

GOVERNOR NORRIS READS ADDRESS TO LEGISLATURE

(Continued From Page One.)

the constitution provides that with an assessed valuation of less than \$300,000,000 the rate of taxation for state purposes may not exceed 2 mills, and with an assessed valuation of \$300,000,000 or over the rate may not exceed 1 1/2 mills. The income received from the tax levy of 1908 was approximately \$500,000. It seems assured that in 1910 the assessed valuation will exceed \$300,000,000, and in this event the income of the state from the source named will be only \$450,000.

This is a matter of sufficient moment to cause us to pause and give most careful thought to expenditures. I ask the exercise of the greatest prudence in making appropriations. The legislative assembly makes the appropriations, and with it lies the responsibility. I can only point out the danger and you must avert it by limiting appropriations.

If the assessed valuation increases in 1910, as I confidently expect it will, and if you do not so limit appropriations that there will be a considerable surplus from the income of this year to aid the decreased income of next year, a most grave condition of affairs will exist. It is to be regretted that the constitutional amendment providing for a regulation of the state tax levy, submitted at the last election, was defeated. A resubmission of a similar amendment seems imperative, and the hope is expressed that a more extensive knowledge of the needs of the state will produce a different result.

MAKES AN ESTIMATE OF STATE REVENUES

The state auditor has estimated the revenues of the state for the years 1909 and 1910, using as a basis an assessed valuation of \$275,000,000 for 1909 and \$295,000,000 for 1910.

My estimates of the assessed valuations for the years named do not agree with those of the auditor, and I submit the following statement for your further information:

Assessed valuation 1907.....	\$251,822,437
Assessed valuation 1908.....	252,294,016
Increase in counties other than Silver Bow, 1908.....	13,437,422
Decrease in Silver Bow county, 1908.....	13,025,543
Net decrease in 1908.....	411,579

Depression in Value.

The decrease in Silver Bow county was due to the falling off in the net proceeds of the mines and to the depression in property values, occasioned by the low price of copper and the closing of the mines. All mines are now operating and business has become normal. It is, therefore, reasonable to suppose that the assessed valuation of Silver Bow county will show an increase in 1909 over 1908 of approximately \$8,000,000.

The general increase in values for 1909 in addition to that of Silver Bow county should be at least \$10,000,000. In 1909 there will be about 900 miles of new railroad to assess, which at the present rate of valuation of like property will add over \$16,000,000 to the assessment, making the assessed valuation of 1909 nearly \$290,000,000.

In 1910 there will be more than 300 miles of new railroad to assess, of a valuation of at least \$5,000,000; the natural increase will add at least \$15,000,000 more, making a total of nearly \$310,000,000 for 1910.

Materially Raised.

I have not taken account of an increase in the assessed valuation of railroads. The increase in property values generally, which directly affects the values of railroad property, seem to justify the confident prediction that the assessed valuation of railroads will be materially raised in 1909 and 1910. My judgment is that in 1909 the assessed valuation will be more than \$290,000,000, and may approach the \$300,000,000 mark, while in 1910 it will be at least \$310,000,000.

A NECESSITY EXISTS

FOR STRICT ECONOMY

Realizing the urgent necessity at this time for the strictest economy in state expenditures, and keeping within the prerogatives above referred to, I desire to make some suggestions concerning the expenses of the legislature. Legislative sessions are expensive, and often more so than necessary requires. The exercise of a minimum amount of business judgment will often result in the saving of money to the state.

You serve as a check upon all expenditures, in that you make the appropriations, and except for the executive vote, which can be over-ridden, there is no check upon your actions. In expenditures for legislative purposes and making appropriations to pay the same, the executive vote is, under the circumstances, more of a fiction than a reality.

Very Expensive.

You may avoid making some necessary expenditures made by previous assemblies. The same bill has frequently been introduced in the senate and house, favorably reported, and ordered printed by both the senate and house printing committees. This double printing is expensive and serves no useful purpose—in fact, no purpose at all, except possibly to enable some ambitious member to send his admiring constituents a printed bill of his introduction.

Aside from the expense, much time is wasted. Each house is duly informed of the notice of introduction and introduction of bills, and a little co-operation and joint action between the committees of the two houses will prevent duplication of printed bills and will result in a considerable saving.

It is to be hoped that you will not err in the number and incompetency of your employees as many previous assemblies have. The salaries paid legislative employees are reasonably remunerative, and the positions are eagerly sought, with the result that the number employed is often too great, and lack of qualification too frequent.

Offices were not created to serve as training schools for incompetents, nor as rewards for unworthy favorites.

For years there were levied and collected special taxes upon horses, cattle and sheep for the benefit of the bounty fund; upon cattle and horses

for the benefit of the stock inspector and detective fund, and upon sheep for the benefit of the sheep inspection and indemnity fund.

The special bounty tax, inclusive of 3 per cent of all licenses collected, 1 1/2 mills, was used to pay bounties on stock-destroying animals. The stock inspector and detective fund was used for the benefit of the cattle and horse industry, and the sheep inspection and indemnity fund was used for the benefit of the sheep industry.

About two years ago it was found that the statutes providing for special levies of the kind named were unconstitutional, and collections thereunder ceased.

Bounties Paid.

For two years bounties have been paid from the balance on hand in the bounty fund and the money received from licenses, which was, for the years 1907 and 1908, \$67,590.43.

There are now on file with the board of examiners claims amounting to \$35,778, which cannot be paid for want of funds. During the next two years there will be filed bounty claims to the amount of at least \$200,000.

To discharge the total liability of \$235,000 now due and to accrue under the present law, against the bounty fund, there will be only the sum to be received from licenses, estimated at \$68,000, leaving unpaid claims for the next two years of about \$167,000.

Very Necessary.

Bounties are very necessary for the protection of the stock interests, and in order that the full benefits may be received therefrom prompt payment of claims should be made.

The present income of the state for general purposes will not permit the payment of bounty claims from the general fund. Those claims are legally authorized, cannot be repudiated, and must ultimately be paid. I recommend the submission of a constitutional amendment authorizing a special tax upon livestock to pay bounties and provide special protection to the livestock interests.

The work of the board of stock commissioners and of the board of sheep commissioners is so important and necessary for the stock interests that the same should not be handicapped by lack of the necessary funds until other arrangements are made.

I recommend an appropriation from the general fund sufficient to carry on the work of these boards for the next two years.

Are Important.

The inspection, eradication and prevention of diseases among the livestock of the state are so important that no effort must be spared to provide sufficient funds for these purposes.

The stock boards and officers charged with such duties have performed valuable service for the stock interests—services which must be continued. To permit our livestock to become contaminated would entail large losses and do immeasurable harm.

Your closest attention is called to the necessity for, and your most discriminating judgment should be exercised as to laws for the prevention and eradication of disease among the livestock. The state veterinary surgeon makes some valuable suggestions in his report, to which your attention is called.

THE GOVERNOR FAVORS

DIRECT PRIMARY LAW

I am firmly convinced that a law of general application providing for the nomination of party candidates for all elective offices, and United States senators, at primary elections, would prove beneficial.

The primary elections should be held on the same day throughout the state; all parties should be required to make their nominations at the same primaries, and every safeguard necessary to secure a fair expression of the voters should be provided for.

In advance of action by congress, which seems to be long delayed, amending the constitution of the United States so that senators may be elected by voters direct, I suggest the enactment of a law similar to that now in force in Oregon, which provides that the legislators may pledge themselves in advance of election to elect the choice of the voters as senators.

STRICT REGULATIONS

ARE URGENTLY NEEDED

All elections should be fairly and honestly conducted, and the voters should be permitted to express their choice of candidates and principles without fear, coercion, undue influence or corruption of any kind or character.

The corrupt practice act now in force, is so wholly insufficient and its provisions are so farcical that it has not been observed and its enforcement has not been attempted. You should enact a law prohibiting the use of paid workers employed by candidates, or in aid of candidates; clearly defining the purposes for which, and the amount of money that may be expended by candidates or committees providing that all candidates and committees, or any person or persons acting for such candidates or committees, must file true, correct and verified statements of all expenses, and fixing a sufficient punishment for a failure to observe and comply with the law, which punishment should, in the case of successful candidates, extend to the deprivation of the office to which such candidate was elected.

GOOD THOROUGHFARES

HIGHLY NECESSARY

Quick and easy transportation of products from the points of production to the markets is beneficial both to the producer and consumer. Good roads are necessary for quick transportation, and to insure good roads adequate laws for the building and repair of the highways are necessary. Your consideration of this very important question is requested.

If the funds of the state would permit, I would favor state supervision of and state assistance to road building and repair.

The suggestion has often been made and strongly urged that the short-term convicts confined in the state prison should be used in road building.

The over-crowded condition of the state prison would at least be relieved by such use of such inmates. If it would appear that working the convicts on the public roads would conflict with the interests of the laboring men of the state, it should not be permitted. No such conflict, however, seems apparent or has been represented to me.

EXECUTIVE FAVORS

A GUARANTEE FUND

The creation of a feeling of security by bank depositors in the safety of their deposits, and the prevention of runs on banks by depositors in times of financial stringency, are most desirable. When financial conditions are normal, laws providing relief can be more sensibly and practically considered. This, therefore, is a favorable time to enact a law guaranteeing banks against runs and protecting depositors in case of bank failures.

I strongly recommend the enactment of a law which provides that the banks shall pay a certain amount, from time to time, based upon their deposits, into a guarantee fund, sufficient to insure depositors, in failed banks against loss; this fund to be in the custody of the state treasurer or a commission, and to be paid out to depositors of failed banks according to the provisions of law.

In the event of the passage of this law, the maximum rate of interest to be paid by banks on time loans should be fixed, more stringent provisions regulating the organization and examination of banks should be made, and every possible safeguard to bankers and depositors should be provided.

VETERANS OF WAR

RECEIVE THEIR PAY

During the year I have received from the government of the United States the sum of \$3,358, payable to the veterans of the Spanish-American war for services rendered by them between the time of enrollment and mustering into service.

The federal statutes prohibit the placing of this money in the state treasury, and it was deposited in bank to the credit of the governor. I appointed Julius Barney, department commander of the United Spanish-American War Veterans, paymaster, and have paid checks of the amount, when properly identified, the amount allowed him, less 15 per cent for attorney's fees, by check signed by me as governor and countersigned by Julius Barney as paymaster.

Governor Toole, through whose efforts this money was obtained, secured the services of Messrs. Calhoun & Slater, attorneys of Washington, D. C., who prosecuted the claim, and arranged to pay them 15 per cent of the amount received for their compensation.

The 15 per cent named was deducted from the amount allowed each veteran and paid to the attorneys.

The work of identifying and paying the veterans has involved much very careful work on the part of Mr. Barney, and I desire to publicly express my appreciation and thanks for the services.

I recommend that a reasonable compensation be paid him for his services.

Reports of Officers and Boards.

The reports of many of the officers and boards are not referred to or commented on in this message. The failure to do so is not occasioned by any lack of appreciation of the reports and the many valuable suggestions contained therein, but is due rather to the desire not to present a message of unusual length.

Your attention is called to all these reports, and to the suggestions and recommendations therein contained.

PERSONAL SECURITIES

ARE RATHER RISKY

I am convinced of the wisdom of a law requiring that official bonds of state and county officers should be surety company bonds, and that the state in the case of state officers, and the county in the case of county officers, should be required to pay the cost thereof.

Bonds with individuals as sureties may be good and satisfactory, and the approving officer or board does not in every instance possess the necessary information to pass intelligently upon the sufficiency of the sureties.

When defaults are made by officers, the security is often found to be insufficient, and the taxpayers suffer a loss thereby.

The state board of examiners has lately adopted a rule to approve only surety company bonds to secure to banks a deposit of state funds, and I think this should be made a positive provision of the law.

The state of Idaho regulates by law the price surety companies may charge for bonds, and the wisdom of such a law will doubtless occur to you.

LEGISLATION NEEDED

ON TIMBER PROBLEMS

During the years 1906 and 1907, the state board of land commissioners, at three separate sales, sold to the Northwestern Lumber company, G. W. Miller and the Somers Lumber company, timber and timber lands to the amount of \$9,560.72 acres, for the sum of \$588,664.80.

In June, 1908, Edward Dickey and others preferred charges to the effect that the sales were made contrary to law and that the reasonable value of the timber and lands was not received therefor. The state board of land commissioners ordered an investigation of the charges and a hearing was had at Kallispell, July 22 to July 27, inclusive. I thereafter made written findings upon the facts printed, and also caused a check re-estimation of a part of the timber sold, to be made. A transcribed copy of the evidence taken at the hearing with the exhibits, briefs presented by the attorneys, the report of the check re-estimation of the timber, and all documents relating to the sale and hearing are on file in the office of the register of state lands and subject to your use and inspection.

To Reconvy.

During the hearing, representatives of the purchasers offered to reconvy the land and timber sold to the state, upon repayment of the purchase price and interest thereon.

After a full consideration of all the facts, I recommend if there is a legal way to do so, such offers be accepted and that you make the necessary appropriations from the land grant funds therefor, and enact the necessary laws providing for such conveyance.

This action on your part would likely settle a controversy that has aroused some feeling and would prove profitable to the state.

There are no officers of boards, other

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SPECIAL SALE DAYS NOW AT DONOHUE'S

Keep close watch of the papers now and keep informed of the big savings to be made from day to day, because rousing good specials will appear from time to time. After the heavy strain that Christmas purchasing puts upon the purse, savings made possible by special sales are appreciated. Here are some fine specials to start them off.

\$10 for Ladies' Black Broadcloth Coats Your Choice of 25 Coats Worth Up to \$22.50

The popularity of the long black broadcloth coats was never more manifest than at the present time, and there is every reason to believe that they will be worn for several seasons yet to come. This special sale comes in midseason and is bound to be appreciated by those with scant money.

\$10

MATERIALS—Fine quality of black broadcloth.

STYLES—Loose and semi-fitting, full length.

TRIMMINGS—Black satin braid, velvet inlaid collars and turned up cuffs.

LINING—Good grade white or black Skinner satin throughout.

TWO EXTRAORDINARY SUIT SPECIALS

Ladies' \$20 to \$25
Suits Reduced to
\$15



Choice of thirty suits similar to illustrations and some perhaps would please you better. Considering the present reduced price these suits are excellent bargains and the least you can afford to do is to call in and give them close inspection.

\$15

MATERIALS—Herringbone stripes, diagonals, broadcloths, serges and fancy mixtures.

STYLES—Modified directoire effect with the long coat and full gored skirts.

TRIMMINGS—Wide and narrow braids artistically applied, bands of velvet and self materials, large polished and fancy buttons.

COLORS—All the staple colors and most beautiful color combinations and fancy mixed.

Misses \$12.50 and \$15
Suits Reduced to
\$7.50 and \$10



There are more than twenty suits in this assortment and the sizes range between 11 years and 16 years. They are such handsome suits that many stores would regularly ask \$15 straight through. Our special prices make them a good saving and at the same time you are getting the best.

\$7.50
and
\$10.00

MATERIALS—Serges and fancy novelty suitings.

STYLES—Late winter, with nobby vest effects—reefer or semi-fitting coats, skirts full, long and wide flare.

TRIMMINGS—Harmoniously colored braids, straps of self materials, buttons.

COLORS—Mixed grays, tans, browns and red or navy.

Stock Reducing Sale of Shoes Continued

Those who contemplate buying any more shoes this winter would do well to take special note of our Higgins avenue windows. Some snug savings can be made, but it may last only a few days longer. When stocks reach normal the sale will be discontinued.

1/2
PRICE

Closing Out
Sale of

1/2
PRICE

MILLINERY

Every trimmed hat in the house, regardless of style or price, to close out at one-half the regular price.

Customary After Holiday Sale of Furs

Since the founding of this concern it has been our custom to offer furs at extraordinary reduced prices. Our line of furs being the largest and best in the city, you naturally expect the greatest reductions of us. You are never disappointed. The sale includes single muffs, scarfs, stoles and four-in-hand ties, as well as complete sets. A partial list of pieces and prices are herewith described:

Coney Scarfs—Brown or black, two large brushes; selling regularly at \$1.50; sale price **90¢**

20 Scarfs—River mink, opossum, Isabella fox; values in the lot up to \$6; sale price **\$2.98**

15 Four-in-Hands—Same qualities of fur, much longer and handsomer; values up to \$10.50; sale price **\$5.00**

Collar Pieces—Isabella opossum, river mink, sable, squirrel; beautifully made up in values worth up to \$12.50; sale price **\$6.50**

Every set in the house, without exception, offered at a special price.

Children's Sets—Elegant little novelties and made up in 10 different styles and colors; selling regularly up to \$2.50; sale price **\$1.00**

House Cleaning Sale Bed Linens and Spreads

These lines are marked particularly close already, and the special prices now make them doubly good values.

Our regular \$1.25 spread, full size, nice collection of patterns; hemmed; special at **89¢**

Our \$1.85 bedspread; fringed all around; cut corners; full size; famous Marseilles patterns; now on special sale at **\$1.39**

Soiled bedspreads, mussed and crumpled during the holiday rush; selling regularly at \$3 to \$5; plain white and fancy ones with pink or blue grounds **HALF-PRICE**

Our 75c sheets, extra large size, good quality material; size 81x90; wide hem; special **50¢**

42x36, hemmed pillow cases to match, three-inch hem; nice quality cotton casing; special at **12 1/2¢**

Our \$1.25 sheets, first quality of sheeting, none better; torn and hemmed; during house cleaning sale **75¢**

45x36 cases to match, same quality; selling regularly at 35¢ each; now special at **25¢**

Slaughter Sale of Misses' and Children's Coats

\$7.50 AND \$8 VALUES NOW ONLY **\$3.98**

These are the greatest coat values that have been offered for this season. There is not a "left over" in the lot and all are fresh new goods—this season's shipment. The fabrics used in the making of these splendid coats are heavy coating materials, well made and roomy, bound to be warm and comfortable. There are plenty of plain and mixed colors, making choosing easy. Snug little box styles, inlaid velvet collars and just enough finishings to make them neat and desirable

..... **\$3.98**

Black Sateen Waists Special at 98c

CHOICE OF BIG LINE WITH VALUES TO \$1.50

Every woman should have a black sateen waist, and seeing our special sale price is so low you could do worse than to get a few for everyday wear. They are made of a good quality black sateen, pinteeked or plaited yoke, open back or front, full length sleeves and comfortable collars. There are at least four dozens, so there is a complete range of sizes. Values in the lot up to \$1.50. Sale price **98¢**

Two Good Knit Goods Specials

Knit undershirts, good length, making them a sure protection from the cold; heavy peeler or pink; easily adjusted; sale price **50¢ and 25¢**

Two-piece underwear, close knit, but comfortable; fleeced back; a rousing good value; selling regularly at 50¢; special sale price **25¢**

D. J. DONOHUE CO.