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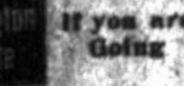
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READER

LOEST DAILY

Third General Assembly

MANY TOPICS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Reviews the Workings of Different State Institutions, Commend the Various Public Officials and Makes a Number of Recommendations.

L-THIS MESSAGE

Gentlemen of the Forty-third General Assembly: In the inaugural address which I had the honor of delivering in the month of January, 19th, in the presence of the Forty-second general assembly and other elizeus of Illinois, attention was called to the fact that I refrashed from making recommendations. This was because the constitution nowhere provides that a governor coming into office, as I did, at that time, after the commencement of a session, shall give to the general assembly, by message, either information or recommendations. It was then further pointed out that these things are by the constitution required of the governor in office at the time of the commencement of the session; in other words, of the out-going governor.

At the present time, after two years of service, the executive's duty in these particulars seems to me entirely different, ciculars seems to me entirely different, especially in view of the fact that a large number of the members of the present general assembly are serving their first term, and therefore desirous of securing information. There can be no question that at present it is the clear duty of the executive to communicate to the general assembly, in as condensed form as possible, all the information at his communic, together with such recommendations as seem proper as to legislative measures, as well as to call attention to, and even request, full consideration of proposed measures, concerning which the executive has no capecial recommendation to make al-though he may consider some of them of doubtful propriety, until more fully con-

II,-PHIS SESSION.

I look forward, with great confidence, to the accomplishment by this general as-sembly of a great work—a work worthy of the time. Throughout the state a great peace, prosperity and contentment, almost unprecedented, have come to the people. All goes well with them. They have done great things, look forward to great things, are no longer content with small achievement, and stand ready to aid real progress.
To you they look for wise expenditure of their generous millions; to you they look for beneficent legislation; to you they are ready to extend help and praise in all good.

There is great work to be done. There are great men in the ranks of the members. The intelligence of this general assembly is not to be underrated—nor is its experience in public affairs, nor is its comprehension of the state needs, nor is its innate desire to benefit the state, to be belittled. That it will be belittled by a few individuals and public prints, for their own selfish reasons, goes without saying. But every man con-versant with Illinois public life and public affairs knows that this general assembly is expable of holding a session of remark-able industry and economy, and capable of producing, in excellent manner and form, large volume of much needed and beneficial legislation.

III.-GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS. Gov. John R. Tunner.

For the four years prior to 1901 there was at the head of the state administration of filiness a man who had walked between the plow handles in his early manhood; who therefore had that sympathy for the worker and for mankind which comes from hard and downright work; who fought his way, inch by inch, with indomitable courage, to tell the places where power shided; who could not be appailed by any contingency; who could not be discouraged by falsehood or false friendship, hy both of which he was remoralisative pursued; who was as fearless in the face of his foes as he was faithful to his friends—the latter of whom he trusted to the death, in spite of calassity and criticism; whose rise from calamity and criticism; whose rise from the very lowisest conditions, amid unto-ward circumstances, to the highest place in the commonwealth, constituted one of the most remarkable careers in American

I mean the man who was worker, official and leader-soldier of the union in his boy-hood, shariff of his own home county, senator from his district, marshal of the United States, treasurer and governor of his state-peace to his asher-John R. Tan-

This general assembly can do no more proper set, then to pause, upon the first day of its deliberations by proper resolu-tion, pay to this departed leader of dis-timetion a sultable tribute of respect. I Camer's death occurred May 25, 1901, after the adjournment of the last session.

Primary Election Law.

There are many who believe that a great the friction which does arise in all parties to due to the varying kind of primaries held, and to the scattering of the primaries held, and to the scattering of the county conventions throughout four months. It is argued that if it would be absured to hold an election in Cook county on Monday, in Peorla on Tuesday, Kane on Wednesday, Sangamon on Thursday, St. Clair on Friday and Morgan on Saturday, why is it not absure to hold 100 conventious an 100 different days? If it is dedrable to rote at the polls on the same day throughout the state, why is it not dealy abje to vote at primaries on a common day? Why not have all the ward and township primaries of all parties held on a given Monday, the county conventions on the Monday, the county conventions on the next day, Tuesday, and the state conventions on the third day, Wednesday, and thus simplify the whole matter? It would keep every politician at home and the coloniser and the walking delegate politician would be "out at a job." It would leave every county and township and ward to settle its own affairs and so give home rule. It would remove from every contest the hampering question of its effect upon other contests at other times. And it would compet every county to give up the wenld compet every county to give up the imprincipled idea of joining the winner at the last moment. As to primaries, the flay READER

Is sure to come when every man must you his direct choice, by ballot, for both delegates and candidate. The plan is American, republican, and productive of honest politics. I sincerely hope to see it emoted into law at this season in some form.

a Mood System by Mainte

It is scarcely necessary for me to say here, as I have said repeatedly on former occasions, that I am in hearty sympathy with the advocates of a statute for a reasonable merit system; nor should it be necessary to repeat what has been pointed on heretofore so many times that all must be quite familiar with the fact, namely, that we already have the merit system, without a statute; that not only in the state charitable institutions, but in all branches of the state government coming under my control, merit or fitness has been the largest consideration in the making of appointments. All must acknowledge the orims importance of fitness and experience in the appointment of public officers and amployed. I have realized it fully and have acted accordingly. In reorganizing the boards of trustees and commissioners of the various state institutions and the

Tour attention is called to the suggestions made by the secretary of state. Hon James A. Hose, in his report regarding the condition of the state house, and the urgent meet of repairs. The capitol has been her lected for many years, and the most casual abserver i just be impressed with the obvious necessity for attentive improvements and repairs. The people of illinois have a just pride in the capitot pullding, and I am sure they will heartly approve any reasonable appropriation for its proper maintenance. I carnestly request you to carry out the recommendations of the necessary of state.

The Louisiana Purchase Expentition. The Forty-second general assembly appropriated the sum of \$250,000 for the purpose of enabling the state of Illinois to be suitably represented at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, which was to have been held in the city of St. Louis, Mo., in 1906. A commission was created and appointed to supervise the expenditure of the amount appropriated and carry out the purposes of the act. Subsequent to the adjournment of the last general assembly the exposition was postponed for one year, so that it will be held in 1904. This postponement necessitates a reappropriation of the amount mentioned, if the provisions of the act are to be carried out, for the original appropriation will not be available after September 30, 1908. I heartily recommend the reappropriation. propriation.

A New Constitution.

A constitutional convention, to amend or abrogate the present constitution, has recently been advocated in certain quarters. I recommend that no steps in this direction be taken by this general assembly. I do not believe that a need for such a convention has yet arisen. To provide for a new constitution would, for many reasons, be grave step at the present time.

Those who argue that a constitutional convention is necessary to abrogate a mul-tiplicity of taxing bodies, and abolish other evils in the city of Chicago, have begun to realize that by a constitutional amendment all the needed relief may be obtained. I am satisfied that this is the

IV .- THE SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE.

The Illinois National Guard. By prudent management and the prac-tice of the strictest economy the Illinois National Guard has been maintained upon the appropriation made two years ago, and I am glad to be able to say that a deficiency appropriation will be unnecessary, although an additional regiment, battailon and battery have considerably increased

Much is always expected of this depart. ment, and much is a ways received. This department has never been conducted mose efficiently or economically, and it has never been of more real service than now. A community in Green county would have been disgraced by a most brutal lynching a year ago had it not been for the stead!ness and prompt response to duty of a batty of Saline would ere this have been terreried by an organied hand of whitecaps, or kuktux, had it not been for the constant vigilance of a company of our state boys in blue, on guard in that county, surrounding with their bayonets humble negro citizens, although attempt after attempt was made in dead of night, to shoot these soldier boys like dogs. I desire to officially commend the circuit judge and sheriff of Green county. and criticise the authorities of Baline coun-

while the national guard, as I have stated, has been supported without expurpose, it has felt seriously the need of more liberal provision. I concur fully in the recommendations made by Adjt. Gen. James B. Hmith, in his recent biennial report, with a view to increasing the efficiency of the Mational guard.

The Saval Militia.

The naval force of the state consists of two ship's crews of four divisions each, The first ship's crew, as well as the cup-tain's headquarters, is located in Chicago; the armory is at 22 Michigan avenue. The headquarters of the second ship's crew and one division is at Moline, one division at Rock Island, one at Alton and one at

Board of Pardons.

The wisdom of the establishment of the board of pardons has passed beyond the experimental stage. The careful investigation of every application for pardon or commutation which is made by the board, has added great strength to the adminis-tration of the criminal laws of the state. The board of pardone has ample time to give a most thorough investigation to all applications for pardon, and by conducting under the supervision of the state board of applications for pardon, and by conducting under the supervision of the state board of applications for pardon, and by conducting under the supervision of the state board of applications for pardon, and by conducting under the supervision of the state board of applications for pardon, and by conducting of agriculture, has grown to be the greatest exhibition of live stock, farm products, farm implements and vehicles, in the United States, if not in the world. give to the friends of the prisoner the assurance that his petition has been fairly and impartially considered. For years it was an impossibility for the executive to give these matters that care and attention which their importance deserved, and it is creditable to the board that its decisions have been so generally commended

Penal Institutions. The condition of the penal and reform-

atory institutions of this state is such as may well be the source of great satisfaction and pride to any administration. Notwithstanding the fact that since the appropriations were made by the last general assembly everything in the line of provision and produce has increased in cost at least 2 per cent., those institutions by Gov. Tawner's administration, and will, at the end of the fiscal year, have a surplus in the treasury.
An epitomized statement shows that the

daily average number of prisoners confined the penal and reformatory institutions of this state is 3.454.27, and that the average cost per day per capita of prisoners confined therein is 44 cents.

V .- THE HEALTH OF THE PROPLE. State Soard of Health.

Unlike the boards of health in nearly all states of the union the state board of health of Illinois is a health organization. and a medical examining and licensing ody also. One of its most important atles is to ascertain and certify to the qualification of practicing physicians and surgeons and to detect quacks. In Wetates and territories this duty develves upon a der the provisions of an act, now over a quarter of a century old, is charged with the general supervision of the health and lives of the people of the state, and is and in accordance with an amended law, enacted in 1989, has jurisdiction over all inne and hotels in cities of 100,000 inhabitants or more. As a medical examining and
licensing body, organized under the act of
1898. It becomes the duly of the heard
to determine the standing of medical collegges throughout the world, to examine
all persons desiring to practice in this
state, and to issue certificates to those
found proficient, to investigate complaints
of illegal practice, and to institute suita
against persons violating any of the provisions of the medical law.

Within recent years the jurisdiction,

duties and responsibilities of the state board of health have been vastly increased. Conditions have arisen which, in my judgment, require some new legislation in order that the board may maintain the high
standard of usefulness which the present
soard has endesvored to establish. The
state board of health act of 1877 contains
defects which tend frequently to handlenp
the board in its efforts to protect the publite health. These ought to be remedied.

thing over propose, while during latter years inter-the amount was a little less than Macagon. There are now about seed companies of all kinds which report annually to the insurance department. The business which they are authorised to transact embraces fire, life, accident, favorable, plate giass, steam belier, burgarry, fidelity guaranty employers liability and creds; palemaity insurance. Over 20,000 agents are annually incursed by the department to transact the business of these companies in this state. During 1901 the department collected \$27,785.12 of fees and taxes from companies on business done in this state. A considerable parties of this however, was collected under the act of 1896, imposing a tax of two per cent, on the gross amount of premiums received in this state, by sil companies other than life insurance companies, which has since been declared unconstitutional by the supreme court because the companies were, under the provisions of the set by the payment of such tax relieved from the payment of such tax.

such tax, relieved from the payment of all local taxes.

The rapid increase of insurable property in this state and the aggregation of so much wealth in single enterprises as to call for an amount of insurance under a single risk in some places over-taxing the ability of authorized companies, have conduced to the formation of unincorporated individual underwriters and Lloyds associations, to carry on the business of insurance. These do not come within the provisions of our statutes, and are not subject to their requirements. They do not report their condition to the superintendent, and are not subject to the supervision of the department. While some of these are apparently financially responsible, and evince a disposition to deal fairly with the insured, others show little regard for the rights of claimants, and are considered irresponsible. Provision should be made by legislative enactment for such superwision by the state insurance department as will relieve the responsible Lloyds associations and the people of the state, from the injuries caused by irresponsible and disreputable companies of this kind.

The Himole and Michigan Canal.

The Illinois and Michigan Canal. Over 35 years ago the city of Chicago requested the legislature to order the abandonment of the Calumet feeder whereby the canal had, up to that time, secured the supply of water for the maintenance of navigation on its summit level from the Calumet river, and asked for and received permission to deepen the level so as to secure a gravity flow from Lake Michigan through the Chicago river, and thus cleanse this latter stream by discharging the same through the Illinois and Michigan canal into the Illinois river. About a decade later the legislature was petitioned for assistance and again relief was afforded by the canal. The city was granted permission to erect pumping works by the use of which the discharge of sewage into the canal was more than quadrupled. But eyen this in a short time proved inadeduate for the necessities of the situadistrict of Chicago, as it stands to-day, is the result of the further efforts made

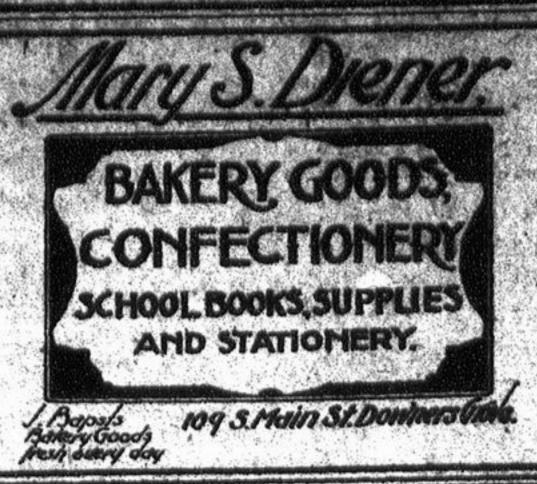
With the completion of this channel the city of Chicago abandoned the operation of the pumps at Bridgeport, and the supreme court of our state decided that it was the duty of the state itself, through its canal commissioners, and at its own expense, to provide for the future maintenance of navigation on this level of the canal. The deposits from the fith-laden waters of the Chicago river had so raised the hed of the canal, and the level of that river at its point of connection with the canal had been so lowered by the opening of the sanitary district channel that it was impossible to secure the required depth by a gravity flow without enormous expense. To rewas also impracticable for the same and additional reasons. It was finally decided that the most satisfactory and economical plan would be the construction of a modern, up-to-date pumping plant to be operated with electric power. Buch a plant has been built and is now practically in readiness for operation. Its cost directly and indirectly has been something over \$100,000. The cost to the city of Chicago of operating the old pumping plant, according to the records of that city, varied from \$60,000 to \$120,-600 per annum. The estimated cost of operating the new plant is from \$16,000 to \$20,000 yearly, and of this amount about \$13,000 will be returned to the canal treasury in the shape of rental from water power, the creation of which is incidental to this plan of maintaining navigation. This diminution of cost under state management is worthy of notice. In the past there has been more or less suggestion of adapdoning the mainten-ance of the old canal. That the time for taking such a step has not yet arrived. if it ever should, I am fully satisfied.

State Board of Agriculture. with words of praise, From year to year there has been a progressive improve-ment of the grounds and of the build-ings. Yet such has been the growth of the fair, that the improvements have scarcely kept pace with the requirements for exhibitors space, and for the perfect accommodation of the vast crowds annually in attendance. The fair brings together from 125,000 to 175,000 people annually-a circumstance which constitutes a most satifactory endorsement.

At this time I am not in possession of priations for the state fair and the state board of agriculture. All that I can say is to impress the hope that the general assembly will deal with the matter in the most liberal way consistent with the gen-eral condition of the state's finances. State Finances and Taxes.

The subject of mate finances is one which it would afford me pleasure to discuss at considerable length, so grat-ifying is the present financial condition of the state, and so astounding is the contrast between conditions now and those which prevailed a few years ago With the growth of the state and its expanding needs, there has been a gradnal increase in the appropriations made by the legislature, the increase from session to session averaging more than one million dollars for the ten years prior to 1961. The increase of the total appropriations made by the legislature in 1961 over those made in 1899 fell considerably below the average, being \$762,600; and this is in spite of the fact that extraortions. out increase of the state tax levy, which of cents—and has just been fixed for the ensuing year at 46 cents. Under this levy \$6,000,000 of the necessary \$6,500,000 will be raised, and the treasury balance July 1st next will still be about \$3,500,-

The state's share (as tax) of the gross seceipts of the Illinois Central railread for the year ending October list, 1910, is 1942,061.19. This sum represents \$2,580.85 for every day in the year, and it also represents four per cent, on very nearly mon, 600, 600, which sum may fairly he said to represent the proprietary interest of the state in the Illinois Central railroad. The total receipts of the state from the completion of the railroad in 1855, to date, are



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