

# Walter Roscoe Stubbs

## Message of Governor W. R. Stubbs To the Kansas Legislature, January 12, 1911

To the Legislature:

1. Our state constitution provides that the governor shall make recommendation and communicate such information to the Legislature as, in his opinion, is necessary and proper.
2. Under continued favor of Divine providence the commonwealth, taken as a whole, has made satisfactory progress during the biennium just closed. Our educational institutions, including the country districts, city schools, State University, Agricultural College and Normal Schools, have been moving steadily in the direction of a more practical and common-sense system of education.
3. The prohibitory law is better enforced than ever before in the history of the state. There is not to my knowledge an open saloon or joint in Kansas. The sale of liquor for all purposes has been outlawed and placed on the same basis as other crime.
4. The federal government has entirely revolutionized its policy toward law enforcement in Kansas and all dry territory in the United States. Federal officers are now instructed to prosecute and send to jail boot-leggers and whisky venders who sell liquor without an internal revenue stamp.
5. The taxable property placed on the tax rolls of the state in 1910 amounted to \$2,752,098,125, which is an increase of more than three hundred million dollars in two years.
6. The value of farm products and live stock has increased and bank deposits, railroad earnings, manufactured products, the volume of general business and financial transactions in the state have also made satisfactory gains.

### COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

1. I would be unfaithful to my trust as one who believes in the superior importance of sound rural education as one of the greatest factors in the social, political and business uplift of any state or nation if I did not give a forward position and call your special attention to the condition of some of our country schools. Whether through false economy in the matter of employment and salaries, or through the desire of young people of higher learning to flock to the cities, where opportunities seem to them to be better, it is a fact that some four thousand district schools in Kansas are taught by teachers who did not themselves advance beyond the eighth grade. I am informed upon a most thorough investigation that approximately one hundred thousand pupils are taught by these insufficiently equipped and inexperienced teachers. It seems to me that there is a great waste here not only of public funds but of the public opportunities to which the children of Kansas are entitled. The food, clothing, books and waste of time of one hundred thousand school children mean an actual cost of almost a million dollars a month to the parents of these children, exclusive of the teachers' salaries and the cost of maintaining the school.
2. After a most exhaustive investigation of this subject, I am convinced that the progress of each pupil in a term of school under the charge of a young, inexperienced, poorly equipped teacher will not exceed fifty per cent of the progress that would be made under the care and training of a

well-equipped, well-trained school-teacher. The above estimated loss does not take into account the most important consideration involved in this problem, the waste and loss of opportunities during the school life of the child, and the greater ultimate loss to the state of efficient, intelligent citizenship.

3. The last legislature established normal training courses in one hundred high schools of the state, which promise better practical results than any known method of producing trained teachers. I believe this to be fundamentally the most vital problem we have to deal with in our commonwealth to-day, and I recommend to your most earnest and serious consideration this entire subject, with a hope that you will be able to devise some means of giving to the youth of the country an increase of educational advantages proportionate to the very large contribution the farmers of Kansas make towards the expenses of the state.

### **PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION.**

1. At the last session of the Legislature I recommended the enactment of a public utilities law which would provide for a public utilities commission, to take the place of the present Board of Railroad Commissioners and enlarge its powers to cover all state-wide public utilities, using the present railroad law as a basis and adding thereto the best features of the Wisconsin and New York public utilities laws.

2. I now renew this recommendation to this Legislature and recommend that you enact a law that will place all state-wide public utilities, railroads, telegraph, telephone, street-railway, pipe-line, express and Pullman companies and common carriers of all kinds, under the control of a state commission having full authority over the issue of stocks and bonds, giving them means and power to obtain the physical valuation of the property and plants of these corporations, to fix and adjust rates upon their own motion and to regulate rates and services in the interest of the people of Kansas and the investors and employees of these corporations.

3. I recommend that the city council, or city commission in cities that have commission form of government, be constituted a public utilities board to have control of local public utilities such as gas, electric light, water supply, telephones and utilities of this character; giving the right to the corporation, the local public utilities commission or any taxpayer to appeal to the state-wide public utilities commission in cases of disagreement, similar to the provisions of the Wisconsin law, which have proved beneficial and satisfactory to citizens and public utilities alike.

### **LAW'S DELAY AND MISTRIAL, AND SUPREME COURT DISREGARD ERRORS THAT DO NOT AFFECT RIGHTS OF PARTIES IN CRIMINAL AS WELL AS CIVIL CASES.**

1. The law's delay and mistrial of cases has been the subject of much bitter criticism throughout the nation for many years. Perhaps the most fruitful source of delay in trial of cases has been the requirement of a unanimous verdict by our petit juries in civil cases. Several states have recently provided for a three-fourths jury verdict with very satisfactory results. The law requiring a unanimous verdict of a jury in civil cases is greatly to the advantage of big corporations and powerful or influential litigants, who are able to hang juries and delay the final decision of cases by securing one or more friendly jurors. This is especially true in personal-injury and death-loss cases brought against employers of labor.

2. Some states withhold the salaries of judges who delay decisions beyond a limited time. Kansas

can make no mistake by doing likewise. Appeals on technical errors, which are not material, or technicalities which the supreme court decides have no merit, should subject the appellant to substantial costs.

3. I recommend that the law be so amended that the judgment of nine jurors out of twelve shall decide civil cases in Kansas.

4. I recommend that a law be enacted requiring the supreme court to disregard errors that do not affect the substantial rights of parties in criminal as well as civil cases.

5. I also recommend the enactment of a law providing that no criminal judgment shall be set aside, or new trial granted, for an error in the admission of evidence, unless the substantial rights of the complaining party shall have been affected.

### **POWER TO REMOVE OR SUSPEND DERELICT OFFICIALS CHARGED WITH THE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW.**

1. In some counties in Kansas officers charged with the enforcement of the prohibitory law have utterly failed to do their duty. The consequent burden and expense of law enforcement in these counties has fallen upon the state and caused heavy expense in the employment of special deputy sheriffs and assistant attorneys-general to do the work that should have been done by the regular local officers. Under our present law the governor is charged with the duty and obligation of enforcing the laws of the state, but he has not corresponding power to require effective enforcement of law by local authorities. If the governor is to be held responsible for the enforcement of law in all the counties of the state he should be given full authority to compel, if necessary, local executive officers to do their duty. In several states of the Union the governor is authorized by law to remove from office sheriffs, county attorneys and other public officials who fail to do their duty, setting forth in writing his reasons for such removal, after giving them a fair public hearing.

2. I recommend that this Legislature make a careful investigation of this whole subject and vest in the governor's office sufficient power, in some form, to remove, or suspend without pay, unfaithful or derelict public officials charged with the enforcement of law.

### **REVENUE FROM STATE-WIDE PUBLIC-SERVICE CORPORATIONS.**

1. I recommend that a proposition be submitted to the electors at the next general election providing to the electors at the next general election providing for an amendment to the constitution which will permit the state to derive its entire revenue from state-wide public-service corporations, and thereby relieve all counties, municipalities and local subdivisions of the state from paying any state tax. I am advised that fifteen of the most progressive states in the Union have already adopted this method of taxation, with entirely satisfactory results.

2. In many counties of the state local conditions and exigencies often require a higher valuation upon a like class of property than in other counties. With the law I recommend each county would be free to make such necessary valuation without being compelled to pay more than its reasonable and just proportion of the taxes required for the state, as it must do under the present system.

### **STATE PENITENTIARY.**

1. There has been a remarkable and beneficial change in the method of dealing with prisoners at the State Penitentiary by Warden Coddington and the board of directors. The physical property of the institution has been greatly improved in many ways. The number of hogs raised has been increased from about 200 per annum to 600; the herd of cattle has increased from 25 to something like 100 head, including cows and calves. The output of the twine plant has been greatly increased and the management vastly improved. While the cost of living has largely increased during the past two years, the expense for food and clothing at the state prison has been kept down to practically the same amount per capita as it was during the previous year. There has been, however, a considerable sum expended out of the maintenance fund to increase the dairy herd and make general improvements of the property, which increases the general maintenance cost of the institution. The number of employees at the Penitentiary has been reduced from 103, the number allowed by the last Legislature, to 92.

2. A large number of prisoners are now working ten hours a day and six days in the week in the State Penitentiary, manufacturing twine and brick, digging coal and working on the farm for the benefit of the state. The state pays its prisoners three and one-third cents a day in cash in addition to board and clothes. The twine plant earns from two to three thousand dollars per month. The coal and brick plant are very profitable with labor employed on the above basis; but what becomes of the helpless, penniless wife and children, or, perhaps, a dependent father or mother, left to struggle and suffer in poverty and humiliation at home? It is my opinion that when a woman marries a man, and children are born as a result of that marriage, the wife and children have the first claim on that man and his labor. The claim of the state is inferior to the claim of the wife and children. The labor of a man, even in the penitentiary, is worth more than three and one-third cents in cash per day and his board and clothes, and I recommend that the net earnings above cost of food and clothing of prisoners in the Penitentiary who have families in Kansas be paid to those families for the purpose of maintaining the home intact until the prisoner can again return to his own.

## **INHERITANCE TAX.**

1. Our new inheritance tax law was enacted at the very last night of the Legislature two years ago. The bill was passed without having the consideration and attention that such an important measure deserves. It came to the governor's office for approval with some bad features that should have been changed by the Legislature, but I regarded the law as too important a piece of legislation to veto.

2. It is the duty of this Legislature to eliminate the unjust features of the law and amend it so that it will be equitable and useful. The state has already received \$10,000 inheritance tax from foreign estates that owned railroad stocks which had to be transferred in Kansas. It received about \$15,000 inheritance from another estate that has been accumulated in Kansas but a large share of which will go to heirs outside of the state. It would be almost a crime to repeal the law, as some persons demand.

3. The intention of the inheritance tax law is to lay the heavier burdens of taxation upon persons who have accumulated more property than is necessary to their comfort and well-being, and to that extent relieve those who are less fortunate. Thirty-eight of the most progressive states in the nation have enacted inheritance tax laws and thereby recognized the justice and wisdom of legislation of this character.

4. Under our inheritance tax law there is no exemption provided, but shares going to direct heirs

do not come under the provisions of the law when the amount of the inheritance is less than \$5000. I recommend that no tax shall be levied upon the first \$25,000 inheritance passing to the husband or wife, and \$10,000 upon inheritance passing to other direct heirs.

## **GOOD ROADS.**

1. As a result of the laws enacted by the Legislature two years ago there has been more or less improvement in many localities in the condition of the public highways. The economic value of good roads cannot be overestimated.
2. I recommend that this Legislature give especial attention to this most important subject and improve to the fullest necessary extent the laws that were enacted two years ago.

## **LABOR LEGISLATION.**

1. Labor is the greatest wealth-producing power and force in the world to-day. It tills the soil, builds cities, constructs and operates railroads and ships, provides fuel and manufactured products for man's use from mines and forests, and is the foundation and support of all civilized life. That the laborer is worthy of his hire no man can honestly dispute. Every civilized nation on earth leads America in protecting the rights, lives and limbs of persons employed in hazardous work for public benefit and comfort.
2. I recommend that this Legislature do full justice to the cause of labor in Kansas and recognize, through just and equitable laws, the principles advocated by Lincoln, that the rights of men are superior to the rights of property.
3. I recommend the enactment of a workingman's compensation law, framed to meet labor and industrial conditions in Kansas.
4. I also recommend the enactment of an employer's liability law, following the provisions of the federal law and the advanced views of the supreme court of Kansas on that subject.
5. I am advised upon excellent authority that many of the mines in Kansas have no accommodations to care for persons who are injured by accidents in the mines. I recommend the enactment of a mandatory law which will compel mine owners to provide a comfortable and suitable building to care for injured persons in case of accident; and also to provide a suitable wash-house and individual lockers at each mine for such employees as desire to take advantage of the same.
6. I recommend the enactment of a law which will provide for a uniform signal system in all the mines of Kansas.
7. I recommend the enactment of a law providing that an improved safety catch shall be used in all mines where hoisting machinery is in use.
8. I recommend that a branch school of the Kansas University department of mines and mining be established in the Pittsburg coal fields district. The United States government now has a traveling car which gives instruction on mine work. But this car covers a wide field, including Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas, and is absent from the coal fields in Kansas a large part of the time. It is the duty of Kansas to use every means in its power to protect the rights, lives and welfare of the men who undertake the hazardous work of mining.

## **PENITENTIARY SENTENCE FOR SECOND VIOLATIONS OF THE PROHIBITORY LAW.**

1. I recommend that this Legislature enact a law which will provide a penitentiary sentence as a penalty upon the second and subsequent convictions for violations of the prohibitory law. The federal government provides a penitentiary sentence already for the violations of the internal revenue laws.

2. Upon investigation I believe that your honorable body will find a decide economic value in this kind of a law, by ridding the larger counties of chronic criminals, and hence avoiding the expense of apprehending and repeatedly prosecuting them.

## **RECALL.**

1. I recommend that this Legislature submit to the voters of Kansas at the next general election an amendment to our state constitution which will permit the recall of derelict, incompetent and unfaithful officers, similar to that now granted to cities of the first class which have adopted commission form of government. I also, recommend that this Legislature immediately give the people the right to promptly recall every public officer whose election is based on statutory rather than upon constitutional authority.

## **INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM.**

1. I recommend that you submit to the people of Kansas a constitutional amendment in 1912 giving them the right to initiate legislation and to vote upon certain legislative enactments, similar to amendments that have been adopted in Maine, Oregon, South Dakota and other states.

## **PRIMARY ELECTIONS FOR DELEGATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTION.**

1. I recommend that you amend the primary election law so that delegates to the national convention may be elected at the primary election, and that the names of the candidates for President and Vice President shall be placed on the ballot, that the people of Kansas may instruct their delegates on nominations for President and Vice President.

2. I recommend that the date for holding primary elections on presidential years be changed from the first week in August to a time sufficiently early to elect delegates to the national convention.

## **BANKING DEPARTMENT.**

1. By unanimous decision of the supreme court of the United States, the bank guaranty law has been upheld. This decision affects the underlying, fundamental principles of the entire banking system of the United States, and will eventually cause all depositors of money in banks to have some form of surety or security for their deposits.

2. The state bank commissioner's office has been thoroughly reorganized and is doing excellent and effective and effective work. The examination of state banks under this administration has been the most searching and businesslike of any bank examination that I have ever known, of either state or national banks. About four hundred banks have taken advantage of the bank guaranty law, and, in so far as I am advised, are well pleased with its operation.

3. I recommend that the banks guaranty law be so amended that the state banks will be enabled to pay such interest on bank deposits as will meet the legitimate competition between them and the national banks in this matter.

## **ELECT UNITED STATES SENATORS BY DIRECT VOTE.**

1. I recommend that you adopt immediately the Oregon plan, which gives the people a right to vote at the general election for the partisan nominees for United States senator.

## **PUBLICITY OF CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS.**

1. I recommend the enactment of a law which shall compel publicity of campaign contributions, both as to source and to disbursement, before primary and general elections, both for campaign committees and for individuals, with severe penalties for violation.

## **STAMPING OUT TUBERCULOSIS.**

1. Wonderful progress has been made during the past year in stamping out tuberculosis. Its progress has been checked with great vigor and intelligence I hope you will give the campaign that is being waged against it your best encouragement, to the end that every vestige of this awful plague and source of human grief may be stamped out in our state.

## **COUNTY OFFICIALS ON SALARY BASIS.**

1. I recommend that in counties having 35,000 or more inhabitants all fees shall be turned into the county treasury and officials placed on a salary basis. I am advised that in the larger counties some officials have received as high as from five to ten thousand dollars in fees per year, which is entirely out of proportion to the earning capacity of the average taxpayer.

## **ABOLISH COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.**

1. At the last session of the Legislature I recommended that the office of county assessor be abolished in counties having less than 30,000 population. The Legislature abolished this office in counties with less than 15,000 population. I now renew my recommendation to the Legislature of two years ago.

## **TWO-CENT PASSENGER RATE.**

1. At the last session of the Legislature I recommended the enactment of a law providing for a flat two-cent passenger rate in Kansas; also, that the anti-pass law should be entirely rewritten, limiting free transportation to bona fide railroad employees and their families, and excluding all others.

## **IMMIGRATION.**

1. Kansas is not receiving her proper share of the movement westward of farmers who are migrating from the high-priced lands in the Mississippi valley and the Eastern states. Other states and nations are making a systematic effort to secure these farmers.
2. I recommend that the secretary of the State Board of Agriculture, which office is now held by

Mr. Coburn, be made the official commissioner of immigration for the purpose of sending out literature and advertising Kansas to prospective land buyers and settlers, and that he be instructed to enter into communication with land agents in all cities throughout the central and eastern part of the United States, with a view of securing for Kansas her full share of these immigrants.

### **REPORTS OF STATE CONSOLIDATED.**

1. I hereby recommend that all the reports of state officers be consolidated into one volume, and that these reports, prior to publication, be submitted to and edited by a committee of state officers, so that all unnecessary and redundant matter may be eliminated. In this way a great saving can be made, not only in the matter of printing and binding but in the lesser cost of distribution as well.

### **CORPORATIONS DOING BUSINESS IN KANSAS TO BEGIN LITIGATION IN KANSAS COURTS.**

1. I hereby recommend that this Legislature enact a law that will compel railroads and all corporations doing business in Kansas to begin all litigation in Kansas courts and take no refuge in the federal courts until the litigation in question has been passed upon by the Kansas supreme court and providing severe penalties for violation thereof.

### **CONSOLIDATION OF BOARDS OF STATE INSTITUTIONS.**

1. During the last session of the Legislature I recommended that all the work and duties performed by the board of managers of the Hutchinson Reformatory, the board of directors of the State Penitentiary, and the Board of Control, should be consolidated and placed under the management of the Board of Control.

2. I now renew that recommendation and urge the members of this Legislature, in the interest of economy and better business principles, to consolidate the management of these institutions.

### **RAILROADS FILE ITEMIZED STATEMENTS OF PROPERTY.**

1. During the session of the Legislature two years ago a bill was prepared at my request which provided that the railroads in Kansas file with the State Board of Railroad Commissioners an itemized statement setting forth the name of the manufacture, number and time of service and actual cost to the company of each locomotive and each passenger, freight and other car owned, leased or used by the several railroads operating in Kansas; also, a statement showing the number, quality and cost of ties in the roadbed and length of time they have been in use; the amount and weight of rails and length of time they have been in use; duplicate copies of all profiles, showing number of yards and classification in excavations and embankments on the lines of all the railroads in Kansas; the cost of bridges, tracklaying, ballast, etc., together with copies of all contracts, and all expense bills in possession of the railroad companies which show the cost of equipment, material, grading, tracklaying, bridging, maintenance of ways and structures and equipment, and salaries paid to officers; also, a statement under oath giving the name of attorneys representing the railroad and all expenses paid by these attorneys, or by any other employee or person representing the railroad in connection with legislative lobbies and

political campaigns. The purpose of this bill being to furnish to the state of Kansas information that will place the state on an equal basis with the railroads in presenting and discussing the value of cost of its property in court.

2. The railroad lobbyists bitterly opposed this bill before the house committee which had it in charge at the last session, and succeeded in defeating it. At the request of President Ripley to examine the Santa Fe books I made an attempt to secure this same information in regard to the Santa Fe road, but was immediately stopped by both President Ripley and General Manager Kouns. The right to examine, at any time, all books, records, expense bills, profiles and other papers owned by each railroad should be specifically granted in this law. All the above information to be furnished under oath by the proper officer of each railroad in Kansas.

3. I hereby recommend the enactment of such a law at this session of the Legislature.

### **FEDERAL INCOME TAX.**

1. The sixty-first Congress of the United States submitted the following joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the constitution of the United States: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two-thirds of each house concurring therein., That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the constitution: Article 16. The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several states and without regard to any census enumeration."

2. I recommend that your honorable body ratify this proposed amendment to the constitution of the United States at as early a date as possible.

### **SOLDIERS' HOME.**

1. The management of the Soldiers' Home at Dodge City has been businesslike and economical. The increased price of food and other supplies and the greater number of veteran soldiers at this home has increased the cost of maintenance. The physical property of the institution has been much improved during the last two years.

2. I recommend that liberal provision be made for maintaining this institution during the next two years. The state of Kansas and the nation at large will never be able to repay to the soldiers of the Civil War the great debt we owe them, and Kansas especially, for having to a great extent been settled and developed by them should be generous to them in their declining years.

### **BOARD OF CONTROL.**

1. The Board of Control law enacted in 1905 has proved a great success. The management of the charitable institutions has been practical and businesslike under this law. There is, however, much room for improvement in the methods which prevail in all the states in the care of the insane. To my mind it is little less than a crime to lock up behind barred doors and windows the man or women who from some nervous or physical ailment has a deranged mind but is comparatively harmless. Of all the persons on earth who require the blessings of open air and God's sunshine, with abundant physical exercise, these unfortunate people need them most.

2. I am fully convinced that one-half of the population of our insane asylums could be made self-supporting under skillful management if they were colonized on good farms in central or western Kansas, and that their physical and mental condition could be materially improved.
3. I recommend that this Legislature make a careful investigation of this subject.

### **FISH AND GAME DEPARTMENT.**

1. The Legislature two years ago failed to make any appropriation for the State Fish Hatchery at Pratt. This institution has been maintained since June 30, 1909, out of the governor's contingent fund; otherwise, it would go to ruin.
2. Prof. L. L. Dyche, of the State University, who has a nation-wide reputation, was appointed fish and game warden upon the death of Col. Thomas Benton Murdock. Professor Dyche has made a careful, scientific investigation of the problems involved in the fish and game department, and will make some very important recommendations to the Legislature. I am fully convinced that it is possible to build up an industry through this department which will produce millions of dollars' worth of food products each year.
3. I recommend your careful investigation of this whole subject.

### **LIVE-STOCK SANITARY DEPARTMENT.**

1. The live-stock sanitary department has been managed in an economical and businesslike way, to the credit of the commissioner and state alike. Sixteen counties have been taken out of quarantine during the last eighteen months. Through the tireless efforts of the live-stock sanitary commissioner, in cooperation with the Agricultural College, a very substantial saving has been made to the state in the prevention of cholera among hogs. This office has never been so well or economically administered in the history of the state.

### **STATE GRAIN INSPECTION DEPARTMENT.**

1. The state grain inspection department has been thoroughly renovated. All unnecessary employees have been eliminated. This department had been systematically robbed for several years. The men charged with stealing \$9400 are being vigorously prosecuted. No one denies that this amount was stolen; the only question is, Who took the money?
2. The department has made a substantial saving as compared with former administrations.

### **OIL DEPARTMENT.**

1. Upon my recommendation the last Legislature abolished the offices of five assistant inspectors in the oil inspection department. This department has done excellent work and has shown large gains in the net earnings to the state.

### **APPROPRIATIONS FOR EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.**

1. It can be easily demonstrated to any practical business man that the State Agricultural College is worth millions of dollars annually to the state in increased value of farm products and live stock, to say nothing of the greater benefit which we derive from the development of stronger

and better men and women, of character, culture and responsibility.

2. The State University and the State Normal School in different fields are equally as important, valuable and useful to our great commonwealth.

3. Every semblance of extravagance, and every dollar of funds not absolutely necessary, should be eliminated from appropriations for these institutions. But to withhold money that is actually necessary to their proper and economic maintenance and support will injure more than it will benefit the state.

### **WESTERN UNIVERSITY AND TOPEKA INDUSTRIAL INSTITUTE.**

1. The Western University at Quindaro and the Industrial Institute at Topeka, schools for colored children, are worthy of work careful consideration. They are doing excellent work in practical instruction which is calculated to prepare the students to take their place as useful citizens in our commonwealth.

### **PRACTICAL AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTS AND THEIR VALUE.**

1. Agriculture and live stock are the solid rock foundation of Kansas. Merchants, banks, railroads, commercial and manufacturing business are alike dependent upon these basic industries for support and prosperity.

2. A wide range of practical experiments has proven beyond any question of doubt that the application of scientific methods to the cultivation of the soil, and the selection and breeding of seeds in grains and grasses and varieties of horticulture, would increase the yield of these products in this state more than one hundred per cent as compared with the average production under present methods and conditions.

3. The Legislature is the sole and only power and authority that can make possible the full development of the vast natural resources that so vitally affect the comfort and welfare of our people.

Not in the history of Kansas has nay Legislature been confronted with problems of such vital interest, not only to the commonwealth which you have the honor to represent, but to the nation at large, as they present Legislature. A casual look backwards through the records of our national Congress during the past two years and the election returns in November will convince any open-minded person that the voters are very much in earnest and know exactly what they want. The members of this Legislature have an opportunity at this time to enact laws that will reflect honor and credit upon themselves, their families and the state.

There are other subjects of vital importance to the state which I shall bring to your attention later.

**Respectfully submitted.**

**W. R. STUBBS, Governor.**

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