

Wednesday, April 8, 1925

The Senate convened at 10:45 A. M. pursuant to adjournment.

The President in the chair.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Senators Anderson, Butler, Calkins, Clark, Coe, Colson, Cone, Edge, Etheredge, Gillis, Hale, Hineley, Hodges, Knight, Malone, McDaniel, Overstreet, Phillips, Putnam, Rowe, Russell, Scales, Singletary, Smith, Swearingen, Taylor (31st Dist.), Turnbull, Turner, Walker, Watson, Wicker—32.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Chaplain.

Reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

The daily Journal of April 7th was corrected and, as corrected, was approved.

Mr. Hodges offered the following Concurrent Resolution:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1:

Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring: That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint a joint committee of two members from each of their respective bodies to act as a Joint Legislative Committee on Governor's Message; to prepare bills in furtherance of the recommendations of that message when the same may seem advisable.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Anderson moved that the rules be waived and that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 be read the second time.

Which was agreed to by a two-thirds vote.

The resolution was read the second time.

Mr. Hodges moved to adopt the resolution.

Which was agreed to.

And the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Malone, the adoption of the resolution was immediately certified to the House of Representatives under waiver of the rules.

Mr. Knight offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 5:

Be it resolved by the Senate, That upon his requisition, each member of the Senate be furnished with a copy of the Revised General Statutes of 1920, and the General and Special Laws of 1919, 1921 and 1923.

Be it further resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to provide said General Statutes and General and Special Laws, and return the same to the Secretary of State upon or before the adjournment of the 1925 Legislature.

Which was read.

Mr. Knight moved to adopt the resolution.

Which was agreed to.

And the resolution was adopted.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following message from the House of Representatives was received:

House of Representatives,
Tallahassee, Fla., April 8, 1925.

Hon. John S. Taylor,
President of the Senate.

Sir:

I am directed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred in the Senate amendment to—

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1:

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

First, That no bills shall be introduced until Thursday, the 9th, or until the Standing Committees shall have been announced.

ed ten bloc, by acclamation, to the positions opposite their names.

Mr. Calkins moved that the rules governing the Senate during the session of 1923 be adopted by this body for its government until the Committee on Rules, to be appointed, shall make its report.

Which was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Calkins moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the House of Representatives and inform them that the Senate has organized and is now ready to proceed with the business of the session.

Which was agreed to.

Messrs. Etheredge, Taylor of the 31st District and Coe were appointed as such committee, and by permission withdrew to perform their duty.

Mr. Malone moved that a committee of three be appointed to wait upon the Governor to inform him that the Senate is duly organized and ready to receive any communications he may wish to transmit.

Which was unanimously agreed to.

Messrs. Malone, Phillips and Clark were appointed as such committee, and were permitted to withdraw to perform the duties assigned.

Mr. Calkins moved that a special committee of three be appointed to prepare the standing rules for the governance of this body during the present session.

Which was unanimously agreed to.

And Messrs. Calkins, Swearingen and Edge were appointed said committee.

Mr. Calkins moved that 1000 copies of the Daily Journals of the proceedings of the Senate be printed and distributed among the members, and the expense of mailing and postage be certified to the standing Committee of Audit and Control of Legislative Expenses.

Mr. Rowe moved to amend the motion by instructing the printer to furnish 500 copies of said Journal.

The question was put upon the amendment offered by Mr. Rowe.

Upon which a yeas and nays voté was demanded:

The roll was called and the vote was:

Yeas—Senators Anderson, Calkins, Clark, Coe, Knight,

Pitman, Rowe, Scales, Singletary, Turnbull, Walker, Wicker—12.

Nays—Mr. President, Senators Butler, Colson, Cone, Edge, Etheredge, Gillis, Hale, Hineley, Hodges, Malone, McDaniels, Overstreet, Phillips, Russell, Smith, Swearingen, Taylor (31st Dist.), Turner, Watson—20.

So the amendment was lost.

The question then recurred upon the motion of Mr. Calkins to print 1,000 copies of the daily journal.

Which was agreed to.

A committee from the House appeared at the bar of the Senate and reported that the House was duly organized and ready to proceed with the business of the session:

Mr. Calkins offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 1:

Resolved, That J. B. Johnson, Special Counsel for the Board of Commissioners of Everglades Drainage District and for the Trustees of the Internal Improvement Fund, be allowed to remain in the Senate Committee room now occupied by him, provided that committees of the Senate be allowed the use of said room when necessary.

Which was agreed to and so ordered.

Mr. Etheredge offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution, No. 2:

Resolved, That when any Senator shall receive a specific request from any citizen in his District for a copy, daily, of the Senate Journal, that such Senator shall furnish to the Journal Clerk the name and postoffice address of such requestee, and the Journal Clerk shall mail all such Journals daily. Provided, that no Senator shall be allowed more than twenty-five (25) Journals daily for such mailing. The expense and postage for such mailing shall be certified and paid as other legislative expense.

Mr. Etheredge moved the adoption of the resolution.

Which was agreed to.

The committee appointed to wait upon the House, to inform them that the Senate was duly organized, appeared

and reported that they had performed the duty assigned them and they were discharged.

The committee to wait upon the Governor, to notify him that the Senate was organized and ready to receive communications from him, appeared and reported that they had performed the duty assigned them and that the Governor desired to deliver his message before the Legislature in joint session on Wednesday, April 8th.

The committee was discharged with thanks.

Mr. Hodges offered the following Resolution :

Senate Resolution No. 3 :

Be it Resolved, That the President of the Senate is hereby authorized to employ one competent stenographer to act as Secretary to the President of the Senate and perform such other stenographic duties as may be directed by other Senators, with the permission of the President of the Senate.

Mr. Hodges moved the adoption of the resolution.

Which was agreed to.

Mr. Hodges offered the following resolution—

Senate Resolution No. 4 :

Be it Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate is hereby authorized to employ one competent person to act as Index Clerk, whose duties it shall be to index the Senate Journal in concert with other appointees to same clerkships by Attorney General and House of Representatives and perform such other services as directed by the Secretary of the Senate.

Mr. Hodges moved the adoption of the resolution.

Which was agreed to.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

The following message from the House of Representatives was received :

House of Representatives,
Tallahassee, Fla., April 7, 1925.

Hon. John S. Taylor,
President of the Senate.

Sir:

I am directed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has passed—
House Concurrent Resolution No. 1:

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

First, That no bills shall be introduced until Thursday, the 9th, or until the Standing Committees shall have been announced.

Second, That the Governor's Message shall be made the Special Order for Wednesday, immediately on completion of the roll call.

And respectfully requests the concurrence of the Senate thereto.

Very respectfully.

B. A. MEGINNISS.

Chief Clerk House of Representatives.

And House Concurrent Resolution No. 1, contained in the above message, was read the first time.

On motion of Mr. Malone the rules were waived by a two-thirds vote and the resolution read the second time.

Mr. Malone moved to amend the House Concurrent Resolution No. 1 so as to read that the joint session of the two Houses shall be fixed at eleven o'clock A. M.

Which was agreed to.

The Resolution as amended was read and adopted and ordered to be certified to the House of Representatives immediately.

Mr. Hodges moved that the Senate do now adjourn until 10:45 A. M. tomorrow.

Which was agreed to.

And the Senate stood adjourned until 10:45 o'clock A. M. Wednesday, April 8th, 1925.

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The President in the chair.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Senators Anderson, Butler, Calkins, Clark, Coe, Colson, Cone, Edge, Etheredge, Gillis, Hale, Hineley, Hodges, Knight, Malone, McDaniels, Overstreet, Phillips, Putnam, Rowe, Russell, Scales, Singletary, Smith, Swearingen, Taylor (31st Dist.), Turnbull, Turner, Walker, Watson, Wicker—32.

A quorum present.

Prayer by Chaplain.

Reading of the Journal was dispensed with.

The daily Journal of April 7th was corrected and, as corrected, was approved.

Mr. Hodges offered the following Concurrent Resolution:

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Be it resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring: That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoint a joint committee of two members from each of their respective bodies to act as a Joint Legislative Committee on Governor's Message; to prepare bills in furtherance of the recommendations of that message when the same may seem advisable.

Which was read the first time.

Mr. Anderson moved that the rules be waived and that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 1 be read the second time.

Which was agreed to by a two-thirds vote.

The resolution was read the second time.

Mr. Hodges moved to adopt the resolution.

Which was agreed to.
And the resolution was adopted.

On motion of Mr. Malone, the adoption of the resolution was immediately certified to the House of Representatives under waiver of the rules.

Mr. Knight offered the following resolution:
Senate Resolution No. 5:

Be it resolved by the Senate, That upon his requisition, each member of the Senate be furnished with a copy of the Revised General Statutes of 1920, and the General and Special Laws of 1919, 1921 and 1923.

Be it further resolved, That the Sergeant-at-Arms be instructed to provide said General Statutes and General and Special Laws, and return the same to the Secretary of State upon or before the adjournment of the 1925 Legislature.

Which was read.

Mr. Knight moved to adopt the resolution.

Which was agreed to.

And the resolution was adopted.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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House of Representatives,
Tallahassee, Fla., April 8, 1925.

Hon. John S. Taylor,
President of the Senate.

Sir:

I am directed by the House of Representatives to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives has concurred in the Senate amendment to—

House Concurrent Resolution No. 1:

Resolved by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring:

First, That no bills shall be introduced until Thursday, the 9th, or until the Standing Committees shall have been announced.

Second, That the Governor's Message shall be made the Special Order for Wednesday, immediately on completion of the roll call.

Which amendment is as follows:

That the time for convening in Joint Session shall be at 11 o'clock A. M.

Very respectfully,
 B. A. MEGINNISS,
 Chief Clerk House of Representatives.

Which was read and placed before the Senate.

Mr. Phillips moved that a committee of three be appointed to proceed to the House of Representatives and inform them that the Senate will take pleasure in meeting the House of Representatives in joint session, to receive the Governor, at such hour as may suit their convenience.

Which was agreed to.

Messrs. Phillips, Singletary and McDaniel were appointed as said committee.

By permission the committee withdrew to discharge its duty.

The committee to wait upon the House of Representatives reappeared and reported that they had performed the duty assigned them, and the committee was discharged.

A committee from the House of Representatives appeared at the bar of the Senate and reported that the House would receive the Senate in joint session at 11:20 A. M.

The communication was received with thanks and the committee from the House withdrew.

The hour of 11:20 A. M. having arrived, the Senate formed in a body and proceeded to the hall of the House of Representatives to meet with them in joint session.

JOINT SESSION.

The Senate was received by the House of Representatives, the President of the Senate presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate was directed to call the roll of the Senate.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Senators Anderson, Butler, Calkins, Clark, Coe, Colson, Cone, Edge, Etheredge, Gillis, Hale,

Hineley, Hodges, Knight, Malone, McDaniels, Overstreet, Phillips, Putnam, Rowe, Russell, Scales, Singletary, Smith, Swearingen, Taylor (31st Dis.), Turnbull, Turner, Walker, Watson, Wicker—32.

A quorum of the Senate was present.

The Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives was ordered to call the roll of the House.

The roll of the House of Representatives was called and the following members of the House of Representatives responded to their names:

Mr. Speaker: Messrs. Allen, Bell, Bishop, Branch, Brock, Bryant, Bullard, Busto, Byrd, Carroll, Carver, Combs, Craig, Crews, Davis, Dew, Doty, Douglass, DuVall, Eaton, Elliott, Ellis, Evans, Ezell, Fletcher, Fox, Frisbee, Garrett, Getzen, Godwin, Greene, Harrell, Harris, Harrison, Hendry (Lee), Hendry (Taylor), Hunter, Jennings, Johns, Kemp, Kendrick, Kennedy, Kepler, Kurtz, Levins, Lyles, McCall, McCracken, McElya, MacKenzie (Lake), McKenzie (Putnam), McLeran, McSween, May, Moore, Morgan, Mountain, Parrish, Petree, Philips, Register, Savage, Shelley, Smith, Stokes, Stone, Strom, Taylor (Highlands), Taylor (Hillsborough), Trueman, Tucker, Turnbull, Victor, Watson, Waybright, Weeks, Weidling, West, Wester, Wetherington (Hamilton), Whitaker, Whitty, Williams, Witherington (Orange), Young—86.

A quorum of the House of Representatives was declared present.

Mr. Williams (Leon) moved that Mrs. John W. Martin be invited to occupy a seat on the Speaker's stand, and that a committee of two be appointed to escort her to such seat.

Which was agreed to.

Thereupon the President appointed as such committee Senator Hodges and Mr. Williams, who escorted Mrs. Martin to a seat on the stand.

Mr. Malone moved that a committee of four be appointed to escort the Governor to the House of Representatives.

Which was agreed to.

Senators Malone and Hodges were appointed from the Senate and Messrs. Whittaker of Hillsborough and Watson of Orange were appointed on the part of the House to constitute said committee.

The committee withdrew, reappearing with the Governor, and announced that the Governor was present and awaiting the pleasure of the Legislature in joint session.

The Governor was received, and escorted to the Speaker's stand, from where he addressed the joint body upon matters concerning the State, as follows:

GOVERNOR'S ADDRESS.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and
House of Representatives:*

Representing a co-ordinate branch of the State Government, and in accordance with the mandate of Section 9 of Article 4 of the Constitution, I have the honor of advising you at the beginning of this Legislative session concerning the condition of the State and of suggesting for your consideration measures which I believe should receive your serious attention.

My object in appearing before you in person, rather than following the age-old custom of addressing a message, is for the purpose of establishing at the very beginning of the session a personal contact between the Executive and Legislative branches of the State Government, which I believe essential if the best results are to be obtained.

CONDITION OF THE STATE

The financial condition of the State is sound. Her tax-supported institutions are functioning efficiently and funds appropriated for their support are being administered economically. Such conditions must be gratifying to the citizens of the State.

For detailed statement and figures you are respectfully referred to the reports of Cabinet Officers, Administrative Boards, and Heads of Departments. These reports have been prepared with painstaking care and at great expense. The information contained is reliable, comprehensive, clear, and is for your use. Therefore, examine and study these documents, not only that you may become familiar with the conditions of the State, but that you may understand better the operations of the State Government. On behalf of those officials submitting these reports, I commend them to you. There is no justification in taxing your patience in this address with a recitation of their contents. There will be placed on the

desk of each Senator and Representative, for his convenience, a copy of the report of each Department.

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

Gentlemen of the Legislature, I congratulate you upon your opportunity to serve your State in this, in many respects, the most interesting period of her history. Yours is a privilege that has rarely fallen to the lot of law-makers. Our State is on the threshold of an era of prosperity and development unparalleled in all of her history. People full of hope and expectauncy are pouring into Florida from every quarter of the Nation, attracted by her unexcelled climate, her educational, her social and her material advantages.

You have assembled here to enact legislation for the common good and the happiness of our people. But I would remind you that our danger does not lie in the path of too little, but in too much, legislation.

Florida needs capital, and must have it, in the building and establishing of her industries. She needs labor, also, and must have it. One without the other, though in abundance, will not suffice. There must be cooperation between capital and labor, and no statute should be enacted inimical to either. Unwise legislation should receive no consideration at your hands. Legislation drawn solely in the interest of one group of our citizens should find a cool reception. I would caution you to be on your guard. Eternal vigilance will prove to be the price of Florida's development and greatness. Therefore, study well and with scrutinizing care the provisions of every measure proposed. Do not be afraid to withhold the stamp of your approval from any measure introduced if it bears the ear-marks of "special legislation." When in doubt, give the people of the whole State the benefit of the doubt.

Unfortunately, some people seem to think that legislation is a panacea for every ill with which the State, or body politic, is afflicted. Not true; nothing can be more detrimental to the prosperity and development of the State than half-baked, carelessly-drawn and hastily-enacted legislation. Law should be designed to protect the individual and society, personal and property rights. You can never make people good, happy or wealthy by legislation. Paternalism is foreign to the American prin-

eiple of Government. Individual responsibility is the essence and the underlying principle of our theory of Government.

I have faith in the judgment, honesty and the ability of the people's representatives in this Legislature. And while I shall recommend, as provided by the Constitution, certain measures, I shall not attempt to dictate to you in matters of legislation. I shall not hold secret caucuses behind closed doors for the purpose of organizing legislative blocs to put through pet measures; nor shall I at anytime attempt to wield a big stick over the law-making body. The Constitution and the Statutes of the State define the powers, privileges, prerogatives and responsibilities of each branch of the State Government. The Executive branch will not enroach upon the Legislative. Finally, each branch is responsible to the people for the manner in which it discharges its duty. I wish you to understand, however, that the Governor is ready to cooperate with you and assist you in every possible way. Our people do not want wrangling, but deeds that will produce results. Let us not disappoint those who have imposed their trust in us.

LEGISLATION

I believe, Gentlemen, that you should adopt a well-defined, definite, progressive legislative program which will embrace measures of importance to the whole State, and apply yourselves assiduously and earnestly to the task of translating this program into law, rather than attempting a multiplicity of experimental and doubtful measures with speculative results. Mark your goal and steer for it with compass precision.

The program that the Governor would respectfully recommend falls under two heads as follows:

(a) Roads, Education, Drainage of the Everglades, Taxation, Re-apportionment.

(b) Revision or Amendment of the law regulating speed and traffic on public highways, Industrial Survey, Fish and Game, Regulating Shipment of Green Fruit and Marketing of our Products, Free Text Books in Public Schools, East Coast Canal, Establishing of Industrial Plants in the State Institutions under the Control

and Management of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, Revamped Corporation Laws, Place Management and Control of Florida Farm Colony for the Feebleminded and Epileptic under the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions, Creation of Commission to study and investigate Legal Procedure in this State and to Make Recommendations for Amendment and Revision, Creation of Courts of Domestic Relations in the Larger Counties in Conjunction with Juvenile Courts therein, Appropriation of \$2,000.00 to pay costs of Removing Florida's Allotment of World War Relics and Trophies from Washington to Florida for Distribution, Approval of the Budget prepared by the Budget Commission, Requiring Tax Collectors when giving receipt for County and State Taxes to write out distinctly the amount of each separately that the tax payer may know the amount that he is paying to County and State in Taxes, Repeal of that part of Chapter 9364, Acts of 1923, requiring the Court to Charge the Jury before Argument of Counsel, Cold Storage Plants.

ROADS

Everybody believes in good roads; that a system of hard-surfaced highways will hasten as nothing else the development of Florida. The people are willing to be taxed for the thing that they know will enhance the value of their property and make life happier.

It is estimated that the State Road Department will have from present sources of revenue for road construction during 1925 approximately Eight Million Dollars. The Department as an organization can, it is believed, spend with satisfactory results not more than Twelve Million Dollars annually. To attain the maximum speed, therefore, in our road building program, the State's present revenue should be augmented Four Million Dollars and the Legislature should find some way to raise this additional amount. I would suggest for your consideration that the present rate on gasoline be increased, that a slight increase be made in the automobile license tax, and that a tax be placed on lubricating oils. There is no tax on lubricating oils and it seems not illogical

that one be levied. The license tax on automobiles in Florida is lower than is imposed in a great many of the States. A heavier tax should be placed on trucks used in the transportation of freight and busses for passenger service. The wear of our public highways from the operation of these heavy trucks and busses is much greater than results from the use of lighter-weight cars and vehicles. They should, therefore, be required to pay a proportionately higher tax.

It is my opinion that it will be more economical in the end to increase present rates of taxation as suggested than to bond the State for roads, considering the amount in interest that would have to be paid during the life of the bonds.

EDUCATION

It hardly seems necessary to emphasize the importance of making adequate provision for our public schools. It is common knowledge, however, that there is in the majority of the counties of the State a serious shortage of facilities, a lack of proper equipment, and a very low percentage of trained and qualified teachers, due in a large measure to the small salaries paid. Children in the rural districts are the principal sufferers. The rural schools in Florida, with undertrained and underpaid teachers, I am advised, are on the retrograde. This is a sad commentary upon our people and it is time for an awakening.

We can never hope to build permanently on ignorance. Besides, justice and fairness cry out from these remote and neglected corners to you and to me to give these children a chance for that which is inalienably theirs—an education.

Many sources of revenue have been suggested. There are those who would place a tax on so-called luxuries and others who would amend the Constitution to give the Legislature authority to appropriate money for the support of rural schools from the State Treasury. At present I am trying to afford a measure of relief through tax equalization. If only the tax assessors of the counties will assess the property, there will be more revenue for schools. This is the practical solution of the problem in the larger and more wealthy counties. In the smaller and poorer counties sufficient revenue for operating the

schools cannot be had outside of State aid or support, even though the property be assessed at its full cash value in these counties. We shall, therefore, have to find means other than the raising of values in these counties. Education in a democracy like ours is not a local question.

Gentlemen, you are aware of the conditions. Take hold of this problem seriously. In comparison, no other subject approaches it in importance.

The State Superintendent of Public Instruction, an experienced educator and school administrator, after much study and investigation, is making to the Legislature recommendations for the improvement of the schools. Coming from one who has made a life study of the subject, and who is familiar with the conditions and needs of our public schools, Mr. Cawthon's recommendations cannot fail to receive sympathetic consideration at your hands.

I am vitally concerned over the situation. I need not here say more.

DRAINAGE OF THE EVERGLADES

The State is definitely committed to the reclamation of this vast domain, larger in area than the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. The project is of gigantic proportions and already millions of dollars have been expended upon the undertaking. Many more millions will be required before it is completed. There can be no turning back. Finance and more finance is the problem confronting the Drainage Board and is one for the Legislature to deal with. The Drainage Board, after exhaustive study and investigation of the problems involved, has prepared and unanimously approved certain measures which will be submitted to you for your consideration and which the members of this Board believe will provide the necessary funds to speed up this important work.

TAXATION

I approach this subject with a feeling of humble trepidation. We all realize that our tax system is antiquated and that conditions are in a confused state. We are at the same time conscious of our limitations to deal

satisfactorily with the subject. To my mind we should direct our efforts chiefly at this time to bringing about a more equitable assessment as among individual taxpayers and greater uniformity of assessment among the counties of the State. You are familiar with my recent efforts in this direction. There will be no let up as long as the present gross and flagrant inequalities exist.

No doubt, new sources of taxation will be suggested in measures that will be presented to the Legislature; but it occurs to me, after an intensive study of conditions, that equalization is the thing most practical and desirable. I would like to call your attention, however, to the amendment to the State Constitution, approved in the November general election, conferring upon the Legislature the power to levy a tax upon intangibles. This comes to you as a mandate from the people, and you will, in dealing with the tax question, consider it as such. Intangibles have never been taxed in this State.

REAPPORTIONMENT

Gentlemen, you have also received a mandate from the people to reapportion the State, guaranteeing to every section a fair representation in the Legislature. I urge you to speedily translate this will of the people as expressed at the polls into law. The course has been plainly charted and directions given. This plain duty can neither be shirked nor the responsibility imposed evaded.

REGULATION OF SPEED AND TRAFFIC ON PUBLIC HIGHWAYS

Our speed and traffic laws need amending. As it is, there is a lack of uniformity and interpretation in the enforcement of existing regulations, which has resulted in confusion and uncertainty, to say nothing of the embarrassment and indignities to which motorists have in many counties and communities of the State been subjected. In some counties conditions have grown to be intolerable. I have no patience with the reckless and heedless driver of a motor car, but the foolish indiscretions of road patrolmen should be stopped and they be required to exercise judgment and common sense in the discharge of their duties. I would suggest that the

speed limit be increased to thirty-five or forty miles per hour on public highways and a uniform rate of twenty miles per hour be fixed for State Roads through all municipalities.

In the preparation of any statute or amendment on this subject, the safety and protection of the public should be the primary consideration.

INDUSTRIAL SURVEY

That the manufacturing and industrial possibilities of the State may be known, I would recommend for your serious consideration the advisability of providing for an industrial survey of her natural resources by a competent commission. The natural resources of Florida have never been prospected, though it is the opinion of many that the State is rich in minerals and other commodities valuable for industrial purposes.

FISH AND GAME

Florida's fish and game constitutes one of the State's most valuable commercial assets, as well as one of her greatest out-door attractions. Our fresh and salt water fish should be conserved and the supply increased by the employment of scientific methods of propagation. Hatcheries should be established and replenishing done where the species have become extinct or depleted. Measures have been prepared looking toward the protection of the State's fresh-water fish and game and providing for the closing and restocking in turn of the lakes that the supply may be replenished. Through the administration of the general fish and oyster law, salt-water fish and oysters have been very well protected and conserved. Our game and fresh-water fish have not been protected and it is doubtful if the present law can be made effective. I would, therefore, recommend the creation of a separate department to have jurisdiction over fresh water fish and game.

As stated, measures will be presented for your consideration incorporating these ideas.

REGULATING SHIPMENT OF GREEN FRUIT AND MARKETING OF OUR PRODUCTS

A careful study should be made of the shipping and marketing of our fruits and vegetables. Much complaint has been made to me about the shipping of green citrus fruit and the crude marketing methods in the State. Citrus fruits and vegetables constitute one of the State's most valuable resources. In fact, the two combined are the most valuable from a money-producing standpoint. I recommend that a committee be appointed to make a thorough and exhaustive investigation of the conditions under which the shipping and marketing of our fruits and vegetables is conducted,—this committee to report to the Legislature and to incorporate in a bill their recommendations for the regulating and controlling of this situation. The desired results might be as effectively accomplished by revamping or amending the present law. I consider the matter of the greatest importance, and it is in your hands to be dealt with as may to you seem wise and expedient.

FREE TEXT BOOKS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The means for an education should not be withheld from any child. It is a fact that many parents are unable to provide their children with the necessary text books. The State has adopted, and wisely, the policy of compelling all children within certain ages to attend school. It seems logical that the State should furnish the children with the necessary tools to obtain an education. I would, therefore, recommend that the Legislature consider the advisability of passing the necessary legislation to carry with it suitable appropriation to provide all children attending public school in this State with free text books. In dealing with this subject, if the Legislature feels disposed to accept my recommendation, it would perhaps be well to limit the issuing of books the first few years to the first three or four grades in the elementary schools, gradually extending the plan to include all grades through the high school.

EAST COAST CANAL

I recommend the creation of a commission with suitable appropriation to make a complete physical and

economical survey of the Florida Coast Line Canal, with authority to make a full report of its findings and recommendations to the Governor as to what steps should be taken to make this waterway one of the State's main arteries of commerce.

ESTABLISHING OF INDUSTRIAL PLANTS IN THE STATE INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.

The State Institutions under the control and management of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions for our unfortunate are: The Florida State Hospital for the Insane, Chattahoochee; The Florida State Farm, Ralford; The Florida Industrial School for Girls, Ocala; and The Florida Industrial School for Boys, Marianna. These institutions are maintained at great expense to the taxpayers of the State, without any expectation of a return, except the return to society rehabilitated of the unfortunates committed to the institutions. I believe that these unfortunate people, however, can be given helpful employment that will prove beneficial to them and at the same time yield considerable revenue to be applied to reducing the cost to the people of maintaining the institutions. I would, therefore, recommend that the Legislature make suitable appropriation to enable the Board to install and equip in these institutions such industrial plants as in the wisdom and judgment of its membership would prove profitable in reducing the cost to the people of maintaining these institutions. The rehabilitation of the inmates would be materially advanced by giving them wholesome employment.

REVAMP CORPORATION LAWS

Consideration should be given to amending our general corporation laws so as to make it attractive for business people to incorporate and transact business in Florida under the most favorable conditions, thus making the most of our favored position as well as producing additional revenues without being burdensome to the corporation.

**PLACE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF THE
FLORIDA FARM COLONY FOR THE FEEBLE-
MINDED AND EPILEPTIC UNDER THE BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.**

I recommend that the Florida Farm Colony for the Feeble-minded and Epileptic be placed under the control of the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions as are the Florida State Hospital for the Insane, The Florida State Farm, The Florida Industrial School for Girls, and The Florida Industrial School for Boys. There seems no good reason why this institution should be operating under a separate Board and our people burdened with the additional expense.

**CREATION OF COMMISSION TO STUDY AND IN-
VESTIGATE LEGAL PROCEDURE IN THIS
STATE AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR AMENDMENT AND REVISION.**

Numerous complaints have come to me with reference to the delays and costs in the administration of justice, both civil and criminal, throughout the State. Nothing contributes more to our civic pride and well-being than a prompt administration of our civil and criminal statutes.

With a view of removing the cause for these complaints, I recommend that a commission be created and authorized to make a thorough study and examination of our means and system for meting out justice, and make a full report of its findings to the Governor before the convening of the next session of the Legislature.

**CREATION OF COURTS OF DOMESTIC RELATIONS
IN THE LARGER COUNTIES IN CONJUNCTION
WITH JUVENILE COURTS THEREIN.**

Many suggestions have come to me from very worthy citizens regarding the advisability of creating courts of domestic relations in certain counties of the State. I have given these suggestions careful consideration and for the present recommend, if consistent with the Constitution's mandate on the subject, that the jurisdiction of our Juvenile Courts be enlarged in order to perform the functions of Courts of Domestic Relations.

APPROPRIATION OF \$2,000.00 TO PAY COSTS OF REMOVING FLORIDA'S ALLOTMENT OF WORLD WAR RELICS AND TROPHIES FROM WASHINGTON TO FLORIDA FOR DISTRIBUTION.

I would recommend the appropriation of \$2,000.00 to pay the cost of removing Florida's allotment of World War relics and trophies from Washington to St. Augustine, or to some other point in the State more central. Cities receiving relics from the State's allotment should be required to pay transportation charges from this central depot to point of destination.

APPROVAL OF THE BUDGET PREPARED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION

In the public mind there are two kinds of economy: penurious, penny-wise economy, which when practiced impairs the efficiency and effectiveness of Government. This is false economy. And economy free from extravagance and yet permitting the expenditure of the necessary money to bring about the highest degree of efficiency attainable. This is true economy.

The directors of any going, successful business concern would without hesitancy adopt the latter, and apply the principle in the management of the business of the corporation. The State should be equally wise. In the preparation of the budget as provided by law much time was devoted to a study of the operation, needs and requirements of the many departments of the State Government. At no time in its deliberations did this commission lose sight of or overlook the fact that its members were representing the people. The State's resources were taken into account, its ability to pay, etc. After days and nights of arduous labor, the work of the commission was finally completed and its report is ready to be presented to your Honorable body. I wish here to state that it was the unanimous opinion of the members of the Budget Commission that salaries of the State's employees should be increased and they given remuneration more in keeping with the duties required and the increased cost of living. While guided in the discharge of our duty by the interest of the taxpayers of the State, it is our opinion that the people of Florida do not wish those who are serving them in public office to do so at

a niggardly salary. Speaking on behalf of the commission, of which the Governor is Chairman, I trust your views on this subject may be in harmony with ours, and that you will approve the report.

REQUIRING TAX COLLECTORS WHEN GIVING RECEIPT FOR COUNTY AND STATE TAXES TO WRITE OUT DISTINCTLY THE AMOUNT OF EACH SEPARATELY THAT TAXPAYER MAY KNOW THE AMOUNT THAT HE IS PAYING TO COUNTY AND STATE IN TAXES.

The tax laws should be so amended as to require, SPECIFICALLY, Tax Collectors, when issuing receipts, to separate county and state taxes and enter the amount paid in each in separate and distinct columns, that the taxpayer may see at a glance the exact amount he is contributing in taxes to the support of the State and County. I find that there is much misunderstanding as to the relative amount of taxes paid to State and County. There are those who seem to think that high taxes are due entirely to extravagance of the State Government, while the contrary is true.

REPEAL OF THAT PART OF CHAPTER 9364, ACTS OF 1923, REQUIRING THE COURT TO CHARGE THE JURY BEFORE ARGUMENT OF COUNSEL

I recommend that that part of Chapter 9364, Acts of 1923, requiring the court, in all trials, to charge the jury at the conclusion of the evidence and before the argument of counsel, be repealed. I am in thorough accord with the spirit of our law that accords every one charged with crime a constitutional trial, but I am opposed to every proposition that makes it easy for the criminal to escape justice. Mr. Chief Justice Taft said recently that the administration of our criminal statutes was a disgrace to any civilized country. I am fully convinced that the repeated passage of such Acts as the foregoing, which have the effect of making concessions to law-breakers, is responsible for what there is of this condition in our State.

COLD STORAGE PLANTS

Florida spends millions of dollars annually for eggs, meat, butter, cheese, lard and kindred products shipped in from other States. This ought not to be with all of the fine agricultural lands in this State capable of producing in large quantity these food products. I would recommend the passage of a law permitting counties to erect and operate cold storage plants, that the farmers in the agricultural sections of West and Central Florida may have facilities for the storing of products to await favorable marketing conditions.

CONCLUSION

Gentlemen, concluding, I wish to reiterate that it is the sincere desire of the Executive to co-operate fully with the Legislative branch of the Government, observing scrupulously and respecting throughout the constitutional boundary that separates the functions and prerogatives of each department. I shall at any time during your deliberations be happy to advise with you relative to legislation, but shall at no time attempt to force my views upon you. Each is responsible to the people for the manner in which he discharges his duty. The people sent us here, and to them and our conscience we must give an accounting. Unfortunately, people have formed the habit in this country of speaking lightly and sneeringly of legislatures, and sometimes, no doubt, with justification, but as often without reason.

I trust that this Legislature may prove to be the exception. But regardless of whether you receive the plaudits and approbation of your constituents, I earnestly hope that this Legislature will make a record for dispatch and sane legislation unequalled by any of its predecessors. In this connection permit me to earnestly insist that you take up in the beginning, and put through as speedily as possible, consistent with a proper consideration before enacting them into law, measures which may be considered of major importance, viz.: Good Roads, Education, Taxation, Drainage of the Everglades, and Re-apportionment. Having disposed of these, you will find it comparatively easy to get through with that part of your program which will follow. Remember time lost in the beginning can never be regained.

Closing, let us draw very near together, and here solemnly dedicate ourselves, and wholly, to an honest, courageous discharge of duty; let us, with no hope of reward, except a consciousness of having done our duty, consecrate our energy and all the ability we possess during the sixty days that lie ahead of us to the public service, so that it can be said of us when the sun reaches the meridian and the clock marks the close of the session, "they have kept the faith."

Now, Gentlemen, having informed you concerning the conditions of the State, and having recommended the measures I have deemed expedient, I shall withdraw, but not in seclusion. The Executive Offices will be open to you at all times and the Governor and his office force will be at your service. The Chief Executive wants to work with the Legislature and not in opposition to it. Devoted to my State's every interest and conscious of the grave responsibilities resting upon me as Governor, I could take no other position.

At the conclusion of the Governor's address, the Senate withdrew from the Joint Session and returned to its chamber.

The Senate at 12:20 o'clock P. M. resumed its session. The President in the chair.

The roll was called and the following Senators answered to their names:

Mr. President, Senators Anderson, Butler, Calkins, Clark, Coe, Colson, Cone, Edge, Etheredge, Gillis, Hale, Hineley, Hodges, Knight, Malone, McDaniels, Overstreet, Phillips, Putnam, Rowe, Russell, Scales, Singletary, Smith, Swearingen, Taylor, Turnbull, Turner, Walker, Watson, Wicker—32.

A quorum present.

The name of Mrs. Evelyn Edward King was added to the staff of Senate Official Stenographers, the same being announced and no objection being made thereto.

Hon. J. M. Coe was excused until Monday afternoon, April 13, A. D., 1925.

Mr. Malone moved that the Senate do now adjourn to ten o'clock tomorrow morning.

Which was agreed to.

Whereupon the Senate stood adjourned until 10 o'clock A. M. Thursday, April 9th, A. D., 1925.