

APPENDIX



TO

# Journals of Senate and Assembly

OF THE

ELEVENTH SESSION

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA

**48641**



CARSON CITY, NEV.:

STATE PRINTING OFFICE. : : : J. C. HARLOW, SUPERINTENDENT.

1883.

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INAUGURAL MESSAGE

OF HIS EXCELLENCY,

GOVERNOR J. W. ADAMS.

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# MESSAGE.

STATE OF NEVADA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }  
CARSON CITY, Jan. 5, 1883. }

*To the Legislature of the State of Nevada :*

GENTLEMEN OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY : Elected Governor of the State of Nevada by the suffrages of my fellow citizens, I have taken the required oath and entered upon, not without some misgivings of my own ability, the discharge of the duties that pertain to that high and responsible position.

On assuming a charge so important and grave I cannot enter on those duties without great anxiety for the result.

Grateful to the people who so honored me, my chief aim shall be to promote the public good. The Governor is required, by an Act passed by the last Legislature, to take the oath of office and enter on the discharge of his duties on the first Monday in January after his election.

This law was passed in anticipation of the adoption, by the people, of the amendment to the Constitution making the Legislative session commence on the first Monday in February. This amendment was not submitted to the people at the last general election owing to a failure by the Legislature to provide the mode of submission ; but my duty to take and subscribe the oath of office, at the time designated by law, is none the less imperative. Owing to the existence of the law referred to, no provision has been made for the Governor appearing before the joint convention of the Legislature, which has been the custom of my predecessors, and delivering, in person, an address embodying his views on questions of public interest.

A proper regard for a time-honored custom makes it incumbent upon me to embrace the earliest opportunity to make known my views upon measures affecting the interest and welfare of the people of this State.

Called to this high position at a time when the revenues of the State are constantly diminishing and the population gradually decreasing ; when the industries languish and prosperity is at a low ebb ; when even the most sanguine cannot take a hopeful view of the im-

mediate future of our State, I am admonished that the most rigid economy should be practiced in every department of our State Government, and to this end I will devote my best efforts.

The Legislature, at the last session, reduced all the salaries of State officers. The officers in charge of State institutions and the heads of departments have exercised all the economy that can be reasonably expected from the present or future administration.

The chief expense of the State Government arises from the maintenance of the State institutions, to-wit: the State Prison, Orphans' Home, Insane and Deaf and Dumb Asylums.

It is then to the county and municipal governments we must look for the reduction of expenses and relief from the burden of taxation. The report of the Controller shows that for the year 1881 the total State tax on all property (not including the net proceeds of mines), was in round numbers \$255,000, while the county tax amounts to \$675,000. For the year 1882 the same authority shows that the State's portion of last year's taxes was in the proportion of nine to thirty-one of the amount of taxes received. I invite your earnest attention to the great expense of the several county governments, and suggest that each delegation scrutinize closely the expenditures of its county and reduce them to the lowest sum consistent with public interest.

#### MINING.

It cannot be denied that the paramount interest of our State—mining—is in a very depressed condition, nor can it be controverted that all other interests, except stock-raising, now languish. Our merchants, agriculturists, mechanics, miners, and indeed the whole community is more or less dependent upon the success of the mining interest. It will afford me pleasure to join you in any legislation you may deem necessary to relieve our mining interest from its present depressed condition and place it upon a healthy, active and remunerative basis.

The attitude of the President of the United States, as reflected by his late message to Congress, as well as the well-known sentiments of many prominent men in the monetary circles in the East, in my opinion, should cause us to be vigilant in protecting the vital interests of the State, and avert, if possible, the threatened dissolution which would result from the demonetization of silver. It seems incredible that the General Government would willingly cripple one of the great industries of a State which has contributed such a vast amount of wealth and substantial relief to its treasury in its darkest hour, and I feel that, if the true sentiment of the people of this State

finds expression through their representatives in the present Legislature, in a memorial, emphatic and unmistakable in terms, that Congress and the Executive will halt and consider well before striking a blow at one of the prominent industries of the State and nation.

#### STATE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION.

Among the various subjects, pertaining to the raising of sufficient revenue to support State and county governments, there is, in my judgment, none more important than the establishment of a State Board of Equalization for the assessment of property lying in two or more counties. It is strikingly inconsistent that while in some counties the Central Pacific railroad is assessed at \$9,000 per mile, in other counties, where the road is of equal value, it is assessed at \$16,000 per mile. In my judgment no good reason can be advanced why the rate of assessment should not be uniform throughout the State. If composed of State officers the cost of the Board would be small. Under the Constitution of the State the duties assigned them would be performed without extra compensation. An efficient clerk to the Board would be needed, whose salary and a small amount for traveling expenses would be the only cost.

#### FARES AND FREIGHTS.

In nearly every State Convention, of either party, the people in this State have demanded of the succeeding Legislature a reduction and regulation of the rates of fares and freights upon our railroads. In my opinion, there is ample room for legislation on this subject in the interest of the people, without doing any injustice to the railroad companies; and any measures you may deem expedient, looking to a reduction of fares and freights, with a view to encourage and develop the general interests of the State, will receive my hearty approval.

#### BOUNDARY.

I invite you to take some action looking to the extension of our western boundary, so as to include all the territory east of the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. It is believed that the people of Alpine, Mono and Inyo counties, California, favor annexation to this State. The character of the country and climate are similar to ours, and unlike any other portion of California. These counties are separated from the rest of the State by a high range of mountains, impassable for many months in the year, and when going to their

State Capital or the city of San Francisco, many of the inhabitants of those counties pass through the Capital of our State. The chief industry of this section is silver mining, scarcely known to any other part of California, and which constitutes the great leading industry of Nevada. To secure this change of boundary, the consent of the Legislature of the State of California and of Congress is necessary. The consent of the latter would doubtless follow should the two States interested make the request. To your wisdom I look for the inauguration of such measures as are likely to accomplish an object so beneficial to our State and the people residing east of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

UNITED STATES PUBLIC BUILDING. |

There is a bill before Congress providing for the erection of a United States Public Building in Carson City, which will require certain legislation by the Legislature of Nevada before any of its provisions become operative. I recommend that you pass a law at an early day meeting the requirements of said Act.

ADJUTANT GENERAL.

The last session of the Legislature enacted a law relieving the Lieutenant Governor from the duties of Adjutant General. It will be necessary to assign the duties by law to some State officer, or authorize the appointment of such officer and provide for his compensation.

I would suggest for your consideration the necessity of a law making it the duty of the Supreme Court to furnish the Governor, on his request, within four days after submission, an opinion upon the constitutionality of any bill in the possession of the Governor requiring his approval.

CHINESE.

No portion of the American people have ever manifested such unanimity of sentiment upon any public question as the people of the Pacific States have upon the exclusion of Chinese from this country, and Congress, responding to this sentiment, passed a law which, though limited as to time, will, I trust, accomplish, for a limited period, the object desired. Our protest should be earnest and emphatic against any attempted nullification of the present law, whether by allowing the transportation of Chinese laborers across our continent or otherwise. It should be understood that the people of this Coast will insist that this law shall be extended indefinitely,

and at all times we should endeavor to sink deep into the minds of the people of the East the solemn truth, that the Celestial Empire shall no longer infringe upon the rights of the toiling masses of this country, or threaten the fundamental principles of American institutions, by the unlimited importation of its Mongolian hordes.

To Governor Kinkead, and many of the State officers, I desire to express thanks for their many courtesies, and I shall ever bear in kind remembrance the pleasant relations which have uniformly existed between us. After four years official intercourse with my predecessor, justice prompts me to say that, during that period I have ever found him prompted by a sincere desire to act for the best interests of the whole people, and I trust a consciousness of having faithfully performed his duty will afford the retiring Executive that satisfaction which always arises from duties honorably and faithfully discharged.

In conclusion I desire to express my heartfelt thanks to the people of Nevada for the distinguished honor they have conferred on me, by electing me their Chief Executive for the ensuing four years. It will be my constant aim to prove myself worthy of their confidence.

J. W. ADAMS,  
Governor.