

NEBRASKA NEWS.

Dr. J. P. Marsh of Creighton, a war veteran, died last week.

Oseola is agitating against any saloons for the ensuing year.

Mrs. John Van Meter of Adams county who was before the County Board of Insanity, has been adjudged insane and was taken to the asylum.

Z. A. Williamson, county commissioner of Boone county, who was thrown from his horse, is in a critical condition, suffering from concussion of the brain.

Cattle feeders about Douglas are discouraged over the fall in the market. Some had steers that they had fed for six months and which were ready for sale, but they say they will hold till July if necessary for better prices.

Mrs. R. Flesher of Elm Creek, Buffalo county, was declared insane by the insanity board and will be taken to the asylum at Lincoln. Her mental troubles began with the death of a child five months ago, and for awhile it was thought she was growing it.

C. A. Post, living about fifteen miles west of Creighton, met with a very painful and what might have been quite serious accident. While shelling corn he in some way had his hand caught between the wheel and a pulley chain, crushing the flesh from the bone of the left hand, and lacerating it very badly.

C. M. Murdock, captain of battery A of Beatrice, received word of the serious illness of his mother, Prudence L. Snider at Laird, Colo., but before he could reach there she had passed away. Deceased was one of the early settlers of Nebraska and for many years was a resident of Jefferson county. The remains were brought to Beatrice for interment.

William R. Casey, living five miles west of St. Edward, showing symptoms of insanity last week and threatened to shoot his mother, Constable O. Wilson, who happened to be near, attempted to arrest the boy, whereupon the latter drew a 38-caliber revolver. He was overpowered before he was able to use it. He will likely be sent to the asylum.

Some well dressed sharpers, says a Wilber dispatch, are traveling through the country in a buggy collecting "war tax" from the ignorant, for which they give a receipt on a printed blank. One Bohemian farmer was showing his receipt for \$4.80 around town with considerable pride, thinking he had performed a patriotic duty and got off cheap, and it is believed many others have been taken in.

The city council of Tecumseh has called a special election for March 15, at which time the proposition of refunding the city's water bonds of \$21,000 will be considered. A lower rate of interest is proposed. At present the rate is 6 per cent, and if refunded, which they, no doubt, will be, the rate will be reduced to 4 1/2 per cent. The county commissioners are investigating the opportunities of refunding bonds at the decreased interest rate with a view to cutting down interest expenses on some of the county's bonds.

Frank Cragan, a gambler of Grand Island, came to his home after being on a spree. He induced a friend to call Henry Conow, an alleged morphine user, to his room. Conow, at Cragan's request gave him a grain of morphine. Mrs. Cragan was absent from the room at the time. All day Cragan slept. At night Mrs. Cragan endeavored to wake him, but every effort was futile. Next morning physicians were called and worked with an electric battery for several hours, when death took place. Cragan was just conscious enough to admit that Conow had given him morphine.

Lying upon the ice of White river near Chadron for several hours with the thermometer 44 degrees below zero is the experience which Tom O'Rourke, a well known cattleman living near there suffered during the intensely cold weather. O'Rourke went out on White river to break a hole through the ice for the purpose of securing water for his cattle. He succeeded in doing so when a herd of steers rushed down upon him, insane in their desire to procure the water. He was stepped upon by one of the animals and his leg broken above the ankle. It was several hours before his frantic cries for help received an answer and he was picked up more dead than alive from his terrible experience in the cold. Both of his feet were badly frozen.

Unless congress gets a hustle on itself pretty soon, said C. E. Kemper of the supervising architect's office, Omaha, "the government will be compelled to sell the government building at the Omaha exposition. There is nothing else to do in the absence of express legislation because the act making the erection of a government building possible at the Trans-Mississippi exposition provides explicitly in the manner in which the building shall be sold. The government building at the Nashville exposition was sold, I think, for \$900. The one at Atlanta was presented to the city by an act of congress. We have been holding off about the Omaha exposition because we thought congress would do something definite, but in view of the shortness of the session I guess the department will have to advertise the building for sale, giving preference to the city of Omaha and next to the Greater American Exposition association."

The 4-year-old child of John Honagan, one of the best known farmers of Boone county, while passing a barn door was struck by the tines of the pitchfork which the hired man was using to clean the barn. The fork penetrated into the brain and the child only lived a short time.

The county commissioners and supervisors' association, which has just closed its annual session at Lincoln, elected the following officers: President, Fred Beckman of Lincoln; vice-president, W. G. Dickinson of Newark; secretary, Thomas Hector of Omaha. The next meeting will be held at Hastings.

The Week in The Legislature.

Senate. But a bare quorum answered to call when the senate assembled on the 18th.

Senator Van Dusen was of the opinion that no harm would be done by considering only "curative" acts by committee of the whole. That part of the senate present seemed to agree with him, and committee of the whole was in order. Senator Van Dusen was in the chair.

The following measures were recommended for passage:

Senate file No. 141, curative, to validate section of criminal code, providing penalty for malicious injury done to cultivated or ornamental trees, plants, bushes and vines.

Senate file No. 142, curative, to validate section of criminal code, relating to damages to trees in value less than \$25.

Senate file No. 145, curative, to validate section of criminal code, relating to receivers of stolen goods and concealing any thief.

Senate file No. 75, curative, to validate section of statutes, relating to changes in boundary lines of school districts.

Senate file No. 140, curative, to validate section of criminal code, relating to adulteration of liquors and the selling of same.

Senate file No. 152, curative, to validate section of statutes providing to keeping a roster of soldiers and sailors by assessors.

Senate file No. 151, curative, to validate section of the civil code, providing by whom sales under foreclosure of mortgage shall be made.

Senate file No. 150, curative, to validate section of the criminal code, relating to selling or allowing to run at large diseased animals.

Senate file No. 149, curative, to validate section of the criminal code, relating to the spreading of disease among sheep.

Senate file No. 154, curative, to validate section of statutes, relating to duties of consolidated railroad companies.

Senate file No. 155, curative, to validate section of criminal code relating to aiders and abettors of prize fighting.

Senate file No. 156, curative, to validate section of criminal code, relating to carrying of concealed weapons.

The committee then arose and reported at 11:55.

Senator Van Dusen moved adjournment until Monday at 11 a. m.

Senator Talbot believed it the duty of the senate to proceed to the hall of the house and hold a "joint convention."

Senator Newell wished to know the whereabouts of "the other part of the joint."

The other part of the joint, said Senator Talbot, made no difference. It was the duty of the senate to proceed to the house and ballot for senator.

Senator Van Dusen thought that the proposed action might very much complicate matters. There might be a number of republican members there, he said, who would insist on their right to vote; they might all be supporters of a certain republican candidate, and proceed to elect him. This, in the senator's judgment, would certainly be most complicating in its effects.

Senator Hannibal thought it might be well to ascertain officially whether or not the house were in session.

The lieutenant governor announced that the proceeding of the senate to joint convention each day had heretofore been a voluntary, individual action, not a formal one on the part of the senate as a body.

Senator Talbot said that if that was true he was willing to adjourn, and the motion to adjourn until 11 a. m. Monday accordingly prevailed.

This (February 20) was the thirty-eighth day of the senate.

The following joint resolution was introduced by Talbot of Lancaster.

Resolved, by the legislature of the state of Nebraska, That the thanks of the state be hereby extended to the officers and men of the First Nebraska regiment, United States volunteers, for their gallant conduct on the field of battle, their courage in the presence of danger, and their fortitude in the hardships of camp and campaign.

Resolved, That we acknowledge with gratitude and joy the debt the state owes them by reason of the honor conferred upon it by their valor while defending in the far off Philippines the principles of our government and adding new glory to our flag. We pledge the honor of the state that to the living shall be accorded worthy distinction, and to the dead all that can be given the dead, a fitting memorial of their fame.

Resolved, That where all have done so nobly individual mention is well nigh impossible, yet the fresh blood of gallant officers shed in defense of our country's honor cannot be passed by without notice and to Captain Albert H. Hollingsworth and Lieutenant Burt D. Whedon, now suffering from severe wounds received at the head of their commands, we tender the sympathy of the entire state, and respectfully request their excellency, the governor, and all others in military authority to promote each of them in such degree as is consistent with military necessity.

Resolved, That these resolutions be transmitted by cable to the commanding officer of the First Nebraska with a request that they be read at the head of the regiment, and that a certified copy be also forwarded to such officer.

The resolution takes the course of a bill.

The senate went into committee of the whole, with Miller of Buffalo in the chair. S. F. 129, which was considered Saturday, was amended to include cities of 5,000 to 25,000, and recommended to pass as amended. This is the "city park" bill which extends park privileges to cities of the second class.

S. F. 39 is a bill to provide an entire new act to provide for the organization, regulation and government of life insurance companies transacting business upon what is known as the "stipulated premium" plan. The bill is a copy of the New York and Ohio law,

The stipulated premium companies are endeavoring to have uniform laws enacted in all states.

In the senate on the 21st the following bills on third reading were placed on their passage.

Senate file No. 141, providing penalties for injuries done to ornamental trees, vines, shrubs, etc. Passed.

Senate file No. 154, relating to duties to the public of consolidated railroads. Passed.

Senate file No. 75, relating to procedure in changes in boundary lines of school districts. Passed.

Senate file No. 151, relating to criers of sales under foreclosure of mortgage. Passed.

Senate file No. 143, relating to injuries done to trees belonging to another. Passed.

Senate file No. 152, relating to the duty of assessor in keeping a roster of veteran soldiers and sailors. Passed.

Senate file No. 36, authorizing the establishment and maintenance of public libraries in school districts. Senator Miller (fus., Buffalo) moved to refer the bill back to committee of the whole to strike out the provision that all books must be purchased from a list furnished by the state superintendent. He argued that school boards should not be bound altogether in their selection of books to this list. After considerable discussion on this point the motion to recommit was lost. The bill was then passed by a vote of 24 to 5.

The following bills were read for the third time and passed.

Senate file No. 156, curative to validate section 25 of the criminal code relative to the carrying of concealed weapons.

Senate file No. 150, curative to validate section 76 of the criminal code, relating to selling or allowing to run at large diseased animals.

Senate file No. 157, curative, to validate section 26 of the criminal code relative to unlawful assembly and riot against public peace and justice.

Senate file No. 153, curative, to validate section 140 of the criminal code, providing punishment for the adulterating of liquors or selling of same.

Senate file No. 149, curative, to validate section 15 of the criminal code relative to offenses in spreading disease among sheep.

Senate file No. 148, curative, to validate section 97 of chapter 16 of the compiled statutes, relating to the appraisal of damages done real estate by railroad right of way and the right of appeal therefrom.

Senate file No. 145, curative, to validate section 116 of the criminal code, relating to receiving stolen goods and concealing thieves.

Senate file No. 100, curative, to validate section 19 of chapter 23 of the compiled statutes relating to notaries' fees. Passed.

Senate file No. 53, curative, to validate section 4, articles 2 of chapter 17 of the compiled statutes, relating to elections for county division.

Senate file No. 155, curative, to validate section 8 of the criminal code, relative to the aiding and abetting of prize fighting. Passed.

The senate then adjourned until Thursday.

Several petitions favoring the pure food bill, the barber bill and the bounty on wild animal scalps were read and placed on file in the senate on the 23d. The Stock Feeders' Association presented a "resolution" endorsing the bill now before the legislature to reorganize the State Agricultural society.

The committee on privileges and elections reported a substitute for S. F. 38, allowing county judges compensation for appointing judges and clerks of election. The same committee reported S. F. 134 for indefinite postponement. The bill provides that counties shall pay one-half the expense of registration boards which sit for registration of electors at general elections. On motion of Newell of Cass its report was amended and the bill placed on general file.

A large number of new bills was introduced, this being the fortieth day of the session in the senate.

The chair named Noyes of Douglas, Barton of Johnson and Farrell of Merrick to take up the complaint of ex-Superintendent Gillespie, late of the deaf and dumb institute at Omaha, who desires a rehearing of the charges made against him on the ground that the "Mutz-Beal" committee two years ago denied him the privilege of defending himself against the charges.

The senate held a forty-minute evening session for the introduction of bills, this being the last day for that purpose in the upper branch. The following bills were introduced:

S. F. 336, by Steele, relating to labeling canned and preserved fruit and "The Boys' Military and Training School of the State of Nebraska," 450 provided for the three commissioners for Douglas county and having other provisions touching counties under township organization.

A bill to provide for the publication of school text books, and providing that contracts may be let to publishing houses outside the state and prices shall not exceed 80 per cent of the prices fixed by contract for books in operation January 1, 1899.

An act to amend section 4511 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, 1897, and to repeal said section 4511 as it now exists. Relating to roads, and providing that roads established by law and traveled ten years shall not be vacated or altered unless by petition signed by all the abutting land owners.

A bill for an act to repeal section 10 of chapter 26 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska. The section to be repealed is the one prohibiting county treasurers from serving more than two consecutive terms.

Standing committees reported as follows: House roll No. 438, placed on general file; house roll No. 194, placed on general file; house roll No. 85, indefinitely postponed; house roll No. 119, in-

deinitely postponed; house roll No. 394, indefinitely postponed; house roll No. 382, placed on general file; house roll No. 225, recommended for indefinite postponement by the committee, but the house ordered it to the general file; house roll No. 275, a bill for an act authorizing and directing the construction of a boiler, engine, coal and pump house at institute for deaf and dumb at Omaha, and appropriating the sum of \$6,200 for payment thereof, placed on general file; house roll No. 402, indefinitely postponed; house roll No. 281, a bill for an act to amend section 2 of chapter 50 of the compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1897 and to regulate the manner of publication of notice of application for license to sell liquor was recommended to standing committee.

The joint vote for United States senator resulted: Allen 36, Hayward 24, Thompson 9, Webster 8, Field 5, Reese 1, Adams 1, Hainer 1, Weston 1, Foss 1, Cornish 1, Lambertson 1; necessary to choice, 47.

H. R. 492, by Thompson of Clay, was taken up on third reading in the house on the 21st. This was the bill appropriating \$6,000 to distribute among the companies of the First regiment at Manila. A long time was spent in the roll call and one call of the house was taken to bring the members in to vote. The result of the vote on the bill was as follows: Yeas, 61; nays, 34. The bill having failed to pass with the emergency clause, a second roll call was had to pass it with that clause stricken out. The result of this roll call was 45 for and 50 against and the bill was killed.

S. F. 46, an amendment to the game law, was reported to be engrossed for third reading and this report aroused a discussion over the right of sportsmen to build blinds and kill geese along the sand bars of the Platte river. Loomis of Butler opposed the bill and did not want it rushed forward. Prince of Hall was in favor of the committee report and said that the law was demanded by the legitimate sportsmen of the state and was only opposed by the people who live adjoining the river who want a monopoly of the game killing. Burns of Lancaster was in favor of the bill because he knew that the birds sought to be protected were of the migratory sort and to allow promiscuous shooting along the river might scatter the game so that some of it would get down into other parts of the state. The report was finally modified and the bill went to the general file.

H. R. 250, by Taylor of Custer, to amend section 77a, "concerning registers of deeds and their salaries," of articles 1 of chapter xviii entitled "Counties and County Officers" of Compiled Statutes of 1897, was indefinitely postponed.

H. R. 124, by Olmstead of Douglas, an act entitled "Decedents," to provide that the widower of a deceased intestate shall be entitled to receive the same share of the residue of the said intestate's personal estate as a child of the intestate would be entitled to, was recommended to pass.

H. R. 106, by Clark of Lancaster, an act defining and determining the effect of conditions in fire insurance policies, making void the contract of insurance in case of a change in the title, ownership, interest or possession of the insured in the property which is the subject of insurance or liens created thereon and likewise conditions providing for a forfeiture of the contract of insurance in case notice of loss is not furnished within a time certain or in a prescribed manner, was recommended to pass.

The joint vote for senator resulted: Allen 56, Hayward 39, Thompson 10, Webster 10, Field 5, Weston 1, Reese 1, Foss 1, Van Dusen 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Cornish 1, Hainer 1.

Petitions were presented in the house on the 23d in favor of equal suffrage and others in favor of H. R. 421, the Hansen pure food bill.

Standing committees reported to the general file H. R. 421, 445, 501, 449, 468, 251, 191, 299, 285, 131, 268, 330, 327, 345, 182, 337, 377, 325, 413, 422, 496, 460, 433, 273 and S. F. 44. H. R. 413, the bill reducing the number of Lincoln justices of the peace from three to two, was ordered to third reading. H. R. 501 was made a special order for next Tuesday afternoon.

The following bills were indefinitely postponed: H. R. 339, 71, 358, 408, 504, 142, 450, 248, 284, 288, 317, 185, 262, 57, 361, 513, 48 and S. F. 69.

Of the bills indefinitely postponed by committee reports this forenoon H. R. 71 was Lane's bill permitting cities and counties to issue bonds to aid works of internal improvements. H. R. 48 was to establish a normal school at Wayne, 142 relates to commissioner districts, 185 was to establish a normal school at Norfolk, 248 and 284 were bills relating to county depositories, 288 fixed the limit of fees for clerks of the district court, 202 provided for the organization of mutual benefit and life insurance companies, 361 was to prevent the manufacture or sale of adulterated candies, 358 was an amendment to the law relating to illumination of a bounty for pocket gopher scalps, 408 was the bill changing the name of the Kearney institution to "The Boys' Military and Training School of the State of Nebraska," 450 provided for the three commissioners for Douglas county and having other provisions touching counties under township organization.

After the afternoon joint session had adjourned the motion of Wheeler of Furnas to allow the committee on other asylums to visit state institutions was taken up and passed.

At 3:30 the house went into committee of the whole on H. R. 444, the salary appropriation bill which had been made a special order for this afternoon. The first stop was made at the item fixing the salary of the governor's private secretary at \$1,500 per year. Weaver of Richardson moved that the figure be changed to \$2,000 per year, as has been allowed the past fifteen years.

Thompson of Merrick thought the proportion was good as fixed in the bill, and cited as argument the salaries of both governor and private secretary as allowed in a large number of states. Detwiler, who is a member of the committee bringing in the bill, took the grounds that the salaries would not be as amended before the salary in question could legally be made \$2,000. He did not favor low salaries, but believed the laws we have should be followed until they are repealed.

During the debate frequent references were made to a bill which has been introduced to repeal the old law and fix the salary of the governor's private secretary at \$2,000.

Weaver's amendment was finally agreed to.

Unsuccessful attempts were made to raise the salary of both the stenographer and recording clerk over the figures fixed by the bill. The bill was not disposed of at the hour of adjournment.

The joint vote for senator resulted: Allen 56, Hayward 39, Thompson 10, Webster 10, Field 5, Weston 1, Reese 1, Foss 1, Van Dusen 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Cornish 1, Hainer 1.

The resolution stating that ex-Superintendent Gillespie of the deaf and dumb institute had been unfairly treated by the legislative committee and asking for the appointment of a committee to reinvestigate, came up in the house on the 24th, and Olmstead of Douglas moved the appointment of a committee to act with the one already appointed by the senate.

The motion prevailed and the chair appointed Olmstead of Douglas, Milbourn of Kearney and Watson of Pierce.

When standing committees reported Slecke's bill, H. R. 332, to compel the building of fishways in all dams obstructing running streams, it came in for indefinite postponement. This stirred up a long discussion, in which the rights were upheld, both of the millers to maintain dams and of the sportsmen to catch fish. The report of the committee was adopted.

H. R. 442, the Olmstead game law, was also indefinitely postponed.

H. R. 86, by Weaver, to compel assessors to report regarding residences and ages of old soldiers in their districts, with compiled reports by county clerks, was indefinitely postponed.

The next bill taken up was H. R. 310, by Jansen, a bill for an act to amend an act entitled "An act creating the Nebraska Territorial Board of Agriculture, approved October 14, 1858, and all subsequent acts supplemental or amendatory thereto; to provide for the establishment, government, maintenance and support of the state board of agriculture, prescribing its duties and powers, making appropriations for its support and the payment of its existing indebtedness; and to repeal the act creating the Nebraska territorial board of agriculture, approved October 14, 1858, all subsequent acts amendatory or supplemental thereto, or in conflict with this act and sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of article 1 chapter 2 compiled statutes, as heretofore existing.

The discussion on this bill lasted until 5 o'clock, when the committee arose without having finished the consideration of the bill.

The debate against H. R. 310 was led by Sturges, who held that it was creating a private corporation under state authority and state expense. He also held that the feature in the bill providing for the gathering of statistics was useless and a usurpation of the powers of the labor bureau. The work could better be done by one state bureau. This led to an extended and at times acrimonious debate between Sturges and Jansen. Sturges was finally successful in getting this part of the bill stricken out.

Thompson of Merrick moved to strike the following section out of the bill:

Section 21. To pay off existing obligations of the Nebraska state board of agriculture for premiums unpaid, interest and other expenditures in connection with its work and duties for past three years, there be and is hereby appropriated the sum of \$6,216.78, the same to be paid on a detailed, itemized statement of indebtedness, by the secretary of the board, presented to the governor and by him approved.

Pending the consideration of this motion the committee arose.

The following vote for senator showed the following result: Allen 58, Hayward 39, Thompson 13, Webster 10, Field 6, Weston 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Hainer 1.

Ex-Gov. Holcomb on Passes.

The pass investigating committee asked ex-Governor Holcomb to testify, and on account of his confinement to his home by illness the following written statement was taken as his testimony:

Hon. W. A. Prince, Hon. T. F. Sturges and Hon. Louis Smithberger, committee to investigate charges made that state officers and state employes have collected mileage from the state while traveling upon free railroad transportation—Gentlemen: In response to the above resolution and to inquiries made by your chairman I beg to state for the information of the committee and the legislature that at no time during my incumbency of the office of governor has there been the slightest reason based upon any fact for even a "reasonable suspicion" that I had collected mileage from the state not actually by me expected in his behalf.

With the exception hereinafter noted I have at no time directly or indirectly collected or attempted to collect money to the amount of a farthing for mileage or money purported to be paid out for railroad fare or to meet any charge or pretext of a charge for whatever during my four years' term as governor of the state. Nor is there any record of any vouchers or other written memorandum purporting to be for mileage or any similar charge by me collected from the state.

I have paid during my term of office different sums of money for railroad fare and traveling expenses, which, in my judgment, would be proper charges to be collected from any proper fund, but I have not thought it best to so collect for such expenditures and have noted them as personal expenditures.

During September, last I visited Washington on different matters pertaining to the state's interest, and drew from the contingent fund of the governor's office the reasonable actual and necessary expense of such trip, including between \$35 and \$40 for railroad fare which was by me actually and necessarily expended in making such trip. At no other time or occasion have I recovered any sum whatsoever for mileage while I have been serving the state as its chief executive. I know of no further information that would be pertinent to the resolution mentioned. Respectfully submitted.

SILAS A. HOLCOMB.