

The same condition which called for legislation upon this subject, demands an improved system of primary elections.

It may be difficult to formulate a system so simple and inexpensive that it can be satisfactorily employed; but, if it is possible, some plan should be devised by which every semblance of unfairness can be eliminated from our primary contests.

My fellow citizens, for myself, in becoming the Chief Magistrate of this State, realizing as I do that the trust about to be committed to me, comes charged with responsibilities and duties that cannot be over-estimated, I shall be guided in my official acts by an earnest desire to preserve the honor and dignity of our States, and to promote the happiness and welfare of our people.

There will be on my part a most cordial co-operation with the other Departments of State Government in promoting a wise and unselfish administration; and in assuring fair, pure and peaceful elections; and in enforcing rigid economy in all branches of public service; in reducing taxation to the lowest possible point, consistent with the general progress and development of the State at large, under our organic law, I shall be armed with the veto power, which shall be always exercised with the utmost caution.

But the power to legislate is with the General Assembly, and I trust they will legislate wisely, and as their judgment dictates will be best for the interests of a happy and conservative people who love their State and its institutions.

And now that I am ready to qualify as the Chief Executive of the State, it is my earnest wish that at the expiration of my term of office, with the blessings and protection of the All Wise and All Powerful Being, I may feel that I have fairly, honestly, faithfully and conscientiously discharged the important obligations which I am about to assume. And, with these brief remarks, I declare myself ready to take the oath of office.

The Honorable the Speaker and members of the