

State of the State Address
Governor Martin Trapp
January 4, 1927

To the Honorable, The Senate, and Members
of the House of Representatives,
of the State of Oklahoma,
Eleventh Legislature:

In pursuance to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma, it becomes my humble duty to submit as briefly as possible a resume of the activities of the state government during the period of time that the responsibilities of the chief executive's office have rested with me, together with such recommendations as in my judgment are calculated to effectuate a more efficient and economical administration of the State's business.

Apparently it was the purpose of the framers of our State Constitution in providing for the convening of the State Legislature, prior to the inauguration of the new executive officers, to preserve for the State the benefits of the experience of the outgoing officers of the executive department. It is evident that the formulators of our State Constitution had in mind the fact that the retiring executive officers, by reason of having encountered the many difficulties incident to the administration of the State's business, would more naturally be better prepared to advise the Legislature of the necessary remedial legislation designed to promote more efficient, economical and stable government.

My only purpose, therefore, in submitting this message to this honorable body is to comply fully with the mandate of the Constitution of our State, and is without the slightest purpose of encroaching upon the prerogatives of the incoming administration, or to project the policies of this administration into the next.

I believe it is not too much to say that during the past two or three years, the State has enjoyed, as a whole, its period of most substantial prosperity, uninfluenced by unnatural inflation and unhampered by unnatural depression. As an evidence of the prosperity referred to, I call your special attention to the fact that at this particular time, the municipalities and sub-divisions of the State of Oklahoma are able to negotiate bonds on the market of the world at the lowest rate of interest ever known in the history of this State. Likewise have industrial bonds, farm mortgages and other instruments of credit enjoyed the same advantages. Labor has been profitably employed and the worker has been permitted to labor without tribute to any other, and to receive the full result of his toil. Cities are expanding, progress is the order of the day, and the state government has not only kept pace with this unusual advancement, but has stabilized government upon which all credit and progress must finally rest. I take solemn pride in the fact that I leave to those who follow, a government with every department and institution functioning efficiently and at full capacity; a loyal and patriotic people, working out under peaceable conditions the great destiny that awaits them.

At this juncture, I desire to discuss somewhat in detail some of the more pressing problems that confront the citizenship of our State:

AGRICULTURE

AGRICULTURE is one of the principal industries of the State of Oklahoma. In fact, it is the outstanding, predominating industry, as is largely the case in all of the Mississippi Valley states, and is a national question rather than a State problem. There is little that can be done by the Legislature to remedy the unfortunate depression in this great industry save and except an economical, efficient administration, one that will carefully safeguard property rights, and the orderly and legitimate pursuit of the vocation.

The State of Oklahoma has in the past established an Agricultural and Mechanical College and has built up a very efficient Agricultural Department, dealing with the analyses of the soil and with the planting, cultivating and harvesting of production. Several experiment stations have been established at different places, in order to demonstrate the adaptability of the soil, together with climatical conditions, so as to determine the most profitable crop to be planted and produced in the different sections of the State. The Agricultural and Mechanical College, located at Stillwater, Oklahoma, under the general supervision and control of the State Board of Agriculture, has in practically all of the counties of the State maintained a county agent to advise with the farmers concerning the best methods to pursue in order to reap the maximum productions from their land. Likewise, home demonstration agents are maintained in many of the counties, dealing with home economics, preserving of fruits and vegetables, and general domestic science, all of which is calculated to economize in expenditures and bring about the maximum return from the soil. It appears that about as much is being done along this line as can reasonably be done. It is a commendable service and should be continued, encouraged and extended. In this connection, the Federal Government has aided and the co-operation between State and Federal Government has been most amicable and serviceable.

In Oklahoma, as is the case in the other Mississippi Valley states, the principal problems of its farming life are connected with the distribution of its agricultural products. The farmer, after having run the risk of climatic conditions, growing of the seed, and the many difficulties encountered to mature his crop, must still encounter another hazard as to whether or not he may be able to market the same upon a remunerative basis.

Inasmuch as the agricultural population of our State constitutes a very large percentage of our tax-payers, it would seem to me that steps could and should be taken whereby there could be created by law a committee imbued with complete understanding of the agricultural situation and having full authority to represent the agricultural interests of the State of Oklahoma in the National Capitol during each session of Congress. The appropriation necessary to maintain such a committee at the National Capitol would be insignificant when compared with a transcendent importance to our State of our agricultural industry and the incalculable benefits that might reasonably be expected to accrue therefrom to that vital pursuit.

It is reasonable to expect that the several states of the Union in which the agricultural industry predominates will readily co-operate in any such plan designed to promote better conditions for the American farmer. In this connection, I heartily recommend a substantial appropriation to defray the expenses and per diem of such a delegation under such terms and regulations as may seem most advisable. There can be no question but that such delegation would receive courteous and immediate attention at the hands of the members of Congress representing the agricultural states, and especially from the members of the delegation from Oklahoma, all of whom are anxiously awaiting any opportunity to aid the great agricultural industry. Even a casual observation reveals that each of the great industries of the nation – manufacturing, professional pursuits, merchandising, banking, etc. – retains at the National Capitol during each session of Congress to look after the interests of such classifications, adroit diplomats and skillful lobbyists. It will thus be observed that every line of business is not only represented in Congress by interested and capable men, but is likewise provided with able men who are not members of Congress. While all this is being done, agricultural interests are constantly being neglected by this undue stimulation of interest in other vocations and industries.

WEAK SCHOOLS

EDUCATION is the foundation stone upon which civilization rests. There is nothing more essential to its perpetuity than the advancement of the public school system. Clearly it is the duty of the government, and in this instance, this State, to devise a plan by which adequate school facilities may be placed in the immediate proximity of every child of school age. The people of this commonwealth may view with pride the progress heretofore made in this field. The State has not only provided means by which common schools may be maintained throughout the State generally, but has established many splendid institutions of higher learning, all of which is a manifestation of the willingness of the people to meet this paramount issue. Unfortunately, however, there are some districts throughout the State in which the taxable wealth is insufficient under the maximum levy to provide sufficient funds to maintain adequate school facilities. In recent years it has become the custom of the Legislature to appropriate from the general revenue fund monies to be apportioned among such needy districts. It appears to me that this method of caring for this important matter is cumbersome and inefficient, if not extravagant and wasteful. It seems to me that it is plainly within its province and preeminently better if the Legislature would create a permanent fund to accrue annually and to be distributed among such districts by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction under rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of Education. In this way, a proper distribution of such funds so provided could be made with complete understanding of the necessities of the situation and in a purely scientific manner. With this idea in mind, it was my pleasure to urge the passage of House Bill No. 98, being Chapter 123, Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1925.

This bill as originally introduced provided that the revenues derived from the one-fourth of one mill levy provided for by the Constitution, for aid to the public schools, and the one-fourth of one mill levy for highway construction, as provided for in Section 10204, Compiled Oklahoma Statutes, 1921, should accrue to a fund to be known as a "State Fund for Aid of Weak Schools." This bill, in pursuing its course in the legislative mill, was changed by striking the one-fourth of a mill tax, as provided in Section 10204, Compiled Oklahoma Statutes, 1921, as well as having been amended in other ways, possibly making it in some measure impracticable. A re-enactment of Chapter 123, Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1925, adding the further one-fourth mill heretofore omitted, together with such other remedial amendments necessary to make the law entirely practicable, would provide approximately \$850,000.00 annually, based upon our present taxable valuation. This is substantially greater than any amount heretofore appropriated for any one year for that purpose, will not increase taxation and in my judgment will provide ample permanent relief for the weak schools of Oklahoma.

TEXT BOOKS

On this important question I can do no more than to rehearse some of what has been said and done with respect thereto. In the beginning, permit me to call to your attention House Bill No. 197, passed by the Ninth Legislature, being Chapter 175, Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1923, wherein provision was made for free text books. This bill made a total appropriation of \$950,000.00 with which to carry into effect the provisions of the law. Acting

upon the advice of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, it became my duty to advise the Ninth Legislature in its Second Extraordinary Session that the amount so appropriated was insufficient to supply the books required. The Ninth Legislature, however, failed to make additional appropriations. Thereafter, the State Superintendent, the Honorable M. A. Nash, and myself set out to select the personnel of the text book commission, and with some effort we secured a text book commission composed of some of the ablest educators and business men in the State.

This text book commission was duly assembled and through its deliberations a system of text books for use in the public schools of the State was adopted. Upon conclusion of their services the commission received practically universal commendation from the press and public and the books so adopted met with the approval of the teaching profession and of the people in general. Notwithstanding the scientific research and compilation made by Superintendent Nash as to the needed funds to carry this law into effect, and the previous admonitions to the Ninth Legislature, it was now found necessary, with the advent of the Tenth Legislature, to renew the request for an appropriation to pay the deficiency arising by reason of the purchase of a complete supply of books for the first year's use. Whereupon the Tenth Legislature appropriated an additional sum of \$650,000.00, making for the first year's operations under this law, a total expenditure in this experiment of \$1,600,000.00. This quite naturally created an unfavorable impression and the Tenth Legislature passed Senate Bill No. 54, repealing Chapter 175 of the Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1923, and re-enacted such provisions of the law as had been repealed thereby. Senate Bill No. 54, as adopted by the Tenth Legislature, failed to carry the emergency clause and was referred to the people by a referendum petition. This, under the referendum provision of our Constitution, suspended the operation of the repealing Act, pending the disposition by the people of the referendum petition. At the general election held November 2, 1926, the matter was duly submitted to the people for their approval or rejection and by the judgment of the electors of the State the repeal of the free text book law was overwhelmingly approved. Thus it will be seen that this most important question received the careful consideration of the Ninth and Tenth Legislatures, and was then subsequently submitted to the people of the State, according the opportunity to each individual elector to express his or her views.

After this revolution, of events, we find the law now as it was in the beginning, and it would appear to me that the law as it now stands with relation to the adoption, distribution and use of text books is quite sufficient, save and except Section 10545, Compiled Oklahoma Statutes, 1921, relating to the method of furnishing free text books to the children or wards of those financially distressed.

In concluding the discussion of this subject, I heartily recommend the enactment of a law making it mandatory upon the school boards of the several school districts of this State and upon the various boards of education to make a complete survey of their respective school units in order that they may ascertain the number of parents and guardians who, to them, seem unable to furnish text books for the children in their charge, and to make to the proper county superintendent, at least thirty days prior to the beginning of any regular school term, a complete report of such needy persons. Upon receipt of such report by the county superintendent, that official shall make requisition on the State Superintendent for such books as are required and thereupon the State Superintendent shall forward, at the expense of the State, to the county superintendent the books thus requisitioned. Inasmuch as the State has acquired, under the operation of the free text book law, \$1,600,000.00 worth of school books, the disposition of which has not been determined by law, it seems reasonable to assume that this supply will be entirely sufficient, during the life of the present adoption, to take care of any requirements for free text books arising under such a law, and this without any further expense to the tax-payers of the State.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

It will be remembered that in the Tenth Legislature certain important economic questions were carefully considered. Among them were the following: House Bill No. 369 was passed by the Tenth Legislature, repealing Sections 11015 and 11016 of the Compiled Oklahoma Statutes, 1921, which prescribed a certain method of labeling prison-made goods. It was very evident that the law was originally designed to prevent the sale of prison-made commodities on a proper competitive basis. This greatly hampered the program of making the penitentiary self-supporting. An opinion of the Supreme Court upholding the law referred to was called to my attention during the session of the Legislature, whereupon I immediately requested the Legislature to repeal the sections referred to. This was done by the passage of House Bill No. 369. The emergency clause not being attached to this bill, certain manufacturing interests in the State, availing themselves of the provisions of the Constitution, secured petitions with the required number of signers, authorizing the submission of the question of the advisability of this repeal to the judgment of the electorate of the State. A referendum election was held, with the result that the Legislature was overwhelmingly sustained, and our penitentiary is now more than self-supporting.

Another instance in which the Legislature was decisively upheld was in referendum on Senate Bill No. 54, repealing Chapter 175, Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1923, known as the "Free Text Book" law.

I respectfully call the attention of Legislature to two measures, one of which was presented to the Legislature and by that body referred to the people, and the other of which was submitted to the people through an initiated measure. An effort was made to raise the gross production tax on oil and gas within the State and the

Legislature, in its wisdom, refused affirmative action on the subject, considering that there was and would be sufficient revenue for the purpose of state government without burdening this industry with an additional tax. After the Legislature refused action thereon, a measure was initiated for the same purpose and presented to the people and the action of the Legislature was sustained by a direct and positive vote.

There was also an agitation in the Legislature for an amendment to the Constitution providing for what was known as a "\$15.00 Per Capita Tax" for the aid of public schools throughout the State. The Legislature, after careful consideration of the subject, decided to present this matter to the people, with abiding confidence in their wisdom and integrity. The matter was discussed throughout the State, the people were informed on the subject, and again they rejected the amendment and placed themselves on record as unalterably opposed to any measure that would increase taxation within the limits of the State.

A bill was presented to the Legislature, the terms of which compelled all municipalities issuing bonds to issue them in annual serial maturities. The effect of this bill would be to prevent municipalities from obtaining the benefits of the lowest rates of interest and enjoying the latitude in the conduct of their own affairs to which they are justly entitled. This matter was presented to the people in the form of an initiative bill which was emphatically rejected by the voters of the State, and thus the law as it now is was approved by the people themselves. It affords the widest latitude in the financial conduct of municipal affairs, and has resulted in a large majority of bonds issued today being issued in serial form. This is due to the prosperity of the various bond-issuing communities and the stability of their markets. Thus the chosen agents of the bond-issuing municipalities are left free to protect themselves against any adverse situation that may arise, or to take advantage of any favorable conditions that may ensue.

The final action of the people in themselves settling these questions in permanent fashion demonstrates anew their capacity for self government, increases our faith in democratic government and relieves the Legislature from further responsibilities in connection with these vexatious problems. The net result of such direct action of the people, when combined with an economical administration of the State's affairs, is most gratifying. No moneys can be expended unless appropriated by the Legislature, and at the close of the last fiscal year, the State had in its general revenue fund approximately \$2,000,000.00 in excess of the appropriations authorized by the Legislature. There is, therefore no necessity for your body to seek new means or methods of taxation, or to increase the taxes now authorized and provided by law, as the present means of deriving revenue for the State government are more than adequate, as evidence by the surplus now in the treasury. This gratifying surplus is largely the result, of course, of a faithful and economic administration on the part of the various heads of the departments and institutions of the State government; and I must be permitted in this closing hour of my administration to extend to each one of them the thanks of the people they have served so well and my cordial appreciation of their unflinching co-operation.

STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

In the spring of 1924, the need in Oklahoma of an efficient and modernized state highway department was uppermost in the minds of many of our forward-looking citizens. For years road enthusiasts endeavored to place the business of road building upon a sound and intelligent basis. Previous efforts at road building by the State, while obtaining good results had been sporadic and decentralized, and it was felt that this important work could be systematized and carried on in an effective manner if remedial legislation could be secured. With this in mind the Ninth Legislature at its Second Special Session completely revised our road building statutes, abolished the position of state highway commissioner and created in its stead a three man commission to serve upon a per diem basis with an appointive secretary as executive and active head of the department. The highway laws were further amended by the Tenth Legislature, thus giving us the system under which we are now working.

The passage of a law providing for a tax on gasoline for road building purposes provided additional funds for maintenance and construction work. Plans were adopted for a state-wide connected system of highways under an efficient and well conceived plan of organization.

During the three-year period embraced in this report, the construction and maintenance of the State highway system has progressed steadily and at the maximum rate possible with the funds that have been available.

The State highway system has been enlarged by the addition of sections of State highway, thereby enabling the system to more adequately and completely serve the needs of the State, and at the present time the State highway system consists of 5,787 miles of highways, which connect every county seat with every other county seat in the State and embraces every major traffic route in the State. Every mile of this system is under daily patrol maintenance and the highway surface, regardless of the type or state of improvement, is kept in the best condition possible for the use of the public travel at all times.

Standard State highway route markers have been erected on all State highways, which are supplemented by a carefully planned and complete system of cautionary and directional signs. In addition to this, standard U. S. highway route markers have been erected on those routes which have been designated as parts of interstate or national highways. The interstate routes were designated by a joint board of state highway officials appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture for this purpose, and this board's recommendations concerning the selection and designation

of a primary interstate highway system serving the entire United States, has been approved and adopted by the American Association of State Highway Officials and the Secretary of Agriculture. The state highway map issued by the department has indicated thereon both the State highway system and the U. S. highway system in so far as it affects Oklahoma. Cyrus S. Avery, chairman of the Oklahoma State Highway Commission, was appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture as a member of the joint board which selected the interstate highway system and which devised the scheme of numbering the interstate highways.

During the past two years, much progress has been made in properly locating and constructing the road bed in accordance with standard design and practice on those sections of the State highway system which, because of the centers of population served and the volume of traffic carried, must be considered of primary importance.

The standard width of road bed adopted in thirty feet between side ditches. This provides for an eighteen foot width of pavement with shoulders six feet wide on either side, which makes it possible for vehicles stopping on the road for any reason, to get entirely off the paved area, thereby greatly reducing the accident hazard. About 600 miles of standard road bed has been constructed on the five per cent system in addition to those sections which have been paved. The road bed consists of the grading and drainage structures and all incidental work necessary to prepare the highway for paving. A very light surfacing of gravel has been placed upon the greater part of the mileage of state highways thus graded and drained which, under daily maintenance, will serve to offset an "all weather" road until such time as finances are available to replace the light gravel surfacing (10 cubic yards per 100 feet of road) with a standard form of pavement. The department has four survey parties continuously at work and is pushing vigorously the work of properly locating the State highway system. Many miles of distance between controlling points have been eliminated by careful location, uninfluenced by the circuitous or section line location of the present roads. Because of the fact that Oklahoma is at the present time in the early stages of its development, a much better opportunity is afforded to design and construct a properly located State highway system than is possible in the older states where property development along the old established routes has become intensive. The great benefits that will accrue to Oklahoma because of this condition will be more fully realized by the public in general in the future than at the present time. Many unnecessary railroad grade crossings have been eliminated; square turns and short curves done away with; excessive grades reduced; unsatisfactory drainage conditions have been corrected and the cost of construction in general has been greatly reduced by properly locating our highways. The highway and bridge contractors doing business with the State highway department have, as a whole, rendered most satisfactory service and have cooperated whole-heartedly with the department in its effort to increase the standards of workmanship and obtain a higher standard of construction. Due to the very efficient functioning of highway department testing laboratory, the quality of materials entering into our construction has measurably increased, and although our field engineers rigidly enforced the provisions of our specifications, our construction costs have not increased but show a general but slight decrease during the past three years which fact is brought out in a tabulation attached to the report of the highway commission which is to be submitted for your consideration.

Highway construction, using convict labor, has proven to be a successful venture. Two convict camps are now in operation. One established in October, 1924, has nearly completed the construction of 9.5 miles of heavy mountain construction involving much difficult rock excavation on State Highway No. 4 across the Arbuckle mountains in Murray and Carter counties. Another camp, established in April, 1925, has practically completed approximately ten miles of similar construction on State Highway No. 10 across the Kiamichi mountains in Pushmataha county. Both of these construction projects were ideally situated for construction with the use of convict labor, in that they are in isolated, sparsely settled districts and the work involved was heavy and did not require the men to be scattered out over any great extent of territory.

The laws under which the State Highway Department is operating have enabled us to function very well, but some minor changes are recommended. The laws providing for the acquirement of right-of-way under the State's right of eminent domain are so written that the procedure is slow and cumbersome. In many instances important construction has been delayed for periods of time out of all proportion to the value of the land necessary to acquire for right-of-way purposes, before construction could proceed. The right-of-way department has become one of our major activities and the work involved in acquiring necessary rights-of-way should be simplified by corrective legislation.

Also it is strongly recommended that Section 13 of Chapter 48 of the Session Laws of 1925, which prohibits the expenditure by the State Highway Commission of state funds for the construction of grading and drainage structures necessary to construct a road bed within the corporate limits of any city or incorporated town, but does give to the State Highway Commission authority to pave such sections after they have "been properly drained and put to grade," when the section involved is a continuation of the State highway system, be repealed. There are many instances where the construction of a section of State highway traversing the outlying part of a city or town where property values are negligible, involves the construction of a bridge or extensive grading operations, perhaps in rock, the cost of which is entirely beyond the ability of the property owners or the municipality to meet. The section involved may be an essential link in a continuous State highway system and it is believed that the State

Highway Commission should have full authority to use its discretion in constructing sections of State highway within the corporate limits of cities and towns.

Because of the large amount of county funds derived from road bond issues or from other sources, made available by the counties for use in conjunction with State funds, the funds available for expenditure by the State Highway Commission do not to a considerable degree suffice to meet the demands made upon them by the various counties for highway construction in conjunction with local funds, and still permit the commission to finance other construction projects more essential to the orderly improvement of the State highway system as a whole, but where local funds are not available. There is a very marked increase in the public demand for the more rapid construction of a system of adequate State highways and with the rapid increase in the number of motor vehicles now owned and operated in Oklahoma, totaling in excess of 500,000, increased revenue provided by the State to be applied to the construction and maintenance of the State highway system would appear to be logical and sound and an economic necessity.

The highway department organization throughout the entire State has functioned efficiently and effectively and with a spirit of cooperation and loyalty most gratifying.

The Oklahoma State Highway Commission has, for the past two years, been recognized throughout the nation as a most efficient and model institution. It has inaugurated a policy of highway maintenance and construction which has been carried on with economy and rapidity to the extent that it has been complimented and admired by experts in highway construction everywhere. Its accomplishments are the pride of the people of our State and the 6,000 miles of wonderful highways throughout the length and breadth of the State constitute a lasting monument to the great work performed. That these policies may be continued to the end that many additional miles may be added to the system is the fond hope of our citizenship.

CONSERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

UNDER House Bill No. 184, Session Laws of Oklahoma, Tenth Legislature, a Forestry Commission of five members was created. This commission is directing its efforts along two main lines of activity, conservation of the forests which we now have and an extension of our forested area by the planting of windbreaks, shelterbelts and farm woodlots.

Protection from fire is the chief essential in conservation of our present forested area of approximately 8,000,000 acres. Co-operative agreements, initiated by the Commission, have been entered into with the Federal Forest Service and with private interests whereby it has been possible to bring \$7,000.00 of Federal funds into the State to be expended for fire prevention purposes. Private interests have, in accordance with the agreements, constructed three lookout towers and 200 miles of telephone lines to assist in detecting and extinguishing fires. These improvements are available for use by the force of approximately thirty-five wardens employed by the commission. The salaries of these men are paid by the commission out of funds provided by the Federal Forest Service and private interests according to our cooperative agreements.

With the means provided, protection is to be offered 1,350,000 acres of our best virgin and cut-over pine forests.

Planting of windbreaks, shelterbelts and farm woodlots on the prairie farms of the State will benefit these farms to a great extent by protecting the buildings and orchards and livestock from severe winds, by preventing erosion of soil, by supplying fuel, posts and poles for farm use, and by providing a recreation place for members of the farmer's family.

To the end that such planting may be successfully made, the commission has established a small nursery on the grounds of the Agriculture and Mechanical College at Stillwater which is expected to produce small trees for experimental planting to determine the best species for planting on different soils.

Later, the output may be made available to farmers for windbreak and woodlot planting at not over cost of production. The Federal Forest Service is cooperating in this work and in accordance with our agreement is contributing \$1,000.00 toward the expense of the project.

A general educational campaign on the subject of forestry is being conducted. Regular contributions are made to magazines having a good circulation in the State, and a considerable amount of literature is distributed to the schools. Talks are being made before various organizations. Educational moving pictures are being shown at country school houses emphasizing the need of fire protection and tree planting. Posters, warning against forest fires, have been put up in the forested sections of the State.

Senate Bill No. 185, Session Laws of Oklahoma, Tenth Legislature, created a Fish and Game Commission of three members, the warden to be appointed by the commission. Under this commission, the State has been divided into fourteen districts with a ranger in charge of each; two of these districts, however, having been allotted an additional ranger. Thirty-seven game refuges have been established and the department has planted in these refuges 10,000 Bob White quail, 2,000 pheasants, eight black-tail deer, 50 white-tail deer, and an additional order has been placed with the government for 75 black-tail deer. Seventy-five prairie chicken have been trapped in western Oklahoma and distributed through refuges in other parts of the State.

The department is engaged in establishing a refuge in each county in the State, this work being virtually completed at this time. These refuges will be used for the propagation of game, and when they become thoroughly stocked the game will be trapped from these refuges and planted on unposted land in the county in which the refuge is located. It has not been the policy of the commission at any time to plant game on posted land, for the reason that it is every necessary to keep open hunting grounds, in order to maintain the license sales as this is the only source from which this department receives revenues.

The census of the game of the McCurtain County Preserve has been taken in the best possible manner and it is believed that the department has there 400 deer and between 2,000 and 3,500 wild turkey.

The department reports deer and wild turkey in fairly good quantities in Atoka, LeFlore, Latimer and Pushmataha counties, with a few reported in Pontotoc county. It is estimated that there are from 250 to 350 deer in Major county in and around Cleo Springs.

The department has re-established the Durant Fish Hatchery, and it is again in operation. Contract was made with the city of Durant to furnish water, and seven new ponds and a fish house have been built. Other extensive repairs have been made here as well as at the Medicine Park Fish Hatchery. The fish hatchery at Heavener has been completed and is now in operation.

The other new fish hatchery at Tahlequah is now reported to be in a semi-satisfactory condition and it has delivered 92,900 bass and 17,500 perch to streams in the northeastern part of the State.

The Izaak Walton League chapters of the State have cooperated with the department to a very great extent, 33 different chapters having established miniature fish hatcheries which will produce very large numbers of fingerling bass and crappie. An expert from the department was furnished for the instruction and establishment of these hatcheries and each hatchery will make a report to the department showing the number of fish produced and to whom distributed.

The department has reported the purchase of 1,560 acres of land in Latimer county for a game refuge and fishing grounds at a cost of \$2.65 per acre. In addition, a survey has been made and negotiations entered into for the purchase of lands along each side of the streams on some of the principal highways in the mountainous section of the State on which will be established public camping grounds.

The sale of hunting and fishing licenses has been increased forty per cent under the present administration. Records of the Fish and Game Commission show that from June 26, 1925, to October 13, 1926, 681 arrests were made, 395 convictions obtained, 64 acquittals obtained, and 222 cases still on docket.

The Commission of Drainage and Irrigation, consisting of five members, was created by the Special Session of the Ninth Legislature. Later an amendment by the Tenth Legislature changed this name to the "Commission of Drainage, Irrigation and Reclamation," consisting of three members.

This commission has worked out a comprehensive scheme for the control of floods affecting every stream in the State, and a map showing the proposed method of control will be available for the attention of this session. The contemplated plans call for acting in conjunction with certain adjoining states and the Federal Government, and conferences have been had with interstate commissioners representing the states of New Mexico, Texas, Colorado, Kansas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Special attention has been given to projects having to do with the control of the Arkansas and Red rivers.

The commission reports that for complete flood protection, engineers would provide for withholding about 40 per cent of the maximum floods. This is calculated to reduce the Mississippi floods two feet or more, according to conditions, and such quantity of water, when gradually released, has been calculated to promote the navigation of the Arkansas and Red rivers in the State of Oklahoma, giving six feet or more channel navigation. If this can be accomplished, the Federal officers in charge of such work have expressed the opinion that the Federal Government would stand from one-third to one-half of the cost.

I understand that Secretary Hoover, of the United States Department of Commerce, has tentatively approved of these plans and that he will probably act as Federal commissioner in working out the compact. The Rivers and Harbors Committee unanimously reported an appropriation, and authority to the Board of Army Engineers to check the surveys and cooperate in this work. If this development can be accomplished, it would seem to justify the State's most comprehensive study and participation, as the losses in the State of Oklahoma, both in public and private property, amount to enormous sums each year, and the benefits to be obtained by the State from the control and use of waters for irrigation, flood protection, power and municipal purposes would appear to more than compensate the effort involved and the cost incurred.

The Commission has surveyed every large stream in the State and is recommending about 250 conservancy reservoirs, distributed throughout the State, capable of holding the flood storage of more than 10,000,000 acre feet of water. It contemplates the protection from floods of virtually 2,000,000 acres of the richest valley lands of the State, also water for irrigation purposes for many thousands of acres assuring a permanent water supply for many cities and communities of the State which is badly needed.

Individuals workouts show that, on the Verdigris and Grand river systems in Oklahoma, the flood destruction in 1926 was about \$10,000,000.00 including \$1,000,000.00 on the Boggy river; and on the North Fork of the Red river about \$2,000,000.00; that the loss of public properties by these floods in the way of bridges and public improvements was enormous. These losses are too serious for the State to continuously endure.

The commission has granted applications for water rights on the Grand river and the Illinois river, and has pending an application for water right for hydraulic development on the Mountain Fork river. Different engineers estimate the aggregate horse power of these developments at from 150,000 horse power per annum to 200,000 horse power per annum.

The irrigation possibilities from these conserved waters is estimated at 400,000 acres of a value of 12,000,000.00 now going to waste. The extra cost to the road and bridge fund in attempting to build over the high floods amounts to hundreds of thousands of dollars per year, and the replacement of destroyed bridges in the State has run into the millions of dollars and remains a constant hazard and will remain so unless successful efforts are put forth to restrain it.

The legislation creating this commission constituted an experiment in so far as Oklahoma is concerned, and I am of the opinion that the commission has been misunderstood in many of its contemplated projects. The program favored by the commission is of such far-reaching importance that no doubt steps should have been taken to bring about a better general understanding of flood problems, and then of the contemplated relief plans themselves. It is well to proceed with due caution in matters of this kind, and in my judgment no drastic action should be taken until the persons living in the affected areas thoroughly understood and approve of the measures in view. I believe that the commission has rendered invaluable service in bringing the problems incident to its work up for discussion in the affected communities, and while much opposition has been aroused, the study now being accorded flood matters by the various interests involved is certain to result in an informed public opinion which, of itself, will inevitably find a solution to this situation, something we are all seeking.

The present session will have the opportunity of studying a comprehensive report which will be submitted by the flood commission, and will also be in a position to hear the other side to the controversies which have arisen in connection with certain contemplated projects.

We must recognize the fact that the conservation movement in Oklahoma is yet in its infancy. Four major conservation programs are now being forwarded under the direction of the State Highway Commission, the State Fish and Game Commission, the State Irrigation and Reclamation Commission, and the State Forestry Commission. They are, however, moving in the same general direction and with the same general objective, notwithstanding certain specific services for which each was created.

A system of improved and well maintained State highways will bring our centers of population, and our rural communities as well, into easy access to the most remote sections of the State, thus making it possible for all of our citizens to enjoy the natural advantages of the great out-of-doors.

The Fish and Game Commission is engaged in repopulating our fields and streams and working in conjunction with the State Highway Department, it is endeavoring to establish camping grounds adjacent to the routes included in the State highway system.

By controlling our flood waters and conserving these waters in order that they may be used for irrigation purposes, it will be possible for us to make useful for agricultural purposes many thousands of acres of arid or unproductive land and at the same time establish throughout the State artificial lakes which may be utilized by the general public for fishing and other recreational purposes. The work of re-forestation being carried on as it is in conjunction with these other major projects, will afford new forests for recreational grounds and game refuges, as well as eventually rehabilitate our existing forest lands which have been depleted within recent years.

It is no easy matter to visualize the vast possibilities of this four-fold program for we have been so engrossed with the details of the four individual projects that we have not had time to pause and consider the ultimate results of our general conservation movement. However, I cannot refrain from expressing the thought that, in my judgment, the fulfillment of this vision of the far-sighted conservationists in this State that will eventually have a wholesome effect upon the lives and well being of our entire citizenship, and I do not believe that we could leave any greater heritage to our children and our children's children than a great State with abundant lakes and forests, clear and unpolluted streams, fields well stocked with native wild-life, all within ready access of the most humble citizen.

As I have said before, this program is yet in its infancy, although if carried forward to its ultimate conclusion this dream is by no means beyond our capacity to accomplish, judging by the experiences of many of the older states and of certain foreign countries. It will require a decade or two for us to see many of our contemplated projects accomplished facts, and yet the immediate results are already apparent and it requires no particular stretch of imagination to picture the accomplishments which may be had in the future.

The four measures adopted in our conservation movement under the present administration have initiated these projects and opened the way for a comprehensive educational campaign which will in the end carry this

movement along of itself, for while such a program may be temporarily curtailed it will soon attain such momentum that nothing can tend to stem its progress.

CONSERVATION OF MINERALS

OKLAHOMA is indeed fortunate to be supplied abundantly and generously with great natural wealth, oil and gas, coal, asphalt, lead and zinc, and other mineral products, all of which are of great value and use to mankind in general and its citizenship in particular, and which may properly be classified as exhaustible resources. Because of these facts, it becomes the bounden duty of the people, acting through the instrumentality of its governmental agencies, carefully to conserve against the waste of these invaluable and irreplaceable products, having at the same time due regard for the rights of private property.

The State of Oklahoma has heretofore taken effective steps to guard against the waste of natural gas and petroleum and also, in a limited way, for the conservation of other minerals. It is commendable on the part of our citizenship and those charged with governmental responsibilities that they were cognizant, in due time, of the necessity for conserving these resources; and the efforts thus made by former legislatures, as well as by the administrative instrumentalities of the State, to solve this pressing problem of conservation are highly praiseworthy.

It is particularly fortunate that the administrative agencies of the State have found the producers of its mineral wealth ever ready to cooperate with them in all legislation and regulations designed to prevent waste and to conserve these resources. It is reasonable to assume that our citizens engaged in mining and the production of minerals will readily support activities of a broader scope for the conservation of these great natural resources of the State than have heretofore been exercised. The State is keenly interested in its mineral riches and in its splendid and useful citizenship engaged in their development. The gross production tax on minerals, and particularly on oil and gas, contributes most substantially towards the expense of the State government and its institutions. Not only does the industry serve the citizenship of the State in this manner, but it is the producer of wealth that brings about additional taxable values, the advantages of which accrue to the entire citizenship of our State.

The high importance to our State of this industry and the citizenship engaged therein fully warrants a careful and scientific consideration of further means of preserving and conserving these resources. While I have some very definite ideas as to better means of promoting greater efficiency in the solution of this weighty problem, I refrain from the submission thereof since the administration of such new provisions of law must necessarily rest with my worthy successor, and I desire to leave him entirely free to deal with the matter.

NATURE'S PLAYGROUND

WHILE speaking of the conservation of our natural resources I feel that it would be amiss should I fail to mention some of the agencies, not connected with the State government, that have been rendering able assistance along this line. One of the foremost of these organizations is the Eastern Oklahoma Playgrounds Association. This Association is endeavoring to bring home to our citizenship the knowledge that we have within our own borders, scenic beauties unsurpassed anywhere in the nation.

Along the entire eastern border of the State are to be found beautiful mountain ranges covered with virgin forests and natural foliage, rich and verdant valleys, traversed by sparkling streams and dotted with placid and silvery lakes, teeming with wary members of the finny tribe awaiting the lure of the red-blooded angler. Every nook and corner of this beautiful section is now, due to our improved highways, within a few hours drive from the furthest corner of the State.

To conserve is useless unless we enjoy the fruits of our efforts. We should recognize and commend these efforts and urge our people to seek solitude and recuperation from their daily toils where they can listen to the whispering pines and the voices of the forest within our own confines and "amongst our ain folk."

FIRE MARSHAL

THE department of the State Fire Marshal was created in 1921 and the present Fire Marshal is John Connolly of Oklahoma City. During the year 1925 there were 1,496 fires reported to this department, covering a loss of \$2,833,575.00 to which may be added a further loss of one million dollars for rural fires occurring throughout the State which were not reported. A total of 178 deaths were caused by fire during the year 1925.

This department has inspected 4,500 school houses in the State, 90 buildings being condemned outright and replaced with new and modern school buildings. The department caused 143 school buildings to be equipped with fire escapes, fire hazards were removed and repairs and minor changes in construction made in 365 school buildings.

There were 117 questionable fires investigated by this department, and as a result eight convictions were secured, two in Texas county, three in Greer county, one in LeFlore county, one in Tulsa county, and one in Adair county; twelve cases are now pending in court.

The department has condemned two hundred old buildings in different towns in the State, and in the one case where the condemnation order was appealed, the department was sustained by the district court.

RED RIVER BOUNDARY

I DEEM it my duty to review briefly the situation with reference to the boundaries of Oklahoma. About 1896, before Okla under the sole and exclusive jurisdiction of the United States.

After Oklahoma became a state, a serious situation arose with reference to Red river which had been the source of former contention with respect to Greer county. Texas contended that the boundary between the states was the middle of Red river, while Oklahoma contended that the southern boundary of Oklahoma was the south bank of Red river. After various attempts to settle the question by amicable agreement with Texas failed, the then Attorney General filed an original action in the Supreme Court of the United States praying the court to establish and mark upon the surface of the earth the true south boundary. After nearly three years of litigation the contention of Oklahoma was upheld and the State is now receiving royalty from oil produced from the south half of the river, one payment of \$370,000.00 being daily expected.

I deem it my duty to call your attention to one feature of this case in which an injustice seems to have been done and which the State, in my judgment, should correct. The then Attorney General S. P. Freeling, resigned as Attorney General to devote his entire time to this controversy, under an agreement with the State. At that time it was thought there were sufficient funds to carry the litigation through, but it was immediately ascertained that no substantial fund existed for this purpose. In this situation, Mr. Freeling carried the litigation on with his own funds, and has never been reimbursed therefor. A political condition followed which made any settlement of his just claims impossible. I feel it but an act of simple justice that the Legislature should reimburse him for the amount actually expended.

This conviction is strengthened by the consideration that the State is receiving enormous sums as the results of his work and will in the future receive a revenue from the property placed within the jurisdiction of the State.

In a counter claim in the boundary case, Texas by way of cross-bill asked that the western boundary line be resurveyed from the bank of Red river north to $36^{\circ} 30'$, and the true 100th meridian located on the ground. Although this line was run first in 1856 it has remained as the permanent line between the United States and Texas, Oklahoma Territory and Texas and the State of Oklahoma and the state of Texas. The Supreme Court has directed a resurvey of this line and as a result, if this opinion is adhered to the State may lose several thousands acres of land. Mr. Freeling being familiar with the entire controversy, and having had it in charge, I have directed him to prepare, file and present to the Supreme Court of the United States further argument on the subject. This he has consented to do and this is another and additional reason why I think the State should at least do justice and reimburse him for the money he has actually expended to protect the boundary of our State.

BANKS AND BANKING

IN 1923 the banking conditions in the State were perhaps in the most unfavorable condition in the State's history. There had been numerous failures of both state and national banks, resulting in a lack of confidence in such institutions in the minds of the people and creating somewhat of a demoralization in the minds of the bankers themselves.

There were, at that time, 435 State banks, with aggregate resources of \$89,728,809.00, representing a depositors' liability of \$70,846,878.00, and a further liability for borrowed money of \$6,982,901.00 represented by bills payable and rediscounts. The loans aggregated \$57,407,398.00. The primary reserve, consisting of cash and exchange, was \$16,758,582.00, with a secondary reserve, consisting of bonds and warrants aggregating \$9,548,166.00.

Forty-three banks had failed between November 1, 1921, and October 15, 1923, with net liabilities of \$13,844,016.00. These banks were the banks that had failed after the Guaranty Law became insolvent, and providing no means for liquidation or relief to depositors. This group of banks was, therefore, being liquidated under the provisions of an opinion written by the Attorney General of this State, as provided for in an emergency. The liquidation of State banks in this manner was a new departure and no uniform system had been worked out for the appointment of liquidating agents, the checking of such agents, and receiving and filing reports made by them. On account of an inadequate system of supervision of these agents, many excesses occurred in the matter of expense and the State Banking Department was severely criticized for the manner in which banks were being liquidated in many communities. Notably among these cases were the following: Bartlesville, Oklahoma City, Caddo, Comanche, Sulphur, and several others. In two of these cases the conduct was so flagrant that since their dismissal the State recovered as a refund from the liquidating agent of his bondsmen, the sums of \$5,720.00 from Caddo and \$5,000.00 from Comanche. In the two years during which these banks had failed, and prior to the 15th day of October, 1923, there had been collected and disbursed by the various liquidating agents in charge of these 43 banks, \$1,539,396.00, in the form of dividends.

One of our first efforts was directed toward installing a system whereby the various liquidating agents could be properly checked, and this system provided for a monthly report to this department, showing itemized statement or receipts and disbursements. In this connection the Bank Commissioner had prepared and submitted to the Second Extraordinary Session of the Ninth Legislature a liquidation bill, which afterwards became known as Senate Bill No. 149, which bill was passed by that session and approved by the Governor on March 22, 1924. That act provides in detail methods for the liquidation of State banks and was the first law of its kind placed on the statute books by a legislature in the State of Oklahoma.

After he assumed the responsibility of the department, the new Bank Commissioner immediately set about to reduce the expenses incident to the liquidation of failed banks, which resulted in the removal of several liquidating agents, the reduction in compensation of others and the elimination of the services of attorneys, based on a retainer fee or being paid a stipulated sum. All attorneys were placed on a contingent basis and have since been paid only for services as they have rendered. By this means he was able to reduce the cost of liquidation more than fifty per cent and in the two and a half years since that policy was placed in operation, he has collected from the same group of banks and disbursed in the form of dividends, \$1,243,840.00.

It will be observed that the first eight or ten months in the liquidation of a bank constitute the easiest period in which to make collections and, therefore, is known as the "cream" period. It should also be the period of least expense. However, the amount we have been able to collect and disburse from the same group of banks is only \$296,556.00, less than had been collected in the two years previous, with the expense of collection being reduced on this group of banks more than sixty per cent.

From October 15, 1923, to December 31, 1923, there occurred sixteen failures of State banks, with net liabilities of \$2,501,799.00. During the year 1924 there were 37 failures, with net liabilities of \$5,969,820.00. During the year 1925, there were eight failures, with net liabilities of \$1,261,403.00. In the first eleven months of 1926, there have been ten failures with net liabilities of \$1,201,430.00, or during the term of incumbency of the present Bank Commissioner there has been a total of seventy bank failures, with net liabilities of \$10,934,362.00. From this group of banks there was collected and disbursed in the form of dividends approximately \$2,266,289.00, or a total in dividends out of all failures now in the course of liquidation of approximately \$3,510,129.00 during the term of this administration.

We now have on hand, deposited in the various banks of this State, approximately \$1,118,932.00, which we have been unable to disburse in the form of dividends. Of this amount, approximately \$981,860.00 is being held under an injunction of the Federal Court and cannot be disbursed until the termination of several suits now pending in that court. Dividends are being paid as rapidly as they can be paid in all banks where the necessary sums have been collected and set aside to meet the demands of the Federal injunction and a surplus is collected sufficient to pay even a small dividend. Five of the banks have been paid out in full and the full depositors liability thus discharged. In some instances no dividends have been paid by reason of the fact that the particular bank, at the time of its failure, had a large deposit of public funds underwritten by certain bonding companies, responsible for Federal injunctions, and on which the said bonding companies are claiming a preference, said preference being denied by the commissioner.

The department has 69 liquidating agents employed and in charge of the various banks, one agent has charge of four banks, three agents have charge of three banks each, and eleven agents have charge of two banks each. This proving very practical, we are enabled to place banks under the supervision of an experienced liquidating agent and are also enabled to effect the liquidation much more cheaply than where the liquidating agent devotes his entire time to one institution. Eighteen banks have been relieved of liquidating agents because the collections were not sufficient to justify continuing the expense of the agent. The assets, were, therefore, marshaled and placed in the hands of attorneys for collection on a contingent basis.

It will be observed that the net liabilities of the one hundred and eleven (11) banks in the course of liquidation, aggregate twenty-four and three-quarters million dollars; that we have only been able to collect from the assets in those banks approximately \$6,000,000.00 net, after paying the expense of liquidation to date. This indicates that in the accumulation of loans made over a period of years preceding 1921, in this particular group, comprising 111 State banks, approximately \$18,000,000.00 of depositors' money was loaned ill-advisedly, incompetently, and most of it without justification. Practically all of the loans that were responsible for these failures were made prior to 1920. In other words, they were made during the life of the Depositors' Guaranty Fund and the period of world-war inflation.

Dividing the period of time into years, for the purpose of comparison, and in order to show the growth of the remaining State banks during the period from September 14, 1923, to October 15, 1924, the State system lost fifty banks. The total resources of the remaining banks were only six and a half million dollars less than the year before. The depositors' liability was one million dollars less. Liabilities for bills payable and rediscounts had been reduced \$4,280,633.00. In the period from October, 1924, to October 1, 1925, with a loss of four banks, the resources of the State banks had increased from \$82,218,031.00 to \$93,206,799.00, with an increase of depositors' liability of \$10,964,284.00, bills payable and rediscounts having decreased \$400,000.00.

June 30, 1926, that last tabulated figures show that we had only 368 banks, with total resources of \$96,960,105.00, with a depositors' liability of \$84,117,826.00, and with an increase in bills payable and rediscounts of only \$300,000.00. The average reserve in State banks, for the three years, has increased from 23.1 per cent to more than 30 per cent, while the secondary reserve, consisting of bonds and warrants, has been increased during this period more than \$8,000,000.00, total loans during this period of time showing a decrease of more than \$7,000,000.00, with an increase of cash and sight exchange of \$7,766,888.00.

This is, indeed, a very creditable showing and indicates a satisfactory growth, as it reflects an increase in deposits of approximately \$14,000,000.00, a reduction in loans of \$7,000,000.00, and an increase in primary reserve of \$7,766,888.00, supplemented with an increase in secondary reserve of more than \$8,000,000.00, or a total increase in reserves of about sixteen million dollars. These items speak for themselves and show the stability which the State banks are approaching; they also reflect a steady growth during a most critical period in their existence, and made these gains notwithstanding the fact that during the period we lost seventy State banks by reason of failure, and thirty-nine State banks by consolidation or liquidation, the latter resulting in no loss to depositors. Only one State bank converted to a national bank, while eighteen national banks surrendered their national charters and are now operating as State banks. There was eleven State banks liquidated voluntarily, with no loss to depositors. The assets of three banks were sold under court order, one for forty cents, one for fifty cents, and one for sixty-five cents on the dollar. In each of these cases, a new charter was granted and the new bank purchased the assets of the defunct bank and, therefore, are not in the hands of the department for the purpose of liquidation.

BUILDING AND LOAN PROBLEMS

PRIOR to June 1, 1925, the supervision of building and loan associations in Oklahoma was under the State Bank Commissioner and he had one assistant, known as a state building and loan auditor, which position was created by legislative act of 1910. The building and loan auditor's duties were to examine and audit 88 domestic and six foreign associations, doing business in Oklahoma, at least once a year or as often as was deemed necessary by the Bank Commissioner. The situation seemed hopeless to the commissioner, as it was evident that it was a physical impossibility for one man to examine and audit that number of associations in a year's time, many of which associations would require three or four competent auditors from three to six weeks to arrive at a competent analysis of their condition. Therefore, the Bank Commissioner suggested to some of the leading building and loan men of the State the advisability of amending or passing a new code for the regulation of building and loan associations. The result was that a bill was prepared and presented to the Senate and became known as Senate Bill 120. Through the provisions of that bill, there was created a building and loan board, consisting of three members, of which the Bank Commissioner was made chairman.

In May, 1925, the Bank Commissioner called a meeting of the building and loan board, and at the same time asked for a meeting with the board of all building and loan managers of associations operating in Oklahoma, for the purpose of receiving suggestions and determining the best methods to be pursued in carrying out the provisions of the Legislature, as expressed in Senate Bill 120. This meeting was held in the latter part of May, 1925, and 88 associations were represented by their attorneys and managers. After an all-day conference, new rules and regulations were submitted to and were approved by the State League of Building and Loan Association, in executive session. The building and loan auditors were instructed to formulate a system of accounting, reduce the results of their examinations to permanent reports, and prepare permanent files for the building and loan department. The new rules and new methods were necessary to provide adequate information:

First. For the protection of the associations as a corporate body.

Second. For the protection of the individual members, both investors and borrowers.

Third. To determine that the business of the association was being conducted according to statutory requirements and in harmony with the provisions of the Constitution and the by-laws of the association.

Fourth. For the purpose of enabling the Bank Commissioner to have available at all times a verified and reliable statement of the association's affairs.

Fifth. To enable the commissioner, in conjunction with the managers of the various associations, to maintain a high standing of the association, as one of the competitive financial institutions of the community and surround it with the necessary safeguards to insure its stability and enable it to command the confidence and respect of its members.

The building and loan board has also passed on and approved all by-laws, loan and investment contracts and the method of operation of every association doing business in this State.

We, at this time, have 90 domestic and six foreign building and loan associations, operating in this State, and during the past eighteen months, or since the organization of the new department, our auditors have made 174 examinations, of which six associations have been examined three times; fifty-seven, twice; and thirty-two, once.

The department operates solely upon the fees collected, which is provided for in Chapter 28, Session Laws, 1925. Since the department was organized, it has collected in fees, as a result of examinations, \$26,220.13, against which it has disbursed to date \$24,779.18, leaving a balance of \$1,440.95 on hand at this time.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH

THE State Department of Public Health has been completely reorganized in order to meet the demands of modern conditions. It is today recognized as a scientific bureau and very interesting results are being accomplished. This has brought about by employment, the highest possible number of professional and technical specialists and the reduction of untrained personnel to the minimum.

At this time the department has six physicians and these physicians have been obtained at the same salaries formerly paid unskilled employees. In addition to the fact that we have the services of these physicians they have all had special training to fit them for their duties. The department is now a scientific and specialized one and so organized as to better serve the people of the State than in any other manner.

Because of this scientific reorganization the department has been recognized and materially helped by the United States Public Health Service and the International Health Board. This material assistance has been in money on a cooperative basis with our rural health problems, special training for our physicians and technical personnel, personal counsel with the ablest public health men in America, and through the United States Public Health Service our disease reporting laws have been vitalized. We now receive routine reports weekly from all physicians of the State under the franking privilege.

The one special feature of the department as now organized has been rural health work and an attempt to give these people the service city people have enjoyed for years. We now have a bureau of rural sanitation, directed by a specially trained physician. This service has been largely rendered in those counties that are willing to cooperate in an effective program, but in so far as the limited personnel will permit the department in reaching all rural sections. Rural health has been given special attention because there is found the greatest disease problems, especially those that cause large economic losses as malaria, typhoid, pellagra and death and debility of mothers from cause incident to childbirth; also, in rural sections forty (40) per cent more underweight children are found than in cities.

With the present organization, the department is enabled to intelligently search for disease where it really exists because its bureaus are headed by scientific personnel who know the cause of both communicable and non-communicable disease. Also through the bureau of epidemiology, and the department is constantly informed as the prevalence of communicable disease at any point in the State. This sort of a bureau is a necessary division of all state boards of health, yet before three years ago it did not exist. At this time the reportable disease statistics of Oklahoma are exceeded in accuracy by only a few states. Much of the credit for this is due to the intelligence, progressiveness and civic patriotism of Oklahoma physicians.

I would also direct your attention to the venereal clinic being operated by the State Health Department under the direction of Dr. John C. Mahr. I am informed that this clinic is now treating patients from all parts of the State. No greater service for humanity can be performed than to place facilities within the reach of all classes to help reclaim those so unfortunate as to be afflicted with social diseases. Likewise, steps should be taken to compel the treatment of those who do not seek it. By stamping out these dreadful diseases we can reduce the population of our insane asylums more than thirty per cent. I respectfully urge that you give thoughtful consideration to the continuance and enlargement of this branch of our public health service.

The bureau of maternity and infancy has been changed to a scientific organization and is efficiently functioning and reaching every section of the State. The director of this bureau is a woman physician who has specialized in diseases of women and children. She has, through her knowledge of this branch of medicine and her grasp of methods by which to reach the entire State, obtained for this part of the health department nation-wide recognition. This bureau with its mail service is reaching 15,000 mothers with timely counsel both before and after childbirth, a great per cent of whom are rural mothers who have difficulty in obtaining professional advice at this time in their lives when so much is needed. Because of the high mortality of mothers and young children from preventable causes there is a wide field of usefulness for this bureau and it is meeting these obligations in the most effective manner possible under present conditions.

The other bureaus of the department are functioning very effectively but those above have been mentioned more specifically because they are more recent developments in public health practice. However, briefly, the following are mentioned: Bureau of laboratories, now directed by a physician specially trained in laboratory technique and management; examining twice as many specimens as ever before and manufacturing typhoid vaccine, supplying all physicians of the State; bureau of vital statistics, increase birth registration thirty per cent (30%); card indexed and bound 340,000 birth and death certificates since January, 1924, which is 200,000 more than should have been necessary due to delay in attending to this necessity by previous management; reorganized filing, binding and indexing under a modern system that will enable us to keep these records up-to-date.

Since the function of the Department of Health is to prevent disease and promote health and thus make its appropriations valuable financial investments the fact that there are 200 fewer typhoid deaths and 2,000 fewer cases this year than three years ago is mentioned; also, in 1925, there were 500 fewer deaths among children between the ages of one and ten years than in 1923. The typhoid prevention success has been brought about through our special campaign of vaccination and efforts in behalf of pure water and milk. This reduction in children's deaths has been due to a better control of communicable diseases as well as the effective program for care of children by the bureau of maternity and infancy.

The present Health Department has made progress toward an ideal system, largely because of the fact that we followed the path of those states that have made outstanding records in prevention of disease and life saving;

also, because we were enabled to obtain the counsel and support of some of the ablest public health men in America as represented by the United States Public Health Service and the International Health Board. These health agencies have given us their unqualified support because they have confidence in Oklahoma's Health Department and thus feel that their time and money are not wasted because some policies are generally in vogue in this State.

In brief, the work of the department may be summarized as follows: Trebled the scientific personnel with no addition cost; organized disease reporting system in such manner that accurate reports are available from the remotest section of the State each week; increased birth registration thirty per cent (30%) and death registration seven per cent (7%); more than doubled laboratory service with no increased cost; had made complete malaria survey by a specialist of the International Health Board; obtained financial aid from without the State to the extent of \$60,000.00, which has largely been devoted to control of disease in rural districts and to training of our professional and technical personnel; obtained the support of the physicians and dentists of the State; increased the general prosperity of the State by a reduction in amount of sickness and death and in the prevention of epidemics with their paralyzing effects on business.

Recent surveys indicate that our various hospitals throughout the State are all functioning in a satisfactory manner. At Norman, where the Central Oklahoma Hospital for the Insane is located, the average number of patients for 1926 was 1,502 as against 1,267 for 1923. Patients are maintained at an annual per capita cost of \$229.80. At the Eastern Oklahoma Hospital for the Insane at Vinita, the average population for 1926 was 1,227 as against a population of 1,106 for 1923. The present per capita cost is \$247.14. The Western Oklahoma Hospital for the Insane at Supply had an average population for 1926 of 725; and an average for 1923 of 566. The present per capita cost is \$241.83. At the Institution for the Feeble Minded at Enid, the population has increased from 370 in 1923 to 446 in 1926, and the present per capita cost is \$205.86, showing a reduction from the cost for 1923 which was \$269.36.

Very excellent progress is reported in the State's campaign to combat tuberculosis. At the State Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Talihina a total of 354 patients were treated for the year ending June 30, 1926, and this institution is maintaining an average of 97 patients daily at an average daily cost of \$2.57. At the Western State Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Clinton, a total of 196 patients were admitted and patients are being treated there at a per capita cost of \$2.43. This latter institution treated 234 patients in 1923, 141 patients in 1924, and 180 patients in 1925.

The University Hospital, which is operated at Oklahoma City under the direction of the board of regents of the State university, has a capacity of 286 beds, and general patients come from all parts of the State for treatment, this institution operating in connection with the University Medical school, and the treatment given there being for the most part for purposes of instruction.

PARDONS AND PAROLES

IN suggestions to previous legislatures, I have touched upon the growing public demand for the creation of a State Board of Pardons and Paroles, calling attention to the fact that the establishment of such a board would require a constitutional enactment. Today, after having considered this matter seriously for more than three years, I am more thoroughly convinced than every of the pressing need for such an agency, and I suggest a careful inquiry into this very important problem at the present session.

I am confident, however, that the mere act of creating such a board, and its subsequent establishment, would not relieve all of the objections now encountered; nor, in my judgment, would it be possible to create any agency that would at once and for all time command universal satisfaction in dealing with matters of this kind. In fact, a number of modifications are needed in our existing statutes if we are to properly administer justice and best serve the interests of society.

As an initial step, I would lodge the power of clemency in misdemeanor cases in the county where conviction has been had, through the establishment of a county parole board composed of elective county officials, such board to include, by way of suggestion, the county judge, the county attorney, and the sheriff. As it is now, if a prisoner serving a sentence in the county jail on a misdemeanor charge becomes so ill as to necessitate his removal to a hospital, an order from the Governor is required before the sheriff is permitted to take such action, or the same is true if it appears that it would be in keeping with good public policy for a temporary leave of absence to be granted to such prisoner, for one reason or another. In order to obtain action it is necessary for the county trial officials to forward this recommendations to the Governor, and with the existing machinery, he is solely dependent upon such recommendations for his knowledge of the facts. How much better it would be to lodge this responsibility within the county itself, where the facts are best known, and where the applicant and the officials concerned with such matters are residents. It is impossible with the means at hand to obtain an intelligent application of the clemency power for the Governor can not thoroughly inform himself with respect to such matters, and I am confident that justice would be best served by leaving such matters to an agency that would have all of the pertinent facts at hand, or at least within ready access.

Hearings before such county boards could be had in open court in just exactly the same manner as when the conviction was obtained, and such a procedure would immediately acquaint all interested citizens with the facts and the exact situation.

Returning to the matter of a State Board of Pardons and Paroles, such a constitutional amendment should be accompanied by legislation to clarify the existing misapprehension toward all matters of executive clemency. In my judgment, it is utterly ridiculous to convict a man of a crime and sentence him to a term of one year in prison and the payment of a fine of \$10,000.00, when it is known in advance that the individual concerned is without resources and could not pay such fine. When caught in such a predicament, however, such a man would either have to serve out the \$10,000.00, at the rate of \$1.00 per day, or seek leniency at the hands of the Governor. If such a person should have been sentenced to a longer term, or as long as the entire payment of the fine would require, then he should be so sentenced. If on the other hand, he should in the judgment of the court be merely required to pay a fine, then our statutes should be so modified as to permit of this. I do not believe that any sentence should be passed carrying provision for both a fine and improvement, and yet this can not be escaped under our existing laws. If the parole system has merit, and if it is to be continued, then an intelligent application of that system should be obtained and so conducted as to afford the public a better understanding of the theory and the justification of that system. Our existing criminal code constitutes in a measure a statutory strait-jacket which permits of much inequality and injustice from which there is no relief save and except through the medium of executive clemency.

This is a condition that is little understood by the general public. So much misunderstanding, lack of information, and actual suspicion has surrounded the administration of the function of executive clemency, that few of our people have considered this subject as a sociological problem. They are inclined rather to view it in the light of favoritism and politics, without considering the merits of any application unless it may contain some element of sentimentality, or appeal to the popular fancy.

In order to approach the end desired, we should draw a sharp line of demarcation between certain types of law violators especially distinguishing between first offenders and habitual and confirmed criminals. In my judgment the enactment of an indeterminate sentence provision in our criminal statutes governing first offenders of certain classes, with specified periods which a prisoner would be required to serve, and with definite times for the presentation of parole applications predicated upon the gravity of the offense, the general attributes of the applicant, and his tendency toward reformation, is needed at this time. This would permit of a better administration of the parole system, and if accompanied by measures for the adequate supervision of such persons when paroled, should bring about more satisfactory results than can now be obtained under our present haphazard methods. Then, in furtherance of the same objective, I would suggest the passage of an habitual criminal act, similar to the law recently enacted in the state of New York, and now in effect in a number of other states of the Union, with provisions which would make it difficult, if not impossible, to obtain clemency consideration following a third felony conviction. In my judgment, we have not had too many paroles – if anything perhaps we have had too few. Our trouble in the past has been that paroles have not always been issued to the right man and that their terms and conditions have not always been enforced. Another difficulty has been the uncertainty and confusion surrounding such procedure.

Today in our state penitentiary we have 422 second termers; 88 third termers; 42 fourth termers; and thirteen men serving fifth, sixth or seventh terms. Under this administration, not more than two or three men serving second convictions have been the beneficiaries of any form of executive clemency and it would appear that it might be good public policy to consider third termers at least as confirmed criminals who should be held in continued restraint for the good of society. On the other hand, if there is anything in the corrective theory of penal servitude there should be much in favor of the parole system as it pertains to first offenders in all excepting extreme cases.

Another element in the parole system should be mentioned. If a man under sentence of one year maintains a clear record, his time expires at the expiration of approximately seven months. If, however, he is paroled at the end of six months and his parole is revoked thereafter for some violation of its conditions, when he is returned to prison he must serve the unexpired part of a full sentence, or six months. Thus it is frequent that parents of guardians seek to have a young man released under parole for a short time before his time is out in order that he may be held under the restraint of the parole conditions until his reformation has been definitely accomplished. Thus while such an order would be classed a clemency, it is in fact issued as much in the interest of society as of the individual concerned.

Popular opinion to the contrary notwithstanding, a vast majority of the persons sentenced to prison serve out their full sentences, with the statutory allowances made for good conduct. For instance, during the period beginning October 6, 1926, and ending December 6, 1926, 147 men were discharged from McAlester after having completed their prison terms. In the same time, only eleven were paroled and none pardoned.

Yet returning again to the problem of habitual offenders, attention should be directed to the fact that during this two-months period, 45 of men who completed their sentences were second termers; four finished their third terms; five finished their fourth terms; two finished their fifth terms; and one served out a seventh conviction. Statistics would indicate that many of these men will be returned to prison in this or some other state in a very short

time. This covers the greater part of the period toward the end of the retiring administration, when many persons are of the opinion that a great numbers of pardons and paroles are issued. Excepting this period, the figures for the entire period of my administration show that 2,960 men served their full sentences at McAlester and Granite, and that 193 men were released from these institutions by order of the Governor. Yet during the same time, I revoked paroles and caused to be returned to these institutions a total of 89 men.

In addition to the suggestions made, it might not be amiss to provide some agency which could assist paroled convicts to obtain honorable employment. It is rather an easy matter to find positions for such men who are qualified in some particular vocation, but a contact point is needed between the public and convict which the State might well provide. The small expense entailed would be more than offset by the advantages that would accrue in so far as the general public is concerned.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

UNDER the provisions of our Constitution the Governor is charged with the chief responsibility for the enforcement of the law, yet in this he is dependent upon the other officials of the State and its subdivisions and especially upon the office of the Attorney General.

In the fall of 1923, we found ourselves confronted with an unprecedented crime wave which extended on into the year of 1924. Our records show that during the latter year 52 banks were robbed in Oklahoma with an aggregate loss of \$232,737.00. Hundred of automobiles were stolen and burglaries and hi-jackings were frequent. In an effort to combat this situation the Tenth Legislature authorized the establishment of a State Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, the bureau to serve as a clearing house for crime information and to employ skilled operatives to assist local officers in running down organized gangs of outlaws. In 1925 we were enabled to limit the number of bank robberies to fifteen, with a loss of approximately \$41,900.00. In 1926 we have had nine bank robberies with an aggregate loss of approximately \$12,000.00. However, these results would not have been obtained had it not been for the increased activity and the tireless energy of peace officers in all parts of the State. Nor would these results have been possible had it not been for the diligent manner in which many of the prosecutions were handled by the office of the Attorney General which was unusually successful in obtaining convictions.

House Bill 106, creating the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, was approved March 28, 1925, carrying an appropriation of \$36,775.00 per annum. Several months before this act was passed, however, work of a similar nature had been carried on by two officers employed by the Governor's office, assisted by the United States marshal for the Western district of Oklahoma, and three officers obtained from time to time from the Oklahoma City police department. Our men captured many notorious outlaws, often going into distant states to apprehend them. Thus they captured two men in Texas, two in Arkansas, two in Kansas, two in New Mexico, one in Arizona, one in Wyoming, two in Missouri, and one in Iowa. It was found that most of the bank robberies could be charged to four well organized gangs, more or less related, operating out of various centers of population, but carrying their activities into all parts of this State and even into our neighboring states. Here we had the problem that was beyond the jurisdiction of individual sheriffs, necessitating the centralization as well as the coordination of our activities. With this as our objective we endeavored to bring about a better understanding among the various law enforcement agencies of the State and Federal Government as well as those of our neighboring states and in this we have been highly successful, due to the growing spirit of cooperation fostered by the Oklahoma Peace Officers Association and to the sympathetic assistance received from the Bureau of Investigation of the United States Department of Justice, the United States Secret Service and the Inspector's Division of the United States Post Office Department. Much encouragement was hand from the State Bankers Association and the Oklahoma Bankers Association, as well as from the Burns Detective Agency.

In addition to dealing with bank robbers, the State through the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification has been able to apprehend many escaped convicts and to assist our neighboring states in capturing fugitives wanted by them. Our operatives in this bureau also check up on alleged parole violations, and evidence men and finger print experts are available for use by any of the State's subdivisions whenever their services may be requested. Our frequent occasions these operatives have worked under the direction of the Attorney General's office, and two of the bureau men were assigned to work under the direction of the officials of the United States Department of Justice in murder cases. The problem of crime, however, is undergoing a constant process of evolution.

What we need most at this time is a better understanding upon the part of the general public of the problems of, and some of the difficulties encountered by our peace officers. Throughout the State these men are under-paid and frequently lacking in the public support to which they are entitled. Often it is difficult to secure the type of men needed for this reason and on account of the inadequate salaries available. If we are to have better law enforcement, our law enforcement agencies must have better support.

PROHIBITION

IN any discussion of the matter of law enforcement, the question of the problems presented by prohibition is raised, and they are indeed, subjects for serious thought and study. I am inclined to the belief, however, that here we have need not of more laws or better laws, but simply of better law enforcement.

It seems the consensus of opinion that prohibition is here to stay, and I readily accept that view for I have supported the cause of prohibition each and every time it has been an issue in Oklahoma, yet daily we are confronted with the fact that the enforcement of the prohibitory laws does not receive the public support necessary to reduce such law violations to a desired minimum. So, it would appear, we have here a problem that might best be solved by education, and by proper instruction in the home and the church. Additional legislation will avail us nothing if we cannot enforce the laws now on our statute books. Yet if public opinion and personal habits will fall in line behind the spirit of our laws and our Constitution, I am certain that the rising generation will witness the fulfillment of our hopes with respect to prohibition and that in the not far distant future this law will enjoy the same support now accorded to other provisions governing the conduct of the individual and the rights of society.

The supply of intoxicants is being rapidly curtailed and the oncoming generations will not acquire the appetite for alcoholic beverages once rather prevalent, and this, too, will tend to hasten the attainment of our objective.

MILITARY ACTIVITIES

THE Military Department of the State government has been maintained at an unusually high state of efficiency during the past three years. Its authorized strength at this time consists of 5,362 officers and men. Its actual strength on June 30, 1926, was 4,981 officers and men, which has been the average maintained strength during the three year period covered by this report.

Since the Federal government pays practically all the expenses of equipping and maintaining the National Guard, except the rent of armories, inspections by National Guard officers and the administration of the Adjutant General's Department, this arm of State government must be considered a distinct asset. Aside from the security provided for the State in case of riot or internal disturbances beyond the power of the civil authorities to control, the National Guard of the State is a reliable part of the national defense, ready at all times for immediate mobilization for Federal service, and it is through this dual relation that the Federal government assumes the responsibility for the arming, equipping and training of the Guard.

In addition to the initial equipment of the various organizations of the Guard, the Federal government pays out annually in Oklahoma upwards of one million dollars for armory drill pay, training camp expenses, caretakers, feed and forage, Regular Army instructors and replacements of equipment and material.

The approximate value of the military property now in the possession of the various organizations of the Guard and in the State Arsenal is five million dollars, and this property is inventoried at stated intervals by inspectors and auditors of the War Department and officers and men of the National Guard are held to strict accountability for its care and preservation.

Liability to the Federal government for property destroyed by fire, lost, stolen or worn out in action or training has been steadily diminished during this period and does not exceed at this time the sum of \$3,000.00, which is covered by surveys, or is in process of collection from the bondsmen of accountable officers.

Detailed financial reports concerning the state expenditures by this department have been filed with the Governor and will be submitted to the Legislature.

It was found necessary in the summer and fall of 1924 to place a limited number of the National Guard on duty in the counties of Pittsburg and Latimer on account of troubles in the mining district in and around Cambria, where rioting was indulged in to an extent which endangered the lives of many citizens. The civil authorities were unable to cope with the difficulties and called for the troops. Quiet was restored and later a number of the rioters were tried in the local courts and convicted.

Again in the spring of 1925 and during that summer and fall a small detachment of National Guards were necessary to aid the civil authorities in the preservation of peace in the Henryetta coal field and also in a less degree in the mining district in Pittsburg county. Citizens and civil officers insisted upon the aid of the troops to prevent bloodshed and the loss of life. In every instance the troops performed their duty efficiently and with credit and kept violence in check under very trying circumstances.

On January 13, 1926, the State was horrified with the report of a mine explosion in Mine No. 21, belonging to the Deignan-McConnell Company, near Wilburton, and the National Guard was called upon to aid in the rescue work and guard and police the mine shaft in which one hundred and four men were entombed. Only ten of the victims were rescued alive and ninety-one bodies were recovered and brought to the surface while the troops were on duty.

The suppression of a small riot at Boley and the arrest of the leaders in the spring of 1925 and the use of a small detachment and the issue of tents to the sufferers from a tornado in Atoka county were other incidents in the public activity of the Guard during this period.

All duties required were performed cheerfully and with efficiency and dispatch, and the desired results were obtained without violence and peace and order promptly restored.

The Oklahoma National Guard rates among the best and most efficient in the nation, and it deserves the confidence and respect of the people of the State.

Credit is due Adjutant General Charles F. Barrett and Major General Baird H. Markham for the splendid accomplishments of the Oklahoma Guard. The latter, although his private interests necessitated his resignation as Adjutant General several months ago, has always been available for emergency service, and this fact has been of inestimable worth upon numerous occasions. In addition, I could if space would permit, detail other worthwhile accomplishments of many of the other officers and men, but I am sure the public is somewhat familiar with the facts in this connection.

PERMANENT IMPROVEMENTS

THE reduction of payrolls in virtually every department and institution, and further economies effected through reduced expenditures in various lines of activity, where such investments were not deemed necessary, made it possible during the last three years for us to add permanent improvements at all of our State institutions, many of which have been needed for years.

In November of 1923, we found the Capitol in a morass of mud and it was exceedingly difficult of approach during wet weather. Following the original plans, steps were immediately taken to put in sidewalks and paving needed and today this work has been virtually completed and the building is accessible now from any direction.

Entrance approaches and area balustrades have been added to the building, revolving doors have been installed at the south entrance, and heavy steel doors placed at the west entrance. The excavation work in the sunken garden has been completed, the top soil added and a sprinkling system installed. The Capitol grounds have been graded and the lawn is now in an excellent condition. In the summer of 1926, trees were planted about the Capitol and the building and grounds now present a very fine appearance.

When a new State Board of Public Affairs was appointed, a few days after I assume office, we caused an immediate and comprehensive survey to be made of all of our State institutions. We found that many of them had fallen into disrepair, either through mismanagement or neglect.

At our institution at Enid much of the livestock had disappeared, and legal steps had to be taken for its recovery and the punishment of the guilty persons involved. The facilities there were wholly inadequate and the equipment was in a bad state of repair. At Granite, tools and other equipment had been lost, escapes were frequent and a thorough reorganization of the institution in its every phase was immediately necessary. At McAlester, little had been done to meet the growing needs of that important institution, and as an initial step toward providing additional facilities for the prison, legislative authority was obtained for the removal of the Negro Boys' Training School from McAlester to Boley in order that the buildings might be utilized by the warden of the penitentiary. At the same time, the Tubercular Sanitorium for Negroes at Boley was abandoned and the inmates removed to the institution at Clinton. The old buildings at Boley was remodeled and new ones provided for the Boys' Training School. Our State hospitals were all found to be in good condition and no changes or emergency improvements were required at these institutions, nor with one or two exceptions, were any of our educational institutions in other than a fairly good condition, although several of them had been somewhat demoralized by certain influences with which we are all familiar. The Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore, however, required a very thorough and systematic process of rehabilitation, although this institution is now in very good condition and functioning in a splendid manner, under the present commandant and board of regents. The State School of Mines at Wilburton, and the State Junior College at Miami, likewise required certain attention but through the cooperation of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction these matters were adjusted without difficulty.

At the East Central State Teachers' College, at Ada, a class room building was constructed at a cost of \$121,513.00, and in addition a sewer system was installed. At the Northwestern State Teachers' College, at Alva, an administration building was constructed at a cost of \$97,395.40, including concrete heating tunnels. A science building and gymnasium at the Southeastern State Teachers' College at Durant, at a cost of \$146, 878.06, and in addition a power house, steam mains, boiler pumps and other improvements were installed. An auditorium at a cost of \$123,213.00 was constructed at the Central State Teachers' College, at Edmond. An auditorium and class room at the Northeastern State Teachers' College at Tahlequah has been completed at a cost of \$42,730.00. A gymnasium and auditorium and other improvements at the Southwestern State Teachers' College, at Weatherford, was added at a total cost of \$44,980.00.

Improvements made at the University of Oklahoma, at Norman, included a medical building, an engineering building, a class room building and two girls' dormitories, with heating and plumbing systems installed. Paving improvements have been completed and a new gymnasium is now under construction. These improvements have been made at a total cost of \$817,082.11.

Improvements at the Oklahoma College for Women, at Chickasha, included a home economics building and the completion of Willard Hall, and an addition to the auditorium, and certain other improvements, at a total cost of \$248,393.20. At the Oklahoma Military Academy, at Claremore, improvements included a dining room, kitchen and storage rooms, at a cost of \$14,996.50. At the School for the Blind, at Muskogee, a hospital building is now under construction at a cost of \$17,605.00. While additional improvements were made at a cost of \$16,515.00. Total expenditures at the School for the Deaf, at Sulphur, have amounted to \$89,243.43, including concrete pipe tunnels, steam mains, and additions to both boys' and girls' dormitories, a garage and a combination administration building and residence for the superintendent. At the Confederate Home, at Ardmore, the hospital building has been completed at a cost of \$31,131.00

At the Whittaker State Orphans' Home at Pryor, improvements made totaled \$33,626.00, including the construction of a trade school building, a bakery building, a meat and ice house and the remodeling of the administration building. At the West Oklahoma Orphans' Home, at Helena, the administration building was remodeled, a dairy barn was constructed from an old building, and additions made to the heating plant and to the laundry building at a total expenditure of \$10,828.46. At the Deaf, Blind and Orphans' Institute for the Colored at Taft, improvements total \$72,568.68, including a school building, a gymnasium and auditorium, an annex to the girls' dormitory, alterations at the boys' dormitory, remodeling and other improvements. A refrigeration plant, a heating plant, a laundry building, and other improvements at the University Hospital at Oklahoma City, amounted to \$59,837.80. Total improvements at the Central State Hospital at Norman amounted to \$359,242.00 included an administration building, a ward building for convalescent men, a ward building for tubercular patients, two stories added to the women's building, machinery and additions to the laundry building, extensions of the water, steam and electric lines, a grain house, a wire stockade, and horse and hay barns. At the West Oklahoma Hospital at Supply, improvements made include a hospital building and an administration building, an auditorium (under construction) machinery and additions to the laundry building, a hay barn and a granary at a total cost of \$243,109.91. At the Eastern Oklahoma Hospital at Vinita, improvements included a Receiving building, a Tuberculosis Ward building, a green house, three five-room brick residences, one cottage brick veneered, two poultry houses, concrete store room, and miscellaneous improvements amounting in all to \$257,081.32.

At the Institute for the Feeble Minded at Enid, improvements totaled \$201,540.07, including in addition to the hospital, two ward buildings, a school building and auditorium, a brick dairy barn, a steel water tower and tank and many additional improvements of a minor nature. At the Western Oklahoma Tubercular Sanitorium at Clinton, a colored ward building and combination heating plant and power house has been completed at a cost of \$71,746.36. Improvements at the Tubercular Sanitorium at Talihina amounted in all to \$153,670.03, including a hospital ward, a water system, a dairy barn, a receiving hall, a nurses' home, a cold storage building, a dam for the lake and additional permanent equipment including a refrigeration system, at a total cost of \$153,670.03.

At the State Industrial School for Girls at Tecumseh, improvements include two girls' dormitories, an extension of the sewer system, a vocational building, a swimming pool, a brick house, a water well and pump, concrete basket ball court and rose garden and shrubbery at a total cost of \$103,068.60. Improvements for the Boys' Training School at Pauls Valley amount to \$26,132.00, including repairs to the buildings, a new water system and a nine foot wire stockade now under construction. At the State Training School for Negro Boys at Boley, improvements amounted in all to \$46,661.98, including a heating and plumbing plant for the main building, a new water well, a graveled road, a five room cottage for employees and numerous repairs and permanent equipment.

Improvements at the Oklahoma Penitentiary at McAlester amounted in all to \$168,197.60, and included a refrigeration plant, two new boilers, a concrete addition to the administration building, a two story addition to the brick, twine and warehouse building, a brick canteen, a brick chapel, three brick warehouses, a brick sweet potato house, a new hay shed, a new women's building, a dairy barn, now under construction, and several smaller brick buildings for other purposes. Improvements at Granite for the State Reformatory amounted to \$53,028.52, including a seven and one-half ton ice plant, a complete tannery plant and equipment, completion of the yard wall, a granite mule barn, a large water well and water pipe and many additions in the form of permanent equipment.

The new prison for women recently completed at McAlester is deserving of special mention for now for the first time, adequate quarters are provided and arrangement smade for the separation of white and negro inmates. This building is located one-half mile west of the main walls, and is regarded as one of the most modern prison buildings in the United States. It has an individual sewerage system, and direct water lines from the city mains. It contains a complete steam heating and hot water system and is not dependent for any modern conveniences upon the main prison system. This new building was erected under the supervision of Warden Key, and was built entirely by convict labor, and prison brick were used in its construction. The increased production of the prison brick plant has made it possible to make many needed improvements at McAlester, although attention will be directed in another part of this Message to the need of certain additional permanent improvements which should be undertaken at the earliest opportunity.

The gap in the west side of the main wall at Granite, which has existed for several years, has now been closed and gates have been installed. A tower at the front entrance is under construction to harmonize with the general architectural plan. The old gin plant at this institution has been reconstructed, and is now a modern plant.

Buildings constructed at the Agricultural and Mechanical College, Stillwater, Oklahoma, during the past two years, for barns and the administration and agricultural buildings, cost \$307,500.00, and for the two dormitories, from bonds, \$300,000.00. These amounts left nothing for connecting the heating plant of the college with these buildings, or the water mains, gas mains, electric light and power connections to them. These were provided out of the general funds of the institutions.

These sums, of course, do not represent the amount spent for equipment. The cost of such furniture and equipment as was absolutely necessary came out of the general funds of the institution. The cost of the building did not include building sidewalks to the buildings, grading around the buildings, and the purchase of a new boiler for the heating plant and other items. As to Whitehurst Hall, the furniture and equipment which had been used in Morrill Hall was moved into it, and only class room chairs had to be purchased.

Connors State School of Agriculture had only one item of improvements for which there was special appropriations during the last two years. This was an item of \$2,465.00 for the purchase of twenty acres of land, the president's home being located on this tract of land. A few temporary and minor improvements were made and paid for from maintenance or revolving fund. This work was practically all done by the manual training class of the school. This item of \$2,465.00 is all the appropriation this school had for improvements since 1920.

The Panhandle A. & M. College, Goodwell, Oklahoma, expended the following amounts during the years 1925 and 1926 for repairs and equipment \$6,552.99, for an auditorium \$64,766.65, and for a light plant, which was paid by deficiency, \$6,750.00.

The Cameron State School of Agriculture, Lawton, Oklahoma, built a girls' dormitory for \$35,000.00 and spent \$5,000.00 for repairs to other buildings.

The Murray State School of Agriculture, Tishomingo, Oklahoma, had no appropriation for buildings and improvements during the last two years.

INSTITUTIONAL NEEDS

INASMUCH as I am retiring from office at this session, it will not be my purpose to submit herewith any detailed recommendations with respect to improvements needed at our several State institutions, for the data that will be required in this connection will be submitted by the State Budget Officer and heads of the respective institutions. The budget has been prepared under supervision of the incoming Governor, who has endeavored to acquaint himself with all of the necessary information which will be required.

However, I feel that it is my duty to direct the attention of the Legislature to the pressing need for certain improvements which cannot well be delayed.

The original plant at the State Penitentiary at McAlester was designed to accommodate approximately 1,280 inmates. The average population of the prison for the year in which the power and duties of the office of the Governor devolved upon me was 1,520. This total has increased to 2,113. Thus existing facilities are inadequate to properly house and safeguard the present population. Two additional cell houses are needed and the enlargement of the prison yard is suggested to include approximately six acres directly west of the prison walls. This yard space is necessary in order to provide grounds for recreation and exercise for the increasing number of inmates, and this need will be imperative when new cell houses are built and they will completely fill the present enclosure.

Construction of a modern hospital building for the care and treatment of the criminal insane, with an appropriate medical staff provided for that purpose, is suggested. This building could accommodate all mental delinquents in our penal institutions. We now have no institution to care for this class of delinquents. Our hospitals for the insane are not equipped for this character of service, and it is believed that such an institution should properly be located within the walls at McAlester.

Prison officials again call attention to the urgent need of a suitable building for the care and treatment of tubercular prisoners. Attempts to care for such patients at our existing tubercular institutions have been unsuccessful, prisoners accorded the privilege of such treatment evidencing a disinclination to properly conduct themselves, and usually running away at the first opportunity. A number of tubercular patients are now being cared for in make-shift quarters within the walls, but this presents a highly unsatisfactory situation.

Since for the first time no appropriation will be needed for the maintenance of the prison, it is felt that the time is propitious for the construction of these needed improvements and additions. Appropriations will be required for the construction of buildings listed, but by utilizing prison brick and prison labor, the funds required will be reduced to a minimum.

A recent survey of the State Reformatory at Granite shows that approximately ten per cent of the inmates are illiterates and that a much larger per cent are in need of additional education. The motto of this institution, "No illiterates in the State Reformatory," should be made a reality by this Legislature, for in dealing with this institution we must consider the fact that while the majority of the men at McAlester are held there in restraint for the good of

society, a majority of the Granite inmates are committed to that institution for rehabilitation and reclamation. The institution should be educational as well as penal. At present we have a class that attends school in the forenoon and work in the afternoon, and a class that works in the forenoon and attends school in the afternoon, and very good results are being obtained. However, the need of additional facilities for promoting education should be considered, and in this connection the warden recommends the establishment of a school for auto mechanics, a school for sheet metal workers, an addition to a tailor shop, in order that tailoring of all kinds can be taught, and an extensive shoe and harness factory, the same to be established in connection with the new tannery which as been completed and is now in operation. Custom tanning is now being done and farmers throughout the State who have hides may sell them to the tannery or send them there to be tanned and returned.

At present there are a number of boys learning to be cooks, bakers, shoemakers, tailors, barbers, carpenters, mechanics and electricians.

At this institution, as at McAlester, the number of inmates is constantly increasing, the daily average for 1926 amounting to 611 as compared with the daily average of 576 for 1924. To take care of the crowded condition resulting, the warden has had an estimate prepared of the cost of building a new wing, extending south from the main building, in which could be housed the kitchen and main dining room. Space could also be provided for an adequate auditorium where chapel and church services and other suitable gatherings could be held. If this plan is adopted, the old wing, or kitchen, could be converted into a store room, and a portion of it used for indoor industries and shops. Plans have been prepared for the addition of an extra story for an industrial building for additional room to care for much needed improvements, and for the installation of indoor industries incident to education and vocational training. Officials feel that a modern poultry plant is needed, sufficiently stocked, with an expert poultryman in charge, in order that some of the boys might be qualified for work in this industry. Additions to the dairy herd are needed, and the rock-crusher is in need of repair.

A word here in connection with the rock-crusher might not be amiss. This, as in the case of the brick plant at McAlester, is a disciplinary institution rather than one maintained for business or economic reasons, constituting the major form of punishment in vogue at the reformatory. Any attempt to abolish this feature, or to curtail its effectiveness must be considered upon that basis.

One more suggestion and I shall have done with the problems at Granite. This institution, as I have stated, was established to reclaim young men and boys from lives of crime and return them to civil life prepared to become active and worthwhile citizens. McAlester was established primarily as an institution of punishment and restraint. Yet these objectives have been forgotten, and both institutions are in fact penitentiaries in every sense of the word, even though in matters of administration we have endeavored to maintain the reformatory individuality at Granite. Courts should not commit young boys of sixteen, seventeen, or under twenty years of age, for that matter, to McAlester, to there be thrown into contact with hardened criminals. Nor should men older than at some fixed age in the early twenties be sent to Granite. If one institution is to be a prison and the other a reformatory, second offenders should be sent to one and not to the other. These matters deserve attention and will require certain legislation, as well as a better general understanding of the functions and purposes of these two individual and different institutions.

Certain improvements are urgently needed at the State Industrial School for Girls at Tecumseh, an institution which is accomplishing great good for our State and in the successful administration of which we should all be interested. The present construction of the institution had in mind a capacity of forty inmates, but the average population is approximately 200 inmates, presenting a situation which is not conducive to the results desired. The superintendent is anxious to obtain additional facilities for housing and school purposes; a new sewer system, which is badly needed; additions to the dairy herd, which is now inadequate; and several additional employees to assist in the school work.

It is the purpose of this institution to reclaim and restore to usefulness our wayward and misguided girls, and to say that it is succeeding in its mission is scarcely doing justice to the present superintendent and her corps of able assistants. For a large majority of the girls sent here are returned to society to become wives and mothers, and to maintain respectable and useful lives in their respective communities. We should ever remain mindful of the importance of this great work. When girls are discharged, they are usually fitted for the tasks of life, though the interest of the State does not cease there, but is continued through the active interest of the superintendent who makes it a point to maintain contact with all such girls for long periods of time, in order that a friend in need and helpful advice and assistance may never be lacking. The attention of the Eleventh Legislature is respectfully directed to the needs of this institution.

I am heartily in favor of additional education facilities for our State Orphan Homes, referring now to the institutions located at Helena and Pryor. Two years ago in my message to the Tenth Legislature I suggested a consolidation of these two institutions, in order that we might have at one location or the other, preferably at Pryor, a modern institution in keeping with present day information. Such a consolidation, as I then suggested, might have resulted in such a saving as to have made possible the establishment of the character of institution desired without

the need of an expenditure greater than that which would in any event have been required by the two institutions as then and now constituted. That recommendation did not meet with favor at that time, and I do not propose to renew it here. I do, however, desire to emphasize the need for better educational opportunities at these institutions. While it is true that many of the children committed to these institutions are later placed with good families, there are many who do not receive such consideration and who remain at the homes for indefinite periods, or until reaching the age for discharge upon their own responsibility. I have this latter class in mind in making this recommendation. These children are wards of the State, and the obligation of the State to them is exactly the same as the obligation of any parent to his or her own child.

If we are to maintain the two institutions, then each should be made to function in accordance with our needs. To avoid duplication of service, one institution should be equipped to care for older children and those less likely to be adopted out into private families. That institution should have means for furnishing a thorough education to these unfortunate boys and girls, that they may be prepared for the battle of life just as we endeavor to equip your child and mine. The other institution should care for the babies and the small children, and those who will be at the home for brief periods. Thus each institution would be charged with a separate and distinct purpose, and these children would be accorded the consideration to which they are entitled.

We had a daily average of 247 children at Pryor during 1926 and an average of 91 at Helena. These institutions have maintained about this average for the past four years. A certain percentage remain at these institutions until attaining the age limit for their release. The children placed in homes prevents any appreciable increase over the year which might be occasioned by incoming wards.

Then we have the situation at Pauls Valley where the State maintains an institution for the restraint, correction and training of delinquent and incorrigible boys. I regret to say that I do not believe at any time this institution has functioned in a satisfactory manner for reasons many of which will be obvious to the most casual observer. The buildings are old and not well adapted to the needs of the institution. The school facilities are not the best. In so far as the corrective element is concerned, I consider the institution a failure and this condition will continue until radical changes are made. No suitable living quarters are available for the employed personnel and this condition, together with the fact that the salaries provided are very low, renders it impossible to obtain the services of the character of persons needed for this work. I hope that in the future we can have a complete rehabilitation of this institution.

The site of the Pauls Valley institution is unfortunate, for while the county in which it is located is noted for its fertile and well-tilled farms, the institutional land cannot be so classified. A new location for the school might be desirable, although it should not be necessary to leave Garvin county to obtain the quality of land needed. Little loss would be occasioned by disposing of the existing buildings, which, as I have stated, are inadequate and in poor repair.

Then, too, if better conditions are to obtain, boys sent to this school should be committed for longer terms, and full school facilities should be maintained. Fluctuating as it does, the population now is uncertain and constantly changing, rendering it impossible to reclaim these erring boys as is intended. When a young lad is taken from a good home, often against the wishes of his parents, and placed under the custody of the State, the State should not thereafter be derelict in its duty toward such a child. The Pauls Valley institution should be a school in every sense of the word, for it is not in any wise a prison and it should not be so considered. This lack of understanding of the purposes of the training school, both upon the part of the public and of many officials, accounts in a large measure for its failure to produce the results I feel should be obtained. Likewise, here as elsewhere, the need of the best and broadest mind obtainable is needed to head such an institution, and when the proper person is found, he or she must be given a free hand in all matters of administration and not be hampered by political or other unfriendly influences.

PRISON PROBLEMS

THE repeal of the law requiring a prison label on all products manufactured in our prisons by the Tenth Legislature was responsible in a large measure for the success of Warden W. S. Key in making the State Penitentiary at McAlester self-supporting.

Aside from the fact that this has enabled us to make our penitentiary pay its own way, thus relieving our tax-payers of an unjust burden, it has been possible for us to maintain at our penal institutions great schools of vocational education, thus fitting the men therein incarcerated to return to civil life upon their release well equipped to secure employment as skilled workmen.

While the complaint is made that prison goods constitute unfair competition for the products of free labor, it is difficult to conceive that this is a factor of much importance when we consider that the same men, when outside the walls, were likewise furnishing competition to all such labor. On the other hand, if our convicts are to be maintained in idleness or are to be engaged in some vocation which would not be advantageous to the State, the burden of their upkeep and that of these institutions would have to be borne by labor and other classes of tax-payers as well.

Frequently, well-meaning persons suggest the adoption in this State of the so-called "State-use" system. In other words, they would have the convicts manufacture such articles as can be utilized by other State departments and institutions, limiting the sale of such products to the State and its subdivisions. It might be said that this system is being practiced now in so far as it is practicable, and that any attempt to extend this system would result in the scrapping of much of the valuable equipment now on hand and require the investment of many thousands of dollars for new equipment, when a study of the situation would clearly indicate in advance that such an attempt would be doomed to failure.

Certain of our institutions produce articles for their own use, and buy such things as they cannot make for themselves, yet many of these are a minor character and such that could not well be manufacture din a prison. However, even if we attempted to make everything which we now buy, we would be forced to operate any number of small factories, hire trained instructors in every field entered and still not have work enough to keep more than a small fraction of the convicts busy.

Today not less than fifteen penitentiaries in other states are shipping convict-made goods into this State to be sold on the open market without the label, such products including cigars, shoes, all manner of wearing apparel, brooms, machinery, furniture and many other articles which command ready sale. Here in Oklahoma we endeavor to produce such products as can be manufactured to the best possible advantage, both from an economic standpoint and in consideration of the prisoners' individual welfare. We investigated conditions in the best penal institutions throughout the United States before adopting the system now in vogue, and it should be extremely gratifying to our citizenship that at the recent meeting of the National Prison Conference our State Penitentiary at McAlester was pointed out as a model for the United States.

PRISON ROAD CAMPS

THE extra expense of guarding prisoners on road work, the increased cost of maintaining them outside of the walls, and the large investment of machinery and supplies required in this work are some of the chief objections to the maintenance of prison road camps. Then, too, the general hostility of any community in which this work is carried on to the employment of convicts in road building is a factor deserving of serious consideration.

Oklahoma has solved this problem to some extent by establishing camps in remote districts and limiting prisoners employed to those regarded as the most trustworthy. The selected men are sent to these camps and placed on their honor to conform to the rules and discipline without the necessity of employing armed guards to maintain order.

In September, of 1924, the first road camp was established in the Arbuckle mountains in Carter county, where 65 selected men were placed under a superintendent and two foremen. Under the direction of the engineers from the State Highway Department, the Carter county road program was carried out very successfully and very few escapes resulted from this experiment. Consequently, in June, 1925, the second road camp was established in the Kiamichi mountains in Pushmataha county, under the same conditions which governed the first camp. All work is performed under the direction of the State Highway Department, which provides all machinery and the maintenance expense of the camp. A report from an engineer in charge of the Carter county camp, dated July 24, 1926, shows that the work performed at that camp amounts to \$193,584.54 in value received. A similar report, dated August 31, 1926, shows that work on the Pushmataha county project is valued at \$120,263.39. It costs approximately one dollar per day to maintain these prisoners, including salaries and other necessary expenses. However, were guards required and if the men were not all willing workers, the cost of their maintenance would be prohibitive and out of all keeping with good public policy. Today approximately 175 men are employed in these camps, and it is possible that one or two additional camps might be established and maintained with equal success, but those best acquainted with this situation are of the opinion that it would not be practicable to extend the system to any appreciable extent.

I have stated that only trusted men, men who can be worked without guards or guns, are suitable for employment in these camps, and that the cost of guarding and supervising unwilling and dangerous men at such work is prohibitive, as experience in this and many other states has long since established. Even the casual observer will readily appreciate the fact that but a small percentage of the men sent to prison are of such a type as to enjoy the degree of confidence which we have been able to repose in the men in the two mountain camps, and that the success of these camps may be charged to the character of men employed and not to the system itself, although we must extend due credit to the prison administration and the highway officials for the excellent results accomplished. This problem I have discussed at some length for frequently we hear persons say that all of the prisoners should be worked on the roads, although one doubts that such a persons would be willing to live in the same neighborhood with many of the prisoners now incarcerated at McAlester, many of whom must be kept under the gun from the moment their cells are opened until they are again locked and barred.

The work at these two camps is well under way and these highways under construction, constituting routes of both scenic and economic importance, will be lasting monuments to those officials responsible for the initiation and successful conclusion of these projects.

An additional project is under construction near the prison plant and men employed in this work are maintained within the walls.

OUR PRISON FARMS

THE prison farm at McAlester consists of 1,920 acres of rolling land, and approximately 1,200 acres of this land are in cultivation. The remainder is waste mine land and rocky hillside. It has been the policy of the present administration to improve the farm by methods of soil culture, to improve the standard of seed by growing only those which have been selected and standardized, and to improve the livestock by using pure-bred sires and increasing the number of registered animals as fast as reasonable selection will permit.

The farm has produced 21,720 bushels of oats; 3,000 bushels of barley, and 209 bales of cotton during the past fiscal year. Large quantities of dairy products and vegetables are consumed by the prison. Hogs are raised on a large scale and fifteen (15) carloads have been shipped to market during the past year. The net earnings from the farm for the past year amounted to \$31,599.97.

Close cooperation is maintained with the A. & M. College at Stillwater and from this institution the prison has obtained pure cotton and oat seed. The experiment station is operated on the farm in conjunction with the A. & M. College and information obtained from these experiments relative to cultural methods, spacing, terracing and fertilizing is furnished free to all farmers.

Farming is the principal industry of the State Reformatory at Granite, where, however, the soil is much more productive and better adapted to agricultural purpose than that at McAlester. The State owns 1,445 acres of land here, the larger part of which is under cultivation, having 640 acres of school land which joins the institution on the west leased from the School Land Department, and in addition thereto has several hundred acres of land rented. Very satisfactory yields have been had of both barley and oats and very large amounts of grain sorghum have been produced, in addition to over 200 bales of cotton produce on the farm this year. A large quantity of sorghum molasses has been made for the institution, and an adequate supply of vegetables of all kinds has been raised. The institution has a large berry patch and fruit orchard, which are beginning to yield satisfactorily, and also has a young pecan orchard which is making very satisfactory growth.

In addition this institution likewise operates an experiment farm in cooperation with the A. & M. College, and this farm is conducted in a manner similar to the one at McAlester.

FISCAL FACTS FROM GRANITE

CONTINUING the work initiated by the late Dr. George A. Waters at the beginning of this administration, J. J. Savage, the present warden, has made commendable progress in placing the State Reformatory on a sound financial basis.

Regardless of the fact that during the period ending June 30, 1926, there was a daily average of 35 more men than for the period ending June 30, 1924, the total cost of operating the institution was approximately \$45,000.00 less for 1926 than for 1924. The per capita cost was \$97.18 less for 1926 than for 1924. The cost for fuel for 1926 netted a saving of more than \$18,000.00 against that of 1924.

The food cost for 1924 was \$44,330.55, or \$76.96 per capita, against \$55,770.93 or \$91.29 per capita for 1926. It will be well to notice that this is the only item of importance showing increase for 1924. This will show that the boys were given more and better food during the latter period, while at the same time the total expenditures for the institution was very appreciably reduced.

THE SCHOOL LAND DEPARTMENT

AT the beginning of my administration, in the Leases and Sales Division of the Commissioners of the Land Office, out of approximately 14,000 accounts on land sales, there were approximately 2,500 delinquent in interest and annual payments. This delinquency amounted to approximately \$2,000,000.00. During the past two years the delinquent accounts have been reduced to 234, and these are now in process of collection or cancellation.

There were also approximately 1,800 preference right leases, 944 of which were delinquent in the annual rentals; the delinquency amounting to approximately \$250,000.00. There are now only 118 delinquent lease accounts and these are in process of collection or cancellation. These collections were made possible in this department by the enactment of laws by special session of the Legislature of 1924, and by the firm policy of the Commissioners of the Land Office in enforcing these laws.

In the Loan Division on June 30, 1923, the loans on first farm mortgages amounted to \$20,518,000.00. At the close of business on November 1, 1926, loans on first farm mortgages were \$25,795,000.00. An increase of \$5,277,000.00. New loans and renewal loans made during this period, amounted to \$13,600,700.00.

The Department has invested in bonds, \$1,496,550.00, out of the public building fund. This fund is not subject to loans on farm mortgages.

From January 1, 1924, to December 26, 1926, there has been collected by the Oil and Gas Division in rentals, bonuses and royalties, \$2,960,982.71. An additional \$650,000.00 should be included which was had from bonuses at the sale of a week ago. In the same period of time there has been apportioned to the Common Schools \$4,798,675.19.

In the matter of collections on delinquent payments on farm loan mortgages. Out of the \$25,795,000.00 loaned, 3-10 of 1%, or approximately \$700,000.00 are delinquent and are in process of foreclosure, by order of the Commission. This amount would have been a great deal less, had it not been for a decision of the Supreme Court, rendered April 6, 1926, involving a tax question, which has not been disposed of by the Court; tax certificate holders contending that the State could not foreclose its mortgage lien against their tax certificate. On account of the petition for rehearing and application to modify the opinion, the question has not been finally disposed of and the District Courts are awaiting the decision of the Supreme Court.

The Commissioners of the Land Office have had the hearty cooperation of all of the employees of the Department carrying out their policies, in the management and control of the matters under the jurisdiction of the Commissioners of the Land Office.

SUPREME COURT

One of the most important objects of government is the preservation of vested property rights. The proper protection of these rights necessarily rests in the judiciary of the state. A state is unfortunate where a change in the personnel of its judiciary is followed by changes in its decisions relating to vested property rights. Irreparable injury is thereby wrought to the credit and stability of the state and to its institutions and industries. Our own State has not been free from criticism in this respect, and the frequent changes in its opinions relating to property rights, consequent upon a change in the personnel of our Supreme Court, is beginning seriously to jeopardize the prestige and financial standing of the State of Oklahoma, and if not guarded vigilantly against, will ultimately destroy its credit.

It is a matter of general knowledge that non-residents of our State who have acquired property rights in Oklahoma on the strength of decisions of our judiciary can escape the unfortunate consequences of such changes in judicial opinions by resorting to the Federal Courts, whereas our own citizens are powerless thus to avoid the judicial confiscation of their property.

The need of a remedy for this deplorable condition is acute. Various remedial suggestions have been made, but inasmuch as it is my understanding that my worthy successor has taken cognizance of this situation, we may reasonably expect that he will have something substantial to submit in order to bring about the proper relief.

THE SHORT BALLOT

IN recent years we have witnessed demands for radical changes in our election laws, and no one will question the fact that the results under our primary system have failed at times to command the satisfaction of all people.

The right of every voter to cast his or her ballot and to have that ballot counted as cast is a sacred and inherent right, and our laws should be so amended, and then so administered and interpreted as to uphold the sanctity of the ballot. Our free institutions can not long endure if our people have reason to believe that laws are enforced or interpreted upon any basis other than that of absolute and impartial justice.

However, we cannot so legislate as to prevent the nomination or election of persons favored by the greatest number of people. Nor am I at all certain that our people are prepared to abandon the primary system for a return to the convention system, unless perhaps such a change would be attended by many features in keeping with modern thought.

Objections are raised that under the primary system now in effect in Oklahoma, nominations and elections are too costly, thus leading to possibilities of corruption and other abuses. Such objections are well taken, yet under either a run-off primary or a preferential primary, I am convinced that this condition would be aggravated rather than relieved. It is pointed out that our present law is confusing and that it is difficult for the average voter to cast an intelligent ballot. This would not be corrected either by the run-off or preferential systems, but might indeed be relieved by the adoption of a short ballot system. Such an innovation might meet with opposition on the theory that it would place too much authority in officials vested with the appointive power, but this might be corrected by the adoption of a civil service system which would remove from such officials much of the authority they now have, yet bring to them prerogatives more rightly theirs and more in keeping with successful and efficient administration.

We must admit that the application of our theory of checks and balances often results in failure to definitely fix responsibility, and that in time something must be done to bring about a more expeditious administration of the public's business, either by this avenue or some other which would result in a better coordination of our activities.

It would, of course, require amendments to our Constitution in order to provide for the Short Ballot System, and yet virtually any change suggested which would in any way relieve us of obvious weaknesses in the present system would require either a constitutional amendment, or at least a questionable evasion of the recognized and expressed intent of our Constitution.

DEFICIENCY CERTIFICATES

1924-1925

DEFICIENCY Certificate No.8, 1924-1925, was issued by the Honorable W.J. Holloway, Acting Governor, on request of the Honorable R.A. Sneed, Secretary of State, for office supplies. Amount \$450.00; date, April 23, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 9, 1924-1925, was issued to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, to be used to defray traveling expenses of district judges while holding court outside of their districts, on assignment of the Chief Justice. Amount, \$1,000.00; date, May 11, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 10, 1924-1925, was issued to the Adjutant General to pay troops for service in connection with the coal mine trouble in the Henryetta and Okmulgee district. Amount, \$1,000.00; May 18, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 11, 1924-1925, was issued to the Adjutant General to pay claims for service and other expense in connection with the coal mine trouble at Henryetta and Okmulgee. Amount, \$1,000.00; date, June 22, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 12, 1924-1925, was issued by the Honorable W. J. Holloway, Acting Governor, to the Adjutant General for claims for services of the troops in connection with the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine trouble. Amount, \$500.00; date, June 30, 1925.

1925-1926

Deficiency Certificate No. 1, 1925-1926, and Deficiency Certificate No. 2, 1925-1926, were issued by Honorable W. J. Holloway to the Adjutant General to care for expenses of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee district, on account of the coal mine trouble. Amounts, \$1,092.52 and \$1,092.52; date July 6th and 7th, 1925. On July 9th, 1925, these certificates were cancelled by the Honorable W. J. Holloway.

Deficiency Certificate No. 3, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General by the Honorable W. J. Holloway, Acting Governor, to pay expenses of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine district. Amount, \$2,185.04; date, July 9, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 4, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to defray expenses of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine district. Amount, \$2,465.93; date, July 24, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 5, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to pay expenses of the troops in Henryetta and Okmulgee district during the coal mine trouble. Amount, \$2,208.45; date August 20, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 6, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to care for the expense of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine district. Amount, \$3,548.90; date, September 1, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 7, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to care for the expense of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine district. Amount, \$4,327.04; date, September 22, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 8, 1925-1926, was issued to the State Board of Agriculture for reimbursing members of that Board, for per diem and traveling expenses. Amount \$422.57; date, September 22, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 9, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to pay expenses of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine trouble. Amount, \$4,020.89; date, September 29, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 10, 1925-1926, was issued to the Governor's office to pay outstanding claims of the district judges and their reporters while holding court in their respective districts, but outside of the county of actual residence. Amount, \$2,500.00; date, October 22, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 11, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to defray expenses of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine district. Amount, \$2,996.82; date, November 3, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 12, 1925-1926, was issued to Adjutant General to care for the expenses of the troops in the Henryetta and Okmulgee coal mine district. Amount, \$1,548.28; date, November 3, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 13, 1925-1926, was issued to the State Board of Agriculture for the purpose of paying expenses incurred during the quarantine protection for the foot and mouth disease. Amount, \$2,389.69; date, December 14, 1925.

Deficiency Certificate No. 14, 1925-1926, was issued to the Criminal Court of Appeals to pay expense of telephone and toll service. Amount, \$200.00; date, January 13, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 15, 1925-1926, was issued to the Adjutant General to pay expenses incurred on account of the coal mine disaster at Wilburton. Amount, \$1,102.04; date, February 19, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 16, 1925-1926, was issued to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court to pay expenses of the district judges of the state while holding court outside of their districts, on assignment of the Chief Justice. Amount, \$1,000.00; date, March 27, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 17, 1925-1926, was issued to the Executive Committee of the American Legion for disabled World War veterans and their families. Amount, \$15,000.00; date, April 12, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 18, 1925-1926, was issued to the President of the East Central State Teachers College, at Ada, Oklahoma, to pay the expenses of summer school. Amount, \$9,029.92; date, April 24, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 19, 1925-1926, was issued to the President of the Central State Teachers College, at Edmond, Oklahoma, for paying the expenses of summer school. Amount, \$9,820.51; date, April 24, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 20, 1925-1926, was issued to the Northwestern State Teachers College, at Alva, Oklahoma, for paying the expenses of summer school. Amount, \$3,145.77; date, April 24, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 21, 1925-1926, was issued to the Northeastern State Teachers College at Tahlequah, Oklahoma, for the purpose of paying the expenses of summer school. Amount, \$4,737.34; date, April 24, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 22, 1925-1926, was issued to the Southeastern State Teachers College, at Durant, Oklahoma, for the purpose of paying the expenses of summer school. Amount, \$9,783.00; date, April 24, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 23, 1925-1926, was issued to the State Board of Agriculture for the purpose of paying salaries and traveling expenses in the Feed Inspection Department. Amount, \$2,481.55; date, June 9, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 24, 1925-1926, was issued to the State Board of Agriculture for the purpose of installing a light plant at the Panhandle Agricultural and Mechanical College, at Goodwell, Oklahoma. Amount, \$6,750.00; date, June 9, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 25, 1925-1926, was issued to the Governor's office, to pay the traveling expenses of district judges and their reporters while holding court in their respective districts, but outside of the county of actual resident. Amount, \$2,500.00; date, June 9, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 26, 1925-1926, was issued to the State Board of Agriculture for the purpose of paying maintenance of the Cameron School of Agriculture at Lawton, Oklahoma, in lieu of fund No. 3, for this institution, for repairs, which was returned to the State Treasurer. Amount, \$1,000.00; date, June 15, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 27, 1925-1926, State Board of Agriculture, was issued for the purpose of paying salaries and current expense for the Murray School of Agriculture at Tishomingo, Oklahoma. Amount, \$3,400.00; date, June 15, 1926.

1926-1927

Deficiency Certificate No. 1, 1926-1927, was issued to the State Market Commission for inspection work of that department. Amount, \$2,711.12; date, July 22, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 2, 1926-1927, was issued to the Governor's Office, to pay the traveling expenses of the district judges and their reporters while holding court within their district, but outside of the county of actual residence. Amount, \$500.00; August 11, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 3, 1926-1927, was issued to the State Board of Affairs for the purpose of paying for the remodeling and housing of the following boards and commissions: Building and Loan Board, Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, Supreme Court Commission. Amount \$3,188.86; date, August 11, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 4, 1926-1927, was issued to the State Board of Affairs for the purpose of paying for three hundred each of ten volumes of Oklahoma Criminal Reports, to be numbered 19-28, inclusive, on requisition from the Honorable E. S. Bessey, Presiding Judge of the Criminal Court of Appeals, and Howard Parker, State Reporter. Amount, \$4,500.00; date, August 16, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 5, 1926-1927, was issued to the Western Union Telegraph Company to cover telegraph expenses in the Governor's Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926. Amount, \$75.11; date, August 17, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 6, 1926-1927, was issued to the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company to cover telephone service for the Governor's Office for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1926. Amount, \$66.40; date, August 6, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 7, 1926-1927, was issued to the State Board of Affairs for the Oklahoma College for Women, to be used for the purpose of repairing the heating plant at that institution. Amount, \$4,500.00; date, September 10, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 8, 1926-1927, was issued to the Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, for the purpose of paying the traveling and communication expenses, motor vehicle and repairs for that department. Amount, \$996.84; date, September 10, 1926.

Deficiency Certificate No. 9, 1926-1927, was issued to the Secretary of State to pay for the publication of State Questions 135-139, inclusive, which were submitted at the last election. Amount, \$6,000.00; date, September 29, 1926.

CONDITIONS IN 1923

IT MAY be needless to recall the situation existent in Oklahoma in the fall and winter of 1923. We know, however, that our State had undergone a hectic period of uncertainty and internal strife, all but completely demoralizing our governmental agencies; that the period immediately preceding the beginning of my responsibilities had been one of extravagance, and of waste; that our citizens had virtually lost confidence in the officials and in

their public institutions, and that in turn, many officials had either become discouraged or had lost for the moment the perspective necessary for efficient and thoughtful service. Much of this, no doubt, found explanation in the chaotic condition of the public mind at that time, yet its effects were serious and of far-reaching importance.

Business within our borders had suffered to an inestimable extent, but, more serious still, our credit abroad had been injured, if not temporarily destroyed. For months flaring headlines in the press of the nation had dwelt upon the alleged happenings in Oklahoma, and the orderly processes of government, and the normal manner in which a majority of our citizens were functioning had escaped the attention of the sensationalists who seized day after day upon each fresh morsel of gossip reflecting upon the stability and integrity of our State.

We were confronted with a pressing demand for a return to sanity and sound thinking if our fortunes were to be retrieved. Our standing abroad, and in the money markets of the world, must be restored and the inauguration of drastic conservation measures and policies was needed if we were to obtain these ends. Thus our problem was psychological, as well as one of administration, for the rehabilitation of the public confidence was a fact which could not be accomplished in a day, although the press of Oklahoma was of great assistance toward that objective.

An initial step in the right direction was taken when the Ninth Legislature was called to meet in a second "extraordinary" session, the purpose of which was to effect sweeping economies and the curtailment and co-ordination of our governmental activities. In keeping with this intention, a joint survey-committee was selected by the House and Senate, and remedial measures were prepared and later approved by the respective houses which did much to bring about a better general understanding of true conditions in Oklahoma. In addition, by curtailing unnecessary expenditures previously authorized, we were able to effect a total saving of \$4,956,321.37 in appropriations reconsidered and reduced.

At the same time, sweeping changes in many of our departments and institutions were required, both in keeping with efficient administration and the best conclusions of public opinion, and to satisfy the situation it seemed mandatory that persons of recognized qualifications and standing be drafted to aid in the process of reconstruction. Thus, it was one of my particular tasks, first to find such persons, and then to persuade them to enter the public service, if even for but a brief period and until the emergency had passed.

APPOINTMENTS AND REORGANIZATION

IN OBTAINING the services of qualified persons I was unusually successful in convincing many of our outstanding citizens that public service at that critical period was a patriotic duty and to these men and women who accepted or continued such responsibilities often at a personal sacrifice, the people of this State are forever indebted and I acknowledge to them for myself and endless obligation.

To the State Board of Public Affairs I appointed Carl L. Rice of Tulsa, and John E. O'Neil of Oklahoma City. Mrs. P. S. Nagle, of Kingfisher, was retained as the third member. To this Board general credit is due for the sweeping improvements in all of the institutions under their direction; for the improvement of the Capitol grounds and for the many economic measures initiated in the conduct of our several institutions for which they were responsible.

Frank Buttram of Oklahoma City was reappointed as a member of the University Board of Regents, and new appointments included John Carlock of Ardmore, A. A. McDonald of Hugo, Orel Busby of Ada, and John Rogers of Tulsa. George Bowman of Kingfisher and Mrs. J. N. Schwoerke of Oklahoma City remained on the board as hold-over members. When I assumed office the University was without a permanent president but this board was successful in securing the services of Dr. W. B. Bizzell, one of the outstanding educators of the United States, and since that time no incidents have occurred to disturb the orderly process of this institution and it is today functioning in a splendid manner.

W. S. Key of Wewoka was drafted as Warden of the State Penitentiary at McAlester and in two years time he was successful in making this institution self-supporting. The accomplishments at our prison have attracted attention throughout the nation, as was evidenced recently when General Key was elected president of the National Prison Conference at its annual meeting.

Dr. George A. Waters of Pawnee was returned to the State Reformatory at Granite and following his untimely passing he was succeeded by J. J. Savage of Hollis. Improvements at the institution are too numerous to mention, in which each of the wardens had a part.

Dr. Carl Puckett of Pryor was appointed State Health Commissioner and that department has been reorganized along standard lines to meet modern concepts of a state department of health and in keeping with those states that have materially reduced disease and death rates.

O. B. Mothersead of Muskogee was appointed State Bank Commissioner and the State Banking Board was reorganized with D. P. Richardson of Union City; H. H. Reeves of Gould and C. K. Dawson of Ponca City as its members. The present condition of the State banking system is a credit to this board and the commissioner, aided as they were by the State Bankers Association, and its President, J.P. Gibson.

Forney Hutchinson of Oklahoma City and E. L. Rodman of Antlers were appointed on the State Board of Education and Theo. F. Brewer of Tulsa was re-appointed on this board. Holdover members on this board included J. L. Newland of Frederick, J. M. Sandlin of Duncan, Ethel Cardiff of Tulsa, and L. Norman Duncan, Secretary.

When the State Highway Commission Act was approved, a commission was appointed which included Cyrus S. Avery of Tulsa, F. J. Gentry of Enid, and Roy M. Johnston of Ardmore. The activities of this department are covered in the detailed report submitted to this Legislature and are also discussed in another parts of this Message.

Sam L. Morley of McAlester, E. W. Marland of Ponca City, and N. R. Graham of Tulsa were appointed members of the Fish and Game Commission.

Charles L. Orr of Holdenville, Giles A. Kelly of Talihina, and A. O. Workman of Oklahoma City were appointed on the Soldiers' Relief Commission.

Wilburn Cartwright of Krebs, Ira C. Haycock of Wilburton, and Arthur B. Livingston of Lutie, were appointed on the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma School of Mines at Wilburton.

Sam F. Wilkinson of Nowata, Ad V. Coppedge of Grove, Ralph J. Tuttle of Miami, and W. M. Malone of Vinita, were appointed on the Board of Regents of the Northeastern Oklahoma Junior College at Miami, and this Board elected M. R. Floyd as president of the institution.

Baird H. Markham, of Oklahoma City and Alva J. Niles of Tulsa, were appointed as members of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma Military Academy at Claremore, and this Board elected Walter E. Downs of Poteau as president of the school. When General Niles resigned he was succeeded by J. B. Sledge of Ada.

The rehabilitation of this institution was so marked that the United States War Department authorized a R. O. T. C. unit at Claremore, this being the first time in three years that the Federal Government had so recognized any similar institutions at any point in the United States.

No changes were made at the Oklahoma College for Women at Chickasha, where the late G. W. Austin was president and the Board of Regents composed of J. D. Carmichael of Chickasha, W. E. Hocker of Elk City, Mrs. Roy Hoffman of Oklahoma City, Mrs. E. B. Lawson of Notwata, and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, M. A. Nash.

M. P. Hammond was selected by the Board of Education as president of the Northeastern State Normal at Tahlequah, but under the present administration no changes in similar institutions at Durant, Edmond, Weatherford, Ada and Alva, were made.

No changes were made at any of the Agricultural schools, including the Oklahoma A. & M. College at Stillwater, which institutions function under the direction of the State Board of Agriculture, this Board being composed of R. B. Parks of Spaulding, L. A. Clinkenbeard of Alva, J. M. Rule of Hobart, and Mrs. Fern King, of Kingfisher, with John A. Whitehurst ex-officio member.

No changes were made at the School for the Blind at Muskogee (until the death of the superintendent); at the School for the Deaf at Sulphur; at the Whittaker State Home for Orphans at Pryor; at the Deaf, Blind and Orphans Home for Colored Children at Taft; at the State Industrial School for Girls at Tecumseh; at the State Training School for Negro Boys, now located at Boley; at the Tubercular Sanitariums at Clinton and Talihina; at the Hospitals for the Insane, located at Norman, Vinita and Supply; or at the University Hospital at Oklahoma City.

John W. Scott of Idabel was appointed Superintendent of the Boys Training School at Pauls Valley.

The work of the Text Book Commission in 1925 was especially noteworthy inasmuch as its adoption seemed to command universal satisfaction being, as well, in keeping with the economic policies of the administration. The appointed personnel of this board included Dr. W. W. Phelan of Norman, then Dean of Education at the State University, and now President of the Baptist University of Shawnee; A. Linscheid, President of the East Central State Teachers College at Ada; Sam L. Morley of McAlester, President of the Oklahoma Bankers' Association and formerly a teacher in the United States Indian Schools; A. J. Lovett, City Superintendent of Schools at Blackwell for many years, and Mrs. Margaret Doolittle Gregory of Faxon, a rural school teacher. Under the law the Governor is ex-officio chairman of this commission and the State Superintendent of Public Instruction is its ex-officio secretary. In selecting the persons to be appointed on this commission, I did so in consultation with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and was pleased to avail myself of his very excellent and intelligent counsel. Mr. Nash played a very prominent part in the adoption itself and his work is deserving of commendation. In the absence of myself from the State, Senator Tom Anglin of Holdenville, as president pro tem of the Senate and Acting Governor, presided over the deliberations of the Commission, and is entitled to his full share of credit for the accomplishments of this Commission.

Mrs. F. L. Roblin of Oklahoma City was reappointed as a member of the State Industrial Commission. The holdovers on this Commission were H. C. Myers of Shawnee, and Edgar Fenton of Oklahoma City.

C. J. Stewart of Haworth was retained as Commissioner of Confederate Pensions.

John Connally of Oklahoma City was retained as State Fire Marshal.

Appointments on the State Mining Board included James Redpath of Wilburton, D. C. McAlpine of Haleyville, M. A. Berman of Henryetta, Charles Sizemore of Henryetta and H. C. Rice of Dow.

Appointments on the Building and Loan Board included John B. Doolin of Alva, E. F. Scott of Pawhuska, and O. R. Salmon of Durant.

Members appointed on the Forest Commission were John F. Easley of Ardmore, J. M. Craig of Idabel, and Mrs. J. L. Huff of Nowata. Ex-officio members of this Commission are the President of the State Board of Agriculture and the President of the A. & M. College at Stillwater.

On the Commission of Drainage and Irrigation the appointees were E. E. Blake of Oklahoma City, Tom C. Harrill of Wagoner, and George Kenneck of Gate.

Tom R. Hadley of Muskogee was reappointed Secretary of the State Board of Pharmacy, but resigned a year ago when he was succeeded by Clarence Anderson of Hugo. Other members of this Board are W. Perry Freeman of Washington, Paul W. Moomaw of Okemah, Ted M. Tether of Pauls Valley and Tom L. Frame of Ardmore, all of whom were either reappointed or held over.

Members appointed on the Board of Dental Examiners included C. A. Hess of Idabel, L. M. Doss of Oklahoma City (reappointed) and E. E. Sanger of Yukon. The hold-over members of this Board included Dr. W. S. Williams of Durant and Dr. Fred Sparks of Ponca City.

Appointments on the Board of Medical Examiners included H. C. Weber of Bartlesville, Harper Wright of Grandfield, W. P. Fite of Muskogee, J. M. Byrum of Shawee, William T. Ray of Gould, D. N. Miller of Blackwell, and L. E. Emanuel of Chickasha.

John Hamill of Norman was retained as Secretary of the State Insurance Board.

W. A. Durant of Durant was elected Secretary of the School Land Commission by the Commissioners of the Land Office, of which Board the Governor is chairman.

Appointments on the State Board of Embalmers included W. S. McAtee of Oklahoma City, O. L. Calloway of Laverne, and George D. Stanley of Tulsa.

On the Board of Osteopathic Examiners appointments included H. C. Montague of Muskogee, J. A. Price of Oklahoma City, and W. O. Pool of Wynnewood.

Appointees on the Board of Chiropractic Examiners were Curtis J. Lee of Oklahoma City, Harry Gallagher of Guthrie, and C. Sterling Cooley of Tulsa, all reappointed.

Appointments on the Board of Optometry included F. H. Robertson of Blackwell, and J. R. McCrory of Oklahoma City. On the Board of Accountancy, Homer Hammond of Oklahoma City was appointed.

Ben F. Harrison of Calvin was retained as the State Budget Officer, as was Nina Young Burrus in her capacity as Pardon and Parole Officer.

Baird H. Markham of Oklahoma City was reappointed Adjutant General of the State in recognition of his meritorious conduct of that important arm of the government during the preceding administration, and upon his subsequent resignation from that office, Charles F. Barrett of Oklahoma City, a pioneer guard officer and a former Adjutant General of the State, was named as his successor.

Dr. J. G. Duncan of Tulsa was appointed Superintendent of the newly created Bureau of Criminal Investigation and Identification, and W. H. Morgan of Tulsa was appointed as Assistant Superintendent. It is noteworthy that a year ago at the meeting of the International Association of Criminal Investigation and Identification, at Toronto, Canada, Dr. Duncan was elected president of this international association of peace officers. Other appointments in that Bureau included the late Luther Bishop of Oklahoma City, W. J. Ballard of Norman, J. Z. Armstrong of Lawton, Claude Tyler of Edmond, Lee Pollock of El Reno, and Eva Mae Hodges of Chickasha. Jim Brown of Waurika was later appointed to fill a vacancy occasioned by a death. In this connection I cannot refrain from commending similar services of officers employed directly by the Governor's Office to assist this Bureau and to engage in similar work, especially referring to such men as the late William Tilghman and Charles McCloud.

George Ade David of Oklahoma City was appointed as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Union Soldiers' Home, and it was due in a large measure to his active supervision that this institution was completely rehabilitated until today it is in the best condition of its history. J. J. Carson of Blackwell and N. D. McGinley of Guthrie was reappointed to succeed themselves on this board, and Chris Madsen of Oklahoma City was selected by the Board as Superintendent of this institution.

New appointments on the Board of Regents for the Colored Agricultural and Normal University at Langston included E. A. Duke of Edmond, E. M. Castleberry of Edmond, Ned Holman of Guthrie and Neil Humphrey of Meridian.

A number of vacancies occurred in elective offices during the three-year period. Jesse G. Reed of Hobart was appointed State Insurance Commissioner. George J. Mechling of Woodward was appointed State Examiner and Inspector.

To vacancies on the Supreme Court I appointed James B. Gordon of McAlester, J. D. Lydick of Oklahoma City and Frank Warren of Holdenville.

Court vacancies occurring in several of the District Courts of the State, the following appointments were made: D. C. McCurtain of Poteau, E. L. Mitchell of Clinton, Lucius Babcock of El Reno, Sam Hooker of Oklahoma City, Wiley Jones of Oklahoma City, Tom Pace of Purcell, Luther James of Tulsa, E. L. Richardson of Lawton, C. S. Walker of Tulsa, J. R. Charlton of Bartlesville, Wayne W. Bayless of Claremore, R. D. Hudson of Tulsa, and Charles Swindall of Woodward. Of all the appointments to the District bench during the period of my administration, I am happy to say that such selections were upheld at the polls with but one exception, and that two of the men thus appointed were renominated without opposition.

W. B. Williams of Tulsa, was appointed to a vacancy occurring on the Supreme Court Commission, while William Randolph of Tulsa was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Court of Common Pleas of Tulsa County. The latter was subsequently nominated and elected to that position.

CO-OPERATION OF ELECTIVE OFFICIALS

IN RESTORING the public confidence in our governmental institutions, however, little could have been accomplished had it not been for the splendid spirit of co-operation and helpfulness which actuated the conduct and policies of the various elective State officials. I was exceptionally fortunate in having had, in my own department, two such qualified and capable executives as Senator Tom Anglin of Holdenville, and Senator W. J. Holloway, of Hugo, who in turn served as President pro tem of the Senate and as such, as Acting Governor during the period of my administration. I had, too, for the same periods to assist me in many ways, the Honorable W. D. McBee of Duncan, and the Honorable J. B. Harper of Tahlequah, who served as speakers for the House of Representatives for that part of the Ninth Legislature during which I was in office, and the entire period of the Tenth Legislature. The latter likewise discharged the duties of the office of Governor for a period, during which time his actions commanded universal satisfaction.

The office of the Secretary of State was at all times helpful, and splendid co-operation was received not only from the Secretary, R. A. Sneed, but from his Assistant, Una Lee Roberts. The State Auditor, C. C. Childers, and his entire department co-operated in a splendid manner. During this period the record of the office of the Attorney General was exceptionally commendable, and both civil and criminal litigation was handled in a prompt, intelligent and expeditious manner. A. S. J. Shaw, State Treasurer, well merited his recent election as State Auditor on his record of efficiency. M. A. Nash, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, was in many ways exceedingly helpful, and it was my pleasure to be governed by his recommendations to a very large extent in all matters dealing with the subject of education and its incident problems. This was especially true in connection with the conduct of our various educational institutions. It was not my purpose to interfere in any manner with the A. & M. College at Stillwater, which is under the supervision of J. A. Whitehurst, President of the Board of Agriculture, and members of an advisory board appointed by the Governor.

I wish especially to pay my sincere respects to those elective State officials who, with the Governor, constituted the Board of Commissioners of the School Land Office, J. A. Whitehurst, M. A. Nash, C. C. Childers, and R. A. Sneed, and to my colleagues on the State Board of Equalization, Mr. Sneed, Mr. Childers, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Short, Mr. Mechling, and Mr. Whitehurst. Fred Parkinson, State Examiner and Inspector, and his successor, George J. Mechling, are deserving of credit for the thoroughness and energetic conduct of that important department. Mabel Bassett, Commissioner of Charities and Corrections, was of assistance in promoting humanitarian measures in connection with our penal and eleemosynary institutions, and her department constituted an invaluable aid to the executive branch of government. I also wish to thank the members of the Corporation Commission for their help on many occasions, and for the manner in which they co-operated with the Governor's Office.

It would be impossible to mention by name the many members of our courts, county attorneys, sheriffs, and peace officers and other county and municipal officials throughout the State who have been of assistance in maintaining an orderly conduct of the peoples' business, but the extraordinary alertness of our local officials everywhere was of immeasurable assistance in protecting life and property throughout the State, and in conducting the business of the State's subdivisions in an efficient and economic manner.

CONCLUSION

IT IS a matter of sincere gratification to me that the business of the State has been so conducted by the heads of its respective departments and institutions that in pursuance of a safe and sound economic policy the State has been enabled not only to live well within its means but to accumulate a substantial surplus in our general revenue fund. At the end of the last fiscal year that surplus amounted to something more than \$2,000,000.00, and if the same policies are adhered to we will have at the end of the present fiscal year a surplus well exceeding \$4,000,000.00. I am happy to say that this has all been accomplished without the necessity of the State Board of Equalization making any ad valorem levy this year for State purposes.

These results are by no means accidental, for in addition to the economic conduct of our various governmental agencies, we effected an immediate savings in salvage of \$4,956,321.37 by legislative action in 1924 from the wreck we inherited in reducing certain appropriations authorized for the preceding biennium. The Tenth Legislature having in mind at all times the estimated revenues of the State kept well within legitimate limitations, the total expenditures authorized by that Legislature having been limited to \$23,887,938.52. The Governor is permitted by law to authorize expenditures through the issuance of deficiency certificates in the amount of not to exceed \$200,000.00 a year of \$400,000.00 for the biennial period. By carefully scrutinizing requests for such deficiencies the total amount authorized since the Tenth Legislature adjourned, was only \$125,052.07.

In conclusion, permit me to say that I am cognizant of the fact that the submission of this message marks my last official act of general consequence to the citizens of this State. Whatever success I may have attained has been predicated upon the whole-hearted support and friendship of the people of Oklahoma. In particular, I have been generously supported and aided by the great press of the State, without which one would most necessarily be doomed to failure. I feel that the accomplishments of this administration have been far more due to the assistance thus had than to any individual ability of my own.

In a few days I will take my place among the private citizens of the State. I will quit the office of Chief Executive of Oklahoma with a lasting appreciation of the splendid and unfailing cooperation and support that I have received from so many friends and so many sources and with an abiding gratitude to the citizens of Oklahoma who have so often and so signally honored me. Whatever experience I may have gained, whatever talents I may possess are still at their service and even in the pursuits of private life I shall find time to strive in some small measure to mitigate the debt I owe this State by attempting to contribute, in my humble way, to the cause of better government.

It is my sincere hope, as it is my confident expectation, that from this Legislature will come much of enduring value to this State. I know the difficulties that legislators must encounter and overcome. I know the sacrifices that legislators must make. I know the high motives and conscientious devotion to duty and the best interests of our commonwealth that legislators possess. This Legislature, I am certain, is the equal in promise to any of its predecessors and the harvest of its achievement, I confidently predict, will be as rich and as wholesome as any that this State has ever seen

Respectfully submitted,

M. E. TRAPP,
Governor.

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.