

**State of the State**  
**Governor William Murray**  
**January 8, 1935**

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES, FIFTEENTH LEGISLATURE OF OKLAHOMA,  
Gentlemen:

Under Section 9 of Article 6 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Governor to submit to the Legislature at its convening the general condition of the State, and make recommendations as to laws and policies for change or modification.

While I avail myself of this duty and power, I shall confine myself to those things only that relate to the permanent policy of the State, leaving the immediate policies to my successor, for fear of making pronouncements in cross-purpose to those things that he may hereafter submit to you. But I do urge you to remit all tax penalties.

***Probation — Paroles — Pardons***

Under Section 10 of Article 6 of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Governor to submit at each Regular Session of the Legislature his exercise of clemency granted to him exclusively by the Constitution. I quote the section as follows:

“Sec. 10. The Governor shall have power to grant, after conviction, reprieves, commutations, paroles, and pardons for all offenses, except cases of impeachment, upon such conditions and with such restrictions and limitations, as he may deem proper, subject to such regulations as may be prescribed by law. He shall communicate to the Legislature, at each regular session, each case of reprieve, commutation, parole, or pardon, granted, stating the name of the convict, the time of which he was convicted, the date and place of conviction and the date of commutation, pardon, parole, or reprieve.”

This last clause has been overlooked too often in the past, but I shall attempt to follow its provisions in spirit and letter.

There is here filed with each House of your Legislature, copies of each and all Acts of Clemency, and the reason in each case given in the copy filed with your Body.

I may state also that all Acts of Clemency have been made of public record. The Parole Department knows where every convict is, and the condition of every Act of Clemency.

I call your attention to the fact that while I have liberated either on probation or parole and pardon some 1600 persons, yet my Acts of Clemency will aggregate nearly 2400, because of duplications of such acts; first, by giving a probation of six months, or twelve months, followed by a twelve months' period to ascertain from the monthly reports whether it is probable that the convict will obey the law; and, if it is believed that he will do so, he is then given a parole. I pardon no one unless he has been out four, five or more years, and been law abiding.

My predecessors have followed the policy of pardoning every person who served their entire term. These are called “Expiration Pardons.” For instance, Governor Haskell executed some 500 of such cases; but I have never pursued that policy for that reason that because the convict took all the punishment is no reason that he would become a law-abiding and responsible voter.

I have executed a total of 48 pardons, – the lowest number of any Governor. I have paroled and placed on probation more than most Governors. But these probations, leaves and paroles have been given in such a way as to be revoked at any time – with few exceptions.

I have never pardoned anybody in the face of an election, so there could be a charge that the same grew out of political consideration. Up to the General Election, on the 6th day of November, 1934, I have executed but 20 pardons. These, for the most part, were persons who had obeyed the law, and had been relieved from imprisonment for from ten to twenty-one years. Immediately after the election, in keeping with my purpose, I pardoned more than during any other period; but, in all cases, where the convict had had four, five or more years trial.

It will be observed that I paroled more in 1931 and 1932 than any year since, for the reason that many persons without friends, unable to employ a lawyer, had been overlooked. I sought through the faithful and painstaking effort of Judge C. E. B. Cutler to ascertain such cases, and to give them an opportunity; and I yet believe there are between 300 and 400 of these cases. I have turned out few who ought not to be out; for lack of time there are more who ought be out.

I have established the policy of not turning out any convict who had committed a crime more than once, with but few exceptions. I found quite a difference in the convict that could be trusted, depending upon the crime for which he was convicted. For instance, robbery with firearms, called sometimes, “Hi-Jackers”, paroled in 1931 and 1932, proved untrustworthy to the amount of 20 per cent. In cases of chicken theft, they repeated the theft to the amount of 25 per cent; while statutory rape have proven law-abiding to the amount of 99 per cent; and other crimes, 98 per cent on all to date more than 93 per cent have proven worthy.

I have also found from the statements of the convicts themselves that the four or five first months was the trying period of the convict. They could not sleep; they continued constantly in dread of their terms; but, when left there for several years, they become calloused and adopt a feeling of “Don’t Care” about themselves or society in general.

I have found that if a short-time convict, for his first offense, is turned out after four or five months, for a year, and then put back in four or five months, it will do him more good than to have kept him there the entire time, and, in a measure, repeats the months of dread and nervousness; and, therefore, he may safely be paroled.

If I could regulate the criminal jurisprudence, I should turn out every person at the end of four to six months where the term is less than three years, and the crime was his first offense. It is not safe either to turn a boy out without compelling him to take some punishment. Many times, such a boy, if saved from the Penitentiary entirely, will repeat a greater crime. They have been brought up without restraint, and they must needs have this restraint before they will learn to obey the law. The greatest mistake is to fail to punish a boy for first offense.

There should be some reform in the matter of short-term convicts. This may be done by writing into the criminal law a condition that will relieve him after a certain period of service in the Penitentiary, because the entire power of Clemency, under the Constitution, is with the Governor, and cannot be transferred by the Legislature to any Board, or Commission, or to any other authority whatsoever. It must be a part of the conviction, and decree.

Under our Constitution, the Legislature is the only power to enact a criminal law. The Courts possess the only power to try and convict him under the law thus enacted. After conviction and final judgment, the Governor alone may liberate him. The Legislature would be powerless to pass an act to liberate him, and so also would the Court. It is beyond the jurisdiction of both; but a statute could be written providing for cases of conviction for a period

of less than three years that, upon conviction, the Judge would write the final judgment under the law, whereby he would be liberated and thus avoid any conflict of power and authority.

The question of what to do with convicts is a vexatious one, – not only to society, but to enable the convict to reform. I find that a convict who has served for ten or more years comes out without any ability to compete with his fellowman and earn a livelihood; whereas, if they are paroled in care of some person of good judgment, they would never again violate the law. This grows out of the necessity of restraint and discipline, so necessary for the entire human race, and should never cease from childhood to old age, – some restraint either by training or by moral force, or both. With the exception of that class of negroes in the Penitentiary who drink and are disposed to fight, even the life-termer may be paroled to some honest person who understands the Negro character; and, almost without exception, they would obey the law and maintain characters of steady, straightforward course. This method saves the State a great deal of expense, and at the same time, gives that training and restraint so much needed by the convict. By reason of this fact, there ought to be some means whereby every convict, liberated after a long term of service, may procure employment until he breathes the air of freedom and learns social competition, which, during his long incarceration, he has forgotten.

### ***Lakes and Ponds***

In my opinion, and I so recommend, that the Legislature pass a law declaring it to be the “Policy of the State” for ten years to spend every year \$100,000.00 in the construction of dams to impound water. The State could stand this appropriation; and possibly \$200,000.00 a year for the next ten years, with a provision in the law that work shall begin in the extreme southwest corner of the State and go northward and eastward. These lakes could be constructed on School Land and on privately owned land, under a contract with the owner to preserve and permit the State to repair and preserve these dams, and they would serve all the purpose and benefit to the State that they would serve if the land should be owned by the State; and, by the expenditure of this money every year for ten years, would have a pond on practically every quarter-section in Western Oklahoma.

The provisions of the law should be that water at least 8 feet deep could be impounded for the reason that the evaporation in Western Oklahoma in ordinary years is 5 feet (last year much more); and an 8 foot depth would likely never go dry. Think what benefit there had been during the past summer with such ponds. There would have been some seepage below the dam, in the sub-soil, that could have produced gardens and feed-crops; there had been abundant of stock-water; there had been also breeding places for fish, particularly cat and perch.

The growth of fish is far greater than the ordinary person might believe. I know of one man who had such a pond of two acres in South Central Oklahoma. It had been constructed some seven or eight years. Last year, he desired to drain it and take the mud out; for it was so located that much silt and soil had washed into the lake. He arranged with a restaurant-keeper to sell all fish at a given sum, of a certain weight; and, as they drained the lake, he decided it was a lot of trouble, and he agreed to sell the fish for \$350.00 but the purchaser continued to weigh, and found, had he paid for the fish at the original contract price, they would have cost him \$750.00.

Now, that amount of money on two acres of land, for eight years, is quite an earning, and, indeed, more than had it been planted in crops, and that, too, without the expenditure of labor. These constructions of ponds and small lakes would doubtless be aided through effort of our Congressmen and Senators for the Government to construct large lakes in the same section.

Let no man in Eastern Oklahoma think that the expenditure of this money in Western Oklahoma would be a favoritism for the evaporation from lakes on every quarter-section in Western Oklahoma would moisten the atmosphere in dry years and save the corn crops as well as the cotton crops in Eastern Oklahoma by producing dews; and a cotton crop can be produced alone on dews. It is not the heat that kills the corn in Eastern Oklahoma, but the dry air that destroys the silk, or female, portion of the corn, so that it will not pollenize; and, in the end, Eastern Oklahoma would get more benefit than Western Oklahoma; and, for that reason, every section of the State should be interested in the construction of such ponds.

There are also a number of places in Western Oklahoma where great reservoirs might be constructed, and doubtless the Federal Government would gladly furnish the funds, particularly while the Relief Money is used, if the State would obtain the title to the land.

### ***Lake Murray***

In this connection, it will be recalled that the Legislature in 1933 made appropriation of \$90,000.00 to purchase 18,000 acres of land, with the view of the use of the Federal Relief Money to construct a dam.

For two years before the time of the appropriation, a voluntary committee, headed by Fred Tucker, with George Giboney and Mike Gorman, all of Ardmore, had at my request, taken up options on this land, as the owners were scattered from Boston to Los Angeles. They had three-fourths of the land contracted for; the option calling for \$85,000.00. So soon as the appropriation was made, land agents, seeking to speculate on the State, began to acquire options on the other one-fourth, and it was discovered that it would take possibly \$150,000.00 to purchase all of it; so, under my direction, we abandoned all options, and went into the courts, and condemned the land for \$93,000.00. Then it was discovered that we would need several thousand acres more. This has also been condemned at a cost of some \$15,000.00.

The design of the Committee was to build a road entirely around the lake 200 miles long, but for the State to own the land for a quarter of a mile from the road, so that filling stations, restaurant-keepers, and other privileges might be on the State lands, and the State reap all of the benefit from the Lake. It was also planned that the space between this road and the outside limits of the parkage should be devoted to free campers, to all citizens and persons who desire to fish at the Lake, and that the space between the road and the lake water-edge should be rented to persons desiring to place a cabin, on the same plan of Yellowstone Park, pursued by the United States Government. In this, there would be one portion segregated for the Negro Race; another for the wealthy, who would pay the greatest sum annually for the rental on their cabins; and another with a smaller charge for the average citizen. By this method, there would be a shoreline of 200 miles; ample room for all classes of our citizens, and for all people who desire some place for an outing.

And in this connection, let me warn that there will be an effort from clubs and other people to get control of this Lake, or a portion of it. This should never be permitted. The control should always be under the State Game Department so that the poorest family in the land may have a place to fish and the right for a free outing.

The revenues from this plan every two years ought to pay for the upkeep, for the policing and for the cost of the State for the land; for the amount of fishing is unlimited in a lake that will be some six and a half miles wide and nine miles long, – nearly as large as Lake Erie, and larger in size than the renowned Sea of Gallilee, so often referred to in the New Testament.

In the main portion, this lake will be 80 feet deep, eight miles from the dam. It will have all of the contours of an ocean, – straits, bays, promontories, harbors, islands, et cetera. It can scarcely be described. Go look at it and see.

While I controlled the Relief Money, I had from 3,000 to 4,000 men at all times working on the Lake. I cut off all of the timber and into cord-wood, until there is wood to give away. In addition, many saw logs of walnut, oak, ash, etc. were cut. I purchased a second-hand sawmill for \$350.00 and that mill has cut since, more than \$25,000.00 worth of lumber.

One CCC camp was established more than a year ago. The constructed it out of the lumber sawed at this mill, and it is on State land; and, because of its great size, it will be a wonderful place to hold conventions. Recently, two CCC Camps were located there. Other buildings have been erected that may be rented out, including, many offices, built of stone, ideal filling stations, and restaurants.

While I had the Relief Money, we built a granite mansion at a cost of \$17,000.00, wholly constructed from material on the ground. I am informed that since the relief was taken from me, there has been spent \$1,000,000.00. Undoubtedly, it was a lake hundreds of years ago, and the geologists can explain to you why it broke. The U. S. is doing a great work on it.

To give you an idea of the possible patronage of the lake, if you will but draw a circle with a radius 200 miles, with the Lake as a center, you will discover that Texarkana, Ft. Smith, Dallas, Forth Worth, Wichita Falls, etc. will be within that circle, and that within the 200 miles there are 3,500,000 people. We may safely predict that there will be a patronage of 100,000 people a year, which in turn, will cause the sale of a lot of gasoline, and thus give the State that much needed revenue.

Under the law, the land for the Lake was to be purchased by the State Board of Public Affairs; the work constructed to be under the charge of the Governor; and, when completed, the control of the lake to be under the State Game Department; and, let me admonish you again, it should always stay there, and the laws governing its use should remain permanently so, that the poorest citizen may have this free outing.

### ***Open Season Declared for Deer***

Something more than twelve months ago, the farmers in several sections of the State complained that deer were eating their crops. In consultation with the State Game Department, they issued with my approval an order for an Open Season for a given period of time, and provided that local people should be guides to all hunters, and that they should pay the State a certain fee for the hunting privilege.

This pleased the people in the locality in that many, many persons earned money as guides. It also gave the State quite a sum of money; but the Attorney General ruled that the Game Department, even with the approval of the Governor, could not collect this fee from the hunters; and, while I think the Attorney General was wrong in that the Game Department certainly had the right under the law to declare an Open Season, and that carried with it their right to stipulate the conditions, and one of the conditions was the fee. In that sense, it is not a tax, but a charge under the police power, or a permit; however, it is no matter. This may be correct by the passage of a law authorizing the State Game Department, with the approval of the Governor, to declare such Open Season, and to make collections of the permit fee charged; and an Act also should be passed authorizing the Game Department to use the money, then collected and impounded; and I recommend you do so. This will certainly not conflict with any policy of my successor.

### ***Co-ordinating Board***

The Fourteenth Legislature passed an Act creating a Co-ordinating Board, in House Bill No. 626, composed of fifteen members appointed by the Governor, for four years, carrying out a policy for cooperation with private colleges, and for the advice of some of the tax-supported State institutions; with representatives from the tax-payers. I appointed five heads of private or church colleges; also Dr. Bizzell and Dr. Bennett to represent the State Institutions, making seven educators; then eight persons representing law, medicine, the business world, the banking interests, in order to give a composite view in the matter of wholesome, economical education.

Let me state that I had never met half of the members I appointed, and less than five of them could I call my friends; and, yet, to me, the Board was an ideal one, with the exception of two persons, whom I would not appoint, were I required to do so again.

In the beginning, the Rev. Hale V. Davis of the Baptist University was afraid of too much church influence, in which, if true, he was certainly sound and justified, but, after the Board had met, for several days, on several occasions, we adopted a form of constitution and by-laws that were highly approved by heads of all denominations, including the Rev. Mr. Davis, who ought in fact to be on the Board.

In my opinion, it would be a sad condition if there were no church colleges, and it would be equally unwholesome to have no State-supported institutions. In the one instance, education would reach a stage of stasis, so characteristic of theocratic movements, ample shown in theocratic governments of the past; on the other hand, without these church colleges, materialistic thought, bordering on paganism, would pervade the scholarship of the country.

It is also found that where there are many church and private colleges, it requires less expense for an institution supported by the State, as well as the cost, required to educate those attending both State and church colleges. That has proved particularly true in Tennessee where they have quite as many educational institutions of church and private colleges as State-supported. The reflex is shown in the cost of the State-supported institutions.

Remember, this Co-ordinating Board does not determine how many schools nor how much appropriation should be made, for that is a question with the Legislature, beyond merely recommending; nor do they appoint the faculty of the State-supported schools, for that is a question of administration through the Regents of the State Colleges. The Board devises the proper course of study, the Code of Ethics, and of Morals; makes a study of floor space, fixes qualifications for graduates, and like matters and things. All colleges, – church, private, or State – become units of what is termed the “Greater University of Oklahoma of Co-ordinated Colleges.” The Chancellor, selected by the Co-ordinating Board, would sign all diplomas, giving greater standing and prestige to the graduates, holding each school within the sphere upon the principle of graduation up to the capstone, as it were, the University.

I explain the foregoing functions of the Board in view of recommending a Bill to be introduced later, which is made necessary because the Board had no money appropriated to it, and it was found, by charging at the present time 50 cents for each and all pupils attending, a member of the “Greater University,” which would include not only those attending the State institutions, but those attending the private colleges and church colleges, that such an amount would give sufficient funds to operate without appropriation on the part of the Legislature; but, under the ruling of the Attorney General, a charter could not be granted under the present law, and it becomes necessary to pass a Public Charter by the Legislature authorizing the provision of the Constitution and by-laws, and to give them power to collect and use the 50 cents from each pupil.

I may state also that the educational directors of the Carnegie Foundation have made a full and complete analysis of the Boards' plans, and they approve with a promise that they will set aside an annual budget "without strings," beyond the purposes stated in the Constitution and By-Laws, for a program of five years, in the sum of \$20,000.00 a year.

I have had a committee of this Board at work for twelve months, studying the questions within the purview of their functions, and paying the expense of their clerical and statistical help out of a contingent fund of the Governor.

In August, I called in some of the friends or supporters of the Governor-elect, and told them that if he wanted this work continued that I would continue to pay the expense; otherwise, I would junk the whole proposition. After consultation with him, they reported to me that he approved the general purposes; and, therefore, I am not interfering with his plan by recommending the passage of the bill that will fix the purposes of the Board and give them the needed revenue without appropriation from the funds of the State. It is necessary to put into law in the form of a Public Charter the provisions of the Constitution so that it cannot be diverted from its purposes, to the end that there will be complete harmony between the church colleges among one another and with the State. When the Bill comes up, you will understand the complete purposes and provisions provided for in the Bill; and let me suggest that you remember that it should not have a single amendment, for the Co-ordinating Board would be subject to the control of the Governor and the State, or any other law thereafter passed, and the Act authorizing the Public Charter would contain nothing except the matters and things named therein.

It ought to be apparent from the foregoing that I have no desire, as Governor, to interfere with the plans of my successor.

I have always believed that every Governor should be given free and full hand, subject only to the limitations of the Constitution. God knows that if he or any of them can administer this office better than I, the State should have such services.

If any successor can make the Government more economical, efficient, and preserve honesty; keeping crooks out of public funds; lowering the appropriation; and cutting the tax down 50 per cent, which is the greatest burden on private industry and the citizen, I, along with all the citizens of this State, will welcome such achievement, and applaud his efforts. The ad valorem tax is still too high.

### ***New Textbook Adoption***

All have some knowledge more or less of the adoption of new textbooks; but, in order to give you complete reasons therefor, it will be necessary to make this explanation:

The Twelfth Legislature passed a law providing for a Textbook Commission with the provision that one-fifth of the books should be adopted every year. Under this law, there was no adoption except in 1929; and thereafter no adoption of one-fifth of the books until 1933, when some 65 per cent of the books were adopted; and the remainder, recently in the year 1934. These last adoptions were made under an Act of the Regular Session of the Fourteenth Legislature.

Remember that the Act of the Twelfth Legislature provided that if the law should be "amended, or repealed," that the Textbook Commission would have authority to cancel the contracts of books adopted thereunder; and that provision was written into the contracts, as shown in the Office of the State Superintendent of Education. The Act of the subsequent legislature, or the Fourteenth, (1933), provided for an entirely new Commission, with the same provision. It provided that the Governor, by Executive Order, might cancel the contract made under the Act of the Twelfth Legislature.

The new Textbook Commission, in keeping with these provisions, in its meeting in 1933, by regular form cancelled all contracts; and, to be doubly sure of the legality the Governor issued an Executive Order cancelling the same. The Commission, under the law, had as members three educators. Seeking to secure the viewpoint of the various elements of society, since the adoption of textbooks is more than scholastic, and primarily a business proposition, as Governor, I appointed the following:

R. H. Stanley, Chairman, Lawyer, Hugo, Okla.  
John Vaughn, Ex-Officio Secretary, State Superintendent, Oklahoma City.  
Professor Charlie Forbes, Superintendent of City Schools, Thomas, Okla.  
Professor Ernest Miller, Superintendent of Schools, Gypsy, Okla.  
Dr. D. E. Cantrell, Physician, Healdton, Okla.  
W. N. Barry, Banker, Okemah, Okla.  
Fred C. Tracy, Farmer-Business, Beaver, Okla.

The foregoing gentlemen entered upon their functions; opened up for bids, and adopted nearly 65 per cent of the books prescribed by the State Board of Education, many of which were re-adoptions, for a period of five year, making a saving of more than 45 per cent on the price of the books, as disclosed by the price list appended hereto.

The Commission again assembled on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1934, to complete the adoption. There being two resignations, I appointed Judge Wm. L. Cheatham, lawyer, of Bristow, Oklahoma, as Chairman, in lieu of Judge Stanley, resigned; and Superintendent Ben Hatcher, Superintendent of Schools at Moore, Oklahoma, in lieu of Fred. C. Tracy, resigned.

The Board advertised for bids, after John Vaughn, State Superintendent and Ex-Officio Secretary, declined to do so; and completed the adoption.

In this last (1934) adoption, on the last named date, it was provided that no book should be used until the beginning of the school year in the fall of 1935, except the re-adopted books, which should begin at once with the reductions in prices, thereby making quite a saving this year upon the re-adopted books.

Approximately one-third of the new adoptions were such re-adopted books. In the case of the History of Oklahoma, the old text was re-adopted, but the book was brought down to date and contained the Constitution of the State together with a "Glossary," of legal definitions of the law terms found in the Constitution, using the definitions from the Standard Law Dictionary by Bouvier. This added some 150 pages to the old text, but the price was the same as the old price of the adoption of 1929. In the re-adoption of all other texts, there was a substantial reduction in the price. All of the foregoing named adoptions will expire by July 1, 1939, which will enable our successors to provide for a new adoption if they so desire, to begin on that date in the last of the year 1938.

REASON AND NECESSITY FOR COMPLETE ADOPTION was made necessary because new books could be installed at less cost than the adoption of 1929 and prior thereto, and for the further reason that some of the books were not up to standard of scholarship; for the further reason that thousands of school children were unable to purchase books.

I had at my command a given sum of money, – approximately \$260,000.00, – with which to purchase books for the poor. I was enabled to supply the new books at the beginning of the school year of 1933-34 for practically all of the needy children of the State with this amount of money by making new adoptions; whereas, had no adoption been made that year, they would

have cost \$500,000.00. In some counties, there were as high as 3,000 and 4,000 children without school books the two previous years. Now, by completing the adoption, it will enable you gentlemen of the Fifteenth Legislature to make provision for completion for supplying the poor children of the State; and I recommend that you make an appropriation of \$150,000.00, with such provision for the distribution as you may choose to provide, to every poor child in the State unable to buy a book with the books needed.

It is an absurdity to think of spending large sums of tax money for school houses, teachers, and supplies, and have thousands of children without textbooks, and many children could not attend school at all if not provided with a free textbook.

The foregoing candid statement is for the purpose of informing you and warning you against gossips which in late years seem to pervade society on all public questions.

Had we not made an adoption last year and this year, and had waited until next year, the textbooks would cost 30 to 35 per cent more than the price secured in the adoption. To illustrate: one book company bid on a book last year, 96 cents. It was the only bid. The Textbook Commission thought it was not enough. This year, that company and others bid, and that company bid \$1.14 on the same book. They were asked why they did not bid at the same price this year as last. The reply of the agent was that "Had we received the contract last year, the company had purchased all the material required for the life of the contract." He further stated that books would be 18 to 20 per cent higher next year; that by bidding this year, they would make purchase of material for the entire life of the contract. Therefore, if adoptions were not made until next year, you would pay from 18 to 20 per cent on the recent adoption; and 30 to 35 per cent more on the adoption made last year. Moreover, it was essential to settle the question of adoption in advance of the convening of you gentlemen, that you might provide for the necessary additional books for those unable to buy them, and I can conceive of no greater relief-expenditure than the expenditure for books so that the poor child may attend school.

THE DIFFERENCE IN COST OF THE NEWLY ADOPTED AND THE OLD BOOKS is given in the following tables:

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

### GRADES 1 TO 8 "NEW BOOKS"

SUBJECT	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	Percentage Saved on New Adoption
Elem. Agr. – A. & M. Faculty .....	7-8	Amer. Book Co. ....	.69	.85	.16	18.85
<b>ARITHMETIC</b>						
Bk. I Steps in Arith. – H. G. Bennett.....	3-4	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.39	.48	.09	18.7
Bk. II Steps in Arith. – H. G. Bennett.....	5-6	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.39	.48	.09	18.7
Bk. III Steps in Arith. – H. G. Bennett.....	7-8	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.39	.48	.09	18.7
<b>CIVICS</b>						
The Pursuit of Happiness, Manley.....	8	Benj. H. Sanborn & Co.....	.79	1.13	.34	30.5
<b>READING – SPECIAL – Pre.</b>						
Laidlaw Readers, State Ed.....	Primer	Laidlaw Bros. Co. ....	.30	.47	.17	36.2
Primer Laidlaw Readers, State Ed.....	Primer	Laidlaw Bros. Co. ....	.30	.50	.20	40.0
Bk. I Laidlaw Readers, State Ed.....	1st	Laidlaw Bros. Co. ....	.45			
Bk. II Laidlaw Readers, State Ed.....	2	Laidlaw Bros. Co. ....	.38	.53	.15	28.3
Bk. III Laidlaw Readers, State Ed.....	3	Laidlaw Bros. Co. ....	.42	.60	.18	30.0
Bk. I The Atlantic Readers, Condon. ....	4	Little Brown & Co. ....	.58	.67	.09	13.4
Bk. II The Atlantic Readers, Condon. ....	5	Little Brown & Co. ....	.60	.72	.12	16.7
Bk. III The Atlantic Readers, Condon. ....	6	Little Brown & Co. ....	.65	.72	.07	9.7
Prose & Poetry, Avery and Others. ....	7	L. W. Singer Co. ....	.68	.83	.15	18.1
Prose & Poetry, Avery and Others. ....	8	L. W. Singer Co. ....	.72	.83	.11	13.1
<b>SPELING</b>						
Progressive Course in Spelling, Hunt (Compl. Text).....	3-8	Amer. Bk. Co.. ....	.30	.35	.05	14.3
Pt. I Spelling, Hunt (Compl. Text). ....	3-5	Amer. Bk. Co.. ....	.22	.34	.12	35.4
Pt. II Spelling, Hunt (Compl. Text). ....	6-8	Amer. Bk. Co.. ....	.24	.33	.09	27.2

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

GRADES 1 TO 8 "OLD BOOKS RE-ADOPTED"						Percentage Amount Saved on New Adoption
SUBJECT HISTORY	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	
<b>DICTIONARY</b>						
Elementary School Dict., Webster.....	1-8	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.03	1.14	.11	7.9
<b>DRAWING</b>						
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	1	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	2	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	3	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	4	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	5	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	6	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	7	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
Augsburg Drawing Bks., Augsburg .....	8	Augsburg Pub. Co.....	.15	.20	.05	25.
<b>GRADES 1 TO 8 "OLD BOOKS RE-ADOPTED"</b>						
The Story of Our Nation, Barker, Barker, Dodd & Webb .....	6	Row, Peterson & Co. ....	.62	.78	.16	20.5
The Growth of a Nation, Barker, Barker, Dodd & Webb .....	7-8	Row, Peterson & Co. ....	1.20	1.35	.15	11.1
<b>PENMANSHIP</b>						
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills .....	1	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills .....	2	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills .....	3	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills .....	4	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills .....	5	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

GRADES 1 TO 8 "OLD BOOKS RE-ADOPTED"						Percentage Amount Saved on New Adoption
SUBJECT	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills.....	6	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills.....	7	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
Pract. Pen. – Putnam & Mills.....	8	Pract. Draw. Co.....	.05	.07	.02	28.5
<b>PHYSIOLOGY</b>						
Bk. I, Health, Happiness, Success Series by Burkard, Chambers & Maroney.....	4-5	Lyons & Carnaham.....	.50	.56	.06	10.7
Bk. II, Health Habits By Success Series by Burkard, Chambers & Maroney.....	6-7	Lyons & Carnaham.....	.55	.60	.05	8.4
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY READERS</b>						
Story & Study Readers –, State Contract Binding –.....		Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	.61	.71	.10	14.
By Withers, Skinner & Gecks.....	1	Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	.31	.41	.10	8.4
By Withers, Skinner & Gecks.....	2	Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	.31	.45	.14	31.1
By Withers, Skinner & Gecks.....	3	Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	.41	.47	.06	12.8
By Withers, Skinner & Gecks.....	4	Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	.48	.59	.11	18.6
By Withers, Skinner & Gecks.....	5	Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	.54	.63	.09	18.2
By Withers, Skinner & Gecks.....	6	Johnson, Primer Publishing Co.	<u>.58</u>	<u>.67</u>	<u>.09</u>	<u>13.4</u>
Total for Grades 1 to 8 – Year 1933.....			16.78	20.83	4 05	19.34
<b>HIGH SCHOOL "NEW BOOKS"</b>						
<b>ENGLISH</b>						
England's & America's Literature by Tappan.....	11 & 12	Houghton, Mifflin Co. . . . .	1.15	2.40	1.25	52.09
Everyday English, Laird, Walker & Locke.....	9 & 10	Row, Peterson Co. . . . .	.76	2.78	2.02	72.69
Modern Speaking, Brees-Kelly.....	11 & 12	Follett Pub. Co. . . . .	.90	1.50	.60	40.

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

HIGH SCHOOL "NEW BOOKS"						Percentage Amount Saved on New Adoption
SUBJECT	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>						
Algebra – First Course, by Calhoun, White & Simpson....	9	Johnson Pub. Co. . . . .	.64	1.11	.47	42.3
Algebra – Second Course, by Calhoun, White & Simpson....	11 & 12	Johnson Pub. Co. . . . .	.70	1.14	.44	39.
Geometry – Elem. Of Plane Geom. by W. H. Bruce.....	10	Southern Pub. Co. ....	.68	1.05	.37	35.2
A Higher Arith. – Stone Et. Al. ....	11 & 12	Benj. H. Sanborn Co. ....	1.05	1.14	.09	79.00
<b>LANGUAGE</b>						
First Year Latin – Foster & Arms .....	9	Johnson Pub. Co. ....	.96	1.21	.25	20.6
Second Year Latin – Foster & Arms .....	10	Johnson Pub. Co. ....	1.35	1.56	.21	13.4
Bk. I Essentials of, Spanish, Torres' .....	9	Doubleday, Doran & Co. ....	.97	1.35	.38	28.1
Bk. II Essentials of, Spanish, Torres' .....	10	Doubleday, Doran & Co. ....	1.04	1.35	.31	22.9
<b>ECONOMICS</b>						
Elem. Of Economics, Fraderburg.....	10 & 12	Chas. Schibner's Sons.....	1.00	1.52	.52	34.2
<b>SCIENCE</b>						
High School Agri., A. & M. Faculty .....	9 & 10	Amer. Book Co. ....	.95	1.24	.29	23.4
Everyday Problems, By Pieper & Beachamp .....	10	Scott, Foresman & Co. ....	1.38	1.69	.31	18.3
Bk. I, Science Problems of Modern Life.....	9	Webster Pub. Co. ....	.45	1.45	1.00	68.9
Bk. II, Science Problems of Modern Life.....	9	Webster Pub. Co. ....	.45	.56	.11	19.7
Essentials of Physics, Sears.....	11	Laurel Bk. Co. ....	.96	1.42	.46	32.4
Physics Laboratory Manual, Personal & Pub. Health, Buckard, Chambers & Maroney.....	10 & 11	Lyons & Carnaham.....	.90	1.40	.50	35.6

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

HIGH SCHOOL "NEW BOOKS"						Percentage Amount Saved on New Adoption
SUBJECT	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	
<b>HISTORY</b>						
United States History, Hulbert.....	11	Doubleday, Doran & Co. ....	1.38	1.83	.45	24.6
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>						
1st Sem. Bookkeeping I – Lazenby .....	9	Univ. Pub. Co. ....	1.20	2.86	1.66	58.
2d Sem. Bookkeeping II – Lazenby .....	9	Univ. Pub. Co. ....	1.20	2.87	1.67	58.19
Typewriting, Drake .....	10 & 12	Lyon & Co. ....	.70	1.20	.50	41.66
<b>HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 "OLD BOOKS RE-ADOPTED"</b>						
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>						
Commercial Law, Peters & Pomeroy .....	11-12	South-West Pub. Co. ....	1.11	1.21	.10	8.26
Shorthand, Gregg.....	10-12	Gregg Pub. Co. ....	1.29	1.50	.21	14.
<b>CIVICS</b>						
Our Community Life, By King & Barnard.....	9	John C. Winston.....	<u>1.00</u>	<u>1.20</u>	<u>.20</u>	<u>16.7</u>
Total for Grades 9-12 for Year 1933 .....			24.62	39.10	14.48	37.0

## BOOKS ADOPTED THIS YEAR 1934

<b>GRADES 1 to 8 "NEW BOOKS"</b>						
<b>HOME ECONOMICS</b>						
Dom. Sci Elem. ....	7-8	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.69	1.01	.32	31.6
<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>						
Human Use Geog., Smith .....	4-5	John C. Winston Co. ....	1.10	1.00	* .10	** .9
Human Use Geog., Smith .....	6-7	John C. Winston Co. ....	1.15	1.32	.17	12.9
<b>LANGUAGE</b>						
English for Use .....	3-4	John C. Winston Co. ....	.40	.48	.08	16.6
English for Use .....	5-6	John C. Winston Co. ....	.40	.48	.08	16.6
English for Use .....	7-8	John C. Winston Co. ....	.42	.62	.20	32.2
<b>MUSIC</b>						
Music Introductory .....	3-4	Follett Pub. Co. ....	.60	.62	.02	3.2
Bk. 2 Music Elem. ....	5-6	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.73	.66	*.07	** .09
Bk. 3 Book of Songs .....	7-8	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.84	.72	*.12	** .14
<b>HISTORY</b>						
Oklahoma History .....	5-6-7	Economy Company.....	.68	***.90	.22	24.4

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 "NEW BOOKS"						Percentage Amount Saved on New Adoption
SUBJECT	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	
<b>READERS</b>						
Pre-Primer, Fact and Story.....	Pre-Primer	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.15			
<b>SUPPLEMENTARY READERS</b>						
Primer, Fact and Story.....	Primer	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.35	***.57	.22	38.3
1st, Fact and Story.....	1st	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.35	***.57	.22	38.3
2nd, Fact and Story.....	2	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.46	***.69	.23	33.2
3rd, Fact and Story.....	3	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	.54	***.73	.19	26.
4th, Fact and Fancies.....	4	John C. Winston Co. ....	.65	***.72	.07	9.7
5th, Whys and Wherefores.....	5	John C. Winston Co. ....	.65	***.76	.11	14.5
6th, Scouting Through.....	6	John C. Winston Co. ....	<u>.70</u>	<u>***.79</u>	<u>.09</u>	<u>11.4</u>
Total for Grades 1-8 for Year 1934.....			10.71	12.64	1.93	15.2
Loss on Grades 1-8 for Year 1934.....					.29	.23
Total Saving for Grades 1-8 for Year 1934.....					1.64	12.8
* Amount of Loss.						
** Percent of Loss on New Adoption.						
*** Average Price of Books Now Generally Used.						
<b>HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 "NEW BOOKS"</b>						
<b>LITERATURE</b>						
Anthology I .....	9	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.14	1.81	***.67	37.
Anthology II .....	10	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.14	1.93	***.79	40.9
Anthology III .....	11	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.14	2.02	***.88	43.5
Anthology IV .....	12	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.14	2.15	***1.01	47.
Grammar Essentials .....	9	Follett Pub. Co. ....	.65	1.04	***.39	38.5
<b>HISTORY &amp; SOCIAL SCIENCE</b>						
Ancient History .....	12	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.52	1.69	.17	10.
Modern History .....	10	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.52	1.69	.17	10.
General History .....	10	Houghton Mifflin Co. ....	1.90	1.82	*.08	**0.4
Sociology .....	10-12	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	1.41	1.48	.07	4.7
Problems of American Life.....	11-12	Row, Peterson & Co. ....	1.50	1.38	*.12	**1.8
<b>SCIENCE</b>						
Chemistry.....	10-11	Laurel Bk. Co. ....	1.12	1.80	***.68	37.8

## BOOKS ADOPTED LAST YEAR 1933

HIGH SCHOOL 9-12 "NEW BOOKS"						Percentage Amount Saved on New Adoption
SUBJECT	For Grds.	Name of Publishing Company	New Price	Old Price	Amt. of Saving	
<b>COMMERCIAL</b>						
Business Arith. ....	11-12	Gregg Pub. Co. ....	.69	1.14	.45	39.5
<b>HOME ECONOMICS</b>						
Home Economics - Home .....	11	Houghton Mifflin Co. ....	1.46	1.56	***.10	6.4
Home Economics - Clothing.....	10	Houghton Mifflin Co. ....	1.50	1.77	.27	15.3
<b>OLD BOOK RE-ADOPTED</b>						
Oklahoma History .....	9	Economy Co. ....	1.00	1.00		
Business English.....	11-12	Greg Pub. Co. ....	.69	1.00	.31	31.
Home Ec. Foods .....	9	Houghton Mifflin Co. ....	1.46	1.47	.01	.68
Industrial Geography.....	10	Amer. Bk. Co. ....	<u>1.41</u>	<u>1.64</u>	<u>.23</u>	<u>14.</u>
Total for Grades 9-12 for Year 1934.....			22.39	28.39	6.20	21.1
Loss on Grades 9-12 for Year 1934.....					<u>.20</u>	<u>5.88</u>
Total Saving for Grades 9-12 for Year 1934.....			22.39	28.39	6.00	21.13
* Amount of Loss.						
** Percent of Loss on New Adoption.						
*** Average Price of Books Now Generally Used.						
Total for Grades 1-8 for Year 1933 .....			16.78	20.83	4.05	19.4
Total for Grades 9-12 for Year 1933 .....			24.62	39.10	14.48	37.0
Grand Total for Year 1933, Grades 1 to 12 .....			41.40	59.93	18.53	30.9
Total for Grades 1-8 for Year 1934 .....			10.71	12.64	1.93	15.42
Total for Grades 9-12 for Year 1934 .....			22.39	28.39	6.00	21.13
Grand Total for Year 1934, Grades 1 to 12.....			33.10	41.03	7.93	19.33
Grand Total for Years 1933 and '34.....			74.50	100.96	26.46	26.28

I wish to call attention to the Legislature to the fact that not only was the Constitution of the United States and of the State excluded from the history of the State and the United States, but Civil Government as well, through the influence of the North Central Association, and backed by the State Superintendent's Office. Neither Constitution could be found in any textbook.

This continued until the Act of 1933, creating the Textbook Commission, in which Act we followed a like course in Texas, by declaring that the Constitution of the State should be a part of the history of the United States, and both Constitutions should be included in any textbook on Civil Government.

It is little wonder that those under the influence of the Communist Russian professors of the United States have discarded the Constitution and have practically taught a generation that there existed no such thing as a Constitution.

I say to you deliberately that a Republic cannot be conceived without a written Constitution, nor can Democracy in monarchy, without some form of a Constitution. In England, the whole Constitution is unwritten because it is made up of the written portion known as the Magna Charta, the Acts of Settlement, and the sundry other charters of English liberty, combined with the decisions of the Courts and the Acts of Parliament, – these together constitute

the English Constitution. With us each State and the Federal Government has a complete, written Constitution, which is the only safeguard in moments of anarchy and strife, and passion, and mental intemperance among the people, for a Constitution is made to bind the people in such moments as well as to bind the officials at all time.

The crying need of our times is to return both State and Nation to Constitutional Government in its purity, and that means not only the Executive Branch but above everything else that the Courts of the land do not exceed their powers, and this is particularly true of the Oklahoma Courts.

Permit me to call your attention to another course pursued by the State Department of Education. Appropriation is made from time to time to print the school laws, and they were printed in 1933, which assumed to contain all of the laws, but John Vaughn, the State Superintendent left out an Act of the 14th Legislature (House Bill No. 194), which provided for disorganization of school districts.

I wish it understood that this was no particularly favored law of mine! I did not even know it was under consideration until it reached my desk; but I realized that it was a wholesome Bill, for, often, in these oil sections, a town is built up and great improvements are established, to be followed by the scattering of the town by reason of the failure of oil, and that is true in some of the coal districts, and the necessity arises just as greatly to disorganize both the independent school and municipal districts as originally to organize them; and I therefore approved the Bill; but John Vaughn seems to think that because he does not like the Bill, it should not go into the school laws. He is as bold in excluding the law and the Constitution as these Communists, German, and Russian professors, called "Brain Trust."

Therefore I recommend that in every appropriation bill, when money is appropriated for the printing of the laws governing any department, that the law include a provision prohibiting the payment for the printing until the Attorney General, or some Judge, or some power independent of that department, certifies that the law, and ALL THE LAW governing the department, is printed in the pamphlet. In short, if Mr. Vaughn wants to circulate John Vaughn laws, let him pay the bill out of his own pocket.

John Vaughn told the Agent of one of the Textbook companies, whose books were recently adopted that he (Vaughn) intended to try to have the Legislature nullify the recent contract of adoption; and, failing, he would appeal to the courts; and, if he failed there, he would instruct the teachers to throw books out of the Schools. You gentlemen should find some way to compel such officials to obey the Law.

THE WM. H. MURRAY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION was organized by a group of friends of higher education, which included practically all of the faculties of the higher institutions. Its design was the collection of a fund to be loaned to poor boys and girls ready to attend college, to the end that they might secure a higher education, otherwise impossible.

Life memberships of \$100.00 each were provided in the charter of organization, which was sufficient to aggregate a sum of \$18,000.00; with provisions for "Bequests" by any person desiring to make to said Foundation.

I secured, beginning in 1931, the writing of a textbook on "Agriculture" in the grades, and another one for colleges by the faculty of the A. & M. College. Their copyrights were transferred to this Foundation. Textbook companies were authorized to bid for the printing of this book with the understanding that unless their bid was the lowest, the book would not be adopted, they to pay 10 per cent royalty on all books sold in the United States to the Foundation. The old book, which was replaced by it, was but a compilation of articles, sold to schools for 89

cents. Three companies bid lower, the lowest being by the American Book Company for 69 cents, and that book was adopted. It has more recently been adopted in Arkansas for a period of six years, and will likely be adopted in four or five other States this coming season. A 10 per cent royalty in every case is to be paid to the Murray Educational Foundation.

A set of Arithmetics, written by Conger, Bennett and Conger (Dr. Bennett is President of A & M College) was also bid upon, and was the lowest bid and the best book offered to the Textbook Commission. It also pays 10 per cent, to Foundation; as does a work on Anthology, which is sold for the purpose of Literature and Anthology, 4 Volumes, at \$1.14 each; whereas the Anthologies heretofore used have cost from \$1.75 to \$2.25 a copy, – quite a saving there; and, yet, this fund goes to the Foundation; and the particular merit of this Anthology is that while it includes the literary productions recognized as standard in the past; also includes those of some fifty Oklahoma authors, and others of our Western country.

It is proper for me to explain that I have no control over this fund; that the members selected a Board of Trustees of Nine Members who will administer the fund without compensation and that the fund is handled through Hugh Harrell, the State Treasurer, through the Trust Department of the State Treasury; and the loans are authorized by a Committee of Three selected by the Board of Directors. That Board consists of:

Clive Murray of Tishomingo, Oklahoma.  
Clint Strong of Clinton, Oklahoma, and  
Dr. Henry G. Bennett of Stillwater, Oklahoma.

This Loan Committee has approved a number of loans this year totaling \$10,000.00, their design being to hold back sufficient funds to put the person to whom it is loaned through a four years' course before they are expected to return the money. The notes bear 5 per cent interest.

To give you an idea of what may be expected of this Foundation in the future years, I call your attention to the organization of a foundation by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia, and another in Boston, beginning with \$5,000.00 each, with provision that neither should be used until the end of 100 years interest accumulation. At the end of 100 years, each of these foundations had to their credit more than \$700,000.00. They now each amount to more than \$1,000,000.00.

Governor Brown of Georgia, fifty years ago, created such a foundation, with \$50,000.00. At the end of fifty years, (1934), the foundation had educated more than 1,000 men, some of them prominent judges in this State; had assets amounting to \$275,000.00, notwithstanding a loss of \$29,000.00.

We estimate, through royalties and additional memberships, that the MURRAY FOUNDATION will have assets aggregating \$100,000.00 within twelve months; and, in the event of no additional funds, the interest on that will pay the operating cost and make the usual allowance for losses, and result in a fund in a hundred years of \$10,000,000.00.

With the present tendency of compelling every person who desires to practice dentistry, medicine, law, the profession of teaching, most of the rest, to go to college, without regard to what they may learn at home, and secure a given number of "credits," – this tendency will finally end where no person can enter a profession unless he or she attends a college, and that would result in the professions being filled only from the families of the wealthy. That would prove disastrous to society, because brains of the poor have shown their merit on the whole to surpass those of the wealthy; and we cannot afford not to avail ourselves of the brains and scholarship of

the poor, for the Creator did not put brains on the “Free List.” No university ever made a brain – they merely give refinement and method to this product of the Creator.

### ***New Obligations Contracted Requiring Payment***

When I went into office, there were contracts aggregating \$275,000.00, or debts created by the heads of sundry institutions; and there were Deficiency Certificates in excess of appropriations issued by my predecessor, aggregating \$250,000.00. They were paid from the appropriations of the Legislature of 1931. In order to check unwarranted contracts, an Act was passed in the Legislature of 1931 prohibiting any Department or Institution of the State to contract an obligation in excess of the appropriation without approval by the Governor. The result is that you will not have the necessity of paying a very large sum of outstanding obligations not provided for in the appropriation. There are a few, however, that could not be avoided.

The Thirteenth Legislature appropriated, (counting the excess of contracts and deficiencies), nearly \$35,000,000.00. The Legislature of 1931, including the \$525,000.00 excess, and including \$600,000.00 for free seed and relief of the people, made an appropriation of \$31,000,000.00 round numbers. During the first fiscal year beginning July 1, 1931, the various head of the Institutions and Departments, under the direction and control of the Governor, returned to the Treasury \$1,500,000.00. During the second fiscal year, out of the same appropriation, there was returned to the Treasury on July 1, 1932, \$2,300,000.00, making an aggregate sum saved from the Legislative appropriation of 1931, the sum of \$3,800,000.00.

The Fourteenth Legislature of 1933 made an aggregate appropriation of \$21,642,000.00 for the two fiscal years beginning July 1, 1933, making \$10,000,000.00 less than the Legislature of 1931, and nearly \$14,000,000.00 less than of the Legislature of 1929, and of the Departments and Institutions for the fiscal year ending July 1, 1934, operating within the appropriation, and a bit of saving was in addition made out of the appropriation except for a Supreme Court decision.

During the present fiscal year, beginning July 1, 1934, the heads of the Institutions began a demand in excess of the appropriation; however, in consequence of the law of the Legislature of 1933, authorizing the Governor to audit every quarter, I have held them down to within the appropriation up to this January 1st.

There are some obligations that could have been paid but, under the ruling of the Attorney General, were not allowed to be paid, that your Legislature should appropriate by Special Bills, which, under the Constitution, requires a two-thirds vote:

First. The sum due Ed Andrus, and not provided for prior to July 1, 1931, because of the exhaustion of the appropriation by his predecessor.

Second. Mrs. Andrus, who has done quite as much work in the Institution for the Feeble Minded at Enid as any one else, was not permitted to receive her salary, due to the fact that the law governing that Institution provided for the selection of the help by the Superintendent, whereas other Institutions provided for such selection by the Board of Public Affairs; and, therefore, it was ruled that Mrs. Andrus came within the Nepotism Law. Had she been selected by the terms of the law as the other Institutions were selected by the Board of Affairs, this objection could not arise. A bit of thought on this point will convince any sensible man that the head of an institution like that one, or an Orphans' Home, should provide for a married man with a wife to assist, – not some outside woman which, was in the case referred to, leads to immorality. That recommendation was the advice of such experience men as Dr. Griffin; and, if you will but visit that institution at Enid, you will understand the truth of what I have said. Now, it appears from the records that Wm. Alexander, the predecessor of Ed Andrus, had his wife on

the payroll, and she was paid for her salary, while Mrs. Andrus has never been paid. I submit, in all justice and equity, an appropriation should be made to pay her salary by a special Act. No other woman could be used for that work.

Third. The Legislature of 1931 provided for the construction of an additional dormitory at Stillwater and for the sale of bonds, to be paid out of rentals. The money was secured from the Federal Government and the building is practically completed; but there is no provision for a heating plant. Certainly it was not the intention of the Legislature that that building be constructed and lie idle for a year for the lack of a heating plant. Taking that view, I therefore directed the Board of Agriculture to take bids for such a plant. When these bids were made, I told the lowest bidder that I would execute a contract for the installation of the heating plant, and let it bear interest until it was paid, the same as non-payable State warrants, at 6 percent. He accepted the contract, aggregating the sum of \$18,000.00, and the heating plant was supplied, and installed.

I urge your Legislature to pass a Special Appropriation Bill to make that payment.

Fourth. Colonel Sneed, Secretary of State, informed me that the Legislature had made it incumbent upon him to submit to the voters certain Constitutional Amendments, without providing for the additional fund. I therefore approved a contract on the same terms as before mentioned to make the payment. That also should be paid.

Fifth. The Textbook Commission has had no appropriation since their first meeting. I sought to pay them out of my contingent fund (Extraordinary Protection of the State), which has heretofore been regarded as wholly within the discretion of the Governor, to be used for any lawful purposes that the Governor might choose; but the Auditor refused to make the payment, although I had sufficient funds with which to do so. It therefore becomes necessary for the Fifteenth Legislature to make an appropriation for this purpose. The account sworn to will be submitted to your appropriation Committees.

Sixth. When the Federal Relief Bureau assigned to Oklahoma the sum of \$500,000.00, on the 15th day of December, 1933, and then took the control of said funds away from the Governor in January, 1934, I was compelled to administer the appropriations for the fiscal year, made for the indigent and sick, and for the distribution of free seed, et cetera, which I did. There were outstanding a number of food orders and accounts held by merchants left unpaid and due, to be paid by the Federal Government. A representative of the Government in the past spring came to Oklahoma and proposed to make such payments, aggregating some \$200,000.00 or more; but he insisted that my County Superintendents of Relief should personally take up these accounts, and promised to make payment of their salary of \$62.50 a month for their services, but declined at length to make the payment on these salaries; and, although they have promised to do so from time to time, these men have not as yet received that money; and, while I had the funds in the indigent appropriation sufficient to make the payment, the law limiting the percent that could be used for that purpose would not permit me to make the payment, although I have the money now to the credit of that fund.

It therefore is your duty to make appropriation to pay for these men for that month's salary in each of the 77 counties. And there are a few outstanding orders that for some reason, – negligence or otherwise, – that merchants did not send in that should be paid also; but, in these particular orders, I warn you that claims will be set up not authorized. No claim for relief should be made for supplies or for any purpose not authorized and signed by the Governor, – a rule that I adhered to through the entire relief set-up, to prevent frauds and fraudulent claims being made

against the State; however, the auditor of these State funds, as well as the Federal Funds, Sam M. Bounds, can identify every one of them. They are not many, but should be paid.

I know of no other legitimate claims against the State. I have recited them in detail to prevent fraudulent claims being presented for your consideration, which surely will be done, but the aggregate amount of all foregoing claims will not exceed \$80,000.00.

### ***School Land Commission and Public School Lands***

All are somewhat acquainted at least with publication of questions arising out of the administration of the school funds and public lands of the State. It seems difficult to arrive at the exact truth and to eliminate gossip and secure exact facts.

The Legislature of 1931 passed an Act for the appropriation of \$25,000.00 to audit "all State Departments." The School Land Department had not been audited since Statehood. I sought to make that audit only. Bids were made ranging from \$100,000.00 and up to make a complete audit of the Department and the field work. I therefore made a contract with Wilson and Garnett, auditing firm, to make a partial office audit, which, in consequence of the mixing of the records incident to the removal of the State Capitol, exhausted the \$25,000.00 by the year 1917. I authorized them to continue with a limited audit, which cost the State some \$12,000.00 more, and thus discovered the theft of \$48,000.00. This audit of Wilson and Garnett was made up to July, 1932, and the Legislature passed a law directing the employment of an auditor every two years to audit, beginning on July 1, 1933, the contract for such audit to be made by the Commission, composed of the Governor, Speaker of the House, and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, but made no appropriation therefor.

This Commission, composed of Wm. H. Murray, Governor; Tom Anglin, Speaker of the House; and Paul Stewart, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, contracted with Sam M. Bounds, in July, 1934, to make an audit for the two previous fiscal year, (July 1, 1932 to July 1, 1934); and stipulated as directed by the law, that a copy of said audit be filed with each House of the Fifteenth Legislature, and a copy be delivered to the Governor, and a copy to the School Land Department.

During this audit, Mr. Bounds has found that certain lines of assets were not audited. He was therefore authorized by me to go back through the previous years, to assist him in an accurate audit. It is also found that it is impossible to make a complete, accurate audit in the office of the School Land Department. In other words, the audit should extend to the field and to each tract of land; and you gentlemen will have to determine whether to cut off all bad transactions and just assume that it is accurate, or provide for a field audit.

A gentleman here in the city came to me two months ago and requested that I make a contract with him to audit the School Land Department completely. I called his attention to the fact that I could not do that for the lack of funds. He replied that he would contract to audit from the beginning for nothing, provided I would make a contract to give him one-half of all funds he collected and lost to the Department, saying that he could make it pay him. My reply was that I could not constitutionally do that for the Constitution provides these funds to be a sacred fund for the common schools, and that where a loss occurs, it is the duty of the Legislature to return the funds by appropriation; that the School Land Department is one that could not even dispense charity, but must at all times husband these resources strictly for the common school children of this State; that the Legislature alone could make a contract with him by an Act, but, even in that case, the must needs pay him out of an appropriation of the General Revenues, and not from the School Funds. He may possibly make overture for such contract. If he does, the whole question I submit to your judgment without recommendation.

When I have pointed out these matters, I shall have performed my functions and duty, notwithstanding the amount of cursing I have received because of my endeavor in the past four years to protect these funds. However, I will make this observation that may assist you:

It has come to me from sundry sources that lands where loans were foreclosed in the east half of the State, some of which lands were covered by bois d' arc, walnut, and pine timber, have been authorized to be cut off; and that the men who cut the timber paid for the privileges, but the records of the School Land Department will not disclose that that department ever received any money for such purposes; and, therefore, the trust of falsity of these statements cannot be ascertained by an office audit. It will be necessary to go into the field to discover the facts.

Numerous oil companies have with or without permission, (and the records of the School Land Department do not show any permission), nor the payment of any money therefor, constructed, under the school lands, pipe lines amounting to a vast sum, if collected. These too cannot be determined by an audit of the office.

As stated before, the whole question is yours. I have exhausted my duty and obligation as Governor of the State in these transactions; borne the abuse and slander of politicians and their newspaper friends; but I call your attention that in the speech made and printed at the time at Altus, Oklahoma, in 1910, I pointed out that if the people of the State permitted the "swapping of offices," that just such losses as have been disclosed would eventually result.

### ***Co-operating With or Surrendering to Federal Authorities***

Knowing from experience I warn you gentlemen in advance that you will be asked to destroy the State laws and even the Constitution itself, under the plea of "co-operating with the Federal Government." To do so would also destroy the spirit and intent of the Constitution of the United States. Every governor and most public officials are sworn to uphold not only the Constitution of his State but also the Constitution of the United States.

I make these observations because I have been beset with the demand that I recommend to the Legislature, and even to call a Special Session for that purpose, that we "repeal our anti-trust laws;" repeal the law requiring a textbook company to sell a textbook in this State as cheaply as sold in any other State; to make it a criminal offense under the laws of this State for any citizen of the State to violate one of these "alphabetical orders" now operating in Washington. That, I have steadfastly refused to do, for, to do so, is no "co-operation," but a surrender to Bureaus and extra legal boards seeking to enact laws not made by the Constituted Law-making Body of Congress, regularly assembled, and, therefore, such so-called codes are but private wills as distinguished from public judgment, which is the only basis of law.

You have the duty incumbent upon you under your oath to maintain you own powers; to maintain the powers of the Governor; to maintain the power of the State; and to maintain the powers authorized by the United States, under the Constitutions of the two Governments, which at once becomes veritable "Blue Prints" of State and National Governments, and you can no more depart with safety from the "Blue Print" of Government in the construction of the edifice of Government than you can depart from the "Blue Print" of a skyscraper; for, to do so would cause the skyscraper to topple over and fall; and just so with Government, – not that the "Blue Print" of either is at all sacred; or that either is the best possible to be made; but, in either case, they are the "Blue Print" of the two structures. It is unsafe not to follow them.

We are passing through a painful experience, never before sought to be done in America life; but history will disclose to us such efforts in the past and the success of these experiments in Government as distinguished from Government made from the experience of man, have invariably proved disastrous. The geologists and mechanics arrive at discoveries by experiment,

but it will not do in Government. All the evils that have destroyed democracies in the past; that have done injury to our American society have not been because of adhering to the Constitution, but by departing from its spirit, through legislation in the interest of the speculator; through banking and currency laws, violative of the spirit of the Constitution; through the creation of monopolies and decisions of courts that permit a corporation chartered in New Jersey to have citizenship in Oklahoma, or other States, with powers greater than a corporation chartered in the home State, ultimately resulting in a “twilight zone,” in which they escape both the State and Federal laws and defeat their taxes, – this is the mother of all monopoly that has crushed labor and the citizen. When you lose your State Government you will cry to have it back again, but in vain.

We are now at the “Cross-Roads” to determine whether the old Republic shall survive; whether this last effort of democracy shall survive, or whether it shall go the way of the democracies of the Ancients, – always resulting in destruction of government of the people, for the people, by the people.

### ***Pari-Mutuel Gambling***

The Fourteenth Legislature, very speedily and silently, passed a Bill, known as the “Pari-Mutuel,” which was supposed to be a mere right of betting on a horse race; but, in truth, it was a legalized form of a slot machine for gambling purposes, that would not prove as fair as loaded dice in a crap game, in which, in every instance, according to the bets of the operators of the game would know which horse would win.

When I discovered this, I promptly vetoed it. They got a Bill through the Legislature of Texas, and now the business people of Dallas and other places want it repealed.

I warn you that that Bill will be introduced at this session, and, by all means, it should be defeated. It will prove to be the most corrupting and debasing thing that could be imagined – as baneful as the old saloon. I learned the fact that it will be introduced through an incident of an attorney’s urging me to permit two convicts to return to the State, in which they themselves said that they expected this Bill to pass, and that they wanted to “reap up” on it. They were convicted for conducting “high-powered” gambling dens; and, therefore, have connection with men who invest their money in gambling paraphernalia to be operated by some poor fellow who can take the “rap,” if caught.

When this Bill is introduced, don’t let them tell you that it is a “Race Horse Bill,” for it proved to be one where everything will be known as soon as the bet is over, and the “managers” reap the money, and the “poor dupes” put their money on what they think will win, but never have a chance to win.

The State of Oklahoma cannot afford to enter upon the policy of legalized gambling. In truth, this form of gambling not hid from the general public and the children, is the worst possible.

### ***The Tax Commission, or Tax Dodging***

You will likely be confronted with propositions to amend the law creating the “Oklahoma Tax Commission,” under the plea that it will make it better.

Unless you are absolutely sure, do not vote for any such proposed amendment. This law was written by men who knew how to write the law, under my supervision; and six months’ time was spent upon it. It is as nearly perfect as a law can be written under our Constitution, if the purpose of the law be to collect all of the taxes due, and let no one escape his taxes; and, indeed, this is the virtue of the law.

If amendments are introduced, in the end, they will prove as fatal as the Glasser Amendment, enacted in 1922 to the Income Tax Law. It will prove worse than a joker, and permit the selfish to escape.

It has been proposed by some that it ought to be a "One-Main Commission." I do not agree with them on that, because one man may be angered at a tax-payer, or have undue friendship with some big tax-payer, and, in either case, be disposed to "learn" from the plumb-line of justice." In such cases, the other two Commissioners can aid him to escape his relationship with the tax-payer, and more nearly do justice; and, even in that particular, it would be unwise to make a change. Indeed, the Tax Commission should be made up, as it is now, of one Executive, who keeps track of the departments and of the general affairs of the Commission, like Melvin Cornish; one a great lawyer, like W. D. Humphrey, whose sympathies are in the interest of the public, because some member of the Commission must watch the testimony when larger tax-payers contest the findings of the Commission before the Tax Equalization Board; and be enabled to match shrewdness and keenness of mind with these big tax-payers' attorneys and experts; in fact, none of the laws governing the collection of taxes by the Commission, under Section 12 of Article 10 of the Constitution need amendment, except those few recommended by the Tax Commission in their latest report.

Remember, the laws for the collecting of taxes and for the control and regulation of the Commission is one thing; and the tax laws themselves is another; that is, the rate of tax; the form of tax; the principle involved in the tax. These last are the things upon which men disagree, and which are most likely not to be written as public policy may demand; and there is room for amendments thereto; but, if you want to collect the tax; if you want to be certain to have the power to collect it; if you want to be certain to find out whether the tax is due, you had better let the Tax Commission Law stand, without a change in any particular.

It provides all powers needed, if placed under the control of honest, competent men.

### ***State Bond – Fire – Indemnity Insurance***

The Fourteenth Legislature, (in 1933), passed an Act providing for an Indemnity Insurance Policy by the State to the end that all laboring men engaged in any hazardous occupation may be insured. This law has proven satisfactory, and should not be amended; at least, until it has some two or more years further trial, and then we shall be enabled to know what defects, if any, exist in the law. The amount of reserve has accumulated beyond our expectations. Up to January 1 last, or during a period of operation of one and one-half years, there was an accumulation of \$356,658.36. Under the law, this money should be invested by the Governor; but, to date, I have found little in which to invest the fund that might, in my opinion, prove beyond a doubt safe.

I have sought to purchase non-payable State Warrants because they bore a good rate of interest and were certainly safe; but these warrants are in such demand that we can get them only in "dribbles," for the banks canvass all of the institutions for these warrants.

The law, as now written, provides for its management under the Industrial Commission. This only should be amended, and that only in the event you adopt the recommendations hereinafter proposed:

RECOMMENDATIONS – I recommend that you pass a like law to bond all public officials in the State, (Let it be confined only to public officials, and not extend to private bonding enterprises). It should provide that every officer of the State, from School District to State officials requiring a bond, to be made under the law, should be insured by the State Bonding Policy. This would leave the State independent of the bond companies; and, would

create a great earning and more certainty; at the same time, cause the people to realize that the loss of the bond was their loss. They would not, as they now feel, that when a public official forfeits his bond, that there is no loss, because some private bonding company paid the loss. I have had any number of people to propose to me clemency for county officers, saying the county lost nothing, which is tantamount to saying that "if we can skin the company, it is all right." Such a provision of law would save the State, and subdivisions therein, \$1,000,000.00 a year. Moreover, there would not be required by law so many bonds to be written.

We have a number of officials required by law to be bonded that are unnecessary. The requirements of the law was put in at the instance of bonding companies to sell more of their bonds.

**FIRE INSURANCE POLICIES** – I recommend that a similar law be written providing for a State Insurance Policy to insure every public building, – State, County, Municipality, and School District, by the State; but not to extend to private property in any case; and then place in the law a mandatory provision that the same is automatically insured to the amount of three-fourths of the cost of the building. This, in turn, will greatly aid the State and relieve the public officials from the connivance and "skullduggery" of fire insurance agents, and will, at the same time, cause a saving of from \$1,000,000.00 to \$2,000,000.00 now charged against the taxpayers.

With these three laws written with the same care as the Indemnity Law passed in the Fourteenth Legislature, and placed under a regular commissioner appointed by the Governor, said Commission to be supervised by a Board for Bond-Fire-Indemnity Insurance, to consist of the Chairman of the Industrial Commission, the State Treasurer, and the State Insurance Commissioner; if then there be invested the accumulated surpluses of each, the interest accumulating thereon will more than pay the cost of the office from the very beginning, while providing less rates for all policies on Bonds-Fire-and Indemnity. In fact, in my opinion, after two years, there will be an annual saving sufficient to provide every needy school child in the State with free textbooks.

I strenuously urge the passage of these two additional laws.

### ***Diversion of Gasoline Tax and Public Credit***

It will be recalled that the Fourteenth Legislature (in 1933), diverted Forty Percent of the gasoline tax to the outstanding Non-Payable Warrants that had accumulated for many years, authorizing at the time the issuance of serial Treasury notes, payable in six months, twelve months, eighteen months, etc., with authority to call and stop interest on a note at any time, with provision that they might all be called within three years. Experience in the collection of this tax since has proven that all of these warrants can be paid within three years from now, and that sufficient revenue will have been collected to extinguish these notes.

In writing the Bill, I insist that not only this gas tax, but the entire credit of the State, be pledged to the payment of these notes. As a result, they are sold in Wall Street at \$1.03 to \$1.05, or a premium of three to five percent, and this is a higher rate than the United States Bonds or other State securities.

We feel that we have a right "to pat ourselves on the back," as it were, in thus providing for the financial integrity of the State.

You may be curious to know how came these outstanding warrants. I shall explain:

When I went into office, it was variously stated that there were outstanding \$5,000,000.00 of Non-Payable Warrants, and the warrants were sold at a discount from Ten to Fifteen Percent, and sometimes more; and, then, in an effort to force the issue of long-time

bonds, the banks announced within two weeks after I went into office that they would not purchase the current warrants at all; but that difficulty was soon overcome.

I called in the late Robert Brewer, a native Oklahoman, who was Vice-President of one of the larger banking institutions of New York City, and proposed to him a plan of financing the State, and acting as the State Fiscal Agency. I submitted to him that although it had been the custom to compel the Fiscal Agency to have a local agent at a salary of from \$6,000.00 to \$10,000.00 a year, who was some friend of the Governor's that he need not select any such agent except when he needed him, and that out of consideration for this benefit and others, he should undertake to purchase at par at least \$5,000,000.00 of the outstanding Non-Payable Warrants; and, within less than sixty days, he had purchased \$6,000,000.00 up to May; and, as the outstanding obligations were running at the rate of more than \$2,000,000.00 a month, it was reasonable to conclude, although we have not the figures definitely to state, there were outstanding \$8,000,000.00 of these warrants on July 1, 1931, and possibly more, at which last date, the expenses and appropriation under my administration began. This purchase in New York also relieved \$6,000,000.00 to be loaned by the banks tied up in warrants.

Then came the reduction in the price of oil to twenty cents a barrel, and the subsequent closing of the wells. That in turn produced some \$2,000,000.00 or more of outstanding Non-Payable Warrants. Then followed the abolition of the ad valorem tax by a Constitutional Amendment adopted in 1933, which would produce approximately \$4,500,000.00 a year. These transactions produced this accumulation of warrants now outstanding.

The cutting down of appropriations from nearly \$35,000,000.00 in 1929 to \$31,000,000.00 in 1931, and then to \$21,642,000.00 in 1933, coupled with the saving of \$4,000,000.00 out of the Appropriation Bills, it can be readily seen that but for this economy in appropriation and expenditures, there would be outstanding today in Treasury Notes and Non-Payable Warrants the sum of nearly \$40,000,000.00 instead of nearly \$18,000,000.00, July next.

Now, the question arises how best to liquidate and finance these outstanding obligations?

Some have proposed that the law diverting the gasoline tax be repealed. If you do that, it will leave nearly \$18,000,000.00 outstanding, and that will result in necessarily having not only these, but all, current warrants cancelled at a heavy rate of reduction, the amount of which cannot be foreseen of all future warrants of the State; because the public will lose confidence in the integrity of the State.

If I were financing the State, I should extend this diversion for eighteen months longer, and the figures in the State Treasurer's office will show you that all of the outstanding public debt can be paid within that time, and then you would only have to take care of your current operating expenses; but, by such transactions, you would show the public your good faith and integrity of purpose; and then you could issue a greater amount than that sum in Non-Payable Warrants and maintain them at par.

If it is thought that more money is needed for roads (I do not think it is half so important to provide for more roads as it is to support the schools or to pay off the public debt). In such eventuality, the Legislature could appropriate \$1,000,000.00 or so annually for public roads out of the General Revenue; and even though they were Non-Payable, your credit would be established because of the integrity of your purpose, – the basis of all credit, – and then you would only be called upon to provide revenue for the future current operations of the State Government.

This course would tend to hold your taxes down; and, in but a few years, by paying the public debt, to reduce materially the tax upon the people, – the greatest ban to private enterprise, – for no private enterprise can operate, taxed out of existence, or burdened by a heavy tax.

I call you attention to the fact that public credit is just the same as private credit; and, if you leave your old notes and other financial obligations without provision for certain payment, your current obligations will be a dreg on the market, and will be discounted heavily in order to dispose of them.

In these suggestion, I am merely pointing out from abundant experience, what may be accomplished with this vexatious question; and this method is sound and workable; however, the responsibility is not on me as an official for the future, and I do not want to trespass on the views of others upon whom the responsibility falls; but point out one way of doing it – an honest way.

There is a view in the world that because the National Government has gone “hay-wire” on public debt, without fear, and because the surrounding States have done the same thing, some of them being obliged to repudiate their obligations, that Oklahoma might as well do the same.

I do not agree with them; and I insist that even though the United States Government and our neighboring States contract debts to such an extent that it will require repudiation, Oklahoma and Oklahoma people should face the world and say: “We have kept our financial obligations, and we have kept faith with all of our creditors,” Let me urge you, do not fall into such a faulty policy.

Integrity of purpose, public credit, public honor, just as with individuals, is the basis upon which we judge States and Nations; and let Oklahoma be one State Government whose credit is always sound and whose outstanding obligations are always at par. It can be done; in fact, it has been done for more than three and one-half years of my administration, and the method is clear in my mind as to what we should do, facing the future.

Had I the power, I’d pay the debt, and then thereafter use 25 Percent of the gasoline tax in support of common schools, and further reduce the ad valorem tax for it is yet too high and should be again reduced fifty percent.

### ***Business Advice to Young Men***

I observe quite a number of young men in this Legislature, –indeed, more, I believe, than in any other Legislature; and, while I realize few people will take advice – indeed they will take a cold or a cussing, or a rail off of your fence before advice – nevertheless, I am going to give you some; and, if you do not realize it now, you will perhaps later. That advice is:

Remember that the basis of all business, private and public, consists of:

First: Integrity.

Second: A knowledge and comprehension of the value of time; the value of money; and the value of interest on money.

Third: That while any man can make money, it requires much more brains to save money; and, in public business, just as in private business, integrity of purpose is the basis of all credit, and good credit is the basis of all progress and enterprise.

Fourth: Few men can handle credit; few men ought to be extended credit, because they do not know what to do with it. Credit is the basis upon which a sound financial structure, private or public, must be based; and, therefore, the person who possesses integrity, comprehends the value of money, time, and interest, and understands how to handle credit, and not abuse it, will prove successful in financial transactions. Just so with Government.

Speaking of “credit,” the best illustration I know is a statement by J. P. Morgan before a Congressional Committee, when asked:

Question: “To what class of people do you extend credit?”

Morgan: “I base all credit in my loans on two things, - - character and collateral.”

Question: “Which is the more important?”

Morgan: “Character.”

Question: “What do you mean by character?”

Morgan: “Integrity and ability, – both in the highest degree. That is character.”

Question: “But do you not always consider collateral or property?”

Morgan: “No, not to the exclusion of character, for property, in the hands of fools or thieves, even with a mortgage on it, is unsafe.”

Question: “Did you ever extend a loan on character alone?”

Morgan: “Yes, I loaned one man a million dollars on character alone, and did not lose a dime. We both made money.”

Observation of Questioner:

“Well that is a strange case.”

Morgan: “Yes, because he had a million dollar character, which few men possess.”

Remember the time to economize and save is when you are prospering – when your earnings are low economy is self-operating.

If you earn \$20 a week and save nothing, you will save nothing if you get \$100 a week. If you are smart enough, shrewd enough to make \$10,000 a year by unscrupulous means, you will make ten times that in your life time, by being scrupulously honest. Moreover, if at any time you go broke your honesty will bring you credit for new enterprise to recoup your fortune; while no person will lend aid to the crook. He will remain “down and out.”

All men should be selfish toward themselves and reasonably generous toward others – selfish toward their own appetites and vanity and to such in others; but reasonably generous toward the real necessities of their worthy friends and strangers who may prove to be “angels in disguise.”

And I admonish you young men that in every transaction, and in every proposed piece of legislation submitted to your consideration, consider first the integrity of purpose, for you will hear men, before your Session is over, say, “We do not care about paying these bankers, – we want money for roads or the school teacher, or for some one else for the present year;” but, remember, the banker is the fellow that buys the warrant; and, if you do not make good the old paper and provide for certain payment of the old payer, the current paper will not be solvent either; but, if you will secure and make certain payment of the old paper, you can “float,” without discount, ten times as much current paper as you can without providing for your old or outstanding. That is true in financing a private business; it is true in financing a Government.

You will have men tell you that this thing or that thing ought to be done, and among them will be included bankers, for the reason that the speculators do not want outstanding public warrants and notes that are always at par, because there is no room for speculation. The greater fluctuation, the greater the speculation; and, remember, the people and the Government, and particularly those to whom the State owes money, pays his earnings on his speculation. Indeed, I never could have brought the State Warrants to par value in the market if I had followed the advice of a group of speculating bankers.

There are two ways to write financial legislation, – one in the interest of the people and the other in the interest of the speculator; and the legislator must needs discover that fact. The

foundation of all our economic trouble is that, for more than fifty years, all of the financial legislation of this Government has been dictated by the great speculators in Wall Street; and, as yet, no effort to shake them loose.

For fear that somebody will discover that fact, they are now ballyhooing the return of good times. Indeed, they can bring panic when they are ready, and they are afraid of the present Congress, and will aid in restoration, and such cannot permanently last.

The Regional Reserve Bank Law that permits bankers to be on the Board have in their hands, to use the language of President Wilson to me: "The entire weal and woe of this Republic."

Perhaps, some time, – let us hope at least – the American people will be wise enough to select another Andrew Jackson that will choke the life out of the speculators and "hang" them on the "sour apple tree."

### ***Sub-Penitentiary and Its Possibilities***

You are more or less acquainted with more or less information due to the misrepresentation of the Press of the purchase of approximately 8,000 acres of land one mile south of Limestone Gap on Highway No. 73 and the M. K. & T. Ry. for the construction of a sub-prison. This land was purchased at \$9.18 an acre. That price was secured and made possible only because it was originally owned by a man by the name of "Kuykendahl," who died with a mortgage upon it, and the heirs were obligated to sell it.

Prior to its purchase, we undertook to purchase land at Limestone Gap, which is the same situation and practically the same condition, with less water however than the land purchased, and that land ranged from \$10.00 to \$75.00 an acre through options secured through a private individual, without the owner's knowing that the State wanted to buy it.

I directed the Board of Affairs to refuse the offer, and secured in a few months the offer of the tract that we finally purchased. Immediately, they began a howl of these owners, who wanted to sell at Limestone Gap, and their friends.

After the purchase was made, opposition to the construction of the sub-prison arose from every imaginable quarter. The City of McAlester was hostile; the packing plants and supply houses threw in their quiet opposition and politicians objected; and finally the Attorney General made a ruling refusing the construction, obliging us to submit the matter again to the Legislature of 1933. They again made the appropriation. We began work, and the Attorney General again made one of his notorious rulings. We then went to the Court, and received a favorable judgment from the Supreme Court of the State, but this no whit stopped the opposition from all the other sources.

A very competent man (Joe L. Neely), was secured to superintend the construction, about the only one I knew who knew every detail of the work, such as clearing new land, cultivating crops, handling cattle, building fence (woven wire and otherwise), and knew men. He began the work some 18 months ago. He has completed a page-woven wire fence of approximately twenty miles around the pasture and meadow, lying just east of the "Katy" Railway, along which also runs the highway from McAlester to Durant, No. 73. Through the east part of the pasture flows the largest creek in the county, – Chickasaw Creek; in the center is another large creek of ever-flowing water. In the west part was constructed a lake with a depth of 35 feet, and nearly a mile in length. Pipe was put through the dam to irrigate 40 acres of land for vegetables. Immediately west of the railroad and highway is the location of the buildings, including the tubercular ward; and there is nearby a hill a half-mile deep and nearly a mile long of solid limestone within a quarter of a mile of the railroad tract, – stone in abundance with which the State may make

cement, crushed stone, et cetera. A cement plant made an overture to me to purchase this hill alone, for a price amounting to ten per cent of the total cost of the 8,000 acres.

There are some three hundred acres of fine limestone meadow land for hay, sufficient to winter cattle, with grass enough in the pasture to feed 2,000 head of cattle. The superintendent has bought steers and fattened them on the grass and furnished during 1934 all the fresh meat used by the sub-pen and the Penitentiary at McAlester, charging 6 cents a pound for meat, and has sold three cars of steers and two carloads of hogs, because he had no packing plant to cure the meat. With a packing plant at a cost of \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00, under the present management of the Sub-Penitentiary, every institution in the State could be furnished with all of the fresh and cured meat at a cost of six cents a pound. The Superintendent, Mr. Joe Neely, informs me that he has furnished the fresh meat during the year and made a profit of \$16.00 on each steer; in fact, with a favorable State administration, this Sub-Penitentiary is capable of paying every cent of cost of these two institutions; whereas, heretofore, the McAlester Penitentiary alone purchase \$65,000.00 worth of meat a year, and they consume 1 \_ barrels of molasses a day, besides vegetables. All of this can be produce at the Sub-Penitentiary.

Also there is a high hill on top of which is constructed the buildings surrounded by a wall, running down the slope, permitting the south and east winds to blow over the walls and around the buildings so that it would be just as cool inside the wall as on the outside of the wall, – the only prison in the United States where such condition of air can be had.

A visit to this Sub-Penitentiary will convince any man of the truth of the foregoing statement; and, yet, through an unsympathetic management, it could be made just as expensive as in the years past; however, even then it would give the T. B. convicts room for treatment and separate them from the others, preventing the spread of the malady.

Aside from the saving in dollars, the segregation of the T. B. convicts is worth the expenditure. Also, the segregation of the short-time convicts from the high-powered criminals, who would make them worse criminals by filling these fruitful sources of minds of the convicts, imprisoned with additional criminal thought, will alone save the cost in criminal courts and expense for criminals in this State; and in addition, their treatment will be more humane and more like human beings should be treated, even though convicts, as enjoined by the Master. But I warn you there is room under a sympathetic administration for five years of hard work to complete the plan outlined; and it would not be a bad idea for the committee or committees, or indeed for the entire Legislature, to visit that institution, and learn at first hand what ought to be done and its great possibilities. Such a visit would convince the Legislature of its wisdom, and they would not need to rely upon the gossip of opposition to its construction, ballyhooed through a portion of the daily press.

### ***The Sterilization Law***

For the first year in many years, there has been no increase of inmates of the Penitentiary, and I have turned out fewer men during the years of 1933 and 1934 than in the years of 1931 and 1932, when there was an increase of nine percent. This is due to a number of reasons:

First: The Sterilization law, which caused the “repeating” convict, the habitual criminal, to avoid the Oklahoma field for his operation. Some seven months ago, an escaped convict went to Georgia; committed a crime, and plead guilty, stating to the Court that he wanted the highest penalty possible to avoid being carried back to Oklahoma where he would be sterilized.

Second: The second contributory cause is that I have been very careful about hi-jackers, or robbery with firearms, not to grant them paroles except where double precaution indicated they could be risked.

Third: A cause which contributes to lessening the number is due to the management and the policy of clemency I have pursued in this office.

Fourth: Another cause, in a less way however, is the vigorous effort of the Federal Government. The Sterilization law is most important because of the habitual criminal who commits most of the crimes; and, in this connection, I urge upon you gentlemen to study carefully and adopt a practical, wise, and effective Sterilization Law, or rather to amend the present law in the light of such purpose.

The Ancient Greek, under Spartan System, left the imbecile, cripple, and so on upon a cold mountain to freeze to death, which made of the Greeks a strong hearty race, with a high degree of intellectuality. That, however, was cruel. The Roman Government treated the helpless and weak as we treat them, and you can observe the difference between the strength of the Latin mind and the Greek. The Greek mind is strong whether found mixed with the Saracens, the Balkans, or the Assyrian. In other words, there is a greater proportion of mental strength, and self-sufficiency due to that fact.

Perhaps you recall the “Jukes Sisters” of New York. An accurate record of that family, descendants of the Jukes Sisters, known as the “Jukes Family,” costs the State of New York in one hundred years in criminal prosecutions; in cost of alm houses, poor houses, and otherwise, a total of \$1,5000,000.00. What a blessing it had been to the State of New York, if they had been originally sterilized!

The “Killikuk Family” is another illustration. As stated by one genealogist, these classes become morons, breed faster, and cannot be improved materially by breeding or education.

A soldier in the Revolution, stopping at an innkeeper’s, caused his half-witted daughter to give birth to an illegitimate child; and, some three years afterwards, he married a worth girl; and after fifty years, and again one hundred years, a trace was made of all the descendants of both. It was found that from this half-wit, there were 189 descendants. All were sub-normal mentally except five. From his marriage, there were 169 – 20 less. They were all prosperous, and landowners, and substantial citizens, while the others were, for the most part wards of the State, or subjects of charity on their relatives and friends. What a pity sterilization had not been in vogue at that first birth.

I call your attention further to the fact that out of the 3,800,000 persons first called to arms by the United States in the World War, 41 percent were mentally or physically defectives; 24 percent were thrown into the discard. These last may safely be said to be drones on society and upon the earnings of the other 76 percent of our people.

As a result of the war, with the increase of venereal diseases, at the end of one hundred years, there will be 80 percent defective, and close on to 50 percent absolutely dependents, and the Nation will fall by the inherent weakness of its own citizenship, coupled with the tax burden on the worthy to feed the imbecilic.

To illustrate further: At Enid, there are nine children of one woman, all idiots, due to syphilitic blood.

The most honorable lawyer I ever knew, able and upright, with whom I once practiced, has two sons, and they are both in the Institution at Enid, because he, at sixteen year of age, contracted syphilis. Infection was prevented, but it did not purify the blood. I am sure he had rather been sterilized.

While I know you would not do so, yet, in my opinion, the law ought to be such; and, if we save ourselves from our own follies, it will have to be done, – every habitual criminal, every

imbecile in every institution, and all persons of syphilitic blood in private life, should be sterilized.

Let me remind you that there are 6,000 children with syphilitic blood in the public schools of this State treated by the Health Department.

Some people say that we ought not thus to interfere with the decrees of the Creator, but the Creator did not bring man to this condition, – he brought himself, and he will have to correct and restore the race and blood to its purity as given to the world by the hand of the Creator.

Somebody has to be bold enough and courageous enough to propose all of the reforms for the better of humanity, and bear the opposition and abuse of the ignorant and all opposition to any change; and I therefore devote at length this discussion to a growing evil that if left unchecked will eventually destroy the American race – so let the ignorant rave at me. Perhaps some day the warning will be heeded.

The principle of Sterilization adopts both the Roman and the Greek method. It is not so harsh or cruel as the Greek method, but just as effectually checks the blood of both the criminal and the imbecile.

Remember also that the weak mentally and physically in humanity cannot be bred out; and, at the same time, they increase in birth rate over the pure blood of our citizenship, for, alas, you cannot make brains in the human head with all the Universities in the land; and 25 or 50 percent are drones on society that eat up the substance of the other citizens and cause the difference between living in ease and squalid poverty because of necessity through humane feeling of dividing their earnings with the incapacitated. We have reached that period where the struggle for existence and for living will increase as the population further increases. You hear, because of this, much talk of Birth Control. The method which I suggest of sterilizing will not only solve that question of Birth Control and over population, but give to society a citizenship of pure blood and strong, law-abiding minds.

Of course you will not go this far. Of course the American people will not go this far, for they are prone, as it were, to “shut the door of the stable when the horse is stolen;” to ignore an impending evil until it is on them; but the real statesman is always looking towards the future, and makes an endeavor to increase the tendencies towards good and wholesome society, and to retard the bad; and whether I may be accredited with the title of a statesman, that at least has always been my effort and is my excuse for this discussion of the most potent evil of our society.

### ***Should Inaugural Ceremonies Be Charged to the State?***

I have been approached by numerous persons to lend my support to an appropriation to pay the expense of the inauguration of our successors. I have steadfastly refused.

Finally, it was proposed that the Legislature should make an appropriation of \$500.00 to decorate the Capitol. I refused that; and, for fear that some Bill will be introduced, I make these observations:

I know that precedents have been established for such purposes, but not justifiable, at any time. A Bill was even introduced just before I was inaugurated to appropriate \$3,000.00 for my inaugural, and I sent word to the organized forces of both Houses that I should veto the Bill, if it did not pass before I went into office; and, if it passed before I went into office, I would not permit the expenditure of money for that purpose.

The urging of the expenditure of \$500.00, or even \$50.00, to decorate the Capitol, at State expense, is inexcusable, and should not be done. There is no more difference paying out money to decorate the Capitol than there would be to decorate the cars in the parade, or to buy

talcum powders for “The Merry Wives of Windsor” who may infest the Capitol at the Ceremonials.

The inaugurations of C. N. Haskell, Robert L. Williams and Wm. H. Murray were at State expense, and that did not subtract from the service of either to the State, nor did those inaugurals at the expense of the State add to their service to the State. The fact that John Quincy Adams took the oath, with grandiloquence and gusto, drawn by “coach and six,” did not make him any better President; nor did the fact that Jefferson, without such display, riding his own horse, hitching him at the post, and walking in and taking the oath, detract one whit from his great service to the country and to the world.

Of course there are some men, I realize, who ought to have a great display in their inaugurals, for such inaugurals would be the most eventful thing in their administration, and they are in great need of such a magnificent start. They also must add all of the frills, bibs and bustles, and decorated Don Quixotes and Lord Fauntleroyes and Pompadours, with a touch of Shakespeare, having in the receiving line the “Merry Wives of Windsors;” and to add further, with a Shakesperean touch, they must be trained to understand that other play of his, “She Stoops to Conquer.” Nor overlook that strident Pompous Ponderosity, that the ignorant mistake for brains.

All of which reminds me of a friend of mine who died an atheist. On his death-bed, he requested that I deliver the final oration. He was a noted lawyer and an able man. His widow wired to his brother, a sturdy old farmer, uneducated, but very devout in religion. When all had gathered, ready, at the graveyard, the visiting brother from a distant State asked my friend’s widow: “Where is the preacher?” She replied: “The Judge did not want a preacher; Mr. Murray will deliver the address.” Whereupon, the old farmer took me to one said, and said: “Are you going to deliver an address over my dead brother?” I replied: “Yes.” He said: “I wish you would make it strong; he shore needs it.” And just as in the case of these Governors above spoken of, – a display of this kind is very appropriate, for they need it; but it ought not to be at State expense, for usually, the State has to pay enough on them before they “get over.”

I trust the policy has been established definitely and for good against paying out money for inaugural “shows;” and I urge your legislature not to “fall” for the ballyhoo that is for the purpose of decorating the Capitol. For ask yourself: “What if I had told the people I’d cast such a vote?”

### ***Exemption of Homesteads From Taxation***

There has been filed with the Secretary of State a proposed amendment to the Constitution authorizing the Legislature to provide for exemption of Homesteads from Taxation.

Exemptions of any property from taxation is fundamentally unsound and undesirable, because any exemptions, except on the person, makes the dodging of taxes (the greatest evil in tax laws) possible and easier; and it is more objectionable when left to the Legislature or any group of individuals. Such exemptions should be fixed and certain.

All exemptions from taxation and the amount of the exemption should be specifically written into a constitutional provision, and not left to the caprice of politics and political movements.

I would therefore recommend the writing of a provision to carry that principle out in a proposed amendment. To leave uncertain what the exemption should be and the amount and the class of property would result oftentimes in the defeat of the exemption; because it would be a Legislative Act, which must be strictly construed; while, if the exemption be a constitutional provision, the Constitution must be liberally construed in favor of the right.

Moreover, the cause of the loss of homesteads does not rise out of taxes so much as subjecting them to attachment, or execution, and the mortgaging of the homestead; and undoubtedly the homestead should be exempted from mortgage, attachment, or execution; and, if you will use the wording of the Texas Constitution on these points, and our Courts will “follow the Texas Courts in the construction,” the ingenuity of man cannot defeat the exemption.

The only wrong in the Texas provision is too much property is exempt, which is 200 acres, together with all improvements thereon.

My suggestion is that the Constitutional provision should read something like this:

“There is hereby exempt from taxation, execution, or attachment, the homesteads of the people; nor shall they be mortgaged except for purchase money.” (Then quote the language of the Texas Constitution); and continue as follows:

The homestead shall consist of \_\_\_\_\_ acres of land, if in the country (say 40 acres); and, if in the city \_\_\_\_\_ square feet, (say 10,000 square feet), together with all improvements thereon, provided houses and buildings do not exceed in value, \$1500.00; and, in the event there are houses or buildings, or both, on such homestead, in excess of \$1500.00 in value, the same may be sold and removed by the purchaser of such improvements; but \$1500.00 of the purchase money shall be paid to the homesteader, that he may construct a home not to exceed such value.

The foregoing is merely a tentative statement in order to give the viewpoint here recommended.

I find in the Press statements, promoted by certain gentlemen, that the Constitution does not need amending to give the power to the Legislature. They base that upon a clause contained in Section 22 of Article 10 of the Constitution, which authorizes the Legislature to make “classification of property for purposes of taxation.”

Their contention is that you may thus “classify” and leave out for taxation; but observe the language just quoted: The Constitution provides for “classification FOR PURPOSES OF TAXATION.” It does not say “for the purpose of EXEMPTION FOR TAXATION.” Language could not be plainer. Moreover, we should read all clauses of the Constitution together to get its intent and meaning. Therefore, let us look at Section 5, and we will find in the last paragraph the following:

“Taxes shall be uniform upon the same class of subjects.”

Then let us turn to Section 50 of Article 5 of the Constitution, and we find the following language:

“Section 50. The Legislature shall pass no law exempting any property within this State from taxation except as otherwise provided in this Constitution.”

Reading the foregoing section in connection with Article 10, Section 6 of the Constitution, you will find just such property as is “otherwise provided” for exemption.

The property named in said Section 6 of Article 10 is the only property that can be exempted by the Legislature, or otherwise except through an amendment of the Constitution.

At any rate, and whatever form of amendment is submitted to the people, you should not fail to write it specifically into the Constitution, for the initiated provision filed in the Secretary of State's Department is fundamentally, from my viewpoints, faulty, and should not be ratified by the people; and, therefore, the Legislature should submit a substituted provision.

### ***Supreme Court Nullifying Legislative Power***

You are more or less acquainted with a recent decision of the Supreme Court, holding that the salaries of the Judges and of all officers where the salary is fixed by law could not be reduced by the Legislature during the term for which they were elected or appointed.

So far, the Supreme Court's decision was sound; but the Court should have overruled itself where it once ruled its salaries could be raised; but further ruled that it was not necessary to make an appropriation to pay these classes of salaries, which nullifies an important Constitutional provision, providing that "no money shall ever be paid out of the Treasury of the State, nor any of its funds \* \* \* except in pursuance of an appropriation \* \* \*." I quote the entire section, which is as follows:

"Article 5. Sec. 55. No money shall ever be paid out of the treasury of this State, nor any of its funds, nor any of the funds under its management, except in pursuance of an appropriation by law, nor unless such payments be made within two and one-half years after the passage of such appropriation act, and every such law making a new appropriation, or continuing or reviving an appropriation shall distinctly specify the sum appropriated and the object to which it is to be applied, and it shall not be sufficient for such law to refer to any other law to fix such sum."

No plainer language could be written into a Constitution that contained in the foregoing section; but the decision nullifies that section of the Constitution by quoting a Maryland decision, whose State Constitution does not contain that provision. The court could with the same logic assess and collect taxes to pay these salaries.

Heretofore, it has been held, and assumed, and believed, as an established truth that the Legislative Branch, to the exclusion of the Judicial and Executive Branches, has complete control over levying revenue and taxes, and providing for the expenditure of money; that, without an appropriation, no expenditure can be had unless the same is authorized by a general law like that providing for a per cent of the money collected, given to the Tax Commission. There is no general law, or special law that authorizes anybody to spend money from the Treasury of this State in payment of these salaries, without an appropriation provided therefor.

It is my hope yet that this clause shall not be destroyed by the IPSE DIXIT of a self-serving judiciary, but that some way, some how, some time, we shall have a Supreme Court that will uphold all provisions of the Constitution.

When the Legislature, in 1933, reduced these salaries, nearly every person, including some members of the Supreme Court, came before the Appropriation Committee and agreed to the reductions. Acting upon these statements, the Legislature believed that the appropriation would be accepted.

In 1932, at the State Bar Association, the then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, departing from the ethics of the Bench, began to lay out a policy of State Government, and, among other things, said: "Salaries should be reduced and expense cut to the bone;" and that was

hurled all over the State; but, when they were “cut to the bone,” the same Judge connived to secure the appointment of a Special Court, while I was in Washington City, endeavoring to aid the State in certain public matters, and this Special Court made the ruling at the suit of this same Judge. This conduct and connivance is contemptible in the extreme, inexcusable, and unpardonable on the part of a righteous citizenship.

If there had been any discrimination, there had been some reason, but the same per cent was used against all, beginning with the Governor, by cutting off \$1500.00 a year of his salary. All had their remedy, because they could have gone into Court and sued for their salaries; and, if judgment were obtained, this Legislature would be under duty bound to make an appropriation, because it was upheld by the Supreme Court of the United State in the suit of Young Curtis for General Lee’s home that a citizen could sue the Government without the Government’s permission, when the governing authority was pursuing a course directly in conflict with the words of the Constitution; and, hence the decision nullifying the clause requiring “an appropriation by the Legislature” was unnecessary to have been made by the PISALLERS of the Supreme Court.

### ***What I Saw and Was***

When I retrace the steps of the past forty years of experience in Oklahoma, coming to the Chickasaw Nation when the Indian Territory had but 275,000 people, and Oklahoma Territory less; and watched it grow to a population of approximately 2,700,000; when, at the beginning of Government in the east half of the State, consisting only of Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, with complete control over themselves, and no government for the white man except the Federal Courts, many of them arbitrary, harsh, and cruel; the citizens’ rights not always respected; when it would have been intolerable to have lived as a white man in the Indian country because of the rule of these Federal Courts, had it not been the people made up the juries.

When I remember these Indian Tribes were faced with the proposition of settling their estates and preparing to enter into State Government; my own effort to assist and get for them the best possible security by aiding in the framing and in the adoption by the Indians, Treaties looking towards Statehood;

When I look back over that scene and remember that forty years ago there were neither millionaires nor paupers in the whole of the Indian Territory; that you could travel from Duncan to the Arkansas line; never miss a mean nor a horse feed, nor experience any inconvenience in loss of time except you would need to tell your host the news in the communities through which you had traveled, – all were neighbors and friends, with now and then a refugee criminal from some other State;

When I remember the Sequoyah Constitutional Convention of which I was one of the Vice Presidents, in 1905, through the authority of the Indians, and their honest white neighbors, to give them some schooling and knowledge of the competition they must needs meet in their changed political status;

When I recall the Constitutional Convention that followed which honored me as its President, and the Constitution constructed by the Convention that has met all of the sundry divergent interests of the State, – strong enough to stand up against all anarchy and storm, preserving at all times stability and orderly society;

When I recall the numerous contests since the ratification of the Constitution; my service in Congress wherein a certain justice due to the Tribes I was enabled to assist;

When I recall the bitter campaign of 1930; slandered by all the daily papers; lied about in the campaign, with not even my family exempt;

When I recall the continuation of that abuse for four long years, my constant effort to use the power of the office of Governor to prevent abuses and frauds, and to protect the weak against the strong, met on every side by other elective hostile officers, including the Supreme Court in an attempt to hamper and to thwart every effort I undertook in the interest of public justice; but I call attention to that with that exercise of Supreme Executive and Military Power I have never once used it to oppress the citizen; never once used it to oppress labor, although experiencing three strikes in the coal mines, but always to protect the interests and liberty of the citizens and to secure public justice;

When I recall, in the first month of my administration the liberating of more than one hundred and fifty men from the jails, charged with the crime of having no money or no jobs;

When I recall the expenditure for Government in this State to such a cost greater than the worth of the Government;

When I recall my constant effort to reduce expenditures and taxes, resulting in 1933 of an actual accomplishment in such expenditure and reduction of taxes throughout the State of approximately fifty percent; when one railroad in the State was saved \$400,000.00 a year in taxes, although it was the highest valued road in the State, and all other tax-payers in like proportion;

When I recall the effort of a selfish corporation to extract from the State \$1,000,000.00 for a supposed perpetual franchise on a bridge at Denison, Texas; of my opening of the State Bridge against an arbitrary injunction of an inferior Federal Court, and, ultimately, through my own attorney, being sustained in the Supreme Court of the United States, wiping out \$165,000 judgments erroneously, selfishly levied against this State;

When I recall that oil went down to 20 cents a barrel in Oklahoma City and 6 cents a barrel in Texas, cause by a three-judge Federal Court tying up the Corporation Commission, and my taking charge with a Military Order and bringing oil to \$1.00 a barrel;

When I recall the creation of the Oklahoma Tax Commission and the re-writing of the Code of Laws for the collection of taxes, that prevented the escape from paying the tax due the State, and the collection under this code of nearly \$2,000,000.00 and more of taxes that had been dodged for years, but met in all of these transactions by continuous unrelenting opposition of other public officials, including the Court, backed, ballyhooed by the Metropolitan Press;

It almost causes me to exclaim: "Is it any use?" "Is it worth while to serve the public?"

We at once wonder the reason for that Divine economy that cause the sincere man to fight to serve the people and then be required to double his fight to carry out his promise.

When I review all of these forty years with painful experiences in the development of great educational institutions; with the system of law under which business of every kind has prospered, and labor tolerably protected; the citizen's life and liberty made secure; and review my own experiences through this period, I am reminded of the story in Vergil when he recounts the return of Aeneas from the Siege of Troy, to Carthage in search of homes for his followers. He, the old experienced statesman and constructive force of Carthage, met Queen Dido, who sought his story of the great achievements in the past in the little, miniature city Republic, of Carthage; and, after relating to Queen Dido the story, with a swing of his arm, he exclaimed:

“Queaque ipso miserrima vidi et quorum pars magna fui,” meaning,

“All I saw and a part of which I was.”

As truly as Aeneas said to Queen Dido, I can say to you gentlemen, of the past forty years of Oklahoma: “ALL THAT I SAW AND PART OF WHICH I WAS.”

This and much more, – You have seen during the past four years the credit of the State restored, and all State and County Warrants, for more than three and a half years, at par; there has been no serious mob violence, and no one lynched; public justice has been maintained, and the laws tolerably enforced; the poor, needy, and indigent have been cared for, and the Governor has not been impeached.

The Office of Governor, at all times, has been where the Constitution place it, – in the State Capitol, – and all knew where to locate it; and no one has ever doubted who was –

The Governor

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.