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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE,  
FOR  
THE YEAR 1865.

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## COMMUNICATION.

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STATE OF NEVADA,  
DEPARTMENT OF STATE, December 31st, 1865. }

To *Henry G. Blasdel, Governor of the State of Nevada* :

SIR:—In compliance with your Excellency's request, I have the honor to submit the following report of the transactions of this office during the time the same has been under my charge, viz: from December 5th, 1864, to December 31st, 1865, inclusive.

C. N. NOTEWARE,  
Secretary of State.

## REPORT.

A true record of all the official Acts of the Legislature and Executive Department, has been kept.

The laws and journals of one thousand eight hundred and sixty-four and five have been received from the State Printer, and distributed as by law directed, with the exception, that nine of the States have not been supplied with the journals owing to the insufficiency of the number printed. In accordance with law I have also furnished copies of the laws to several of the publishers of newspapers in this and adjoining States, with a view to an interchange of works, proper to be placed in the State Library. By this means, full files of all newspapers published in this State, with but one exception, have been secured to the library and are carefully preserved therein.

Under the law making the Secretary of State, *ex-officio* State Librarian, I have fitted up rooms, adjoining those occupied by me, which are at present sufficiently commodious for library rooms, and have taken charge of all books, maps, charts, etc., properly belonging to the State Library, and have caused them to be impressed with a proper stamp. For a more complete report of my transactions in this connection, showing the present condition, etc., of the State Library, you are respectfully referred to my first annual report to the directors thereof.

Under the law providing for the selection and location of forty sections of unappropriated Public Lands, donated by the General Government to the State, for certain purposes, it became my duty to appoint a Commissioner to select these lands. I accordingly appointed as such Commissioner Robert Robinson, Esq., with instructions to select only such lands as were valuable, either for agricultural purposes, or by reason of the timber growing thereon. The Commissioner reports that he has been unable to select any of the character indicated, owing to the fact that but a limited amount has been surveyed, none of which come under the provisions of the grant, being either reserved for other purposes, or occupied with a pre-emption right attaching under United States laws. In view of the fact that but little surveying may be anticipated prior to the time when these lands must be selected by the State (January 1st, 1868,) and as in this State, settlements precede the surveys, thereby carrying with them the right of pre-emption, thus preventing State selections of lands of any value, I deem it highly important that immediate provision be made for their disposal; that the price per acre, and terms upon which the State will part with title to the same, be fixed.

so that settlers may elect whether they will acquire title through the means afforded by the State, or under the pre-emption laws of Congress. Were this done, I am satisfied the selections could be made, and the lands sold prior to the time fixed in the Act of Congress by which they were granted. Otherwise, I am confident that the time allowed for their selection will have transpired without any benefit having accrued to the State.

A portion of the records of this office need transcribing; several of the books being much torn and not of a uniform size; others need indexing, being either not indexed at all, or incorrectly done. I refer to the "old Carson County Records," which, by law, are deposited in this office. Frequent applications have been made to this department for certificates of official character, which I have been unable to give, as often times there is no evidence in this office upon which to base such a certificate. I would suggest that all State, County, and District Officers, whose official acts in certain cases need the attestation of the Secretary of State, be required to file in this office, proper certificates of election or appointment and qualification.

The failure of clerks to do the copying assigned them during the last session of the Legislature, thereby entailing that duty upon this office, taken in connection with the fact that the office, when I took charge of it, was almost entirely without suitable furniture, record books and stationery, has been the means of increasing the expenses of this department, far above what may be anticipated in the future.

The Capitol building and furniture are properly repaired and arranged for the reception of the Legislature, and provision made for a sufficient supply of fuel, stationery, and other necessary articles, to enable the members to transact the public business. A full statement of expense on this account will be submitted to the Legislature at its next session.

The following is an exhibit of the fees collected by me and paid over to the Treasurer of State for the benefit of the State Library Fund:

Date.	Amt.
From December 5th, 1864, to March 31st, 1865.....	\$1,148 25
Quarter ending June 30th, 1865.....	932 75
"    "    September 30th, 1865.....	832 10
"    "    December 31st, 1865.....	411 10
Total.....	\$3,324 20