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POLITICAL.

GOVERNOR'S MESSAGE.

To the Honorable General Assembly of North Carolina.

The meeting of the General Assembly in this Centennial year of our national existence, is an important event in the history of the State. You have met for the purpose of enacting laws to promote our various interests as a people. You are here, the representatives of the people, who, in return for the confidence they have reposed in you, look to you for wise and judicious legislation.

During the year now drawing rapidly to a close, we have been exempt from pestilence and famine, and from unusual suffering of every kind. Our people have enjoyed the blessings of civil and religious liberty, and they prospered to a greater or less degree in every department of industry. We have abundant cause to be grateful to God for His manifold mercies and blessings. The earth has brought forth her fruits in due season, and all who have been industrious and economical have prospered, having generally received fair compensation for their labor.

Peace has prevailed everywhere within our borders. We have nothing in the earth itself of which we have a right to complain, for both have been propitious to us. It remains, for us only, to go forward in the path of duty, without any vain regrets for what is passed, prepared to use and improve the present and to act our part in a cheerful and hopeful spirit in the future which lies before us.

Condition of Public Treasury.

The financial condition of the State claims the careful attention and consideration of the General Assembly. The following statement shows balance in hands of Public Treasurer Oct. 1st, 1876, and the amount of receipts and disbursements of the Public Treasurer for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1876.

Balance in hands of State Treasurer, Oct. 1st, 1876	\$ 14,089.78
Educational Fund,	184,708.11
Public Fund,	198,742.89
Receipts of Education Fund for fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1876,	42,235.59
Receipts of Public Fund for fiscal year, ending Sept. 30th, 1876,	524,039.17
Disbursement of Educational Fund for fiscal year ending Sept. 30th, 1876,	566,274.76
Disbursement of Public Fund for the year ending Sept. 30th, 1876,	265,017.66
Leaving in the hands of the Public Treasurer, Oct. 1st, 1876—	582,753.15
Educational Fund,	1,572.44
Public Fund,	180,687.07

State Debt.

The bonded debt of the State on the 1st Oct., 1876, was as follows:

Bonds issued before the war, called old bonds,	8,372,900
Interest unpaid on same,	4,008,777.50
Total, principal and interest,	12,381,677.50
Bonds issued since the war under acts passed before the war,	1,781,000
Interest unpaid on same,	807,180
Bonds issued since the war under ordinance and acts passed since the war not special tax,	2,487,180
Interest unpaid on same,	2,015,045
Total,	2,912,225

This class embraces the following issues: Wilmington, Charlotte & Rutherford Railroads issued during the war under acts passed before the war, and renewed by acts of 1865 and 1867, 405,000

Registered certificates of Board of Education,	383,045
Chatham Railroad, Ordinance Convention,	1,033,400
Wilmington & Tarboro Railroad,	150,000
Penitentiary,	44,000
Total,	2,915,045

Bonds issued under Funding Act of 1866 and 1868, as follows:

Funding Act of 1866,	2,417,200
Funding Act of 1868,	1,157,793
Interest unpaid on same,	8,074,938

Funding Act of 1866.

1,000,000	
Interest unpaid on same,	515,233
Total,	1,515,233

Funding Act of 1868.

1,417,200	
Interest unpaid on same,	807,180
Total,	2,224,380

Total principal and interest, 12,381,677.50

Total debt including interest exclusive of special Tax, 25,542,160.45

Total debt with interest including "Special Tax" bonds, 41,846,930.55

Funding Act of 1874-'75.

Nothing has yet been done under the act passed by the last General Assembly to compromise the State debt. The amount of our State bonds held by the few creditors who signified their willingness to accept the proposed compromise was so small that it was not deemed advisable to incur the expense of having new bonds prepared, and of levying a special tax upon all the taxable property of the State, for the purpose of paying the interest on such a small amount. It is very important that we should compromise, commute and settle the State debt; so that our financial condition be the better known both at home and abroad, and our public credit again be established upon a sound basis.

Treasury Department.

I respectfully recommend to your careful consideration the interesting report of D. A. Jenkins, Public Treasurer.

It becomes my duty to say that Treasurer Jenkins has voluntarily retired from the office he has filled with consummate skill and ability for more than eight years past. He has managed the financial affairs of the State honestly and safely through all the difficulties and embarrassments by which he has often been surrounded. He has been an honest and faithful public officer, and in retiring to private life, he leaves a record of which he may well be proud.

The Auditor's Department.

The Auditor's reports show the receipts and disbursements at the Public Treasury for the two fiscal years ending September 30, 1876, and I respectfully invite your attention to the same. The Auditor's office is one of the most important offices in the State, and I take pleasure in bearing testimony to the manner in which the duties of that office have been discharged.

Manufactures.

While all material wealth comes from the soil, and while the interest of the farmer should, therefore, be first considered, we should at the same time give attention and extend our fostering care to the manufactures and the mechanic arts. North Carolina pays annually to foreign countries and to her sister States millions of dollars for manufactured articles, which should be produced here at home. We have the raw material, or the means of producing the raw material for nearly every fabric for which we pay thus largely to other communities and regions. It may be assumed that we manufacture our own tobacco, and supply a large surplus thereof to other portions of the world through the proceeds of the sales of which constitute the basis of our small part of the financial prosperity of the State; but while this is so, and while I would commend the tobacco manufacturers for their skill, energy and industry, yet I would at the same time urge that more capital and skill labor be employed in other branches of domestic manufactures.

We ought to manufacture and supply ourselves with a large portion of our woolen clothes of all kinds, especially of the coarser and more substantial kinds.

We ought to spin and weave at least one half of our cotton crop, which cannot be less than 200,000 bales per annum. We ought to manufacture our own iron, from

the vast beds of ore which we have in various parts of the State, and which are not exhausted for quality elsewhere in the earth.

We ought to get out and use more of our timber, and send more of it than we do, to the markets of the world. We ought to direct very much more of our attention and energies to the great work of building up a home market for our people, and of thus living more within ourselves.

A policy of this kind would benefit every interest, and would especially redound to the advantage and prosperity of the farmers, by creating a demand here at home for their products.

It would also save millions of dollars per annum to the State, which are now expended outside our borders, and which constitute a constant drain upon our wealth.

It would also diversify labor and give employment to all classes of our people, without which we cannot hope to advance rapidly in intelligence and wealth.

I cannot, gentlemen, too strongly commend this subject to your attention and consideration.

Immigration.

I beg leave to renew and urge the recommendations heretofore made by my predecessors and myself on the subject of immigration. No State has finer climate than North Carolina, and her soil is rich and so varied that nearly all the fruits and products of the earth common to our country can be cultivated and realized here by the hand of industry. Besides, we have inexhaustible deposits of the most valuable minerals; we have water power in the greatest abundance for turning machinery; and we have vast forests of the best timber thus far, barely touched by the hand of man. In a word, there is no region of the earth, so far as climate and mineral resources are concerned, which is more inviting than our State is to the immigrant. I feel sure that your legislation will be such as to hold out inducements to immigrants to settle among us, to become as one of our people, and thus labor with those of us who are already here, and who expect to remain to develop our resources, to build up our industries of all kinds and to render our State more and more prosperous, enlightened and wealthy.

University.

The last General Assembly passed an act directing the Public Treasurer to issue to the Trustees of the University, a certificate of indebtedness for one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, with interest at six per cent, payable semi-annually, on the 1st days of January and July in each year, out of any moneys in the Treasury, not otherwise appropriated, the interest to be used by said Trustees in support of the University.

Under this act the Public Treasurer pays to the University \$7,500 per annum for that purpose.

The University was opened for the reception of students on the 10th of September, 1875, under its new organization and it is now in successful operation with Hon. Kemp P. Battle as President and an able corps of Professors.

Penitentiary.

I respectfully invite your attention to the biennial Report of the Board of Directors, Architect, Deputy Warden, Stewart and Physician, for the two years ending October 31st, 1876. The report of the Board of Directors shows in a plain and business-like manner the practical operations of the Penitentiary, from which it will be seen that much valuable work has been done on and about that institution, although a large number of the best convict laborers have been sent off to work on public works. During the last two years the work on the Penitentiary has progressed about as much as could reasonably be expected under all the circumstances.

There has been erected within the prison enclosure a strong cell building, containing 64 cells for prisoners.

The building is of brick with iron doors and frames, and is now ready for occupation.

The brick used in its construction were made by convict labor, and all the stone-work was cut by convicts. There has also been erected one section of the cell block in the main building the larger portion of the bricks having been laid by convicts.

And the iron doors and frames by the same men employed with the same great care, by convicts, at less than one-half of the original contract price.

The foundation for another section of this building has been laid and first and second stories built. The iron doors and frames have been made and are ready for this section also.

In compliance with an act of the General Assembly the Directors of the Penitentiary purchased 322 convicts to the Commissioners of the Western North Carolina Railroad and have built for them three sets of quarters.

The value of the labor of the convicts already on that road is probably \$100,000. The State is bound to feed, clothe, and guard them.

The increase of the number of convicts, the increase of the guard and overseers have created a deficiency of \$21,678.97 for which the Directors ask an immediate appropriation, to meet the present wants of the prison.

The Directors of the Penitentiary farmed out to the Spartanburg and Asheville Railroad Company 200 convicts for the period of two years. That was done mainly because the appropriation for the Penitentiary, made by the last General Assembly was insufficient to support all the convicts. The Company agreed to feed, clothe, guard and furnish medical attention to the prisoners let to them and in addition pay to the prison Directors the sum of \$31.20 per capita per year, and given a bond for the faithful performance of the contract and all of the provisions of the contract have been faithfully observed and the quarterly payments promptly made.

There is a foundry and Machine Shop connected with the Penitentiary, which has been proved to be both necessary and valuable.

The work in this shop both as to quality and quantity has been very satisfactory. All the work is done by the convicts, and all the iron work required for the building is made here.

The blacksmith shop has been kept busy manufacturing tools required in quarrying stone and for other purposes. The labor is performed by convicts.

In the shoe shop they are now manufacturing all the shoes worn by the convicts within the prison enclosure, also for those employed on the different railroads in the State. It is believed that a small amount of money invested in machinery for manufacturing shoes would yield a large return; but owing to the limited means on hand this important branch of business has not yet been very extensively carried on.

In accordance with the requirements of the General Assembly, the Directors of the Penitentiary furnished 50 convicts to the Insane Asylum at Raleigh, who were employed in the manufacture of brick, used in the erection of a new kitchen for that institution. The Directors of the Penitentiary also furnished the Directors of the Western Insane Asylum at Morganton 50 convicts, who were employed in making bricks and grading grounds for that institution.

The Penitentiary Board of Directors furnished the North Carolina and Georgia Railroad Company 50 convicts.

This road will form part of the Western Division of the Western North Carolina Railroad, leading from Asheville to Murphy, in Cherokee county, and thence, via the Georgia Road to Marietta, Georgia.

This Company is composed of citizens of Georgia and North Carolina, and the State of Georgia is working its convicts on the road to the North Carolina line, while our people in Cherokee county agreed to take upon themselves the trouble and expense of transporting, feeding and clothing, guarding and furnishing medical attendance to the convicts for their labor.

The Board of Directors also farmed out to Matthews & Co., lessees of the New Hanover work house, 30 convicts for the balance of their term; they agreeing to feed, clothe, guard and give medical attention to the convicts for their labor.

I respectfully invite you, gentlemen, to visit the Penitentiary any time at your leisure, and see for yourselves what has been done, and

to see that I have had no complaint against me, and that I have been faithful in the discharge of my duty, and I cherish none but the kindest feelings for them all.

Justice requires that each criminal should be punished according to its grade, and not according to an arbitrary law that would punish a small crime as much as a great one; and as there are grades and degrees of crime, so there should be grades and degrees in the amount of punishment. We are informed by the Divine law, which upholds and sustains the eternal principles of justice, that every man shall be judged and rewarded according to his deeds.

There is a white man in the Penitentiary, sent there for a term of ten years, for stealing a Bible while drunk. There is a youth in the Penitentiary for a term of three years for stealing one goose, valued at ten cents. There is another in the Penitentiary for a term of three years for receiving a stolen chicken. Such punishments for such offences are unjust, cruel, monstrous and absurd.

Under the law as it now stands, according to the decision of the Supreme Court, assault and battery, even an assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to commit murder is not a Penitentiary crime.

Insane Asylum.

The interesting report of Dr. Eugene Grissom, Superintendent of the Insane Asylum, shows the condition of that Institution for the last two official years, to which I respectfully invite your attention.

The report for 1876 shows that the total number of admissions since the opening of the Asylum on the 22d day of February, 1856, is one thousand one hundred and one; and the total number of discharges for the same time is nine hundred and nine, of whom three hundred and two were cured; one hundred and fourteen improved; one hundred and eighty unimproved; and three hundred and thirteen died—leaving now under treatment two hundred and sixty-four.

The last General Assembly passed an act authorizing the Board of Directors of the Insane Asylum to erect a new kitchen with sufficient store room connected therewith to accommodate provisions and supplies for the institution. The act provided that so much of the appropriation made for the years 1875 and 1876 should be applied by the Board of Directors to the immediate construction of a suitable kitchen connected with and for the benefit of the said Asylum; the sum for that purpose was not to exceed \$5,000; the act also authorized the employment of such convict labor from the Penitentiary as should be necessary for the erection of said kitchen. From twenty-five to fifty convicts were employed, and the building is now completed.

The last General Assembly passed an act to provide another Asylum for the Insane of North Carolina, to be located within three miles of Morganton, North Carolina, and known as the Western Insane Asylum. The act appointed five Commissioners to purchase for the State a suitable tract of land for the purpose, to superintend its construction, and appropriated \$50,000 for the year 1875, and \$25,000 for the year 1876, all of which has been paid out of the Public Treasury. The act also provides that the Commissioners may employ such convicts in the Penitentiary as can be spared by the authorities of the same and can be made available. A report of the progress of the work on said Asylum will be made in a short time.

The last General Assembly passed also an act to provide for the colored Insane of North Carolina, and appropriated \$10,000 per annum to the establishment at the Marine Hospital building at Wilmington, North Carolina, of a branch Asylum for the colored Insane, and their support and treatment; but nothing has been done under said act for their benefit.

I respectfully and earnestly re-

commend to your consideration the report of the Board of Directors of the Insane Asylum, and I hope the appeal will not be made in vain.

Deaf and Dumb and the Blind.

I respectfully call your attention to the report of the Principal of the North Carolina Institution for the Deaf and Dumb and Blind.

The number of pupils enrolled during the last two years has been:

Deaf and Dumb males 83;	118
Deaf and Dumb females 65;	118
Blind males 61; females 42,	93
Total,	311

The average attendance for the past two years has been about 210, sometimes more and sometimes less.

The health of the pupils has been good, and they all seem to be contented and happy.

They are taken care of by kind and human teachers and matrons, who seem to regard their protection and welfare with as much interest and anxiety as if they were their own children.

The financial condition of the institution is as favorable as could reasonably be expected.

On the first day of November, 1874, there was a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of \$5,997.01

The appropriation for two years was 90,000.00

Special appropriation, 3,000.00

Received from shoe shop, 2,020.25

Miscellaneous sources, 758.15

From interest, 80.00

Total, \$101,355.11

There has been expended for all purposes, \$5,961.11

Leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer, November 1st 1876, of \$15,361.44

Out of this balance must come the support of the Institution for the months of November and December, 1876, as the appropriations made by the General Assembly run from the 1st of January of each year.

This noble Charity of the State has done and is doing much good for those unfortunate objects of our charity and pity, who are deprived of the great blessings of language, or sight and of hearing.

I heartily recommend them to your favorable and generous consideration and support.

Western North Carolina Railroad.

The last General Assembly passed an Act in relation to the Western North Carolina Railroad, which act appointed the Governor of the State of North Carolina, Robert Armfield, and James E. Robinson commissioners to purchase the Western North Carolina Railroad, and all property appertaining thereto at a sale thereof made under a decree of the Circuit Court of the United States, at Greensboro, in the Western District of North Carolina; and any claims against the Western North Carolina Railroad which might be necessary to secure the State of North Carolina a perfect and title to the said North Carolina Railroad and all its property and franchises, for a sum not exceeding \$50,000; and to pay for said commissioners were fully authorized and instructed to issue bonds in the name of the Western North Carolina Railroad Company of the denomination of \$1,000 each, in the usual form of mortgage