Birmingham Eccentric.

WHITEHEAD & MITCHELL, Pubs.

BIRMINGHAM, - - - MICHIGAN.

MICHIGAN NEWS.

Homer, Swaney, a former resident of Hudson, is now on the longest mail run in the United States, it being from San Francisco to New Mexico, a distance of 1,200 miles.

The fire at North Muskegon, burned Cockburn's billiard hall and two adjoining buildings and destroyed the roof of Wisner's drug store.

The armory building of Co. B, second battalion M. S. T., at Calumet, is about completed and is the largest and one of the finest in the state.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Greer, of Port Huron, have lost three children by membranous croup in two weeks.

Five hundred immigrants arrived at Port Huron recently and 200 were vaccinated.

Dr. Mills of the immigrant inspection force at Port Huron, has returned from Washington, and is quite satisfied that an appropriation of $25,000 will be made by congress to continue this important work at Port Huron, Detroit and elsewhere until next July.

Prof. S. G. Milner, principal of the union school at Grand Rapids, and Miss Florence E. Cushman, assistant principal of the same school, were married at the residence of the bride's mother at Niles. Miss Cushman is the fourth lady teacher in the Grand Rapids schools who has been married during this holiday vacation.

According to the St. Agnace Republican the new "hot-air engine" at Mackinac fort is in successful operation, and the mules are smiling and happy. The engine lifts about seven barrels of water per hour, which is sufficient for all ordinary purposes. For over 100 years all the water used at the fort has been hauled from the lake up that long hill on wagons and sleds.

The boiler of H. Telman's planing and saw mill at Fillmore Center, Allegan county, exploded a few days ago. A son of the proprietor was instantly killed and six other men hurt, two of whom are not expected to recover. One end of the mill was blown out, and a part of the boiler blown across the railroad track and over the depot.

The Regents.

The board of regents of the State University met in Ann Arbor Wednesday Jan. 3. At this meeting the resignations of H. D. Bennett, secretary and steward, and of W. A. Tochard, treasurer of the university were presented and accepted. A vote of thanks was extended to James McMillan for the munificent donation made to the university of money with which to purchase the Shakesperian library of Hon. E. H. Thomson; to Mr. Mahon, Esq., for the donation of a number of books, and to L. E. Holden of Cleveland, for the gift of $50 to assist in defraying expenses of the publication of the memorial address of Prof. Frieze on the late President Tappan. The following is a list of appropriations as passed by the board:

Homeopathic supplemental fund to be renewed	$2,000
Homeopathic hospital	2,000
University hospital	3,500
Appropriation for new books	7,500
Appropriation per annum for two years, (after that per annum permanently)	3,000
Prof. Cooley's department	3,000
Prof. Sewell	2,000
Building and boilers for additional steam heating apparatus	8,000
New chair of gynecology in college of homeopathy	2,200

Agricultural.

The annual meeting of the executive committee of the State Agricultural Society was held in the city of Detroit, on the 8th inst. The meeting was well attended, and the interest manifested upon the subject was very gratifying. The first business was the address of President Fralick, who, in a carefully prepared speech, reviewed the work of the society, and offered such suggestions for its future usefulness as his observation had taught him were necessary. In speaking of the location of the next fair, he said:

The location of the next fair is always an important question. The society has a large amount invested in buildings, a part of them in Detroit and a part in Jackson; if used on the grounds where they are they can be utilized to good advantage and save a large amount of money to the society, but if moved to some other point they of course are largely reduced in value by their taking down and rebuilding, but that is one of the unfavorable incidents attaching to our migratory character. I do not see how it can be remedied unless by a permanent location, to which I am opposed, but think it can be largely obviated by making some arrangements whereby we may have the necessary permanent buildings to occupy in three or four different localities in the state, which may be erected jointly by the state society and the locality, to be occupied by the society for two years, and then alternate to one of the other localities, so that the state society should make the circuit in from six to eight years, remaining two years in each place. Such an arrangement wisely made and carried out would in my judgement settle the question of locality, which is always a perplexing one, save a large amount of annual expenditure and trouble to the state society and also enable each of said localities to erect permanent buildings, and each of the towns would be in competition with the other to have the best buildings, not only as a convenience to the state society and themselves but a pride to the locality.

If by such an arrangement the difficult question of the location of the annual fair for a term of years can be satisfactorily adjusted and settled, I should feel that the society has finally many years; it will be a great relief to the committee from year to year, and I trust a permanent and lasting benefit to the society.

The report of the treasurer showed that the society was in sound financial condition, and this, together with the reports of committees and superintendent was referred to the proper committee for their approval.

Legislative Record.

SENATE.

LANSING, January 3.—The Senate was called to order at 12 m. by Lieut.-Gov. Crosby. The roll was called by the Secretary. Thirty-one Senators answered to their names and were sworn in. Lieut.-Gov. Crosby read an address, full of congratulations and suggestions.

Officers were elected in due order as follows:

Secretary—Edward S. Hoskins.

Assistant Secretary—John D. Sumner.

Enrolling and Engrossing Clerk—Walter I. Hines.

Assistant—W. H. Scudder.

Sergeant-at-Arms—Wm Crossett.

First Assistant—J. C. Lumbard.

Second Assistant—D. G. Crotty.

Mrs. Robinson was approved as postmistress.

The hour of daily meeting was fixed at 10 a.m.

The rules of the last session were continued in force.

The officers elected were sworn in.

Senator Phelps, of the Twenty-seventh District, appeared, was sworn in and took his seat.

Senator Romeyn, First District, gave notice that on some future day he would ask leave to introduce a bill to amend section 6 of chapter 169 of the compiled laws of 1871, being section 4724, relative to marriage.

Also a bill to amend sections 1 and 32 of chapter 170 of the compiled laws of 1871, being sections 4733 and 4764, relative to divorce.

To act with House committee in waiting on the Governor and the retiring Governor and inform them that the Legislature awaits their messages—Senators Richmond, of Washtenaw, White, of Mason, and Whiting, of St. Clair.

Adjourned.

HOUSE.

The House was called to order at 12 noon by the Clerk.

After devotional exercises, conducted by Rt. Rev. Samuel S. Harris, Bishop of Michigan, the roll was called and the members were sworn in. The entire number of 100 members were present.

Protests were filed by Representative Fletcher of Kent, against the administration of the oath of office to Edgar Pierce, of Mecosta, S. F. Snyder, of Calhoun and Israel Canby, of Emmet.

Notice of contest was filed by Representative White in behalf of E. E. Edwards, who contests the seat of Chas. W. Stone, of Newaygo.

At the afternoon session the House chose officers as follows: Speaker, S. Howard, Genesee; Clerk, D. L. Crossman, Ingham; Speaker pro tem, Geo. H. Hopkins, Wayne; Engrossing Clerk, Will W. Hannan, Washtenaw; Assistant Enrolling Clerk, W. Marston, Berrien; Sergeant-at-arms, W. K. Childs, Washtenaw.

Mrs. Josephine Robinson, of St. Clair, was chosen Postmistress, and Chas. E. Coles of Lansing, assistant.

Mark Walters, of Oakland, was elected keeper of the document room, and William Tomlinson, keeper of the cloak room.

HOUSE, Jan. 4.—The first debate in the House of Representatives this session resulted in defeating a movement to give the lady postmaster a messenger.....Mr. Bixby, of Lenawee, introduced a resolution prohibiting the use of railway passes or the acceptance of reduced rates of fare on railways. The resolution occasioned much mirth, and without debate was referred to the committee on railways.....A resolution was passed forbidding any increase of remuneration to officers and employes, except for increased services rendered.

SENATE.—A resolution was adopted authorizing the appointment of a standing committee, known as the committee on Northern Asylum. ....Mr. Frisbie gave notice of a bill to repeal Act No. 265, laws of 1881, relating to the duties and salaries of the register of deeds of Shiawassee county.

Both Houses went into joint convention at 10.30 a. m. to listen to the reading of the message of the retiring Gov., David H. Jerome. All of the state officers, supreme judges and a large concourse of interested spectators were present.

A canvass has already been made in the Senate and House, showing the strength of the prohibition and anti-prohibition factions. The result of the canvass was as follows: In the House, for submission to the vote of the people of the question of a prohibitory amendment to the constitution, 44; against, 56. In the Senate, for, 14; against, 18; total, 58 for and 74 against. The liquor men already have their agents on the ground, and the indications are that there will be a hotly contested fight over this important question.

Begole's message was read before the Legislature in joint convention at 2.45 p. m.

LANSING, January 5.—Mr. White gave notice of a bill amending act 149 of 1869 so as to require reports to be made by the secretary as well as by the two directors of river improvement companies.

HOUSE.—Representative Case filed the petition and notice of contest of Peter Mulvany of Calhoun, against S. S. Snyder, the sitting member from that county. The ground of contest is that Snyder at the time of the election was Register of Deeds, and constitutionally ineligible for Representative....Representative White filed the petition and notice of contest in the case of Ed. E. Edwards against C. W. Stone, the sitting member from Newaygo. Mr. Edwards contests on the ground that in the town of Garfield a minor acted as a member of the Board of Registration without taking the oath of office, and for some other informalities concerning the listing of electors on the registration list; also that Stone was holding the office of County Treasurer, and constitutionally ineligible for Representative.... Representative Wheeler of Eaton offered a resolution, which was adopted, for the appointment of a special committee of three to inquire whether unjust discriminations upon local freights are made by railroads....The appointments of L. M. Miller and E. G. Donaldson as assistant clerks of the House, were confirmed. An adjournment was taken until 8 p. m. Monday, January 8.

SENATE, Jan. 8.—In the Senate notice of bills were given as follows: By Mr. Greusel: To provide a charter for the city of Detroit, being the bill prepared by the local committee on charter revision....By Mr. White of the 26th district: To permit electors of local municipalities to prohibit and punish the sale of intoxicating liquors in their own localities....By the same: To appropriate money for salaries of circuit judges.

HOUSE.—A resolution was offered by Representative Howell of Lenawee, providing that no adjournment exceeding one day in each month should be allowed during this session except for the regular recess. The resolution was tabled....A committee was ordered to be formed for the Northern Insane Asylum.

SENATE, Jan. 9.—In the Senate the president appointed a special committee on executive business, as follows: Messrs. Taylor, Richmond, East, Jennison and Seymour....In the Senate bills were introduced to repeal the law under which the register of deeds of Shiawassee county now acts; two bills to amend the divorce laws making void certain marriages, and one to pension circuit judges at the age of 70 and of 20 years service. Notices were given of bills to prevent the use of toy pistols; to divide Springwells into three election districts; to regulate the practice of medicine; to amend the charter of St. Clair; to provide for taking private property for public use, and for the opening of streets and alleys in Detroit.

HOUSE.—The appointment of some special committees was the first business transacted by the House....Notices were given of the introduction of bills to simplify the methods of obtaining transcripts from justices' courts; to revise the mining incorporation laws; to amend the Elmwood cemetery charter; to amend the charter of Zeeland; to provide for recovery by the state of money paid for keeping insane who were able to pay their own bills; to appoint receivers in chancery proceedings; to protect and preserve Quanicassee and Cheboyganing state ditch; to revise the school laws relative to chairmen of school inspectors; to provide for free instruction in mechanical drawing, and to punish persons guilty of assault with intent to do great bodily harm...A resolution was adopted giving a messenger to the postmistress and newspaper representatives....A concurrent resolution was offered, and laid over under rules, authorizing a committee to investigate the advisability of the education of idiots.... Mr. Robinson introduced a resolution calling on the attorney general for a statement, in order to show the true inwardness of the state tax printing humbug.

Some Interesting Figures.

Demorest's Monthly.

It is no wonder that Americans take naturally to arithmetic. We love ciphering, because all the tables we compile reveal our great national progress. The census shows, that while in 1870 we had 5,922,471 agriculturists, the number increased in 1880 to 10,710,000. In 1870 we had 2,707,421 manufacturers which number increased in 1880 to 5,250,000. The wages in our manufacturing establishments increased from $378,878,966 in 1860, to $1,500,000,000 in 1880. Then look at the vast accumulation of property in this country. In 1880 the wealth of England was estimated at 9,000,000,000, while the United States was but little over 1,000,000,000. In 1880 the figures stood: Great Britain, 44,000,000,000, the United States, 55,500,000,000. These are gigantic sums and represent enormous growth. The United States today is the richest nation on the globe, and its accumulations are the result, not of economy, but of a wise manipulation of the forces of nature. Vast as has been the accumulation of our wealth, it is nothing to what the future censuses will show, for it is not too extravagant to hope that by 1950 the United States will not only be the most populous nation in the world, but that its wealth will be greater than the accumulated riches of all Europe.

Pollution of the Air.

A recent writer in Nature calls attention to the pollution of the air by the burning of coal, and calculated that in the year 1900 all animal life would cease on the globe, from the amount of carbonic dioxide thus produced. But another correspondent points out that most of this gas is well washed out of the air by rain. There were, however, some products of combustion, or rather of incomplete combustion, as hydrogen and the hydrocarbons, which are not removed by the rain. Of these unburned gases it is estimated that 100,000,000 tons have escaped into the air during the last 30 years. What will be the result of this accumulation? According to Professor Tyndall's researches, hydrogen, marsh grass and ethylene have the property in a very high degree of absorbing and radiating heat, and so much so that a very small proportion, of only say one-thousandth part, had very great effect. From this we may conclude that the increasing pollution of the atmosphere will have a marked influence on the climate of the world. The mountainous regions will be colder, the Arctic regions will be colder, the tropics will be warmer, and throughout the world the nights will be colder and the days warmer. In the temperate zone winter will be colder, and general differences will be greater, winds, storms, rainfalls greater.

FIRST GLIMPSE OF HOLLAND.—A very large opal or the inside of a mother-of-pearl shell would make a good background for this thin strip of distant Holland that lies blinking away in the early morning light. A long, narrow ribbon of a picture it makes, with its little spots and dots and splashes of color here and there, accidental here and methodical there, as if part of a pattern. By carefully looking through a glass these dots of various shapes and sizes soon resolve themselves into wind-mills, cows, sheep, Dutchmen, churches and steeples, and little red-tiled houses with green or blue shutters. I do not pretend that this is a peculiar or striking instance of the first glimpse of a foreign strand consisting of cows, windmills, and steeples—I know of other such places—but I contend that the Dutch sand slip is cleaner, the cows are sleeker and fatter, the windmills more jaunty and active, the cottages more spick and span and more recently out of a toy box, the specks of humanity more rotund and well-to-do. Never, except on some other strip of Dutch strand, will you see just such specks as these. And as we draw nearer the shore, and the bits of color take more definite form, there is no mistake—this is Holland, and no other land at all.—*Harper's Magazine.*

THE OLD AND NEW.

Jerome Leaves off and Begole Begins.

JEROME'S MESSAGE.

Senators and Gentlemen of the House of Representatives:

The constitution makes it my duty to give to the Legislature information of the condition of the State, and recommend such measures as shall seem expedient.

When the constitution was adopted, thirty two years since, the task thus imposed upon the Governor was of easy performance compared to its present magnitude. Then the population of the state was less than 400,000. The Michigan University and the State Normal School, with an investment for the former of $100,000 and for the latter of $470.30, constituted the state educational institutions. The asylum for the insane at Kalamazoo, and the institution for the deaf, the dumb, and the blind, at Flint, with an investment for the former of $392.02 and for the latter of $181.51, comprehended the state charitable institutions, and the crude beginning of a prison at Jackson on which had been expended $106,237.94, was the only penal institution belonging to the state. These constituted the institutions about which information was to be given at the date above referred to. The railroads scarcely exceeded in length and capacity the private railroads now used by Michigan lumbermen for hauling their saw logs from where the timber grows to floatable streams. The commerce on the surrounding lakes was insignificant in comparison with its present magnitude. No communication had then been opened with the Upper Peninsula except in a small way, by transhipment and land carriage around the Sault. That Peninsula, with the major part of the north half of the Lower Peninsula, was then a dense wilderness, without inhabitants and only partially explored. The agricultural products of the state were scarcely sufficient for home consumption. Copper, iron, and salt were not produced in our state for shipment, and there were few factories to give employment to our people. We simply possessed the undeveloped, and, to a great extent, unknown elements upon which great states are founded.

During the years that have since intervened, extraordinary progress has been made, until, without ostentation and with commendable pride, we can invite comparison with any state in the Union.

Our population has reached one and three-quarter millions, one million of which has been added within the last twenty years. The finances, the primary school system, the University, the State Normal School and the Agricultural College; the three asylums for the insane, the institution for the deaf and dumb, the school for the blind, and the State Public School; the reform schools for boys and girls, the State prison and the State house of correction and reformatory; the 4,500 miles of railroad; the fisheries and state boards, are among the prominent topics about which I am called upon to give information and to make suggestions. My aim will be to discharge the duty imposed, with a view of aiding you in performing your higher responsibilities to the state.

STATE FINANCES.

The State is in admirable financial condition. The policy engrafted upon its legislative practice more than twenty years since, and which has been invariably adhered to in conducting its financial affairs, "to pay as you go," or to make provision for needed means before their expenditure is entered upon, has resulted in numerous advantages. The people who are called upon to pay taxes in advance with which to make improvements, are more rigidly inclined to weigh with care proposed enterprises, and to scrutinize the acts of officials charged with the work. Again, business conducted purely on a cash basis, has the same advantages in public transactions as in those of a private nature. The wisdom of this policy has been abundantly manifested in the economy with which our public buildings have been constructed, and the results that have been accomplished with the very moderate taxes levied for State purposes. Of all the States that defray their general expenses by taxes levied on property other than corporations paying specific taxes, and that discharge all their obligations, Michigan ranks the lowest.

The bonded debt made it necessary to provide means for its extinguishment. The constitution required the creation of a sinking fund for that purpose. This has been complied with, and within the last thirty years over five million dollars have been used for that purpose from revenues derived about equally from direct taxation, from sales of educational lands, and from specific taxes collected from corporations. These funds were constantly accumulating. Loans to banks would not yield the rate of interest the bonds were bearing; prudence dictated that bonds should be retired before maturity, so far as practicable. This was done. The surplus funds in the treasury that could not be so used were loaned at the best rate of interest obtainable. While from the latter scource the interest earnings have reached nearly $700,000 they are small compared to the benefits derived from paying the bonds in advance of maturity.

In addition to their contributions to the payment of the bonded debt, the revenues from direct taxation and from the sales of educational lands have defrayed the general expenses of the state and have built up its institutions.

The specific taxes collected from corporations have not only contributed to the payment of the principal and the interest of the bonded debt, but have paid the interest on the trust funds. The latter interest payments aggregate an amount exceeding the entire trust funds.

Again, from the surplus revenue from specific taxes over a million dollars have been distributed among the primary schools, in addition to the interest payments as above.

The expenditures pursuant to appropriations for lands and permanent improvements for state institutions are as follows:

The University	*$411,000 00
State Normal School	90,742 53
Agricultural College	265,372 73
State Public School	175,965 00
Eastern Asylum for Insane	569,459 60
Michigan Asylum for Insane	892,739 00
New Asylum for Insane, Traverse City	50,000 00
Institution for the Deaf and Dumb	343,319 95
School for the Blind	51,300 00
State Prison	525,362 94
State House of Correction and Reformatory	316,226 32
State Reform School	218,132 23
Reform School for Girls	117,550 00
Capitol Building including the old	1,614,858 31
	$5,642,028 01

These achievements are the well rounded results of judicious laws enforced by faithful administration in the various departments of government.

The condition of the Treasury up to the 30th day of September last is as follows:

Balance in Treasury Sept. 30, 1880	$1,578,643 01
Receipts for fiscal year ending Sept 30, 1881	2,607,288 07
Total	$4,185,931 08
Disbursements for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1881	2,392,569 01
Balance	$1,793,362 07
Receipts for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1882	2,916,084 45
Total	$4,709,446 52
Disbursements for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1882	2,951,513 31
Bal. in Treasury Sept. 30, 1882	$1,757,933 21
Add U. S. bonds in sinking fund	300,000 00
Total	$2,057,933 21

This money belongs to the following funds:

General fund—applicable to the appropriations heretofore made and the current expenses of the State accrued and accruing	$650,920 91
Normal School interest fund	725 88
University interest fund	8,548 60
Primary School interest fund	423,394 03
Sinking fund—cash	588,000 00
United States Bonds	300,000 00
St. Mary's Falls Ship Canal fund	68,924 12
War fund	11,703 39
Sundry deposits	5,516 28
	$2,057,933 21

The amount of specific appropriations unpaid Sept. 30, 1882, is $ 391,287 90

The bonded debt of the State has been reduced during the past two years as follows:

Two million loan bonds, 1883	$1,000 00
War bounty bonds	1,000 00
Adjusted bonds	3,000 00
Total	$5,000 00

BONDED DEBT.

The funded and fundable debt of the State Sept. 30, 1882, was as follows:

Interest Bearing Bonds.

Two million loan bonds bearing 6 per cent. interest, due Jan. 1, 1883	$590,000 00
War bounty loan bonds, bearing 7 per cent. interest, due May 1, 1890	298,000 00
Total interest bearing bonds	$888,000 00

Non-Interest Bearing Bonds.

$21,000 part-paid five million loan, adjustable at $578.57 per $1,000	$12,149 97
Total bonded debt	$900,149 97

The cash in the treasury applicable to the bonded debt is as follows:

Sinking fund, Sept. 30, 1880	$908,895 27
United States bonds	300,000 00
	$1,208,895 27

Credits Since—			
Interest on U. S. bonds		$3,375 00	
Transfer from specific tax fund		200 00	
			$1,212,470 27
Debits Since—Payments—			
Bonds purchased two-million lo'n bonds of '83	$1,000 00		
War bounty bond	1,000 00		
Premium on war bounty bonds	200 00		
Transfers—			
To primary school int'r'st f'nd	$305,395 27		
To general fund	16,875 00	$322,270 27	
Cash in sinking fund Sep. 30, '82	$588,000 00		
U. S. bonds in h'ds of f'nd com'rs	300,000 00		
		$888,000 00	
			$1,212,470 27

The money for the payment of the part paid bonds is in the general fund, in accordance with law	$12,148 97
Railroad and other deposits subject to draft	$5,516 28

The trust debt of the State is composed of the following funds and amounts received from sales of lands donated by the United States to the State for educational purposes:

The primary school fund, 7 per ct.	$2,924,324 17
Primary school fund, 5 per cent	337,996 54
University fund, 7 per cent	485,601 80
Agricultural College fund, 7 per ct	224,868 15
Normal School fund, 6 per cent	60,075 45
Total	$4,032,897 11

The State pays an annual interest of seven per cent on the primary school, University and Agricultural College funds, six per cent on the Normal School fund, and five per cent on the primary school five per cent fund.

REVENUES OF THE STATE.

The revenues of the State are principally derived from—

First. The sale of public lands granted to the State for educational purposes by the United States.

Second. From taxes assessed upon the taxable property of the State, denominated State taxes.

Third. From specific taxes collected from corporations.

The funds received from the sale of lands have been used towards the payment of the bonded debt and for the general purposes of the State. Interest thereon must be paid perpetually under the following provisions of the Constitution:

"The proceeds from the sale of all lands that have been or hereafter may be granted by the United States to the State, for educational purposes, and the proceeds of all lands or other property given by individuals, or appropriated by the State for like purposes, shall be and remain a perpetual fund, the interest and income of which, together with the rents of all such lands as may remain unsold, shall be inviolably appropriated and annually applied to the specific object of the original gift, grant, or appropriation."

State taxes must be levied, collected and disbursed under the following provision of the Constitution:

"The Legislature shall provide for an annual tax, sufficient, with other resources, to pay the estimated expenses of the State Government, the interest of the State debt, and such deficiency as may occur in the resources."

This provision is mandatory and must be complied with.

The specific taxes collected from corporations are imposed in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, as follows:

"The Legislature may provide for the collection of specific taxes from banking, railroad, plank road, and other corporations hereafter created."

The moneys so collected are used in accordance with the following provision of the Constitution:

"All specific taxes, except those received from the mining companies of the Upper Peninsula, shall be applied in paying the interest upon the primary school, University, and other educational funds, and the interest and principal of the State debt, in the order herein recited, until the extinguishment of the State debt other than the amounts due to educational funds, when such specific taxes shall be added to and constitute a part of the primary school interest fund."

Under the latter constitutional provision the specific taxes heretofore collected have been applied up to 1880, in paying the interest on Primary School and Educational Funds, and the payment of the interest and the principal of the State bonded debt until the latter was provided for by placing in the sinking fund an amount equal to the bonds then outstanding and unmatured. When the sinking fund became equal to the outstanding bonds, the whole amount of specific taxes were applied to educational purposes, and will continue to be so applied exclusively.

This class of taxes is large and steadily increasing. For the year 1882 they reached the sum of $724,982.62, and for the last five years are shown by the following table:

For 1878	$483,032 03
" 1879	512,873 77
" 1880	568,354 90
" 1881	733,244 14
" 1882	724,982 62

The larger part of this revenue is derived from railroad corporations. The annual payments for five years are shown by the table following, taken from the report of the Commissioner of Railroads:

1877	$376,769 31
1878	410,453 00
1879	445,349 80
1880	521,513 34
1881	575,936 88

The increase in the construction of railroads and the increase of taxes incident to increased traffic, if continued in the same ratio as during the past, and under the same rule of taxation, warrants the estimate that within five years the annual revenues from this source alone will reach $900,000. The time is substantily at hand when the specific taxes from corporations would defray the entire expenses of the State if used for that purpose, and thereby render unnecessary any further direct levy of State taxes for the ordinary current expenses of the State government. This would of course take from the educational institutions and primary schools this large item of their support, and would result in other means having to be devised to make good the amount so diverted. If the people prefer to put the burden of the maintenance of the primary schools upon the districts where they are located, and use a whole or a part of the specific taxes for current expenses of the State, it can only be done by constitutional amendment. Such a change would result in reducing the large balances now necessarily carried in the State Treasury, and were the burden of more fully supporting the primary schools placed upon the tax-payers of each district it would quicken and keep strong their sense of accountability in school management.

FIRE RELIEF.

I called the attention of the last Legislature, at its special session held in February and March, to the disastrous forest fires which for the second time in ten years had devastated, in the month of September previous, the Huron peninsula. Three thousand buildings had been destroyed, eighteen thousand persons had been deprived of the means of support, and between two and three hundred lives had been swept away in this awful calamity. Only the benevolence and cooperation of the public at large had prevented death by starvation. Committees had been organized in Detroit, Port Huron, Flint, East Saginaw, Saginaw, and Bay City to gather and distribute supplies, and they had been aided in obtaining contributions by those of other places. It became evident, however, that a central head had become a necessity, and at the request of the committees representing the places above named, I designated a State Commission to act as a central organization, consisting of ex-Governor H. P. Baldwin, chairman, United States Senator Omar D. Conger, Hon. Charles T. Gorham, General F. W. Swift, Alexander H. Dey, D. C. Whitewood, and George C. Codd, Esquires.

Immediately after this action the local committees, with one exception, became subordinate to the Commission in their work, or turned over their funds to be distributed by the central head, as is shown by the detailed reports submitted by them, and made a part of the report of the Commission.

The Port Huron committee continued to act independently, and was active in the distribution of a large amount of money and many supplies intrusted to it by the donors. Of their action I have no report.

I issued an appeal to the people of the United States, stating the magnitude of the disaster, the appointment of the Commission, and requesting aid.

In response to this, and the appeals made very generally through the press, most liberal contributions continued to be made from not only the people in our own State, but from almost every State and territory in the Union. Contributions also came from Canada, from Great Britain, from France, and from South America. While all were liberal, those made by the cities of New York, Boston, and Philadelphia, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Hartford, Newark, Albany, Baltimore, Rochester, Lancaster, and Charleston, (S. C.), were munificent.

The Commission continued the work with rare energy and discretion, and with the means contributed the sufferers were cared for fairly well. In the last days of January, 1882, it became apparent that their wants could not be met by private methods until the harvest would bring relief. After full consultation with many citizens I decided to convene the Legislature in extraordinary session, to consider the situation and to provide means to relieve these sufferers, and for other important State matters. On the 23d of February the Legislature convened, and after considering the facts presented as to the necessities of these people, an appropriation was made of $350,000, or so much as might be needed, and $15,000 additional for the rebuilding of the school houses destroyed. The distribution of the appropriated funds was placed in the hands of the gentlemen composing the State Commission as above.

The Commission received and disbursed contributions in cash amounting to $416,736.72, and in merchandise estimated at $200,000.

Of the amount appropriated by the State $178,900 has been used for supplies, leaving in the State Treasury undrawn of the appropriation $71,100. The $15,000 appropriated for school houses has been drawn and is substantially exhausted. It will all be used for the purpose for which it was appropriated.

The aid thus rendered by contributions and by the State sustained these sufferers until the late harvest was gathered, which, from its abundance, placed them again in an independent condition, with a bright and prosperous future before them.

After the above appropriation was made I issued a proclamation thanking the generous donors in behalf of the State, and adding that provision having been made for the future, individual contributions were no longer necessary.

The transportation free of donated goods by most of the railroads, the same generous action on the part of express companies, and the free use of the wires of the Western Union Telegraph Company, as well as the generous and efficient action on the part of the press in carrying on the great work of affording relief, call for kindly remembrance and acknowledgment.

Acknowledgments are also due to the gentlemen composing the State Fire Relief Commission for the gratuitous, long-continued, and laborious task performed. Reference is made to the very complete report of the Commission printed in pamphlet form.

IMMIGRATION.

The establishment of the bureau of immigration two years ago has been a success. Of the pamphlet "Michigan and its Resources" 37,000 copies have been printed and distributed besides 7,000 copies in the Dutch and German languages. The entire expense of the bureau is about $15,500. The sales of unoccupied farming lands have exceeded in quantity those of any former year. This, as well as the procuring the appointment of the tax law commission, by which the tax laws of the state were so revised that hereafter the taxes will probably be all collected, and in cases where property is sold for non-payment, the state will be able to give a good title thereto, the governor modestly claims the credit for.

REVISION OF THE TAX LAWS.

The tax laws of the state were very complex. They had been so added to and amended as to leave little certainty as to the construction to be put upon their various provisions. A recommendation was made for the appointment of a commission for the purpose of a general revision, which commendation was adopted, and a commission appointed. The work of this commission has been well and thoroughly done, the bills reported by it being enacted into laws, without material modification.

SWAMP LANDS.

The amount of swamp lands still belonging to the state in the lower peninsula is 35,688 acres. As some of these may be worthless, the board of control has resolved to make no more contracts for constructing roads and ditches payable in lands till the remaining lands can be examined as to value. There are 1,714,587 acres due the state from the general government which have not yet been patented. Four years labor has been given to preparing full statements of the claim, and it is expected as soon as a settlement can be had that the property or its equivalent in cash will be made over.

THE INSANE ASYLUMS.

Legislation is recommended enabling Hannah, Lay & Co. to transfer to the new asylum 56 acres of adjacent land desirable for its use, a legal difficulty having arisen from Mr. Hannah being one of the commissioners of the asylum.

The Kalamazoo asylum has been fitted with new heating apparatus at a cost of $40,000, whereby the consumption of coal has been reduced from 5,000 tons to 3,000. Numerous other improvements have been made, making it equal to the best. It has 740 patients though intended only for 550. Its expenses for support of patients for two years have been $300,110. A $12,000 contagious hospital building is needed.

The eastern asylum was originally designed for 400 patients. During the past two years two new wings have been added, increasing the capacity to 550. The number at the close of November was 577 and the cost of care per patient is $3.94 per year.

A separate asylum for incurably insane criminals is suggested.

THE DEAF, DUMB AND BLIND.

The deaf and dumb institution is in good condition. Its capacity is 250 pupils, but it now has 260. For current expenses and improvements for 1883 and 1884, $95,650 will be required. Enlargement of the institution is also recommended.

The cost of the blind school property at Lansing was $10,000, and $40,000 has been added in improvements. The estimated current expenses are $49,000 for the coming two years. It accommodates 76 pupils—less than half the number entitled to admission. Additional wings increasing the capacity 145 pupils are recommended.

THE STATE CHARITIES.

The state public school at Coldwater cost $200,500, embraces a farm of 72 acres with a central building and nine cottages, and has a capacity for 300 children. An appropriation of $88,400 is required for the next two years.

THE STATE LIBRARY.

The library has increased 4,082 volumes at a cost of $5,079, and $6,000 is recommended to be expended for books in the next two years. Four thousand copies of "Michigan and the War" have been applied for by Michigan soldiers.

EDUCATIONAL.

There are still 357,917 acres of school lands to be sold at $4 per acre, and when sold the state primary school fund will amount to $5,051,631.

The total university fund is $546,770; 1,534 students are in attendance, of whom 184 are women. An eye and ear infirmary and a school of political science have been added. Appropriations are recommended.

The Agricultural College received 235,673 acres of land from the government, and 100,202 acres have been sold. The college property alone is valued at $338,471. Appropriations of $59,822 are asked. The total number of graduates up to the present time are 872, of whom more than one-half are engaged in farming. The addition to the State Normal School has been completed. An appropriation of $48,100 are asked for the next two years.

STATE TROOPS.

The total number of state troops is 1,960, organized into three regiments and two battalions; 5,000 men have received drill and instruction, and would be useful in case of an emergency.

GEOLOGICAL.

The geological survey has been confined to the iron region, but the copper district is now to be worked. The cost for two years has been $9,465.

The salt region of the State covers 16,000 square miles, and the manufacturing capacity is 3,590,000 barrels.

REFORMATORIES.

The state reform school is more than full and embarrassment is felt to find employment for the boys. The appropriations wanted are $90,000 for two years' current expenses and $40,000 for building improvements.

The reform school for girls, at Adrian, was opened August 1, 1881. It now has 85 inmates. The board want the name changed to the "Industrial Home." The institution has cost $117,550 for permanent improvements and $12,880 for current expenses. Appropriations of $86,755 are asked.

THE PRISONS.

The management of Ionia prison is now harmonious, and the institution in first class sanitary condition. The prison is over crowded, by reason of the law allowing justices of the peace to send petty criminals for a short time. Recommendation is made that the law be repealed and only courts of record be empowered to sentence to the state prisons. Jackson prison is in good condition.

The number of convicts at present is 696.

RAILROADS.

There are 4,545 miles of road in Michigan—an increase of 1,722 miles in 10 years and 721 miles in the past two years. The roads are well managed, and as business increases rates are gradually being reduced. Twenty miles of the Ontonagon & Brule River road have been completed and accepted and so much of the land grant saved.

The St. Mary's Falls ship canal has been duly transferred to the United States government; $68,924 belonging to the canal fund will be turned over whenever the government shall provide for the building of a dry dock in connection with a canal.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The oil inspection has in 3½ years produced a surplus of $30,000. As this inspection is for protection rather than an increase of revenue, a reduction of the fee is recommended.

The fish commissioners are in trouble and are unable to make a report. The board asks an appropriation of $15,500 for the next two years.

As to insurance, the public are now well protected, the insurance department having weeded out all poor companies.

The governor closes with a general congratulation on the grandeur and prosperity of the commonwealth and a commending of a continuance of the past record of economical and prudent administration of state affairs.

BEGOLE'S MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

We have assumed the duties assigned us by the sovereign people of the State of Michigan—you to serve them as Legislators and I as the Chief Executive. The terms Senator and Representative indicate somewhat the duties with which you are entrusted, but the word Governor seems harsh and inappropriate. A designation that would more nearly define my real position, as a principal servant, would be more agreeable.

I have had but little opportunity to examine specially and in detail the many interests for which legislation or appropriations may be required, and must leave detailed statements of funds and management to my predecessor, who has had two years' experience and familiarity with the workings of the State government and the needs of its institutions. What I say must be somewhat general, and such as might suggest itself to any intelligent citizen.

No political organization is to be held responsible for my views on any subject. The candidate of two political parties, and elected by the votes of men of all parties, I cannot afford, nor do I desire, to speak from a merely partisan standpoint, but rather as a citizen, desiring, first and supremely, the prosperity of the State and the welfare and happiness of its inhabitants.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

The results of the recent elections in the several states have called the attention of men of all parties to the need of a reform in the civil service that shall place the holding of office on a firmer basis and divest it of its present strictly partisan character. Bowing to the popular will in this regard, the leaders of the two great parties in Congress have engaged in a struggle as to which shall be foremost in this reform. To inaugurate a civil service reform in Michigan by perpetuating in office the men of one party, appointed under a system which even their own party leaders denounce, would not be in accordance with the popular will, as indicated by the results of the elections. While no removals shall be made for opinion's sake, I shall, as terms of office expire, endeavor to nominate good men for the positions thus made vacant, regarding their personal character for integrity and their fitness for the place as of more importance than their services in behalf of any party or candidate.

HUMANE INSTITUTIONS.

Our humane institutions compare favorably with those of any other state, and will, I feel assured, be liberally dealt with by you. I believe the state should care most tenderly for her unfortunate children, following, however, the example of the Master, who, though able to supply the wants of the people by miraculous power, was careful of the fragments, "that nothing be lost."

The Trustees of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb at Flint, and of the School for the Blind at Lansing will present their usual reports and ask appropriations.

STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The State Public School, at Coldwater, is a temporary home for the uncared for children of the poor, as yet untainted by crime. Most of them, from their neglected condition and unfavorable surroundings, would probably have become inmates of our poor houses, reform schools, or jails, so that the State Public School is not so much a charity as an economy on the part of the state. The children receive an education, are taught habits of industry, and retained in the school only till homes can be procured for them in respectable families. Since its opening in 1874, 1,231 children have been admitted, of whom 311 remain.

It has always been a source of gratification to me that as a member of the Senate of 1871 I assisted in organizing this school. Since its opening I have watched its progress with especial interest, and have been gratified with the results. From the biennial report of its Board you will obtain an interesting summary of its operations and needs.

STATE REFORM SCHOOL FOR GIRLS.

The Michigan State Reform School for girls meets a long felt want, and I can, from personal observation, commend its general features. The cottage system has its advantages in permitting a grading of the inmates, and yet I doubt very much the propriety of committing youthful prostitutes picked up from the streets of our cities in the same institution with homeless girls convicted of petty larceny. I cannot believe that the latter will be improved by contact with the former class, and while in favor of caring for both, think it should be done in separate institutions.

I am satisfied that there is much in a name, and that the term Reform School is associated in the popular mind with crime and disgrace. As it is the object of this institution to train up its inmates to become respectable women, it would be a point gained to prevent, as far as possible, any stigma attaching itself to them on account of their former residence in a Reform School. I would therefore recommend that the name of this institution be changed to "The State Industrial School for Girls."

THE STATE REFORM SCHOOL.

Among the various state institutions I have occasionally visited, there is none in which I have felt deeper interest than the state Reform School at Lansing. I was delighted when its prominent prison features were abolished, and it assumed more the form of an educational institution. While I can most heartily endorse its present management, it seems to me that better provision should be made for teaching the boys common and useful trades. I know it is urged that such a manufacturing establishment cannot be made to pay expenses; but neither does the common school education it affords bring a cash return, or "pay expenses," except as it tends to help them toward a noble manhood. The knowledge of a good trade, with the independence which it affords, may tend quite as much to save the youths trained in this institution from evil associations and from falling into old habits, as arithmetic or grammar. I think therefore that a trade as well as an education should be provided for.

The same considerations that induced me to favor a change in the name of the school at Adrian, lead me to recommend that the name of this institution be changed to "The State Industrial School for Boys."

ASYLUMS FOR THE INSANE.

The Michigan Asylum at Kalamazoo and the Eastern Asylum at Pontiac are admirably managed institutions, creditable alike to the State and to the intelligent gentlemen who compose their boards of trustees. Each has a corps of competent physicians and attendants, devoted to the humane work of caring for the insane, and I believe conscientously discharging their duties to the unfortunate ones under their care and to the State. The reports containing the estimates for these institutions will be laid before you, and no doubt receive your favorable consideration.

The report of the commissioners for the Northern Asylum for the Insane shows that a site has been selected near Traverse City. One of the commissioners having an interest in a part of the land to be purchased, and, from the general plan of the grounds, essential to their completeness, legislation is asked to permit the purchase, and is, under the circumstances, recommended.

It appears from the report that the amount appropriated for the building is $400,000, and that in 1873 a similar sum was appropriated for the erection of the Eastern Asylum at Pontiac. From this the Commissioners have "inferred that a building of the substantial character, capacity, and general design, as to the complete facilities for treatment and number of classifications, of that constructed at Pontiac under a similar act, and for the same sum was intended." This has enabled them to draw a further conclusion, that the Legislature will, as in the case of the Pontiac Asylum, appropriate $67,000 more for warming and ventilating apparatus, and plumbing and furnishing. In other words the Commissioners seem to have reasoned themselves into a belief that the Legislature having appropriated $400,000 for the Northern Asylum, they are authorized to duplicate the Pontiac building regardless of cost.

Such logic would fail to satisfy a business firm, and I call your attention to it that a proper understanding of the intention of the Legislature may be arrived at.

INSANE CRIMINALS.

I think that in the vicinity of one of our asylums for the insane, but separated from it, there should be erected an asylum for insane criminals. Of these there are two classes: first, those who having been convicted of crime, become insane while undergoing punishment; and second, those who seek acquital, or have been legally acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity.

Of the first class quite a number are confined in the State Prison at Jackson. But neither there or at Ionia is there any suitable provision for them. It is of course improper that they should be forced to labor with the others, or even allowed to be at liberty among them, and nothing remains but confinement in an institution which has only punishment for its object, and where facilities for the proper care of insane persons are wanting.

It may be that very many of the second class—those who seek acquittal or have been legally acquitted of crime on the ground of insanity—do not need medical treatment, but some method should be devised to prevent men-slayers from being let loose on society. Experts, apparently so-called from their possessing less knowledge than the average citizen, are ready to testify in the interest of the party that brings them into court, and hypothetical questions and conflicting decisions and precedents render an intelligent decision of the question of sanity difficult if not impossible.

If in cases of homicide the plea of insanity was barred by statute, unless when made before the examining Justice, who should in that case commit the offender to the Criminal Asylum to await trial, an opportunity would be afforded its officers of observing the conduct of the accused, and forming an intelligent opinion as to his mental condition. The acquittel by a jury on the ground of insanity should be accepted as *prima facie* evidence of incapacity, and the respondent at once assigned to the Criminal Asylum. The safety of the public demands this, for in the case of those who have committed homicide there is danger of a return of the homicidal tendency. The question of the release of insane criminals might be safely committed to a board consisting of the Governor, Attorney General, and the Superintendents of all the State Asylums for the Insane. I earnestly recommend that a special Asylum be provided for insane criminals.

EDUCATION.

The common schools of the State are supported wholly by the public. The taxation of a citizen for the education of the children of others finds its justification in the fact that under our republican form of government a certain amount of education is necessary for an intelligent exercise of the elective franchise.

TEXT BOOKS.

Of the excrescences that have been forced on our educational system, one of the most annoying is the variety and multiplicity of ever changing text books. While an enforcement of the present law against too frequent change may do something towards establishing a sort of statu quo in the present confusion, might not a more radical measure in the interest of uniformity and economy be adopted? I am aware of the difficulties in the way, and of the powerful influence of the publishing trade, which would be exerted to defeat or render inoperative such a law. If in your wisdom you can devise any means to remedy existing evils, it shall have my hearty approval.

STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The State Normal School seems to be prosperous as regards numbers and the excellence of its corps of teachers. In so far as it makes prominent its peculiar work of "teaching how to teach," it is a valuable institution.

AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The Agricultural College is so near the Capitol that you will, no doubt, visit it, and learn its needs. I can most heartily endorse its present management.

THE UNIVERSITY.

The last year has been one of great prosperity to the State University. Under wise administration it has grown in strength and usefulness with a rapidity perhaps unequalled in the history of similar institutions. Its work and its scholars are mentioned with honor wherever sound learning is respected. Its elevating and stimulating influence has been felt through the intellectual life of the state, and especially through our whole educational system.

The new fire-proof library building is approaching completion, and the authorities of the University deem it very desirable that a large addition be made to their collection of books. They justly say that a University cannot successfully do its work without a good library. They think that a considerable sum should be expended soon in the purchase of books, and I commend their request to your favorable consideration. Other needs of the University the Regents will make known to you during the session.

STATE LIBRARY.

The report of the State Librarian for the years 1881 and 1882 is an intelligent statement of the present condition and needs of the Library, and the appropriation of $3,000 asked for each of the years 1883 and 1884 is recommended.

MILITARY.

Our position as a border state, as well as the painful experiences of the civil war, indicate that the military spirit should be fostered among us. A large standing army would be dangerous to the liberties of the people and repugnant to our free institutions, but the constitution of the United States recognizes the fact that a "well regulated military" is "necessary to the security of a free state." Our state militia is composed largely of our worthiest and most energetic young men—men in whom we may safely confide in case of war, and with whom the best of us may be proud to associate in time of peace. I desire that our militia may be kept in the highest state of efficiency, and, to this end, ask that their wants receive due consideration at your hands.

I have visited and inspected the Military Academy at Orchard Lake, incorporated in 1877 under the laws of this State. I found there one hundred and twelve cadets whose ages range from twelve to twenty, and representing twelve States and territories. In addition to the studies pursued in our best high schools and academies, they are taught military science and tactics by an officer of the regular army, who is detailed by the President of the United States for that purpose. The War department furnishes a liberal supply of arms and amunition.

This school fills a place heretofore unoccupied in the educational system of our State, and, in order that its field of usefulness may be widened and perpetuated, I recommend that such substantial aid may be extended to it as you may deem wise.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS.

To amend the constitution of the State it is necessary that the proposed amendment be submitted to a popular vote for adoption or rejection. Such amendment cannot be so submitted unless it is agreed to by two-thirds of the members elected to each house. In accepting the nomination for Governor I said: "I cannot see how, in a republican government like ours, there should be any hesitation in submitting questions which concern the interests of the State and the well-being of its inhabitants to a popular vote." I, certainly, for one, am willing to submit any and all questions which concern the voters of this State to themselves for their determination and abide by the result."

I still think that "personal liberty" and the "freedom of the citizen" demand that the voters of the State have an opportunity of expressing their views on all questions in which they are interested. I also believe that opposition offered in the Legislature to such submission, when it is asked for by any considerable number of voters, will injure the party or cause it is intended to benefit.

RAILROAD ACCIDENTS.

The last report of the Commissioner of Railroads show that during the year 1881 there were 331 casualties to railroad employes in this State, of which 61 resulted fatally. The number of employes killed was one for every 286, and of injured, but not killed, one for each 71. I would recommend such additional legislation as may tend to preserve from injury railroad employes in this State. This may be done by requiring the use of such mechanical appliances as shall be found necessary for the prevention of accidents, and by holding to a strict responsibility the railroad companies, making them liable to the injured or their families for all damages, except where the injury was caused by the carelessness of the injured party. The companies might also be required to set apart a small per centage of their earnings for the relief of dependent families of employes killed in the performance of duty.

INSPECTION OF OILS.

The latest report of the State inspector of illuminating oils, shows that during the year 1881 the fees collected for inspection amounted to $28,261.75, while the total cost of inspection was but $17,218.34, leaving a surplus of $11,043.41 to be placed in the State treasury. The collection of this surplus by the State is practically in the imposition of a tax on illuminating oils, and should be reduced to the actual cost and a system of fees adopted which shall afford inspectors who travel considerable distances to inspect a few barrels as much compensation as those who merely step out of their offices a few minutes to test hundred barrel tanks.

EMIGRATION.

The Commissioner of Emigration is by law under the direction of the Governor, and the expenditures of his office are under the Governor's control. I am satisfied that the office, as managed, is a success, and justifies its creation by the Legislature. It has not only secured a very large number of intelligent emigrants from other States, but its valuable array of facts and figures, wisely distributed throughout the State, is eminently calculated to convince our enterprising and ambitious young people that Michigan is undoubtedly the least desirable State in the Union from which to emigrate.

TAXATION.

I have received many letters from intelligent citizens calling my attention to supposed defects in the new tax law, and it would seem that some of its material provisions fail to meet the general approval. I have not been able to give such attention to the subject as would warrant me in recommending material changes in a law on which so much labor has been expended, at great cost to the State, and which is as yet untried.

The advertising of tax sales should be conducted on business principles, and given to the lowest bidder. The recent advertising of State tax lands has been generally condemned as an unnecessary expense.

CONVICT LABOR.

The matter of selling to contractors the labor of convicts in our prisons, should receive your attention. I do not think the state can afford to conduct these establishments in a way that will injure the industries of the state. Manufacturers, with large capital invested in buildings and real estate, and who employ self-respecting mechanics and laborers, should not be forced into a ruinous competition with convict labor controlled by contractors. The prisoners should, I think, be employed under the prison management, and the goods manufactured sold to the trade at fair market rates. If a percentage of the profits was credited to well-behaved prisoners, to be paid them on their discharge, it would be a motive to willing labor and good conduct, and furnish them means to begin life anew with when their terms expire.

COMMISSIONERS OF LABOR.

Railroads and insurance, corrections and charities, education, agriculture, and health, have been committed to state boards, whose valuable statistics and suggestions form a basis for legislation. Paupers and criminals, the fish that swim in our rivers and lakes, and the cattle that graze in our fields, are cared for by commissioners appointed by the state. A large class of our citizens, and who are seldom found in our halls of legislation to speak for themselves, have no one whose especial duty it is to investigate their condition, and report what legislation is necessary for the protection of their interests. I refer to the laboring class. The state of Massachusetts has a Labor Bureau whose reports and statistics are eagerly sought for by all who would study the labor question, and has been the means of reforming numerous abuses. I would recomend the appointment of three commissioners to be known as Commissioners of Labor, with authority to employ a secretary at the expense of the state. I feel assured it would be the means of placing much valuable information before the next Legislature, and become an important element in determining questions as to the rights of labor that must sooner or later be settled by legislation.

THE DISSECTION BILL.

I would call your attention to a law requiring superintendents of the poor to forward the remains of deceased persons who would otherwise be buried at the public expense, to Ann Arbor for the purpose of dissection.

In the hour of our bereavement, when human sympathy finds its truest expression in flowers, and loving hands bring their floral tributes to deck the dear remains, should a dray bearing a coffin-shaped box marked "Ann Arbor" stop at our door, and an officer armed with the authority of the state claim that loved form,—would we not resist even to death the enforcement of the cruel statute?

I have yet to learn that the inability to pay for a funeral indicates a lack of natural feeling. A common struggle against adverse fortune may have served to cement ties of affection, and the wood cross or simple rose bush express as true devotion as was ever chiseled in the purest marble.

In the poor house in my own county are two aged couples whose path to the unknown is brightened by their confidence that the good Superintendent will be more humane than the law, and that their remains will find a resting place in mother earth, and side by side. I recommend that if the state must continue to supply subjects for dissection the selections be made on other grounds than that of proverty.

EARLY LEGISLATION.

My experience in the State Senate and in Congress leads me to ask you to begin the work of enacting laws at an early day. There is much less danger of inconsiderate legislation by so doing than by leaving important measures to be crowded through in the last days of the session.

FREE PASSES.

The acceptance of free passes on the railroads by members of the Legislature is of doubtful propriety. I do not say that the vote of any member would be influenced thereby when legislating on the subject of railroads; but at least one party has denounced the practice in its platform, and good men of all parties regard it with disfavor. Its practical effect is to materially prolong the session. So long as members can go home weekly, not only without expense, but with a reduction of their board bills, Saturday and Monday will be almost wasted, and the session prolonged by several weeks.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Let not a false economy induce you to cripple any interest of the state. This Legislature, composed of intelligent and practical men, will not, I feel assured, adopt a "penny wise and pound foolish" system of appropriations. The growing State of Michigan, with many of its industries yet in their infancy, cannot afford to adopt the methods and economies of some of the older States. Remember that with the State, as with the individual, the best is the cheapest. Let us, however, see to it that every dollar appropriated is honestly and judiciously expended, holding all public servants to a strict accountability, and making instant removal from office the penalty of neglect of duty.

CONCLUSION.

A few days after my election, I was amused to see a statement in one of the papers, that when I reached Lansing I would find a Senate and House opposed to me. I am satisfied that it is not true, but that the most kindly feelings are entertained toward me by the party in the majority in both houses. There shall be nothing lacking on my part to maintain the friendly relations. I trust the only rivalry between us will be as to who shall labor most earnestly and successfully for the general good. I enter upon the duties of my office distrusting my own ability and wisdom, but determined to do my duty as best I may, and humbly trusting in Almighty God, whose divine protection and guidance I pray for, all branches of the government and all interests of the State.

JOSIAH W. BEGOLE.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Lansing, January 8, 1883.

Is the Church Declining.

The Baltimore Day recently sent a number of its reporters to some of the prominent clergymen of that city with several numbered questions relating to the power of the Church. The answers of the various clergymen were published in full, and together they make up an interesting symposium on a subject that is just now of vital interest. The Rev. Campbell Fair, an Episcopalian, did not think the Church was losing its hold on men; on the contrary he thought it was becoming stronger. Scepticism prevails largely among the members of trades unions who give us strikes and riots and pillage. Among the 800 doctors of Baltimore he had only heard of one infidel. The Rev. John J. Murray, a Methodist, thought that the preaching of to-day is as interesting as it ever was, and that the Church never was so strong as it is at the present time. The Rev. R. H. Pullman, a Universalist, presented the other side of the case. He drew a distinction between the Church and Christianity, saying while the Church is surely declining; Christianity as a religion was never stronger, and Jesus never more truly Lord than he is to-day. The cause of the Church's decline, the says, "is found in the so-called evangelical creeds. The doctrine that the sin of Adam involved the endless damnation of the whole human race, and he doctrine of the atonement that Christ suffered this penalty on the cross—paid the debt in full—so making it possible for all those having faith in this transaction to be saved, i. e., escape this hell; the doctrines of probation, of plenary inspiration, and of endless suffering in hell; also the docrine of an arch fiend, called the devil possessing super-human powers, roaming at will through the universe, omnipresent, and not second to God himself in omnipotence—if judged by his following—these doctrines, fundamental in the so-called evangelical sects, are losing their hold on thinking men because of the unspeakable horror and blood-thirstiness of some of them, the inconsistency and absurdity of others, and the unscripturalness of them all. While I believe there has been a stand-still and that the church as a whole is not keeping up with the increase of population, and so is on the decline, I am strong in the cheerful conviction that this decline is being overruled for good in that attention is now being called to the cause of the decline, the good effect of which is already suggested in the mighty revolution developing against the old creeds and confessions of faith within the very ranks of the so-called evangelical sects, which is full of promise of a brighter day for Christianity, a day of greater unity and sweeter fellowship. Discussions of the doctrines of probation, inspiration and endless hell occupy large space in both the religious and secular newspapers and magazines of the day, which is significant of the revolution. While then I see decline I see also signs of the morning full of hope for the day when Christianity, relieved of the weight of dead dogmas, will teach with new life the world it is designed to save. The best preaching to-day is the so-called liberal preaching. Its tone is clear and ringing in the Unitarian and Universalist pulpits; nor is it confined to these. In many other pulpits advanced preachers have given up preaching the old creeds and are doing noble work for the cause of real Christianity. Whenever it is known that a liberal preacher is in any of the orthodox pulpits, there the people go in crowds. This is one of the signs of the times and indicates that liberal preaching is the strongest and most effectual against the scepticism of the time. What is needed more than all else is the preaching of religion as Jesus preached it—plan, simple, beautiful. Real religion has attraction for every human heart; there is no subject that can be made more popular than religion with the heart of Jesus in it; there is no theme more practical or more sublime. Let the preachers of to-day bring out religion as a life the most beautiful, and the safest and most successful to be embraced, because it is life the highest and the most divinely real; let this be shown and it will not need the promise of a future heaven to bribe people to take it; nor the threat of endless hell if they don't. Religion is life. So understand it will stand on its own merits, and will attract with an irresistible persuasiveness to itself."

THE FLIGHT OF THE GULLS.—Mono Lake, near Bodie, Nev., was the breeding place of thousands of gulls, curlews and other water birds for years until it was suddenly discovered that their eggs had a market value. Hundreds of egg hunters last year camped down about the lake and utterly despoiled the nests. As a result the birds have forsaken the place and this year the number that came there to breed could be counted. Where they have gone has not been discovered, but they have apparently emigrated in a body.

The silence that accepts merit as the most natural thing in the world is the highest applause.

When a man is wrong, and won't admit it, he always gets angry.