

APPENDIX

TO

**Journals of Senate and Assembly**

OF THE

SEVENTEENTH SESSION

OF THE

LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA,

1895.



CARSON CITY, NEVADA:  
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1895.

INAUGURAL MESSAGE  
OF  
JOHN E. JONES,  
GOVERNOR OF NEVADA.

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1895.

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## INAUGURAL MESSAGE.

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STATE OF NEVADA,  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
CARSON CITY, January 21, 1895. }

*Gentlemen of the Legislature:*

Having taken the oath of office and accepted the responsibilities devolved upon me as Chief Executive in accordance with the Constitution, I have entered upon the duties of that high and responsible office, which the suffrages of the people of Nevada have seen fit to bestow upon me.

I assure you that I am deeply moved by its dignity and honor, as well as impressed by its responsibilities and duties.

In accepting this high trust I desire to return my grateful acknowledgment through you to the citizens of Nevada for the honor thus conferred.

To the end that I may satisfactorily discharge the important duties attached to the office and carry out the will of the people, I invoke the considerate judgment and cordial aid and co-operation of their representatives here assembled, sincerely hoping that our relative duties may be performed with a proper sense of what is due to secure the best interests and permanent prosperity of all the people of our State.

### GENERAL CONDITIONS.

We have and are experiencing the greatest business and financial depression that the people of this country have ever known. This is not the result of failure of bountiful harvests, or the exhaustion of our mines, nor is it the almost total cessation of the wonted activities of our varied industries and fair return of profits upon the capital invested; nor has the field of labor been closed from congestion. The people have not been visited by either scourge or calamity nor have they retrograded in their enterprise and energy; but this great depression is owing to the fact that the money of the nation is apparently under the control of the banking

corporations, and the corporate money powers have become the masters of commerce and almost absorbed the prosperity of the country. The volume of currency is contracted, and restricted in quantity to such a point as to enslave the people by giving to a few the control of production, rendering it difficult for the producers to pay their debts, by requiring more production to meet the demands of the creditor.

With this condition confronting us, is it any wonder that this should be the subject of criticism, or matter of astonishment that our industrial population feel compelled to organize for mutual and peaceful defense?

That they are actuated by the purest motives, and the highest behests of judgment and conscience in making demands, cannot for one moment be questioned. They do not seek to interfere with the rights of others but to protect their own; to rebuild constitutional safeguards which have been thrown down, to return to the people their lawful control over the essential instruments of commerce, and to give vitality to those portions of our great charter which was framed for the common good of all. The vital and paramount question of the hour is: Will the voice of the people be heard in time to prevent the total destruction of their inherent rights by a system of commercial usurpation of power so vigorously advocated by the money powers still controlling our National administration? The voice of the people must be heard if their liberty and independence is to be preserved, their rights maintained and the transmission to their posterity of the greatest and best government ever organized by man under the providence of God.

It has been, heretofore, customary for the Chief Executive in his inaugural address to outline his views and indicate the general course of the policy he desires to pursue.

Upon reviewing the message of my predecessor, Governor Colcord, to your Honorable Body, I find that he has recommended to your consideration all matters touching the financial condition of the State, and for the economic administration of its affairs; hence I deem it for the present unnecessary to advert to that subject. With reference to that portion of his message relative to the subject of assessment of property and the creation of a State Board of Equalization, I am pleased to state that I am in sympathy and in accord with Governor Colcord's recommendation



upon this point, and I have a firm conviction that you will enact such laws as will secure the needed reform of assessment of property, and as will justify and honestly distribute the burden of taxation. This can more effectively be done by the creation of a State Board of Equalization.

In order to bring about a harmonious system of our financial condition and in the readjustment of property valuation, it will be necessary, under existing conditions and circumstances, to curtail in every reasonable way the current expenses of the State, and determine the best methods of providing for the support of the State Government for the ensuing fiscal years. In all proper measures looking toward economy and retrenchment, I assure you of the hearty co-operation of the Executive Department. To bring about this desideratum in economy, I earnestly appeal to you in your legislative capacity and to the co-operation of the respective departments, that the people may enjoy greater freedom from the grievous burdens of taxation, thus insuring to them a more prosperous condition.

A rigid economy by the reduction of expenditures, when it can be done without injury to the public service, is recommended.

Economy is the highest guaranty of permanent prosperity, but it is not always well to consider that the cheapest is the most economical.

#### HOME INDUSTRIES.

Some encouragement should be given to towns and associations for the promotion of home manufactures. The people of this State should in no sense neglect their own interests by impoverishing themselves to build up the prosperity of other States and cities. This should be seriously thought of. Men of means of our State should encourage and promote every industry, and endeavor to invite capital for investment that would give fair profit and build up our State. Many articles now purchased abroad could, with profit to our people, be manufactured at home. It would give work to our unemployed; it would bring the comforts and even the luxuries of life into hundreds of families that now enjoy the bare necessities of existence.

Every community and town that would build up a manufacturing establishment would fast become a center of enterprise and wealth; besides, the State would grow to become a vast hive of industry and thrift; nearly every

want would be supplied by home production and our money would circulate among our own people. Take for instance the single industry of the culture of the sugar beet, and conversion of its product into sugar.

"In Belgium there are 108 factories, producing last year 183,000 tons of sugar. There were 187,500 acres cultivated in beets, and about 18,000 persons are employed at the factories." The same is true, although on not so large a scale, of California, Utah and Nebraska, and can be done in Nevada.

Let us build up our own manufactories, establish our own industries, furnish employment at our own doors for our young men and women.

Educate and employ them at home, train their eyes, their ears and their hands, and inform and enlarge their understanding and their hearts by home agencies and influences. Let us make our own towns and communities in the greatest measure possible free, independent and self-supporting.

#### STATE INSTITUTIONS.

I am gratified to know that the several State institutions have been economically and judiciously conducted, and in a manner that reflects credit to their management.

In regard to these institutions, I feel convinced that due deliberation should be always exercised by the appointing powers as to their chief officers and subordinates, and better opportunities created for a thorough research in the management of each; that the people may become familiarized with the methods of operation, discipline and conduct of all State institutions, the respective boards under whose direction these institutions are carried on could form a correct judgment from observation of the treatment of those who are placed in the care and custody of the State, and reach conclusions and make such recommendations as would be thorough, comprehensive and satisfactory.

#### EDUCATION.

The interest taken in our public schools is manifest to all, and the fact that the interest is daily increasing cannot fail to be highly gratifying to every person in our State. Our School Fund is constantly increasing for their support. The great object of our common school system is to elevate and ennoble the citizen. It would fall far short of its



design if it did not disseminate intelligence and build up the moral energies of the people. It is organized to establish justice, promote the public welfare and secure the blessings of liberty. It should afford moral as well as physical protection by educating the rising generation, by encouraging industry and sobriety, by steadfastly adhering to the right, and by being ever true to the instincts of freedom and humanity. To accomplish these high aims of government, Nevada, from the proceeds of her several grants of land made to it by the General Government, has amply provided for the education of the youth of the State. The School Fund of the State should be scrupulously preserved, and she should see to it that the elements of education, like the elements of universal nature, are above, around and underlying all.

It is conceded that the safety and prosperity of our republican institutions depend upon the diffusion of intelligence among the masses of the people.

Every consideration, therefore, of duty and policy impels us to sustain the common schools of our State in the highest possible efficiency.

The establishment of high schools in counties which vote to maintain such schools, and to tax themselves for their support, is commended to your favorable consideration in connection with our educational interests.

#### STATE UNIVERSITY.

The State University has passed the experimental period of its existence, and has now attained a high rank as an educational institution. During the past year it has made admirable progress in view of the means available in its scope, equipment and efficiency. It has grown into fame and acceptance by the public, and its growth and influence is marked by the large percentage of its accession to its roll of students.

The University has not, however (if proper financial encouragement be given to it), reached the inviting possibilities that may be realized. That there is a pressing need for the continuance of the progress it has already made is undeniable, and this will require liberal financial aid to meet the demands of a progressive people, whose aim is to make this institution, in all its departments, as good as the very best in the land.

This duty we owe to our children. Our homes and

theirs are here, and we should provide every means to render it successful.

Our own direct interests require that we should make it an educational institution unsurpassed in its facilities and in all its equipments. To do this the financial burden will be so trivial that no taxpayer will feel its weight.

Proper consideration of this matter, due to its great importance, cannot at the present time be given, but will be in a special message to your Honorable Body at an early day.

#### AUSTRALIAN BALLOT LAW.

I commend to your earnest attention the utterances and recommendations of my honored predecessor in his second biennial message to the honorable the Senate and Assembly, pages 12 to 15, inclusive, also on pages 40 and 41, "The Enfranchisement of Women," all of which merits due consideration.

#### IRRIGATION.

I shall avail myself of the earliest opportunity to lay before you my views on this most important matter, supported by proofs from authentic sources, showing results of incalculable benefit to the several States in whose borders vast schemes of irrigation have been brought to a successful issue, reclaiming many thousands of acres of arid, barren and waste lands, turning them to fruitful fields, occupied and possessed by a thriving and happy people. Our own State can accomplish as much by a combined and persistent effort.

#### LEGISLATION.

A law should be enacted, or the Act of March 10, 1891, entitled "An Act to prohibit the bringing of diseased animals within this State, and to prevent the selling of diseased animals, poultry, fish, game and other articles, by butchers, merchants and others to the general public," should be amended so as to include *fraud and adulteration or impurities in foods, drinks or drugs, and unlawful labeling*. Such a law is upon the statute books of several States, notably Ohio and Massachusetts, and has proven of incalculable benefit to their people. It is a notice and warning to manufacturers and dealers that they must warrant supplies or lose their custom. It is plain, therefore, that there are elements of practical efficiency in such a law that will protect citi-



zens of this as well as other States against fraudulent adulterations of their food and drink.

Your attention is directed to the State Library, and to the recommendation made by Governor Colcord in his message on page 35, with reference to the opening of the Library to the public, and to which I commend your consideration. Also, to that portion of his message on page 45, in reference to legislative service, which is of great importance and should be given a special consideration. And I further suggest that all legislative bills be printed and distributed at least *three days* before their final passage. By doing this, I am of the opinion that it will tend to greater care and supervision of all bills before being submitted to the Executive for his action.

I also recommend the strict enforcement of a rule in your respective bodies prohibiting "riders" on appropriation bills. Also, that an agent at Washington to look after the interests of the State in her various land grants is an absolute necessity, and the office should be continued and provided for.

#### CONCLUSION.

The limited time at my disposal constrains me for the present to withhold any elaborate discussion of legislative matters. Coming as you do direct from your constituents you are thoroughly acquainted with their wants and needs, and I look confidently to your judgment to originate and carry out measures that will afford relief, and for the enactment and amendment of such laws as will promote the interests of our State institutions and the public welfare. My earnest hope is, that the cordial relations which have heretofore existed between the legislative and executive branches of the State Government, and between the coordinate departments of the executive authority, will continue to prevail. Let us remember that we are citizens of a great commonwealth, the promotion of whose morals and material interests should be the first object of public welfare, all contributing to the honor of our State.

JOHN E. JONES,

Governor.