

Mackinaw railroad had been let. On the eighth day of May, 1876, a contract was consummated between the Board of Control of State Swamp Lands and "the Marquette, Sant Ste Marie and Mackinaw Railroad Company," for the construction of the proposed road according to the terms of the land grant, the road to be completed by December 31, 1877, but with the right of an extension of the time for one year if satisfactory progress shall have been made within the time first named.

STATE FINANCES.

The financial condition of the State is quite fully set forth under the proper head. But the report of the Auditor General, issued since the first part of this work was printed, contains some facts which will be of interest.

PURCHASE OF UNMATURED BONDS.

The amount of State debt falling due by fiscal years is as follows: Sept. 30, 1878, \$394,000; 1879, \$46,000; 1883, \$632,000; 1890, \$358,000. Total, \$1,430,000. Of the total amount of debt falling due, \$1,384,000 is payable through the two-million-loan sinking fund, and the balance—\$46,000—is payable from the canal fund. The surplus specific taxes will be ample to discharge the portion of the debt payable through the sinking fund as fast as it matures, and tolls from the canal will meet the portion to be paid from the canal fund.

Under act No. 12, session laws of 1875, bonds to the amount of \$98,000 were purchased at a premium of \$4,003.34, a trifle over 4 per cent premium. Attached to these bonds were coupons, to cancel which, had the bonds run to maturity, would have required \$40,504.41. Deduct premium paid, \$4,003.34, it shows a saving to the State of \$36,501.07.

Had there been no bonds purchased during the period in which the interest falling due the present fiscal year was accruing, the amount would have been \$93,840; but on account of purchasing bonds during this period the interest was discharged by the payment of \$91,762.43, thus saving interest falling due during the fiscal year to the amount of \$2,077.57.

The interest falling due during the year closing Sept. 30, 1875, as shown above, is \$93,840; and the interest falling due for the year 1876 is stated at \$86,880, showing an annual saving in interest on account of bonds purchased, of \$6,960.

RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR VARIOUS PURPOSES.

Act No. 148, session laws of 1873, requires all persons receiving or disbursing State funds to report to the Auditor General information in detail as to the source of all receipts, and the purposes for which all disbursements were made. The receipts and disbursements of the various institutions during the past year, as shown by the vouchers filed in the office of the Auditor General, were as follows:

	Receipts.	Disbursements.		Receipts.	Disbursements.
University.....	\$144,788 70	\$141,164 76	Deaf, dumb, and blind, at Flint.....	\$56,066 35	\$54,647 62
Normal School.....	24,284 23	21,886 86	Teachers' Institutes.....	766 21	671 54
Agricultural college.....	51,112 36	50,716 37	State library.....	6,541 63	6,339 22
Public school.....	52,341 12	52,344 01	Geological survey.....	2,000 00	
Reform school.....	43,834 05	37,174 80	State pioneer society.....	250 00	250 00
State prison.....	141,925 64	141,335 08	Quartermaster General's department.....	22,576 83	22,208 46
Asylum for insane at Kalmar.....	204,064 43	199,158 29	Soldiers' aid.....	3,625 65	2,426 15
Asylum for insane at Pontiac.....	100,350 43	83,560 88	St. Mary's falls canal.....	43,348 92	40,335 15