ESTABLISHED JUNE, 1850.

DESERET EVENING NEWS.

THE OLDEST NEWSPAPER IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

NO. 42. TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1892, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY. VOL. XX.

THE MESSAGE

Of Governor Thomas to the XXX Session of the Legislature.

A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT.

A Concise Review of Territorial Affairs.—Judicious Suggestions and Recommendations.

INTERESTING AND IMPORTANT ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTS.

State's Financial, Social, Educational and Political condition and Improvements Correctly Exhibited.—Valuable Statistics, Etc.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, Jan. 12th, 1892.

Gentlemen of the Legislative Assembly:—On behalf of the people I cordially welcome you and congratulate them that our biennial labors will prove a benefit to the Territory and its people.

LETTER FROM PUBLIC OFFICIALS.

It occurred to me that if I could secure from the principal county officers and the Mayors of cities their views respecting changes or suggestions that in their opinion should be made in the county government, revenue, school, private, city government and other laws it would result in advantage to the public interests. I therefore wrote them and have received from many of these officers some very interesting letters, all of which are submitted for your consideration as exhibits to this message under the appropriate heads.

AUDITOR AND TREASURER'S REPORT.

From the reports of the Territorial auditor and treasurer, marked Exhibits I and 2, it appears that the total receipts of the Territory during the past two years were $1,477,143.31, received from the following sources:

Taxes, 1890	$ 56,000.00
Taxes, 1891	41,000.00
Bonds, 1890	15,000.00
Bonds, 1891	15,000.00
From other sources, 1890	1,143.31
From other sources, 1891	1,000.00
Total	$1,477,143.31

*10 the taxes for 1891, there is still due (most of the counties, as nearly as can be estimated, $220,849.77.

The total amount of disbursements during the same period was as follows:

Salaries, 1890	$ 97,007.00
Salaries, 1891, estimated	95,000.00
Appropriations, 1890	55,000.00
Appropriations, 1891	55,000.00
Warrants issued by Auditor Clayton	15,000.00
Warrants issued by Auditor Dunn, 1890	15,000.00
Warrants issued by Auditor Dunn, 1891	15,000.00
Interest, 1890	4,000.00
Interest, 1891	4,000.00
Warrants paid by order of court	10,000.00
Total	$1,000,000.00

This shows a balance against the Territory of $25,173.69. This arises from several causes. (1) The payment of $11,000 to Auditor Dunn and Treasurer Roberts, by the committee appointed under direction of the Court, and (2) the payment of $21,173.69 on warrants issued by Auditor Clayton in excess of the balance shown on his books. His books showed the amount of warrants in circulation on March 13th, 1889, to be $41,924.38. The money at his disposal was $20,750. Thus $21,173.69 of his warrants and 1 [illegible] have been paid since.

It is very important that we know what is the outstanding indebtedness of the Territory, if it can be ascertained. I am informed by Auditor Dunn that there are in books in his office many thousand dollars worth of warrants of outstanding warrants previous to March 13th, 1889, and they may be completed by payment for years to come. I recommend that the number be ascertained and a balance struck upon it possible.

I also the law the Auditor is required to report to the Territorial Commissioner of Public Schools, on or before December 31st of each year, the amount of the school revenues. Under our present revenue system he cannot determine on that date what is the net amount of the revenue. I recommend that some later date be fixed.

THE DESERET UNIVERSITY.

The Deseret University has passed through two very successful years. The attendance has been very large, and the finished results at the diplomas of the University very much above average. The report of the chancellor and regents will set forth these matters very fully.

I recommend that the Deaf Mute branch be divorced from the University and be placed in a more suitable building, for which purpose it is occupied by the deaf mutes can be utilized by the University. I also recommend that the name be changed to the Utah University. This will more clearly identify the important educational institution with the name and fame of the Territory.

In connection with the deaf mute institution there should be provision made for the blind. The last census returned fifty two in the Territory. I submit herewith a communication I have received from Professor Metcalf, in charge of the deaf mutes, relative to the necessity for a separate building, marked Exhibit 4.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The board of trustees of the Agricultural College have made a very full report, showing in detail the workings of the college during the past year. This college is one of the best institutions ever established by the Territory. It reaches the class who, as a rule, derive the least benefit from appropriations, and yet are the most persevering and patient of the producing classes—the farmers.

A visit to the college will convince the most skeptical that the foundations have been laid of an institution that will grow in usefulness and importance. Here is a plain and unfaltering way the student is taught the branches of learning which will enable him to perform the practical duties of life. The college is worthy of our most liberal consideration. The total enrollment for the year at the time the report was made was 209, a more rapid growth than any college founded under the national grant. With this large attendance the Hall of accommodation for students has been reached. It is but just to say whether this extraordinary remote stationary or go forward. The trustees ask for the sum of $150,000 to enable them to complete the main college building according to the plans adopted.

In this connection it is well to remember that the college will receive under the act of Congress of March 2, 1889, 90 acres of land when Utah becomes a State, according to the number of Congress. In behalf of the Territory on September 27th, 1890. The act of Congress provides that the governor might do so if the legislature would not be in session, but it required that the legislature should at its first session held thereafter formally accept the grant. I recommend that the necessary action be taken. The following is the letter of acceptance:

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Salt Lake City, Utah,
Sept. 27th, 1890.

SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of September 22nd, 1890, enclosing a printed copy of the act of Congress approved August 30th, 1890, entitled "An act to apply a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the public lands in the more complete endowment of the colleges in the States for the benefit of agricultural and the mechanic arts, established under the provisions of an act of Congress approved July 2nd, 1862," and asking for certain information required by said act before it can be put into operation, and to say in reply thereto:

First—That under an act of the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Utah, approved March 4th, 1888, there was established a college for teaching the sciences related to agriculture and the mechanic arts, which is now receiving the benefit of the act of Congress of July 2nd, 1862.

Second—That no distribution of rescrip order is recognized or made in the administration of the laws in the legislation and practice of the Utah Territory.

Third—The Legislative Assembly has not been in session since August 30, 1890. Its next session will commence on the second Monday of January, 1892.

Fourth—On behalf of the Territory and the College I assume the "due proof of said grant," as provided in section 2 in the act of August 30, 1890.

Fifth—I am advised by the Territorial Treasurer is Horace Roberts, his official title is "Territorial Treasurer," and his present address is Salt Lake City, Utah.

I also have the honor to enclose a copy of the act of the Legislative Assembly, approved March 4, 1888, establishing said Agricultural College, and of the rules and by-laws of the College, duly certified.

I am, etc., respectfully yours,
ARTHUR L. THOMAS,
Governor.

Hon. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

INSANE ASYLUM.

The Insane Asylum of Provo has been badly crippled during the past two years for the want of money. Although the last legislature appropriated a large sum for the completion of the asylum buildings and the care of the insanes, there was no money in the treasury with which to pay the warrants. The board of directors has on hand 1-day warrants to the amount of $52,000. Their report will show the embarrassments under which the institution has labored and the difficulties it has had to meet in providing for the care and treatment of the insane. It was compelled to borrow money at high rates of interest or else close the institution.

The board is indulged in sundry petitions for work done and materials furnished to the value of $21,000, and it is estimated that the care and maintenance of the insane during the next two years will cost $154,000. It also asks for the sum of $250,000 for the completion of the south wing and central building, and for other purposes. I recommend that the amount asked for be given.

REFORM SCHOOL.

This important public institution suffered a severe loss by fire on June 24, 1891. Particularly for the Territory the insurance on the building amounted to $20,000, and this entitled the board of trustees to rebuild immediately.

The board will submit their biennial report to you, with such recommendations as they deem necessary for the needs of the school.

THE DESERET AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING SOCIETY.

The report of the board of directors of the Deseret Agricultural and Manufacturing Society, marked Exhibit 3, gives very full information respecting the fairs held in 1890 and 1891, and calls attention to the importance of these exhibitions. They raise the question of additional room for future fairs. It has been apparent since the first fair was held in 1890 that the space afforded by the roof of the tabernacle and the Tenth Ward square, had the grounds been not large enough to accommodate all the demands of a great Territorial fair.

The time has now come when a decision should be made between the propositions submitted by the board, viz., whether it would be best to make two divisions of the fair. The first embracing all the various industrial features of the fair, to be located on the Tenth Ward square, and the second to be confined to the stock exhibit, to be located on the Agricultural Park grounds, in the western part of Salt Lake City, consisting of forty-six acres. Or, the question whether it would be best to sell the forty-six acres, estimated to be worth $75,000, and buy greater land, more eligibly situated, and use the balance of the money to erect suitable buildings.

If you decide in favor of the second proposition it will enable the society to make necessary improvements without asking the Territory for assistance for some years to come, and will also make the annual fair more beneficial and attractive.

I earnestly recommend that the society be given the sum of $5,000 annually, to be expended in payment of premiums and for the stocking two years the sum of $5000 to be expended on buildings, the sum of $12,500.00 to pay deficiencies arising during the past two years, and the sum of $10,000 to erect the north wing of the Exposition building.

TERRITORIAL LIBRARIAN.

From the report of the Territorial Librarian, marked exhibit 6, it will be seen that the Board of Control, at a meeting held on February 21st, 1891, based on the provisions of the act passed at the last session of the Legislature, placed in the library of the Deseret University the miscellaneous books, pamphlets, and the law books and books of a political nature for the Territorial library. The law library has now on its shelves 2,000 books.

The appropriation for the support of the library is increased to $1000 a year. His duties as Territorial statistician are important and laborious, and deserve to be properly compensated.

STATISTICS.

The law passed at the last session of the Legislative Assembly providing for the collection of statistics was deficient in many essential respects. The duty has devolved upon the Territorial Librarian, and he statistician as well, to prepare blanks for the use of the County Assessors in collecting the statistics, and the Territorial Secretary was directed to print the statistics for public distribution.

No appropriation was made to carry out these vital provisions of the law. I advised the statistician to solicit bids for the printing of the blanks, to distribute them, and as nearly as possible to meet the wishes of the law.

Because of these difficulties the law was practically inoperative until 1891. The statistician has arranged to tabulate the information secured by the assessors, but the Territorial Secretary has not been able to print the report. I recommend that a sufficient amount be appropriated to meet the expenses incurred by these officers, and for the printing of the report. The report of the Statistician is herewith attached, marked exhibit 5.

I have been requested by the special agent in charge of the "Office of Irrigation Inquiry" connected with the United States Department of Agriculture to secure answers from irrigation districts and companies to the questions contained in the two circulars inclosed herewith, marked exhibits 7 and 8, for the use of the government.

I submit the matter for your consideration and suggest the propriety of publishing the class of statistics among those now collected by the assessors.

It is very important that there should be a careful and reliable presentation of our industrial resources. The statistics gathered by the assessors do not, to my opinion, do justice to the Territory. There are many influences among these now collected by the assessors.

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CAPITOL GROUNDS.

The commission in charge of the capitol grounds have expended the $10,000 appropriated for the improvement of the grounds by planting of trees, shrubbery and grass.

They have also covered the southern portion of the grounds with a network of water pipes, as well as the water the whole. The grounds are now ready for the commencement of the work of erecting a capitol building. They ask that an appropriation of $100,000 be made for the erection of the southern wing of the building. This will furnish the Territory with a building sufficiently large for the accommodation of all the public offices.

They also ask for a suitable sum for the care and improvement of the grounds during the next two years. I recommend that the amount asked for be given.

EXECUTIVE MANSION.

The council of Salt Lake City, Utah has offered to the Territory a site for an executive mansion, and has appointed a committee of five councilmen to confer with the Governor and Legislative Assembly, and provide for the transfer of the title. The site offered adjoins the Capitol grounds, and is fully described in a communication I have received from the city recorder, marked exhibit 9.

THE WORLD'S FAIR.

The governor is authorized under the provisions of the law of 1890, to appoint three commissioners to arrange for a proper exhibit on the part of the Territory at the coming World's Fair to be held in Chicago 1893, and $5000 was appropriated to meet their expenses. No commissioners have yet been made. There seems to exist a general opinion that the number of territorial commissioners, and the amount of the appropriation to be expended by them should be increased. For these reasons I have delayed taking action, awaiting further consideration of the matter by the Legislative Assembly.

I submit herewith (exhibit 10) the draft of the general form of bill providing for a proper exhibit on the part of the Territory at the coming World's Fair, which was forwarded to me by the director of the World's Fair.

It is hardly necessary that I should call your attention to the importance of giving our Territory a creditable representation at the Fair, where will be placed the evidence of the rapid strides made by the States and Territories will vie with each other in the character of their exhibits, and it is fitting that Utah should be known as the Queen of the Mountains, and cities which come to a people to attract the attention of mankind. For many reasons Utah should make a fitting exhibit. The sum of $5000 which has been given one of the best sites for a State building. A failure to properly improve tolerable would attract attention. Our resources are so varied and the great majority of States in climate and natural resources. The evidence of let gave climate and natural wealth should be given to the world. A very gratifying and instructive exhibit can be made which will challenge universal attention and result in good to the Territory. I recommend an appropriation of $100,000 for this purpose.

The board of directors of the Deseret Agricultural & Manufacturing Society urge the importance of a creditable Territorial exhibit and make the excellent suggestion that when the fair shall have closed the exhibit be returned to the Territory and be placed in their hands to be used as the nucleus of a future permanent exhibition.

THE FREE PUBLIC SCHOOL LAW.

The free public school law passed at the last session of the Legislature, has been universally accepted by the people as a wise and beneficent act. It has largely increased the opportunities for education throughout the Territory. It was to be expected that the first trial school law would not be perfect in all its details, and that it would require the experience of time to determine wherein changes were needed.

The letters I have received from the county superintendents of schools and attendance officers indicate a few changes which may be made. The most important objection raised is the failure of the law to afford sufficient school facilities in the remote districts.

Whether it would be better to repeal the law in consequence of the school feeds in favor of those struggling districts, I leave for you to determine, with the assurance that I will be glad to join with you in any legislation that may seem expedient for the interest of popular education. In the case of the establishment of schools residing in the remote school district of Salt Lake City to exhibit the collection of a special school tax, levied upon the class of the year 1890, the amount was collected and paid to the school treasurer, and the money has been expended in the Territory. This was an impossibility, the assessment having been completed long before the levy was made, and a large number had paid their taxes and held receipts in full.

Again, a large amount of personal property was omitted in the assessment. It was probable that a considerable portion had changed hands. It was, therefore, impossible to collect the school tax upon the basis of the assessment roll. The result was the action of the property holders in levying the tax was practically annulled by the decision of the courts. It has always been the practice in Utah when a special or other school tax is levied to enter it on the tax roll before it is the first assessment made thereafter. I recommend that, if there are any ambiguities in the law in this respect, they may be removed.

The following is a summary of the most important suggestions made by the county superintendents: That no allowance of high grade granted in the Utah State Department of Agriculture to secure answers from irrigation districts and companies to the questions contained in the two circulars inclosed herewith, marked exhibits 7 and 8, for the use of the government.

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