be no possible reason why any Republican should vote to sustain the Governor's veto of the measure.

It is said that the Governor expects the veto to be sustained, but I do not see how," said a leader in the lower house yesterday afternoon, "unless he expects Republicans to do what they did when he was elected, that is, stand in with him. There may be those who will do it, but I do not think there is any doubt that all the bill will pass over his head."

The Governor's Mansion.
Another bill that was vetoed and which a strong effort is being made to pass over the veto, is the appropriation of the amount necessary for the purchase of the corner of Court and Sumner streets for a home for the Governor. This was generally considered a meritorious measure, for the Governor should have his home at the capital and without there being a gubernatorial mansion for his use the necessity would be made to rent a house here, and pay high rental, usually then unable to secure a suitable residence. This bill will probably pass over the Governor's veto.

Off to Portland.
The members all hit the trail for Portland yesterday afternoon with very few exceptions, the latter being those who were satisfied to go to their homes if living near this city. The two houses adjourned to hours late enough on Monday to permit the members to return on the train from the metropolis and arrive in time for the opening of the session.

On Monday it is expected the Speaker and President will each announce his committees and then the regular order will be taken up, and carried steadily and continuously until the end of the session, perhaps within twenty days, and perhaps in forty. Who knows?

With organization completed both houses of the Legislature Assembly settled down to business at the start yesterday morning. The Senate passed H. B. 5, and the House reciprocated by passing S. B. 6.

An important bill was introduced to the Senate by Brownell for the enactment of an eight-hour labor law in certain employments. Senator Wheelton presented a bill for the appropriation of money for the benefit of Indian war veterans.

Spirited Contest.
The House was the scene of a spirited controversy between Kay of Marion, and Smith, of Josephine. Smith introduced a resolution for the appointment of a committee to investigate allegations of committee to the liquor organization. Smith wanted the rules of the House suspended. Kay insisted that the rules could not be suspended on account of certain technicalities, and was answered hotly by Smith.

While the bill was being voted upon Richie jumped to his feet and made a speech against it, saying that an investigation was unnecessary and absurd. The House was called to order by the Speaker and the voting continued, which resulted in the defeat of the resolution by an overwhelming majority.

H. B. 5, which was passed by the Senate yesterday morning, is to authorize Clatsop county to levy a tax of five mills for a period of several years for the construction and furnishing of an up to date court house. It will be signed by Governor Chamberlain as soon as it has been through the regular routine.

S. B. 6, Haines, which was passed by the House, and only waits for the con-

ing signature of the Governor to become a law, is to amend the charter of the city of Hillsboro. It seems that there three county roads dissect the village and that they are kept in repair by the county. Through an agreement between the county and city officials it was agreed to amend the town charter transferring the control and care of the streets into the hands of the city. The bill also provides for an amendment of the charter to regulate saloons and all classes of the lawless elements.

To Inclose Champoug Monument.

S. B. No. 48, introduced by Senator Croisan, of Marion county, is of general interest to the inhabitants of this county. It reads as follows:
"An act to authorize and empower the Governor, Secretary of State and State Treasurer of the state of Oregon, in the name and on behalf of the state of Oregon, to purchase such lands in Marion county, Oregon, as will be necessary to make a proper inclosure for the monument erected at Old Champoug, in Marion county, Oregon, in commemoration of the organization of the first civil government west of the Rocky mountains and to make such improvements to the same as are necessary and appropriate money therefor."

Whereas, on the 2nd day of May, 1843, at Old Champoug, in Marion county, Oregon, there was organized the first civil government west of the Rocky mountains. One hundred and two men were present at a meeting called for that purpose at which fifty-five votes were cast for such government and fifty against.

Whereas, upon the spot where said government was organized there was erected by the state a monument to commemorate said event, and secured from the owners of the property where the same is situated, a deed to a piece of land sixteen feet square.

Whereas, said land is inadequate for said purpose and is inclosed by lands owned by other parties and it is necessary to purchase other lands in order to secure a proper inclosure to the same.

The bill also provides that the said officers will have power to make such improvements to said monument as in their judgment shall be necessary. And for the appropriation out of the general fund of the state of Oregon \$600 to be used by officers for the purpose of purchasing a plot of ground about three acres in extent to be used as a park.

Engrossed Bills, G. B. Johnson, of Columbia.
Enrolled Bills, Simon Caro, of Multnomah.

Assistant Clerk of Judiciary M. E. Miller, of Wasco.
Clerk of Ways and Means committee, E. J. Stratford, of Marion.
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The Governor's Message.
A few minutes after 11 o'clock yesterday morning witnessed the presentation of a message from the Senate to the House announcing that the Senate was ready and expectant for the reading of the Governor's message.

The two bodies of Senators and Representatives immediately assembled in the chamber of the House. President Kuykendall was proffered the seat of chairman of the joint assembly by Speaker Mills, which was very graciously accepted.

The joint committee, two from the Senate and three from the House, was appointed to notify Governor Chamberlain the two bodies of the Legislature were waiting the deliverance of his message.

Governor Chamberlain was escorted to the Speaker's platform, where he delivered his message. Governor Chamberlain held his audience, who listened carefully to his address. All present were deeply interested and paid close attention to all that was said.

The message covered every important subject minutely. The Governor's enunciation was perfect and his words could be heard without difficulty in all parts of the chamber. Several scores of people were present to hear the reading of the message by the Governor. He was frequently interrupted by bursts of applause.

The Legislative Assembly applauded the Governor's remarks as heartily and as sincerely as their Democratic colleagues.

books required. He recommends generosity with the State University and Agricultural College, speaking highly of the great work each is doing. He recommends placing the normal school under one board of regents and making the course of study uniform.

He would have small cottages built at the Soldiers' Home so that such soldiers as might have to take advantage of that institution could also have their wives with them. He refers to the improvements made at the penitentiary. He commends the work at the asylum for the criminal insane. Would give control of the youthful criminals to the prison chaplain, and would establish a school within the prison for their education.

He refers fittingly to the Oregon National Guard and its efficiency and commends the recommendations of the adjutant-general. Recommends the appropriation necessary for the payment of the remainder of the Indian war claims, saying that "these brave old pioneers have waited long to have justice done them." He recommends such an abolition of the quarantine stations at Astoria, Gardiner, Marshfield and Yaquina.

In referring to the public lands of the state he says the office of the clerk of the board of school land commissioners and the state land agent have been consolidated, in a way again, and that soon it will be possible from an inspection of the records to ascertain at a glance the present status of every acre of public land in the state. He discusses the conditions of these lands at great length, and especially refers to the lands that have been sold as mineral base and which have been turned down by the secretary of the interior. He adds that during the present administration operations in alleged mineral base have been done entirely away with, and that not an acre of indemnity land has been secured, and that no one has any certificates of sale or deeds been executed to indemnity lands selections since January 1, 1903.

He urges upon the Legislature the enactment of a general "follow-service" law, which would prohibit employers from prohibiting employer's liability insurance. Would regulate employment agencies. Desires the establishment of juvenile courts, after the model of the courts of Colorado. Recommends the enactment of an "indeterminate sentence" law, stating that with such a law there would be incentive to lead better lives in prison.

He says the Governor should have an emergency fund subject to his immediate order for certain purposes. He refers especially to the killing of sheep in Eastern Oregon and his inability to do anything, stating that the only arm of the public service that is at its absolute command is the National Guard, which can only be utilized in emergencies, which do not nor have not yet existed in this case.

He commends the recommendations that drafters from the army be disfranchised by this state.

In reference to the forest fire and forest protection matter he says he sees no reason why the state should be heavily taxed for the preservation of the forests so long as the only arm of the public service that is at its absolute command is the National Guard, which can only be utilized in emergencies, which do not nor have not yet existed in this case.

The Governor states what has been done in the Dalles-Celilo canal and portage railway matter.

The Governor recommends the payment of a claim for Klamath swamp lands to William B. Matthews. In the matter of the seasonal boarding house law the governor asks that the power of appointment be permitted to rest in the executive alone, and that charitable institutions coming under the law be exempted from the license payment. He recommends that the state take part in the Jamestown Centennial, which will occur in 1907.

The remainder of the message is as follows:
Indebtedness of the State.
On September 30, 1902, interest-bearing warrants were swamped lands, which had been issued in repayment for swamp lands theretofore sold by the state and to which the state could not convey title, amounting to \$38,940.08 of principal, on which the interest accumulated and unpaid to April 1, 1903, amounted approximately to \$19,018.42. Of the principal \$39,958.50 bears interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum, and \$804.70 at six per cent per annum. Since that time payments have been made on that portion of these warrants which bears the larger rate of interest, out of moneys received from the sale of swamp lands, whilst the principal of the indebtedness, which bears six per cent per annum, has been increased because of repayments for other swamp lands, to which no title could be conveyed. Referring to the report of the treasurer, he states that at the end of the last fiscal year there were outstanding warrants on account of swamp lands amounting to \$44,203.89 of principal and \$15,957.10 of interest. Of the principal \$14,925.38 bears interest at six per cent per annum. There is no fund out of which these warrants can be paid except as moneys are realized from the sale of swamp lands, and so little of this remains to the state that the interest on the indebtedness is barely kept down by the sales thereof.

An appropriation should be made for the payment of these warrants and your

earnest attention is called to the matter, for as a business proposition the state ought no longer to be compelled to pay this enormous interest charge.

Scalp Bounty Indebtedness.
In addition to this, at the last session of the Legislature, claims for repayment of two-thirds of the bounty paid by the several counties of the state under the scalp bounty law of 1901, had been presented and remained unpaid, amounting to \$34,238.66. An appropriation was then made to meet this indebtedness, but it was included in a bill which appropriated large sums for other and distinct purposes. This bill was vetoed because violative of section 20, article IV of the constitution and not because of any objection to the particular item now under discussion.

This indebtedness has been increased by the presentation of other claims for repayment and now amounts to \$35,881.31, and provision should be made by appropriate legislation for its payment.

The experience of the last Legislature should be a warning to this not to attempt too much in the way of amending statutes on the subject of taxation. A general amendatory statute hastily passed then necessitated the convening of the Legislature in special session to cure defects that invalidated the same.

That the laws of the state bearing upon this subject are badly out of joint and sadly in need of revision goes without saying. There is a general lack of harmony in the enactments of this session were devoted to an attempt to bring order out of chaos.

It is possible that if a tax commission were appointed to gather data, and frame a law to be reported two years hence, beneficial results might be attained. This course has been pursued in other states with partial success, and it might be well to give it a trial here.

Much property escapes its just proportion of tax, and this is particularly true in the case of personal property and money, and improvements on real property. This is susceptible of demonstration beyond any doubt. The summaries of the assessment rolls of the various counties for 1903 as filed in the secretary's office, clearly show that the value of improvements on deeded and undeeded lands was \$9,405,482 and on town and city lots was \$31,192,221, or a total assessed valuation of all improvements \$40,597,703.

The risks written by the insurance companies on property situated within the state for the year ending December 31, 1903, amounted to \$95,531,484.84. It is safe to say that more than 80 per cent of this insurance is upon improvements upon real property. When it is remembered that a very large part of these improvements carry no insurance, and that property is usually insured for only about half its value, it will be seen at a glance what an enormous valuation on this class of property alone escapes taxation.

The assessed value of money for the same year was \$81,392,970. If any one is interested enough in the subject to give it passing consideration, he will ascertain from an examination of the last reports to the comptroller of the currency made by the national banks of the state, that there are at least \$100,000,000 in institutions that have on deposit amounts largely in excess of the total assessment on money. Again, a reference to the abstract of the assessment rolls from 1893 to 1903 discloses that money was assessed in 1893 at \$3,136,987, and in 1903 at \$1,737,970, a decrease of \$1,761,017, while the total assessed valuation of all property for 1893 was \$168,088,905, and in 1903 only \$173,559,888, an increase in ten years of only \$5,470,983. Every one knows the growth in a faithful index of the growth in wealth in our state in ten years. What is the result of this failure upon the part of county officials to assess the property of the state and to properly equalize the assessments when made? The state has rapidly grown in wealth and the population has increased in the next few years will grow with greater rapidity. With an increase of population, the number of inmates in the eleemosynary and penal institutions of the state increases in the same or a greater ratio. Demands are made of maintaining them constantly in increases in volume. The assessment of the state remaining substantially the same, as has been the case during the last ten years, the rate to be levied for state purposes continues to increase.

It is the duty of the Legislature to see that the burden of the same is not placed upon property which is visible and continue to be assessed from year to year becomes heavier and harder to bear.

It is the condition here outlined which makes the levy for state purposes appear larger than it ought to be, and the attention of the Legislature is respectfully called to it in the hope that some plan may be devised now that in the next two years may result in a measure of general relief from conditions which are inequitable, oppressive and unjust.

Taxation of Land Which Have Escaped Taxation.
There are many thousands of acres of land in the state which have never been placed upon the assessment rolls, and which have in consequence escaped taxation. This may have happened through many causes, but mainly for two reasons. First, because grantee of the government, federal and state, have purposely withheld their deeds from record; second, because assessors, through lack of present ownership books, fail to find all the property in their respective counties. It is questionable whether our laws are assessed on sheriff can assess and collect taxes on property for several years antecedating their terms of office. Laws conferring this power upon assessors have been sustained by the courts of other states, and I recommend the matter to your earnest attention. It is suggested that a law be passed authorizing the assessment of property that has escaped taxation for any number of years back, the revenues of the state will be very materially increased.

Taxation of Public Service Corporations.
Taxation for state purposes ought to be divorced as far as possible from that for county and municipal purposes. To that end, in many states, methods have been successfully resorted to for

relieving real as well as personal property from taxation to meet the expenses of the administration of the affairs of the state. At the last regular session of the Legislature, progress was made in the right direction by the passage of the inheritance tax law and the corporation license law. There may be inequalities in these that will need adjustment, but the general purposes of both are most excellent. During the sixteen months the inheritance tax law has been in force, \$662,693 has been paid into the state treasury thereunder, while under the latter law \$19,615.87 has been collected. These amounts are likely to increase each year as the state grows in population. In addition to the amounts thus realized, insurance companies during the year 1903 paid \$7,562.21 license fees and \$38,036.19 taxes on net premiums collected, and for 1904 \$7310.51 license fees. The tax for the latter year will not be due until March next. Of the license fees collected forty per cent is paid to the secretary of state as fees under section 3724 Bellinger and Cotton's Code, while only sixty per cent thereof is paid into the treasury.

The taxes realized from these three sources show what is possible to be done for purposes of state other than by levying a tax upon the assessed valuation of the property of the state. But a step further should be taken to reach a class of property that practically escapes taxation. I refer to the taxation of the franchises of gas, water, telephone, telegraph, Pullman car and other similar public service companies. Different methods of taxation for these corporations have been resorted to in the several states, but from an examination of a number of statutes, it is impossible to deduce any general principle for adoption. The secretary of state, who has given the subject much thought, suggests in his biennial report that a tax upon the gross earnings of these corporations would be the simplest form of taxation. I heartily join with him in the recommendation that an act be passed at this session to compel these companies, owning valuable privileges and operating at a large profit, to pay a fair proportion of the expenses of government. A tax upon the gross earnings, as in the case of insurance companies, would, as suggested by the secretary of state, in all probability be the simplest and best method of taxation.

Game and Forestry Warden.
With the small appropriation allowed him for game protection, the present warden has done most excellent work. If he has failed to patrol the entire state it is because of the inadequacy of the fund at his disposal for the employment of deputies, but an examination of his report will show a greater number of prosecutions and convictions than ever had in the same length of time.

More money must be provided, and the warden suggests a means of raising a revenue without exacting it from the taxpayers. The recommendations embodied in his report are worthy of your very careful consideration.

State Board of Health, Dairy and Food Commissioner, and State Veterinarian.
This board has done excellent work since its creation for the protection of the public health. What was to have been expected has happened wherever it has called attention to unsanitary conditions in the different portions of the state. Demands are made for the betterment of unsanitary conditions are usually met by protests, but these demands invariably result in good.

The offices of dairy and food commissioner and state veterinarian ought to be placed directly under the control of the state board of health. In no other way can these departments, which ought to act in entire harmony, be brought together. As it is, I fear there is a disposition on the part of each to act independently of the others.

I call your attention to the reports of these departments for a detailed account of the work done by each.

relieving their fellow citizens for their real in this most important branch of the public service.

There can be no rugged, robust citizenship unless the health and morals of the youth are carefully safeguarded. Experience teaches us all that the necessities of the poor employ as well as the greed of the rich employer in various industrial enterprises, are merciless in their demands, and without restrictive legislation, rigidly enforced, boys and girls barely in their teens are kept at work day and night in defiance of the laws of health and of humanity.

I call particular attention to the report of the inspectors, and earnestly recommend that the amendments to the law as proposed by them be adopted at this session. The amendments are simple, but if adopted will give the inspectors greater power and broader discretion than they now have, and will materially aid them in carrying out the purpose of the law.

A small appropriation ought to be made to defray the expenses of the board.

The Fishing Industry.
The report of the master fish warden shows in detail the transactions of the department of fisheries for the past two years, and shows the condition of the industry at the present time.

The recommendations made by him should receive your very careful consideration.

There is such a diversity of opinion among those engaged in fishing, packing and canning as to what legislation, if any, is most needed for the promotion and protection of the industry in this state, that it is impossible for one not thoroughly acquainted with the subject in all its details to make any specific recommendations. The conflict between the upper and lower river fishermen and packers seems irrepressible and irreconcilable, and besides there is a lack of uniformity between the laws of Washington and Oregon, and these conditions add to the difficulty of arriving at a proper conclusion as to what is best to be done in relation to a most important industry.

Under these circumstances, I suggest the appointment of a commission composed of men in no way connected with the business of fishing to take evidence, and to examine and report on the conditions of the industry, and to those of Washington with instructions to prepare a law and the result of their investigations, all to be presented for the consideration of the next legislature.

It is my candid opinion that unless this is done, nothing will ever be accomplished in the way of salmon propagation and protection.

Labor Commissioner.
Demand has been made in certain quarters for a repeal of the act creating the bureau of labor statistics and inspector of factories and workshops. The demand should be ignored. Already thirty-two states have enacted laws providing for the collection of statistics of labor by means of original investigation, and in addition to these, the federal bureau of the census, the department of commerce and that of the agricultural department are engaged in the collection and publication of labor statistics. These bureaus have been largely responsible for much legislation having for its purpose the protection of the health of the laboring classes generally and of the lives and limbs of those engaged in hazardous occupations.

Present Employment of Convicts.
On the 1st day of February, 1899, the then executive executed a contract with Lowenberg & Goins Company, a corporation, pursuant to an act providing for the employment of convicts in the state penitentiary, approved February 23, 1895, whereby he leased to said corporation the labor of 100 convicts from January 1, 1899, to July 29, 1905, for the sum of 35 cents per day for each convict, and such further large sum by means of contract as said corporation might require, for the manufacture within the prison walls of stoves, castings and such other commodities of like nature as it may deem profitable to produce.

The corporation pays \$2000 per annum as rental for the foundry plant, and this lease expires at the same time as the contract for the labor of the prisoners.

The report of the superintendent shows in detail the earnings of the convicts under the contract with said corporation, and I respectfully refer to the same for a full and complete information. It will be noted that both the contract for the labor of the prisoners and the lease of the foundry plant expire July 29, 1905, and some action should be taken by you in reference to the matter. The state owns the plant, with the possible exception of some of the patterns, about which there may be a question, and at one time unsuccessfully attempted to operate the foundry. If you should determine that these contracts should not be renewed at their expiration, the provision should be made by law for disposing of the entire outfit used in the manufacture of stoves.

I suggest the appointment of a committee to inquire and report as to the propriety of renewing the present contract, and if renewal is deemed advisable, what changes, if any, should be made in the terms thereof. The price paid for the labor of the convicts seems small, but it is frequently overlooked that the great majority of them are at all times wholly unskilled in the work, and by the time their services begin to be of some value, they are being replaced by new men take their places. My investigations into the subject lead me to believe that our convict labor comes less in competition with free labor in Oregon, at least, under the present system, than in any other form of employment.

Words of some kind must be provided for the prisoners. This is demanded from the standpoint of humanity, as well as necessity. To permit them to remain idle in the prison enclosure, and to congregate and converse with each other, would mean constant plotting for escape, and would endanger the lives of the guards and the property of the state. To keep them confined in their cells would soon necessitate the transfer of many of them to the asylum and others to the hospital. I trust therefore that the consideration of this important question will be taken up by you early in the session, to the end that

a proper solution may be arrived at. Road Building with Convict Labor. At the last session of the Legislature \$2500, in addition to \$749.33 unexpended under a prior law, was appropriated for the improvement of certain roads leading from the penitentiary to the several state institutions. After consultation with the superintendent it was decided to improve and rebuild the road leading to the reform school, a distance of four or five miles. The work was done principally by convicts, though a few teams were hired from farmers in the neighborhood of the road. The amount appropriated was insufficient to finish the piece of road by top-dressing with crushed rock and rolling the same in order to make it first-class in every particular. But it is conceded to be one of the cheapest and best constructed pieces of road in the state, and the attention of the Legislature is earnestly called to it. It is to be hoped that as many of the members of the Legislature as can possibly do so will ride out and inspect this work.

Employment of Convicts on Roads.
What to do with the convicts of the state has been a serious question not only here but elsewhere, and it is one which is easier for the theorist to solve than for the practical man to handle, who comes in actual contact with existing conditions. Various expedients have been resorted to in the hope that the product of their labor may compare as little as possible with that of free men. Before becoming intimately acquainted with the real and actual character of men confined in the penitentiary in this state I inclined to the opinion that all or nearly all of the convicts might be utilized upon the public highways, and under certain conditions, limitations and restrictions this might be feasible. In some of the states it has been tried, and usually with success, but only with partial success. They are those serving sentences for crime after an entirely different type of criminal from those incarcerated in the Western prisons. They are not of the desperate and dangerous class, but many instances men who fare as well if not better within the prison walls than they do on the outside, and are not anxious to leave even when their terms have expired. The consequence is that even with a small number of guards and insecure places to house the prisoners, a considerable number of them when not at work. A much larger percentage of them are sullen, desperate and dangerous men, who would not hesitate to take life, if the chances were anywhere even for successfully eluding the guards.

It is suggested in the last session of the Legislature that the proper steps be taken for securing comprehensive data on this subject as a basis for the enactment of a law adapted to the conditions in this state, but no action was taken in the premises. The subject is one fraught with many difficulties and dangers, and a radical plan in which to confine them never been ventured upon without thorough investigation and consideration. I have thought it would be wise to appropriate a sum of money as was done two years ago for the improvement of some of the roads in the neighborhood of the State Capitol, utilizing, as far as possible convict labor in conjunction with such facilities as the county authorities would furnish. In this way an object lesson can be supplied for future guidance. In addition to this, laws might be passed providing for the employment of convicts on public roads on the condition of any county desiring them, the cost of maintenance to be paid by such county. The cost would not be great, and the result would fully compensate for the outlay. To secure a large number of convicts from the penitentiary would necessitate the construction of portable steel cells where they could be safely confined when not at work, and an appropriation would have to be made for that purpose. To minimize the chances of escape, double time might be given to each prisoner for faithful service while so engaged.

A measure framed along these lines when given a fair trial would test the availability of prison labor on the public highways, and if found feasible and profitable it could be extended to meet conditions as occasion may require.

State Printing.
At the last session of the Legislature \$50,000 was appropriated for public printing, paper and binding. This has been exhausted. At the close of the fiscal year there was a deficit of \$7000.72, and this will be increased to about \$10,000 next year. It is an annual item, and covers paper and binding as well as printing. There are two ways by which this enormous expense may be reduced. First, a lower table of fees should be fixed by law now, to take effect at the termination of the present incumbent's term. This will, of course, reduce the amount of the relief. Second, much of the printing now required to be done could be looked off without in any way impairing the public service. This latter course will afford immediate as well as future relief against the enormous charge.

It must not be forgotten that the schedule of fees charged by the state printer was fixed more than twenty years ago, and it is a well known fact that since that time, though there has been no reduction in the wages paid to printers, there has been a decline in the cost of work necessary to be done because of improved machinery and changed conditions.

I earnestly call your attention to this matter, and suggest that some legislation be had at this session to reduce the expense of this department of state.

Salaries for State Officers.
The platforms of all parties at the last state election declared in favor of placing all state officers on fixed salaries, and the payment of fees, if any, earned by them into the state treasury. In my last message to the Legislature, I urged as strongly as I knew how the faithful performance of these pledges, and the voluntary making of party conventions and implicitly if not expressly assented to by you early in the session, to the end that

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