

APPENDIX

TO

JOURNALS OF SENATE AND ASSEMBLY,

OF THE

NINTH SESSION

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA.



SAN FRANCISCO:
A. L. BANCROFT & COMPANY, PRINTERS,
721 Market Street.
1879.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS

OF

**HIS EXCELLENCY, JOHN H. KINKEAD,
GOVERNOR OF NEVADA.**

**DELIVERED BEFORE A JOINT CONVENTION OF BOTH HOUSES OF THE
LEGISLATURE, JANUARY 7, 1879.**

INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

FELLOW-CITIZENS:

Having by your suffrages been chosen to administer the executive branch of your State government, I have taken the required oath, and to-day enter upon the duties of that responsible office.

In so doing, it is customary and due that I should in general terms outline my views and indicate, so far as may be, the course I shall endeavor to pursue.

I assume the responsibilities of this position animated with an earnest desire to fulfill its obligations faithfully, and so far as possible to advance the interests of the whole people of this State.

There is, in my best judgment, no actual conflict between any of your material interests. While mining is generally, and I think justly, regarded as our leading industry, and as such should be fostered by all proper and equitable legislation, the mines, with their products, should contribute their just proportion of revenue in return for the privileges accorded and protection guaranteed them by the State.

Each prominent pursuit is entitled to security and encouragement; each interest should contribute its full quota of revenue in return therefor. All are reciprocally dependent; each is allied in interest with every other.

During the past eight years, notably within the gubernatorial term just ended, the people of this State have been signally prospered. Our mining, agricultural, grazing and other industries have richly repaid the labor and risks involved; so that to-day the treasury of the State is filled to overflowing with the revenue collected therefrom.

I earnestly hope that the term just begun may be equally fraught with success to the people of this young and ambitious commonwealth.

I counsel and will advocate economy. It shall be my endeavor to see that wastefulness is not permitted in any branch of your State government; that extravagant outlays are not allowed; that the revenues now collected and lying in the Treasury, are carefully husbanded, and applied only to the current and necessary demands of Government.

If possible the rate of taxation should be so adjusted that not more revenue than will be required for the ordinary and legitimate expenses of the State Government, shall be collected for its use in any one year. I regard the accumulation of a surplus revenue in our Treasury as not only unwise, but unjust. The burdens of government bear heavily enough at best. Taxpayers are entitled to retain in their own possession all revenue not actually required. The State needs no surplus in the vaults of its Treasury.

Grave, and I believe well-grounded, complaint is made concerning the valuation of railroad property for taxation. The owners of this species of property are granted exceptional privileges, and should be made to bear their equal part of all the expenses of Government. There is no reason for discrimination in their favor. Common justice demands the taxation of railroads upon the same basis of valuation as other property; that is to say, their actual value in cash.

It is clearly apparent that heretofore this has not been done. The fault mainly lies with the officials charged with the duty of assessment who, from inefficiency or disinclination, have failed to comply with the law, in some instances having valued the railroad property at a sum per mile below the net annual earnings of the road per mile.

The people, with great unanimity and emphasis, regardless of party, have recently expressed their disapproval of the discrimination in fares and freights made against them by the Central Pacific Railroad Company. This grievous burden, so long and patiently endured by our people, should be speedily lightened by the enactment of laws to prevent and punish extortion and discrimination, and by the adoption of a schedule of rates at once fair to the Company and just to our citizens. I hold myself ready with what power the State government gives me, to aid the people in correcting these abuses by all lawful means.

I am deeply grateful to the people of Nevada for the high honor conferred upon me. Appreciating fully, I trust, the grave responsibilities now assumed, I shall expect your kind co-operation in any act which may redound to the credit, honor and well-being of the State, and your stern criticism, should I from neglect or any other cause fail to perform to the best of my ability the many and responsible duties pertaining to the Executive office.

The era is one of marked progress. Events crowd upon and jostle each other. In every field of human activity our citizens are the peers of the world. Let us keep the fair fame of our State pure and untarnished. Let us elevate and protect each citizen. Let us resist with earnest endeavor the insidious advance and encroachments of servile toil, and thus dignify and stimulate free labor. Let us be true to ourselves as men and citizens. Let justice, mercy, truth, loyalty and fraternity prevail. So doing, prosperity will attend and peace encompass our people.