

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
ST. PAUL, April 6, 1909.

Hon. A. O. Eberhart, President of the Senate.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith, without my approval, S. F. No. 53, A bill for an act to establish a state normal school at the village of Cass Lake in the County of Cass.

In my judgment there is no pressing need for the establishment of an additional normal school at this time. A study of the geographical condition of the normal schools already established also indicates to a certainty that there is no sufficient reason for the establishment of a school in the immediate section proposed. Minnesota now has a pedagogical school for the training of teachers at the State University. It also has five normal schools; two in Southern Minnesota; two in the northern part of the state; and one in the central part of Minnesota, namely at St. Cloud, which serves equally the northern and southern portions of the state. South of a line east and west through St. Cloud there is a population according to the census of 1905, of 1,371,246. North of this same line the population is 608,666.

The total attendance at the various normal schools now established is as follows: Winona, 867; Mankato, 1,047; St. Cloud, 1,193; Moorhead, 896; Duluth, 411. The schools at Moorhead and Duluth are not overcrowded, and can easily be made to accommodate a larger number of pupils than are cared for now; and while there is now perhaps a recognized and imperative need for a larger body of professionally trained rural school teachers, the wise policy, it seems to me, would be in the direction of increasing the facilities for this purpose at the schools already established, rather than to create another public institution which will, in the course of time, be an added burden to the taxpayers of the State of Minnesota.

The financial condition of our state is not such as to warrant the establishment of new public institutions at this time; and in view of the great demands made upon the public treasury, and the difficulty we have in raising public revenue, we ought to proceed very slowly in the direction of further new public institutions. It may be argued that in this particular case this act carries no appropriation, but if it is to be effective at all, there must naturally follow very large appropriations for the

erection of new buildings, and continued appropriations throughout the years, for maintenance. We owe it to the people of the state to be prudent and economical, and no new educational or other public institutions should be established until it is clearly shown that there is a pressing need for it.

It is not my purpose to argue against the wisdom of the Legislature in fixing this particular site, further than to urge that it never has had the approval of the authorities in charge of the normal schools, but on the contrary has met with their disapproval for reasons which it is not necessary now to assign, other than to urge that the school population of Cass Lake is not sufficient now to provide model departments, and reasonably will not be for years to come. This particular locality and the section of the state in which it is proposed to locate this school are as yet largely undeveloped, and it is impossible to determine, with any degree of certainty, what are to be the centers of population of the future.

In view of the uncertainties of the future development of the region in its relation to educational centers, opposed as I am to the policy of establishing new public institutions until there is a decided need for them, I cannot lend my approval to this act.

Very respectfully,

JOHN A. JOHNSON,
Governor.

THIRD READING OF SENATE BILLS.

S. F. No. 666, A bill for an act relating to the construction of laws regulating the affairs of cities of the first class, as now defined by the constitution and laws of this state.

Was read the third time and placed upon its final passage.

The question being taken on the passage of the bill,

And the roll being called there were yeas 44 and nays none,
as follows:

Those who voted in the affirmative were:

Ahmann,	Clague,	Hall,	Nelson,	Sullivan,
Alderman,	Cooke,	Hanson, A. L.,	Pauly,	Swanson,
Bedford,	Dale,	Johnson, C. A.,	Peterson,	Weis,
Briggs,	Dunn,	Johnson, V. L.,	Pugh,	White,
Calhoun,	Elwell,	Johnston,	Putnam,	Wilson,
Canestorp,	Farrington,	Laybourn,	Robinson,	Witherstine,
Canfield,	French,	Moonan,	Sageng,	Works,
Carpenter,	Gunderson,	Naeseth,	Seward,	Wright,
Cashman,				

So the bill passed and its title was agreed to.