

Work of the Nebraska Legislature

The bills of general interest passed by Nebraska's democratic legislature, which has just adjourned, are as follows:

- House Roll No. 1. Oregon plan of selecting United States senators.
- H. R. No. 36. Appropriating \$20,000 for the erection of a monument to Abraham Lincoln on the state house grounds.
- H. R. No. 80. Forbidding the use or sale of giant firecrackers or dynamite caps for Fourth of July celebrations.
- H. R. No. 89. Providing that the material and weight of binding twine be stamped on each ball together with the date of manufacture.
- H. R. No. 118. Providing for examining into the sanity of persons condemned to death by a board composed of the superintendents of the state's asylums for the insane.
- H. R. No. 127. Fixing penalties for advertising false pedigrees of animals.
- H. R. No. 131. Forbidding the intimidation of voters by threats of loss of employment.
- H. R. No. 140. Putting paints under the pure food law so that contents and ingredients must be labeled on the cans.
- H. R. No. 144. No judgment may be revived after it has lain dormant for more than ten years.
- H. R. No. 201. Providing for the vestment of title to homestead in minor children on death of parents.
- H. R. No. 242. Providing for the publication of campaign contributions fifteen days prior to election day.
- H. R. No. 374. Prescribing the number of men in a railroad train crew.
- H. R. No. 423. Guaranteed bank deposits law.
- H. R. No. 533. Providing for the admission of national banks to the benefits of the state guaranty fund.
- H. R. No. 192. Permitting railroad passes to be issued to the dependents of those employes who die in the service.
- H. R. No. 66. Providing for an annual grand jury in every county except where especially ordered otherwise by the court.
- H. R. No. 130. Providing that warehouse receipts shall be negotiable.
- H. R. No. 163. Providing that the attorney general may call on county attorneys for aid in criminal cases appealed from their counties to the supreme court.
- H. R. No. 358. Fixing the maximum freight rate on crude and fuel oil in carload lots.
- H. R. No. 464. Regulating the practice of professional accounting and providing for a licensing board.
- H. R. No. 474. Providing for licensing of dentists under the supervision of the state.
- H. R. No. 486. Making the branding of net weight compulsory on certain kinds of goods—products of wheat and corn—and allowing the manufacture of bleached flour.
- H. R. No. 578. Regulation of the issuance of stock and bonds by corporations under the supervision of the state railway commission.
- Senate File No. 136. Memorial asking coning congress to appropriate \$500,000,000 for harbors and waterways.
- S. F. No. 159. Forbidding the organization of fraternities in high schools.
- S. F. No. 65. Requiring clerks of district courts to furnish divorce statistics to state board of health.
- S. F. No. 130. Decrees of divorce to become effective in one year.
- S. F. No. 315. Providing pension for teachers in the cities of the metropolitan class after they have served thirty-five years in the profession and twenty-five years in the particular city from which the pension is to come.
- S. F. No. 71. Reciprocal demurrage law.
- S. F. No. 95. Railroads must pay damage claims within sixty and ninety days under penalty.
- S. F. No. 18. Establishes an osteopathic examining board.
- S. F. No. 143. Requiring railroads to equip depots with telephones.
- S. F. No. 408. Stock issued by corporations to be void unless authorized by the railway commission and preventing the issuance of watered stock.
- S. F. No. 152. Authorizing regents of state university to establish a school of citizenship.
- S. F. No. 123. Authorizing accident insurance companies to pay old age indemnity.
- S. F. No. 262. Providing for the branding of

milk cans and making it unlawful for any but the owners to use them.

S. F. No. 10. Providing an annual state occupation tax to be paid by corporations on capital stock. Tax ranges from \$5 for \$10,000 capital stock to \$200 for \$2,000,000 capital stock.

S. F. No. 81. Forbids the sale of liquor on railroad trains, except in dining cars.

S. F. No. 109. Establishes the open primary law and allows voters to write in names on ballot. Candidates to select committeemen and committees to select state delegates for state convention (to write platform) to be held prior to the primaries.

S. F. No. 240. For cleanliness of bakeries, packing houses, creameries, groceries and other places where food is prepared.

S. F. No. 100. Forbidding political parties to nominate candidates for judges, regents of the state university, state superintendent of education, or county superintendent of schools. All such candidates must go on the ballot without party designation and be placed there by petition.

S. F. No. 225. Forbidding non-resident agents to write fire, accident and fidelity insurance policies.

S. F. No. 133. Providing for the physical valuation of railroads and other companies.

S. F. No. 283. Daylight saloon bill. Fixing hours from 7 o'clock a. m. until 8 p. m. throughout the state.

S. F. No. 235. Providing for the indeterminate sentence of persons convicted of certain felonies.

NEBRASKA'S DAYLIGHT SALOON LAW

In the enactment of a law providing that all saloons must close by 8 o'clock p. m.—opening no earlier than 7 o'clock a. m.—Nebraska has taken the lead in conservative temperance legislation. It is distinctly to the credit of this great state that it is the first to enact a law so in keeping with the calm, intelligent thought of the country. It is distinctly to the credit of a democratic legislature that a daylight saloon law is among the important reforms brought about through its deliberations and Governor Shallenberger is to be congratulated upon having given it his approval. It may well be believed that the thorough enforcement of the daylight saloon law will result in such good to society, to the state and to all the cities thereof that even many who now bitterly oppose it will be brought to realize its excellence.

Letters From the People

L. E. Perkins, Denver, Colo.—I would like to see The Commoner re-open the fight for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1.

R. Stillman Doubleday, Brooklyn, N. Y.—Is it not evident that the American voter has not kept pace with the cunning or wisdom of his exploiter, and that he needs to be educated out of his indifference, prejudices and mental lethargy and into a realization of his duty and his personal responsibility for the existence and persistence of every civic injustice and enormity that exists with the sanction of this United States government? He should educate himself into knowledge of righteous government and the way to secure it. Such education is my need and yours—it is the universal common need.

James K. McGuire, Syracuse, N. Y.—The Italian shoe shiner, near our New York office, said to me shortly after election: "Me democrat, but vote for Taft. 'Why,' customers say: Tony, bad business, more hard times Bryan, much good times Taft; so Tony votes, more business, more shines." An Italian laborer at Camillus, N. Y., near here makes his wedding depend on the defeat of Mr. Bryan. Another draws out \$600 from the savings bank before election, ready to return to Europe in the event of Bryan's election, redeposits the money the day after election. I know personally of fifty men, at least, mostly union workers, who believed they would find themselves out of employment after election if democracy triumphed. "What fools these mortals be."

Dr. J. M. De Velling, Ridgeland, Miss.—I was very sorry November 4, 1908. But I am now glad. Why? Because Bryan would have been caused to suffer the equal tortures of Galileo. The people are not yet ready for Bryanism.

Neither were they ready for Galileo's copernicussism.

Dr. M. E. Johnson, Pittsburg, Kan.—This is a pocket book age not a conscience age. The great wonder is that we do as well as we do, with apparently nothing but defeat and only expense and finally humiliation for our reward. God alone can explain why there are so many brave and conscious voters who will come up year after year for their whole life and vote our ticket only to be defeated.

D. A. Daniels, Friendship, N. Y.—I used to think as Mr. Bryan does when he says he believes like Lincoln in the "plain people." I used to but I have about come to the conclusion that about nine out of ten are "fools." When they know just how things are, they had rather have the "promise" of a day's work now than "eternal salvation hereafter." They live so near the hunger line that a promise of a day's work does the "business." The democratic party can never win when a few traitors can sell a whole state like New York. This state should always be democratic and would be but for deals and sell outs. In my opinion the same deals that sold this state, were accomplished the same way and the same time that the middle west states were fixed.

L. C. Long, St. Paul, Minn.—I served three years in the union army under a colonel who was a West Pointer and a democrat. He taught me never to consider myself whipped as long as there was a chance for another fight.

Stephen G. Price, Marshall, Mo.—Some plan must be devised to have our circulating medium free from any commodity value or any other value save a representative value, such as a piece of paper upon which a deed is written. The paper has no value yet as a deed it carries with it the value of the property it represents, no more no less. Human ingenuity thus far has failed to provide such a circulating medium and until this is done genuine democracy can not thrive except in the formative period of a nation. Graft and commercialism will ultimately undermine all ideas of equal rights, patriotism, morality and in fact spirituality.

"A COMIN' AND A GOIN'."

The Sioux City (Iowa) Journal says: "With the confidence of both the public and 'the big interests' the Taft administration should be in advantageous position to make progress." Does the editor of the Sioux City Journal really believe that progress under such conditions will be substantial so far as public interests are concerned?

"RATHER A CHILD"

Rather a child would pray for me
Than some one in a marble shrine,
For the love that lips at a mother's knee
Is so wondrously fair and fine
That the words go straight and the words go far
With a grace that they have alone—
Go out and onward past star and star
Till they tremble unto the throne.

Rather a child should lisp my name
In a blessing when comes the night
Than to hear it breathed while the candle flame
Lends the altar a holy light,
For the shrill-sweet voice of a child can rise
On the mystical wings of love
And cleave the silence beyond the skies
To the listening ear above.

The bedtime prayer, the white, white gown,
And the light that is low and dim,
The fair, wee head that is bowing down,
And the message sent up to Him!—
Then you know somehow that the pure child-heart
Is anear to the Soul of Things;
For sighs that rack and for tears that smart
A Gilead-balm it brings.

Wonderful, too, the simple trust
Of the child in the boon it asks—
It can lift us up from the shreds and dust
With a strength to renew our tasks—
For a child asks not as we older ones,
But it asks with a heart that knows
The hand that fashioned the farthest suns
Lent the grace to the climbing rose.

Rather a child should pray for me
Than the godliest man on earth,
For the prayer made in the childish key
Is the prayer of greatest worth—
And I sometimes think that the good God sees
How we trust, and has gravely smiled
At the simple words and the bended knees
And the faith of a little child.
—Wilbur D. Nesbit in Chicago Record-Herald.