GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

(Continued from Page One.)

State funds promptly as the interest of the State may require.

As is well known, all of the agricultural lands of the State are susceptible to irrigation from the present sources of water supply, are taken up. By the construction of expensive reservoirs many more lands may be brought under cultivation. The State has a grant of five hundred thousand acres of land for the establishment of permanent water reservoirs for irrigation purposes. The lands included in this grant may be sold and the proceeds thereof used in the construction of reservoirs at such points as to benefit the lands selected by the State. To realize on this land in the usual course by selection and sale of the grant would require a great many years. I recommend that this fund be anticipated by the sale of bonds in such sum as you may deem best, to be known as reservoir bonds, to be secured by the proceeds of all land selected under this grant; the proceeds of the sale of such bonds to be used in the construction of reservoirs to supply water to State lands, thereby increasing their value manyfold and bringing fresh lands into cultivation. This plan, I believe, will give the State an opportunity of realizing on a part of its lands within a brief period, and will thereby reduce taxation. Under the grant of lands to this State the board of land commissioners was, and is at the opinion that the grant includes mineral lands, and made application to have the same set apart to the State under its grant. The application was rejected by the register of the land office, but as the board did so when to see great public interests sacrificed for light and transient reason, and as 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 carrying 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 general government seem numerous, 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, thereby 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 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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 subject is 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 manifested 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 to 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 would increase the efficiency of the district schools and at the same time diminish the aggregate expense, it should be adopted.

STATE OFFICERS.

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 justice may be properly recognized and rewarded.

REPORT OF OFFICERS.

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 I have caused to be delivered to the secretary of state, but as the law does not prescribe the number of copies to be printed and its appropriation is previous to mine, I refer in issuing them subject to your further pleasure. I recommend that these documents be printed in the usual manner, and that the number of copies of each report to be printed be specified, and that the secretary of state be authorized to cause them to be printed.

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE.

The State Constitution makes it his duty to render the legal advice to all State officers, and he has always in the state to give the opinion to write without fee to the Legislature or any State officer, and to keep State officers board of state officers. While doing upon any question of law relating to their respective offices, also, when required by the public service or required by the Governor, to assist county attorneys in the discharge of their duties. During the year past, the attorney general has rendered opinions for an outlay of no very many months; 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.

RENTAL CONTRACT.

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 the authority conferred by a four years' contract with Salt Lake county, by which all of the present State officers are provided with commodious quarters in the County building in Salt Lake City, and with necessary janitors, fuel, heat and janitor service, for the very reasonable sum of $4,000 per annum. A provision is included in the lease that if the State shall 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 therefore made by the County board of commissioners of Salt Lake City, consisting of trees, shrubbery, grass and fencing, are kept in order at a minimum cost.

For the occasions when State officers are occupying with institutions in the Senate chamber and in the committee rooms and lobbies, and legal and judicial work in the lands within a brief period, and will thereby reduce taxation. Under the grant of lands to this State the board of land commissioners was, and is of the opinion that the grant includes mineral lands, and made application to have the same set apart to the State under its grant. The application was rejected by the register of the land office, but as the board did so when to see great public interests sacrificed for light and transient reason, and 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 carrying 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.

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square—all these requirements are deemed to be indispensable to the proper operation of the institution. To supply these various needs and maintain the school upon the basis asked until June 30, 1899, would require a total appropriation of $153,500, but I am convinced the University will continue to do work and to accomplish necessarily successful results on a much less sum than that. I shall be pleased to confer with the members of the Legislature and the board of regents with a view to ascertaining now to curtail these estimates without crippling the institution, and to ascertaining the advisability of accepting the land grant of sixty acres on the bench east of Salt Lake City and establishing the University there within the time limit prescribed by Congress, which I understand has been extended to 1904.

THE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The work of the Agricultural College is largely increasing from year to year. It is surprising by appropriations from both the national and State governments, the amount of work done. The demand for the services of the institution is so great that it has been found necessary to employ a special teacher of chemistry, and to provide additional apparatus and material for the department of agriculture, and to provide for the department of mechanical engineering, and to provide for the department of mechanical engineering, and to provide for the department of mechanical engineering