

**THE FRONTIER**

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**THE NEBRASKA SCENE**

By the Lowell Service

Lincoln, Nebraska — The death knell to the hopes of the teachers of Nebraska, hard-working, and many ill-paid, was sounded Wednesday when the unicameral legislature, by a vote of 23 to 17, defeated Dr. A. L. Miller's motion to countermand the recommendation of the education committee that the teachers' retirement bill be killed. A gallant battle for the measure was put up by Dr. Miller and L. L. Dunn of Lincoln. Among those opposing the bill, which would have permitted teachers to place 5 percent of their salaries in a trust fund, and when they retired, to draw out their savings and interest matched by a like fund from the state, were Von Soggen, Gantz, Herrick and Hastings.

The inner forces that direct the nation's gigantic road-building program indulged in a fierce, secret row at Washington during the last few days. Prominent highway officials, federal employees, and "big boys" in the contracting line were involved. Long-range dollar-matching is the theory on which disposition of funds is made. Nebraska is interested in this program and has already made 1940 plans. When the reports of the secret fight got out, the midwestern group of states brought pressure to bear which resulted in settling the fracas.

It looks as if irrigation development and flood control in the Republican river valley is now a certainty. Certain details in the plans of the projects did not suit PWA engineers. These had to be changed. While engineers wrangled and debated, the 1938 funds became exhausted. Now plans are in shape, many of the minor difficulties have been ironed out, and word comes from Washington that the next public works bill will carry funds for more work of this nature.

"The present primary law is doomed," declared Joseph T. Votava of Omaha, United States district attorney, before the government committee of the legislature Wednesday. "If the primary's friends won't change it, its enemies will." I recommend that the bill be amended to permit preferential convention endorsement of candidates, so voters will know which men were the first and second choice of the delegates."

After a narrow escape from indefinite postponement, the bill, L.B. 324, which would change Nebraska's primary election laws, was held over by the committee for further consideration.

Action was also delayed by the government committee on a bill to create a legislative comptroller to provide a year-round check on how money is spent by state departments and institutions. A bill like this, which was passed by the 1937 legislature, was vetoed by Governor Cochran, who declared it made a duplication of work of other departments. Frank Brady of Atkinson was its chief defender before the committee.

Some 341 aliens formerly on the rolls of the WPA in Nebraska have been dropped, according to announcement by Administrator D. F. Felton. He stated that about 2,000 more persons are now being employed in the state than at the beginning of the year, and that the total is now about 30,300.

Lieutenant Governor W. E. Johnson placed his signature most reluctantly on the bill placing assistance payments on a need rather than a population basis, and explained that he was singing under protest. He had held the bill for

a week after its passage by the legislature. It is his opinion that the bill is "unconstitutional." N. C. Vandemoer, assistance director, says that April assistance payments will necessarily be late, since the new bill requires lengthy checking of each caseload.

Abolishment of the Nebraska state railway commission and substitution of a public utilities commission of five members, to be elected by congressional districts is featured in the proposed constitutional amendment which has been approved by the legislative public works committee. Economy is one of the advantages pointed out by Dr. A. L. Miller of Kimball, sponsor of the amendment, since terms of officers would be reduced from six to four years, and annual salaries would be reduced from \$5,000 to \$3,000. Also the Third, Fourth and Fifth congressional districts are not represented on the present commission of three members.

During the week-end of March 17-19, the legislature will visit the Sutherland and Tri-County projects, as guests of the public districts. Two weeks ago they visited Columbus and the Loup River project; also the Genoa state prison farm. The legislative session has now lasted nine weeks, and 441 bills still await attention. Twenty bills have been passed, and 33 have been killed.

With revision, the first bill filed at this session of the legislature, the agrol bill, sponsored by Senator Sorrell, who declares that it will bring prosperity to the state, has at last been reported out of the agricultural committee. It provides that all motor vehicle fuel sold in the state after Jan. 1, 1940, shall contain a blend of not less than 10 per cent of ethyl alcohol manufactured from agricultural products provided that such products are available. The department of agriculture is made the judge.

Preference to all bills carrying appropriations was the watchword decided upon by the Nebraska legislature on its return from its four-day vacation. On or before March 20, committees which have such measures before them must take

action upon them.

The appropriations committee has offered two emergency assistance bills which may soothe the big headache of the legislature — the assistance problem. LB 493 would re-appropriate to the state department balances which are unexpended and lying idle in a number of counties because of allocations on a population, rather than a need basis. LB 494 would appropriate \$300,000, coming from excess revenue derived from liquor, per capita, estate and gasoline taxes, immediately to state assistance. This would bring the total current biennial state appropriation for assistance to \$7,800,000.

"If this insurance investigation could be continued for two years, it might result in bringing back several millions of assets illegally taken from the state," declared Dr. A. L. Miller of Kimball, chairman of the legislative committee which is conducting an insurance investigation. "So far, we have found twelve companies which are writing health and accident insurance policies in Nebraska, and which have combined assets of less than \$600."

The legislative appropriations committee Monday deferred action on two bills, each appropriating \$20,000 for the education of children. One was LB 53, in regard to the education of children of army men stationed in Nebraska. The committee decided to delay action until they could find out whether the federal government could finance the education of these children. The other was LB 474, in behalf of education for physically handicapped children, and here, likewise, it was decided to find out whether local districts, instead of the state, might bear at least a part of the cost.

"I am greatly concerned," Charles E. Sandall, state director of the Nebraska Brewers' and Beer Distributors' association, said Monday in Omaha, "by charges that Omaha tavern proprietors are guilty of alleged sales to minors by liquor operators in Omaha and the surrounding vicinity, and I will order beer supplies discontinued to any retailer guilty of such a charge."

In reply to an inquiry from County Attorney Andrew D. Mapes of Norfolk, Attorney General W. R. Johnson has issued an opinion which states: "Whenever any non-resident shall fall sick, it shall be the duty of the county board to furnish such temporary assistance to such person as they shall deem necessary."

The annual battle against grasshoppers will be in full swing by April, according to O. S. Bare, state entomologist and director of the anti-grasshopper campaign. The first hatching is expected about that time, Bare said. He stated that though an egg-count last fall showed a slightly decreased infestation as compared with that of the previous year, a campaign would be necessary in every county.

A probe of the operations of the First Mortgage Acceptance corporation in Gage county is to be made

**BRIEFLY STATED**

Mrs. John Dailey and Miss Theresa Congely returned Sunday night from Omaha where they had been on business and visiting relatives.

Owen McPharlin of Omaha arrived in O'Neill on Tuesday to visit his mother, Mrs. Augusta McPharlin, and on business.

W. J. Froelich came out from Chicago for the week end last Friday and returned to that city on Monday afternoon.

A marriage license was issued in county court last Tuesday to Robert Calvert and Miss Geraldine Yarnall, both of this city.

Robert E. Stevens and Miss Delores Clark, both of Inman, were granted a marriage license in the county court Wednesday.

Mrs. O. A. Kilpatrick and daughter, Nadine, drove to Orchard last Friday, where they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Hill.

Frank Wadsworth of Pismo, Beach, Cal., is visiting at the farm home of his aunt, May McGowan, northeast of O'Neill.

Miss Mary Lois Hammond and Miss Helen Sullivan left Saturday for Omaha where they planned on visiting friends until Tuesday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Planck, of Spearfish, S. D., who have been here visiting Mrs. Planck's mother, Mrs. Delia Shaw, returned to their home on Monday.

The Seniors of the O'Neill High School are presenting their class play at the K. C. Hall next Wednesday night. The admission fee is 25 cents.

Mrs. Helen Simar drove to Bassett on Thursday, where she attended a luncheon and party given in honor of Mrs. Bob Hueston of that city.

under direction of the office of the attorney general, it was recently announced by Attorney General Johnson. Assistant Attorney General Rush Clarke, who has been helping in the office of the Douglas county attorney, went from Omaha to Beatrice last week to take charge of the investigation.

The passage of LB 238, the bill which would give to the state board of control power to set minimum qualification standards for the technical assistance workers of the state and county, was earnestly urged upon the legislature by Governor Cochran in a recent Sunday radio address. "The legislature can adopt this bill and give Nebraska the benefit of a federal grant for the state assistance program," said the governor, "or the legislature can refuse to adopt this bill at the regular session, and let the state carry the entire burden of old age assistance and related activities unless and until such provision is made at a later session. The policy of having the state set qualifications for technical workers is not new. This bill is not only sound in principle, but also it is in harmony with the settled public policy of our state. Briefly, this policy simply calls for the hiring of qualified people in the public service, in the interest of good administration and economy."

**MEEK AND VICINITY**

Will Devall and Walter called at the home of Rouse Brothers Friday morning.

Harold Young is staying at the Griffith home while Mrs. Griffith is in the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hubby called at Howard Rouses' Wednesday evening.

Frank Griffith was an overnight guest at Rouse Brothers, Wednesday evening.

Melvin Johring visited at Eric Borgs' a-while Saturday evening.

Harold Young visited at Rouses' Saturday afternoon.

Dinner guests at Eric Borgs' Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rouse, and sons, Mr. and Mrs. George Hansen and son, Gerald, and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hubby called there in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Searles and children called at the A. L. Borg home Sunday evening.

Delbert Rouse has been on the sick list the last week.

Thelma, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Young, has had a severe attack of tonsillitis, but is some what improved at this time.

Rouse Brothers made a business trip to Atkinson Tuesday.

Mrs. Ida Roberts returned to her home at Hendley, Nebraska on Thursday, having spent the past two months visiting at the home of her sister, Mrs. Charles Yarnell.

G. E. Burge was down town last Monday for the first day for several months. Last fall Ed was compelled to go to Omaha and he spent the winter in a hospital there, returning home about three weeks ago. After his return he was taken with a throat infection and was confined to his home for three weeks. He is all right now and his foot, which caused his original confinement in the hospital, is O. K. so Ed is now ready and anxious to get back to work.

**The Weather**

Last Monday was one of the balmy days of the winter and many farmers were out in the fields. It changed on Tuesday, however, and a blustery northwest wind blew most of the day and it was rather chilly, with flurries of snow. Wednesday was also a chilly day, with occasional snow flurries and the weather forecast for today and tonight is somewhat colder in this section of the state and warmer on Friday.

Following is the temperatures for the week:

	H	L
March 9	38	20
March 10	62	29
March 11	61	31
March 12	63	24
March 13	65	36
March 14	58	18
March 15	28	11

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