

State of the State
Governor William Murray
January 13, 1931

To the Honorables The Senators and Representatives of the Thirteenth Legislature:
Gentlemen:

You have come here by the sovereign will of the people to co-operate with and aid me in carrying out the *mandate* recently so emphatically pronounced at the polls, both in the primary and in the general election. All good citizens will acquiesce in the will of that majority. Malefactors and enemies of the state only will attempt to thwart it.

In proportion to each of our efforts, collectively and individually, to meet the requirements of that popular *mandate*, will we serve the people and promote the best interests of the state.

I shall assume in the beginning that each of you are here for the same purpose, for which I came – with a patriotic desire to solve the problems, seeking solution that so vex our citizenship. A few “roll calls” will determine your line-up for or against the people.

I shall endeavor in this message and in a subsequent one to lay out policies that will lead to economy, efficiency, and honesty in state, county, and their sub-divisions of government.

You can greatly aid me in but one way, and that is to concentrate your minds upon the problems submitted and to enact *speedily* into legislation the questions I now submit and shall hereafter submit for your consideration.

There are three classes of men in a legislative body (or in the executive branch) who will be of little service to the Governor or to the state.

One of these is the individual who tries to ascertain from the Governor’s secretary just what he wants and does that without consideration of the effects or consequences – he who does no thinking.

Another class are those who are seeking an opportunity to disagree with the Governor, to get his name in the papers and show that he is a “big man” by raising a controversy with someone in superior authority.

The third class of men (most objectionable of all) who come here for the purpose of personal or political aggrandizement and bases his actions upon trades and traffics in securing patronage from the Governor and the different departments of state, to get on pay-rolls, school land loans, and positions and remunerative contracts for his relatives, associates, and friends.

Neither of the foregoing can possibly serve the public weal; but the member of the legislature (or any branch of the state government) who exercises what brain power God Almighty gave him in an endeavor to solve the problems, and, finding himself disagreeing with the Governor, calls upon him and across the table discusses with the Governor, giving his reasons for thinking the Governor is wrong, with the object of modifying or convincing the Governor, or be modified or convinced by the Governor, remembering at all times that the final solution and authority rest with the Governor – such a member will be of infinite service.

My office will be at all times open for every member of the House, who may call for the discussion of public questions, but I do not make this promise for the discussion of patronage for political favorites. The public has a right to use you and each of you during the entire session of the legislature, but none of you are entitled both to salary and remuneration to use the state or the Governor or any branch of the Executive for political, or any other reason save and except alone

the public good. Let us, therefore, remember that we shall know no interest but the public's interest – beyond justice to each class, occupation, profession, or financial interest of the state.

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT – SPECIAL BILLS

I cannot understand how we may proceed to form a government under our written Constitution, the chart of government laid down by the people for our guidance, without adhering strictly to it.

This calls to mind the practice in the past of the legislature's passing "special bills" in direct violation of the Constitution, which provides that no special law shall be passed where a general law can be enacted – special laws that violate the letter and intent of the Constitution, so numerous in the past, should not be indulged in; and I tell the legislature not to do so, for I shall certainly veto them. It is a bad precedent to have on the statute books statutes clearly unconstitutional. When a special bill is proposed I urge the member to look at Sections 32, 46 and 59, Article V, of the Constitution for the inhibitions against special laws, and regulation of same.

The last legislature passed Senate Bill 107, which provides that no boundary line can come nearer than twenty-five miles of a county seat; whereas the Constitution provides for a ten-mile limit (Sec. 4, Art. 17). If the legislature has power to add fifteen miles, it also has power to take the same number away from the limits. The fact is, no Constitutional provision can be added to or be taken from by the legislature. I urge that that Act, together with numerous others that I shall give in the special message, be repealed, as a good precedent for the future.

One of the main troubles with the state government is and has been the establishment of bureaus and boards and commissions, independent of each other, and that of the Chief Executive, and of the legislature, so there is no co-ordination, no harmonious whole in the form of government. These independent commissions result in hampering a government of "checks and balances" and in the end become too expensive. (Sec. 60, Art. 5, Constitution.)

To illustrate this, I call your attention to the form and creation of the Fish and Game Department and the State Highway Commission. Both of them are unconstitutional in several particulars.

The Constitution provides that the Governor shall be the Chief Executive and exercise the "supreme executive power" of the state. (Art. VI, Sec. 2.) It does not intend that he shall be made a figure-head nor that the legislature shall have no power over the policies adopted by any branch of the state government, except only those granted by the Constitution to the Governor.

The Governor is held responsible for the execution of the laws, and both of these boards have for their purpose the execution of the laws. (Sec. 8, Art. 6.) Therefore, it is unfair and a trespass upon my power and duty that as Governor I shall be bound by the appointments made by my predecessor, with attempted powers independent of any other branch of the state government, and executed under their conception of policies independent of the law and the acts of the legislature; nor would it be fair to my successor, if within my power, for me to appoint a board that would bind him.

Even though every member of the Game and Fish and of the Road Commission were to resign, I would nevertheless want to change the laws and they will be changed every new administration until they are made right. The Governor is responsible for that work.

These laws are unconstitutional and, moreover, they violate the most fundamental principle of government.

Whoever heard of a government of “checks and balances,” like ours, where a department of government appointed the revenue collectors, collected the revenues and spent it, creating offices and libitum, and fixing the salaries without an act of the legislature?

The Constitution provides that no monies can be paid out for offices unless the office was created by the legislature and the salary fixed and an appropriation made for the salary and that no monies shall be paid out except in “pursuance of an appropriation.” (Art. 5, Sec. 55.)

The Road Board and the Game Warden Department both violate these provisions.

We created in the Constitution an Executive Department of government and fixed all the officers at a term of four years, except the Corporation Commission, which has a combination of powers, and it was never intended that an executive officer whose duties it was to enforce a law, should serve longer than four years. The creation of longer terms for regents of institutions or medical boards in an entirely different matter; for they are merely selected to test the qualifications or select the men who would administer the funds appropriated by the legislature and are not, properly speaking, executive officers; while both the Road and the Game Warden Commissions execute laws.

If the legislature might create an executive office for a period of more than four years, it can create such office and make it elective for longer than four years; that is, longer than the Chief Executive. If they, therefore, can create an executive office for six years and make it appointive, they can create it six years and make it elective. In fact, if they can create such an office for six years, they can create one for sixty years or for life. Indeed in that event the legislature could create the Governor’s secretary and make him elective for 6 years or 60 years and forbid the Governor’s dismissing him. The law is unconstitutional in that particular.

It is unconstitutional in that it creates salaries and officials without an act of the legislature and pays them the salary without appropriation by the legislature. I am quite well aware that notwithstanding the decision of the Supreme Court under Judges Williams, Hayes, and Kane, who were members of the Constitutional Convention, that what is known as the “Lydick decision” was made; but it cannot stand. It is not only a disgrace to the judiciary, but no lawyer who respects his own opinion could, for a moment, agree that it is sound. (Sec. 55 and 56, Art. 5.)

We provide in the Constitution that the treasurer who holds the money and the auditor who keeps the account should be new men every four years, and that they cannot succeed themselves. (Sec. 4, Art. 6.) Why, then, should we create a department of government that handles the greatest amount of funds and leave it to make the collection and spend it, and yet make that department revolving and perpetual? You can never audit it; you can never tell and no one knows anything about that department, except what leaks out. Within my knowledge it has bought right of ways (leaked through records) and paid out money not entirely wholesome, and indefensible. Another power ought to collect the funds, place them in the treasury; and then, after appropriated, used by those departments. Then we have two checks upon the use of the money. This is a very fundamental principle of Republican government, having a legislative branch, or a parliament, and cannot under any circumstances be violated. It is too sound for dispute by any sensible man.

The creation of an executive officer under our Constitution is on all fours with that of postmasters, appointed by the President, the cabinets, and the heads of bureaus in Washington, all of whom go out of office every four years. Moreover, under the present form of both the Road Commission and the Game Department, revolving and perpetual in their form, spending great sums of the people’s money, they are independent of the Chief Executive. (Hence he is not

the Chief Executive) and of the policies of the legislature under the statutes as now written. Hence the legislature has violated Sec. 2, Art. 5, by taking away the “supreme executive power” from the Governor.

There is still a greater objection for wholesome government in the creation of the Game Warden’s Department. They exercise police powers (semi-military power), make the arrest, and use the courts to enforce their powers. Just the past summer they used that power in a most despotic manner. In my county, Mule Lake, owned by a private citizen, as was done the streams in Bryan and other counties, was seined, and all the fish taken out by order of the Game Warden, the game fish placed in private ponds and the others thrown away. Where will the people have any fishing? What right had they to seine Mule Lake? That was the citizen’s property as much as if he had built it, because he owned every foot of the land. That took private property without due process of law, in violation of the state and federal constitutions.

The Road Commission wants to assume the same police powers – by creating a state constabulary which Mr. Wentz calls patrolmen. Such a centralized power, as appointing the police, by a state department would be just as intolerable as permitting the Governor to appoint the police and sheriffs of the different cities and counties of the state, and would be just as sensible as turning the National Guard over to the Federal Government, in time of peace, and permitting our state to be overrun by an executive military order at Washington. Do this and we shall have the complete supremacy of the military over the civil power.

To a man who understands the form of our governments, national and state, “of checks and balances,” to protect the liberty of the citizen and prevent the filching of his taxes, such a principle of law is repugnant to his every nature, unless he wants the country to become a veritable despotism ruled by military power, or that which is its equivalent – the police power, to be enforced from and by a central power. Then we shall have duplication of the vicious rule of Central and South American military chieftains.

It can, therefore, be readily seen that I shall use every effort in my power to change these particulars of those two bureaus of our state government, for I have regard for my oath to uphold the Constitution. However, I ask you to defer consideration of those subjects until I deliver my next or follow-up message. This analysis is here made to give you my conception of a co-ordinate state government of liberty and justice under a government of law, rather than a government by the will of men, without limitations of a written Constitution, the charter of the sovereign will (the people). Palsied be the hand and paralyzed the tongue of any man who would intentionally violate the Constitution of his country.

TAXATION – PARAMOUNT

The paramount issue in the minds of all our citizens is relief from the burden of taxation upon the farmer, the home-owner, the merchant, and incidentally, therefore, off of the cost of living.

The first consideration after ascertaining what is needed is how best to obtain it. Considering this question, we must learn the probable attack of those who have benefitted by special exemption from the just rule of society, and what their attack will be. In short, “what do we want, and how are we going to get it?” We may expect the greatest opposition to come from the corporations, who lobbyists and flunkies have already surrounded the capitol, because they have evaded and escaped their just share of taxation.

First, after finding me proof against their pretended friendship, through the overtures of their exponent, as ostensible promoter of the Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to wheedle us into their “fraternity of good fellows,” they hold secret conclaves in Tulsa and

Oklahoma City; they seek a pool of their resources and select a treasurer to handle it; garner a corps of hirelings, including strumpets and harlots, which latter they attempt to place on the payroll of the state in bureaus and departments over which I have no control, and whose heads do not hold the same regard for public virtue and chastity as we do. This is the opposition we confront at the outset of our labors. I urge you not to allow them on your rolls, as clerks, in either the Senate or House.

Were we to enter upon a new system, all inclusive in its terms, and repeal other unsatisfactory forms of taxation, I apprehend that these corporations, led by the utilities, would go into federal court and ask for an injunction, pursuing at all times a policy of delay in the hearing, which course might enable them for two or three years, at least, to delay the operation of the law and thus leave the burden upon the farm and home-owner; pending the final adjudication in the matter the legislature would need to be called to obtain revenues to support the state, or to re-enact the old laws. Therefore, rather than to have our “King caught on the checkerboard” by these special interests, I have devised a system of taxation for a *temporary use*, that a substantial amount of the ad valorem tax may be taken off of property at once and continuing until a just and equitable law could be passed and upheld in the courts.

For this purpose I make the following recommendation:

First – I recommend the passage of the Rutherford-McDougal Bill, introduced in the Senate by Senator Rutherford and subsequently in the House by Representative D. A. McDougal, creating the “Oklahoma Tax Commission,” with powers to investigate the tax laws and systems and make recommendations to the Governor as to a proper tax law, drawn in a statutory form to be submitted by the Governor to a committee of citizens, representing every class of taxpayers in line with my promise to the people in my primary campaigns and which, when it shall have received their approval, shall be submitted later in the summer to a special session of the legislature to deal alone with the tax question.

Said tax commission should also have power to collect all revenues and taxes of whatever kind, authorized under Section 12, Article 10, of the Constitution, abolishing all duplication of boards and officer having to do with taxation in any other department of the state and to make recommendations to the Board of Equalization as a basis of valuation of the property authorized to be valued and assessed under Section 21, Article 10, of the Constitution, to receive their final sanction, as provided by the Constitution. I desire this bill be speedily passed without change, as it is the product of much study, and will reach most of the evils of tax dodging in the past.

Second – That you pass laws providing that every person, firm or corporation paying a net income tax to the federal government shall pay a rate high enough to equal one-half of it into the state treasury as the state net income tax; which must assume, as does the Connecticut and New York laws, that state and U.S. net income is the same, and that all such money shall be used for the common schools and divided among them per capita. This plan ought to give a sum in excess of twelve million dollars annually.

Third – I recommend that the law be changed governing taxation of mortgages, money, credits and banks that they may be placed upon the tax rolls, county and municipal, on the same ad valorem basis as other taxable property; or taxed on their gross incomes at the rate of 3 _ per cent, in lieu of their capital and surplus.

Fourth – I recommend that the law be so changed wherein it requires the pipe lines to make a report to the Auditor of the State, leaving to him to collect the taxes, so that said pipe lines will make a report of all oil passing through their lines and to remit the tax. My information, after investigation, is that nearly one million dollars is lost to the state by persons

living out of the state, inability of the officers to find the owner, and through bankruptcy of the companies after the pipe lines have transmitted the oil, under the present laws. If it be made the duty of the pipe line companies to collect the amount and remit to the state, monthly, we shall collect all of those revenues and save the expense of collectors. Said pipe lines should be responsibility by creating a lien on their properties; and all having a value less than \$250,000 should give bond.

I recommend that the tax on gasoline be collected in like manner at the source.

I recommend that the "corporation license tax" of fifty cents per \$1,000 be raised to \$1.50 per \$1,000 capital stock, this extra \$1 to be given the common schools.

Fifth – I further recommend that the law passed in 1921, exempting certain fraternal and other organizations, be repealed as in violation of the Constitution. The Constitution itself provides for exemptions. The legislature has no power to add to or take from that exemption without sanction by vote of the people. I, therefore, recommend that all laws or parts of laws that do not follow strictly the constitutional exemptions be repealed. (Sec. 5, Art. 10, Constitution).

I wish to call specific attention to the danger of exempting any class of property, other than that provided by the Constitution. In the lowering of the tax to an insignificant amount on mortgages, done ostensibly in the interest of the farmer who gave mortgages, resulted in exemptions on the tremendous bank capital and surplus of the state. Likewise, the exemption on gasoline for tractors, ostensibly written to benefit the farmer, has resulted in five to ten times the exemption in favor of the wholesaler or refinery. The tractors may be operated on naphtha, which bears no tax, and much of the gasoline bought for the purpose of tractors is used in automobile traffic and that escapes taxation. But the all important thing is this: When the farmer buys fifty gallons of gasoline, a receipt is made out and that is sent to the refinery, who place two, or three, or five in front of it, making hundreds of gallons instead of fifty gallons, and while ostensibly the farmer has escaped, the state has lost the tax on hundreds of gallons for every 50 exempted, of gasoline that should be paid by the refinery. There is but one way and that is to make no exemption except exemption upon persons. No property should be exempt and then it would be easier collected, less loop-holes or escape for the rich tax dodgers.

As a matter of right and justice, nobody should be exempt and as long as we stand on right and justice, the farmer will have a greater assurance of winning, so as to take the burden off him and place it on those better able to pay and that in proportion to the benefits of government. The only safety for the farmer, as well as other people who ask for these exemptions, is to adhere to that principle enunciated in the Bill of Rights of the Constitution, the principle of right and justice between man and man, between class and class; and that no class is entitled to "special favors," is the only safety for wholesome and righteous legislation. Remember: "You can't get something for nothing."

Sixth – A great amount of wealth in this state is invested in stocks and bonds of companies operating both in and out of Oklahoma that reap considerable income, but bear no tax; and they should be reached in some fair and equitable manner as to rate. Such companies may be listed as the O. G. & E., and other utility corporations, stock and bond preferred and non-preferred, duly registered on the books of the companies in the name of share-holder. Usually about every quarter checks are mailed to the share-holders representing dividends on the stock. Most of this stock is seven per cent, some for six per cent and other companies have issued stock and bonds held by stock-holders and bond-holders, living in Oklahoma, which escape all tax.

There are a good number of men who have large blocks of stocks and bonds in the Texas Company, Sinclair Oil Company, and various subsidiaries of the Standard Oil Company.

I recommend that a law be passed providing for a tax upon the dividends paid to these bond-holders and stock-holders of these several companies at a rate of eight per cent on all dividends on earnings upon their bonds and stocks and that such payment be collected at the source on all dividends and profits paid both out of Oklahoma and stock-holders on such stock living in the state. As to whether such collection can be made from residents of the state where the company is a resident of another state at the source, I do not know, but I recommend that the question be gone into and some method devised whereby such dividends in cash paid to the holders of these securities be assessed and collected. Possibly the wise way is to make them make a report to the state tax collecting authorities and pay quarterly. Such tax should extend both to the preferred and the common stock by levying eight per cent thereon. Of course, this tax would be in lieu of all other tax upon the bonds and stocks held by them.

Seventh – Among the first things that should be enacted is an appropriation in the sum of \$ – for the purchase of free seed, field and garden, for the tenant farmers and those unable to purchase seed for themselves, and who are without credit. Having this in view, I took up with the several boards of county commissioners the question, ascertaining through committees and school trustees the names of such needy farmers, together with the acreage, the amount of seed needed in each case. The county commissioners responded readily and have tabulated for their several counties the amount of seed thus called for. These records, complete, are kept with the county commissioners at the several county seats. The statute for the purchase of these seeds should recite that the recipient shall sign a receipt and pledge under oath that he will plant the seed, or in the event he does not, he shall return it to the official making the distribution at the county seat, with appropriate penalties for violation, and that no person receiving seed shall sell it or give it away.

Eighth – I also recommend the immediate passage of a graduated gross income tax upon all persons drawing salaries and compensation from the state, county, or any sub-division, along these lines: That each person drawing a salary shall have an exemption of five hundred dollars and five hundred dollars for each dependent member of his family, and that any salary in excess of such exemption shall be taxed at the rate of two per cent; and that the rate above such exemption be two per cent up to and including eighteen hundred dollars; that persons receiving salary in excess of eighteen hundred dollars up to and including twenty-four hundred dollars shall pay at the rate of three per cent; persons receiving a salary in excess of twenty-four hundred dollars up to and including thirty-six hundred dollars per annum shall pay five per cent; and persons receiving salaries in excess of thirty-six hundred dollars shall pay ten per cent upon the gross receipts. I recommend no exception, although in my interview in the press I did propose to except judges, but many of the judges have patriotically said they desired to be included. Moreover, it may be necessary to be constitutional. I would also provide that all monies paid out on contracts for roads and supplies, paid out of the public monies of the state, county, or any sub-division, shall bear a gross income rate of one-fourth of one per cent. All of the foregoing gross income taxes thus collected by county, municipality, in a county, or any sub-division thereof of such county be deposited in the county treasury to the credit of the county road fund and that the county commissioners be authorized to expend same on day labor without making contract under the present law; that, also, for twelve months that the general law be declared suspended, directing the county commissioners to work country roads on contract, so that labor could be

employed by the day, using such vehicles as they may possess in securing gravel and other material that may be found nearby.

I recommend that all funds thus collected by the state be authorized to be set aside for food and clothing for those in destitute circumstances and in every case no one shall be employed unless he be a citizen of Oklahoma – the test of citizenship being his registration as a voter or proof that he has resided within the state continuously for more than twelve months. This provision being an emergency measure should permit the Governor to suspend by proclamation the operation of this law when in his opinion such emergency has passed.

As stated in the beginning, this entire tax policy is for the temporary use, pending a final adjustment of taxation so that a substantial amount may be taken off ad valorem property. I have no doubt but that under this plan, together with economy, we shall endeavor to work out in a future message, will take fifty per cent off of the homes and farms of the state, beginning with the fiscal year, July 1, 1931. With the final solution of the problem to be submitted in a special session, I hope we may take from thirty to thirty-five per cent additional off of all ad valorem taxable property.

CORRUPT PRACTICES

We have legislative corrupt practices, institutional corrupt practices, and executive corrupt practices. Bills will be introduced to prevent all of them. I urge their passage.

We must have a statute requiring all accounts and claims made against the state, particularly the accounts of traveling officers or agents of any department of the state, to be made out in writing, written both in longhand and in Arabic figures, and sworn to with appropriate penalties for violation of oaths and accounts.

I ask you, also, to provide in a general statute that no traveling expense outside of the state can be made by any officer without approval of the Governor. I urge an act authorizing the budget officer, when authorized by the Governor, or any other person, to make investigation for the Governor in such matters, particularly the traveling expenses for the several institutions of the state. We must needs realize that certain trips should be made, and that when made compensation should be provided therefor; but this thing of traveling over the United States, making trips to Canada and Europe at the state's expense should cease.

I recommend, also, that the same rule of approval shall govern all expenditures of the revolving funds of any institution, or commission of the State.

I recommend a law that no "sabbatical" leave, or any other leave be permitted by any board of regents of any institution or by the head of any institution for any employe on salary, or part salary, but each teacher or employe taking such leave shall cease to draw compensation, with appropriate penalties against any board of regents, or the head of any institution for its violation.

Something like 65 years ago (1864) there grew a practice in the United States Government of certain senators and congressmen who formed "coalitions" and powerful political groups to brow-beat the several departments of government into performing their biddings and then boldly and openly charge fees for every bit of service they performed for any citizen or any favor they secured from the department. The practice grew to a national issue until eventually congress passed a law providing that no member of congress should charge a fee for any service before either branch of the government, leaving only the exception of the regular channels of the courts. It has been alleged and charged that certain members of the legislature in Oklahoma in the past have made themselves so powerful that no one could secure a permit for an ice plant except he employed certain senators; and that certain agencies of the state government have been

under the domination of such persons. I, therefore, recommend that a Corrupt Practice Act be passed that will make it a felony for any member of either House of the Legislature to charge a fee for aiding in any service for any person secured from any department of the State government. This will leave them solely as servants of the people while they are serving their term to which they were elected as such servants. This would deter the criminal lawyer from going to the Legislature, merely to secure pardons and charge large fees or for any other corrupt practice. It would also prevent the securing of tag agents for a friend or some applicant and receiving compensation for such political service. Along with such act should be another that would prohibit any person from being the beneficiary of any of the funds appropriated while he was a member of the Legislature. This is merely declaratory of the Declaration of the Constitution, itself, lacking only a penalty to prevent the practice if the present law be not strong enough – also it should be a felony for any member to be employed by any corporation for three years after the end of his term in the Legislature.

REVIEW AND REVISION OF THE CONSTITUTION

In view of the fact that from many sources, a demand, not so numerous as loud, has been made for a constitutional convention. This demand for the most part comes from those who do not believe in its wholesome provisions in the Bill of Rights and other safeguards of the rights of humanity; also in view of the fact that there are some minor errors in the constitution, understood at the time, by the members of the constitutional convention.

When the two territories were merged, practically all the officers on both sides were appointed, and the people were tired of such appointments. It was but natural that they should go to the other extreme of electing everything; and, out of deference to that demand some were made elective that should have been made appointive.

It is also clear to everybody there should be changes in our system of judiciary, growing out of so much economic change in our state during the past fourth of a century that would enable the people to choose a judiciary free from bias, able and competent, as pledged in Democratic Platform, but such change would require a constitutional amendment, and that the amendment to the constitution and the form of such amendments should be drawn by its friends and not by its enemies. In order to save the expense of a constitutional convention and close the mouths of those who would destroy the constitution, by correcting its defects by its friends:

I, therefore, ask the Legislature to pass a joint resolution which would have the effect of law, such as the resolution introduced by Representative James Babb of LeFlore county, authorizing the Governor to appoint a committee, in any number not exceeding twenty-one, with not more than two-thirds belonging to the same political party, to review the constitution and recommend adhering to its wholesome provision: And to draw such amendments as may be necessary to correct these defects to be submitted to the people and that when the said committee shall have completed its work, they shall report to the Governor and the Governor shall submit the same to the Legislature, with recommendations that such amendments in his opinion that should be submitted to the people shall be submitted to them by the Legislature for an election to be held later to determine the people's will, as to whether they shall be rejected or adopted. I recommend that said resolution shall provide that said committee shall serve without compensation but the clerical hire, paper, and other supplies, together with their living expenses, while actually engaged, shall be authorized by approval of the Governor, the Speaker of the House, and the President of the Senate, or any two of them; and that when thus approved, such authorization shall become an obligation upon the State for the payment of such expense.

COTTON GINS – ICE PLANTS

I urgently recommend that the control by the corporation commission or by any other board or regency of the State over the granting of permits or authority to engage in the ice manufacturing business or in ginning cotton be taken from them, and that all employees, officers, or positions created for the enforcement be abolished.

The policy of requiring permits for any business other than a public service corporation is a very defective economic policy. It partakes too much of an arbitrary power, and too much room for corruption, bribery, and favoritism in the exercise of business pursuits of the citizen; and invariably resulted in monopoly. No private citizen and but few private corporations should be required as precedent in any business, other than that requiring peculiar technical training, should ever be required to secure a permit as necessary to engage in such business or occupation.

Private corporations are not on the same footing as public service corporations.

The public service corporation exercises the power of eminent domain and is exclusive of any competition; and, therefore, regulated by the state; and, therefore, must have a rate sufficient to pay reasonable dividends, interest on their bonds and stocks, and net earnings, to cover deterioration of their physical properties, while we do not guarantee such to either private individuals or private corporations. Hence to include such as a cotton gin or an ice plant invariably results in the creation of monopoly and in this state there is no room under our constitution for monopoly.

True enough, the constitution does provide that the corporation commission may interfere where monopoly arises in a semi-public service corporation, sufficiently to crush the monopoly, but not for the purpose of rate-making regulation, and control, and that power should be adhered to, so that when the monopoly was crushed the business would continue under competition.

It can readily be seen that if the state controls rates and charges, it necessarily follows that the state must give a rate high enough to make these reasonable earnings, and that necessarily carries with it limitation on the exercise of such business sufficiently to afford competition.

The safest method is to leave them under competition in the exercise of their business.

SCHOOLS AND EDUCATION

One of the laws needed is one that will prohibit a teacher on the payroll or employee in one institution of the State receiving compensation from another institution at the same time.

That no institution of this State and no board of regents shall allow a pension to be paid under any plea, even that of “emeritus,” without express authority of law.

All schools should be free and all coerced collections from the pupils should be defined criminal extortion.

That no teacher of any institution shall act as the agent or lobbyist for any text-book concern or for school supplies and that as a penalty for violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the head of the institution or teacher that may be guilty or board of regent shall, upon demand of the governor, resign, or be dropped from the service of the State.

I recommend that a law be passed fixing salary of the president of the A. & M. College and the University, at nine thousand dollars a year, and proportionate salaries for the deans and directors and head professors of the various departments of educational work in said institution; that such salaries be fixed for the president of the Normal schools, at not more than \$5,400 a year, the secondary agricultural colleges, and other junior colleges at not to exceed \$4,800, with a provision that no teacher in any of these institutions shall be employed during the next two fiscal years in excess of the number employed in any institution during the fiscal year ending

June 30, 1930, and that salary of such professor shall not exceed during the next two fiscal years the salaries paid during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1930.

In the past the Legislature has delegated too much of its power and transferred a portion of the power of the Governor to bureaus and commissions. The noticeable case of error in this particular is permitting the Board of Education to prescribe the qualifications of teachers' certificates. I recommend that the Legislature pass a law defining the subjects in which applicants for certificates as teachers shall be examined and providing that the Board of Education shall administer the law by framing the questions and grading the papers, so that the applicant seeking a life certificate shall pass a satisfactory examination in writing, making a general average of at least 90% in all branches and a minimum of 75% in any one branch, and that such applicant shall have taught in the State continuously for ten years; That all persons who can stand such examination from whatever school (or no school) he may have come, shall be entitled to such certificate. The method of providing, as at present, that the graduates of certain schools or those having certain "credits" shall have life-certificates is, in effect, an effort to build up such schools by law, when as a matter of fact each school should stand on its merits, and every school should have the same opportunity of showing its worth by such written examination, as before outlined.

Such law governing the securing of certificates should provide for certain minimum grades for a ten year certificate and for a five year certificate and for a one year certificate. The law should also provide a maximum salary for each grade of certificate to teach in the public schools and other educational institutions receiving public money.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

I recommend that the Board of Education be revised in such a way as to be a composite of our entire educational system: said Board of Education consisting of seven members with the state superintendent to become ex-officio chairman and the remaining members to be appointed by the Governor; one from the secondary agricultural colleges; one from the other junior colleges; one from the city high schools; two from among the county school superintendents, and one from the county or graded schools.

The duplications of the functions of education are the source of greatest unnecessary expense in education, as it is the source of greatest unnecessary expense in Government, by duplicating functions in official positions.

THE UNIVERSITY

In an all inclusive university, certainly every subject to be taught would be included, such as the University of the State of Wisconsin. We elected in the beginning of statehood, and, in fact, in the Territorial Government, before statehood, to divide the functions. We assigned occupational and vocational education to the A. & M. College, the subjects especially for the profession of teaching to the normal schools, or teachers' colleges, and then created a university for the great literary men, and the learned professions. Having thus divided them, it is folly to engage in these duplications. For instance, the university has a department of "physical education," which is little more than ball-playing, or teaching the pupil how to play: "Domestic Arts," such as how to keep house; "Military Science," "Mechanical Training," and the like, all of which properly belongs to the A. & M. College, and should not be duplicated by expensive departments with ten or twenty teachers each, having a salary ranging from \$4,500 down to \$1,800, for the teachers.

There should also be some provision that would require the teacher to devote more than ten to eighteen hours a week, and some of them do less. The Constitution of the State provides that all services for the State shall be "eight hours" a day and that does not mean one or two hours a day for a teacher in an educational institution and twelve hours a day for the printer and the laboring man.

My view on this system is: If the member of the faculty devoted eight hours a day, including one hour for noon, and forty minutes to an hour for recess leaving six hours a day of actual work in the school, that would be reasonable and it would eliminate thirty per cent of the professors, and mean in the end that saving to the taxpayers in cost of education.

It would seem fair if every person drawing a salary at the expense of the tax-payers should work as many hours a day as the tax-payers did to pay them their salaries.

I recommend that a law be passed providing that the junior colleges shall admit no pupil until such pupil shall have mastered the eighth grade and that such junior colleges may carry the pupil through from the ninth grade to the second year of college course; that no pupil or student shall enter the University or A. & M. College until he or she has mastered the studies up to and including the second college year; and that they get in only upon written examination, and that hereafter if they fail to make the grade in the University or A. & M. College, they shall be dismissed from the schools or required to pass such examination before they are permitted to graduate. There should be an exception to this rule; that is that any person desiring to study agriculture, animal husbandry, mechanics, or domestic arts, in the A. & M. College, should be permitted to pursue these studies whether they have passed the second college year, or no, as in "farmers' short course."

A law also should prevent the duplication in these two institutions. The studies that lead to higher professions should be confined to the University and the work of the A. & M. College should not be duplicated by the University. If this course is pursued, there will be room for our junior colleges, and it would be less expensive than attempting to teach them, piling up by the thousands in these higher institutions. This done and they will need few more buildings. The idea that it requires numbers to make a great university is one of the greatest of mistakes. One of the best educational institution is that of Bates College of Maine, and they limit their pupils to 250. The collecting together of thousands in a university does not at all improve it. Moreover, in proportion to the increase does the overhead expense increase.

It will be true if you require an examination of every person who enters the university that we will have fewer graduates from the university, and I submit those who do graduate will have something besides a mere "scrap of paper" and I submit further – is it not unwise to turn out of the university graduates who have learned little except extravagant habits and tastes which later their limited scholarship, because of their limited ability to attain a higher scholarship or devotion to sports, cannot feed? We all know, that the average university graduate acquires a taste far beyond his ability to satisfy by his earnings; and, presently, he finds there is no room for him in the learned professional life, and he becomes, a "high-toned" bum, soured and disappointed with life itself, refusing to return to the "overalls standard." It is just such characters that, out of disgust and anger, become the soapbox orators, taking up with any and every cause, irrespective of its effect on humanity that will give him food and clothing without work. From this viewpoint, of excess attendance, (shall not call it education or graduation), but excess attendance at a great university becomes harmful rather than beneficial to society. Only by work can even kings be made respectful. The university is supposed to turn out enough able men with higher education to fill the learned professions, but at our present rate, we are turning

out enough to satisfy a dozen states with little education and a stilted taste and style. It may be answered that we know that the great body of them will not attain to any great standard of proficiency; and, therefore, will be driven out of the profession for lack of scholarship. If that be true, how do you expect to revise their tastes and style and get down where they will not shy at the overalls. Would it not be best, even for them, to say nothing for the tax-payers, their parents, and for society, to refuse their admission into the university in the first place; and if written examination should be applied, they never had gone to the university.

I want it understood that I am not advocating a doctrine that would preclude any boy or girl an opportunity for higher education in any line at the public expense, but I do insist that no university ever made a brain. They may give it methods; they may refine the brain; teach it cunning; make it more skillful, but they cannot make a brain, and I would not attempt to improve upon God Almighty.

The test of ability of any boy or girl to go higher in any educational line is the ability to stand an examination of the subjects they have passed over. If they can stand the examination, let them pass, but if they cannot, say to them: You must know before you can go on, and then when they are passed into the university, say to them: "Do, or get out." I repeat again, you cannot make a university by large enrolments, by many buildings, by fine equipment, by a large corps of well-paid teachers, nor by victorious ball games – by neither one nor all of them together. It requires a great scholar with aptitude as teacher and an earnest ambitious boy or girl with brain enough to comprehend and master the subjects laid down by the preceptor.

The most deplorable thing of all our educational errors is the placing as the Shibboleth and slogan of institutions the subject of "ball playing," and other sports. It is but giving reward and applause for physical strength. True enough, the physical body should be trained but along with it the intellectual and moral and spiritual. Physical training alone, and you make a brute; intellectual training alone, and you make a cynic or a crank; with that of religion and morals alone you produce a fanatic, but the least of all in importance, particularly for the expenditure of money to obtain, is that of physical training. No man was ever strong enough physically to earn more than fifty cents a day from his shoulders down. From his shoulders up it is worth all he will make it. Were this not so, the strongest race physically would show the best results in society, and the Negro race would be the wealthiest and most prosperous. I have often expressed my sincere gladness that Jack Johnson, the Negro pugilist, crushed his white opponent because it only proves that the Negro could become more nearly perfect brute than the white man. Therefore, I would give the rewards and the applause and make as a slogan of every educational institution in the State that of scholarship and character, encouraging at all times proper exercise and all other things that lead to good health. The people could afford to pay for sports in the educational institutions to a limited extent, but when it comes to a university paying an aggregate sum of \$52,000 for instructors in sports alone, not counting the other expenses incidental and the expense of players, it is entirely too much - too great a burden on the taxpayers. The only aristocracy that should exist in the world is that of character and intellect.

I am aware that in all of these things I meet with a cry that "It does not meet the requirement of the 'North Central Association'," but why should Oklahoma permit the North Central Association to dictate the policy of their law on education matters and the expenditure of her monies? Why should not the sovereignty of the State, to take charge and dictate these policies? As I see it, considering the issues in the last campaign in which I took this position against my opponent who took the reverse causing many of my party to vote for him; but many more of his party to vote for me, and I did it to enable me to declare: "The time has arrived to

wipe out the policies of the North Central Association and adopt an all-inclusive Oklahoma policy in meeting the educational needs and costs,” and that I shall endeavor to do with the help of the Legislature and the guidance of the best brains of the State.

VICIOUS LOBBY

For a half century all Legislative bodies have striven to escape vicious lobbyists.

One of the worst, if not the worst of these, is the use of women, particularly those of careless and loose character. Many years ago this method of lobbying got so noticeable and its effect upon the legislation in Congress, grew to such an evil against the public good that Congress passed a law that any woman who used herself to blackmail any member of Congress through threats of exposure for his illicit relations with her was guilty of a felony. This checked entirely this class of lobbyists, and they ceased to swarm around the national capitol. For several years now, they have swarmed around the capitol of this State. They get the unsophisticated member from the small town or country into their graces until he ceases to resist the temptation, and then force him to do the things and vote for measures for fear of exposure. It is notorious that the State had one member of a State commission thus caught who, ever after, did not dare to violate that woman's domination for fear of such exposure. I, therefore, urge strenuously that a statute be passed similar to the one by Congress that would make them guilty of a felony and drive them from the capitol and out of the offices of the capitol, as clerks.

In this connection further, I have to say, that for years groups and agents of selfish interests seeking to put over a measure watched the poor man in the Legislature until he observed that his funds were running low and his expense account could not be balanced with his salary, invites him to sleep in an adjoining room of some pretended “friend who just for that night happened to be absent,” as he alleges; and in the morning invites him to breakfast and continues this until the unsuspecting member finally concludes that “he is a good fellow,” and eventually, unwittingly, he is used by this shrewd lobbyist, with an unlimited expense account.

This is the way that House Bill 4 was put over. Three times banquets were given to feed the members at which speeches were made, and beverage was passed around, until the members that had not sold for money were flattered, cajoled, and wheedled into voting for that vicious bill.

It so happens that the capitol building is so situated that a member must needs go long distances and out of the way rooming houses where they cannot be reached quickly if needed, and where it takes too much time to go at night and return in the morning, for good services; in order that their expense account does not grow in excess of their meager salary as a member of the Legislature; or else, they must needs go to some hotel, filled with lobbyists, who use poker games, liquor, and women and even money for bribery where it is possible to use money, to put through legislation, against the best interest of the people, and succeed at it. But in a hotel the lobbyists come and go unnoticed. In order, therefore, to remove these surroundings from the legislator, I recommend that an appropriation be made for an office building on the grounds of the capitol large enough to provide a bed for each member of the House and Senate, equipped with lights and a table where they can work on bills when the House is not in session; where they can quickly retire after night session and return in the morning; where the lobbyist would be noticed by all who should happen to frequent some member who is so unscrupulous as to sell his influence.

This expenditure would not only redound to the best interests of the State, giving the member more time to work on legislation, shield him from the influence of lobbyists but at the same time would enable him to save two or three dollars a day in room rents. I, therefore, urge that an appropriation be made for that purpose.

CHANGES AND ABOLITION OF COMMISSIONS

1. I ask the Legislature seriously to consider the following named commissions with a view of either combining or abolishing them:

“Oklahoma Library Commission.”

“Soldiers’ Relief Commission.”

“State Board of Embalmers.”

“State Plant Board.”

“Board of Commission for Promotion of Uniformity of Legislation.”

“Board of Vocational Education.”

“Oklahoma Forestry Commission,” by transfer to the Game Department.

2. I respectfully recommend the abolition of the following boards or commissions:

“The Co-ordination Commission.”

“State Text-Book Commission” by creation of a new law, as suggested in later message.

“Commission for Adult Blind.”

“State Drainage and Irrigation Commission” by going back to the original law passed by the First Legislature which authorized the tax-payers of a drainage district who paid the assessment to name the commission, as more wholesome to their interests than the naming of the commission by political influence from the State Capitol. For such commissioner to deal with Federal Departments, then provide him as a part of the Game Department.

“The State Board of Accountants” ought to be changed by the adoption of a new law.

“The State Pardon and Parole Board” should be abolished as useless expenditure of funds as they would have no power under the Constitution than to do other than merely make recommendations and it smacks too much of the Governor’s desire to shirk the responsibilities and save himself the criticism in the exercise of a delicate power; besides the State Pardon and Parole Attorney is sufficient.

Abolishing the “Oklahoma Tax Code Revision Committee,” by the creation of “Oklahoma Tax Commission.”

3. I recommend the transfer of the three memorial commissions for Confederate, G. A. R., and Legion veterans to the Historical Society, leaving said society to manage them and abolish the positions as now constituted.

LEGISLATIVE EXPENSE

I trust both Houses in the exercise of their powers inherent under the general parliamentary law to provide for their own expense, that they endeavor to economize in everything relative to the expenditures of their respective Houses. It is absolutely necessary to save every dollar possible in view of the financial conditions of the State, the lowering of the returns of revenues and the rising deficit.

I call you attention particularly to one mistake committed in the last Legislature and that is the foolish devotion of your time to burial services of persons who are not members of the Legislature. Surely any person is worthy of the time devoted but unless you would adopt a uniform rule like Congress has done of confining such memorial services to the members of the House or some outstanding former member such precedent would grow until the major part of the time would be devoted to holding memorial services of the thousands of worthy citizens of the State who may die.

Another saving that we can make. Law books are supposed to be printed to contain laws and not memorials or resolutions of the individual House or concurrent resolution that do not have the force of law. Some sixty odd pages of the Session Laws for 1929 consist only of such resolutions. The journals are the place for them and not the law books. To put them in the law books would be a good thing for the most part for the printer but not for the State, which has to buy some copies, nor to the lawyers who have to do so. I suggest that law books should be used in which to print laws only.

PICTURES OF STATE OFFICERS IN REPORTS

For some years it has been the practice to print the pictures of different State officers and all heads of departments in their reports and public documents – what a piece of folly! This practice is indefensible. Even the Government of the United States does not engage in such folly. I suggest a law that will prohibit the printing in any report or public document of the State the photograph of any person on the payroll of the State. You know that it cost several dollars to have the engraving made for one picture and a bit of money for the printer to put in these extra pages of pictures of politicians or officers of the State – indeed even the history of the State should not contain them until the administration is over and the history is made. A simple law on this score would save the taxpayers a few thousand dollars.

DUPLICATION OF SERVICE

Of all the foolish expenditures, extravagant, and wasteful is duplication of public service. A year ago, I observed a head of a certain department of the State government carrying around the corridors of the Capitol armfuls of “*Road Maps*,” distributing them with his name printed in large letters. Of course, getting ready to run again, and at the expense of the State, advertising himself. As a matter of truth, the only department of the State that should make road maps is the road commission and these thousands of maps made by these fellows with their name on it was a total loss to the State. I urge the Legislature to look closely for every duplication and wipe it out – rub it off of the map.

THE STATE MARKET COMMISSION

Is too costly for the service it does. In fact as now operated it is doing the farmer more harm than good. To my knowledge last summer it was used, principally to secure “dope” for the boss and to conduct a campaign in the primary. The ninety-three thousand dollars recommended for its existence for each of the next two years is just too much money. “The candle is not worth the tallow.” I recommend the abolition of it, completely, and the elimination of the appropriation, even for the remainder of the present year, and in lieu thereof, a law that

authorizes and empowers and directs the county agent to grade products for shipment, giving certificates therefore, under the law laid down for such grading by the Department of Agriculture at Washington. This will serve the State. I have many lists and much evidence of positive hindrances in the matter of marketing by the Commission.

ASSISTANT ATTORNEYS GENERAL

In the beginning of statehood we provide for three assistants to the attorney general. Later there were five for something like fifteen years of the State's existence. Now, we have five assistants at \$4,000 each, four at \$3,600 each, two at \$3,500 each – eleven in all. Whereas, Arkansas has but five, Iowa but five, and Kansas but five, and the highest salary in Kansas is \$3,600. I recommend that the assistants be cut down to a total of five; two at \$4,000 each, two at \$3,600 each, and one at \$3,000, and that also the stenographic force be cut down in like proportion.

The State Examiner and Inspector's Department is on all fours with it. It has fifteen assistant examiners and inspectors, whereas at the beginning of statehood the office had but three, but the chief elected, and all of his deputies were certified accountants and could do the work; not so at present. I recommend that these be cut down to a total of six and the number of stenographers reduced in proportion. Six well qualified men – certified accountants and auditors – could do the work to be done better than now done. It would, also, seem wisest to provide that all of the six shall be regular, certified accountants and auditors. The Constitutional intent was that the chief should be, also, but you have no control over that election which is made by the people. In these recommendations I am aware that I trample upon the toes of those holding the positions but I shall to the utmost attempt to carry out my pledges both in the primary and general election. In the language of the pioneers: I shall "hew to the line and let the chips fly where they will."

AUDIT OF DEPARTMENTS

Some of the men whom I have named in the key positions desire, as any honest man would, that their department be audited. The departments which will be under their control should be audited.

I, therefore, respectfully request that the Board of Public Affairs be authorized to contract with some reliable auditor and certified accountant, having a standing in such profession; said contract to be subject to the approval of the Governor, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House, or either two of them, to audit the books of the following departments:

The Board of Public Affairs.

The Board of Agriculture.

The School Land Department.

The Road Commission.

The Game Commission.

Soldiers' Relief Commission.

The University Hospital at Oklahoma City.

with special reference to the use of the revolving funds.

And that when so audited, their charges under their contract hereinbefore authorized shall be an obligation on the State for such services.

The question may be asked why not let the State Examiner and Inspector audit the work. Any man who is familiar at all will understand "why." One of such reasons is that he is a part and parcel of the operation of some of these boards, aiding in the management. Neither I nor the men I shall appoint would wish that in a few years, we should wake up and find our department short; therefore, if the books are properly audited down to date, by someone who is seeking for shortage, we are willing to stand on our records and the management during the time, under the Constitution and the law we are charged with that responsibility.

If the Legislature cannot see its way to adopt the foregoing measures I shall not understand how we can, at all, proceed to carry out the *mandate* of the people, the Tulsa Democratic Platform provides for any wholesome government in Oklahoma. Adopt the foregoing and the remaining tasks will be easy.

These recommendations together with more in my follow-up message constitute a very heavy program for your Honorable body to solve within the limit of time prescribed as the regular term for this Session. But it is essential that each and all of these recommendations be enacted into law, to carry out the policy of:

"Tax reform, take the burden off of the homes and farms of the State; economy, efficiency and honesty in the State Government."

Many, many changes in the law should be enacted but I ask both Houses of the Legislature to brush all others matter aside until these recommendations shall have been carried out for the reason that consideration of other matters would defeat the adoption of a complete and wholesome policy looking toward the accomplishment and objects stated in the foregoing. For this reason I urge upon you to defer the re-districting of the State for the election of congressmen and not mix it with these issues. It is far better that it should be done in a special session, or elect at large as in 1912, rather than to bring it up now and defeat this policy.

I also urge that all proposed amendments to the Constitution be not considered but referred to the Committee on "Review and Revision," herein recommended, for such committee's action. In the language of the old law writers, to carry out the *mandate* of the people in the foregoing reforms, it is essential "To keep your eye on the squirrel."

I urge upon the Legislature to pass the foregoing recommendations into statutes as speedily as it is possible to do, and they should be accomplished within three weeks' time. In a follow-up message, I shall submit to your consideration a completed policy for the reduction of expenditures of State and County governments for greater economy and efficiency, for judicial reforms and for labor. I, therefore, urge that you concentrate upon these recommendations to the exclusion of every other question that may be proposed, remembering that a division of the mind will not bring about a correct solution of these problems, and the consideration of a multitude of questions is but hindrance to essential ones herein recommended and submitted.

It is natural for me to warn you again that lobbyists representing special classes, some growing out of a desire for special favors, others to thwart the effort now making for the express purpose of distracting the minds of your honorable members, to encompass failure in our efforts. Concentration upon these questions will solve them in the interests of the State.

My door will be open at all times to discuss with any member of the Legislature any of these questions. Upon the successful solution of them and others to follow will depend our success or failure in carrying out the *mandate* of the sovereign will of the people of the State.

OIL PRORATION OR NO PRORATION

Many of the citizens of the State doubtless expect me to say something about this question in this message. I have not done so for the reason that I desire to make a second mental trial of my solution of the problem before publicly expressing myself in favor thereof.

By the time the foregoing recommendations are enacted into law, all will perhaps be ready for solution. As yet selfishness dominates and beclouds the issue. No need to disturb our program by a “fuss” over proration. I do not feel justified in offering my contribution at the present time; because those financially interested (the oil men) are not as yet agreed on any plan that means: “Live and let live.” They are locked between a flood of oil and favoritism of the flow – both fallacious – remedies born of selfishness and greed. Many are still in a hostile attitude against the present incumbent of the Executive office and those responsible for his nomination and election – they seem unwilling to acquiesce in the will of the majority.

When through the Blue Valley Farmer we announced months ago that the “flames that consume the huts of the poor would eventually destroy the palace of the rich,” the cry resounded through the land: “The Murray Menace,” leading a group of “reds”; but we observe that the very self-same gentlemen are now “redder” than we. We, at least, “keep our heads when all about us, were losing theirs, while blaming it on us.” They seem to feel deeply; but think lightly.

We acknowledge the serious situation in the oil fields. Our interest is attracted because of the unemployment and its effects upon the economic conditions of the State. For this reason, we have a bounden duty (when selfishness gives way to reason for the common good) to seek the solution – there is, we think, a solution, which requires action on the part of the oil men, the State and of Congress – all united. Will the other two join with the State? I doubt it now. When those who approach the subject from the viewpoint of their own controlling power, personal interest, and selfishness, refuse to yield their opinions, it is useless for those who have no interest except the public interest to propose a serious remedy. In other words; the psychology for the solution is as yet premature: at the proper time we hope to offer some contribution to the subject – when all will listen. In the meantime, let’s keep cool and on with our program for tax reform.

In closing this message, I cannot resist quoting Governor Cleveland in his message to Congress in 1888, describing combinations of great wealth, criminally inclined, in which he said:

“The communism of combined wealth and capital, the outgrowth of overweening cupidity and selfishness which assiduously undermines the justice and integrity of free institutions is not less dangerous than the communism of oppressed poverty and toil which, exasperated by injustice and discontent, attacks with wild disorder the citadel of misrule.” – All this is respectfully submitted.

By the Governor of the State of Oklahoma:

WM. H. MURRAY.

About Digitizing the Governors' State of the State Addresses

Section 9, Article 6 of the Constitution of Oklahoma provides as follows:

“At every session of the Legislature, and immediately upon its organization, the Governor shall communicate by message, delivered to joint session of the two houses, upon the condition of the State; and shall recommend such matters to the Legislature as he shall judge expedient.”

From statehood in 1907 to present, the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors have been recorded in pamphlets, booklets, and Senate Journals. One could not foresee the toll that time would take on the earliest of these documents. When these items first arrived at the Oklahoma State Archives, the leather bindings had dried considerably, cracking the spines significantly. Due to the acidity in the paper, many pages have darkened with age. Some of the more brittle pamphlets crumble at the slightest touch.

Thus when we decided to digitize these materials, we faced two challenges: the safety of the original documents and ease of viewing/reading for patrons. Our primary objective was that the unique and historic qualities of the documents should be reflected in the website. However, older fonts would not digitize clearly when scanned and even using a flatbed scanner could cause the bindings to worsen. An image of each page would increase download time considerably and any hand-written remarks or crooked pages could be lost. We decided to retype each document with every period, comma, and misspelled word to maintain the integrity of the document while placing some unique images of the documents online. Patrons can download the addresses quicker and view them clearer as well as save, print, and zoom with the Adobe Acrobat Reader. We have learned much from our efforts and we hope that our patrons are better served in their research on the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors.