

THE DESERTEAN NEWS.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY

TUESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1901. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

NUMBER 47.

FIFTY-FIRST YEAR

GOVERNOR WELLS'S MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE.

GOVERNOR WELLS this afternoon read his message to the Legislature, which convened in the Hall of Representatives at 10 o'clock, and to the review of State affairs and to the review of the message and policy outlined for the consideration. The message is probably the most comprehensive ever submitted by a Utah Governor. It is as follows:

THE MESSAGE.

To the Legislature of the State of Utah.—In obedience to the fundamental law of the State, requiring that the Governor shall communicate by message the condition of its affairs to the Legislature at every regular session, and recommend such measures as he may deem expedient, I have the honor to submit this, my fourth message to the Legislature.

Permit me at the outset to extend greetings and congratulations to you as the representatives of the people that the State enters upon its sixth year under such favorable circumstances

failure of the third State Legislature to elect in the discharge of this great responsibility the motives which should and doubtless will actuate you will be the impelling motives upon which the best American citizenship is founded. I am sure that at this writing it is the unanimous desire and determination of the members to elect a senator with the utmost despatch consistent with the character and gravity of the duty to be performed, and it is earnestly to be hoped that no consideration will be allowed to intervene to prolong the balancing in any manner that will entrench upon the other public business you were elected to transact.

I deem it opportune at this time to direct your attention to the fact that the State Legislature of other States of the Union regarding the election of a senator to elect, on April 6th, 1899, adopted a resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to confer with the legislatures of other States of the Union regarding an amendment to the Constitution of the United States which shall provide for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. The committee so appointed has adopted a resolution requesting Congress to call a convention for the purpose of proposing such amendment. The chairman of the committee in his letter to me of November

POINTS IN THE EXECUTIVE ADDRESS.

- Congratulations to the People of Utah on the Degree of Prosperity They Are Now Enjoying.
- An Urgent Request to Elect a United States Senator With Due Dispatch.
- Attention is Directed to the Fact That There is a Growing Demand to Have United States Senators Elected by the People.
- An Admonition That Legislative Appropriations Must Absolutely be Kept Within State Revenues.
- The Present High Educational Standard of Utah is Commended and the Reminder Given That There Must be no Backward Step.
- The Creation of a State Bureau of Statistics is Called For.
- The Legislature is Asked to Vindicate the Course of the State Board of Health in Regard to the Perplexed Problems of Vaccination and Smallpox.
- An Investigation of the Operation of Coal Mines and Better Protection to Coal Miners is Suggested.
- An Appropriation of not less than \$2,000 is asked for the Encouragement of Utah Art.
- The Advisability of Changing the Location of the State Fair Grounds from the Tenth Ward to Agricultural Park is Pointed out.
- As to Recent Perpetrations of Outlawry, the Governor says They Must be Stamped Out.

deposit in the banks of Salt Lake City

alone on January 1st, 1901, it is

currently reported there was more than

\$20,000,000. Somebody owns this money

and it is property as much as the poor

man's cow, and should be assessed.

Merchandise and trade fixtures in the

State were assessed in 1900 at \$5,500,000.

Three mercantile houses in our capital

city have constantly on hand more mer-

chandise than that. Live stock is as-

essed \$3,000,000; the government census

will show that it is worth \$12,000,000.

Railways, car, depot, street railway, tele-

graph and telephone companies are as-

essed at \$13,564,700. It is safe to say

that this class of property is worth

three times the amount of the assess-

ment. I am firmly convinced, also,

that there are inequalities in the as-

essment of real estate as relates to the

respective counties. While no doubt

there are assessments too high, it will

be apparent to any fairminded person

from a careful study of the report of

the State board of equalization, which

will be laid before you that many of

them are unreasonably low. The rem-

edy for these inequalities does not per-

haps devolve upon the Legislature, as

the law on the subject may be said

to be ample if properly enforced, but

attention is here invited to the subject

for the purpose of appealing to you

as representatives of the people to ex-

ercise an influence upon the county

and county boards of equalization to

consider the interests of the State in

the making up of their assessments, as

well as local interests, and make what

comparative adjustments may be re-

quired to furnish the assessment

rolls and blanks for the assessors of

the several counties. Within munici-

palities the aggregate tax levy ex-

ceeds 20 mills, and in cities of the first

and second class it reaches as high as 25

mills. While the State and State

school tax is only 3 mills, the State in-

terest in the cost of assessing

and collecting the taxes to be unjust

to the State, and recommend that it

be remedied by proper legislation. At

present the State pays the salaries of

the judges and state attorneys while

engaged in reporting criminal cases, and

one-half of the salaries of county at-

torneys and all the fees or per diem

of the judges and state attorneys while

engaged in reporting criminal cases, and

all the cost of maintaining the State

prison. Much of the crime commis-

sions is a direct result of the sale

of intoxicating liquors, and the present

policy of the State is to prohibit the

sale of such liquors. The State

receives the full financial benefit from

the licensing of the sale of intoxicat-

ing liquors. I believe the State is en-

titled to the highest of the money re-

ceived from such licenses. I commend

to your consideration the propriety of

further increasing the revenue by leg-

islation that will authorize the State

to receive the full amount to be paid by

wealthy individuals.

from our usual sources of revenue will

be entirely insufficient to meet the es-

timated demands for the ensuing two

years. The governing boards of vari-

ous of our institutions set forth in

their reports the urgent need of

greater facilities and extensive addi-

tions to their buildings. More than \$250,-

000 is asked for such improvements in

the State. The biennial period of 1899-

1900 has undoubtedly marked the limit

in the matter of large selections of

lands in satisfaction of the various

grants made in the past. During

the two years there were selected

628,448.12 acres, making the total se-

lections since the admission of the State,

585,900.10 acres, or, including the origi-

nal University grant, 918,626.25 acres.

These selections have been carefully ap-

portioned among the several grants,

with the view to keeping the ratio of

satisfaction pro rata. It will thus be

readily understood that the grants must

soon be filled.

The State Board of Land Commission-

ers has fixed the minimum price at

which selected lands can be sold at

\$1.50 per acre, and no land has been se-

lected, except that taken under rein-

cumbents of entries in the United

States land office, the price of which is

fixed by statute at \$1.25 per acre, which

is considered worth at least \$1.50 per

acre. There is no longer appropriation

of lands to the State without selecting

lands of less value than this minimum. Of

all the lands selected in 1900, compar-

atively little was taken for leasing, the

State lands have progressed satisfac-

torily, 322,962.41 acres having been ap-

praised by the commissioners, the val-

uation being \$481,788.72. These

are almost exclusively school lands.

During the two years leases were ex-

ecuted embracing an aggregate area of

163,897.80 acres, the appraised value be-

ing \$242,516.91. The leases cover graz-

ing lands with few insignificant ex-

ceptions. The selections made are

largely of grazing lands, practically the

only other lands taken being those em-

braced in relinquishments of homestead

and desert entries.

The general land office at Washington

has acted more promptly than formerly

on State selections, having approved or

patented within the two years 343,281

acres of the selections, and the

other land grants being distributed

among the respective grants.

Since my last previous biennial mes-

sage sales of State lands at public auc-

tion have been held in Sanpete, Emery,

David, Millard, Cache, Weber, Iron,

Washington, Rich and Utah counties,

amounting to 156,276.31 acres, and the

sales aggregating \$1,926 acres. The sales

of State lands for the years 1899-1900

were 388,308.25 acres and the price \$700,-

360, making the total sales from all

grants to the close of the year 1900, 471,-

360 acres and the total price, \$1,061,777.

The commissioner of the general land

office has courteously permitted me to

designate areas of unsurveyed lands for

public survey without cost to the State,

and under the advice of the State board

of land commissioners I have in each

year designated tracts for survey to the

limit of the government appropriation

for the survey of the unsurveyed lands

of the United States land office. The State

thus acquires a preference right to se-

lect these lands after survey, and this

right has been judiciously exercised

upon the filling of the unsurveyed lands

of the United States land office.

By act of the Legislature, approved

February 24, 1899, the State board of

land commissioners was required to

invest and invest the proceeds of the

sale of State lands in the purchase of

land, and loan the University \$100,-

000. The board of regents gave notice

of its requirement of the money early in

the year, and the money was converted

into cash, and loan the University \$100,-

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