

# WORK OF LEGISLATURE

## Senatorial Deadlock Has Tendency to Delay Business.

### SOME BILLS HAVE BEEN PASSED

#### New Measures Being Introduced from Day to Day—State Board of Agriculture Resolutions Relating to County Fairs—Miscellaneous Matters.

HOUSE—When the house was called to order on the 8th Sprecher of Colfax waived a reconsideration of the vote whereby house roll 90, by Wilcox, to require the union label on all state contract printing, was indefinitely postponed. After discussion the motion to reconsider was defeated by a vote of 44 yeas to 41 nays, it requiring a two-thirds vote to carry. The following bills were also read for the third time and placed on their passage: House roll No. 75, for the relief of a person owning real property having an insane husband or wife, and to empower such person to sell, mortgage or convey such property under power of the district court. With the emergency clause attached the bill was defeated by a vote of 57 yeas to 33 nays. The emergency clause was then stricken out by a vote of 57 to 34, and the bill thus amended passed by a vote of 58 to 30. House roll No. 2, by Lane, providing that in counties not under township organization having more than 60,000 and less than 125,000 population, county commissioners shall be elected at large. This is for the benefit of Lancaster county, whose population has decreased to less than 70,000, which, under the present statute, is the minimum, instead of 60,000. Passed with the emergency clause by a vote of 74 yeas to 13 nays. Among bills introduced was: For an act to provide for the compulsory education of children, for the employment of truant officers, for the proper education of such children as cannot properly be taught in the usual public, private or parochial schools, for the proper enumeration of persons of school age, for the punishment of persons violating the provisions of this act, and to repeal all acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act. The vote for senator resulted: Allen, 52; Berge, 6; Crouse, 5; Currie, 20; Hainer, 5; Harlan, 1; Harrington, 1; Hitchcock, 25; Hinshaw, 14; Kinkaid, 4; Meiklejohn, 29; Moran, 1; Martin, 9; Ransom, 3; Rosewater, 16; Sutherland, 1; Thompson, D. E., 34; Thompson, W. H., 28; Van Dusen, 1; Westover, 2.

HOUSE—The house on the 7th did not pass any measures, but quite a number of new bills were introduced. The investigating committee made the following report: "Any members of this house who have been requested to introduce bills of a character similar to those referred to by Representative Thomssen yesterday, February 6, will confer a favor by communicating the facts to this committee at once. Any street or steam railway, or sleeping car company, insurance, express, telegraph or telephone companies, bucket shops or dealers in lard or other food products who have received 'hold up' letters from persons, either members of this house or others, are requested to confer with this committee immediately." Bills placed on general file were: House roll 200, by Vandegrift, appropriating \$510.14 for the relief of Sherman county. House roll 292, by Evans, for the display of the United States flag on school houses. House roll 282, by Rohwer, relating to county superintendents. House roll 281, by Rohwer, to allow school children to attend the nearest school. House roll 15, by Crockett, relating to the collection of taxes. Among bills introduced was: House roll No. 336, by Smithberger (by request)—A bill for an act to tax life insurance companies organized outside of the state of Nebraska and to provide for the manner of paying such taxes and to repeal section 38 of chapter 77, entitled "Revenue," statutes of 1895, entitled "Revenue," so far as it relates to the taxation of life insurance companies. Taxes on non-resident companies, other than fraternal societies, 3 per cent on all premiums on Nebraska business. Senatorial vote: Allen, 55; Berge, 4; Crouse, 7; Currie, 22; Hainer, 5; Harlan, 1; Hitchcock, 12; Hinshaw, 13; Kinkaid, 4; Martin, 9; McCarthy, 1; Meiklejohn, 29; Moran, 1; Ransom, 35; Rosewater, 16; Sutherland, 1; Thompson, D. E., 34; Thompson, W. H., 11; Van Dusen, 1.

HOUSE—In the house on the 6th the following bills were passed: House roll No. 9, by Hathorn, to punish illegal voting in school district and village elections, by a fine of from \$25 to \$100 and imprisonment in the county jail for not more than three months; yeas, 77; nays, none. House roll 91, by Lichty, to provide for the printing of 2,000 volumes of each number of the supreme court reports, and fixing their selling price at \$1.50 each; yeas, 82; nays, none. House roll No. 25, by Coppe, to extend the liability of railroad corporations, was recommended for indefinite postponement by the committee on railroads. The bill in full is as follows: "Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of Nebraska: Section 1. Every railroad corporation shall be liable for all damages sustained by any agent or servant thereof by reason of the negligence of any other servant or agent thereof, without contributory negligence on his part, when sustained within this state or when such agent or servant is a resident of and his contract of employment was made within this state; and no contract, rule or regulation between any such corporation and any agent or servant shall impair or diminish such liability. Sec. 2. The terms agent and servant in this act shall include all agents and servants of railroad corporations and shall not be limited to those mentioned in section one, but shall extend to all agents and servants who are connected with the use and operation of railroads on or about which they may be employed. The term railroad here-in used shall include street railroads as well as other railroads. The report was adopted without division.

The committee on railroads also recommended for indefinite postponement house roll No. 39, by Fuller, making railroad companies answerable for the safe delivery of goods consigned to a point on the line of a connecting carrier. McCarthy of Dixon moved that house rolls Nos. 20, 214 and 215, the boundary commission bills, be passed over committee of the whole and ordered engrossed for third reading. The motion prevailed. The senatorial vote resulted as follows: Allen, 51; Berge, 7; Crouse, 7; Currie, 19; Hainer, 4; Harlan, 1; Hitchcock, 28; Hinshaw, 13; Johnson, Walter, 2; Kinkaid, 4; McCarthy, 1; Meiklejohn, 29; Miller, 1; Martin, 9; Moran, 1; Ransom, 7; Rosewater, 17; Thompson, D. E., 34; Thompson, W. H., 20; Van Dusen, 1; Westover, 1.

HOUSE—The house resumed work on the 5th, after adjournment from Friday to Tuesday. House roll 56, was read for the third time and passed by a vote of 73 yeas to 3 nays. The bill was introduced by Miskell of Saline, and makes important amendments to the law relating to the disposition of road funds. House roll 57, by Broderick, for the establishment of two state normal schools at a cost of \$100,000, to be located in the Fifth and Sixth congressional districts, was read for the third time and passed by a vote of 70 to 18. House roll 51, by Mead, making it a crime to threaten to charge any person with a crime, or to threaten to do him injury with intent to extort money or to compel him to do anything against his will, was passed by a vote of 79 yeas to 6 nays. Among bills introduced and read the first time were: A bill for an act to divide the state of Nebraska into senatorial and representative districts and for the appointment of senators and representatives. A bill for an act to amend sections 48 and 49, of chapter 81, entitled, "Breaking and entering buildings," of the criminal code of the compiled statutes of Nebraska of 1899, and to repeal said original sections, and to repeal section 52 of chapter 8, entitled, "Breaking and entering buildings," of the criminal code of the compiled statutes of Nebraska of 1899. A bill for an act to define and license merchants doing business in the state of Nebraska, and to provide for the filing of statement and a bond for the payment of taxes and fixing penalties for the violation thereof.

SENATE—In the senate on the 8th the measure to have the present law amended so that one-half of the wages of laboring men may be attached for bills for necessities was indefinitely postponed. This was on the recommendation of the judiciary committee, to which it had been referred. A similar measure was introduced in the house, but should it pass there it would doubtless be killed in the senate. The following were then placed on third reading and passed: Senate file 133, providing for the appointment of nine commissioners and such stenographers as are necessary by the supreme court. The commissioners are to receive \$2,500 a year and the stenographer \$1,000 a year. An emergency clause is attached. Senator Martin proposed an amendment directing that the commissioners be selected from the district bench, but withdrew it. It is understood that the amendment will be proposed in the house when the bill reaches that body. Senate file 27, providing imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty days or fined the amount of damage inflicted, for destruction or injury to personal property. Emergency clause attached. Senate file 31, providing punishment for indecent exposure of person or use of obscene or lascivious language. Emergency clause attached. Senate file 41, relating to duties of clerk of the supreme court. Among bills introduced was: Senate file No. 231, by McCargar—A bill to provide for an act for the compulsory education of children, for the employment of truant officers, for the proper education of such children as cannot properly be taught in the usual public, private or parochial schools, for the proper enumeration of school age, for the punishment of persons violating the provisions of this act, and to repeal all acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act. This is the measure prepared by the legislative committee of the State Teachers' association.

SENATE—The question of what shall constitute a legal newspaper for the purpose of publishing legal notices consumed the greater portion of the morning time of the senate on the 7th. Senator Owens introduced the bill some time ago, one of its provisions being that a paper must be published fifty-two consecutive weeks in a county before it can rightfully be used for publication of legal notices. This was amended in committee of the whole so as to read twenty-six instead of fifty-two. The same section met with prolonged discussion in committee of the whole the day before, and the amendment was declared lost by one vote. Today, after considerable wrangling, and after the committee took up the debated point again, Ransom moved to substitute twenty-six for fifty-two. Young opposed this, and then O'Neill, in reply, stated that he thought circulation should control instead of length of time a paper has been published. Senator Edgar also spoke in opposition to the amendment. It was declared carried on a rising vote, eighteen voting for it and the negative not being put. Senator O'Neill's bill relative to the duties of the clerk of the supreme court was recommended for passage. It is senate file No. 41, and provides that the clerk shall prepare the opinions of the court when he has sufficient material to form a volume of not less than 900 pages. Two thousand of these he shall deliver to the state auditor and draw from the state treasury \$150 for each volume. Amendments to the present law relating to soldiers' and sailors' homes, were recommended. The new law will permit veterans of the war of 1812, Mexican war, civil war and Spanish-American war, together with their widows or mothers, to be admitted to the state institutions after two years' residence in the state. This is senate file No. 92.

SENATE—The senate had a busy day on the 6th. More than a dozen bills were read for the first time, several for the second time and some were up for third reading, two of them being passed. Senate file 89, a bill by Eldridge, providing for appropriations for the purpose of purchasing cemetery sites, was reported for passage, and senate file 80, a bill by Ziegler, changing the time for the semi-annual publications of the statements of county treasurers, was favorably reported, without much discussion. Senate file 49, a bill by Owens defining a legal newspaper, was discussed, and before its final disposition was responsible for some caustic remarks from the members. The bill provides that before a paper may be designated as an official organ it shall have been published for fifty-two consecutive weeks. The bill was referred back to the committee. Senator Miller presented a petition signed by a number of literary societies and individuals asking for legislation and appropriations for the purpose of establishing traveling libraries in Nebraska. Senator Steele announced that he had a similar petition containing 300 signatures. The petition was referred to the library committee. A communication from the supreme court, relating to the questions asked that body by the legislature, was read to the senate. Senate file 20 and house roll 22 were favorably reported by their committees and placed on general file.

SENATE—The senate was in session but a little over two hours on the 5th, but succeeded in passing four curative acts and two bills, one providing for the sale of unclaimed goods by railroad companies, and the other for cutting of weeds by irrigation companies along their right of way. The following resolutions passed by the state board of agriculture asking for retention of the present law relating to county fairs was read and referred to the committee on agriculture. "We, the members of the state board of agriculture, seeing the need of more general knowledge of agriculture among the boys and girls of Nebraska, and believing that all teaching should be in the order, first concrete, then abstract, and that nature studies should be introduced into our county and village schools, respectfully ask the legislature to make such additional requirements for first, second and third grade and state certificates as will show the holder's fitness for teaching one or more studies in pure agriculture. Resolved, That it is the sense of the Nebraska state board of agriculture, in annual meeting assembled at Lincoln, January, 1901, that there should be made by the state legislature such appropriations for an exhibit of the agriculture and horticulture resources of Nebraska at the Pan-American exposition, to be held at Buffalo, as will be commensurate with the importance of Nebraska as an agricultural district of the country." Senate file No. 103, introduced by Currie and proposing amendments to the reform school law, was recommended for passage by the committee on reform school, and was thereupon placed on general file.

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

A radical change in the laws relating to the finances of Omaha is proposed by a bill introduced in the senate by Senator Martin on request of Senator Balbridge. It provides for the issuance of certificates of indebtedness, to be signed by the mayor and controller of the city, whenever they deem them necessary, these never to be sold for less than their par value, together with accumulated interest. They may draw as high as 5 per cent interest, but no more.

The house committee on plumbers and plumbing decided to report favorably on Uhl's bill, which provides for the creation of plumbers' commissions in towns of 25,000 population or over. The measure is intended for the protection of plumbers and to this end provides for the issuance of licenses to candidates who meet the requirements prescribed.

On motion of Attorney General Prout, the suits of the state against the Missouri Pacific and Rock Island railroads for alleged violations of the maximum freight rate law were continued by the supreme court until such time as he could satisfy himself as to the exact limitations of the federal court injunction of 1893.

Senator Cummins has introduced a bill, which, if passed, will create a new appointive office, that of state prosecutor. This official is to be appointed by the governor. He is to furnish a \$5,000 bond, and to draw a salary of \$1,500 a year, and he shall have all necessary and reasonable expenses paid in addition. It shall be his duty to investigate all fires supposed to have been of incendiary origin, and, in fact, to investigate everything of a criminal nature he believes to exist in the state.

With the signature of the governor affixed, the lawn known as house roll 88, relating to the method of drawing juries, goes on the statute book, and as it has an emergency clause it becomes of immediate effect. To all intents and purposes, and probably so far as the legislators who passed it know, the act is simply curative, correcting the wording so as to make it apply to Lancaster county under the new census, which has reduced its population below the limit of 70,000. The really important part of the measure, however, is that it works a complete change in the system of drawing grand juries, not only in Lancaster, but in Douglas county as well, by putting them on the same footing with petit juries.

Senator Balbridge's bill providing for the appointment of nine commissioners by the supreme court for assistance of the court, has been recommended for passage. These commissioners are to be appointed by the court by unanimous vote, and their offices are to continue for two years, unless the appointments are withdrawn in less time by unanimous vote of the court. Each is to receive a salary of \$2,500 per annum.

He who climbs needs watch where the ladder ends.

# BEET SUGAR INTERESTS

## Consideration of Laws that Are Now Pending in Congress.

### AS TO THE RECIPROcity TREATIES

#### Condition of the Sugar Beet Industry in Nebraska—Resolutions That Were Adopted—Miscellaneous Matters in Nebraska.

OMAHA, Neb., Feb. 11.—The Nebraska Beet Sugar association held a meeting at the Commercial club rooms. From out of the city there came M. R. Allen, president, Ames; W. G. Whitmore, Valley and James Walsh of Benson. A large number of the Omaha members were in attendance.

Mr. Allen in calling the meeting to order announced that its purpose was to consider laws now pending in congress which will affect the sugar beet industry. In a brief address he took up the question of the reciprocity treaties with tropical islands and countries now being considered and stated that in each case the sugar producers of the United States would be injured should the treaties be ratified. To the satisfaction of the members of the association he showed that where the tariff was reduced on raw sugar by a treaty it not only reduced the revenues of the government, but brought the sugar raisers of this country into competition with cheaper labor and the more advantageous climatic conditions of the tropical sugar plantations.

He then referred to the conditions of the sugar beet industry in the state, showing that for some things Nebraska is better situated for the successful cultivation of the crop than many other states which are now in advance of this state in acreage and field. The principal advantage possessed by Nebraska in this regard is because of its geographical situation with reference to the live stock markets. It has been demonstrated that the refuse of the beets after the sugar is extracted is one of the best materials for fattening stock. Referring to his own experience he said that at Ames at present his company is feeding 30,000 sheep which will be placed on the South Omaha market when they are fattened, and that until the food became scarce they were feeding a large number of cattle on the beet refuse.

The reciprocity treaty was discussed by the members present at length and at the conclusion of the discussion the following resolutions were adopted.

Resolved, That the reciprocity treaties with the British West Indies, if ratified by the senate will endanger domestic sugar production, an industry specifically promised the aid of the republican party.

Resolved, That the suspension of the Dingley law as to the payment of countervailing duties on sugar imported from Russia is not fair to domestic sugar and involves a risk of leading to a much wider application.

### FOR COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

#### Teachers' Legislative Committee Prepares Measure to Present at Lincoln.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 11.—The legislative committee of the State Teachers' association at a meeting agreed on an entirely new law to be substituted for the present one relating to compulsory education. One of its chief features is the requirement that all children between the ages of 7 and 14 years shall attend school two-thirds of the number of weeks school is held in the district where the child resides. In all districts other than city districts truant officers may be appointed by the board to see that the provisions of the act are enforced. In case the board shall fail to select a truant officer the director shall act in that capacity. Boards of education in cities shall appoint one or more such officers at their discretion.

A peculiar feature of the proposed bill, and one that will evidently prove fatal to the accomplishment of what it seeks, is lack of any punishment for parents or guardians who violate its provisions. The present law, subdivision 16 of chapter 79, is entirely repealed.

It is made the duty of the census enumerator each year to ascertain the date and place of birth of each child in the district, and he is empowered to administer an oath or affirmation to one from whom he desires information. Any person refusing to take such oath or affirmation subjects himself to a fine of not less than \$1 nor more than \$10.

### Planning G. A. R. Encampment.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Feb. 11.—John Reese of Broken Bow, department commander of the G. A. R. in Nebraska, and Major Wilcox of Omaha, senior vice commander, were in the city looking over the ground and ascertaining what arrangements have been made for holding the state encampment at this place during the first week in May.

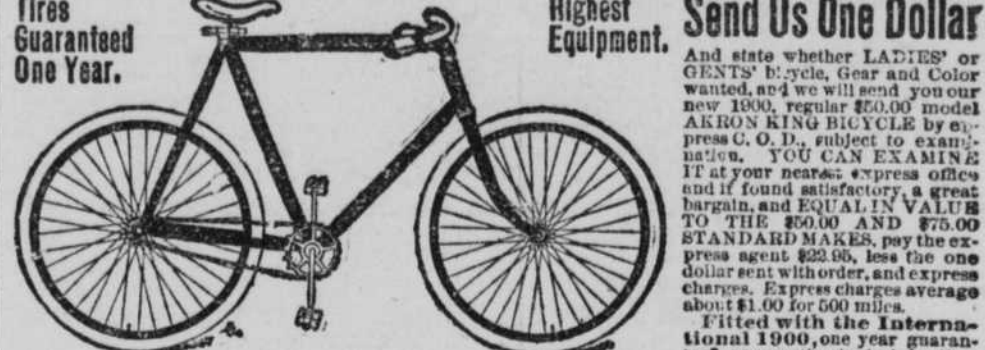
### Physical Culture in Schools.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Feb. 11.—The Plattsmouth turners are making effort to introduce physical culture into public schools and are meeting with good encouragement. The society is preparing to give a public exhibition in the near future.

### Insane Woman's Awful Act.

SEWARD, Neb., Feb. 11.—A German woman named Anna Marie Boll, who had been an inmate of the poor house for several weeks, committed suicide by cutting her throat with a pair of scissors. She went to an out-house and thrust the scissors through her neck, ripping a horrible gash in her throat, severing the windpipe and jugular vein, bleeding to death in a few minutes. When discovered a few minutes after the act was done the blood was running out under the door of the out-house.

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