APPENDIX TO THE JOURNALS OF THE SENATE AND ASSEMBLY OF THE TWENTY-FIFTH (EXTRA) SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA. TESTIMONY TAKEN BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN CONSIDERING ASSEMBLY BILL NO. 10

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Appendix to the Journals of the Senate and Assembly of the Twenty-Fifth (Extra) Session of the Legislature of the State of California. Testimony Taken Before the Judiciary Committee of the Senate of California, in Considering Assembly Bill No. 10 by Various

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

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MESSAGE

OF

GOVERNOR GEORGE STONEMAN.

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MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
SACRAMENTO, March 24, 1884.

To the Senate and Assembly of the State of California:

GENTLEMEN: The Constitution confers upon the Chief Executive of the State the power to convene the Legislature when, in his opinion, an extraordinary occasion shall have arisen demanding the attention and action of that body.

Certain railroad corporations, organized and doing business in this State, having for the past four years resisted the demands of the State for the collection of delinquent taxes, and certain suits instituted by the State and a portion of the counties therein against said corporations for the collection of delinquent taxes having been compromised, by consent judgments entered in the United States Circuit Court, whereby, if such judgments are binding and are allowed to stand, the State and counties have lost all penalties and interest due on said delinquent taxes; and the State being for the time, seemingly, powerless to assert her rights, I have deemed it prudent to ask your aid and assistance in passing such laws and proposing such amendments to the Constitution as will, it is hoped, effectually prevent the recurrence of a similar condition of affairs in the future. I have also asked your coöperation in devising such means, as in your judgment may seem proper, to assert the rights of the State in reference to the further prosecution of these delinquent tax cases, and to provide means for opening and setting aside all compromises, consent judgments, and agreements wherever and by whomsoever made, in which the State has lost, or is about to lose, any portion of the tax, penalty, or interest due by law.

As no little dissatisfaction exists in reference to the comparative inaction of the Board of Railroad Commissioners in performing the duties of that office, I have thought proper to request your honorable body to provide for a new Board, and to propose and submit to the people an amendment to the Constitution of the State, to the end that said Railroad Commissioners may hereafter be elected from the State at large; and that you also propose and submit an amendment to the Constitution fixing the maximum rates to be charged for the transportation of passengers and freight on all railroad lines in the State.

The subjects submitted for your consideration are so explicitly stated, and the history of the struggle of the State for the collection of revenue from the corporations referred to is so well known to each member of your honorable body, that it seems hardly necessary to give, in detail, the reasons why legislation should be had upon the subjects embraced in the proclamation.