

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
TREASURER OF THE STATE OF
ALABAMA, FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH,
1898, TO THE GOVERNOR**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649277759

Annual Report of the Treasurer of the State of Alabama, for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1898, to the governor by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
TREASURER OF THE STATE OF
ALABAMA, FOR THE FISCAL
YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30TH,
1898, TO THE GOVERNOR**

11

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE TREASURER

OF THE

STATE OF ALABAMA,

FOR THE

Fiscal Year Ending September 30th, 1898

TO THE GOVERNOR.



MONTGOMERY, ALA.:

FORMER PRINTING COMPANY, STATE PRINTERS AND BINDERS,
1898.

Adm.
331.2
A/a.
898

REPORT.

STATE OF ALABAMA,
TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Montgomery, October 10, 1898.

HON. JOSEPH F. JOHNSTON,
Governor of Alabama,

DEAR SIR:—

As required by section 3398 of the Code, I submit herewith the annual report of this department for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 1898. Such report embraces condensed statements of the condition of the Treasury, the several special funds, the bonded debt of the State, a record of coupon bonds received in exchange for registered bonds, the receipts and disbursements, itemized statement of outstanding warrants issued by the Auditor during previous years and paid during the past year, and the daily receipts, disbursements and balances. The report from this office for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1897, embraced a complete itemized statement of receipts and disbursements, but under the authority given the Governor under section 3398 of the Code, such itemized portions of the Treasurer's report that appeared in the Auditor's report, were not printed. Acting upon the idea that only such portions of the report of this department would be ordered printed for this year, the itemized statements of receipts and disbursements are not given, but being transcripts from the books in the office, they can be easily examined at any time.

From the condensed statement showing the condition

of the Treasury, the cash balance is \$75,243.25. There were on that day outstanding warrants issued by the Auditor, and unpaid; balances due on salaries earned and not paid; and amounts due to special funds, in all, \$316,999.15. Deducting from this the cash balance, leaves the deficiency \$241,755.90. Nothing is set apart in this statement for the payment of sheriffs' claims for the feeding and removal of prisoners, for the reason that the receipts from Judges of Probate, Clerks, and other officers, on collections made by them prior to September 30th, 1898, will not reach the Treasury until after the beginning of a new fiscal year, and these will be nearly if not quite sufficient to pay such sheriffs' claims.

Section 2019 of the Code makes it the duty of the Treasurer to appoint, with the approval of the Governor, a fiscal agent in the city of New York, whose duty it is to pay the interest on the State debt. Soon after entering upon my duties, the American Exchange National Bank of New York was appointed as the fiscal agent of the State, and I have your written approval of such appointment. This bank has served the State most acceptably, and it is a pleasure to do business with such a systematic and accommodating institution.

Section 2020 designates how money shall be drawn out of the Treasury and the accounts kept, which section has been complied with.

Section 2021 requires that "the money to pay the interest on such bonded indebtedness, which is to be paid in the city of New York, shall be by the Treasurer remitted by express or otherwise, as he may deem best, to the fiscal agency in such city," etc. I construe the purpose of this section, giving the Treasurer discretionary powers as to the manner of remitting funds, to be that he shall adopt the cheapest mode. Acting under

that construction, I have used principally the exchange received from county officials, sending the same direct to the fiscal agent for credit of interest account.

Since I have entered upon the duties of Treasurer, there has been transmitted to New York on this account, and to and from New York on account of temporary loans, something over \$1,000,000.00, which, at the regular rate of exchange, would have cost not less than \$2,500.00; when in fact it has cost the State only \$255.00—a saving of \$2,245.00 in this item alone. The \$255.00 was incurred at a time when the money was needed in New York, and the Treasury had not sufficient exchange on hand for the purpose, which necessitated the transmission by express or exchange; but in no case was the premium paid for exchange in excess of express rates.

All cancelled coupons paid at Treasury and in New York prior to July 1st, 1898, have been arranged, recorded and filed as required by section 2025 of the Code, after the accounts for payments and expenses had been examined by Hon. John Purifoy, Chief Examiner of Public Accounts.

Section 3611 of the Code makes it the duty of the Treasurer, when warrants drawn by the Auditor on the pay-rolls of county-superintendents and treasurers of separate school districts, are filed in his office, "to forward by express or exchange at the expense of the State, the amount of such warrant, and the pay-roll and duplicate receipts for said sum," etc., to the officer authorized to receive the same. Under this section there was transmitted for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1897, \$607,259.11, and for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1898, \$709,352.90, an excess of \$102,093.79 for the past year, there being five quarterly payments for the year 1898. For several years the financial condition of the Treasury would not admit of sending the

funds for the last quarter in the fiscal year, until after the beginning of the new fiscal year, but this condition has so improved that the funds for quarter ending September 30, 1898, were transmitted prior to the close of the fiscal year, except for two counties whose pay-rolls had not been filed, one of which, however, has since been paid. The cost of transmitting this amount of funds for two years, at the usual rates of exchange, etc., would amount to not less than \$2,500.00; but by the use of economical and business methods, in sending exchange at reduced rates, and sometimes at par, or transmitting by express, when the exchange could not be procured upon as favorable terms, the actual cost has been \$1,290.20. I would recommend that section 3611 of the Code be so amended as to allow the tax collectors and judges of probate to cash and take up any warrants for school purposes whenever they have funds in hand, such warrants upon payment to be forwarded to the Treasurer for credit of the officer paying the same.

On April 16, 1898, I received an inclosure by mail, the sum of \$25.00 in currency. Accompanying the same, without postoffice address or date, was the following letter:

"Dear Sir:—Please charge back taxes, \$25.00, and credit same with amount inclosed.

"Very truly,

"NICHOLAS NICKLEBY."

As neither the Auditor nor Treasurer has any account against Nicholas Nickleby for back taxes, the amount cannot be certified into the treasury, hence the matter is referred back to you, for such action as the General Assembly in their wisdom may deem best.

Under section 3094 of the Code, authorizing foreign corporations to become surety on official bonds, the

Fidelity and Deposit Company of Maryland, the National Surety Company of New York, and the United States Fidelity and Guaranty Company of Baltimore, have deposited bonds, the value of which is considerably above par, amounting to \$50,000.00 each, and are authorized to write official bonds in this State. The wisdom of this law is shown by the fact that the premium rate for writing this class of risks, has been very greatly reduced since the act has been in force.

At present, the Treasurer is required to give bond in the sum of \$250,000.00. Because of the meager salary, he is unable to make it through guaranty companies, but necessity forces him to ask personal friends to become surety, which is very embarrassing to both. I am informed that the three corporations heretofore named, who are authorized to take such business, will write the bond at a very low rate, which premium could be paid by the State very easily. Therefore, I recommend that the General Assembly make an appropriation to pay for the premium on the Treasurer's bond, and that such bond or bonds be made through guaranty companies. This I am sure will prove more satisfactory, and will leave the Treasurer without embarrassment or under lifelong obligations to friends.

The present manner of keeping the State funds in vault is out of date, and should be changed so as to provide bank depositories for the keeping of same. This conclusion has been reached after an experience of fourteen years clerical services in the Treasurer's and Auditor's offices, and for the last two years as Treasurer; and a change to depositories will be in keeping with advanced business methods. In response to letters of inquiry to Treasurers of all the older States, I have received replies to thirty-three. Twenty-five of these have laws governing the deposit of funds in banks, and