

G. W. COOLE'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page Two.)

gining. Last year it raised the assessment on railroads, roadbed, right of way, rolling stock, equipment, etc. from \$14,483,571.10 to \$22,000,000.

This is a very substantial and gratifying increase. The board first assessed them for a much larger sum and no law their representatives, as required by law who applied at once to have the same corrected under section 341 of the Political Code, which reads as follows:

Section 341.—If the owner of a railroad assessed by the state board of equalization is dissatisfied with the assessment made by the board, such owner may, at the meeting of the board, under the provision of section 330, between the third Monday in July and the second Monday in August, apply to the board to have the same corrected in any particular, and the board may correct and increase or lower the assessment, and may raise or lower it to equalize the same with the assessment of other property in the state."

In view of the fact that much other property in the state was, in the judgment of the board either not assessed at all, or assessed too low, it was deemed proper to reduce the assessment first made, so as to equalize the same with the assessment of other property in the state.

I therefore recommend a constitutional amendment giving this board plenary power so to adjust and equalize assessments that all taxable property in the state will be assessed at uniform rates and at its full value in money without reference to an increase or decrease of the aggregate value of the same as returned by the assessors.

EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.

Under the authority conferred by the house joint resolution No. 7, passed by the Seventh legislative assembly, the state board of education carefully considered the advisability of a consolidation of the several educational institutions of the state, and by unanimous vote of those present at its last annual meeting, in December, 1902, declared that it was not feasible to attempt a consolidation, all of which will be reported to the state board to be hereafter transmitted.

BOARD OF CHARITIES.

The several penal, reformatory and charitable institutions of the state have had the care of the board of charities, intelligent inspection and examination of the state board of charities, the personnel of which is representative of the best moral element in our midst. Their report, which will be hereafter submitted, is clear and concise, and is replete with valuable information and suggestions touching these institutions.

Among other things, the board recommends the appointment of a chaplain at the state penitentiary. Every one must admit that the penitentiary is the most inviting field for such an addition to its administrative force, and in view of the fact that our constitution provides that all laws shall be founded on the principles of reformation as well as prevention, the recommendation seems altogether reasonable.

I also concur in the recommendation for erection of a building for female prisoners at a cost not exceeding \$1,000.

INSPECTION OF MINES.

A valuable discussion of mines and mining, and incidentally a review of the fulfillment of the late mining congress held at Butte City last September, had place in the 14th annual report of the inspector of mines.

The number and causes of accidents in mines, in the opinion of this officer, are far in excess of what they should be if the law were more comprehensive. These defects are pointed out, and appropriate amendments suggested. Considering the extra hazardous employment of those engaged in underground mining, the dictates of common prudence, as well as the demands of humanity, require that every reasonable precaution should be taken by the legislative authority to provide against unnecessary accidents and injuries to those engaged in mining.

The following extract from the report of the mine inspector will show how deeply and officer feels the failure of the law to properly uphold his hands and give to his labor efficiency which the purpose and spirit of the law intended:

"The conduct of the legislative assemblies towards this department since its creation, has been of a distrustful character. Whenever a question of amending the laws relating to this has been suggested, it has been invariably thrown down, on the ground of bad public policy by reason of the exactions which could be imposed on the mining interests by the officials entrusted with the duty of enforcing such laws. The agents of some of the large mining corporations have, from time to time, effectively used the argument when opposing legislation designed to afford a larger measure of protection to the miner, that legislation which conferred on this department the authority to enforce at once all orders relative to making safer conditions and stopping dangerous practices, carried with it a license to abuse the authority by the officials charged with its execution.

"That the determination of a question involving human life should be influenced by arguments of so shallow and groundless a character is beyond comprehension, and considering the nature of the relation between this department and the state and its chief executive, is absurd. Is it not a fact that each and every appointive officer may be called upon by the governor at any time to explain his official conduct in any matter where he has failed to perform his duty, or abused the authority vested in him? It would appear that immunity from stricter regulations based on such pleas should have no further force or effect with the general assembly, and it is earnestly requested that the eighth session of the legislative assembly will in their deliberations give to the subject of mine safety the attention which its importance demands."

INSPECTOR OF COAL MINES.

The office of coal mine inspector was created at the last session of the legislature, and Howard F. Welsh was appointed inspector. His annual report was unavoidably delayed, but it did not reach me in time for thorough examination and consideration. It includes a brief report upon the various coal fields in this state, the number and causes of accidents, various tables of interest and a valuable map, showing the coal area, etc.

AGRICULTURE AND LABOR.

This arm of public service known as the bureau of agriculture, continues to grow in usefulness and value. The authentic information concerning the industrial interests of the state which it collects and disseminates in instructive form, is productive of the best possible results.

A large increase in our population of a very desirable class of citizens can be readily traced, in a large measure, to the intelligent efforts put forth by this office. The former edition of this report, in reality a book of great value, by O. M. Holmes amounting to \$50, was disallowed by the state board of examiners, because we found no authority of law for such allowance. An item of \$800, incident to the distribution of the same, presented by J. H. Calderhead, present state auditor, who was charged by law with distributing the same, was likewise disallowed upon technical and not meritorious grounds.

There is ample money in the appropriation to pay both of these claims, but it seemed the part of prudence by a majority of the board to present them to your honorable body for action which will be done hereafter, with my recommendation paid.

BOILER INSPECTOR.

The work of this office continues to be a source of great satisfaction to the executive department. Every year vindicates the wisdom of the legislature in creating the office, and

reflects continued credit upon its management.

Not on explosion of a boiler or steam connection coming under the operation of the law or jurisdiction of the boiler inspector occurred in this state for the years 1901 and 1902, although official statistics show that during the same period in other parts of the United States there were 423 boiler explosions, in which 312 persons were killed and 646 were injured, making a total of 958 persons killed and injured.

For the past two years the excess of receipts in that office over expenditures has been \$2,000.

STATE EXAMINER.

The office of state examiner has become one of great usefulness, indeed, almost indispensable to the executive in keeping in touch with public officials and state banks, a knowledge of whose accounts and methods of transacting business it is necessary to possess.

During the year, the state examiner has made personal examinations of the office of seven state officials, county officers, 21 bank and trust companies and two building and loan associations, as well as a detailed examination of and report on the arid land grant commission.

The work of the office has grown to such proportions that the allowance for traveling expenses must be increased. It is noteworthy that not an office or bank in the state, coming under the jurisdiction of the examiner, has been the subject of losing a dollar to the public during the two years last past.

I concur generally in the recommendations of the examiner made in his biennial report.

PARDONS.

For the fiscal year ending December 31, 1902, seven prisoners serving terms in the penitentiary and one person serving a term and were pardoned.

Two diminutions of sentences were granted and two lines omitted. There are numerous cases among the sick and decrepit convicts whose conditions appeal strongly to executive clemency, but in view of the fact that they are without money or ability to secure medical treatment, would probably become public charges in a very short time, it is by no means certain that it would be the exercise of wisdom or charity to grant pardons in their cases.

I think it would be prudent to make an appropriation of \$50, such sum or so much thereof as may be necessary in the next two years under the direction of the board of pardons, for the transportation of such persons as I have indicated to their friends or families outside of the state, when deemed advisable to pardon them.

FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

I doubt very much whether any money appropriated by the last legislature has brought better returns than that appropriated for the purpose of holding farmers' institutes for the instruction of the citizens of this state in the various branches of agriculture. The law contemplates the holding of at least one institute in each county each year. This has been found impracticable so far, but will be provided for in the future. A new impetus has been given to farming in Montana by the proposed federal irrigation system which, if put in operation in this state, will add more than 100,000 farms to our irrigable area. I quote with approval the following extract from the first annual report of the Farmers' Institute, see page 7:

"The wealth which nature has stored up in the rich soil of Montana cannot be estimated. It is now called the treasure of the state on account of the value of its minerals, but the time will come when the hay, grain, fruits and vegetables from the farms will be worth tenfold more than the gold, silver and copper from the mines. A few years ago Colorado was only a mining state. It is still the chief producer of the precious metals, but the value of its soil products now far surpasses those of the mines. The same change is taking place in this state. For the next 50 years our mineral output is likely to increase, but the rate of increase will be small in comparison with the products from the farms."

NATIONAL GUARD.

The return of the Montana regiment from service in the Philippines found our equipments practically worn out, and the guard considerably depleted and demoralized as an organization. The work of re-organization was taken up by the present adjutant general under many difficulties, but with final success. Seven regular officers and 412 enlisted men now comprise the National Guard. The appropriation made two years ago was inadequate for any purpose, and was scarcely anything left after paying necessary expenses of inspection, freight charges, etc., to apply on company rents accounts. Last year we drew from the United States \$12,500, which leaves the guard well equipped, and in a position in which it is necessary to possess.

GAME AND FISH.

The only legislation which we ever had in this state that afforded reasonable protection to game and fish was authorized by the seventh legislative assembly. It created the office of game warden, and gave that officer authority to appoint not less than five or more than seven deputies at a salary of \$100 per month.

The law has been reasonably well enforced, considering the vast extent of the country which has to be covered by this limited number of deputies. It is said in the last report of the game warden that the creation of this office "more arrests and successful prosecutions for game violations have been made than in the whole previous history of the territory and state," and the claim is made that large game has been more plentiful this season than for the past 10 years, a fact due in a great measure to the vigilance of that officer and his deputies.

Many of our streams are being re-stocked by the government hatchery at Roseman, and in some instances black bass and yellow perch have been introduced into streams which were formerly infested with large and small fish.

The malefactor most sought and least caught is what the warden denominates "the individual who uses match and gunpowder, and thus kills indiscriminately large and small fish."

It is believed that the law does not make adequate provision against dumping coal dust and screenings into our streams. My information is that the damper in the amount in greatest in the Yellowstone river. It is believed that the punishment for this offense was reduced the chances of conviction would be largely increased.

STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The various educational institutions of the state have made a most satisfactory showing since you last visited and examined them. They are doing a splendid work and hold high rank among similar institutions in the United States. They are entitled to all the encouragement which a liberal appropriation can give. The rapacity with which the insane and criminal classes continue to increase is a matter of great concern to the state government. At the close of the fiscal year, November 30, 1902, there were 520 inmates in the insane asylum, Warm Springs, and 472 prisoners in the penitentiary, Deer Lodge. The insane are kept under contract with the firm of McNeill & Mestergard at 65 cents per capita per day, and the convicts at 45 cents per capita per day, under contract

with Conley & McTaggart, at Deer Lodge. The accommodations furnished are good and the prices charged are reasonable. These contracts expire respectively April 6 and June 1, 1903. Special attention is called to the historical and miscellaneous department of the Montana state library now installed in the state capital building, and under the immediate charge of Mrs. Laura Howey, secretary and librarian. For the first time since its organization this splendid institution is free of every access and is beginning to meet the just expectations of its founders and promoters.

LAW LIBRARY.

Section 238 of the Political Code devotes all of the fees collected and paid into the state treasury by the secretary of state and 20 per cent of the fees of the clerk supreme court to the maintenance of a fund of the law library department of the state library. The law has never been observed to my knowledge, and is practically a dead letter, but in 1902, to over \$22,000, prothonotary demands that the law should be observed, and that the fund be credited to the general fund. It is not claimed that this amount of money is necessary for the maintenance of the library, but as suggested by the chief justice in his report on that institution, "these provisions should be either observed or the legislature should appropriate them altogether."

Your attention is invited to the recommendations of the president of the state law library in his report, the section above referred to, and found in his biennial report for 1902.

PERSONAL PROPERTY.

Attention is called to the fact that the present law relating to the assessment of personal property taxes not secured by real estate is unconstitutional. It has been so decided by the district court of this district and the decision is, doubtless, sound and conclusive. The treasurer has no authority under the law, as it now stands, to assess personal property taxes until after they become delinquent. This is a species of tax which requires much vigilance in its collection. The law should be amended so as to authorize the treasurer to collect the same upon the receipt of the necessary information regarding the same, which it should be the duty of the assessor to furnish.

TREASURER'S BONDS.

Section 457 of the Political Code is defective. It was manifestly intended to require the county treasurer, in the event he deposited public funds with the state or national banks, to exact bonds to secure him and the public against loss or diversion of the same. Reference to the section will show that it applies only to that part of his collections belonging to the state. It should be amended so as to apply to all moneys coming into his hands as such county treasurer.

BOUNTIES.

I am satisfied that the bounty law is being abused, and that the state, in many cases, is imposed upon by fraudulent claims. It is quite probable that we are paying a bounty for the destruction of wild animals in neighboring states. There is certainly every inducement for the unscrupulous and criminal to practice such a fraud and imposition.

This state, with a liberality and prodigality unprecedented has offered bounties far beyond its immediate neighbors, thus inviting the shipments of skins and traps into this state to harass the state board of examiners and deplete our bounty fund.

It has inaugurated a new "open door" policy, altogether too one-sided in its operation. There should, at least, be the semblance of reciprocity even among "scalers."

I am often reminded that the tax for the bounties comes out of the live stock interests of the state, and is derived from a special tax levied for that purpose and that stockman, as a rule, are satisfied to pay the tax.

This is not wholly true, but if it was, every temptation to abuse the law and make payment for animals not killed within the state, ought to be removed. The first great step in that direction should be to reduce our bounty to correspond as nearly as possible with the bounties offered by adjoining states or by some means induce the adjoining states to raise their bounties to correspond with ours, and thus by united efforts commence and prosecute a war of extermination.

Four hundred and fifty thousand dollars' worth of these claims have been filed with the state board of examiners in the past year, and some \$200,000 of these claims have been paid during the same period.

We are just at the beginning of the year, and not a dollar of the taxes left with which to pay the present deficiency on that account, to say nothing of those claims which will accumulate between now and the expiration of the taxes in December next, a sum which will approximate \$25,000.

For 1902, North Dakota paid in bounties \$34,885. For the biennial period ending September 30, 1902, Wyoming paid only \$4,000. In Utah, for 1901 and 1902, the state paid \$100,000 for bounties on wild animals, and in addition \$11,500, which represents one-half of the amount paid by the state of Colorado for the same purpose. In Idaho and Washington, bounties are made by the county commissioners of the several counties, and laid upon the voters of each of the respective counties. I have been unable to obtain the aggregate amount in the last two years.

Admitting, for the sake of argument, that stockmen, as a rule, are willing to contribute the large sum of money necessary to pay the bounty, and the bounty authorized by law, there is another class of citizens who have a right to protest, and many of whom do protest against contributing to a fund in which they do not have a common interest.

Section 3075 of the Political Code provides that the amount of the bounty derived from the collection of all licenses shall be credited to the bounty fund. This is essentially wrong. It is doubly wrong in view of the fact that such revenue is needed by the state.

Instead of 25 per cent of such licenses going to the bounty fund, by section 459 of the Political Code, the 5 per cent above referred to should be added, making the state's portion of such licenses 30 per cent, and both of the sections should be amended accordingly.

After careful consideration of the subject, I further recommend that the bounty be so amended as to reduce the bounties to or approximately near those of adjoining states, and that the county commissioners of the several counties be authorized and directed to levy a special tax for the payment of the same in their respective counties, upon the stock interests, in proportion to the live stock interests therein, taking as a basis therefor, for the first year, the number killed in such county for the preceding year, as shown by the record of the state board of examiners, and that the several boards of county commissioners and the county treasurers be charged with the administration of the law. In my opinion, such a law will be found to be more effective and will result in the prevention of fraud and imposition thereby removed.

If, as before suggested, the adjoining states could be induced to raise their bounties to correspond to ours, the result would be better. Something must be done, and the situation seems to be well summed up in the closing words of the president of a benevolent society who, when confronted with an exhausted treasury, said: "We must have more money or less infernals." And so if we expect to preserve our credit we must have a larger tax or a smaller bounty.

FRATERNAL INSURANCE.

I am advised by the state auditor that there are 60 or more foreign fraternal associations in this state, all of which are operating in the state, that do not contribute any portion of their assets to the insurance department of this office. In my opinion there ought to be some supervision of such fraternal associations, and it is due to the taxpayer to have a reward in this field of labor which the state government contributes to the support of the state government.

Hennessy's Undermuslin Sale

Began Today on Hennessy's Second Floor
Well made garments of white muslin, stylishly cut, nicely finished, bought from an eastern factory at a very low figure. There are nearly 5,000 garments in this one lot for women's, misses' and children's wear, and to give the public something to talk about, interesting alike to friends and neighbors, we have marked all this muslin underwear at about

One-Half Regular Prices

Can You afford to waste time making these garments offered at 1/2 Cent? Don't trust these cuts. Come and see the goods.

So well done for so little money is a marvel. The garments speak for themselves. Listen to them.

A triumph of modern industry. Take as many garments in this assortment as you wish, except the gowns. Only one to a customer.

These pictures give but a hint of the great values offered at this sale. Chances like this are seldom found. Take your choice.

If you have any doubt about great value for little money, come and see our goods. Only at this sale can you get so good value.

Latest styles and shapes. If you fail to supply yourself now, you won't get another chance. Take a few while they last.

Lot 1 12½c

Lot 2 20c

Lot 3 30c

Lot 4 60c

Lot 5 85c

Lot 6 \$1.15

Brief Descriptions of a Few of These

- Women's muslin gowns, good width, yokes tucked and trimmed with embroidery, all sizes, 30c each.
- Women's muslin pants, good quality, ruffle of muslin, well made, good big sizes. Only 20c each.
- Women's muslin gowns, extra quality, full width, yoke of embroidery and fine tucks; all sizes; 60c each.
- Women's muslin skirts, good width, flounce of same, all lengths. Price only 30c each.
- Infants' fine muslin slips, yokes trimmed with embroidery; 20c each.
- Children's short muslin skirts, full width, made on waist; 12½c each.
- Children's muslin pants with lawn ruffle, good quality; 20c pair.
- Children's muslin pants, cluster tucks, sizes 1, 2 and 3; only 12½c pair.
- Children's heavy drill waists, well made; price only 12½c each.
- The biggest bargains in Butte.
- Women's muslin slips, extra good quality, full width, deep flounce with lace around bottom, all lengths; only 85c each.
- Women's corset covers made of good quality of muslin, embroidered edge at neck, all sizes; price only 12½c each.
- Infants' muslin slips, fine quality, well made, with embroidered insertion around yoke and cuffs; price only 30c each.

Finest Hand-Made Underwear

At One-Fourth Less Than Regular Prices
Handsome nightgowns, drawers, chemises, corset covers and skirts made of the finest nainsooks and cambrics, daintily embroidered and prettily trimmed with finest laces. All go at one fourth off regular marked prices. Come and see. Nightgowns \$3.50 to \$25.00, chemises \$3.50 to \$12.50, drawers \$3.50 to \$9.50, corset covers \$2.50 to \$8.50, handsome skirts \$6.50 to \$18.50 each, and all at one-fourth off.

Undermuslins at One-Fourth Off

Corset Covers
Fine cambric and muslin corset covers, very pretty styles, high and low necks, long and short-waisted effects, and trimmings of fine lace and embroideries. Regular prices \$1.25 to \$5.00, and all at one-fourth off.

Fine Chemises
Nainsook cambric and muslin chemises, short and skirt lengths, nicely trimmed with lace and embroideries, all sizes, 36 to 44 inches. Prices \$1.25 to \$6.50, all at one-fourth off. Big display of choice goods cheap.

Nightgowns
Cambric and muslin gowns, high and low necks, long and short sleeves, full length and short, yokes of lace and embroidered insertion, ruffles of lace and embroidery. Prices \$2.00 to \$15.00, all at one-fourth off.

Undermuslins at One-Fourth Off

Fine Underskirts
Skirts made of fine cambric and muslin, full width and all lengths, ruffles and flounces of fine laces, lace insertion and embroidered edgings and insertions. Prices \$2.00 to \$20.00, all at one-fourth off.

Mail Orders to Hennessy's Butte, Montana

It would be prudent or expedient to make the same charge against fraternal associations as are made against other insurance companies. Perhaps not, but all fraternal companies should be classified as such and subject to proper supervision, and as such put under exemptions or exceptions is a government of inequalities, and this inequality leads inevitably to discontent and infinite trouble.

It takes just so much money to provide for our state government, and every item of property of class of occupations that is taxed for the support of the state government makes the burden on others just that much larger. I hope you will take the matter up and make such provision for a proper supervision of these companies as justice and fairness require.

disposition upon the part of any state officer to shirk his duty or embarrass the state in its effort to ascertain or maintain its rights.