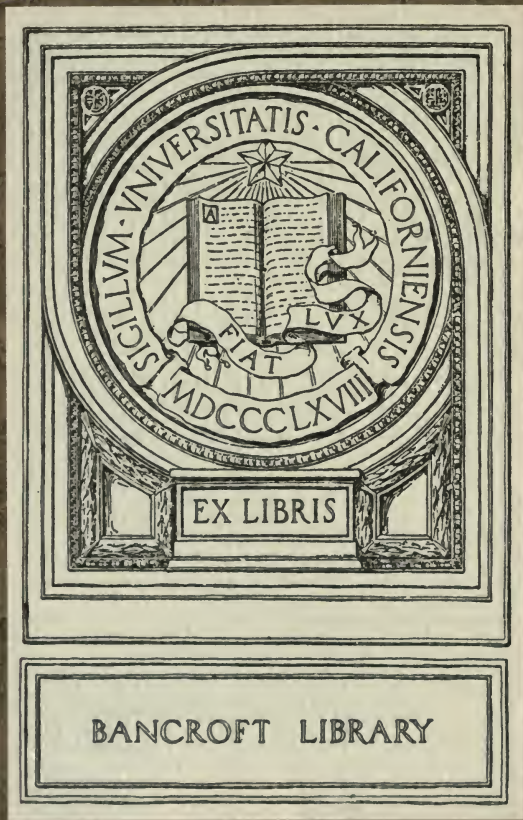


Colorado. Governor (Shoup) Address... Dec 8. 1919

F
778
.2
.C842

F778.2.C842



BANCROFT LIBRARY

ADDRESS
OF
Colorado GOVERNOR
"OLIVER H. (SHOUP)"

DELIVERED TO THE
EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF THE
TWENTY-SECOND GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF COLORADO



December 8, 1919



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2007 with funding from
Microsoft Corporation

*To the Members of the Twenty-Second General Assembly of the
State of Colorado:*

GREETING:

In issuing the call for a special session of the General Assembly the executive is aware of the fact that such gatherings of the law-making body have never been very popular with the people, but matters of such importance have developed since last you met that I have decided it necessary to call you together to give them serious consideration. Such is my confidence in the intelligence of the members of this body that I am free to believe that you will perform your duties expeditiously and give unbiased consideration to the best interests of the people.

Since it first became known that a special session was contemplated the executive mail has been burdened with requests for legislation of various kinds, and scores of our citizens have called at the capitol to make personal pleas for various measures. All such requests have been given candid and serious consideration.

The matter of a "blue sky" law has been advanced by many, but as the national Congress is giving attention to this subject, with the prospect that it will soon pass salutary legislation along this line, it was decided best to withhold state action until something tangible as a basis has been evolved by the higher legislative body, with which our State could cooperate by appropriate legislation. You are well aware, from the experiences of the regular session, of the many ramifications of this subject and of the insurmountable difficulties (largely due to a lack of well coordinated facts) encountered at that time in attempting to come to any agreement as to a suitable statute, and I have decided that it would be fruitless and a waste of your time to attempt to accomplish at a special session what you were unable to do when there was more time at your disposal, especially in view of the gravity of the subject and the probability that nothing tangible would be developed by its consideration. My thought is that when the next regular session convenes the incentive for making it a political issue will have passed away and there will have been time for serious thought and the formulation of a measure that would accomplish the end desired and result in action that would be worth while.

Likewise the matter of the "high cost of living" has been urgently suggested as a subject for legislative action, but it is believed that as this matter is not a condition peculiar to Colorado, but rather is nation-wide, even world-wide in its scope, the

reason for high prices in Colorado, in many cases, being directly attributable to conditions in other states, it was decided not to act on this matter in Colorado until after the national Congress shall have suggested remedies in the shape of enacted laws. The Colorado commission appointed a short time ago by the Governor and the Attorney General to investigate this subject has done a tremendous amount of work, investigating the subject from various angles, and while it has gathered a large amount of data and assembled a great many conflicting facts, the committee is not yet ready to suggest even a tentative plan for suppressing or regulating such abuses as may exist, and for this reason it was not considered wise to embrace in the call a matter concerning which it has not been possible to come to any definite conclusions.

As to the matters embraced in the call, kindly allow me to offer a few recommendations:

EQUAL SUFFRAGE

For more than fifty years the women of the United States have been contending for the franchise. Recently their efforts took tangible form by the submission by Congress to the States of the Susan B. Anthony amendment to the federal constitution, which grants the franchise to all women of voting age. Happily Colorado was the second State in the union to recognize the rights of its woman citizenship, and they have capably exercised this right for many years. I heartily recommend the ratification of this amendment to the Federal Constitution and trust that it will be brought about by a unanimous vote of the members of both houses, so that the prestige of our beloved State may be increased throughout the land.

AUTOMOBILE THEFTS

The imperative need of new and additional legislation on the subject of automobile stealing is keenly realized by those who have made a study of the subject. Carefully compiled statistics disclose some astounding facts. The automobile business is the largest business in the State of Colorado, and whereas at no very remote day the automobile was considered as only a vehicle for the pleasure of the well-to-do, today it is recognized as one of the absolute necessities of the times. It is stated that \$250,000,000 are invested in automobiles and trucks in Colorado, and most of this investment is for business purposes. There has been an increase in motor vehicles of 22.6 per cent in 1919 over 1918, and in the matter of thefts during the same period there has been an increase of about 100 per cent. To be specific, there were 900 motor vehicles stolen during 1918, and 1,400 during the first ten

months of 1919. It is estimated that there will be an increase in cars of from 30,000 to 50,000 in 1920 over the number owned by Colorado citizens the present year. There being no adequate locking device in existence, it is plain to be seen that all of this vast investment in a needed utility is absolutely at the mercy of those who indulge in thievery of cars, and it is imperative that this Legislature provide laws that will protect the owners and provide punishment for those apprehended in stealing. Further, it is stated as a fact that delinquency among girls has increased at an alarming rate during the past year because of the use of stolen cars by so-called "joy-riders" who have unlawfully appropriated the same for their temporary use. I recommend that a rigid anti-auto-theft law, with suitable penalties, be enacted as one of the most important measures which will be submitted for your consideration.

RADICALISM

Bancroft Library

The need for the enactment of legislation to curb and eradicate threats against our form of government by irresponsible agitators has been brought prominently before the public by the events of recent days, and it is deemed imperative that prompt remedial and suppressive action be taken by the General Assembly in the form of a comprehensive, well-considered measure provided with all of the penalties needed for its practical and rigid enforcement. There is a vast difference between freedom of speech and rank and unwarranted license. This is the United States of America, and we are a favored part of the vast sisterhood of commonwealths. Our government was founded in pain and sacrifice and has been maintained and supported by the best blood of its citizens, native-born and naturalized, and it is a fiction far-fetched for anybody to intimate that there is a desire on the part of real Americans to discriminate against citizens of foreign birth or antecedents. We are all subject to the same laws and we all benefit from the same privileges and are blessed with the protection of the same flag that has never known defeat. For this and many other significant reasons the propaganda of the anarchists or other government-defying and government-destroying individuals and agencies must be suppressed. To poison the mind of our fellow-citizens with the virus of hate and distrust and vicious lawlessness is as reprehensible as is the poisoning of the body or the destroying of property. There is room in Colorado for every loyal citizen, no matter what his antecedents or the clime under which he first saw the light of day. There is no room here for the doctrines of anarchy or those who propound them, and it is our duty as public officials to provide the wise legislation needed to eradicate this recognized abuse of our rights as citizens.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

To avoid placing upon the shoulders of worthy and responsible citizens the burden of initiating important amendments to the constitution of the State, it has been deemed proper to ask this body to refer to the electors of the state three proposed amendments. Two of these amendments refer to the salaries of elective and appointive officers and are intended to revert to the Legislature the power of fixing these salaries as this body already is clothed with power to fix the salaries of all other employees of the State, thus making uniform the method or agency for fixing salaries. The other proposed amendment has to do with the tenure of State officers, which I believe should be increased, for with the adoption of the recall by the people a number of years ago there no longer remains the excuse for the two-year term that perhaps existed before the recall was made a part of our constitution. I earnestly recommend that these three amendments be submitted to the people at the election of November, 1920.

APPROPRIATIONS

Under this head are included several items that are urgent at this time.

The regular session inadvertently omitted appropriations for the Colorado State Reformatory at Buena Vista and for the State Hospital at Pueblo. For the former I recommend an appropriation of \$120,000 and for the latter an appropriation of not less than \$25,000.

The State Industrial School at Morrison is seriously in need of added equipment. Due largely to facts as stated in reference to the anti-auto-theft law, the population of this institution has increased to a humiliating extent, and if the State is to properly care for its delinquent girls and make of them citizens worthy to become the mothers of our children, steps must be taken immediately for their housing and training at Morrison, and I recommend an appropriation for this purpose.

The appropriation asked for the Colorado School of Mines is essential if Colorado is to retain the experiment station at said school toward which several neighboring states are casting envious eyes. I recommend an appropriation of \$15,000 as the minimum to secure the cooperation of the Federal government and to assure the continuance of this research and experimental work in the school at Golden.

The development of Colorado's resources is a matter which should enlist the support of every citizen who realizes the largeness of the task and the tremendous possibilities of accomplishment, and I suggest that a suitable appropriation be made for

the carrying on of this work which means so much to the future prosperity of the State and the happiness and contentment of its people.

During our recent industrial troubles, especially in the coal-mining sections of the State, the Colorado National Guard, composed of some of our finest and most trustworthy citizens, has been our bulwark of safety and our assurance that none of our laws would be ruthlessly disregarded or broken, and that the services of the Guard have been salutary and efficient, bringing this organization into the higher respect and sympathy of the people, is a recognized fact. I recommend that this session provide the means for paying the personnel of the Guard their meager allowance, as well as all other expenses incidental to their service for the people, and that you grant such further encouragement and recognition to them as will make the National Guard an organization to be depended upon in times of danger or stress. I recommend for this purpose such a sum as may be needed to liquidate the obligation.

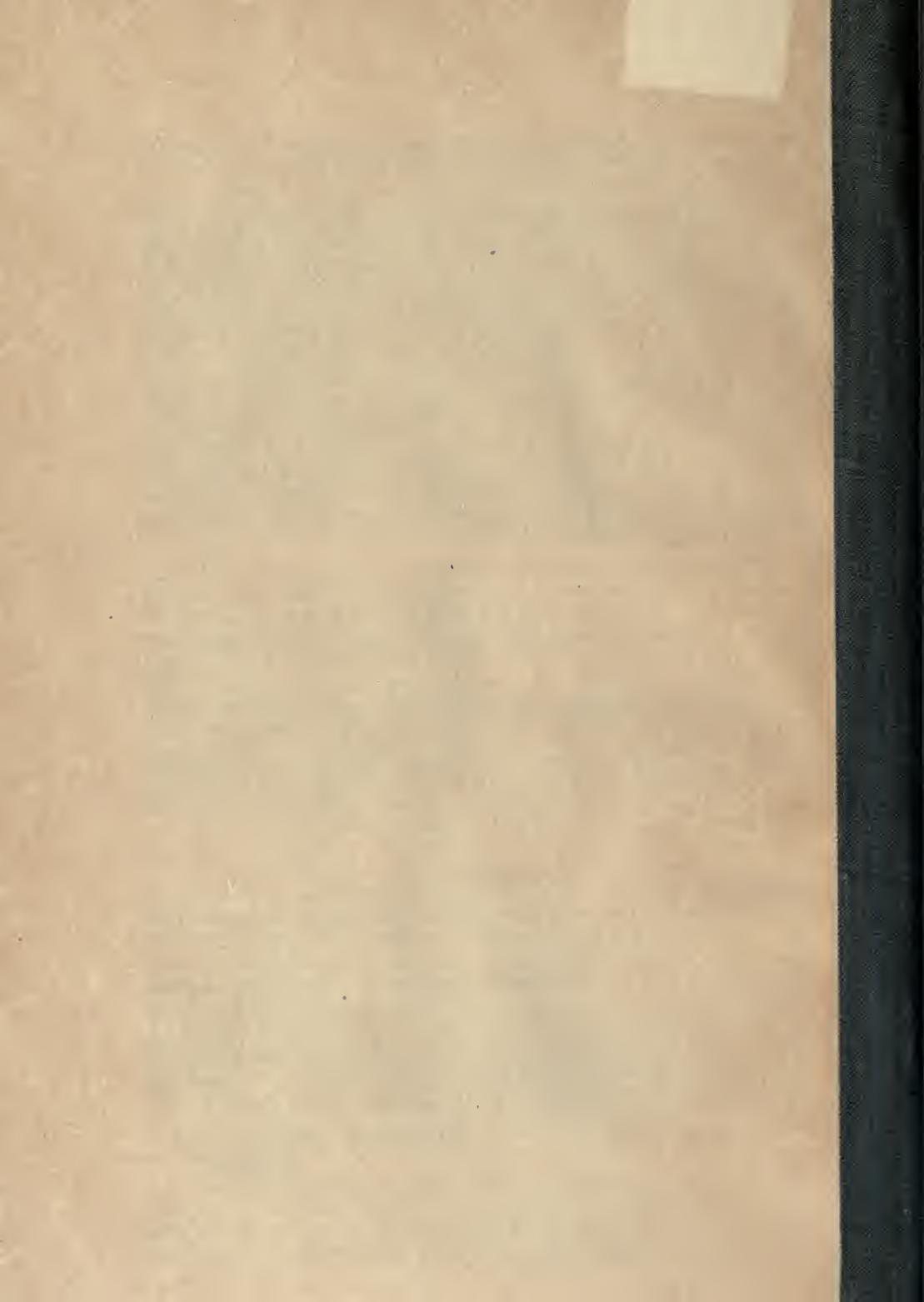
The executive assured the members of the Guard that their dependents at home would be cared for while they were making sacrifices for the State, and for that reason and as a matter of justice to those who were subject to privation or loss while their supporters were absent in the service of the State, I recommend that suitable provision be made by this Legislature along this line, for such citizenship as is represented in the National Guard is entitled to every recognition that a grateful people can give.

In order that when we adjourn there will be no indebtedness left because of this session, it will be necessary to make the proper appropriation for the liquidation of the obligations thus incurred.

IN CONCLUSION

I regret the necessity that has induced me to call you from your homes and occupations at this season of the year, but with reasonable diligence and an attempt to accomplish your work intelligently and in the shortest possible period of time, I have no thought but that your deliberations can be concluded in time for you to enjoy the holiday season at your home firesides. I thank you for your cheerfulness in responding to the executive call and bespeak a brief and harmonious session in which great good shall be accomplished for the people in the minimum of time.

OLIVER H. SHOUP,
Governor.



Lithomount
Pamphlet
Binder
Gaylord Bros.
Makers
Stockton, Calif.
PAT. JAN 21, 1908

