ful trades should be multiplied in number and increased in facility. I commend this institution as worthy of your best thought and most liberal treatment.

Salt Plant.

A renewal of the effort made in the last legislature will be made in this one to establish a salt plant at the state reformatory at Hutchinson, and I trust with more favorable result. Many arguments can be made in favor of this project. Vast beds of salt underlie the state property. It can be mined profitably by the inmates of this institution, and, like the binding-twine plant at the penitentiary, it can be made a powerful check upon the greed of the salt trust. Besides, it would furnish a most healthful employment, and would be conduce to sanitary influences at this institution. The making of barrels will open up the cooper's trade to the boys. An overwhelming majority of these boys, as past experience proves, go out to become good citizens. This industry will add to this good result.

Girls' Industrial School.

I recently spent a pleasant and profitable day at this institution. It is a model. I doubt if it has its equal in the United States. It looks more like a big boarding-school or an elegant home than a prison for incorrigibles. One little girl expressed what seemed to be the general sentiment of the inmates when she said to me: "This home is gooder than my own home." The recommendations of the superintendent, Mrs. Julia B. Perry, who has no superior in this line of work, are worthy of your official confidence. Give her all she asks.

Jails.

The condition of many of the jails in this state is a disgrace to the counties in which they are located. I have visited some prisons of this kind in which it would be an outrage to incarcerate a cur. Their condition is simply unbelievable by those who have not seen them, and yet all kind of alleged offenders, innocent as well as guilty, are imprisoned in these foul places. So bad was one of these institutions that I asked the secretary of the state board of health in inspect it, and from his written report I quote a few sentences, as follows:

"I am at a loss to find words to express my surprise at the filthy and unsanitary condition in which I found the jail. * * * The odor upon entering attracts one's attention immediately. * * * The iron bars of the cage itself, and the floor, particularly bac kof the cells, are a mass of dirt and filth. * * * Around one of the bowls in the closet was found water mixed with dirt, and the bowls were in such a vile and filthy condition as to be beyond description. * * * The cells on the first floor were so filthy and damp and so out of repair as to be absolutely uninhabitable. * * * Further description of the jail falls me, except to say that it is absolutely unsanitary, dirty and filthy in the extreme."

The law should require that all county and city jails should be constructed with a special view to light, air and sanitation; that they should be kept clean; that the beds should be furnished with clean linen and covers that can be washed and changed frequently. The jails, particularly in populous counties and cities, should be so arranged as to permit classification of prisoners. There should be an adult department, a juvenile department, and, of course, a women's department. Prisoners serving sentence and prisoners awaiting trial should be separated. When possible, prisoners should be given employment, and some system of pay for their services adopted. Work is a great reformer and remuneration a great incentive. Women as well as men should have these opportunities. At present women have no opportunity to work out their sentences. Kansas, a leader always in reform movements, should hasten to improve its local prisons.

Judicial Salaries.

Theoretically the three co-ordinate branches of government in a republic like ours, the executive, the legislative and the judicial, are equal, but in fact they are not equal. Borrowing a beautiful scriptural idea, it may be truthfully said that, now, abideth the executive, the legislative and the judicial branches of government, these three, but the greatest of these is the judiciary. It is the final citadel of our liberties. It is the urn containing the holy of holies of government. We ought to guard our judges with jealous care; we ought to free them as far as possible from the influences of factional and partizan and all other narrow and special interests; and to a reasonable extent, at least, we should generously lift them above financial want; but the fact is, we remunerate them with parsimonious hand. I believe the salaries of our supreme court judges and of our district judges alike are ridiculously low. These salaries were fixed when the state was new and the people were poor, and when the duties of their positions were not so complicated and arduous, and when the public interests involved were not so numerous or so great; but now in the day of our prosperity, when all wages are higher and the necessities of life dearer, it is a matter of plain, palpable justice that our judges should be better paid. This is particularly true of our supreme court judges, and inasmuch as there is a constitutional inhibition against increasng these salaries during their term of service, and inasmuch as four of our supreme judges have just been re-elected, and there is fortunately a week of legislative time before the new term of these judgs begins, I heartily indorse the suggestion that the salaries of these judges can be increased to a reasonable sum.

Educational Institutions.

The three state educational institutions, the State university, the State Normal school, and the State Agricultural college, show a most gratifying growth and each appeals to the patriotic pride of every loyal Kansan. Each is worthy of your fostering care. The enrolment is larger than ever before, including 1,850 at the university; 2,464 at the State Normal, which includes the parent school at Emporia, (1,987), the Western branch, at Hays (201), and the Manual Training Auxiliary, at Pittsburg (276); and 1,415 at the State Agricultural college, — aggregating 5,729 in the three schools. This is a magnificent showing. I cannot discuss in this message the specific needs of each institution. These are set forth at length by their respective boards of regents. If these requests seem large, I beg to assure you from a careful study of their needs, that they are not extravagant. The fact is during the past fifteen years and more Kansas has been in the throes of abnormal political agitation in which a premium has been put upon demagogic "economy." Thus our biennial appropriations for the support and enlargement of these institutions have been whittled to suit the personal and political purposes of petty politicians. I am in favor of the strictest economy compatible with good service in every department of state; but I know of no higher mission of an administration than to keep public money out of the unholy hands of grafters and boodlers and to put it into the clean hands of honest and conscientious custodians of state interests And with unprecedented prosperity existing, and a saving of several hundred thousand dollars directly, and several million indirectly, during the last two years, we should not hesitate to take large strides in an effort to "catch up" in appropriations for these institutions.

The Barnes Law.

To witness an extension of high-school opportunities to the boys and girls of the state has long been one of my cherished ambitions. Six years ago; with the co-operation of some prominent educators, I assisted in the preparation of a bill with this purpose in view, but it failed of passage. Two years ago a bill fathered by Hon. J. S. Barnes was enacted, conditioned however upon the approval of the people of each county before it became operative. I am now gratified to report that this excellent law was approved by the people of forty-three counties at the late election, and I believe it is only a question of a few years when it will be in operation in every county in the state.

Text Books.

Kansas, leader in real reform, was one of the first states to require uniformity of school books in its public schools. The law was passed in 1897 and has worked wonders. About twenty states, in some form and to some extent, have followed our good example. The large school-book publishing companies and the school book trust have stubbornly opposed this law, but it is more strongly entrenched than ever in the minds of the teachers and school patrons of the state. Under the old system, school boards and school teachers were constantly annoyed by a horde of book agents seeking to install their books and displace others. Prices were extortionate and changes frequent. Parents moving from one district to another were compelled at great expense to equip their children with an entirely new set of books. It is a conservative estimate that state uniformity has saved to the people of Kansas during the past ten years one million dollars, while the character of the books has not deteriorated. A comparison of prices in Kansas with those in California, where the state prints its own books, shows that the people of California pay from 100 to 200 per cent more for their school books than do the people of Kansas. Plausible schemes will doubtless be submtted to you for the purpose of weakening this law and I warn you against them. If any change is made, let it be only after the most careful study and thorough investigation.

State School Tax.

Among the other suggestions made by the State Teachers' association I would call especial attention to the proposition to levy a state school tax. This is not a proposition materially to increase school taxation. It is rather a proposition to better equalize the distribution of school taxation and the school facilities in poor districts. Only seven states, Oregon, Wyoming, Colorado, North Dakota, South Dakota, Kansas and Iowa are without such a law, and Iowa has a county-tax law. Kansas should catch up with this procession.

Additions to the School Course.

Kansas is pre-eminently an agricultural state, with horticulture looming into most gratifying prominence. These are our permanent interests. Our subterranean wealth may some time become exhausted, but our agriculture and horticulture, like Tennyson's brook, will go on forever. Wisconsin, Nebraska, Missouri, and perhaps other agricultural states, have made the teaching of elementary agriculture and horticulture a part of their common-school curriculum. Many of our educators think that Kansas should follow this excellent example, and I heartily agree with them, and with the sentiment expressed by one of these prominent educators in a recent private letter, in which he says: "In our schools we should introduce our boys and girls to the fascinating material that crowds God's out-of-doors and that enters so thoroughly into our rural life." Scientific farming is to be the farming of the future, the rudiments of which, at least, our boys and girls should learn in the common schools.

High School Fraternities.

Superintendents and principals of our city high schools are confronted with a new difficulty, the growth of high school fraternities. These fraternities should have no place in our high schools. It is difficult enough to keep them within wise limitations in colleges and universities. The essential character of our high-school system is democratic. There should be no caste in these schools. All should be on a common level. Fraternities in these institutions are in conflict with this fundamental character of the high school system. They detract from the studious life of the pupils and cultivate a social life among the children that does not contribute either to their moral, intellectual or physical good. I believe they should be forbidden by law and boards of education given all possible power to suppress them.

State Fair and Semicentennial.

Two propositions have been earnestly and extensively discussed upon which you will doubtless be called to take official action, namely, the project of a semicentennial exposition, and the inauguration of a permanent state fair. I wish to combine these two propositions and discuss them as one. On the 29th of January, 1911, Kansas will reach its fiftieth milestone as a state. The propostion to celebrate this historic and important event in an elaborate and appropriate manner when first suggested met with a response remarkably hearty and unanimous. The newspapers of the state with singular unanimity indorsed the project, and on January 29, 1906, a convention was held in Topeka, composed of delegates appointed by various commercial clubs, county commissioners, city councils, and other municipal and corporate bodies throughout the state, and was a remarkably enthusiastic body of men. President McKinley, in his great Buffalo speech, his last public utterance, declared that "expositions are the time-keepers of progress," and in the strongest language catalogued the good these expositions do. They involve, it is true, an immense amount of labor and a great expenditure of money, but no one thing would bring Kansas into greater prominence and contribute more to its material development and progress than would this contemplated exposition. Kansas, with only a population of 1,600,000, is capable of sustaining a population of ten millions. Its vast resources and possibilities are as yet comparatively little known or appreciated. This exposition would not only stimulate our own people to greater activity, and promote among them that most potent of all influences for state upbuilding, state pride, but it would attract here hundreds of thousands of strangers, who would become fascinated with the state, who would invest millions in Kansas properties, and thousands of whom would ultimately become citizens of the state. With these sentiments I am sure you will heartily agree; but the practical question will confront you, with the countless legitimate and pressing demands upon your ways and means committees, can you afford to undertake properly to assist this great exposition enterprise. Allied to this exposition project is the kindred one of a permanent state fair. I have long believed that the state should have such an institution, that it should be no cheap affair, that it should have permanent and beautiful grounds; that its buildings should be substantial and ornamental; and that a permanent display of the state's resources, its minerals, its grains, its grasses, its birds, its animals, its arts, its literature, its every resource and development, should be on permanent exhibition, for the inspection of strangers and for the inspiration of its own people. If these two projects could be combined, and I see no reason why they couldn't or shouldn't, Kansas could lead the procession in this matter, as it has led it in so many other respects, and I submit these thoughts and suggestions to the careful consideration of the enterprising and progressive people of the state, and especially to you, their representatives.

Bureau of Information.

A distinguished member of the present and last house of representatives, Hon. W. Y. Morgan, is the author of a suggestion which I wish officially to indorse and recommend as eminently worthy of favorable legislative consideration. It is the proposition for the creation of a bureau of information. No field of investment offers the inducements of safety and increasing profit to a greater extent than does Kansas. It is an empire in itself; more than twice as large as England, three times as large as Greece, five times as large as Switzerland, and seven times as large as Belgium; larger than all the six New England states put together, with New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia thrown in for good measure. It is in the very heart of the nation. A line drawn east and west and north and south through the United States intersects in the center of Kansas. It is a choice slice of God's best creation, 400 miles long, 200 miles wide, and, as some one has said, 4,000 miles deep, and reaching to the skies. The Omnipotent Artist never painted fairer skies than those which arch our prairies, and the Giver of all Good never dowered a land with a richer inheritage than He has lavished upon the Sunflower state. Kansas is a state of superlatives. It is the greatest wheat-producing state in the Union. The aggregate value of its corn and wheat exceeds that of any other state. It is the most distinctively American state in the Union, its percentage of American-born citizens exceeding that of any other state. It sends more fat cattle to market than any other state in the Union. Its reservoirs of oil and its supplies of natural gas challenge comparison. Its coal, its zinc, its lead, its salt, its gypsum, its cement rock, its fire-clay, its other subterranean wealth, and its consequent manufacturing progress and possibilities, are the envy of other states. It has, I believe, the most healthful climate in the world. And yet, with all these resources and possibilities, Kansas has as yet only a population of a little more than a million and a half people. It is capable of supporting a population of ten millions. It is practically out of debt. Its bank deposits are enormous and its per capita wealth remarkable. Its towns are growing rapidly and its lands are constantly increasing in value. All these things distinguish it as a desirable place in which to live and as a fruitful field for investment. A bureau of information, with a man like F. D. Coburn, for instance, at its head (without interfering with his present duties), would be of great value to the state.

The Race Problem.

We may theorize as much as we please with reference to the race question, but we are confronted with some stubborn facts, and among these facts, unaffected and unaccomplished by law, brought about by the logic of events and the nature of things, there has been a separation of the races, unconsciously wrought, in social circles, in church worship, and to a large extent in educational realms. Though our state institutions of higher learning are open alike to the white and the black, the fact remains that comparatively few colored boys and girls avail themselves of these educational opportunities. Of the 1,850 students enrolled at the State university, only 52 are colored. At the State Agricultural college, out of 1,415 students, only 19 are colored. At the three State Normal schools, out of 2,464 students only 29 are colored. What is true of these state institutions is even more true of the denominational schools of the state. At Baker university, at Baldwin, out of 1,012 students but 1 is colored. At the Southwest Kansas college, at Winfield, out of 342 students none are colored. At Fairmount college, at Wichita, out of 303 students none are colored. At Campbell college at Holton, out of 440 students none are colored. At Highland university, at Highland, out of 74 students none are colored. At Ottawa university, out of 650 students, none are colored. At Wesleyan university, at Salina, out of 1,182 students none are colored. At Bethany college, at Lindsborg, out of 621 students, none are colored. At Washburn college, at Topeka, out of 695 students only 19 are colored. At the College of Emporia, out of 400 students none are colored. In a total student body of 11,448 students attending these state and denominational institutions, only 120 students are colored. This is a very alarming statement, and it is intensified when we reflect that, while only about one per cent of this student body is colored, thirty per cent of the inmates of the reformatory, and thirty-seven per cent of the inmates of the penitentiary are colored. The race problem, therefore, is largely an educational problem. It is apparent from these figures that the colored young people of the state are not availing themselves of these higher educational advantages to any considerable extent. The reason to all thoughtful people is apparent. It is not the result of any law. It is largely the result of an innate consciousness that the mingling of the races in these schools is to each unpleasant. But the safety of our free institutions depends upon the virtue and intelligence of the individual citizens, and these colored people are citizens. The interests of the white and black alike, therefore, demand that everything possible be done to lift them into ideal citizenship. The educational problem, therefore, is a most serious one. It must be solved, if solved at all, by colored schools. Practical men of both races realize this fact. State aid extended to this class of schools is therefore along the line of practical statesmanship, and I commend to your favorable consideration the two institutions which former legislatures have generously helped. Western university, located at Quindaro, is in a flourishing condition. It sustained a great loss in the elevation of its able and eminent president, Prof. W. T. Vernon, to be register of the treasury, at Washington, D. C., but the acting president, Prof. Shelton French, is maintaining the splendid reputation of the school. I commend this great institution to your most liberal consideration. The Topeka Industrial and Educational institute, of which Prof. W. R. Carter is the able and efficient principal, is another negro school in whch the state has a contributory interest, and, like Western university, is doing good work among these people. State aid has been extended to this school and I think the money has been wisely spent, and I commend it to your further generous consideration.

Alcoholism.

Experience in the consideration of pardon cases has impressed me as never before with the tremendous importance of the liquor question on its economic side. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that, of the scores and hundreds of applications for pardon and parole which have been made to me during the past two years, ninety per cent of the original trouble had its inception in the drink habit. This unfortunate habit and the accursed traffic which is its foundation impose an enormous burden of taxation upon the people, and, altogether aside from moral considerations, viewed wholly from an economic standpoint, the question is worthy of your serious consideration whether or not an ounce of prevention is not better than a pound of cure. I believe it would be wise to establish a state hospital for inebriates, for the treatment of alcoholism. Perhaps the new medical department of the State university might be wisely enlarged in its scope to include treatment of this class of unfortunates.

The Old Soldiers.

Our debt of gratitude to our country's defenders should be intensified by the passing years and by the infirmities and necessities which age brings to them. They are rapidly responding to the bugle-call across the river. The pontoon of death is heavy with the tread of departing veterans marching to the eternal camping-ground. Forty thousand of them answer the roll-call every year on the other side. What we do for many of them, aye, most of them, must be done quickly, and we cannot do too much. I most heartily commend for your careful consideration, therefore, the wise and practical recommendations of Department Commander P. H. Coney, a copy of which will be laid on all of your desks. In addition to the recommendations of Captain Coney, I wish to suggest the propriety of the legislature providing for a regular chaplain at the Dodge City Soldiers' home. Here is a little city of 500 or 600 souls, with its cottage homes, its public school, and other conveniences and comforts of town and home life. Surely such a place should have a resident pastor, to give these old veterans and their families the benefits and joys of regular religious services as well as to minister to them in pastoral capacity.

Asylum Farm.

The suggestion of Mrs. Cora G. Lewis, visiting member of the board of control, for the purchase of lands adjacent to our state hospitals for the insane, to be cultivated by harmless inmates of these institutions, seems to me to have much merit. The suggestion seems to be wise not only from a financial standpoint but also from the standpoint of the best physical and mental good of these unfortunates, and I recommend the subject to your favorable consideration.

Private Charities.

In addtion to the nine state eleemosynary institutions supported entirely by appropriations by the state, a large number of private institutions of a charitable nature are also partly supported by funds from the state treasury. This policy has always been open to criticism. Its wisrom has often been questioned; but conceding its wisdom, its imperfection in operation must be admitted. Some of these institutions may not need help, while other similar institutions in the state, equally as worthy, are not assisted at all. Some more satisfactory method of assisting these institutions should be adopted, if this policy is to be continued. I think the whole matter should be placed in the hands of the state board of control, or at least the indorsement of that board should be necessary before money is appropriated to any of these institutions. In this connection I wish to call attention to another matter. Representatives of so-called private charities are constantly going about the state soliciting contributions to their institutions. Many imposters, representing no institution at all, impose upon the charitably disposed people of the state in this manner. If some legal method could be devised by which these soliciting agents would be compelled to have the indorsement of the state board of control, it would be a great protection to legitimate institutions as well as to the people.

Equal Suffrage.

Municipal suffrage, which has been enjoyed by the women of Kansas since 1887, has proven a success. The right should be extended. No argument worthy of the name has ever been made against the right of women as well as men to participate in government with equal rights at the polls, and no such argument, in my judgment, can be made. Government rests primarily upon the ability of the governed to contribute virtue and intelligence to government, and what husband or father or brother or lover will deny these requisites to the women of Kansas? But whatever may be thought as to the wisdom of extending universal suffrage to women, certainly no fair man can deny that women property-owners should have equal right with men to vote upon questions involving taxation of their property. The word "male" has no place in a modern state constitution and should be stricken from ours.

The Oil Interests.

When the last legislature assembled our vast oil interests were in the absolute grip of the Standard Oil company. Holding out inducements of remunerative prices for crude oil, it had prompted thousands of people to put their hard-earned money into oil companies for the development of the field, but when the field had been developed at individual expense the price of crude oil was reduced two-thirds, practically bankrupting thousands of people, and all this without any corresponding reduction of the finished product to the consumer. Only one independent refinery was in existence in the state, and it was about ready to go into bankruptcy. The people were at the mercy of this monopoly. This was the condition of affairs when the legislature assembled. Resolutely and heroically it grappled with the situation. Four laws specifically intended to relieve this situation were enacted—a state refinery law, a pipe line law, a maximum freight rate law on oils, and an anti-discrimination law. The first of these, the law providing for the erection of a state refinery, was at once attacked in the supreme court and declared unconstitutional. The whole nation was aroused by this enactment, and with wonderful unanimity applauded the movement; for the spectacle of the state grappling with the greatest monopoly on earth in its own field of operation was a novel and popular one. Had the law been sustained, Kansas would at least have officially and authoritatively furnished the world the inside facts of the oil business, its possibilities and profits, which in the line of publicity alone would have been of incalculable benefit and worth much more than it would have cost. The Kansas oil refinery would have furnished these needed facts, and facts are what the people need in most every matter of public interest. When they have the facts they will find some way to act upon them. The pipe line law has so far yielded no benefit, but the maximum rate law on oils and the anti-discrimination law have been of immense benefit. They have made possible the establishment of ten independent oil refineries, all of which are in successful operation, and none of which would have been in existence today but for these laws. Other similar institutions are projected and some are in process of construction. These independent refineries, thanks alone to these laws, have made wonderful progress. Responding to an inquiry, Mr. L. T. Hussey, state oil inspector, has furnished me the following interesting information:

"During the year ending December 1, 1905, the independent refineries submitted to this department for inspection 4,865 barrels of oil and 32 barrels of gasoline, making a total of 4,897 barrels for the year; during the year ending December 1, 1906, the independent refineries submitted to us for inspection 28,535 barrels of oil and 6,266 barrels of gasoline, making a total of 34,801 barrels for the year—making a net increase of 29,904 barrels for the year ending December 1, 1906."

A market for crude oil for fuel purposes has been made in remotest parts of the state, but perhaps the chief benefit has been in the reduction of the price of coal oil and other products of crude oil to the consumer. I have made an investigation of the relative prices of these products in this and some other states for the past three years and summarize below the result. The first column in the table below gives prices at points named before the enactment of the law, the remaining columns, beginning with June 1, 1905, give prices at those points since the enactment of the law.

Place.	Nov. 1, 1904.	Jun. 1, 1905.	Nov. 1, 1905.	Jun. 1, 1906.	Nov 1, 1906.
Colby, Kan.—	20	15	15	15	15
Holton, Kan.—	15	14	13	12	10 to 12
Ellsworth, Kan.—	17	15	15	12	10 to 12
Winfield, Kan.—	18	15	15	15	10
Pittsburg, Kan.—	18	18	18	15	15
Bloomfield, Mo.—	20	20	20	20	20
Macon, Mo.—	15	15	15	15	15
Joplin, Mo.—	20	20	20	20	20
Nevada, Iowa—	15	15	15	15	15
Hampton, Iowa—	15	15	15	15	15
Broken Bow, Neb.—	20	20	20	20	20
Alliance, Neb.—	25	25	20	20	20
Claremore, I. T.—	..	..	..	..	20
Grand Junction, Colo.—	25	25	25	25	25
Salida, Colo.—	25	25	25	25	20
Walsenburg, Colo.—	25	25	25	25	20

It seems from these relative figures that Kansas consumers are buying their coal oil about five cents per gallon cheaper than are the people of any other surrounding state. From Mr. L. T. Hussey, state oil inspector, I learn that the amount of coal oil consumed in this state every year is about 10 million gallons. It is a matter of plain mathematics, therefore, that these laws are saving to the users of coal oil about $500,000 every year. Perhaps a similar saving is made to the users of gasoline. I was amused and pleased to receive from the National Petroleum association, with headquarters at Cleveland, Ohio, a copy of the Kansas anti-discrimination law, with a request that we enact it in this state, showing that that great organization is trying to get other states to follow our good example, and inadvertently sent it to me for this purpose. I cordially co-operated with the Kansas Oil Producers' association last year in requesting neighboring states to adopt these laws. Iowa at once complied. Other states should follow, and this legislature could do the common cause great good by commending in joint resolution our maximum freight rate law on oils and our anti-discrimination law, particularly, to the favorable consideration of other states. Bills further fostering our oil interests will be submitted to you, and I am sure will receive your careful consideration. Mr. L. T. Hussey, state oil inspector, reports $33,448.83 collected in fees by his department, while the expenses aggregated only $15,437.05, leaving a net balance of $18,012.78. This is a fine showing, especially in view of the fact that the new refineries imposed heavy additional expenses upon his department. It is the best showing ever made by the oil department of Kansas.

Good Roads.

No subject is of more real economic importance nor more worthy of consideration from the standpoint of pleasure than the subject of the improvement of our thoroughfares. It is estimated that half a million dollars are annually expended in Kansas upon its roads, but the work is done with so little regard to the science of road making that no adequate results follow. Farmers scarcely realize how much they lose in wear and tear of vehicles and fatigue of teams, and in waste of time in hauling comparatively small loads of farm produce to market over bad roads, when much larger loads could be hauled so much more profitably with the roads improved. I do not like to recommend the creation of new offices, but it does seem to me if this whole road making business were put in the hands of some competent experts for direction it would be a wise and economic departure from present methods of road making.

The Beet Business.

No industry in the state has made more rapid progress in recent years than the cultivation of sugar beets. I recently visited the new sugar beet factory now in operation at Garden City. It was to me a revelation of the agricultural and manufacturing possibilities of that section of the state. The proprietors of this great institution have spent in lands and irrigation processes and in the manufacturing plant several millions of dollars, and began manufacturing the finest grade of sugar a few weeks ago under most favorable auspices. Indeed, their experience is said to break the record, in that there were over 70,000 tons of beets available for their factory this year. The factory is running night and day, turning out 2,500 bags of superior sugar of 100 pounds each every twenty-four hours. Lands which a few years ago sold for a few dollars per acre now command from $100 to $200. This industry is in its infancy. Its possibilities are almost unlimited. The new process for extracting sugar from beets is making it more and more possible to profitably manufacture sugar from beets containing less and less percentage of saccharine matter, so that the area of profitable beet culture is constantly being extended. I believe there is no more hopeful industry in the United States than the beet sugar industry. I believe it entirely possible, under modern conditions, to develop this industry until we will be able to manufacture all the sugar we consume in this country, and thus keep the enormous amount of money annually sent abroad for this common commodity, aggregating, I believe, more than 100 millions per year, at home. I would not inject partizan politics into this official document, but what I am now about to say is not political, it is common sense business. There is not a single argument advanced by the most pronounced protectionists in favor of protecting any American industries that does not apply with double force to the protection of this most hopeful and worthy of all our new industries. It touches the farmer, the agricultural class, who, while beneficiaries of a protective policy in general, are usually the indirect rather than the direct beneficiaries of this policy. Here is an opportunity to apply this principle to them and to their interests direct, and I do not believe it wise to rob these American farmers of the benefit of a protective policy which they have generously and freely accorded to other American interests. There are peculiar reasons why every patriotic and loyal Kansan, at least, should take this position. It is not narrow; it is not provincial; it is not selfish; it is broad gauged and right.

Bank Commissioner.

I have made incidental reference elsewhere in this message to the admirable report of Bank Commissioner Royce and to the salient facts presented in that report. Mr. Royce makes numerous recommendations for the strengthening of his department, which I am sure are wise and to which, I doubt not, you will gladly respond. The growth of Kansas banking interests demands an increase of the bank commissioner's field and office force, a fact which I am confident will appeal to your favorable consideration.

Banking Insurance.

The evolution of the banking business in the United States has more than kept pace with the marvelous progress of this country in other directions. The business has grown to gigantic proportions, aggregating, it is said, 15 billions of dollars, as against 19 billions in all the rest of the world. The banking system of this country is to commerce what the arteries are to the human body; they carry the life currents. No more honorable or conscientious men, as a rule, grace any profession than those who manage these great financial institutions. Considering the great army of men engaged in this business, the number of those who disgrace the profession and prove recreant to their high trust is remarkably small. The banking business in Kansas is particularly well managed, by exceedingly high class men. Our laws are up to date and wholesome; but perfection in this field of human endeavor has not, of course, been attained, and the one weakness which has long been recognized by all those familiar with the subject is the insufficient security to the banker, stockholder and depositor alike against the occasional panic or "run" which periodically occurs, often without sufficient cause, but none the less disastrous on that account. How to guard against these occasional occurrences has long taxed the best minds and evolved many proposed plans. None has exceeded in wisdom, I think, the one suggested by Mr. John Q. Royce, state bank commissioner, in his admirable report, with some modifications, perhaps, that do not affect the principle involved. The proposition is a simple one, viz., that the banks shall set aside a certain specified amount from their deposits as an insurance fund to depositors. This fund is to be deposited in the state treasury until it aggregates one million dollars, and to become a permanent security fund. The plan was ably discussed in a paper read before group 2 of the Kansas Bankers' association meeting held in Lawrence, Kan., November 16, 1906, and reread before group 3 of the same organization at a later meeting in Kansas City, Kan., by Mr. C. L. Brokaw, ex-president of the Kansas Bankers' association, now cashier of the Commercial National bank of Kansas City, Kansas, published in the December number of The Southwestern Banker, and seemed to meet with the unanimous favor of the bankers present. The paper is a splendid contribution to banking literature, and in a remarkably strong, logical manner sets forth fully about all the objections to the plan, with answers that must commend themselves to every student of the subject. If Kansas can evolve a plan by which bank failures can be averted, it will contribute the greatest boon ever conferred upon the banking business. A bank failure does more to destroy public confidence than any calamity that can befall a community. It takes years for a community to recover from such a calamity, and nothing is more pitiable than the suffering which follows one of these failures. The anguish of small depositors, whose all is frequently lost in these financial wrecks, is heart-breaking. Suicides are of frequnt occurrence from this cause. In these periods of panic conscientious bankers walk the floors in sleepless dread of tomorrow's developments. The suggestion that such a law would put the poor banker upon an equality with the good one is selfish in its character and unsound in its conclusions. In the first place is ignores the interests of the depositors entirely, and their interests are of primary concern to the state. A bank is a quasi-public institution. The banker is an agent of the state, authorized to do business for the people. He cannot do business without the state's authority. The state hedges him about with numerous limitations in the interest of the people. It examines his books. It scrutinizes his securities. It closes his doors when the interests of the people demand it. All these precautions have already been taken to protect depositors and public interests. But these precautions have not been enough, as countless financial wrecks sorrowfully attest. Again, no one needs this protection against the poor banker more than the good banker, and no one has more reason to feel the force of this suggestion than the excellent gentlemen now doing banking business in Topeka, since their experience with the failure of the First National of this city last year. When a citizen borrows money from the bank the banker wisely compels him to give ample security. When the bank borrows money from the citizen in the form of deposits, why should not the same rule obtain, and the bank be compelled to give the depositor ample security? That this has not been done or is not adequately provided for under our present system, all the bank failures of the past and consequent calamities have proven. The supreme court of the United States has said that the laws protect the banker from without. They furnish him the police power of the government and protect him from the robbers and the thieves, guarding his interests as those of the public, but that from within the public has not sufficient protection. Such a law would do more to create confidence in our banking system than any step ever before taken. The money hid away in secret places, to the constant hazard of life and temptation to robbers, would at once seek deposit in the banks.

If this law is passed, and I trust it will be, more stringent provisions for periodical examinations of banks and protection against unsound banking methods should supplement the enactment. These additional safeguards are needed anyhow. The fact that Kansas has had no state bank failure in two years, that its banking interests have made wonderful and gratifying progress and are now upon as sound a basis as they can be under our present statutes, should be no argument against this advance step to make them still more safe and sound. "In time of peace prepare for war" is a maxim as applicable in business affairs as in military matters. In time of prosperity prepare for adverse conditions. This is always the part of wisdom. A bill similar to the one herein proposed, for the control of the national banks, is now pending in congress, and as sure as fate will some day become a law. Let Kansas, leader in every reform, the advance agent of every progressive movement, lead also in this wise provision for the protection of its banking interests.

Live Stock Matters.

The report from Mr. John B. Baker, live stock sanitary commissioner, is a splendid vindication of the wisdom of the act of the last legislature in changing from a board of three members to the present method of managing the live stock sanitary interests of the state. I believe the service has been better than ever before, while the expenses have been cut in two, and a saving to the state effected of $8,321.62 during the past two years over the corresponding two years under the old system. It only remains for this legislature to let good work in this department be continued.

Grain Inspection.

The wise and necessary laws providing for the inspection and weighing of grain have been vigorously attacked in the courts by interests antagonistic, I think, to the interests of Kansas producers and shippers. The chief grain inspector, Mr. J. W. Radford, exhausted his contingent fund in defending these enactments, and called upon me for additional financial assistance, which I promptly rendered out of my own contingent fund. This litigation has developed some weaknesses in the law, which you will be asked to strengthen, which I am sure you will gladly do. Kansas must protect in every legal way possible its great grain interests against the greed of outside buyers who wish to control the inspection, grading and weighing of Kansas cereals in their own selfish interests.

State Board of Health.

Too much credit cannot be given to the intelligent and persistent efforts of the state board of health, especially to its indefatigable secretary, Dr. S. J. Crumbine, for the efforts that have been made to improve the sanitary conditions of the state and promote the health of the people. I invite careful consideration of Dr. Crumbine's report and of his wise suggestions. I specially commend his recommendation for a revision of our pure-food laws along the line of the new national pure food law. The evil of adulterated foods and drinks is incalculable. You will also learn from Dr. Crumbine's report that the state board of health has entered into a tentative contract with the geological survey of the federal government looking to the sanitary and industrial survey of the natural waters of Kansas. This contract was entered into after consultation with the governor and meets with my hearty approval. The government has appropriated $1,500 for this purpose, and you will be asked to appropriate a similar sum for each of two years. There is no more fruitful source of disease, especially of that dread disease, typhoid fever, than in an impure water supply. The deaths from this disease during the past ten years have varied from 189 to 397 last year, the deaths, of course, being an inconsiderable number of those afflicted. The object of this investigation is, first, to determine the nature and condition of the natural water supply of the state; second, to determine to what extent the natural waters are being contaminated by sewage from cities; third, to ascertain to what extent the natural waters are being polluted by industrial wastes such as come from packing houses, creameries, refineries, smelters, oil wells, salt works, etc., and in what way these wastes may be utilized; fourth, to investigate water-born diseases and assist in determining the best source of water supplies.

Great good to the health of the state should result from this investigation. In several states this work has been so successfully done that not only has the sanitary condition been greatly improved, but the industrial wastes have been made to yield a financial profit upon the whole investment. To realize these desired conditions in Kansas our state board of health must be given greater authority. Its right to inspect the food supply, retail as well as wholesale, should be ample; public waterworks and sewerage systems, before as well as after their construction, should be under its supervision. The "great white plague" consumption, claimed nearly 1,000 victims in Kansas in 1905. Most of these cases were persons who came here from other states, hoping in our higher altitude and healthful climate to regain their health, but the number of these cases suggests some serious questions for consideration. It is said that every state east of the Missouri river has one or more public institutions for the care of their tuberculous poor. It is also said that the German empire, noted for its progressive movements in scientific medicine, has over 200 such sanatoria. The recommendation of the state board of health for the establishment of an institution of this kind is worthy of your most serious attention. The state board of control is also confronted with this problem and will urge you to supply facilities whereby tuberculous cases in the state institutions can be isolated from the other inmates. Our laws for the collection of accurate and complete statistics of births and deaths in this state are very inadequate, and as these statistics are of vital importance in order to a proper understanding of sanitary conditions these laws should be strengthened and made more effective. In conclusion on this subject, I wish to express the belief that the salary of the secretary of the state board of health should be increased.

Fish and Game Law.

The fish and game law enacted by the last legislature is working admirably. There have been a few criticisms of it, but generally from those who were not fully familiar with its character. Under it the game has wonderfully increased and the fishery has been greatly developed. The law has yielded some $41,000, but the right of expenditure of this money is clouded with some doubt. More definite control of the funds should be given to the fish and game warden. Seven fine ponds, averaging in size from one acre to two and one-half acres in extent, have been constructed; a fish hatchery has been built; a fine $7,000 fish car has been built especially for the use of the fish warden; a waterway condemned that furnishes an abundance of the purest spring water, and other substantial things done that mark remarkable progress in the development of this great institution. Kansas has long been behind other progressive states in protecting its game and in propagating fish. And now that we have made a good start I sincerely hope no backward steps will be taken. The burden is individual and falls so lightly upon each sportsman that it is not seriously felt, while the aggregate good to be accomplished by the establishment and development of this great institution is incalculable. I