

PROCLAMATION

by

The Governor of Texas.

WHEREAS:

The act, constituting S. H. R's. Nos. 125 and 138, making appropriations for the Support of the State Government for the two years beginning March 1st, 1895, and for other purposes, was received in the Executive Office at 11.20 a.m. April 30th, too late for consideration before the final adjournment of the Legislature which occurred at noon on that day. The total appropriations for the past two years, as well as those made by the 24th Legislature which has just adjourned, have been incorrectly stated. As reported by the Comptroller the aggregate appropriations for the current expenses of the Government for the past two years, as finally approved by the Governor, and those made for the next two years are as follows:

Year ending February 28th, 1894..	\$2,634,177.53
Year ending February 28th, 1895..	\$2,345,772.50
Total.....	\$4,979,950.03

Year ending February 28th, 1896..	\$2,340,476.32
Year ending February 28th, 1897..	\$2,142,800.00
Total.....	\$4,483,276.32
Appropriations	-----
Reduction in current EXPENSES next two years.....	\$ 496,673.71.

As shown above, while the total appropriations for the preceding two years were \$4,979,950.03 there was a deficiency of \$214,000 and consequently there was actually expended during these two years \$5,193,950.03. The 24th Legislature has been forced to make appropriations for this deficiency of \$214,000 but after discharging this indebtedness it has still reduced appropriations for all purposes for the next two years, comprising current expenses and de-

iciencies, \$282,673.71 and put an end to many future deficiencies by declaring "that hereafter no officer, superintendent or employe of the State shall create any debt against the State of Texas except where specifically provided by law and where an appropriation has been made therefor." For the year ending February 28th, 1896, there has been appropriated for current expenses and existing deficit of \$214,000.00 the sum of \$2,554,476.32 and with a tax rate of 25 cents for general purposes the Comptroller estimates the total revenue from all sources at \$2,661,209.50. This estimate, necessarily subject to grave error, only leaves a margin of \$106,733.18 of receipts over expenditures. This will not put the State on a cash basis, if the estimate prove approximately correct, by reason of the well known operation of our collection laws, and not only sound economy but the necessities of the situation dictate close scrutiny of all appropriations and disapproval of all items not absolutely essential to the efficiency of the government. Several of the largest items of the bill are not payable out of the general Revenue, but out of special funds. Among others, the item of \$25,000.00 to refund to purchasers or lessees of public lands money paid by them into the State Treasury, where for any cause patent cannot issue, is largely payable out of the school fund. The appropriation of \$17,590.00 for each of two years for the support of the Department of Education is payable out of the Available School Fund. Under Section 30 of the act approved May 20th, 1893, which is continued in force by Section 20 of the final title of the Revised Statutes of 1895. Of the \$33,000.00 appropriated for the Sam Houston Normal School for the year ending February 28th, 1896, \$14,000.00 is payable out of the Available Free School Fund and of the \$27,000.00 appropriated for the year ending February 28th, 1897, \$14,000.00 is payable out of the Available School Fund under

the provisions of the act approved April 21, 1879, which is Article 3,884 of the Revised Statutes of 1895.

Now, therefore, I G. A. Culberson, Governor of the State of Texas, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution, approve said bill with the exception of the following items which are objected to and disapproved:

1. The item of \$10,000.00 in the Treasury Department on page 3 of the bill to refund to purchasers of public domain purchase money paid by them into the State Treasury for lands to which they have been unable to acquire title. The 23rd Legislature only appropriated \$15,000.00 for this purpose. The 24th Legislature appropriated not only this item, but another \$25,000.00 for the same and other like purposes, and as the amount appropriated by the 23rd Legislature answered all purposes, no reason is seen why the present appropriation should so far exceed the former one.

2. The item in the Comptroller's Department to carry into effect the act to provide for the sale and conveyance of lands delinquent for taxes to the extent of \$5,000.00, leaving the appropriation for that purpose \$5,000.00. This will enable the Comptroller to employ four or five first class additional clerks which with the assistance of the force already in that department should easily perform all the work required by this act.

3. In the department of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History, the Salary of State geologist, Salary of Chemist, and travelling and field expenses of Geologist, amounting to \$2,550.00 for the first year and \$2,850.00 for the second year. It may be readily granted that the expenditure of this money would result in good to the State, but the condition of the Treasury is such that these benefits must be postponed.

4. In the General Land Office, the salary of General Expert Draftsman and Clerk. \$1400.00 per annum for two years on page 7 of

the bill. This appropriation creates a new position in the Land Office and no pressing necessity for it is believed to exist.

5. On the same page of the bill under the Head of School Land Department an appropriation of \$2,600.00 is inadvertently made for Salaries of two sales Clerks at \$1,080.00 each, for the year ending February 28th, 1897, which is disapproved for \$440.00, leaving the item \$2,160.00, as was no doubt intended.

6. The item of \$1,000.00 for obtaining copies of judgments in favor of the State for lands. The Commissioner of the General Land Office very properly desires and should have a description of these lands, but the fees sought to be charged the State by the Clerks are too exorbitant to be submitted to. For a copy of one of these judgments it is proposed to charge the State the extraordinary sum of \$272.40.

7. Under the head of Public Printing the item of \$5,000.00 for publishing three hundred copies each of the thirteen Supreme Court Reports, 1872 - 1884, inclusive. It is extremely desirable that these reports should be republished, but it is useless to appropriate money not in the Treasury for objects which may be postponed, though to do so will work inconvenience.

8. Under the head of Judicial department the item of \$300.00 each year for post mortem examination of convicts. If by this is meant an inquest or examining trial, it is already provided in the \$20,000.00 appropriation for that purpose, and if it means what the terms seem to imply, a medical examination to determine the cause of death, the services should be performed by the different physicians employed by the State at the Penitentiaries and the various convict camps.

9. The item of \$10,000.00 in the Judicial department for the payment of commissions and fees of district and county attorneys or attorneys ad litem on collection of interest and forfeiture of

lands is reduced to \$2,500.00. This amount will probably satisfy all demands now existing against the State in such cases and as the collection of this interest is by a law passed by the 24th Legislature placed in the hands of the Attorney general, appropriations to pay district and county attorneys for the future are unnecessary.

10. The item of \$300.00 for expenses in taking testimony in the suit of the State of Texas v. The Waters Pierce Oil Company now pending in the 54th Judicial District and other like cases to be filed, to be paid under the direction of the County Attorney of McLennan County. These costs are provided for in a preceding portion of the bill in the Appropriation of \$10,000.00 for clerks and sheriffs fees in civil cases where the State is a party.

11. Under the head of the University of Texas there is an appropriation of \$27,500.00 for the payment of current expenses for the year ending February 28th, 1896, which is inadvertently \$2,500 more than requested by the Board of Regents, and the item is therefore reduced to \$25,000.00.

12. The item of \$6,000.00 for apparatus necessary for Department of Electrical Engineering and the item of \$5,000.00 for the Library of the University. I am a friend of the University and am ready to advance its interests in every proper way. The founders of this institution contemplated its equipment and maintenance out of the available University fund. Notwithstanding this the appropriation for the next two years, amounting to \$47,500.00 out of the General Revenue, is in excess of that of two years ago by \$16,500.00. The University is already provided with a handsome library, consisting of about 11,000 volumes. In addition to the increased appropriation mentioned, at the request of the Board of Regents, who believe the revenues of the University will thus be

greatly increased, the control and disposition of the University lands have been given them. With the increased appropriation already noticed and the increased revenues anticipated from the management of the lands by the Board of Regents, it may be that these two items can be provided for out of the University fund, but if they must finally be paid out of the General Revenue, the condition of the Treasury is not such that the expenditure can be made at this time.

13. The item of \$2,000.00 for each year for salary of ~~Instructor~~ and ~~Assistant~~ for Training School for nurses. Without reference to this item, the expenses of the Medical Branch of the University, as borne by the General Revenue, are increased \$13,100 for the next two years as compared with the previous two years and under existing conditions, especially since the Board of Regents have not requested this appropriation, it is not a reasonable demand upon the State.

14. The item of \$30,000.00 for a ^{new} Mess Hall for the Agricultural and Mechanical College. In a letter to me dated January 4th, General ~~M~~ Ross, President of the College states that while the Directors of the College in their report recommend an appropriation of \$30,000.00 for a Mess Hall, and while it would enable the College to provide for a larger number of young men, it may be "deferred without material injury to the numbers already accommodated." It thus being the opinion of the ~~President~~ President of the College that the appropriation is not essential to the maintenance of its present efficiency, this appropriation may be postponed without detriment to the Institution, especially in view of the fact that there is an increased appropriation for the support and maintenance of the institution out of the General Revenue.

15. The item of \$8,000.00 for an Artesian Well and Fixtures at

the Prairie View Normal School. The last Legislature made an appropriation of \$5,000.00 for an Artesian Well and fixtures, which it is presumed was used, and in view of the condition attached to the appropriation by the present Legislature it is doubtful whether the expenditure of the amount named in this item would secure water.

16. The item of \$4,000.00 for Professors' Cottages at the Prairie View Normal School, and the item of \$2,000.00 for Agricultural department barns with sheds and houses at said school. There seems to be some error in the appropriation for the first of these items, inasmuch as it calls for two cottages at \$1,000.00 each for Professors to be used during two years, and yet \$2,000.00 is appropriated for each year. During the past two years the Legislature appropriated \$13,800.00 for permanent improvements at this school. Several items for permanent improvements for this College are included in the Appropriation Bill and left undisturbed by this Proclamation. The condition of the finances of the State is such that it should be satisfactory to all that institutions be maintained at their present standard of efficiency, including necessary repairs, without expensive additions in the way of improvements.

17. The item of \$500.00 for Penitentiary Library, as there is already a very good library both at Rusk and Huntsville.

18. The item of \$5000.00 for constructing a system of sewerage for the Huntsville penitentiaries. When we manufacture piping at Rusk for water mains and sewerage and have more than 4,000 persons confined in the Penitentiaries at hard labor, in connection with the fact that the penitentiaries have been more than self sustaining for the past five years, it is not unreasonable to insist that work of this kind should be done without aid from the general Revenue.

19. The item of \$25,000.00 for the purchase of lands and erec-

tion of additional buildings for the House of Correction and Reformatory at Gatesville. What has heretofore been said with reference to permanent improvements connected with State Institutions is applicable to this item. The appropriation for the Reformatory for the past two years amounted to \$66,300.00 and for the next two years it amounts to \$70,555.00, exclusive of the item of permanent improvements here disapproved. Besides there ^{are} undoubtedly fifty or seventy-five inmates of the Reformatory illegally and wrongfully there, because they are over age. With these discharged at once as they should be, together with the reduction of the numbers imprisoned by amendments to the law passed by the 24th Legislature, there should be sufficient accommodations for the next two years without this additional expenditure.

This appropriation bill shows a reduction of expenses in the following departments: Executive Office, Department of State, Treasury, Comptroller's Office, Adjutant General's Office, Department of Agriculture, Insurance, etc., General Land Office, Attorney General's Office, Public Printing, Judicial Department, including the Courts, Railroad Commission, Public Buildings and grounds, Pensions Quarantine Department, each of the three Lunatic Asylums, Blind Asylum, Deaf and Dumb Asylum, Orphan Asylum, Department of Education, Sam Houston Normal School, Confederate Home, and Public Debt. An increase is only shown for the Colored Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylum, University, Medical Branch of University, Agricultural and Mechanical College, Prairie View Normal School, Penitentiaries, and House of Correction and Reformatory.

Without reference to the payment of the expenses of the Department of Education out of the General Revenue and the support and maintenance of the Sam Houston Normal School out of the available Free School Fund to the extent of \$14,000.00 per annum, the items objected to and disapproved for the year ending February 28,

