

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The inaugural address of Governor Marcus H. Holcomb, to the January session of the General Assembly, forms a document which will go down in the history of the State as second to no address ever made by a Governor in the State. The message should be on file in every home in Connecticut, and should be thoroughly studied and carefully digested by every citizen of the State. The message is not too long, but is concise and to the point in every particular. While it proves that Connecticut thoroughly covered every contingency and emergency created by the war, it also demonstrates that this was economically done with an amazingly small expense. When it is considered that the total outlay in taking the war census amounted to less than \$50,000, and that the cost of equipment and maintenance of the Home Guard up to November 1st, 1918, was only \$508,617.54, it can readily be seen that an enormous good has been accomplished by a small expenditure of money. But this is not all, as the present value of the equipment of the Guard, allowing for depreciation through wear, damage and loss, is \$466,823.32. Thus, actually, the cost to the State has been less than \$42,000.

The cost to the State of the State Council of Defense, aggregates \$151,204.75. The work and achievement of this organization has been invaluable, and nothing too good can be said for it. The manner in which the message treats on "Americanization" opens to the eyes of every citizen in the State the necessity of education along the lines of Americanizing our large foreign element who do not speak the English language, and who do not understand our governmental system and its advantages. In connection with this the Governor said: "We owe it to ourselves and to those who will succeed to our responsibilities and privileges to realize that Americanization is fundamentally a matter of self-defense and self-preservation, and not one merely of sentiment or charitable impulse. I therefore earnestly urge your favorable consideration of the necessity of establishing a Department of Americanization in this State."

Among other things, the Governor spoke of the necessity of utilizing the best teachers obtainable in our public schools for the propagation of Americanism. Child welfare also was concisely and intelligently presented in the message, showing that 4,878 children under five years of age had died in the State during the past year. As the value of a child under five years of age is estimated at \$950, Connecticut's loss in money through these deaths during the past year amounts to \$4,634,100. The Governor emphasizes the fact that through legislation the lives and welfare of animals are looked after in the State, but that the lives of children have been neglected. He urged remediable legislation along this line.

Labor employment service; dependent and neglected children; epileptics and feeble-minded; public utilities; water supply; sheep; fish propagation; State finances; and the State Board of Finance were among the other matters treated upon by the message, all of which furnish interesting reading and study.