

State of the State
Governor Charles Haskell
December 2, 1907

To the Legislature:

Pursuant to Section 9, Article 6, of the Constitution, I have the honor to submit the following recommendations:

Live Stock [*sic*] at Large.

In many parts of the State there are large areas of unfenced and unoccupied land, and where the people of the community desire to permit live stock [*sic*] to run at large. I recommend the adoption of a law that will permit the people of any community in some proper way to deal with this question and permit the live stock [*sic*] in that locality to run at large, or to be herded, as a fair majority of the local citizens may determine.

Purity of Elections.

I recommend that proper laws be enacted, making it a criminal offense for a corporation of any kind to contribute money, or other thing of value, directly or indirectly, to influence any nomination of a candidate for public office, or the election of any public officer, and that substantial penalty be imposed for violations of such law.

Employing Relatives.

I recommend that the passage of a law providing that no public officer shall be permitted to appoint, or in any way employ, at the expense of the public, any member of his family.

Tax Limitation and Valuations.

I earnestly call your attention to the provision of the Constitution requiring all property to be valued at its market value. This I believe to be the only way to insure the large properties of the State paying their fair share of taxes as compared with smaller properties, and the provision limiting the rate of taxation being adhered to in my judgment insures the development and upbuilding of the homes of the State and guards against the reckless expenditure of tax money where an unlimited amount of taxes might be assessed, and the welfare of our State depends upon comfortable homes more than upon extravagant public buildings.

Education.

I recommend immediate emergency legislation carrying into effect the provision of the Constitution providing for separate schools for children of African descent. I recommend that Section 7, Article 13, of the Constitution, providing for the teaching of agriculture, horticulture, stock feeding and domestic sciences in the common schools of the State be enacted.

The Races.

I recommend the immediate passage, by emergency Act, of laws providing for separate railroad coaches and waiting rooms for persons of African descent, and that the same be of equal comfort and convenience with the coaches and waiting rooms provided for other passengers.

Respectfully submitted,

THE GOVERNOR,

C. N. HASKELL.