

**FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
BOARD OF RAILROAD
COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE
OF CALIFORNIA FOR THE YEAR
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 1883**

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Fourth Annual Report of the Board of Railroad Commissioners of the State of California for the Year Ending December 31, 1883 by Various

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VARIOUS

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#128

Report of the Board of Railroad Commissioners

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OF THE

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FOR THE

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SACRAMENTO:

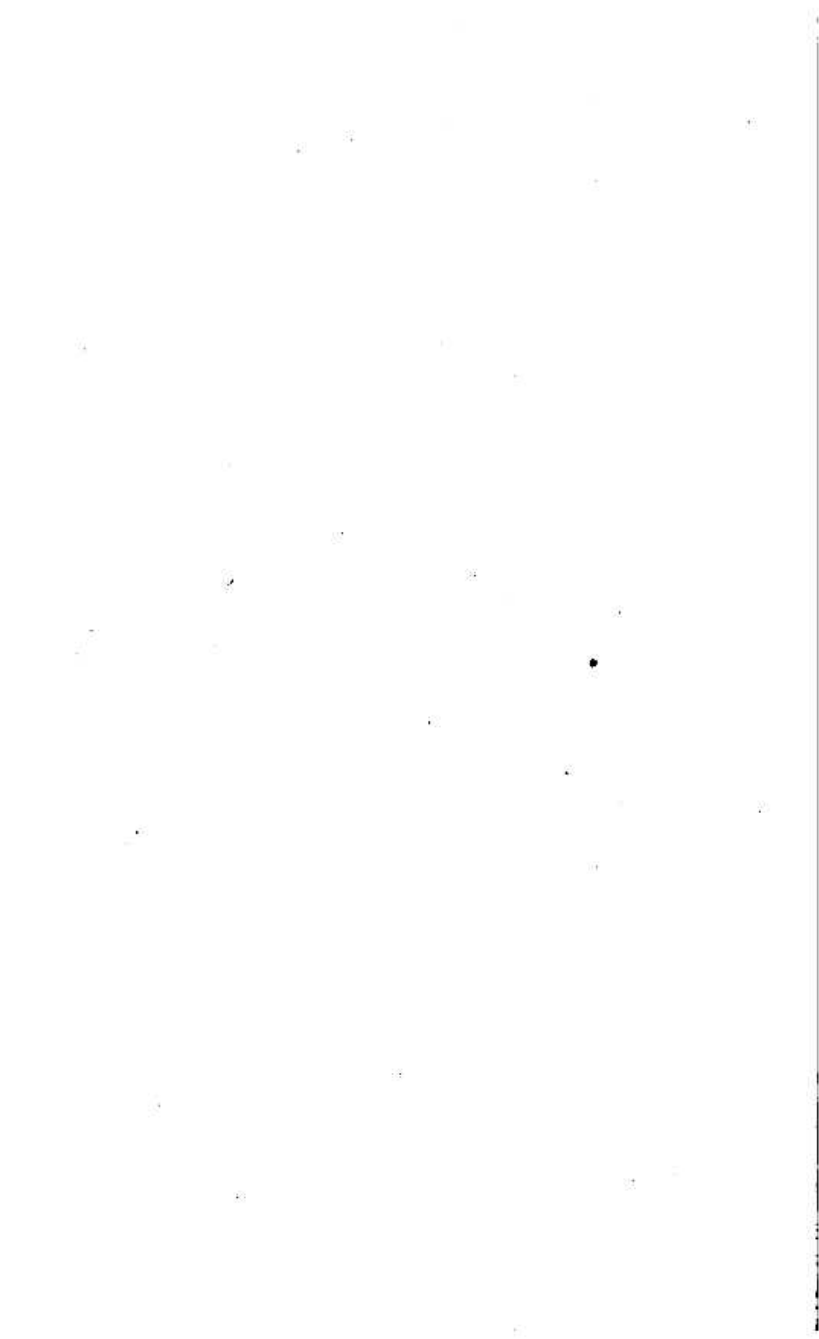
STATE OFFICE, JAMES J. AYERS, SUPT. STATE PRINTING.
1884.

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD.

G. J. CARPENTER, First District.....Placerville, El Dorado County
W. P. HUMPHREYS, Second District.....San Francisco
W. W. FOOTE.....Oakland, Alameda County
W. R. ANDEUS.....Secretary
J. P. CARROLL.....Bailiff
E. A. GIRVIN.....Stenographer

OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS:

No. 14 Dupont Street.....San Francisco



FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Board of Railroad Commissioners.

REPORT.

BOARD OF RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }
AT OFFICE, IN THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 7, 1884. }

To his Excellency GEORGE STONEMAN, Governor of the State of California.

SIR: The Constitution requires that this "Commission shall report to the Governor, annually, its proceedings and such other facts as may be deemed important." In compliance with this requirement, and in the exercise of the discretion with which it is coupled, the Commission deems it proper to make to your Excellency a general statement of its official acts and rulings, as they appear of record, accompanied by some of the reasons therefor.

THE COMMISSION—ITS RECENT ORIGIN AND OFFICIAL ATTITUDE.

As one of the constitutional offices of the State, of comparatively recent origin, being now in the first year of its second administration, it can hardly be said to have outlived its possible usefulness. But it must, like every branch of republican government, at the peril of its life, vindicate its right to exist. This can be done in two ways—by theory and results. In theory, the exercise of a power conferred, in the mode prescribed, by a majority of one, is "deemed conclusively just and reasonable." As this presumption follows and attaches to official acts and their probable results, their opponents have found it safest not to wait for them. Hence the frequency of foregone conclusions against the law and the facts.

But if neither rashly presuming upon its position and precedence before the Courts, nor leaning upon incompetent authority, nor deferring to any unauthorized censorship of its course, it has promptly substituted for the facile routine of inconsequential resolutions a thoroughly consistent and advancing plan of action, by methods and measures within the purview of the organic and statute law, it will find in the legitimate instruments of its authority the ready weapons of its defense. If it has resolutely taken the subject-matters of its jurisdiction out of partisan politics, and without fear, favor, or undue influence, has administered them as public trusts in the interest of all concerned, it has subserved one leading and paramount purpose of its creation. If, never prejudging any cause or question submitted for its decision, it has inflexibly adhered to the law and the facts, it need not fear the ultimate judgment of those having an honest interest in its administration, and can afford to wait for the justice it has done to others.