

## GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate, and  
of the House of Representatives:

The duties pertaining to the legislative branch of the Government have again called us together, and whilst giving you "information of the affairs of the State, and recommending to your consideration such measures as shall be deemed expedient," it is a source of gratification to say, that the return of the time of our meeting has brought little to deplore. The seasons, if not in their usual profusion, have yielded a sufficiency of the solid comforts of life. In the unopposed acquisition to our population, with its constant increase in wealth; in the enhanced value of real estate; the ample reward of labor; the liberal compensation for the products of the soil, and the bustle and activity to be seen all around us, we perceive evidences of prosperity seldom before enjoyed. And whilst in other portions of the Union scenes of irreverence for public law and good order, highly discreditable to our national character, have been exhibited, the citizens of this State have maintained their uniform respect for the authority of the law, which protect the life, liberty and property of each. For these and many other favors attendant upon our onward course, we are indebted to a kind and overruling Providence.

This is your first session in the new Capitol; and from a conviction that the occasion will not fail to inspire feelings of exultation with you, I will not withhold, on my part, the offering of a hearty welcome and congratulation. It is an edifice worthy of the State, and being dedicated to the public interests, within these walls, the representatives of the people will annually assemble to perform some of the most important duties ever delegated to man. The people, through their representatives, will here speak their wishes, utter their complaints, and obtain remedies for their wrongs. And it should be the constant care of all who fill our stations, that their official acts, in spirit and precedent, shall tend to the perpetuation of our liberties, our State and national institutions.

In the return of the assessments, under our present system, we have evidence of the usual increase, and an assurance that the revenue will equal the ordinary demands upon the Treasury. The payments made from several sources, have enabled the Treasurer to meet all demands, without resorting, as yet, to the loan of the small sum authorized for the benefit of the State House. The aggregate receipts, since the last report, amount to \$107,714 63, and the payments towards the building of the Capitol, and for all other purposes, for the same period, amount to \$103,901 43, with which the balance reported in the hands of the Treasurer at the close of the last year leaves in his hands an unexpended balance of \$6,813 31. The Annual Report of the Auditor will be made.

The operations on the line of the Wabash and Erie Canal have been conducted the past season, with energy and success. The middle division, extending from the St. Joseph dam to the Forks of the Wabash, about thirty two miles, has been completed for about \$232,000, including all repairs to this time, being something less than the estimated cost by Mr. Ridgway. Upon this portion of the line, the navigation was opened on the 4th day of July, on which day citizens assembled to witness the mingling of the waters of the St. Joseph with those of the Wabash, uniting the waters of the Northern chain of Lakes with those of the Gulf of Mexico in the South. On this division, boats have been running without the interruption of a day, since the letting in of the water.

The line from Huntington to Lafountain's creek has progressed, with much spirit, and with the exception of the locks, is almost complete. Thirty-five sections have been finished and accepted, and without some preventing cause in the seasons of the next year, its navigation will be opened by the 4th day of July next.

The line from Lafountain's creek to Georgetown, about twenty-two miles, was put under contract in the month of September, since which, most of the sections have been commenced.

The large amount of additional duty imposed on the Board and Engineers by the law providing for the surveys, made the past season one of great labor, and particularly to Mr. Williams, the chief engineer, whose presence was needed at so many points in planning and directing the field service.

Economy and public policy require, that an additional portion of the line from Georgetown to Lafayette shall be placed under contract the ensuing year, and that the Commissioners shall be authorized and directed to let out that part of the line east of Fort Wayne, when it shall be ascertained that Ohio has commenced that part which she has undertaken to construct.

Owing to the great demand for landed property, to supply the wants of the new population in the vicinity of the canal, the sale of the canal lands the past summer, have been unusually active. The sales, since the last report of the commissioners, have amounted to \$175,740 34.

The experience we have had in converting these lands into arable means, and the rapid rise in the value of lands in that section of the State will now justify the assertion, that the canal lands with the selections yet to be made, will be sufficient to complete the canal to its original termination, and that the people will never be called upon to pay any portion of its cost.

Towards the close of the last session's deliberations, the legislature appointed Col. O. H. Smith, of Fayette county, their agent to visit the seat of government of Ohio, for the purpose of obtaining from the legislature of that state, then in session, permission to construct that portion of the White-water canal, which, pursuing the valley of that river, passes a short distance through her territory. That duty was promptly performed by Col. Smith, in delivering my communication covering the Joint Resolution of the General Assembly to Gov. Lucas, who submitted it to the legislature of Ohio. The subject was referred to a committee which, I regret to say, seemed to act under the impression that the White-water canal would be a rival of their Miami canal, and by withholding their assent, the business of the White-water country would be forced into the Miami canal, and made tributary to Ohio, and therefore reported unfavorably. That report, however, was not received in, and it is believed that the people will never be called upon to pay any portion of its cost.

As this institution is so far removed from the eye of the Legislature and of the executive officers, I would advise that it be made the duty of one or more of the state officers, to ascertain whether, and if so, for what sum the prison and prison grounds can be sold, and upon what terms a new and more capacious one can be built at or near the seat of government, either on account of the state, or on private account, for a term of years; the individual to choose, board and operate the prisoners; the internal police to be left to the Legislature, and the whole to be surrendered to the state at the expiration of the time.

The circle, with the building designed for the residence of the executive of the state, has been enclosed with the best fence the appropriation would procure. That house, in its location and plan, is not well suited to the purpose, for which, it was originally intended, and as the public officers will soon be removed to the capitol, I would advise a sale of the property with time for payments, the proceeds to be applied in erecting and furnishing a suitable family residence for the governor on part of the reserve at the western termination of market street.—A private building of sufficient size and convenience for the residence of your governor can never be rented at this place, and without a suitable one he cannot acquit himself with the members of the other branches of the government, and with visiting strangers in that manner which his station and the laws of hospitality require. The proceeds of the house on the circle will be sufficient for the creation of the new one and will furnish it as far as it should be furnished without costing the state any further sum for the next thirty years.

Since the last report of the agent, the Treasury has received about nine thousand three hundred dollars from the sales heretofore made of the public property at the seat of government. Other sums to the amount of 4,000 dollars will soon reach the Treasury through the hands of the agent. The report of that officer will, in due time be submitted.

Upon the plot of the town there are several squares marked and set apart for public purposes; but not having been specifically designated by law for those purposes, no one has exercised any care or authority over them. It will be well for the legislature to make some final order on the subject. The block of timbered land on the eminence west of the capitol, marked on the plat as public ground, if intended by the Legislature for that purpose, should be granted to the corporate authorities of the town, on condition that they enclose it, preserve the timber, ornament and improve it. You will act in this matter for future generations, who the population of this place shall amount to thousands, when a forest tree will not be seen for many miles. Most of the large cities of the United States, have such ground for the purposes, both of utility and ornament.

Of the three per cent. fund according to the state on account of the sales of the Public Domain at the United States Land Offices, the receipts, at the treasury, the past year, amount to twenty-four thousand three hundred and ninety-eight dollars, leaving the sum of five thousand and five dollars to be supplied from future receipts, to satisfy a balance of eighty-nine dollars sixty-seven cents due to each county under the last appropriations. The sales at the United States land offices, within this state, during the past year, must amount to one and a half millions of dollars; consequently, the dividend of three per cent. to be received by this state the ensuing year, and probably for some time afterwards, will be larger than at any former period. After meeting the unsatisfied claims upon this fund, it is for the legislature to say whether it will be advisable to anticipate annual receipts by a loan for the purpose heretofore recommended, or make some other disposition of it. In its application to the claims of the new counties, having done to you, it should not be overlooked.

Among the other sources of contribution to the treasury, the past year, the Saline lands have produced by sales, rents, and interest on unpaid installments, the sum of 4,636 53.

The newly selected Michigan road lands were exposed and sold at public out-crie, in the month of September, and commanded an average price of four dollars and seventeen cents per acre, amounting to \$21,304 97. The sales, however, the private entries at three dollars per acre, amounted to \$809 04. Of the old selections, the sales since the last annual report of the commissioners, brought \$10,917 00, the entire receipts for the year amounting to \$32,930 31. These sums will absorb every claim upon the fund, leaving an unscrupulous balance of from one to two thousand dollars in the hands of the commissioner, which, with the proceeds of the 16,561 acres remaining unsold will constitute the means applicable to future improvements.

That great thoroughfare—the Michigan road—is the avenue through which we receive the accession daily made to our population in the new districts, from the states south of us; their constant use of it, in the green state of the improvements, with the heavy rains of the season, have so greatly injured the road, that the convenience and interest of the public require that some repairs should be made. The remaining lands, at the minimum price, will command \$20,000, and it will remain for you to say, whether you will anticipate their proceeds, or apply other means in maintaining the usefulness of the road.

The commissioners superintending the erection of the State-house, have performed the various duties confided to them, it is believed, in such manner as will be satisfactory. In the changes made, they have aimed at permanency and durability, combining a just taste in the style and finish. On account of the unfinished state of the grading, and the daily conveyance of materials to the ground, they have not deemed it advisable to safe to enclose the square.

The want of further time has prevented the completion of the interior of some of the offices of the building, of the pavements of the porticos and of the railings to be built on the outside of the pillars of the Senate Chamber and Representatives Hall, separating those apartments from the lobbies. The report of the commissioners will soon be submitted for your examination.

The appointment of a Keeper, by the Governor, as contemplated by law, has not yet been made. The person to be appointed, it is believed, should visit the building every day during the recess of the legislature, and to protect it from injury he should be present every day during the session, as at that time it will be most exposed. The compensation of seventy-five dollars per year, allowed by law, will not induce a competent individual to render so much service, and it is suggested, that the agent or Keeper shall also be the Doorkeeper of one branch of the legislature, and made responsible, if from neglect the building should be injured or defaced.

The projected improvements at the rapids of the Wabash river, under the joint superintendence of the Commissioners, on the part of this state and of Illinois, have not progressed so successfully, as desired, in consequence of the repeated freshets of the Wabash and White rivers, during the past session. Contracts for the removal of deposits of timber, and for other purposes, have been made at the points below the Grand Rapids, designated by the name of "Black's Cut-off," "the Grand Chain," Coffee Island, and the White River Rapids, which, when finished, will be a charge of about nine thousand dollars to the joint fund exclusive of superintendence. The report of the Commissioners, embracing a detail of his proceedings, will be submitted to your consideration.

As sometimes must elapse before the remainder of the 24,000 dollars appropriated on the part of Indiana can be expended, would it not be more expedient, to loan it out at interest, on safe and sufficient security than to permit it to remain idle? It is probable that the Commissioner may need the aid of Legislative authority to use materials, from private property, and to protect the work from damage or injury for which suitable provisions are recommended.

The condition of the State College at Bloomington, has much improved during the year, while every thing seems to indicate for it a continued and increasing prosperity. It is indeed gratifying to observe that the cause of education is the fosterer care of the same spirit which is now prompting the people of Indiana to put forth their energies in behalf of Internal improvements. The institution at Crawfordsville, in the north-west and the one at Haw River, in the south-east, part of the state, built up and supported as they are by private capital, furnishes in their unequal growth and advancement, the proudest monuments of that enlarged benevolence of heart which must exist in the bosoms of their founders. The success of these institutions has suggested to my mind, the propriety of complying with that requisite of the constitution which provides for the establishment of a University! This can be easily accomplished by clothing the Bloomington College with that character. By so doing, you will withdraw the state institutions from an competition with the private institutions named, or with those that may hereafter be established, you will allay the jealousy, and put down the spirit of opposition which probably exists, or may exist among them, and on the contrary create a reciprocity of interest mutually beneficial to all. These views, however, are submitted with great deference to the better and more matured consideration of the Legislature.

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The report made by Col. Kelso, the visitor of the State Prison, is submitted for your examination. In the management of its affairs, no material change has been made since your last meeting.

Under the law regulating the Prison, the day of commencing or lessing it, with its inmates, for a term of years, will devolve on the Governor next spring; and as some have doubted whether the spirit and object of our criminal laws are complied with in permitting the superintendent to remove the convicts from the prison to operate in brick yards, and at other places in the town and its vicinity, it will be well for the Legislature to express an opinion on the subject. If the practice be sanctioned for the future, it will no doubt, lessen the charges on the treasury for a period, but whether, in the end, it would not be better, as regards the safety and morals of the convicts, to confine them in their workshops, within the walls, will be for you to determine.

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The facility and cheapness of the line, from the seat of Government to Evansville, having been satisfactorily ascertained, and other facts relative to the topography of the state being developed by the surveys already made, it was thought advisable, while the necessary force was in the field, to run an experimental line of levels from White river at or near the mouth of Eel river to the Wabash at Terre-Haute—a distance of about forty miles—the result of which has satisfied the Engineers and the Board that the Wabash can be united with White river and the Ohio, at Evansville, at comparatively, a small expense.

The law of the last session, authorizing the several surveys and estimates for Rail-ways and Turnpike roads, under the direction of the Governor, has been executed as regards the field operation; and the necessary estimates and drawings are in such a state of forwardness as to allow the superintendent officer to present his report in a few days.

The great length of these surveys, traversing a large portion of the state, and extending in length to upwards of seven hundred miles, suggested the necessity of adopting such measures as would bring the requisite forces into the field as early as the month of April; and as there were no gentlemen of acknowledged skill in rail road engineering unemployed in the western country, assistance was sought from the Atlantic States. For that purpose, Caleb B. Smith Esq. was requested to proceed to Washington City before the adjournment of Congress, with letters to our delegation, requesting them to unite in an application to the War Department for the necessary number of officers, and in the event that the request for the assistance should not be complied with, he was authorized to go into the adjoining States and employ such a number of engineers as would ensure the completion of the work in time for the present session. The application at Washington was met by an assurance from the Secretary of War that Col. Stansberry and two assistants would be detailed for the purpose. The work requiring at least four separate parties, Mr. Smith entered into written agreement, with Col. Stansberry herewith submitted, authorizing him as the superintendent officer, to organize four parties, including the two assistants promised by the Secretary of War, the State paying him two dollars and fifty cents per day. In pursuance of this agreement, Col. Stansberry proceeded in the organization of the several parties, but in consequence of the Secretary of War subsequently declining to detail the assistants without assigning any reason for it, he, Col. Stansberry, was obliged to apply to the corporate authorities of the town, on condition that they enclose it, preserve the timber, ornament and improve it. You will act in this matter for future generations, who the population of your town will not be seen for many miles. Most of the large cities of the United States, have such ground for the purposes, both of utility and ornament.

The circle, with the building designed for the residence of the executive of the state, has been enclosed with the best fence the appropriation would procure. That house, in its location and plan, is not well suited to the purpose, for which, it was originally intended, and as the public officers will soon be removed to the capitol, I would advise a sale of the property with time for payments, the proceeds to be applied in erecting and furnishing a suitable family residence for the governor on part of the reserve at the western termination of market street.—A private building of sufficient size and convenience for the residence of your governor can never be rented at this place, and without a suitable one he cannot acquit himself with the members of the other branches of the government, and with visiting strangers in that manner which his station and the laws of hospitality require. The proceeds of the house on the circle will be sufficient for the creation of the new one and will furnish it as far as it should be furnished without costing the state any further sum for the next thirty years.

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