

**MESSAGE OF HIS EXCELLENCY  
HENRY ROBERTS, GOVERNOR OF  
CONNECTICUT TO THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY, JANUARY SESSION,  
1905**

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Message of His Excellency Henry Roberts, Governor of Connecticut To the General Assembly,  
January Session, 1905 by Henry Roberts

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# MESSAGE

Of His Excellency

Henry Roberts

*Governor of Connecticut*



TO THE  
General Assembly

JANUARY SESSION

1905

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1904

# Message.

*Mr. President, and Members of the General Assembly :*

For generations it has been considered an honor to have served as a member of the General Assembly, and as I note the character and ability of its present members, I feel that the high standard of the legislation of the past will be maintained. You have been elected by the people of the State to enact such laws as will, in your judgment, best serve their interests.

I assume that you will make no change in our fundamental law concerning representation in the General Assembly, as our increased Senate gives to our large centers of population a representation more in keeping with their great and varied interests ; but I desire to call your attention to the injustice involved in the provision in the amended Constitution, upon which you will act, that provides that a majority of the electors voting cannot call a Constitutional Convention.

The work that is before you will principally consist in legislating for existing conditions, that have been brought about by our social and industrial progress.

In your deliberations the welfare of the State should be placed above every other consideration; and, when by any possibility there could arise conflict between public and private interests by reason of your action, private interests must give way to the public welfare.

It is not my purpose to take up in detail all of the departments of the State government, for their reports will receive the consideration of your several committees, but I wish to bring to your attention what I consider as the more important matters for your deliberation and action.

### **Finances.**

#### RECEIPTS.

Quoting from the report of the Comptroller, I note that the receipts from all sources for the Civil List Funds during the year ending Sept. 30, 1904, were three million three hundred eighteen thousand eight hundred eighty-nine and nineteen one-hundredths dollars (\$3,318,889.19), an increase over the receipts from ordinary sources of the previous year of one hundred two thousand seven hundred sixty-eight and ninety-five one-hundredths dollars (\$102,768.95).

The receipts for the year ending in 1903 from "all sources" were \$3,671,040.00, in which were included \$454,000, amount received in settlement

of the Civil War claims, which largely accounts for the excess of receipts from "all sources" of the year 1903 over that of 1904—the receipts from war claims being an unusual and extraordinary addition to the yearly income of the Treasurer. During the year 1904 there were received \$37,000.00 in payment of the Spanish War claims. It may be noted, in passing, that some reduction of the State income in 1904 was due to the fact that prices of securities taxed by the State were listed at lower figures than in 1903—the prices of said securities having fallen in value at the period of taxation below that of the preceding year; and the same was true of real estate values.

The funded debt of the State, less Civil List Funds in the Treasury, was at the close of the fiscal year \$214,584.00.

#### **Balance in Treasury.**

The balance in the Treasury to the credit of the Civil List Funds Sept. 30, 1904, was seven hundred thirty-seven thousand five hundred fifteen and fifty-one one-hundredths dollars (\$737,515.51), an increase over the balance of the year previous of one hundred nine thousand one hundred forty-one and seven one-hundredths dollars (\$109,141.07).



**Expenditures.**

The expenditures during the past year were three million two hundred nine thousand seven hundred forty-eight and twelve one-hundredths dollars (\$3,209,748.12), an apparent decrease of four hundred four thousand six hundred sixteen and three one-hundredths dollars (\$404,616.03). But when it is remembered that five hundred eighty-six thousand dollars (\$586,000.00) of State bonds were purchased in 1903, and only one hundred twenty-five thousand dollars (\$125,000.00) in 1904, it is seen that there is actually an increase of fifty-six thousand three hundred eighty-three and ninety-seven one-hundredths dollars (\$56,383.97) in ordinary expenses of the State over last year.

As before stated, the total expenditures were \$3,209,748.00, including the purchase of \$125,000 of bonds, leaving expenditures for all the other purposes \$3,084,748.00. Of this amount there has been expended in permanent improvements for the different State departments as follows:

State Capitol and grounds, . . .		\$19,325	
State Normal Schools—new buildings at Danbury, . . .	\$36,000		
State Normal Schools—new buildings, other schools, . . .	15,700		
		<hr/>	
		\$51,700	51,700

Humane institutions — new			
buildings :			
Conn. Hospital for the Insane,	18,500		
Norwich " " "	100,000		
New Haven Anti-Tuberculosis			
Hospital, . . . . .	25,000		
New Britain Hospital, . . . . .	12,000		
Meriden " . . . . .	11,100		
Middlesex County " . . . . .	15,000		
	<u>\$181,600</u>	181,600	
Fitch's Home for Soldiers, . . . . .	9,500—	<u>9,500</u>	
Total permanent improvements to State			
and other property, . . . . .			\$262,125

The above improvements are so much added to the State's assets in permanent form, and cannot be classed with the usual running expenses of the administration. It should be borne in mind that in the last five years the State's indebtedness has been reduced by the amount of two million one hundred eighty-eight thousand dollars (\$2,188,000.00), while at the same time many worthy purposes and causes have been given needed support and help, and that any increase in expenditure in the last fiscal year has been for aid to common schools and other educational purposes, for the betterment of humanitarian and eleemosynary institutions, for judicial expenses, and for the relief of the disabled veterans of the Civil War. The State is by law bound to pay a

fixed sum for each child enumerated (and the number of children has largely increased), and she has a just desire to give to her poor and unfortunate people comforts and surroundings which a humanitarian view demands. There has been so much saving in several departments, notwithstanding the increased expenses, already referred to, that the actual increase in expense over that of 1903 has been only \$50,000.00.

Few States, of our union of States, can offer a better financial showing than today appears on the books of the State Treasurer. The debt of the commonwealth is small, and this result has been attained without recourse to the burden of a direct State tax upon her people. The people of the State pride themselves on the honored and respected position she holds among her sister States, her credit unimpaired and all her obligations promptly and justly met. Nor withal is it, as it appears to me, the temper and purpose of the people to be niggardly in supplying just demands, but rather to appropriate with that fair and liberal spirit such sums as shall enable the State to preserve her prestige and maintain her reputation for progress and enterprise; and it was the overwhelming testimony of those disinterested but well informed, when last this matter of State expenses was investigated, that any curtailing on the lines proposed, as a result of that investigation, would be detrimental to the best interests of