

board did not wish to see great public interests sacrificed for light and transient reasons, an appeal was taken to the commissioner of the general land office. The commissioner of the general land office held that the State might select lands chiefly valuable for stone, but denied its right to select lands containing precious minerals or coal. This decision was recently rendered and the board is now taking an appeal to the secretary of the interior.

The Territory of Utah was not admitted into the Union until after nearly all of its available agricultural lands were taken up by settlers. While the grants of land to the State by the present government seem generous, by reason of the above fact, they will not prove as valuable as was generally supposed. The only unsettled agricultural lands within the State having a present water supply are contained in the Uintah Indian reservation. I recommend that you memorialize Congress to permit the State to have a sixty days' preference right to select agricultural lands within that reservation when the same is thrown open, before permitting settlers to make entries. The report of the State board of land commissioners, giving details of its work, will be submitted in due course.

The education of the children of the State is a subject that invariably and properly occupies a large share of the attention of each Legislature. No subjects of more vital importance in determining the future of the State, the influence and character of its people, and the position it shall occupy in the nation and before the world. It should be the aim to increase constantly the efficiency of the schools, yet there should ever be maintained a wholesome regard for the rights of the citizen, to see that the burdens of taxation are not greater than he can bear, and to spend his money with such discrimination that the best possible results may be attained. The State has been generous to the common schools in the recent past and I believe they are steadily becoming more efficient, but I ask you to investigate carefully the system at present in effect, to ascertain if some improvement may not be had, without increasing the cost of maintenance. The superintendent of public instruction, in his report for the year, which is replete with interest and contains many valuable suggestions, to which I invite your attention, points out some apparent defects, both in the present system and in the administration of educational affairs, and recommends radical changes. The most important of these is his recommendation that the present school district organization of county schools be consolidated into a single district in each county, to be controlled by the county board of education. If it shall be found, upon investigation, that the change if made would increase the efficiency of the district schools and at the same time diminish the aggregate expense, it should be adopted.

Having come in direct and almost daily contact with all of the State officers during the year, I am familiar with the manner in which they have discharged their responsible duties, and desire to commend them for their efficiency, their courtesy and untiring

devotion to the interests of the State. In many cases their duties have necessitated extra hours and overwork through lack of sufficient clerical help. I suggest that these cases be investigated, that loyalty may be properly recognized and justice done.

The law prescribes that the Governor must, prior to the meeting of the Legislature, deliver to the secretary of state for publication all reports of officers and boards. Many of the officers and boards are not required to make reports until within the first ten days of the session of the Legislature, so that all of the reports have not yet been placed in my hands. Such as have been received have been delivered to the secretary of state, but as the law does not prescribe the number of copies to be printed and no appropriation is provided therefor, that officer is holding them subject to your further pleasure. I recommend that these contradictory provisions be corrected, and that the number of copies of each report to be printed be specified and that the secretary of state have authority to cause them to be printed.

The State Constitution makes the attorney general the legal adviser of all State officers, and the law makes it his duty to give his opinion in writing without fee to the Legislature or either house thereof, and to any State officer, board or commission, when required, upon any question of law relating to their respective offices; also, when required by the public service or directed by the Governor, to assist county attorneys in the discharge of their duties. During the year past, the attorney general has been called upon for an opinion on very many points of law from almost every locality in the State, and the publication of these opinions, and proper distribution thereof, would not only materially lessen the burdens of the attorney general's office, but unquestionably prove a valuable reference book to all officials throughout the State. I therefore recommend that a suitable number of copies of these opinions be printed and distributed.

Until revenues are available from the sale of lands for a Capitol building, the State must rent quarters for its officers. The State board of examiners, in pursuance of law, has recently entered into a four year's contract with Salt Lake county, by which all of the present State officers are provided with commodious quarters in the City and County building in Salt Lake City, and with necessary furniture, light, heat and janitor service, for the very reasonable rent of \$4,000 per annum. A provision is included in the lease that if the State should build a wing of the Capitol building or should acquire other permanent quarters by purchase or grant, the contract may be sooner terminated. In the meantime the improvements heretofore made at the Capitol site, consisting of trees, shrubbery, grass and fencing, are kept in order at a minimum cost.

For the occupancy of the rooms you are occupying with furniture in the Senate chamber and in the committee rooms and lobbies, and heat, light and janitor service, the board of examiners has contracted with Salt Lake City to pay \$1,000 for the sixty days session. These amounts will require appropriation,

The various institutions of the State are in a healthy and satisfactory condition. The respective boards of control are composed of representative citizens who devote much time and attention to their duties without compensation. If as a partial recompense for their services a per diem were to be allowed the members of these boards, other than State officers, at four dollars for attendance at each of their regular monthly meetings, the aggregate would not exceed \$1,500 per annum, and they would feel that, to a limited extent at least, their labors were appreciated. I recommend that this be done. I have prepared condensed statements, showing in brief the work of these institutions for the year, their condition and requirements. These are submitted herewith for the purpose of giving you a general knowledge of their affairs without necessitating immediate perusal of the voluminous reports of the various officers in charge.

The steady advancement both in efficiency and popularity of that ancient and honorable institution of learning, the University of Utah, is gratifying to all citizens interested in the cause of higher education. The attendance has grown from 368 enrolled students for the school year 1892-3 to 539 for 1895-6. It is also noteworthy and commendable that the institution has been conducted the past year upon the appropriation made by the Legislature, there being no deficiency at all on account of maintenance, the deficiency report of \$3,200 (being explained by the board of regents and consented to by the State board of examiners, as necessary and unforeseen and having no possible reference to the conduct of the institution itself. The greater portion of this deficiency, namely, \$2,500, occurred through a misunderstanding as to the amount of the deficiency one year ago, (the appropriation having been \$13,500 instead of \$16,000,) and the balance, namely, \$700, comprised a forced and unexpected expenditure for the purpose of connecting the buildings on University square with the city sewer system. So that this deficiency of \$3,200 represents the entire indebtedness of the institution at present. An immediate appropriation should be made, not only to cover this deficiency, but to enable the University to continue until the appropriation is passed at the end of the present session. It is contended by the board of regents that there should be made as early in the session as possible a special appropriation to defray the expenses of the institution up to the end of the current academic year, which is fixed by law to be June 30th, and that the biennial appropriation for the period following be then made in the appropriation bill. This same contention was made at the last session, and while the Legislature then fixed the fiscal year so that it corresponds with the academic year, it appropriated only sufficient funds to cover the calendar year 1896. It seems to me that this argument is well supported, and that appropriations hereafter should be made to include estimates of necessary expenditures to the end of the academic year, or, in the present instance, for the biennial period ending June 30th, 1899, the proper pro rata thereof to be drawn