

Farewell address

of

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**Farewell Address**

*Members of the General Assembly:*

It is customary for the Governor upon retiring from office to render an account of his stewardship. This I now propose to do and in as brief a manner as possible.

My administration has spanned the transition from war to peace. When I took office the war both in Europe and Asia was still raging at its height, bringing the State a multitude of problems to be solved in furtherance of our participation. Triumph over both Germany and Japan came in the first year of my administration—more quickly than had been anticipated. With peace came the not less arduous and intricate problems of reconversion and adjustment. These engaged the earnest attention of myself and your government.

In addition to our efforts with problems directly related to the war and the period of reconstruction, we have continually and diligently endeavored to Build a Better Vermont.

We have adopted measures to improve our economic situation, to provide higher standards in education, to modernize our care of the unfortunate, to better health conditions, and to provide greater opportunity and security. In short, we have focused on further vitalizing Vermont so that Vermonters may share in the forward march of civilization.

Let us now review what has been done to further these ends.

**Veterans**

The veterans of World War II have been one of my foremost considerations. Approximately 40,000 Vermonters entered the service. Of these 33,000 have returned. Their courage and fighting ability have never been surpassed by any troops under any flag at any time. We salute them for their magnificent record on battlefields throughout the world.

It is highly gratifying to know that only approximately 500 of these veterans are receiving Unemployment Compensation—the lowest among the northeastern states. They are carrying on the Vermont tradition of self-reliance and belief in work.

We established a Veterans' Board with a veteran as full-time Director to attend to their every need. Fifteen measures were passed by the Legislature furthering their welfare. Under the supervision of the Board, 2,845 veterans are taking on-the-job training. Under the supervision of the Department of Education, 3,025 are taking educational training. Some 2,230 establishments have been approved for on-the-job training.

Thirty one thousand two hundred sixty-nine claims for state pay have been paid by the State amounting to \$3,571,190.68. All figures are for mid-December.

A veteran was appointed as full-time Housing Expediter to contact Federal agencies, building material firms and contractors—in short, to do everything humanly possible to aid the veterans in the critical housing shortage.

By an appropriation of \$200,000, toward new dormitories at the University of Vermont, we have contributed toward placing Vermont in the forefront in the matter of enabling veterans to attend college. I feel sure no state will have a smaller number of qualified veterans unable to enter college this year.

We have aided them in obtaining surplus material.

They have been given preference in State jobs.

The State can be justly proud not only of the service records of its veterans but for its foresight in providing for them upon their return.

## **Education**

Education is one of the foremost responsibilities of state and local governments. In efforts to build a better Vermont, we have made some significant changes in this department.

Among the states, in 1940, we ranked about 30th in educational achievement. This might be compared with Vermont's ranking of 30th in per capita income. The amount spent for education by the State has been considerably increased since 1940. While these figures by no means constitute a barometer for future effort, they do indicate that we are in line with our means.

In our planning, we have been actuated by the firm conviction that Vermonters should have the best education that we can afford to give them. Certain phases of this work needed immediate attention.

Believing that much of the responsibility for administration should remain in local governments, we increased the state aid to towns by \$400,000, making a new total of about \$1,250,000. This increases the amount of education per pupil for which the state equalizes the cost to all towns from \$20 to \$25.

The need for an increase in teachers' salaries was desperate. We raised the minimum to \$1000. This figure should be further increased.

In Vermont we have long believed in self reliance and work. We believe in helping others to help themselves. With this in mind we approached the problem of vocational training. We found that only 11 per cent of those attending high school have vocational training facilities available. In this respect we are much behind the times. To improve this situation we have devised an entirely new plan for vocational training which is contained in a pamphlet entitled "Toward a Better Living in Vermont." This plan, if carried out, will provide for many new courses in vocational work and will enable all of our high school students to have vocational facilities available. I strongly commend this plan for your consideration.

The question of consolidating rural schools has become important in our present day planning. Whenever the voters of a town decide in favor of consolidation, the state should aid with new buildings needed.

## **Agriculture**

Agriculture is of vital importance to Vermont. It is important to every county and to most of our towns. We are the most highly developed state agriculturally next to Wisconsin. We are first in cattle and dairy products per capita. In Vermont, 3,900,000 of our 5,900,000 acres are classified in farms.

One of the most important approaches to the further development of agriculture in Vermont is through our College of Agriculture. This institution should lead in formation of new ideas, new methods, products, etc. Through lack of facilities and personnel it has not been as effective as it should be.

To strengthen the College, we initiated a \$500,000 building program. Due to increased building costs, this sum is now insufficient and further funds should be provided. The tuition was \$350.00, the highest in the country. We lowered this to \$150.00 for Vermont students.

Because experiments had revealed the possibilities of developing maple trees with high sugar content sap, a maple research farm was established at Underhill through my efforts. This farm is devoted exclusively to maple experimental work for the purpose of promoting the production of this distinctive Vermont natural product.

Another accomplishment in the interest of agriculture is of great importance. We have set up a blue print, or plan, for the future development of agriculture. About a year ago, I requested a group of Vermont agricultural experts to develop a comprehensive plan covering the Dairy Industry, Poultry Industry, Animal Health, Marketing, Land Use and Rural Utilities. Each of these subjects covers a field vitally important to agriculture. The Committees have done an excellent job—thorough and constructive. Their reports with recommendations make intensely interesting and informing reading. A printed summary of the report is now out. The report in full will be in your hands soon, and I commend it for your consideration. I wish to congratulate the Committees heartily for their outstanding achievement. While we have made good progress in agriculture in past years, this Vermont Agricultural Plan points out the objectives to be attained over short and long-range periods. By having the objectives concisely stated, greater continuity and momentum for further progress will be insured. The plan

provides a united front for agricultural progress in Vermont. Elsewhere, I have discussed the extension of rural electric lines and the lowering of electric rates.

### **Public Welfare**

Some of the most extensive and far-reaching improvements of this Administration have been made in the Public Welfare Department, where we found some of the most serious state needs to exist.

First of all, a study of the situation clearly indicated that there was far too much over-all administrative responsibility placed upon one man—the Commissioner of Public Welfare. Some states have now made a separate division of the state institutions, whereas we combine them with the other welfare work. To effect an improvement here we created an Advisory Board of Public Welfare which has aided in forming policies and in sharing the responsibilities. We also created a Director of Institutions who assumed the responsibility of directing certain phases of this work.

One of the great needs of this state is enlarged institutional facilities. We have initiated and set in motion a one-and-a-half million dollar building program for this purpose. This will include a medical hospital building and nurses home at Waterbury, new dormitories, a classroom and auditorium at Brandon; a remodeling of the Moloney property in Rutland; removal of the fire hazards at both the Waterbury hospital and the Weeks School. This program should be enlarged.

Believing that the needs of such a large and complex department will be more readily met if there is a carefully thought-out program for meeting the needs, I requested the 1945 Legislature to provide an over-all survey. The Public Welfare Board, with assistance from outside authorities, has made a very thorough study of all needs of the Department and formulated a most excellent report with recommendations. This may well be a blue print for further development of this Department, including the institutions.

Through the years the Weeks School has been subjected to quite frequent investigations. There have been two in recent weeks. Following these, the Public Welfare Advisory Board made a thorough, complete study of the School and reported on December 30. I strongly urge each of you to read that report. It states the facts. It is frank, unbiased, and complete. It indicates the weaknesses and makes recommendations. Like any other organization, the School has its defects. They are gradually being corrected. Until the older, more obstreperous boys are placed in a separate institution, as recommended by the Board in their recent survey of the Public Welfare Department, many of the present problems will continue.

### **DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

In our determination to vitalize Vermont further and create opportunities for our youth, greater development of our natural resources seemed essential. By so doing, we increase the per capita income, the taxable property of both local and state governments, and enable our youth to find attractive work here in the State.

As one of the major accomplishments of this administration, the creation of the Development Commission by the 1945 Legislature provided for this need. The function of the Commission is to encourage and promote development of agricultural, industrial, recreational and other resources of the State. Through the years much has been done in furthering the development of agriculture—more can and must be done for industry and recreation.

The value of industrial production is now more than twice that of agriculture, although, for various reasons, that is not a fair barometer of their relative importance to the State. Realizing the advantages afforded, many potential industries are now seeking locations in the State. Since V-J Day, approximately 100 new industries have started operation within the boundaries of Vermont.

Industrial payrolls mean much to our towns and it is imperative that the State render all possible assistance not only in bringing new industry to the State but in aiding in the expansion of those already here.

The Development Commission has devoted much time and effort in studying potential locations for large and small business enterprises. It is in the process of preparing an attractive industrial booklet. This is soon to

be distributed and will inform out-of-state industries of the many advantages offered by Vermont in the way of business sites.

Little has been done, compared with what can be accomplished, in the development of our recreational resources. No comprehensive effort has heretofore been made by the State to expand our natural recreational advantages. The Development Commission has made a complete survey of all recreational facilities. This is a good start.

Much more progress could and would have been made by the Development Commission if it had not been for the fact that the 1945 Legislature designated this body as the state agency in flood control matters. Flood control was of such immediate importance that other functions of the Commission had to give way, and I believe the Commission should be relieved of this work so that it may devote its full time to carrying out the work for which it was designed.

I take this opportunity to commend the Commission for the splendid work it has done, handicapped as it was by flood control responsibility and the lack of funds.

### **FLOOD CONTROL**

Much time and effort has been devoted to the subject of flood control.

You may know that, until 1944, Vermont as other states, was wholly without authority to say where flood control projects were to be constructed. In 1944, an amendment was enacted by the Congress which recognized that the states should and did have some rights in these matters of flood control, but in the enactment of this amendment, Congress still retained the final decision.

During my administration, I have maintained a policy of unalterable opposition to any proposed flood control project which would result in the destruction of village properties and good farm lands. At the outset I made it known to the federal engineers that I would exercise my right as governor to disapprove any such project.

While I believe Vermont should share in the responsibility of flood control, it should be done only according to a policy which would locate the dams on the upper reaches of the rivers when destruction of village properties and good farm land would otherwise be involved. We have been making such studies on the various streams with our own engineers, Howard M. Turner of Boston, one of the best hydraulic engineers in the east, and with the aid and cooperation of the federal army engineers, whenever the site proposed by the Army Engineers was unfavorable. Should the State and the Army Engineers fail to agree on any location, then the recommendations of the State, of the Army Engineers and the Chief Engineer go to Congress for final decision. On no occasion, thus far, has it been necessary to submit a problem of disagreement to Congress for final decision.

The matter of loss in taxable property is an important factor in these negotiations. I am hopeful that a plan will be devised whereby the towns will be reimbursed for tax loss. A policy has already been officially agreed upon by the New England Flood Control Committee whereby the states benefiting from these control projects, should repay the towns the tax loss in proportion to the benefits received. Should this means fail, I am informed that a measure providing reimbursement may be introduced in Congress.

Work on the dam at Union Village has started. The project on West River has been approved. Aside from these, I am informed there will be no further construction of flood control projects undertaken until 1949. I have made it clear to the Engineers that certain of the sites now under consideration would not be approved. The Engineers are now undertaking a new survey.

I wish to state in leaving this subject that there has been no time during my Administration when there has been cause for alarm as to the federal government's foisting on our state flood control projects to the detriment of our citizens or the loss of village properties and good farm lands.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**

An outstanding record in the public interest has been reported by the Public Service Commission during the past two years.

Your attention is called particularly to the tremendous strides made in the electrification of rural Vermont and, secondly, to the material reduction in electric rates.

No small measure of credit should be given to the Public Service Commission for these accomplishments. The fact that the utilities, the municipalities, and the cooperatives have joined efforts fully with the Commission in its approach to these two problems, shows that it has met with success in its efforts.

In 1945 all utilities in Vermont were presented detailed town-by-town maps on which were set forth not only the location of each rural building but also the rural electric lines then in existence. These maps and the detailed supporting data were the culmination of an exhaustive and all-inclusive survey made by the Public Service Commission.

After considerable study and planning, the PSC projected on these maps so supplied the rural electric lines it believed should be built to bring the benefits of electricity to practically everyone in Vermont. Detailed analyses of each proposed "extension" accompanied the maps, so that, when presented, each company had before it a well-charted, carefully-prepared post-war rural extension building program, both on a town-by-town and a system-by-system basis.

Working with this material as a guide and as a tool, the utilities, the municipalities, and the cooperatives proceeded on their construction of rural lines with the amazing result that during 1945 and 1946, over 1,027 miles of rural lines were built, some 400 additional miles of rural lines now being under construction. With rural line construction costing some \$1,000 per mile, it will be seen that approximately \$1,500,000.00 has been spent in this program during this period. Whereas 75 per cent of Vermont farms had electricity available to them on January 1, 1945, today some 90 per cent of Vermont farms have electricity available to them. This is remarkable progress and those responsible—namely, the Public Service Commission, the utilities, the municipalities and the cooperatives--should be strongly commended for their effort in the public interest.

I believe no more valuable service to the people of rural Vermont has ever been rendered by the Public Service Commission than that to be found in this feature of its activities and the manner in which it has followed through with its program of rural electrification. It would appear, furthermore, that in a very short while over 96 per cent of Vermont farms will have available the benefits that electrification can bring and does bring to them. This program should be completed.

Moreover, during this same period, not only have there been major advances in electric service rendered but also a decrease from an \$18.00 per mile per month minimum guarantee requirement to a \$6.00 per mile per month minimum requirement was filed in 1945 with the Public Service Commission by the five larger companies now serving approximately 65 per cent of the retail farm customers in Vermont.

Finally, in no two-year period during the history of the Public Service Commission has the \$525,000.00 in rate reductions filed with it during 1945 and 1946 been even closely approached. As a consequence of these rate reductions which aggregate so much, a great majority of the electric users in Vermont benefited. It is significant that these downward electric rate revisions were filed during a time when the trend in prices for other services and commodities was ever upward.

## **HEALTH**

Health, as we know it and recognize it, is a matter of greatest importance, not only to the individual but the State and the Nation as well. Good health is essential for a vigorous, self-reliant and aggressive people and for full enjoyment of life.

A study of health conditions in Vermont reveals there is much that can and should be done. We have continually recognized that this is a problem of vital importance in building a better Vermont. While it is largely a matter of individual concern, the State should and must play an important part.

In order to determine the exact problem, I appointed a group of fourteen specialists a year or so ago with Dr. Dalton as chairman, requesting this group to make a survey of the health conditions of our state and after having done so, confer with me in the creation of a comprehensive health program which would be beneficial on both school and community levels,— to youth and old age. This committee has worked diligently and faithfully, both on the survey and a program, and I avail myself of this opportunity to commend them heartily for their efforts and the results obtained. Their report is complete and in the main presents 22 recommendations. These recommendations entail careful planning and the expenditure of considerable money. A limited edition of this report has been printed and distributed.

We owe to our youth and all citizens the obligation to provide within our means the best health conditions in which to live. To this end, we have given much time and thought and I believe we have now evolved a practical plan which, if carried out, will afford more and better opportunities for improved health, especially for the younger people of the State, and does, I believe, give special emphasis to the improvement of conditions in rural areas. I commend this plan for your consideration.

### **MENTAL HEALTH**

Mental Health is a large and perplexing problem in Vermont as it is in all other states. At my instigation, a special committee headed by Dr. Chittick made an extensive study to determine what steps should or could be taken in the care and treatment of our feeble minded persons. This committee's report and recommendations comprise a supplement to the health report mentioned above. I direct your attention to this report and it is my sincere hope that you will give further consideration to the recommendations included in it.

### **LABOR**

I believe much progress has been made in making more secure the individual who has experienced misfortune through no fault of his own, in that the Workmen's Compensation law was liberalized in many respects. The more important provisions were: an increase in the minimum and maximum benefits; an increase in the permanent disability benefits; medical and hospitalization benefits.

In the field of Unemployment Compensation, the law was liberalized in several respects including an increase in weekly benefits and elimination of the waiting period.

I desire to take this occasion to commend both management and labor for the excellent relationships that have existed during my Administration. I was very forcefully impressed, during the short period of time I participated as mediator in the recent railroad strike, with the honest and conscientious effort on the part of both management and labor to understand the other's problems, and it has been a source of real pleasure to assist in working out the various state problems with these two groups; problems with which the State must always concern itself.

### **OLD AGE ASSISTANCE**

This department, like many others, has not been without its problems. Shortage of personnel and automobiles, as well as increases in the budgetary requirements, have created some of these problems, but, despite these handicaps, the functions of this department have been carried on most efficiently.

Assistance to our aged is of paramount importance. This must be adequate assistance, and such as we can afford. At the same time, we should not, by this promise of assistance, destroy the things that have made this country strong and self-reliant, namely, the will and desire to save for a "rainy day" which, in turn, makes for self-support and independence in our declining years.

The 1945 Legislature increased the maximum grants for individuals from \$30.00 to \$40.00 and for married couples from \$45.00 to \$60.00. It likewise increased the appropriation and, for the first time in the history of the Department, the waiting list was eliminated.

The problem of assistance to the aged has become and will remain one of the State's primary functions. It must be viewed realistically and appropriations for this purpose kept in line with our ability to pay.

### **PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATION**

The constant increase both in the number of state departments, boards and commissions, and the number of state employees, has created a very definite need for an organized personnel program. In public service, it is my belief that personnel administration must be conducted on a sound and scientific basis, logically and equitably applied.

During this Administration a great deal of attention has been given toward the betterment of matters pertaining to personnel. I believe this to be one of the most important duties of a governor. Our state employees are an exceptionally loyal and competent group and deserve the best the State can afford.

Among the many changes made for their benefit, the most important, I believe, was the inauguration and completion of a state-wide classification study of all positions and the formal adoption of a state-wide classification and compensation plan, effective as of January 1, 1946. This is the first complete study undertaken on behalf of the State by trained authorities in this field. Every state job has been studied, defined, and classified with pay ranges for each classification. As a part of this plan the salaries have been increased in accordance with present day needs.

To correct certain inequities found in the application of this plan, a revised plan was put in effect January 1, 1947.

We have adopted standards for hours of work placing the departmental offices on a five-day week of 37 hours, the state highway garage on a five-day week of 45 hours and the institutions on a 48-hour week. The salaries paid and the hours worked at the institutions have been in the greatest need of correction and I believe these now to be reasonably satisfactory.

Study for a broader coverage for the employees' group hospitalization plan has been made and I hope will become effective soon.

Several other important changes have been made.

In the course of making the classification and compensation plan for state employees, we also decided upon a compensation plan for statutory salaries in line with the changes for employees. This awaits your action.

The Executive budget has carried the expense for personnel administration. I believe there should be a separate appropriation for this purpose and permanent and adequate physical facilities provided for a personnel office.

I wish to commend the State Employees Association for its fine cooperation and constructive work in this important phase of state administration.

### **Finances**

"The State's finances are in excellent condition." This statement was made in my inaugural message of January 4, 1945, and I am pleased to report that the same situation still prevails.

The general fund appropriation from current revenue for the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1947 is the highest in the history of the State. The appropriation for the above year provided by the Legislature of 1945 at its regular and special sessions is approximately \$7,600,000. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1946, the general fund appropriation was approximately \$6,800,000.

On July 1, 1945 the beginning of *our first* fiscal year, there was an accumulated unappropriated surplus of about \$1,580,000. In *our first* fiscal year ending June 30, 1946 we increased this surplus by approximately \$1,750,000 making a total of \$3,330,030.

From this amount we appropriated for:

Construction at State Institutions

Construction at College of Agriculture

New dormitories at University of Vermont

Retiring certificates of indebtedness, and

Refunds of franchise taxes about \$3,200,000 leaving a balance of surplus, June 30, 1946, of about \$115,000.

Because of the increased cost of consumable supplies and salary adjustments awarded to State employees, many of the appropriations for the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1947 are insufficient and the enactment of deficiency appropriations, which have been estimated to amount to \$300,000.00 will undoubtedly be necessary. I feel that I would be remiss in my duty if I failed to apprise you of this fact.

I firmly believe that the trend of revenue collections in this fiscal year clearly indicates that at the close of the present fiscal year ending June 30, 1947, following the payment of the present general fund appropriations and deficiencies, *a considerable surplus* will be available.

This program has been accomplished without the enactment of additional taxes and with a reduction of \$1,827,031.90 in our State debt.

### **National Guard**

I wish to mention a few facts concerning our State Guard and National Guard.

At the beginning of my administration, the State Guard consisted of 36 units with aggregate personnel of 1469. Following V-J Day, 15 of these units were mustered out and the remaining units carried on until the reorganization of the National Guard was undertaken in accordance with policies of the War Department. As the National Guard units are organized and formulated, the State Guard units, one by one, are mustered out. The reorganization of the National Guard is making rapid progress and at this time seven units have received federal recognition. Vermont's allocation included: 134th Fighter Squadron with three attached units; 172nd Infantry Regiment; 206th Field Artillery Battalion; Army Ground Force Band; two Truck Companies. At such time as the reorganization is fully completed it will comprise approximately 4000 men.

Through persistent efforts, we succeeded in obtaining from the War Department the use of certain buildings at Fort Ethan Allen which at the present time are taking care of the supply activities for the National Guard at the Fort. At such time as the War Department is ready to relinquish the Fort, we have requested it to reserve a certain area which includes permanent buildings located thereon, and which will provide for the needs of our National Guard. The land and buildings are contiguous to Camp Johnson. The buildings already obtained for use are especially valuable at this time by reason of the loss of the arsenal that was destroyed by fire here in Montpelier in 1945.

Before I conclude my comments with regard to the State and National Guard I desire as Chief Executive to pay tribute to those who made up the units of the State Guard over a period of six years and who served voluntarily. I deeply appreciate the loyal and efficient service they rendered when needed. In looking into the future, I am confident that the National Guard now in the process of reorganization will compare favorably with past units and will, I am sure, maintain the high standards of the National Guard of our State.

### **Motor Vehicle Inspectors**

Prior to the enactment of No. 16 of the acts of the special session of 1946, the number of motor vehicle inspectors was limited to 37. With the increased traffic this number was not sufficient to patrol our highways properly, notwithstanding these inspectors were on duty twelve hours a day seven days a week, and subject to call at all times.

Enactment of the above law enabled the Commissioner to employ such number of inspectors as he feels may be necessary to properly discharge the duties of the Department and to provide proper working hours for the inspectors.

I desire to mention that within the past two years there has reached the Governor's office many letters from out-of-state tourists commending the courteous treatment received at the hands of our state inspector. I believe this is a fine testimonial to our inspectors for their efficiency, and such courteous treatment extended our motoring guests brings much favorable publicity to the State.

### **Insurance of State Owned Property**

It has been the policy of the State to insure its buildings having a sound insurance value of \$10,000 or more up to 90% of such value. It came to my attention that the last appraisal of our state buildings was made in 1933

when values were much lower than at the present time. To provide adequate coverage and prevent the possibility of serious loss to the State, I thought it necessary to make a new appraisal. The results of this reappraisal indicated that it would be necessary to increase the amount of insurance from \$4,841,323 to \$8,496,380, or an increase of \$3,655,057. This has been done and the State is now protected from fire loss up to 90% of the sound insurance value on all buildings having a sound insurance value of \$10,000. or over.

On buildings valued at less than \$10,000, the State carries its own insurance.

Personal property, other than liquor stock, of the State was increased at the same time from \$1,599,088 to \$1,800,000, or an increase of \$200,912. The present coverage on the State owned liquor is \$1,400,000. and on the highway department equipment \$75,000. The State also protects its interest in the motor vehicles and other special equipment by standard kinds of insurance.

### **University of Vermont**

The University of Vermont and State Agricultural College, in common with nearly all institutions of higher education, has been faced with an unprecedented demand for its service and has, as a consequence, begun extensive expansion. The University enrolled 2065 students for the fall quarter of 1946 as compared to 1083 in the fall of 1945, an increase of 91 per cent in one year. The University will expand further by admitting an additional freshman class this month and expects to enroll a total of nearly 2700 students by this fall. This total will represent nearly 100 per cent increase over the highest prewar enrollment. Of the 2065 students now enrolled, 1489, or 72 per cent, are residents of Vermont and 1126, or 54 per cent, are veterans of World War II.

This expansion has been made possible by the complete utilization of the University's housing facilities and academic plant. Additional students to be admitted this month and in October can be accommodated through the generosity of the Federal Government and of the State of Vermont. The Federal Government is providing a substantial temporary building which will give classroom, laboratory, and library facilities for the students. The Special Session of the Legislature held in September, 1946 provided, through an appropriation of \$200,000, and authority to the University for a bond issue of \$650,000, the necessary funds to erect dormitories to be ready in the fall of 1947 to accommodate approximately 600 students.

The program of improvement of the physical facilities for the College of Agriculture which was made possible by Acts of 1945 Legislature has not been completed. An additional experimental farm has been purchased; a Poultry Plant has been erected and is now being equipped; and plans have been made for the Agricultural Science Building, but because of war-time conditions and the greatly increased cost of building, construction has not begun. The Special Session of the Legislature provided funds for the completion of the Poultry Plant and the erection of an Agricultural Engineering Shop. Further funds should be provided to complete the Agricultural Science Building.

The Medical College at the University of Vermont is of great importance to any plan for improving health conditions. Vermont is largely dependent upon its graduate doctors. A careful study of this situation convinced us that further funds for operating expenses were necessary if the standards of the institution were to be maintained. We therefore increased the appropriation.

### **TAXATION**

Sound banking institutions are essential to the progress of our communities. Until the enactment of the so-called "Bank Tax Law" by the General Assembly of 1945, our banks were taxed on their deposits. Apparently the principal reason for such tax was the convenience of collection. It was my opinion that such a method of taxation could no longer be justified, according to modern practices, and I suggested that an equitable basis of taxation of our banks would be one based on their income rather than on their deposits. Such a law was enacted.

Each bank now pays a 2% tax on net income, plus recoveries and profits less losses and charge-offs, the same as any corporation, and, in addition, pays a 4% tax on the amount of interest or dividends credited to accounts of residents of the State of Vermont. This is a fair tax since a bank now pays when it is making money

and is not obligated to do so when operating at a loss. Both the old and new taxes were and are mandatory on State Banks. National Banks paid the old and have agreed to pay the new.

Since this tax became effective on income for 1946, no tax has yet been paid to the State, and, consequently, no figures are available as to the amount that will be collected.

At first thought, it might seem that the loss to the State in tax revenue would be very substantial since deposits in Vermont banks are at an all time high. However, we have the offsetting factor that Government bonds owned by the banks were a deductible asset from deposits. Since banks own Government bonds today in an amount far in excess of any amount previously owned, the difference under the old and the new method will not be as great as might seem.

But whatever the difference, if any, there has been corrected a situation that for years was inequitable and unjust.

I would furthermore call your attention to the revision in taxing of insurance payments to beneficiaries. Prior to my Administration, amounts so received were taxed under the income tax law. During my tenure of office I authorized a ruling, after consulting the Attorney General, which exempts all payments received as death benefits. I am convinced that the Vermont Legislature never intended that dependents of insured persons should be subject to an income tax on insurance proceeds and am sure the State has profited by this ruling.

At the outset of my Administration, the tax department was re-organized under George Amidon, whom I appointed commissioner. He has effected many improvements in administration and procedure which have greatly benefited both the State and the public.

### **FIRE PROTECTION AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

A study of our fire laws revealed that some of those on our statutes are outmoded, inadequate, and fail to cover hazards that have been created by the use of chemicals in the various industries in operation throughout the state, or to protect the lives and property of our citizens adequately.

The General Assembly of 1945 enacted certain fire preventative measures which in part remedied the situation as it existed at that time. However, we have undertaken an over-all study of our safety measures and there have been prepared certain recommendations that will undoubtedly be presented to you for consideration.

The appalling loss of property by fire in Vermont is alarming and too much emphasis can not be placed upon the enactment of further protective measures.

While we have had no great loss of life by fire in Vermont, the potential danger is present and the recommendations being made are even more urgently needed for this purpose.

### **FISH AND GAME**

Our resources of fish and game constitute an important natural asset to Vermont. They are important from the point of view of enjoyment, health, and finances. Vermont is a natural habitat for much wildlife. There has been a marked increase in hunting and fishing. Because the state is small, with highways penetrating practically all sections, most hunting and fishing grounds are fairly accessible to sportsmen. This makes it difficult to conserve our wildlife.

One of our chief needs has been a long-range program for the conservation and propagation of fish and game. The Director of Fish and Game has now completed plans for such a program. This is now in booklet form and we have distributed a limited edition of it. It contains many and varied recommendations. Among them are: Increased hatching facilities; an enlarged and better equipped warden force; plans for research; game management, and many others. Our needs and requirements are detailed. It is an excellent report and I wish to commend Director Davis and the Conservation Board on the results of their efforts.

There is a great divergence of opinion among sportsmen as to how this state activity should be administered. It is difficult to obtain a united front on just what should be done. The Department has made good progress, yet there is much to be done. The fish and game clubs should play a large part in determining future plans.

## **AVIATION**

The 1945 Legislature, as many of you know, established our present Vermont Aeronautics Commission. As a result of the establishment of this commission civil aviation has greatly expanded.

One of the first things the Commission did was to make a careful study and appraisal of suitable locations for new airfields. In October, 1945 it completed the Vermont Airport Plan. As a result of this thorough study by the Commission, 14 new airfields were recommended which, with present fields, would make a total of 28. During this past year some of these recommendations have materialized and fields opened which are owned and operated by private enterprise. The development of private fields has received assistance and encouragement from the Commission in so far as it was possible to render such aid.

Registration figures for pilots and aircraft in Vermont since May 1, 1946, show an increase of 55 and 73 respectively. The volume of air travel into Vermont by airline and private aircraft surpassed all estimates this past summer.

Continued development of airports and other facilities makes our state more easily accessible to people from neighboring areas and enables our people to remain in closer contact with other parts of the Nation. I hope that future legislatures will give due and careful consideration to all phases of this subject for the further development and advancement of aviation in this state.

## **FORESTS**

A phase of state development to which we have not given sufficient attention over the years is our forest resources. It is true that much thought and effort has been put forth in their behalf but we are still inclined to take our forests rather for granted. When we see a hillside covered with some sort of trees we think that suffices. The extent and quality of our timber is a matter of great importance to Vermont. Three-fifths of our land area is better adapted to growing trees than to anything else. Our forests are important to our fish and game, to our stream flow, to our scenery and recreation, and, what is most important of all perhaps, jobs. We used to have a thousand woodworking plants of one kind or another. We now have approximately five hundred. Our forest resources constitute a large factor in the economic welfare of the State.

Since 1937, an effort has been made to pass legislation adopting better business methods in the handling of our forests. Each time it has been unsuccessful, perhaps because the legislation has been too drastic in the minds of the legislators. In the 1945 Legislature, we were successful in passing a bill which establishes a forest policy for the State. This is a good start but we must go further to the end that our forests may be treated as a crop and not as a mine.

Good forest management includes proper cutting methods, planting, fire protection, pest control and taxation. A commission is reporting to this Legislature on the latter subject. If this great natural resource is to continue to promote the economic welfare of Vermont and all parts of the Nation, we must submit to some curtailment of our personal freedom in the handling of the product. Proper business management of timberland has proved its worth in other lands, beyond the shadow of a doubt.

Our state forests and state forest parks should be increased. They greatly enhance our recreational opportunities.

We have thousands of acres in Vermont earning us practically nothing. Much of this is best adapted to reforestation. Our motto should be, "Not an idle acre in Vermont."

Furthermore it is my hope that an extensive wilderness area may be set aside as a primitive tract for those who enjoy and can take advantage of the charm, peace, beauty, and health to be found in forest land where nature reigns supreme. We have an area now near the center of the State, well adapted for this purpose. It would be a valuable addition to the bounteous benefits of nature in the Green Mountains.

## **HIGHWAYS**

Highway appropriations, with the exception of the State Highway construction items, were restored to prewar levels by the 1945 Legislature.

The appropriation for town roads was increased \$250,000 annually. This makes the State's grant to towns for Town Highways alone approximately one million dollars annually, which is an appreciable percentage of the State's motor vehicle revenue. This will aid materially in the improvement of farm to market roads.

At the end of the fiscal year June 30, 1946, there was an excess in motor vehicle receipts [above appropriations] of \$962,241.74 which was allotted by the Emergency Board to the several highway appropriations, as recommended by the Highway Department.

It was expected that as soon as the war ended an enlarged highway construction program would rapidly get under way, with the assistance of the two million dollars per year appropriation [for three years] to the State by the Federal Government, which must be matched by the State. Many factors have combined to restrict the expected program. Many projects advertised could not be let because of no bids or unreasonably high prices. Contractors could not get the labor or equipment they needed, and many were engaged in lucrative private work. It has been nearly impossible to obtain steel for bridge and culvert construction.

In an attempt to meet this situation, programs have been rearranged and construction plans have been revised to permit work where there was the least interference. The work underway is about the prewar amount in dollars, but the amount of work accomplished will be considerably less due to higher costs.

Some progress has been made in taking care of the deferred maintenance caused by war conditions. However, in some respects difficulties have increased, machines are older and replacement parts have been more difficult to obtain. The same factors that have increased the construction costs have increased the maintenance costs.

Highway improvements interrupted by the war have increased the maintenance burden. During the war our main highways were called upon to carry increased loads, and the end of the war has increased, rather than diminished, this trend. It is evident that additional funds and equipment will be required on this problem.

One of the chief problems confronting this Department is the additional money required, due to higher costs, if we are to continue the schedule of construction and maintenance agreed upon before the war.

### **COMMUNITY RECREATION**

Community recreation is being recognized as a function of state government throughout the country. Its importance is indicated by the fact that many Vermont towns, confronted by their problems concerning community recreation, have turned to the State Community Recreation Advisory Service to receive help in determining, appraising, and meeting community needs—the needs of organizing and administering community programs, raising money, locating and training leaders, and planning facilities. What these communities need and seek is technical, consultive service on how to provide community recreation effectively. They lack the “know-how”, not the enthusiasm or concern and consequently have requested guidance.

I believe that recreation is a vital, positive force in Vermont's way of life because it contributes to the physical and mental health, to the morals, to the education and culture, of its people. It also curbs crime and delinquency, encourages good citizenship, and strengthens family and community life. To the State of Vermont and to local communities, recreation becomes an economic asset by keeping its youth vigorous through wholesome programs of activities, as well as making Vermont attractive to outsiders through its opportunities for leisure-time pursuits. New industries are looking to communities with recreation programs.

During the past two years the State Community Recreation Advisory Service has helped communities with organization, planning, and leadership problems resulting in the stimulation of community interest and responsibility. At the same time this service has prevented communities from making costly mistakes. Two largely attended Governor's Conferences on Community Recreation have indicated widespread interest throughout the State.

We in Vermont who are concerned with better living conditions will want to include the planning for recreation and the cultural side of community life as a legitimate need.

It should be noted that the Community Recreation appropriation terminates with the expiration of the Council of Safety on February 1, 1947.

Therefore, if this work is to be continued, legislation prior to February 1, 1947 will be necessary. I hope that such legislation will be enacted, as community recreation is important in the development of the State.

### **GEOLOGY**

Two years ago, I recommended an increase in the appropriation for the State Geologist primarily for the purpose of enabling him to undertake a systematic geological survey of the State's unexplored regions. A complete survey has not been made since 1865. The Legislature responded favorably to this suggestion and as a result a program has been initiated designed to obtain a complete and systematic survey of the entire state. The results of this survey, so far as it has progressed, will be made available in a report of the State Geologist. In addition to these surveys, the State Geologist has studied and surveyed the activities of all mineral producing companies of the State. The production for 1946 is estimated at a value of \$19,000,000, considerably higher than any comparable period prior to this year.

I might say in passing that surveys which cover mountainous regions are slow, difficult and dangerous. I feel, however, that this work is of sufficient importance to justify its continuance and I hope the work may continue through adequate appropriations by future legislatures.

This is one of several efforts we have initiated to increase the income of Vermonters. Thus to improve the standard of living in Vermont has been one of the chief objectives of this administration.

### **Stream Pollution**

Two years ago, I recommended that the Legislature with the aid and assistance of the Vermont Development Commission, at that time the State Planning Board, make a start in the formation of a broad policy which would bring about the gradual elimination of stream pollution.

While the Legislature did not enact such a measure the Development Commission has been as active in such work as time and facilities permitted. The Commission made a survey of the Winooski basin to determine the extent and location of pollution and has taken part in all stream pollution meetings in the State.

Since 1923 the theme of our recreational publicity has been UNSPOILED VERMONT. Vacationists who are attracted to the State by such publicity are entitled to expect an UNSPOILED VERMONT upon their arrival. One of our greatest assets, in the recreational field, is our rivers and lakes. Many of these are now so polluted that they are not suitable for recreational purposes and are often dangerous to health.

The recreational business in this state has an opportunity to enjoy the greatest expansion, percentagewise, of any income-producing activity in Vermont during the years to come. It would be of tremendous value to the recreational business if we could have our streams more suitable for bathing, camping, and fishing. If we are to take advantage of our opportunities, steps must be taken to eliminate to a considerable extent the pollution now existing in our rivers, streams, and lakes and the State should participate in such planning. Corrective measures would have far-reaching and beneficial results—not only as regards the beauty of our rivers, but likewise the health of our citizens and the promotion of recreational facilities.

I feel that a program which will ultimately result in the clearing of our streams and lakes can not longer be delayed, and it is my hope that any advance planning having to do with our recreational activities will embody a broad and far-reaching program for the elimination of stream pollution. The first step in such a program would be the prevention of any further pollution than now exists.

### **Wilder Dam**

This administration has given much thought and effort in connection with the redevelopment of the dam at Wilder.

The Legislature of 1945 enacted a bill designating the Public Service Commission as the state agency in matters pertaining to power development. It also adopted a joint resolution directing the Governor to use his utmost efforts to hold the level of the dam at Wilder at 380 feet in the event it was redeveloped.

Following adjournment of the 1945 Legislature, the Bellows Falls Hydro Electric Company petitioned the Public Service Commission for a license to redevelop the dam at a 385 foot elevation. For weeks, the Public Service Commission listened to evidence presented by all interested parties, and, upon completion of the various hearings, had before it for decision the question as to whether the acres to be inundated or the electric power that would result from the redevelopment was the more important to all the people of Vermont. Its decision was in effect that the redevelopment of the dam at Wilder would serve the public good of the State and result in the greatest benefit to the people in that it would encourage the expansion of industry and provide the additional electricity needed for a broad development of the State.

As many of you know, our state Public Service Commission is a quasi-judicial body and during the period the case was with it for consideration, it was my belief that the Governor should at all times maintain a scrupulous detachment. To do otherwise would be comparable to an attempt to influence a decision of the Supreme Court, and this could not, and should not, be tolerated in the orderly administration of governmental affairs, notwithstanding my desire to do all in my power to prevent the destruction of fertile farm lands. In the name of good government the Chief Executive must be fair to all parties.

Following the decision of the Public Service Commission, and while the case was with the Supreme Court for decision, on my own responsibility I attempted to serve as conciliator between the two opposing groups, and endeavored to persuade the New England Power Association to agree voluntarily to fix the level of the dam at 380 feet, and, in doing so, I attempted to impress upon the officials of this Association the loss of farm lands which would occur if the level of the dam were to be redeveloped at 385 feet. In this, I was unsuccessful.

Subsequently, the Supreme Court ruled that the Public Service Commission was without jurisdiction and that sole jurisdiction was with the Federal Power Commission.

The interested parties filed a petition with the Federal Power Commission to reopen the case for the introduction of additional evidence in their efforts to hold the redevelopment of the dam at a level of 380 feet. With the case no longer before the Public Service Commission or the Supreme Court, I felt free to take an active part in the matter. I wired the Federal Power Commission urging it to grant the petition, then pending before it, to reopen the case, and permit the introduction of further evidence. I advised this body that if this were done, I would appoint special counsel to cooperate with the petitioners in holding the level of the dam at 380 feet. The petition was granted, the case reopened, special counsel appointed and additional evidence introduced, but the decision was the same and a license was granted to redevelop the dam at a level of 385 feet.

If we are to encourage the expansion of existing Vermont industries and the establishment of new ones, we must have further power development, but at the same time, this must be done in such a way as to preserve our good farm lands and it is regrettable that the Wilder dam could not be redeveloped at a level of 380 feet which, in my opinion, would solve both problems reasonably well.

### **STATE OFFICE BUILDING**

The first appropriation for a new State office building was made in 1941. A four story building was then contemplated. The 1945 Legislature increased this appropriation by \$150,000 to meet additional building costs.

In its study of the office space required by the various departments, the State Building Commission during the past two years has been convinced that when the new office building is erected, it should be a five-story building. A detailed survey of the needs of each department was made and then a careful recheck followed. Not only will the five-story building be completely occupied, but also the Howland house which is to be moved to a site at the west end of the new office building. All state departments located here in Montpelier would then be in state-owned buildings.

The architect's plans provide for two additional buildings should additional space be needed at some future time; these buildings to be located one at each end of the office building and on an axis perpendicular to State Street.

A further appropriation will be needed before the building can be erected, it goes without saying a new building is greatly needed, not alone because of the uneconomical business conditions resulting from the

scattered location of present buildings now used as state offices, but for other obvious reasons, it is my hope that construction can be started in the near future.

A central heating plant to supply all state buildings was started in 1945 and completed in 1946.

### **STATE LIBRARY BUILDING**

In my inaugural message I recommended the construction of an addition to the State Library Building in order to meet the urgent needs of the State Library and the Vermont Historical Society for additional room, and which would also provide adequate and fireproof storage for the preservation of the historical and non-current records of the State, as well as make such records more readily available for public and official use. The General Assembly of 1945 considered and approved this project but failed to appropriate funds for construction. The current reports of the State Library and Public Records Commission present the facts of this project which is tied in with the plans of the new office building and should be regarded as an essential part of it.

I hope that funds will be made available so that the construction of an addition to the State Library building may be undertaken at the time construction is started on the new office building.

### **REPORT ON VERMONT GOVERNMENT**

A commission which I appointed, as a result of action by the 1945 Legislature, to study Vermont Government and Finances under the chairmanship of J. Harold Stacey has made a very thorough study of several important problems and its report contains recommendations which should be of inestimable value to this Legislature in its consideration of various state problems. It is one of the most constructive and forthright reports issued in a long time. I strongly recommend it for your consideration and commend the committee for its conscientious and untiring efforts.

### **A COMPARATIVE INDEX OF WEALTH FOR TOWNS**

We need in Vermont a comparative index of wealth for our towns--a yardstick to indicate the actual comparative wealth of each town.

The Grand List was intended to provide such an index, and it would if we complied strictly with the laws. Sec. 634 of the Public Laws requires real property to be appraised at its "just value in money." Actually, it is appraised in most cases at varying percentages less than full value, from 30 per cent to 100 per cent of full value.

The Grand List is resorted to for various financial purposes other than local taxation. It is the basis for computing the town's share of State Aid funds. It is the basis of figuring the town's share of a state tax. It is the basis for determining a town's limit of indebtedness. And there are many others.

Let me say right here that in the discussion of this problem there is no desire to alter the present practice of appraisals, so far as they pertain to establishing the Grand List for the purpose of local taxation. The towns should continue to handle their Grand Lists for local taxation just as they do now.

The present discussion concerns only instances where there is financing involving several or all the towns. For this we need something in addition to the present Grand List. We need something which will indicate a true comparison of the wealth of all the towns so that all towns may be treated alike.

One instance will illustrate the serious unfairness existing now. State Aid for education is distributed on the basis of wealth per equated pupil. Actually, two towns might have about equal wealth per pupil. Yet if Town A bases its Grand List on 30 per cent of full valuation and Town B on ninety per cent, Town A would receive three times its rightful share of State Aid compared to B.

There are at least seventeen Vermont statutes in which the Grand List is made the basis for a tax, distribution of funds or other financing, and which, therefore, provide the basis for unfair use of funds insofar as the Grand List varies from a uniform appraisal basis. This injustice is due to the fact that we have no accurate comparative wealth index for all towns in the State.

The method employed by New York to correct this situation has worked very satisfactorily in that State. In general, the Tax Commission of New York satisfies itself as to what basis of appraisal each town is using, whether it is 25 percent or 100 percent. From the appraisal based on such a percentage, the State can easily determine what the one hundred per cent valuation would be.

Such valuation establishes a comparative index of wealth for all towns and provides a basis for treating them fairly whenever there is financing involving several or all, but is not used for local taxation purposes.

The commission which has made a study of Vermont finances and government has made another constructive suggestion for the solution of this problem.

The 1945 Legislature introduced a measure to accomplish this purpose but it failed in its passage. This was due partly, I believe, to the fact that the purpose of the measure was not clearly understood.

I hope the Legislature will study this problem and adopt some method which will establish a comparative index of wealth for all towns.

### **VERMONT COUNCIL OF SAFETY**

The State Council of Defense was created in September, 1940 at the request of the Advisory Commission to the Council of National Defense. It was charged with the responsibility of assisting in the then important program of organizing and utilizing industrial production facilities for the production of defense material for the national needs. It was also charged with the responsibility of preparing such measures for civilian defense as seemed necessary at that time.

In February, 1941, the name of the group was changed to the Vermont Council of Safety and the members were reappointed by the late Governor Wills. In May, 1941, the United States Office of Civilian Defense was created and, thereafter, the major function of the Vermont Council of Safety was the planning, organization, training, and operation of a state system of civilian defense, primarily for air raid protection, reaching into every community. This work was done in close cooperation with the United States Army and the U. S. Office of Civilian Defense.

Other important war-time tasks were undertaken, in the field of Community War Services, such as salvage, child care, conservation programs, and recreation.

The Council of Safety was first given official status by a Joint Resolution adopted by the General Assembly at the Special Session of 1941. It was re-recognized by the State Emergency War Powers Act of 1943 and again in 1945. Since the War Powers Act terminates on February 1, 1947, the Council of Safety will also terminate on this date unless other action is taken by this Assembly.

The work of this Council throughout the war was financed by appropriation made to it by the Emergency Board. The 1945 Legislature appropriated \$12,000 for the biennium ending June 30, 1947 for the continuance of the Community Recreation Office under the Council of Safety. It should be noted that under present statutes, the Council of Safety will terminate on February 1, 1947, before the end of the biennium.

The only other activities of this Council remaining in addition to the recreation service referred to above, are those of the State Fuel Board and the State Property office. The activities of the former are carried on from the office of Frank W. Dalglish entailing only the expense of telephone and telegram charges. The state property office is in charge of the State Fire Marshal, Chester M. Kirby who is the acting officer responsible to the federal government for the various Offices of Civilian Defense property in the hands of local property officers in the numerous municipalities throughout the State. The only expense involved in connection with this office is a \$10.00 annual bond premium which is required to be filed.

Provision for handling the Community Recreation office, the State Fuel Board and the State Property office should be made before the Council of Safety goes out of existence February 1, 1947.

### **CONCLUSION**

The events just related bring to a close another chapter in the eventful history of the Green Mountain State. From those early days back in 1777 when she was fighting for her very existence and for a place in the Union of

States, Vermont has consistently been distinguished for her courage, resourcefulness, self-reliance, honesty, and patriotism. In peace or war she has performed feats of valor that have earned the undying loyalty of Vermonters and the respect of Americans everywhere. We pay tribute to a great fighter for justice and freedom.

Vermont's character is portrayed in part in the tributes to our State recently inscribed on the walls of the north corridor of the first floor of the State House. For several years I have been endeavoring to find an opportunity to establish such a Hall of Inscriptions in a state building, believing that they have much inspirational value to the legislators, the visiting public and to all who read them. While this should be only the beginning, we have at least made a start.

In the course of our dealing with Vermont's needs we were aware that with the passing of years and events, a succession of foremost state needs come to the front in each period. They in turn give way to others. This is evolution, and the way of progress. At this particular era, we have seen out in front, deserving of our foremost consideration:

- 1) education, including better paid teachers, increased vocational facilities, transportation, consolidation of some schools and more state aid;
- (2) development of our natural resources, agriculture, industry, recreation, etc., to further our prosperity and provide better income and opportunities for all Vermonters;
- (3) State institutional needs;
- (4) Improvement in health conditions;
- (5) Benefits for the unfortunate;
- (6) Good business management in government.

These are among the foremost needs today. Upon all of these we have focused special thought and effort resulting, I believe, in considerable progress. They deserve, and I hope will receive at the hands of this Legislature further strengthening and improvement.

When this administration took over the reins of government two years ago, we carefully analyzed the needs of the State. We have endeavored to make this an Era of Development which would place Vermont in the forefront of progress so far as her means permit. We have continually and aggressively tried to Build a Better Vermont for the welfare and happiness of all our people. It is a challenge which is second to none in the abiding satisfaction and inspiration which it brings to those who have the privilege of serving.

For whatever success has been attained, I here express my deepest gratitude to an outstanding Legislature for its cooperation and wisdom, and likewise to our State departments, the State Employees Association, and many others who have aided me in my administration. There has unfailingly been a united front which has left nothing to be desired.

Government as well as all other endeavors, however, consists not of work alone. Friendships, loyalties, and common sacrifices born in the midst of daily efforts, are what we remember longest. No type of person could be finer to work with than the average Vermonter. His common sense, his belief in fair play, his never-failing sense of humor, his genuineness, constitute the most likeable personality I know. In my fourteen years of continuous service with our state government, I am forever indebted to many delightful folks in all walks of life, scattered throughout the State, for some of the happiest hours and most worthwhile experiences of my life.

We must never relinquish the fight for progress. We must strive equally hard to preserve that certain genuineness, hominess, and rugged loveliness that is Vermont. These fourteen years have caused me to have increasingly greater admiration for these hills and their people, throughout the ups and downs which life must always hold for all of us.

For each of you, for all who serve in the State family, and for the Governor who succeeds me, I wish every satisfaction and success which such service can bring.

MORTIMER R. PROCTOR.

The Governor, having concluded the reading of his message was escorted to the Executive Chamber by the committee appointed by the Chair.

The Joint Assembly dissolved.

RAWSON C. MYRICK,  
*Secretary of State, Clerk.*