

S. F. No. 171, An act to provide a sinking fund for the adjustment of the Minnesota State railroad bonds,

S. F. No. 175, An act extending the time for the completion of the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railroad.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. R. MARSHALL,

Governor of Minnesota.

The following communication was received from his Excellency the Governor :

STATE OF MINNESOTA, EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
Saint Paul, March 5, 1867. }

Hon. Thomas H. Armstrong, President of the Senate :

SIR:—I respectfully return herewith to the Senate, in which it originated, a bill entitled “an act to appropriate money for the erection of buildings for the three State normal schools,” without my approval.

I object to the large sums given in the bill, one hundred and fifty thousand dollars in addition to past appropriations, for a class of schools that would be out of proportion to the other educational institutions and interests of the State.

The bill appropriates these large sums in advance for future years, when we do not know and cannot know the financial condition of the State and the ability of the people to pay the taxes that these appropriations make necessary.

In recommending in my annual message an appropriation for the first State normal school, which is now established, and greatly needing better building accommodations, and for which a building had been begun, I deferred to the judgment of the State Normal Board in regard to the plan and cost of the building—much doubting myself the expediency of so large and costly a structure.

What seemed to me an evil in the cost of the first normal school, is multiplied three fold in this bill, and without the need and urgency as respects the second and third schools, of being organized and needing the accommodations.

My view of the true policy of the State in regard to its institutions is to do what our hands find to do—to provide for the present. We can only provide for the future by taxing the future.

I believe it will be more satisfactory to the future to provide for itself and to tax itself.

There are other State institutions pressing for appropriations. Let us be just to all, which I believe we cannot, with these excessive appropriations for normal schools, without over taxation of the people, or embarrassing the State finances.

The people are taxing themselves heavily to sustain local schools. Let us not burden them prematurely with State taxes for normal schools, and thus impair their ability to sustain common schools.

These appropriations for buildings are only a part of the burden the bill entails. Large annual appropriations will be needed to sustain the schools. They are dependent wholly upon the State treasury. In Wisconsin, which is cited for an example to us in the number of its normal schools, they have an independent normal school fund of over a million dollars. Minnesota has not a dollar of such a fund. (I should be glad to see such a fund created out of any proper means.)

I am not unfriendly to normal schools, nor to any of the localities to be benefited by these appropriations. I shall be glad when all these schools can be provided for consistently with the State's duty to other interests, and I trust that this veto will not prejudice these institutions in the future; nor prevent an appropriation now, such as you shall deem just, for the first normal school building—the sum indicated in the bill, considering all the circumstances, not seeming to me unreasonable.

Additional financial objections are stated to the bill in the following extracts from a communication from the State Auditor, whose opinion, as the head of the chief financial department of the State, I sought. Mr. McIlrath says: "By the terms of the act it is made my duty upon application of the State Normal Board, to issue warrants on the State treasury for \$150,000, \$25,000 of which would be due immediately; \$50,000 due in 1868; \$50,000 due in 1869, and \$25,000 in 1870. Nothing in the act prevents warrants to that amount being drawn as soon as the act takes effect. It is true that the money is not drawn or paid out of the treasury until the warrants become due; but at the same time those warrants represent the faith and credit of the State and are negotiable and there is no prohibition of law against their being discounted and the money thus obtained used for all the institutions during the present year. Whether that would be the case or not, by the terms of the act treasury warrants to the amount of \$50,000, will fall due next year, without any provision made to meet them, and the same sum the year after. Should we be so unfortunate as not to collect the balance due the State from the general government, there would be no chance to borrow money except by amendment to the constitution, and as there will be no proposition of that kind offered to the people this year, it cannot be effected until the fall of 1868, several months after these warrants become due. The consequence would be that the treasury would become bankrupt, and the warrants remain unpaid." * * * "Such an issue of warrants creates a State debt not authorized by the constitution. The only safe course is not to appropriate moneys in advance of the capabilities of the treasury to supply."

For these substantial reasons of the Auditor, and the general objections I have urged, I withhold my approval from the bill.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

WM. R. MARSHALL,

Governor of Minnesota.

The question being shall the bill,

S. F. No. 198, substitute for S. F. No. 51, A bill for an act to ap-