

**SECOND MESSAGE OF  
GOV. ALBERT E. MEAD TO  
THE LEGISLATURE OF 1907**

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Second Message of Gov. Albert E. Mead to the legislature of 1907 by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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STATE OF WASHINGTON *(State) Journals*

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OLYMPIA, WASH.:  
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1907

## SECOND MESSAGE OF GOVERNOR ALBERT E. MEAD.

STATE OF WASHINGTON, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
OLYMPIA, January, 1907.

*Gentlemen of the Senate and of the House of Representatives:*

You have assembled in the tenth regular session of the Legislature of the State of Washington and the thirty-eighth since this became a separate political sovereignty. The first territorial Legislature in 1853 represented a scattering population of 3,965; the first under statehood in 1889 represented 242,048; while today, but a short half generation later, we are nearing the 850,000 mark; while by the time the next biennial term rolls around I confidently expect a population of one million.

During this half century we have grown from territorial poverty and feebleness to a commonwealth of opulence and power.

Our growth, unparalleled in the percentage of its increase, would be more noticeable were our people not spread over 69,180 square miles, an area about the size of all New England, which in itself sustains a population of nearly five and one-half millions. Estimating a prosperous farming, manufacturing, mining, fishing and trading commonwealth on the New England basis of ninety people to the square mile, we should have within the next twenty years more than six millions, exceed-

ing the present population of any state except New York and Pennsylvania.

Such growth in the past and such possibilities for the future impose grave responsibilities on the law-making body of the state. The foundations for our prosperity should be so wisely planned and so firmly laid that the superstructure of our commonwealth may prove as enduring as the ages, a fit home for an intelligent and liberty-loving citizenship. With our great undeveloped resources for diversified farming and fruit growing in the empire east of the Cascades, with our 1900 miles of shore line for marine development, with our capacity for cheap electrical power in the hills at our very back door, with our unequalled climate for dairying and stock raising, with our unlimited coal and mineral deposits, with such fishing and lumbering resources as cannot be equalled elsewhere; with 3200 miles of main line railroad built and 2000 more under construction, with labor profitably employed in all lines of industry, and capital receiving fair returns for its investment and seeking new fields for exploitation, surely the future for this commonwealth is bright with promise. We gladly welcome to our wonderful opportunities every industrious, intelligent and patriotic person who is willing to unite with us in laying broad and deep the foundations of this empire state of the Pacific Coast.

#### HISTORY AND ARCHIVES.

We should not prove recreant in the duty we owe posterity in failing to preserve the early history of our

commonwealth. Although young in years, that history is replete with deeds of valor, of self-sacrifice and patriotism. The historian is the schoolmaster of patriotism. Our public archives, which are the records of the political and industrial growth of the state, merit your earnest attention. Many of these records already have been lost or have gone to enrich private collections, while a great number are now liable to loss or to remain valueless to public officials and to students of history for lack of systematic arrangement, proper cataloging and indexing. The recent growth of the state has caused a great accumulation of new records, which, when they cease to be of current use, are carelessly stowed away in some corner. I, therefore, recommend the creation of a department of archives to care for the earlier records and their proper arrangement, to the end that they may always be available.

The various historical societies have performed commendable service in marking historical spots and in rescuing and preserving invaluable annals of our early history. The society at Tacoma, as trustee for the state, has a valuable historical collection of documents, memoirs and newspaper files. Its usefulness is weakened, and its service retarded for lack of systematic arrangement and proper support. The society is an agency of the state in perpetuating our early history, and is performing gratuitous service for the commonwealth. The efforts of its founders and officers should be encouraged, and an appropriation be made to facilitate the work in hand.



## GRAVES OF FORMER GOVERNORS.

Within the borders of the state are buried the remains of several of our pioneer chief executives. It seems but proper that the state should erect suitable monuments in recognition of their services. Notable among these neglected graves is that of William Wallace, Governor of the territory in 1861. His body lies beside that of his wife in the pioneer cemetery at Fort Steilacoom which now is part of the property of a state institution. Plans have been initiated with the imperfect means at hand to care for the graves of the pioneers there sepulchered. I recommend the erection of a monument over the grave of Governor Wallace, whose distinguished services not only to the territory but to the nation at large entitle him to this distinction. The body of Marshal F. Moore, who was a distinguished general officer in the Union Army, and who served for several years as Governor of Washington Territory, lies in the cemetery at Olympia. His memory likewise is entitled to suitable commemoration.

On assuming office I was impressed by the fact that the executive chambers, unlike those in many of the state capitols, did not contain the portraits of the former governors of the territory and state. Though without any special appropriation of funds for the purpose, I set about securing those portraits, realizing that longer delay in assembling them would make the task more difficult and costly. Many citizens, the newspapers generally, the surviving former governors, as also the friends and relatives of those who have

died, gave me generous assistance, so that now we have the portraits of sixteen of the seventeen men who have held the office of governor. The missing portrait is that of R. D. Gholson, governor of the territory from 1859 to 1861. Governor Beckham of Kentucky and others are endeavoring to locate the desired picture. The total cost to the state so far for the collection, including framing, has been less than thirty dollars, and has been paid from the postage and incidental account of the governor's office.

I am now collecting the portraits of all the twenty-six men who have served the territory or state of Washington in Congress since the erection of the territory in 1853. The majority of these portraits is now in hand.

When the condition of the public funds will permit, all of these portraits, with those of the state and territorial judiciary, should be put in permanent form for preservation.

Mrs. Minnie Sparling Brown has delivered at the Executive office large oil paintings of the four former Governors of the State of Washington, viz.: Elisha P. Ferry, John H. McGraw, John R. Rogers and Henry McBride. A few years ago the plan of installing in the Executive office portraits in oils of the former governors, to be painted by Mrs. Brown, was suggested and received the sanction of former Governors McGraw and Rogers. I recommend that suitable compensation be made to the artist for this work, thus permitting the paintings to become the property of the state.

## ACCOUNTING OF FUNDS.

An accounting of public funds received by me and paid to the State Treasurer between January 11, 1905, the date I was inducted into office, and January 7, 1907, is as follows:

Notaries Public fees from 1,785 applicants .....	\$ 17,850 00
Commissioners of Deeds, from 14 applicants....	70 00
From Federal Government as national aid to Soldiers' Home.....	50,415 44
From Federal Government on 5 per cent. refund for two years of sales of public lands in state.....	39,122 30
From states requiring of other states extradition fees.....	44 50
From Elmer E. Johnston, Executive Commissioner of Lewis & Clark Exposition Commission, as refund of overcharge on freight	39 20
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$107,541 44</b>

On January 11, 1905, when I assumed office, the state bonded indebtedness amounted to \$1,250,000, of which \$85,000 had been incurred in December, 1904, because of the depleted condition of the general fund at that period. The Legislature of 1905 found it imperative to appropriate heavily for the actual needs of the commonwealth. Not since the beginning of statehood had there been such extensive improvements projected. Various institutions and buildings were urgently needed to house the constantly increasing wards of the state. With this bonded debt, however, and these heavy appropriations, which included more than \$140,000 for new buildings at various institutions, \$75,000 for the Lewis & Clark Fair, \$144,000 for the new department of state highways, \$75,000 for the railroad commission, and appropriations for the crea-