

ANNUAL MESSAGE
OF
GOV. CHAS. ROBINSON.

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KANSAS, 1862.
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Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:

By the provisions of the Constitution, it is made the duty of the Governor, at the commencement of every session of the Legislature, to communicate, in writing, such information as he shall have in reference to the condition of the State, and recommend such measures as he may deem expedient.

The past season has been distinguished for the bountiful productions of the soil, rewarding the labor of the husbandman an hundred fold, and affording a striking contrast to the almost universal dearth of the year preceding. Instead of importing the staple articles of food, and being dependent upon charity for subsistence, the people of Kansas have enough, and much to spare, for communities less favored than our own.

At the commencement of the last session of the Legislature, seven States of the Union had rebelled against the Government. That number has been increased to twelve, including our neighboring States-- Missouri and Arkansas. This has had the effect to seriously disturb the quiet and good order of our own community. While but few disloyal persons were to be found in Kansas, tens, hundreds and thousands, who were hostile to the Government, have hovered along our borders, menacing the peace of the State.

Although invasions have been inconsiderable in number and magnitude, they have had the effect to cause a general feeling of disquiet throughout nearly all the border counties. The feeling of insecurity has been greatly increased, from a knowledge that the State was utterly powerless for defense. No appropriation was made by the last Legislature for arming, equipping or subsisting the State militia, and consequently it could not be used for our protection. An Act was passed at the last session to authorize the State to borrow \$20,000 to repel invasion, suppress insurrection, and defend the State in time of war, but this was appropriated simply to the expenses incurred in raising two regiments of infantry, three companies of cavalry, and two companies of artillery, for the service of the United States. Thus this sum, insignificant as it was, after the 1st, 2d and 3d regiments were mustered, could no longer be made available for any purpose. The incessant calls for assistance, from all parts of the State, upon the Executive, to which---owing to the helpless condition in which the Legislature left him---he was unable to respond, has, in consequence, given rise to universal complaint. An attempt was made, under the general authority of the Constitution, to call into the field a portion of the militia to protect the people from invasion; but no person could be found willing to furnish them with provisions--- therefore, they were dismissed.

The danger from invasion is as great now as at any former period, and should the Federal troops be withdrawn, as they are liable to be, the State will have to rely upon its own resources for protection. The attention of the Legislature is, therefore, respectfully called to this subject. The citizens of several of the border counties have been compelled to provide means of defense from threatened invasion and do guard duty, at their own expense. These expenses should be borne by the State, and an appropriation should be made to pay such of these claims as the proper officers may award as just.

The rebellion upon our border, and the manner in which the war was conducted during the summer, has caused the State to be overrun with thieves and highway robbers. So numerous have these criminals become, in some localities, that they have the community under complete subjection and control. Citizens of property and influence have been cowed into silence, lest they should become the next victims of the spoilers. Even many have openly indorsed robbery, that they might be able to retain their own property. Fortunately, the change in the manner of conducting the war and the rigid discipline of the officers now in command of the United States forces here, have in a good degree, restored good order and security within our limits. The criminal laws need amendment in reference to these crimes. Punishment under them, as now constituted, is nearly impossible; and, should the present commanding officers be withdrawn or withdraw their forces, the people will be compelled to

rely alone upon the civil authorities for protection. If possible, provision should be made for a speedy trial in any court within the State, that may be in session when the crime is committed or criminal detected.

Some affect to justify the stealing of their neighbors' property on the ground that it has been forfeited, by the disloyalty of its owner, to the Government, while much the larger class steals from mere wantonness or purposes of gain. The Government, undoubtedly, has a right, and it is highly proper to confiscate the property of a traitor; but that gives no shadow of right to a private citizen to plunder his neighbor. The thief is as much at war with the Government as the secessionist, and should be treated with no more leniency. The man who swears to support the Constitution and the laws, while he sets them at defiance and tramples them under his feet, is more guilty and depraved than he who openly avows his hostility to the Government-for the one is simply a traitor, while the other adds perjury to his treason.

The State has furnished for the war eleven regiments and parts of regiments of volunteers, under the following commanders:

1st Regiment,	- - - - -	Col. G. W. DEITZLER.
2d	“ - - - - -	Col. R. B. MITCHELL.
3d	“ - - - - -	Col. JAMES MONTGOMERY.
4th	“ - - - - -	Col. WM. WEER.
5th	“ - - - - -	Col. H. P. JOHNSON.
6th	“ - - - - -	Col. R. W. JUDSON.
7th	“ - - - - -	Col. C. R. JENNISON.
8th	“ - - - - -	Col. H. W. WESSELLS.
9th	“ - - - - -	-Col. A. C. DAVIS.
10th	“ - - - - -	Unorganized.
11th	“ - - - - -	Unorganized.
Battalion, (six companies,)	- - - - -	Lieutenant-Colonel Clarke.

Some of these regiments are not full, neither have all been organized. They contain in the aggregate about six thousand men. Some, however, were recruited in other States. The States furnishing the largest number of these recruits, outside of Kansas, are Iowa, Illinois and Missouri, while some came from Nebraska Territory, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and other States While many recruits from other States are enlisted in Kansas regiments, probably an equal number of Kansas men can be found in regiments of other States.

But one regiment--the First--was called for; by the Government the remainder petitioned for permission to be received as a part of the army of the Union. Kansas has abundant occasion to be proud, if not of the number of her soldiers, of their bravery. They have endured fatigue, privation, hardship, without a murmur, and have heroically taken and held the posts of danger on the battle field. Of no regiment can it be said the officers or men were lacking in the requisites of good soldiers, and their bearing in battle challenges the admiration of the Nation. Fortunately for the reputation and fame of our volunteers, although fatal to many noble and brave heroes who fell, two Kansas regiments--the First and Second--were in the hard fought battle at Springfield. Their conduct on that occasion won imperishable fame to themselves and honor to their State. In order to transmit to posterity a record of the gallant conduct of our volunteers in the struggle against rebellion, and as a slight token of remembrance for their heroic deeds, I would recommend that the official reports of the commanders of the First and Second regiments of the Battle of Springfield, with a full list of the killed and wounded, as well as a list of the killed and wounded in all the regiments since the commencement of the war, be printed with the public documents of the State.

The expenses incurred in recruiting and organizing the volunteer regiments are merely nominal, amounting to about ten thousand dollars, nearly all of which will be paid by the General Government, in accordance with the laws of Congress. This economy of expenditure is chiefly owing to the personal application of the officers to their respective duties. No extra agents, aids or Secretaries, have been employed, absolutely necessary, and much credit is due to the indefatigable labors of the Quartermaster and Adjutant Generals. The organization of the militia throughout the State, as well as the Regiments for United States service, has thrown upon them an unusual amount of responsibility and labor. As no appropriation has been made except for the expenses of their offices, I would recommend that a suitable remuneration should be given for their services.

As no appropriation has been made by the Legislature for equipping the Regiments raised in Kansas, the Federal Government has necessarily been charged with this duty. As a consequence, nearly all our regiments

have suffered great privation and hardship, by reason of the delay in receiving their outfits. Also, great injustice is done to the business interests of the State, by procuring all the equipments for its volunteers outside of its limits. It costs, on an average, not less than \$100,000 to equip a regiment, including transportation. At least one half of this expenditure might have been made among the mechanics, merchants, farmers and laborers of our own State, had the authority been granted by the Legislature. Should a foreign war be added to the rebellion, another 500,000 men will be required; and, in such an event the citizens and material interest of our State should be put on an equal footing with the citizens of other States, by being prepared to equip its own troops. This would not require the issuing of Bonds, nor the borrowing of money, as the Auditor's warrant would be amply sufficient, until the State should be reimbursed by the national treasury.

By act of Congress a direct tax is to be levied for the support of the Government. The apportionment of Kansas is \$71,743 33. A proposition, herewith submitted, has been received from the Secretary of the Treasury, to deduct 15 per cent of the amount, if the State will assess and collect the tax without expense to the General Government. To raise this amount by tax, immediately, with the necessary revenue for the current expenses of the State, would be oppressive. A loan, therefore, may be expedient to meet the demand of the Federal Treasury.

The public lands, donated by the ordinance of Admission to the State have been selected by Messrs. S. E. Hoffman, H. B. Denman and E. P. Bancroft, who were appointed for that purpose. A personal inspection has been made of all the lands and it is believed that the best within the State have been selected. By an oversight, it is presumed, the Legislature, at the last session, failed to accept of the terms proposed by the ordinance, and hence, the land has not been filed upon, in the respective Land Offices, neither have the selections been approved by the Commissioner of the General Land Office. As a portion of these lands must be selected within one year after the admission of the State, it is important that the necessary acceptance of the conditions of the ordinance be made by the Legislature without delay.

Owing to the depreciation of State warrants, the appropriation was insufficient to defray the expenses of the commission, and an additional appropriation is recommended. For full particulars of their doings, I would refer to the report of the Commissioners, herewith submitted.

For the financial condition of the State, reference is made to the reports of the Auditor, Treasurer and Secretary. It is gratifying to be able to say that the credit of the State is improving, with a fair prospect, that her Bonds will command a relatively high price in the market hereafter.

For the condition of the educational interest of the State, and recommendations relative to the same, you are referred to the able report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. I would repeat the recommendation submitted to the last session, relative to the School Land:

"The School Lands, by the Constitution, cannot be sold, unless authorized by a vote of the people at a general election, although they are subject to valuation and lease for any number of years, not exceeding twenty-five, at a rate established by law. It is important to obtain a revenue from these lands, as soon as may be without sacrifice, and some legislation is demanded on this subject. In addition to a provision for leasing school lands, it may be desirable to submit a proposition to the people, authorizing the disposal of a limited amount of the most valuable. Care, however, should be taken to guard against sacrificing them at low price, for the benefit of speculation. It is only in the most thickly populated portions of the State that School Lands should be sold, and then at a valuation, with a minimum of eight or ten dollars an acre."

No future generation in Kansas will be more in need or deserving of school facilities than the present, and none will be less able to furnish them.

On the 20th day of June last, the President appointed the Hon. James H. Lane, a Brigadier General. On receiving a dispatch from the Secretary of War that the appointment had been made and accepted, Hon. Frederick P. Stanton was appointed to succeed Gen. Lane, as Senator. Gen. Lane, however, still claimed the seat as Senator, and a contest resulted. Upon investigation, the Senate committee reported: "1st; That James H. Lane is not entitled to a seat in this body. 2d; That Frederick P. Stanton is entitled to a seat in this body." As Gen. Lane has received a second appointment of Brig. General, and a confirmation by the Senate, there is, undoubtedly, a vacancy in the U. S. Senate, for the Legislature to fill at its present session.

The condition of the country, at the commencement of the last session of the Legislature, was described in a message to that body as follows: "A demand is made by certain States that new concessions and guaranties be given to slavery, or the Union must be destroyed. The present Constitution, however faithfully adhered to, is

declared to be incompatible with the existence of slavery---its change is demanded, or the Government must be overthrown. If it is true that the continued existence of slavery requires the destruction of the Union, it is time to ask if the existence of the Union does not require the destruction of slavery. If such an issue be forced upon the Nation, it must be met and be met promptly."

Subsequent events have demonstrated that the revolting States are in earnest in pressing this issue. They are warring against the Government, with an army half a million strong, killing and taking prisoners loyal men, and confiscating their property---and for what? Because, as they claim, the longer existence of slavery demands it as a necessity. Are they right in their assertion? Who should know better than they? If they are right---if the existence of slavery, of necessity, requires the overthrow of the Government, then it is evident that the Union cannot be preserved, nor permanent peace succeed until slavery be overthrown. Unless the rebellious States withdraw this issue, the Government must accept it. If slavery dies in this contest, the slave States are alone responsible, for they defiantly put it in issue against the Government. The leading patriots of the country, who have been most intimately associated with Southern institutions and Southern politicians, best comprehend the question. They already demand the freeing of slaves of Rebels without compensation, and the next step will be freedom to all with compensation to the loyal. To this, it is believed, our Government must come at last, or any peace that may be conquered will be ephemeral and illusive.

The course of the seceding States shows slavery to be a malignant disease, afflicting the body politic, tending steadily and surely to the undermining of the Constitution. Anodynes, palliatives, concessions and compromises have been tried without avail, until the very vitals of the Nation are threatened. It is to be feared, that sooner or later, the knife must be applied to this political cancer ; and if so, it should be done before the vitality of the Nation is destroyed.

The affairs of this world are not left to chance. The law of cause and effect is immutable and eternal, governing nations as well as individuals; and may our people and rulers have wisdom to so direct the affairs of the Nation as to speedily result in honorable and permanent peace and prosperity.

C. ROBINSON.

TOPEKA, January 14th, 1862.

Transcribed from an undated booklet entitled: *Governor's annual message: Kansas, 1862.*

[S.l. : s.n., 1862?]

Transcription by Rita Troxel, Reference Division, State Library of Kansas.

Editing and html work by Victoria A. Wolf, Reference Division,

State Library of Kansas, July 20, 2000.