

State of the State
Governor E. W. Marland
January 3, 1939

To the Members of the Honorable Senate
And Honorable House of Representatives
Of the Seventeenth Legislature
Gentlemen:

The Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, Article VI, Section 9, provides "At every session of the Legislature, and immediately upon its organization, the Governor shall communicate by message, delivered to a joint session of the two Houses, upon the condition of the State and shall recommend such matters to the Legislature as he shall judge expedient. He shall also transmit a copy to each house, of the full report of each State officer and State commission."

I here and now transmit a copy to each House and the full report of each officer and State commission, as has been submitted to me. For the convenience of your Honorable Body a summary of these reports is attached hereto and made a part of this message.

In making this report to the Seventeenth Legislature I wish to direct your attention to some public specific accomplishments of this administration; I will leave to my successor the task or recommending future legislation to this body.

During this administration and the sessions of two legislatures, the 15th and 16th, there has been written into our Constitution by vote of the people, and into our laws by legislative enactment, a great program that in its broad interpretation may be defined as "The advancement of social security." Its effect in a very general way has been two-fold; on the one hand it has retarded if not prevented human erosion, and given some measure of social security to those most needing it; and on the other hand it has gone a long way in the conservation of our natural resources. Its continuance means manifold blessings to the great mass of our people.

In the field of retarding if not preventing human erosion there are some specific accomplishments to which we can justly point with pride and to which I desire to call your attention. The first of these is the prison reform program. Ignorance is more responsible for crime than any other one thing and starting from this premise the administration has set up schools in our penitentiary, giving men an opportunity to read and write and study who never had the chance to learn before. The Manual Training School, nearing completion at the Sub-prison in Stringtown, is probably a step in advance of any other penal institution in America. We will teach our first term prisoners how to make a living with their hands so when they are released from prison they can become useful members of society.

Next in importance in this general field is the enactment of the social security laws, the creation of the Public Welfare Commission cooperating with the Federal Social Security Board in providing assistance for the aged needy, the dependent children, and the needy blind.

Between September 1, 1936, and October 1, 1938, a period of twenty five months, a total of \$27,076,135 was distributed in assistance to the aged, the blind, and the needy children. The State of Oklahoma provided, through its sales tax, \$15,583,581.70 of this sum and the Federal Board \$11,492,553.30. This distribution was divided to give 84,938 aged needy \$22,535,497; 55,120 dependent children in 23,938 homes a total of \$3,085,348; and 2,300 needy blind a total of \$555,290. The average monthly aid to aged needy at this time is \$20. The 1st of December, 1938, 65,064 aged needy were given \$1,297,413; 35,190 dependent children from 15,237 families received \$213,885; and 2,020 needy blind were paid \$32,563.

Along this same line of aid to humanity the State Welfare Board since March, 1935, has provided a total of \$11,783,100 of State funds and \$1,082,506.73 of Federal funds for relief of those groups not cared for under the Social Security Law. The attached report gives the details of how this sum was spent, but it is not amiss here to call your attention to the fact that board distributed \$1,177,649.17 worth of food at wholesale prices to needy families; that hot lunches were provided an average of 145,000 school children each day at a cost of two and one-half cents per meal, and that 150,000 corduroy and gabardine suits were given to needy children, the suits costing an average of \$1.75 each. In addition the board purchase from the penitentiary \$55,507.84 in shirts, overalls, and trousers which were given to needy men and boys. During December, 1938, the caseload of the Welfare Board was 214,881 individuals from 59,401 families, getting State aid and Federal commodities. Of this total 100,695 individuals in 33,662 families were on general State relief. In addition to this, commodities were furnished for hot lunches for 108,017 school children.

While these material benefits were being provided our people, this administration also, through the Health Department, has launched a ten-year health program which has brought a complete health survey of Oklahoma by the American Public Health Association without cost to the State. In addition the Commonwealth Fund of New York has become interested in Oklahoma's health problems and has a technical field unit to work among the full time county health units of the State. All of which is going to mean healthier living conditions just as our Social Security Program means better and more secure living conditions.

While the last four years have seen Oklahoma make great strides in the conservation and security of our human resources, we have in that same time gone far ahead in conservation of our natural resources. The problem of saving our rich soil long has been an acute one but it is now being solved through the Soil Conservation Committee and other legislation provided during this administration.

At this time the Soil Conservation Committee has approved twenty-four soil conservancy districts for which farmers have asked approval, and this has brought 12,408,863 acres of land into the soil conservation program.

At the same time through the work of the Planning and Resources Board the Grand River Dam has been started with its great flood control and its hydroelectric possibilities. And along this line the State has received a vast amount of Federal Aid for the flood control projects at Fort Supply and the Great Salt Plains.

Hundreds of farm ponds have been built in every section of the State much to the advantage of the farmers in that rainfall and moisture has been held in storage. Through the activities of the present Planning and Resources Board and the former Planning Board and Conservation Commission the Federal Government has either expended or authorized to be expended in Oklahoma for flood control and other conservation work a total of more than \$140,000,000.

Just in the last year more than 75,000 acres of farm lands have been terraced, and contour lines have been run on an additional 20,000 acres in preparation for terracing.

In the last three years more than one and one-half million cattle have been tested for Bangs' disease and every county has been accredited for bovine tuberculosis. A program of creamery and dairy products improvement has been launched, while inspection of fruits and vegetables for quality and quantity has saved more than \$50,000 to the growers.

Oil, next to agriculture, is our greatest resource and in this administration Oklahoma took the lead in creating the Interstate Oil Compact. This voluntary organization together with the action of the Corporation Commission and similar agencies has been a vital factor in preventing waste of our oil and gas resources, as well as maintaining the industry on a stabilized basis to a

greater extent than in any similar given period of time in the industry's history. The industry itself and high government officials in Washington have publicly praised the work of the Compact and the State regulatory bodies which have fully cooperated with the Compact Commission.

The Geological Survey was reestablished during this administration after four years of idleness and is now under control of the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma. The survey has found low grade deposits of phosphate suitable for fertilizer, and growing tests are now being made by A. & M. College. The survey has mapped more than 100,000 rural water wells and considerable experimenting has been done with rock wool manufacture. The survey has located huge deposits of building materials.

The conservation and development of State parks, recreational centers and forest preserves, has brought an expenditure of more than \$5,000,000 by the Federal Government and given Oklahoma exceptionally fine reforestation and forest protection against fire, including fire protection of more than 1,500,000 acres of privately owned forests.

Much also has been done toward ending the pollution of streams. The oil companies of the State have cooperated in this work, spending about \$1,500,000 from their private sources to help solve this problem.

Along with clearing our streams and creating forest and park preserves, the State during this administration has also provided for the outdoor life by placing more than 16,000,000 game fish in the streams and lakes of the State and liberating more than 8,000 young quail.

For the first time in the history of Oklahoma the public schools have been adequately financed and each of the 4,738 districts have had a nine months term of school where the people of the district have voted for such a term.

More than 100,000 school children have been safely transported to these schools. In this connection the State Fire Marshal has done a great work in school building inspection, and the Public Safety Department fine work in inspection of school buses. Between these two departments the lives of school children have been made less hazardous. The safety department has inspected 1,823 school buses and condemned 269 as dangerous and rated 725 as satisfactory while 476 were found in only fair condition.

Until the spring of 1937 the State Board of Education was seriously handicapped in providing proper courses of education but this condition has been partly remedied. Likewise, during the last three years there has been notable improvement in the curricula of teacher training schools. Our educational institutions nearly all show vast enrollment increases and in some of them the growth in student population has been tremendous. In some of the smaller state schools there has been a decline in freshman work, some of the schools dropping this entirely. There is no question but more adequate provision must be made for caring for the students at our institutions of higher learning.

Your attention is specifically directed to the report of the State Treasurer as having a bearing on the financial condition of the State. The Treasurer's report shows that for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1938, the total receipts to the General Revenue Fund were \$24,477,488.90 and that the specific appropriations from the General Revenue Fund for the same fiscal year amounted to \$34,058,164.50 or over \$9,000,000 in excess of the actual income. This wide difference between appropriations and income is accounted for by the fact that when the Sixteenth Legislature was in session the economic outlook trend was upward. Later there was a recession which brought a sharp reduction in the revenues to the State from the gross production, income, and other taxes that go to make up the General Revenue Fund.

Yet the State's credit is good. This is proved by the fact that the last issue of tax anticipation notes, authorized by the last legislature and held legal by our Supreme Court, was oversubscribed despite the fact the interest rate was only one and one-quarter per cent. Four

years ago the annual interest charge on the State debt was \$1,051,080 and at the present time it is \$378,300. Thus, this administration has been able to save the taxpayers \$672,780 a year in interest charges against the debts of the State. This was done through the enactment of the tax anticipation note law and the improved credit of the State. It will be recalled that at the start of this administration our warrants were non-payable and cashable only at a discount, and were drawing six per cent interest. Today we have no non-payable warrants. The highest rate our treasury notes have carried was 2.28 per cent and each issue has seen the rate dropped so good is the credit of the State.

Since 1936 the State Budget Officer has represented the State's interest in the oil wells on Capitol and Hospital grounds, and he reports that a total of 4,351,049 barrels of oil have been produced, which gave the state an income of \$1,459,096. In addition to this huge sum from royalties, the State has received \$668,129 in bonus money for leasing the lands for drilling purposes. This makes a total of \$2,127,225 the State has received. Out of this sum the legislature appropriated \$1,000,000 for a new State Office Building and Armory. Both these structures have been completed, the office building costing \$800,000 and the armory \$200,000.

The Oklahoma Tax Commission during the present administration has collected \$5,517,929.87 in delinquent and additional income taxes. Although the work of tax collection has trebled since the Tax Commission law was enacted the percentage cost has not even doubled. Figures reveal that in the fiscal year of 1931-32 the total amount collected was \$22,355,199.65 while for the fiscal year 1937-38 it required only .6 per cent to collect \$61,718,991.61. And this included the cost of many additional auditors and the numbers of inspectors required by new revenue laws.

In a general discussion of the State finances it should not be amiss to call attention to the fact that the State Insurance Fund has grown from a surplus of \$40,384.36 on January 1, 1935, to a surplus of \$169,824 on September 1, 1938, and that the earned premiums have jumped from \$375,000 to more than half a million dollars in the same period of time.

It is worthwhile to note that during this administration the Fire Marshal's activities in prosecuting arson cases and in condemning fire trap buildings has brought a reduction of twenty per cent in fire insurance rates. At the same time the work of the Public Safety Department through its stolen car division and its highway patrol has saved the motorists of Oklahoma \$1,065,000 in insurance rates.

It will interest you to know that between January 1, 1935, and October 15, 1938, the Securities Commission (Blue Sky Law) has passed on 147 different securities offered for sale in this State with a total face value of \$473,201,150. Nearly \$2,000,000 were denied entirely, \$200,000 were not allowed even to be filed, application for \$131,000 were never perfected, and \$240,000 were withdrawn.

Another matter of general financial interest is that the State Board of Equalization, during this four-year period has brought about a net reduction in ad valorem taxes of \$8,806,036 through reduction in assessed values. Your attention should be directed to the fact that in eight years the total assessed valuation of all real and personal property and public service corporations has been reduced more than six hundred million dollars. In 1930 the total assessed value of these three groups of properties was \$1,851,601,918 while for 1938 the total assessed value of these same properties had dropped to \$1,224,122,260, a net loss in valuation of \$627,479,658. I might also remind you that in 1930 the State General Revenue Fund received an income from a 3.5 mill ad valorem levy on the assessment of \$1,851,601,918.

While not strictly a part of the State's financial structure the question of homestead exemption enters into the general picture. Oklahoma during this administration has pioneered in homestead exemption and while it is not complete the exemption law has saved thousands of our

people from losing their homes because of inability to pay the taxes. This is particularly true of the little home owners who are exempted entirely by reason of the \$1,000 exemption figure.

The twenty-five year three per cent loan plan adopted by the School Land Department during this administration is the most outstanding accomplishment in farm credit policy anywhere in the nation. The reduction of interest rates on farm mortgages from five to three per cent, together with the general policy of investing school land funds in farm mortgages, states, and federal securities has given Oklahoma a thoroughly sound investment policy, working smoothly and profitably. This is shown by the fact that despite the reduced farm mortgage rate the annual earnings of the department during this four-year period have reached \$2,000,000.

Of equal if not greater importance is the establishment of a soil conservancy policy on about 100,000 acres of state school lands. This conservation work has cost an average of about \$2.25 per acre and has increased the value of these lands by about \$10 per acre.

The department has been completely reorganized during this administration and today is on a sound business basis. It has capital cash assets amounting to \$3,108,519.62; federal securities of \$2,578,000; State securities of \$4,032,000; municipal securities of \$59,500; or total liquid assets amounting to \$9,778,619.62, in addition it has mortgages amounting to \$28,145,048.79 and now holds 1,150,905.47 acres of land valued at \$12,858,484.14. The total resources of the department as of this date amounts to \$58,588,056.04.

While much of crime prevention and detection has devolved upon the sheriffs and local peace officers, the State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification has been reorganized during the last year and has been able to cooperate with local authorities. The Bureau in its own right has investigated ninety-three major crimes, has made fifty-eight arrests, and secured twenty-eight convictions carrying a grand total of 906 years imprisonment. There are still pending twenty more cases awaiting trial.

The prison populations have been constantly increasing and only by the intelligent use of executive clemency has it been possible to prevent the overcrowded conditions in our penal institutions resulting in serious disturbances.

From January 14, 1935, to November 25, 1938, this administration has granted 1,637 paroles and given pardons and restoration of citizenship to the number of 322. (As required by the Constitution a complete list of acts of clemency and reason therefor is submitted herewith to the legislature.) On January 14, 1935, there were 3,581 prisoners in the penitentiary at McAlester and 700 in the Reformatory at Granite, while on November 25, 1938, there were 3,272 at McAlester and 718 at Granite. The peak in our prison populations was reached at McAlester on November 3, 1935, when there were 4,047 prisoners at the institution, while at Granite the peak was reached April 3, 1936, with a total prison population there of 825. It should be noted that this administration has revoked 168 paroles from the McAlester penitentiary and 112 from the Granite reformatory along with five from the county jails of the State combined.

Due in part to our parole system and in part to our prison industry activity a high state of morale has been preserved in our penal institutions. The least trouble has occurred among our prisoners since we introduced schools and industrial activities behind the walls than has ever been known before. Our educational endeavors have yielded great returns to our convicts. More than a thousand can now read and write who could not do so before.

Our industrial activity has made a great saving for the State in its general program through the manufacture of school clothes and shoes behind the walls for our citizens who are on relief. The fact that these clothes and shoes and mattresses have been purchased by the State Welfare Board at a price fair to our institutions is reflected in the figures of the penitentiary's revolving fund, which at the beginning of the present administration was almost entirely depleted

and now has cash and receivables and materials on hand to the value of approximately half a million dollars.

The overcrowded conditions in the penal institutions are but a picture of what exists in all the corrective and eleemosynary institutions also. On July 1, 1938, the population of the sixteen penal, corrective, and eleemosynary institutions was 14,371; an increase of thirty-three and one-half per cent in the last ten years and eight and one-half per cent in the last four years.

The four white mental hospitals reveal a serious situation and also present a startling figure. From January 1, 1930, to December 31, 1937, the State population increased about six per cent, according to reliable figures, while the total population of the four mental hospitals for whites increased an average of about fifty-four per cent. The institutional population increases are shown for the period from July 1, 1929, to July 1, 1938, to have been Vinita, 54.1 per cent; Norman, 33.1 per cent; Supply, 74.5 per cent, and Enid, 60 per cent. Including the negro mental hospital at Taft the population increase was 51 per cent during the ten year period and 21.5 per cent during the last four years.

During this administration the average per capita cost was fifty-five cents and the total population increase in the sixteen institutions was 1,127. It is thus quickly seen that this increased population adds \$225,000 to the cost of maintenance and yet our per capita figure is lower than that in forty-four other states. The new buildings now being constructed at the Vinita Hospital will relieve the crowded condition there but at Enid Hospital a most acute situation prevails.

The wards of the State in our three orphanages have been seriously handicapped by the poor condition of buildings and lack of educational facilities. Some of the physical property conditions were corrected by the last legislature, yet with a population of nine hundred in these three institutions, much remains to be done.

During this administration the citizens of Oklahoma appear to have awakened to their responsibility toward these orphaned wards of the State and the result is that in the last four years placement officers of these institutions have had greater success in finding good homes for these children. During this administration homes have been found for 1,240 of these orphans. Out of the Whitaker Home at Pryor 480 orphans were sent to good homes; from the Western Oklahoma Home at Helena 400 orphans were placed in homes, and from the Negro Institution at Taft 360 children went into private homes. This is a record of placements that has not been equalled in any other four year period.

Not only in the orphanages but in our corrective institutions, placement officers have played a big part in the redemption of mis-directed youths. For example in the training school for white girls the population in 1934 was 258 while in 1938 it was only 217. The decrease is accounted for by the work of the placement officers. The same holds true of the training school for Negro girls where the 50 population of 1934 was reduced to 35 in 1938. In both cases there was a constant flow of committed girls but the placements balanced this influx.

The training school for boys show less effective placement or an alarming increase in juvenile delinquency. At Pauls Valley there were 191 white boys in 1934 and 282 in 1938. Likewise, in the training school for Negro boys the population of 90 in 1934 jumped to 132 in 1938. There is no doubt but what there has been a material increase in juvenile delinquency. There have been suggestions from county judges that the age limit for the boys' training schools should be raised to twenty-one years instead of stopping at eighteen years. It is argued that there would be better chance of redemption in the training schools than in the institutions at McAlester and Granite.

There has been a considerable increase in the number of patients in the tubercular sanitariums at Talihina and Clinton. In the former institution there were 245 patients in 1934 and

341 in 1938, showing the acute need of larger facilities. At the Clinton institution the increase in the number of tubercular patients was from 222 in 1934 to 276 in 1938.

This report on our institutions would not be complete without some reference to the efforts toward making them self-supporting. In several of these institutions a program of growing, processing and preserving fruits and vegetables for the use of the several institutions has been developed with great success. The production report for 1938 is not yet complete but this program has brought a material saving in the operating costs of these institutions.

Modern and complete canning plants have been erected in the penitentiary at McAlester and the institutions at Taft and Vinita. A major portion of the foods preserved was produced on State owned farms and by inmate labor. Irrigation has been tried with great success in the institution at Supply and also at Granite.

During this administration two special memorial commissions have done a notable work in preserving to posterity the achievements of two Oklahomans.

The Will Rogers Memorial Commission has erected at Claremore the greatest tribute to the memory of an Oklahoman that could be built. The Will Rogers Memorial Museum was dedicated November 4, 1938, with impressive ceremonies in which the President of the United States took part over a nation-wide radio hook-up. Notables in the world of the cinema and aviation also participated as well as thousands of Oklahomans. This will for all time be the outstanding museum of the State.

The Haskell Memorial Commission secured a magnificent bust of Oklahoma's first governor which is now in the Blue Room of the Capitol, and also erected a fine shaft to his memory in the cemetery at Muskogee.

The Fort Gibson Stockade Commission has restored the old historic fort and already visitors from every State and from some foreign countries have registered at the spot.

The work of some of the so-called independent boards and commissions during the last four years reflects a spirit of good thinking on the part of our people.

Notably the Library Commission. During the last two years this commission, with about 80,000 volumes in its library, has furnished the rural communities of the State with 266,342 books, the largest number sent for such purposes in a similar period of time. The commission has also sent more than 77,000 volumes of reference works out over the State in response to about 20,000 requests for such books.

Since the enactment of the present law, 15,773 crippled children have been sent to the Crippled Children's Hospital compared with 13,313 sent by county courts in the preceding eight years.

For the fiscal years from 1927 to 1938, inclusive, the State has cared for 29,086 crippled children and statistics reveal that 26.2 per cent of the crippling came from infantile paralysis, while 18.2 per cent of this crippling was due to congenital causes.

The Industrial Welfare Commission (Minimum Wage Law) has established codes in nine industries so that about 300,000 workers are affected by the wage and hour provisions of these codes, which are now before our courts.

The work of the State Industrial Commission dealing with compensation claims of injured workmen is another matter worthy of calling your attention. During this administration 28,756 injured workmen have been allowed \$7,896,333.25 under the Workmen's Compensation Law. On January 1, 1935, there were 1,552 cases pending before the Commission. During the four-year period there were 27,389 cases filed out of a total of 96,399 notices of injury received by the Commission. There were 300 appeals from decisions of the Commission during this administration and only 72 reversals, leaving 84 cases pending in the Supreme Court as of June 30, 1938, the latest date of the report of the Commission. It is interesting to note that in 1935 the

Commission allowed compensation claims amounting to \$1,810,645.14 while in the first six months of 1938 the Commission allowed \$1,349,706.42 in injury claims.

House Bill No. 1 of the First Extraordinary Session of the Sixteenth Legislature, approved by me as Governor on December 12, 1936, provided for the payment of unemployment compensation and the stabilization of employment. Payments began on the first of last month and at that time the Unemployment Compensation Division had to its credit in the unemployment trust fund account held by the Federal Government over \$11,000,000, paid in by employers and employees.

The Soldier Relief Commission in the last three years has placed 1,375 veterans in the Veterans Ward at the University Hospital and in that same period of time assistance has been given to 21,000 child welfare cases coming under the commission's jurisdiction. In addition the Veterans Hospital at Sulphur has had its 108 beds occupied all the time.

In the Adult Blind Commission more than 3,000 lessons in Braille, typewriting, weaving, leathercraft, and domestic science have been given to the blind of the State by the two teachers. In addition, nineteen stands in public buildings, provided for by the last legislature have earned for the blind operators an average monthly income of \$51.

The Textbook Commission has not made very many changes in the texts used. The previous commission had adopted nineteen different texts and the commission of this administration has made only eight changes, all for the betterment of the school children.

The State Highway Department during this administration has added 570 miles to the State system, has improved 2,062.2 miles of roads that were in the system and has spent \$41,670,505.49 for construction along with \$9,727,501.87 for maintenance.

The Federal contributions during this administration toward this highway program amounted to \$23,731,213. Statistics show that during the four-year period of this administration the State has added 314.9 miles of concrete, asphalt on concrete or brick to the improvement of the system, and at the same time has added 427.9 miles of asphaltic surface on a gravel base. In addition 1,228.8 miles of gravel and earth roads have been treated. These two kinds of improvement have made a sharp decrease in the total number of untreated gravel and unimproved earth roads in the State system.

Along with the other work of the department 63 dangerous grade crossings were eliminated during this administration, and eight grade crossing structures were revised for greater safety. The four-year period saw the relocation of four grade crossing separations and the installation of 42 protection devices at grade crossings. These improvements for safety at grade crossing cost the State only \$387,317.67 while the Federal Government contributed \$5,158,503.03 making the total cost of the grade separation program during this administration \$5,545,820.70.

The Grand River Dam Authority, established by this administration, has gone forward and actual work on the big flood control project on the Grand River started February 7, 1938. Under terms of an agreement with the Federal Government the Public Works Administration will buy \$11,563,000 of the Grand River Dam Authority's revenue bonds and make a grant of \$8,437,000 to carry forward this work.

The reports of the various boards and commissions, dealing with the professions, indicate very pointedly that these commissions have maintained high standards for the various professions which they represent, and for the most part the commissions have worked in exceptionally fine harmony among themselves and with the members of their own professions. The whole trend has been toward higher ethical and business standards and a better service to humanity.

Two years ago, I said in my message to the members of the Sixteenth Legislature, and I quote, "Apparently conditions are much improved over those of two years ago when I first addressed you. I say 'apparently' because I believe that only on the surface have conditions improved greatly; fundamentally we are on a very little sounder basis than we were." (Unquote.) I feel today as I did then, two years ago, that there is very little improvement in the fundamental conditions of our State. I have recent estimates made by an authoritative source, the NEC, that there are 1,123,000 individuals in Oklahoma out of a total population of 2,528,000 who are receiving some form of Federal or State benefits. It is reported that there are 318,438 families in Oklahoma getting these benefits. They include 99,422 families getting AAA checks, 23,435 families getting Farm Security checks, 6,748 families getting CCC benefit checks, 707 families getting Emergency Crop benefits. There are 69,130 families getting WPA relief jobs, all from the Federal Government, and in addition to this we have those receiving old age assistance, the needy children, needy blind, and direct relief from the Welfare Board with its distribution of Federal Surplus commodities. We have no way of knowing how many more may be employed in Oklahoma on PWA work, and they are not included in the 318,000 families who are being aided.

These are startling figures and to my mind depict the actual situation in Oklahoma better than could be shown in any other way. It is reasonable to question what would be the situation of our Oklahoma families if they did not receive these Federal benefits, and what would be the condition of the 100,000 individuals if the State failed to provide the meager measure of relief it is now providing.

You gentlemen have a heavy responsibility. The machinery of our whole economic order has broken down, failed to function under the strain of the technological acceleration that has come upon us. The inability of willing, able-bodied men to find employment at wages in private industry because of its increasing technology challenges the best political thought. It is evident that the human problems of labor and unemployment cannot be solved by our State alone but must be attacked through cooperation of the several states with industry and the Federal Government.

It is estimated there are over 10,000,000 unemployed men in the nation. I estimate there are over 200,000 men in Oklahoma who can find no regular, gainful employment in productive industry. Government is not worthy of the name that does not devote itself to the solutions of the problems of labor and unemployment so vital to the general welfare.

Gentlemen, though I am leaving you soon as your Chief Executive, as a private citizen my heart will always be with you and with the people of Oklahoma.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE
STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

E. W. MARLAND.

About Digitizing the Governors' State of the State Addresses

Section 9, Article 6 of the Constitution of Oklahoma provides as follows:

“At every session of the Legislature, and immediately upon its organization, the Governor shall communicate by message, delivered to joint session of the two houses, upon the condition of the State; and shall recommend such matters to the Legislature as he shall judge expedient.”

From statehood in 1907 to present, the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors have been recorded in pamphlets, booklets, and Senate Journals. One could not foresee the toll that time would take on the earliest of these documents. When these items first arrived at the Oklahoma State Archives, the leather bindings had dried considerably, cracking the spines significantly. Due to the acidity in the paper, many pages have darkened with age. Some of the more brittle pamphlets crumble at the slightest touch.

Thus when we decided to digitize these materials, we faced two challenges: the safety of the original documents and ease of viewing/reading for patrons. Our primary objective was that the unique and historic qualities of the documents should be reflected in the website. However, older fonts would not digitize clearly when scanned and even using a flatbed scanner could cause the bindings to worsen. An image of each page would increase download time considerably and any hand-written remarks or crooked pages could be lost. We decided to retype each document with every period, comma, and misspelled word to maintain the integrity of the document while placing some unique images of the documents online. Patrons can download the addresses quicker and view them clearer as well as save, print, and zoom with the Adobe Acrobat Reader. We have learned much from our efforts and we hope that our patrons are better served in their research on the state of the state addresses of Oklahoma's Governors.