

they are so sensitive. The tax gatherer levies his tribute, directly or indirectly, upon every man, woman and child in the State. The rich, who own property, and the poor, who pay rent; the bondholder, the laborer, the farmer, the mechanic, all are compelled to contribute more or less towards the cost and expenses of government.

Our conduct of public affairs will be very carefully scrutinized by all the citizens of the State. It behooves us therefore to be careful. It is incumbent upon us to be economical. I do not mean by this, however, that we should be parsimonious. In whatever direction the public good requires us to expend money, I shall be heartily in favor of an appropriation for the purpose.

The cause of public education, in my judgment, is one in which the State would be justified in exercising a wise and prudent liberality. I believe our public schools should receive from the State Treasury a more generous allowance than has heretofore been granted them. If retrenchment in other directions is necessary to bring this about, then let us have such retrenchment.

Nor should our many public charities be overlooked. The poor we have with us always. It is our duty to provide for them. Our hospitals, our asylums and other institutions of a similar character, some founded by the State, others receiving aid only from the public, should have careful and needful attention.

Let us see to it, however, whilst making prudent and ample provision for causes and institutions which appeal so forcibly to us as those I have specifically mentioned, that in the exuberance of our generosity we do not overdo the thing. Let us have a careful eye always to the tax rate.

Both the political parties in the late campaign expressed the belief that our State taxes could be reduced without in any way injuring the public service, and each party promised that, if successful, it would make an honest effort to bring about this devoutly-wished consummation, I believe such a reduction can be made during the present administration. Let us, at least, try to effect it. I promise to do my part.

The expenses incident to this session of the Legisla