

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Reviewing the Conditions in the State.

Industrial Progress and Educational Advancement.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly: It is gratifying to me to welcome you as the representatives of the people under such favorable conditions. You come as the first Legislature to assemble in South Carolina in the new century. The nineteenth century has been one of marked progress and development in all the arts and sciences, and it contains lessons which we may learn with profit to ourselves and which may be of use to us in legislating for the future. Those who constituted the first Legislature one hundred years ago little dreamed of the advance in all lines of industry and of the discoveries and inventions which have signalized the century just passed into history. We cannot realize or even conceive the advances that which we are during this century upon which we are entering. There seems to be almost no limit to the achievements of the human mind. It is for us to contribute our part to make the world better and happier by our having lived in it and to leave to our children a goodly heritage and a name untarnished. It is your privilege to meet and to counsel with one another and to consider and enact such laws as will be of benefit not only to the present, but to the future growth and development of this great old commonwealth.

The march of material progress and the development of the State, to which I had the pleasure to refer one year ago in greeting the members of the Legislature, has kept up with steady and sure step. The business depression through which the people had passed and which was almost unprecedented seems to have been followed by a revival which is touching all branches of industry. The increased price which our farmers have received for their staple crop makes large amends for the falling off in the yield. Our farmers are learning the importance of diversified farming and in consequence are becoming more independent.

You need no better evidence of the progress and prosperity of the State than that presented in the figures contained in the annual report of the Secretary of State. From this report it will be seen that approximately fifteen million dollars were invested in the year in South Carolina companies; and while a large proportion of it is in cotton mill building, yet many smaller manufacturing enterprises and industries have been organized.

New manufactures continue to go up and we are no longer simply an agricultural people, but are fast becoming as well a manufacturing people. We now lead all Southern States in the manufacture of cotton goods and are second only to Massachusetts in the number of spindles, and at the present rate of progress will soon lead all the States in the Union in this important branch of industry. It will to keep this fact in mind as you deliberate on Taxable values have increased \$4,245,995 during the past year, as will be seen from the Comptroller General's report, but the increase is not near as large as it should be or would be if our system of assessment and taxation were so revised and amended as to have placed on the tax books all the property of the State now escaping taxation and if that which is assessed were equitably assessed.

Peace and good order have characterized our people during the past year. We have not been visited by plague or pestilence and no resort to mob violence has marred the record or stained the fair name of the State, though in one or two cases the strong arm of the military had to be called into requisition, but the majesty of the law was maintained and no blood was shed. In one case there was strong provocation for summary justice, but with the assistance of the civilized world known were protected, lawlessness was prevented, and through the ordinary channels of the courts stern justice was administered and the penalty paid.

You as the chosen representatives of the people should guard with jealous eyes their interests and welfare which have been committed to your keeping, remembering always the responsibility which rests upon you.

POPULAR EDUCATION.

Not the least gratifying evidence of our progress is the remarkable awakening in all departments of education. At the beginning of the century just closed the military world known such things as a State system of education; and in many quarters, until a comparatively recent date, the position of those who advocated free public education as a legitimate function of State government was stubbornly contested, the opposition in our State being largely due to peculiar racial and social conditions. State education is now the settled policy of our country, being recognized as both a function and a duty of the government; and it may well be questioned whether the nineteenth century has made a more important contribution to the cause of democracy than the century which began in 1870. The public expenditure for common schools in the United States has nearly tripled, being now \$2.67 per capita of population, or an aggregate of \$200,000,000 annually. It is a principle now well recognized that the safety of the government itself requires that it give its citizens the opportunity to fit themselves for an intelligent discharge of their duties to the State.

Encouraging reports come from the schools and colleges of our own State, indicating that they have entered upon an era of unexampled prosperity. And yet much remains to be done to increase the efficiency of our public

schools. The first essential is teachers of high moral character and adequate professional equipment. Our teachers have better opportunities for professional training than ever before, and they show a higher average of intelligence and professional fitness; but they are too often poorly paid for their services, and the best results cannot be expected until the schools are advertised for bids from teachers, offer adequate pay and demand good qualifications.

The complaint is made, and not unjustly, that our school system is not well articulated; that no provision has been made to fill the gap between the high school and the college, and that the college preparatory department of the high school is not so well adapted to the needs of the college as it should be. While it is true that very few of those who enter the common school ever reach the high school and fewer still the college, yet those who desire to fit themselves for college should have the opportunity to do so in their own schools. This deficiency has been met in many of the towns and in some of the country districts by the erection of graded schools; but in most of the country schools inadequate preparatory training is offered. The result is that many of the country pupils who desire to compete for scholarships in the State colleges or who desire to enter colleges at a manifest disadvantage, and must either employ some one to coach them or must attend a preparatory school or graded school in town, at a considerable outlay for board and tuition.

The importance of levying an additional tax for the support of the country schools cannot be too strongly urged upon our people. This will enable them to employ competent teachers for longer terms; it will enable them to give their children elementary and preparatory training at home; and it will tend to check the abnormal flow of population from the country to the town; it will be beneficial from every point of view. While it is possible for the graded schools to become too mechanical and inflexible, the irregularity in attendance at the country schools renders it impossible to have grading in detail, the condition of any and all enterprises or corporations deriving their life from the State and to see that they do not impose upon the weak. Of course this should be done with a proper regard for the property rights of the corporations.

There is no doubt the employment of a constant labor of children of tender age in our factories and mills and will result in untold injury in the future. To interfere with the government of the family by legislation is dangerous. And on the other hand unless something is done to protect the tender children of vampire parents who spend their time in idleness and live upon the labor of their parents, the children are required to work in our mills from year to year without the advantages of school, the situation for the future being alarming. To force these children out of the mill and make no provision for their attendance upon school, is almost to allow them to spend their time in idleness on the streets present almost as alarming an aspect as to permit them to labor. In a great many of our mills the officers and managers have provided schools and teachers and libraries and churches at the expense of the stockholders, and some of them employ children under twelve years of age, and the result is that the parents of such children send the children to school. This is the tendency in all the mills in this State. These children should be protected but it is not well that they should be idle, and I doubt the wisdom of a rigid law laid down by the Legislature prohibiting absolutely their employment. It would be better rather that all children between the ages of seven and thirteen years whose parents or guardians work in a textile manufactory should be required to attend school during the school term, if this can be done under our constitution without extending upon school compulsory laws to the State. This would permit them during the vacation to relieve older sisters or brothers and give them a little rest and not take the means of support from the family, and at the same time accomplish the end sought—the protection and the education of the children. A prohibitory law as to child labor than that nothing should be done for the protection of these children. The mill owners themselves realize the danger of child labor and are doing what they can to force attendance upon schools and to keep the children out of the mills, and a law making attendance upon school compulsory would have their cooperation and accomplish the desired results. With our present manufacturing interests and their constant increase this becomes a serious question and deserves your most careful consideration. It should be considered without prejudice or passion on the part of any one, and those who are interested in it are sure a wise solution can be reached.

THE STATE'S LIQUOR BUSINESS.

The dispensary has been well managed during the past year, as the statement of the board of directors and the State commissioner, which will be submitted to you, will show.

The dispensary and the management of the liquor question have occupied much of the attention of each Legislature since the system was inaugurated. The dispensary has also been an issue in every campaign in the State since it was passed and has been more strongly opposed possibly than any other law that has ever placed on the statute books of the State. Every

argument that could be brought to bear against it has been presented by some of the ablest intellects of the State, and yet after a thorough canvass of each county and presentation of the case to the people the system has been endorsed by decided majorities on four different occasions and the principle is now incorporated into our organic law.

Under the constitution the legislature may license individuals or corporations to sell under the rules and regulations governing the dispensary, or it may prohibit the sale and manufacture of liquors. Both of these plans have been thoroughly and exhaustively argued and advocated before the people and the verdict every time has been decidedly in favor of the dispensary under the management of the State. This reference is made to emphasize what seems to me to be the duty of every patriotic citizen who loves his State and believes in democratic doctrine and republican government, and that duty is to submit to the voice of the people and to work earnestly and conscientiously to improve and perfect a law which has received so many endorsements from those whom I most respect. The courts have held that under the present regulations the State has a right to take a large sale of whiskey. The question when reduced to its last analysis is not one of principle but of expediency. What is the best method of dealing with this evil so to secure the best results? That is the question.

The present system, as it may be improved from time to time, is the best solution yet devised, and is growing in public favor; much of the prejudice that has existed against the law is being removed, and many of those who oppose the system are in favor of the enforcement of the law. As public sentiment grows in its favor it will be easier to enforce it. The mayors and intendents of the towns and cities of the State, in response to a circular which I issued during November, state that the law is well enforced and that the sentiment of the towns is for a strict enforcement. The exceptions are in Columbia and Charleston and a few counties in which the sale of whiskey is prohibited by law. In fact in those counties in which no dispensaries are established it would conduce to a better enforcement of law and there would be less illicit sale of whiskey if dispensaries were established. The only objection to the dispensary cannot be rightly advanced as long as public sentiment upholds violations of the law and grand juries fail to find true bills and petit juries fail to convict when cases are made and the evidence furnished. As public sentiment is in favor of the law in these cities and the public sentiment is in favor of convictions for violations which had and it can then be more rigidly enforced.

While it is important that the law shall not be violated by illicit sale of whiskey, it is equally important that the law be enforced. The law is now in good condition. There has been some discussion in regard to the advisability of the State owning and operating farms. A careful and thoughtful investigation of the subject, I am sure, will convince you that it would not be good business judgment to operate these farms. It requires only 140 convicts to operate the farms, and in this way corn and provisions and other things necessary for the support of the convicts are made at less expense than they could be purchased. It is argued by some that the public funds could be worked upon the farms and the proceeds used in favor of anything that would give good roads as anyone, but I do not see how the State could undertake this work except through the counties. It would be a good plan if those counties in which changes are maintained should so arrange as to secure enough prisoners from the State to keep up a good changing force all the time.

From the best information available, and from those who have had experience with changings, it is not profitable, even to the county, to maintain a changing when the number falls below fifteen. In most of the counties the average is below that number. The farming of convicts is a business which should be discontinued. If this were done it would cut in 475 convicts who are now hired out to individuals and that number put on the roads in the various counties in the State where changings are maintained would in a few years greatly improve our public roads and at the same time not interfere with the State's revenue.

The present system of changings in most of the counties is a very expensive luxury, but by the counties hiring a sufficient number of convicts above the State, as suggested above, we could very soon have in the State a good system of public roads, and nothing that would add more to the comfort and convenience and saving to the people who live in the rural districts. A system of good roads would do very much to stop the flow of population from the country to the towns. The money now spent the public would be better spent in the way of benefit to the public, than by maintaining a good changing in each county on permanent road building. Good roads would bring churches, and schools, and towns closer to every country home, in addition to the saving which would result from the wear and tear upon stock and vehicles, and upon the people themselves. And this can be done by wise legislation without interfering in the least with the management or maintenance of the State farms.

THE VEXED PROBLEM OF TAXATION.

Government has no right to take more from the people than is absolutely necessary for a wise and economical administration of the affairs of the State, and if we do that the burden will be borne evenly by every citizen to contribute his portion to the support of the government in proportion to his ability. This is the standard laid down in our constitution. That taxation does not bear evenly upon all property is patent to every thoughtful person, if he can in your wisdom devise any plan by which the assessment of property for taxation can be more equitably made and all the property of the State can be placed on the tax books, you will have contributed much to lighten the burden on the class of property which in its nature cannot escape taxation.

In some of the States tax inquisitors are provided to discover property that is omitted from the tax list. There is no doubt that a great deal of property escapes taxation which should

be on the books and made to bear its portion of the burden, and some plan should be devised by which this property can be reached. Missouri has adopted a law which provides for the taxation of the property, less the assessed value of the property, less the value of the mortgage, and the owner of the mortgage is required to pay tax upon the value of his mortgage. Some such provision in our laws would be just and equitable, for it is not right for the full value when in taxes upon the full value when in reality his ownership is only the value of the property less the value of the mortgage. It would not be right to tax the property at its full value and then tax the mortgage, for that would be paying taxes upon the same property twice.

This question of taxation is worthy of your attention, for it is one of vital importance to all of our people.

ONLY A PRIVATE CITIZEN

Bryan's Speech on Jackson Day. He Was the Guest of Honor.

Mr. Wm. J. Bryan was the guest of honor at the annual banquet of the Bryan Democratic League in Chicago on the 8th inst. Several hundred persons were present, and Mayor Harrison presided.

Mr. Bryan began speaking after midnight. He said: "I take this opportunity to express the hope that this club and others which have borne my name will substitute for my name the name of some Democratic saint, or a name descriptive of principles rather than of persons on the piazza by daylight. I would not believe it for a long time, but the neighbors came and found wool in his teeth and he had to be killed. I reckon that's what the matter with those goodly hazers. They have got wool in their teeth and to my opinion, they ought to be treated like the Frenchman did his dog. He wanted to break him of sucking eggs, so he hung him by the hind legs to a limb and let him swing for a day or two. A neighbor said: 'Why don't you hang him by the head, let him choke to death?' 'No, sure, he'd rot, no hangs he'd rot by the legs to give him time to think at a man rascal he was.' Those hazers ought to be hung by their hind legs until they had time to repent."

Reorganization is an internal remedy and it cannot be applied externally. Those who have lost their party standing because of their desertion of the party candidates and unfaithfulness to Democratic doctrines, as defined by legitimate authority, must rejoin the party before any attention will be paid to their pretensions of interest. Those within the party lines have a right to a voice in the making of the platform and change in the organization of machinery but any device change shall be openly proposed and fairly presented. Party organizations are framed for party governments and derive their just powers from the consent of the governed.

The defeat of the party recently suffered ought to discourage any one who believes in the principles set forth in the Kansas City platform, for if right when written and endorsed by nearly six millions and a half of voters, they are right still.

The Democratic party has been defeated before, but defeat has neither destroyed its hope nor its tenets. The defeat of 1886, came at the close of an administration entirely satisfactory to those most anxious to reorganize the party, and defeat in 1891, which occurred under a similar administration was more disastrous than any since.

We can face the future with the determination to make the party a faithful exponent of the views of those who believe in equal rights to all and special privileges to none.

Whether the question of money will figure prominently in future campaigns will depend upon circumstances.

What is desired is a sufficient quantity of money to keep pace with the demand for money.

Monopolies will ultimately become so hurtful that the Republicans will no longer be able to defend them. A colonial policy must be repudiated by the American people.

BILL ARP STUDIES HAZING.

He Sees No Reason For It—West Point Should be Abolished Unless Hazing is Stopped.

This hazing business at West Point perplexes me. I've been trying to philosophize upon it and find a reason for it, but cannot. It is the most brutal and senseless thing that young men calling themselves gentlemen were ever guilty of. The evidence already accumulated has shocked the nation, and it cannot be stopped the nation is ready right now to abolish the institution. It is a disgrace to humanity. But what concerns me is to find a plausible reason for it—an excuse or a palliation. The hazers say that it is to try a young man's metal, his courage. That is false, of course, for it requires no metal to court a student and guard over a dead rat or march along a turtle or terrapin. The whole course of treatment is one of devilish cruelty and insanity. We are to do that some of those hazers were considered very good, kindhearted boys at home but when they were at West Point, and hence it must be that association has deranged them like it did for awhile at Yale and Harvard and other Northern colleges.

A crowd of boys away off from home influence will do what no one boy will do on his own. I wonder if any Southern cadets join in it. We have never had any hazing in Southern colleges that I know of. I remember when the sophomores and juniors used to play some little tricks on the freshmen, but they were not the kind of tricks that you see at West Point. I remember once, when Whitley came to Athens from Talladega, Ala., with his father's wagon and camped out at night while on the journey. He was a country boy and had on a suit of home-made jeans outside and plenty of dirt under his nails. One evening after supper the freshmen and juniors combined to scare the freshman, who were timid and green and homesick, and so one big fellow pretended to take laughing gas or ether, and after laughing a while on a handkerchief he took a handful and threw his arms about the neck and to my opinion, they ought to be treated like the Frenchman did his dog. He wanted to break him of sucking eggs, so he hung him by the hind legs to a limb and let him swing for a day or two. A neighbor said: "Why don't you hang him by the head, let him choke to death?" "No, sure, he'd rot, no hangs he'd rot by the legs to give him time to think at a man rascal he was." Those hazers ought to be hung by their hind legs until they had time to repent.

The catalogue of cruel and ridiculous things that those cowards inflict upon a freshman is fearful. Some of them are unfit for publication. I say "cowards" because it is a maxim that a cruel man is a coward. If they really wished to test a young man's metal or courage why don't they shut him in a room and go in one at a time and fight him fist and skull. They are cowards, that's all. They wouldn't fight a Philistine hand to hand. They are gradually coming to be known as the battle from afar, and let the privates do the fighting. They are of the same breed as General Miles, who put the manacles on Jefferson Davis and tried to let out of it. He won his spurs in Cuba by getting on top of a hill and firing a single shot. He was a great man, but I think he was a coward. He would not fight a Philistine hand to hand. He would not fight a Philistine hand to hand. He would not fight a Philistine hand to hand.

I have but little patience with the modern West Point. General Otis never gave a man a flogging. The Philippines every day before the outbreak of the war, and promotion is their sole ambition. They are a stuck up swell set and would establish a military march if they dared. I see that some fellow is defending General George C. Thomas and "Black Jack" Logan in a New York paper. Well, I know all about them. I have seen my passion in a letter written to me by Thomas in which he denounces us all as traitors and guilty of treason, and says that treason embodies all the crimes in the decalogue. A dozen of our home boys and girls had improvised a tableau performance in the city to raise a little money to pay the ransom of our boys and pups in the city churches. The sacrilegious vandals had gutted the churches and used the pews for horse troughs and the churches for storage of corn and oats. One of the scenes in the tableau was a battlefield after the battle and an old Confederate flag was lying down on the floor. For this they were all arrested and the play broken up. As I was then the mayor of the poor little war-torn town I wrote a respectful letter to Thomas asking for their release, and asserting that no disrespect was intended. He condescended to release them, but scolded us and all the other boys and girls in contemptible language, and warned us that a rebel flag was the most odious emblem of treason and must not be exhibited in public nor harbored in private. Well, the Light Guards have got the old banner yet and show it when they please.

I had forgotten that in 1854 two cavalry regiments were organized and added to the United States army by Jefferson Davis, the secretary of war, and that Thomas was a major in one of them and of the fifty-one commissioned officers thirty-one were from the South, and of these there were twenty-four who joined the Confederacy. Among these were Robert E. Lee, Albert Sidney Johnston, Joe Johnston, Hardee, Van Dorn, Kirby Smith, Hood and Fitzhugh Lee. What a galaxy of traitors was there. But Thomas was not among them. If there was any treason he was a traitor to his State. As for Logan, let the old veterans of Vicksburg tell us what he did for them. This they ask in the name of Washington, of Jefferson, of Lincoln, in the name of justice and in the name of the God eternal.

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And yet it is allowed and winked at by the officers in charge and no doubt the investigation of the Booz case will all blow over and end in smoke. I wonder if any Southern cadets join in it. We have never had any hazing in Southern colleges that I know of. I remember when the sophomores and juniors used to play some little tricks on the freshmen, but they were not the kind of tricks that you see at West Point. I remember once, when Whitley came to Athens from Talladega, Ala., with his father's wagon and camped out at night while on the journey. He was a country boy and had on a suit of home-made jeans outside and plenty of dirt under his nails. One evening after supper the freshmen and juniors combined to scare the freshman, who were timid and green and homesick, and so one big fellow pretended to take laughing gas or ether, and after laughing a while on a handkerchief he took a handful and threw his arms about the neck and to my opinion, they ought to be treated like the Frenchman did his dog. He wanted to break him of sucking eggs, so he hung him by the hind legs to a limb and let him swing for a day or two. A neighbor said: "Why don't you hang him by the head, let him choke to death?" "No, sure, he'd rot, no hangs he'd rot by the legs to give him time to think at a man rascal he was." Those hazers ought to be hung by their hind legs until they had time to repent.



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For Infants and Children.

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