
**Messages, Proclamations, Vetoes and Other Public
Documents Issued by James A. Mount, Governor of
Indiana, 1897 to 1901**

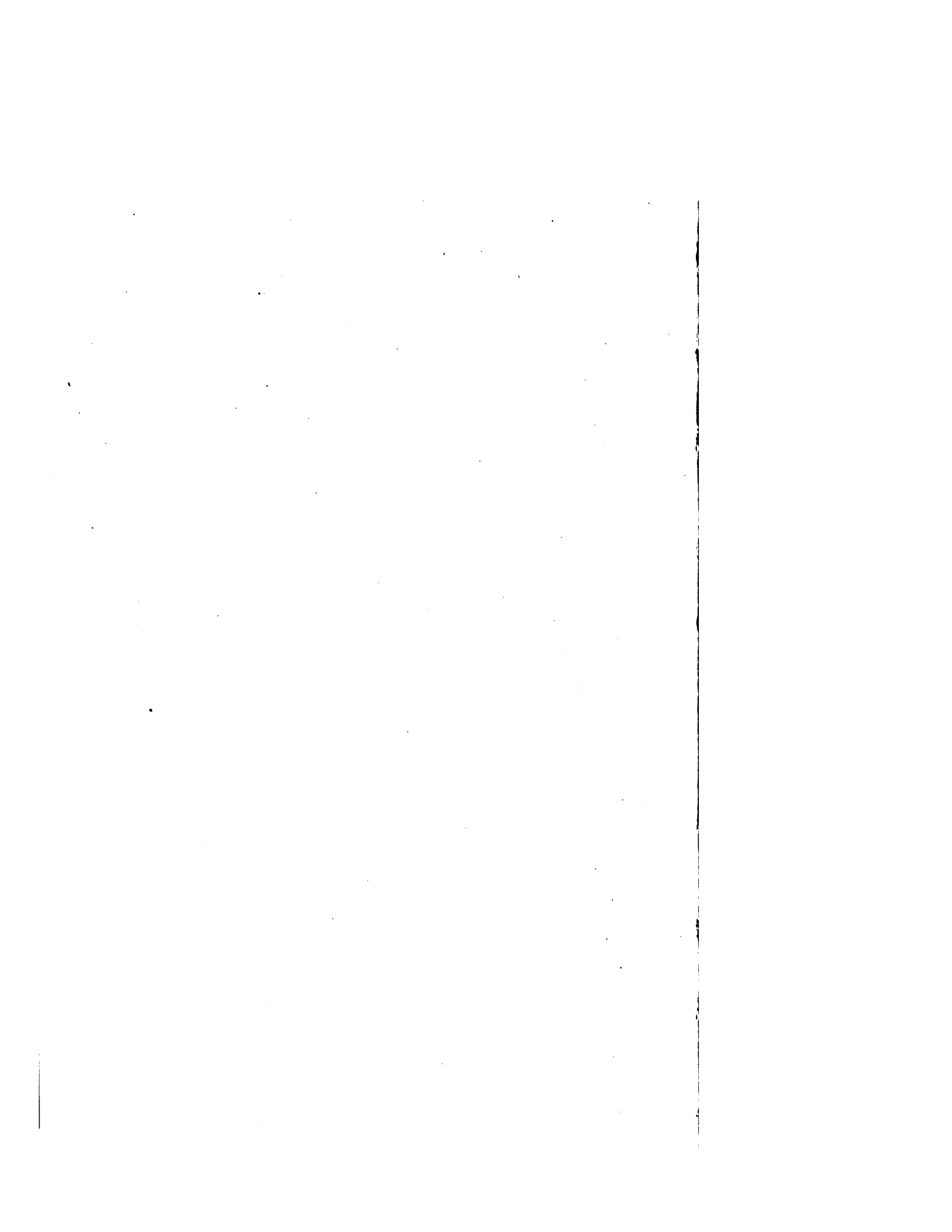
Governor Indiana

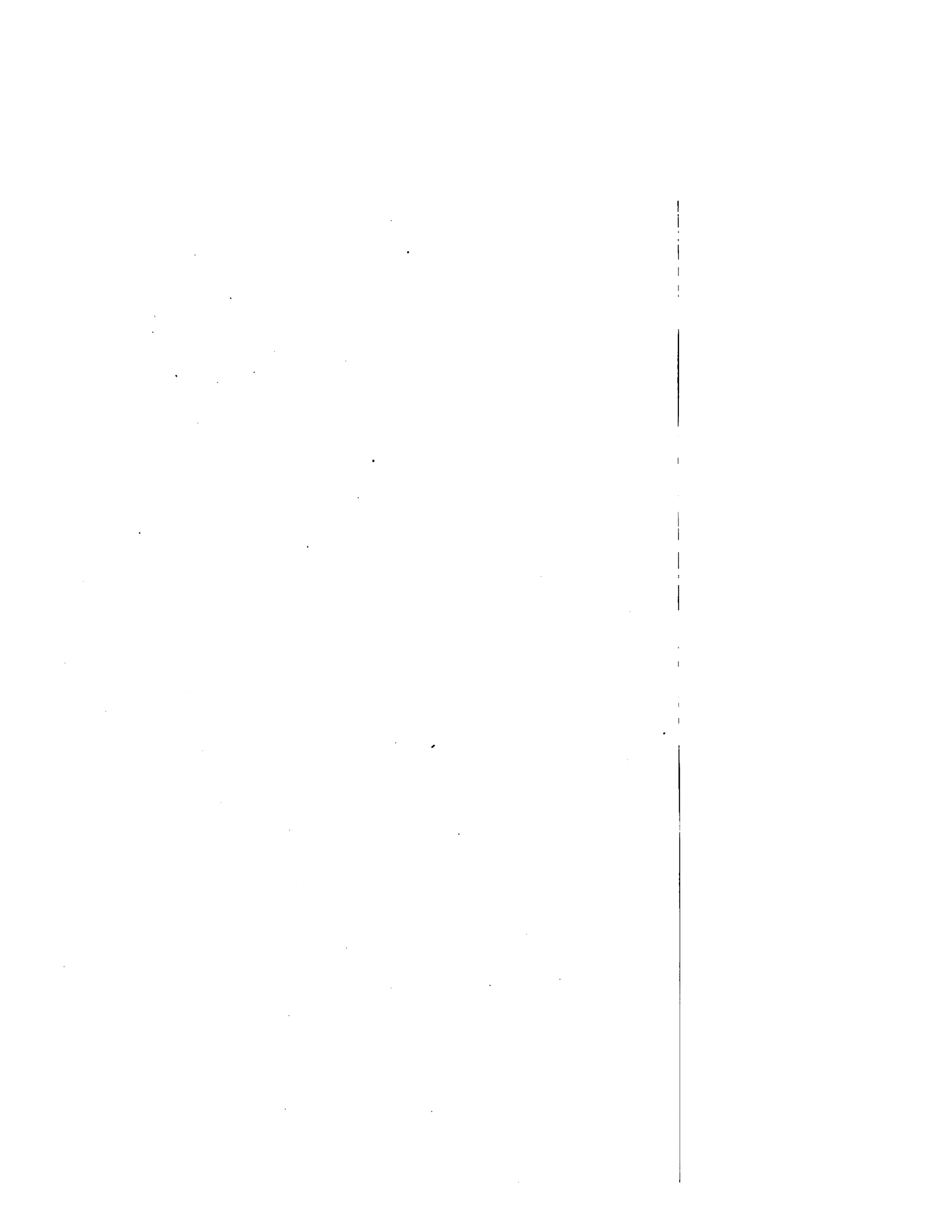
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Author: Governor Indiana

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MESSAGES

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PROCLAMATIONS, VETOES

AND OTHER

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS

ISSUED BY

JAMES A. MOUNT

Governor of Indiana, Governor, James A. Mount, 1897-1901.

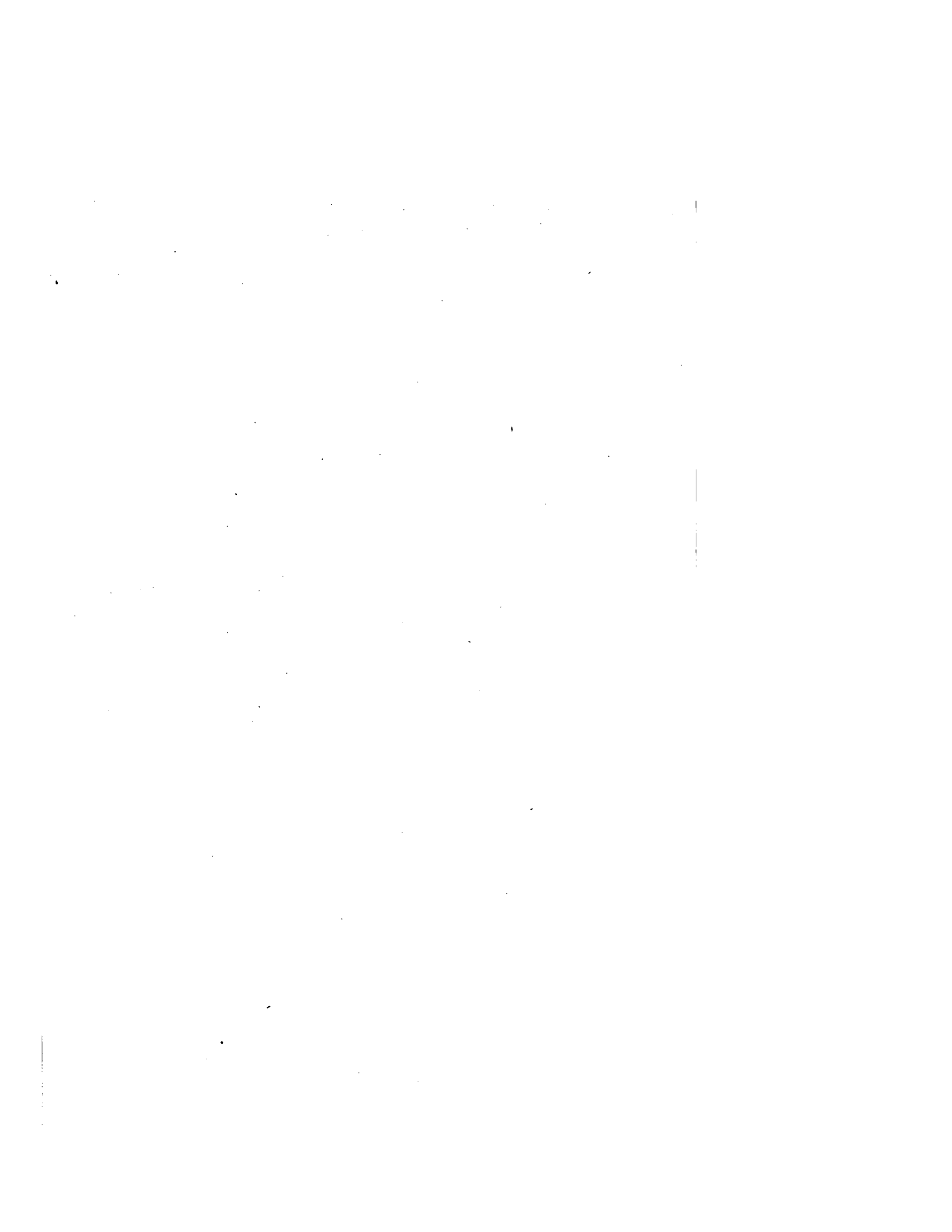
1897 to 1901

Compiled by CHAS. E. WILSON, Secretary to the Governor.

INDIANAPOLIS

WM. B. BURFORD, CONTRACTOR FOR STATE PRINTING AND BINDING

1901



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INAUGURAL ADDRESS, 1897.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Representatives:

In taking the oath of office prescribed by the Constitution of the State and entering upon the discharge of its obligations, I am not unmindful of the grave responsibilities and arduous duties thereby entailed. With a profound sense of gratitude to the people of our great commonwealth who, by their suffrages, have called me to this high station of honor and trust, it shall be my constant endeavor to so administer the affairs of state as to promote the best interests of all our people.

It is made my duty, in obedience to the Constitution, to enforce the laws. Gentlemen of the Legislature, into your hands is committed the high responsibility of making laws. The results of your labors will be far-reaching. He who prevents the passage of unwise laws is entitled to equal credit with the author of good laws. Conflicting interests will arise, urgent claims will be presented, the disposition of which will require mature thought, careful consideration and unbiased action. Some of these interests will be represented by men who are skilled in all the details of legislation; men who are persuasive of speech and trained in diplomacy; men whose influence will be a potent factor in the passage or defeat of measures receiving their support or their opposition. These influences are powerful factors for good so long as they are enlisted in a worthy cause, but become pernicious when used for defeating wise measures or securing class legislation against the public weal. Such influences are becoming more and more powerful in controlling State and national legislation, and are coming to be a menace to free government. Corporations, trusts and combinations, through lobbyists, are able to look after their interests, while the mechanic, the farmer, the miner, the business man and the day laborer have no one outside the members of the legislative body to exert influence in their behalf.

To your wisdom and to your sense of justice is committed the right and power to enact laws that shall advance the best interests of all the people. The time allotted for this important work is short. The prevailing disposition among representatives is to multiply, rather than digest, bills. The multiplicity of bills frequently results in the defeat of meritorious measures.

Laws should be founded upon principles of interdependence of all our industries, business interests, pursuits, callings and relations of capital and labor—of employer and employe. It is of the utmost importance that an understanding of this interdependence be inculcated, be comprehended and be acted upon. He who engenders strife, arouses hatred, or creates discord, is planting the seeds of revolution. Laws that tend to conciliate, that seek amicable adjustment of differences, that facilitate harmony and concord, will strengthen the bonds of union. The student of labor statistics and labor troubles has witnessed the loss sustained by employe and employer while adjusting their differences. This is one of the grave problems of the day. The interdependence of capital and labor, of employer and employe, should be the foundation of law and the underlying principle of action governing these interests. Actuated by such principles as will lead to peaceful arbitration, we may hope for the time when the rights of labor shall be accorded without strikes and the protection of property secured without soldiers.

Building and loan associations should be held to such strict accountability by law as will insure a better guarantee of safety to the money intrusted to their care. At the same time you must not be unmindful of the fact that these associations have, in many instances, been helpful to the common people in enabling them to purchase and build homes. Therefore, in correcting defects, your acts should not prove destructive to what, under proper safeguards, may be a beneficent institution.

EDUCATION.

Article 8, section 1, of the Constitution says: "Knowledge and learning, generally diffused throughout a community, being essential to free government, it shall be the duty of the General Assembly to encourage, by all suitable means, moral, intellectual,

scientific and agricultural improvement, and to provide, by law, for a general and uniform system of common schools, wherein tuition shall be without charge and equally open to all."

The education of the masses is declared essential to free government. In compliance with the wisdom of this provision, we should look to the enactment of a mild compulsory education law. Moral restraints are urged as needful to our good. In this age of research and investigation the ability to understand and apply science becomes a necessity to progress. The Indiana Academy of Science is to be commended for and encouraged in its good work.

The agricultural improvement contemplated in the Constitution is of much importance at this time. The questions of soil fertility, combating infectious diseases and insect pests, fungous growth, the science of breeding, of feeding, of marketing, the law of supply and demand, with many kindred questions, upon a better understanding of which, in large measure, depends the future success of the farmer and the fruit-grower. The farm institutes now being held in the different States are the most direct and practical means of imparting to the farmer this needed information. The amount appropriated for this work in Indiana is less than half the average allowed in the States carrying forward this work. Under the economical and wise management of our institutes it is generally conceded that Indiana, for the amount expended, is conducting the best institutes and holding more of them than any other State in the Union.

LIVE STOCK AND GOOD ROADS.

The total value of live stock in Indiana April 1, 1896, was more than \$75,000,000. The loss entailed from disease during the year exceeded \$5,000,000. The swinebreeders lost in numbers over 580,000 head of hogs, the value of which exceeded \$3,000,000. For stamping out contagious diseases Massachusetts appropriates \$150,000, Pennsylvania \$90,000, Illinois \$40,000, and New York is now asking for \$300,000. The allowance in our State is but \$4,000. The present law is not wise in its provisions for the expenditure of this amount. The outlay is too great for the gain to have the veterinarian attended in his visits by the Board, each man drawing his per diem of \$4 and expenses. The amount thus expended has been far in excess of the amount of