

tutions, and the military feature in its organization would secure the habit of discipline so essential to success in all the pursuits of after life.

I am informed that there is a quantity of property of various description belonging to the State, in different localities, which is wasting or being appropriated to their own use by individuals. In the general wreck as much should be saved as possible; and such articles as may not hereafter be needed by the State should be collected and sold, and the proceeds paid into the Treasury. An agent should be appointed, with full authority to take possession of all such public property, and sell the same. Where property has been appropriated by individuals, the agent should be authorized to compromise with them; and if he cannot negotiate a just settlement, let him institute suit, in the name of the State, against the trespasser in which action no stay of execution on judgment should be allowed the defendant. This agent should be compensated exclusively by commissions on all amounts which may be paid into the Treasury.

You have been diligently employed, since your meeting, in maturing laws for the organization of the militia and for the regulation of the rights and duties of freedmen, and I doubt not that you will perfect your legislation on these subjects before your adjournment. Our policy toward the freedman should be kind and humane. If his rights of person and property are not fully and effectually secured by our local legislation, we can not hope to be relieved from the presence of the Military and Provost Courts. The authorities of the United States will not remove their protecting hand from the negro whom they have manumitted, and in whose freedom we have acquiesced, until we provide by our laws to give him full protection in all his civil rights. His labor is necessary for the successful prosecution of the agriculture of the State, and it will be best commanded by making him cheerful and contented.

I commend to your favorable consideration appropriations for the support of the Lunatic Asylum. It is a noble charity, and the energy and self-sacrifice of the Superintendent for the last nine months in maintaining, without any public contributions to its support, the inmates, entitles him to the proud distinction of a benefactor of his race. It is high time that the burden should be taken from his shoulders and placed upon the State.

The destitute condition of District paupers, the dilapidation of public buildings, and the neglect and destruction of roads and bridges, require that all the District Boards should be promptly and efficiently re-organized, and the laws governing them rigidly enforced.

JAMES L. ORR.

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