

OUR LAW MAKERS. TWENTY-FIFTH SESSION AT WORK.

A Condensed and Concise Report of the Work Accomplished During the Past Week—Brief Notes of the Session's Doings.

IN THE SENATE.

Monday, January 17.

The senate held a short session this afternoon.

The introduction of a concurrent resolution requiring an enforcement of the trust law was the first business to come before the senate.

Senator Dearing of Cass proposed a resolution to prevent combinations between elevator and grain merchants.

The resolution will have to be read in each house three times and take the same course as a bill.

Senator McGinn proposed a motion to enforce the rule which requires standing committees to report on a bill within four days unless special time is granted.

The senate adjourned after remaining in session long enough to permit the first reading of house roll No. 53, the legislative salary appropriation bill.

The following bills were introduced: S. F. No. 7, by Graham—To amend sections 2, 3, 6 and 7 of an act entitled "An act to provide for the depositing of state and county funds in banks," approved April 8, 1891, and to repeal said original sections.

S. F. No. 78, by Steele—To amend section 4722 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, 1886, relating to attendance of pupils in an adjoining school district.

S. F. No. 79, by Ritchie—To promote the independence of voters at public elections; to enforce the secrecy of the ballot; and to provide for the printing and distribution of ballots at public expense, said act provides for what is known as the blanket ballot.

S. F. No. 80, by Grothan—To regulate stock yards, and to provide a penalty for the violation thereof.

S. F. No. 81, by Grothan—To amend title 2 of the code of civil procedure, relating to counter claims.

S. F. No. 82, by Grothan—To amend title 11 of the code of civil procedure, relating to the setting-off of mutual judgments.

S. F. No. 83, by Grothan—To amend title 14, of the code of civil procedure, relating to executions.

S. F. No. 84, by Grothan—To amend the code of civil procedure, relating to pleading of judgments, by adding to title 7 thereof.

S. F. No. 85, by Gondering—To amend section 206 of the criminal code of the state of Nebraska, being section 8669 of the compiled statutes of Nebraska, of 1886, relating to indecent exposure and obscene language.

S. F. No. 86, by Ransom—To prohibit city and county officers from purchasing village, city and county warrants, or the bills against villages, cities or counties during their term of office, and imposing penalties for a violation thereof.

S. F. No. 87, by Kutz—To provide for full net weight and measures in all packages and receptacles held in original packages in Nebraska, and to punish offenders.

S. F. No. 88, by Ransom—To authorize the county commissioners of Douglas county to plat certain lands into an addition to the city of Omaha, and to execute valid deeds of conveyance for any portion of lands heretofore sold or attempted to be sold by said county.

S. F. No. 89, by Ransom—To repeal chapter 8, compiled statutes of 1885, entitled "Assignments."

S. F. No. 90, by Ransom—To amend section 61 of the code of civil procedure, relating to change of name.

S. F. No. 91, by Howell—To amend the Omaha charter.

S. F. No. 92, by Ransom—Licensing and regulating pawn brokers, dealers in second-hand goods, and junk dealers, and providing penalties for violation thereof.

Tuesday, January 19.

The senate spent some time today in discussing a resolution by Senator Graham to visit the normal school at Peru for the purpose of investigating the recent fire and the needs of that institution. Senator Murphy of Gage offered as a substitute a resolution requiring the committee to visit Beatrice also, and report on the advisability of removing the school to Beatrice.

Both resolutions were laid over one day.

The resolution by Senator Dundas to reduce all state and county salaries 20 per cent was tabled.

A concurrent resolution was introduced by Senator Ransom of Douglas instructing United States Senator Thurston to advocate and vote for all measures tending to bring about free coinage of silver, bimetalism and an abandonment of the existing gold monometallism.

The following bills were introduced: S. F. No. 103, by Senator McGinn—To amend section 38, chapter 73, compiled statutes of 1890, in regard to assignments and mortgages.

S. F. No. 74, by Senator Beal—Authorizing county treasurers to invest not to exceed 75 per cent of the county sinking fund in registered warrants of the county at their face value.

S. F. No. 95, by Senator Dearing—To regulate the manufacture and sale of cider.

S. F. No. 96, by Senator Dearing—To regulate the manufacture and sale of vinegar.

S. F. No. 97, by Senator Dearing—Making it unlawful to use money and requiring candidate to file an itemized statement of his legitimate expenses.

S. F. No. 98, by Senator Watson—Amending section 1, article 1, chapter 77, compiled statutes of 1897, entitled "Revenues."

S. F. No. 99, by Senator Watson—To provide for the commissioning of graduating officers of the military department of Douglas college.

After the noon recess the senate listened to a very cordial invitation from the chancellor of the state university to attend charter day exercises on February 16.

The special order of the day, consideration of the governor's message, was deferred until next Tuesday when the message could be placed before members in printed form.

Adjourned.

Wednesday, January 20.

The senate acted this morning on the Graham resolution authorizing the committee on university and state normal school to visit the normal at Peru in order to investigate the recent loss by fire and the needs of the school, particularly a proposition to rebuild the destroyed dormitory. Senator Murphy's substitute authorizing the committee to visit Beatrice with a view to removing the normal to that place, was also considered.

A bitter discussion followed, the matter finally being disposed of by empowering the committee to visit Peru and report on all matters of interest.

The following new bills were introduced:

S. F. No. 100, by Senator Watson—For imposing a tax of one-half of one per cent on state banks and to create a fund from the revenue thus derived for the purpose of paying depositors of insolvent state banks and other banking institutions, except national banks.

S. F. No. 101, by Senator Lee—To amend sections 39 and 40 of chapter 73, compiled statutes of 1890, entitled "Decedents."

S. F. No. 102, by Senator Graham—Amending the act defining a legal newspaper.

S. F. No. 103, by Senator Graham—To amend section 342, statutes of 1886, relating to organization of county agricultural associations.

S. Ps. 104-106, by Senator Gondering—Relating to protection of fish and game.

S. F. No. 106, by Senator Mutz—For inspection of stock in stock yards.

S. F. No. 112, by Senator Talbot—To repeal the old grasshopper law.

S. F. No. 113, by Senator Talbot—Relating to disinterment, or otherwise mutilating or interfering with dead human bodies.

S. F. No. 115, by Senator Mutz—To permit arbitration in cases before a justice of the peace.

S. F. No. 116, by Senator Murphy—To fix salaries of commissioners in counties having 70,000 inhabitants at \$1,000 a year.

S. F. No. 118, by Senator Dearing—To prohibit the manufacture, sale, keeping for sale, giving or handing to any person, cigarettes or material for their composition, and to provide a penalty for the violation thereof.

S. F. No. 119, by Senator Caldwell—Providing for the purchase and display of flags in connection with public school buildings.

Joint Resolution No. 3, by Senator Peitz—To congress relating to the disfranchising of citizens on account of sex.

Thursday, January 21.

In the senate this morning the committee on revenues reported back for passage S. F. No. 4, which went to the general file.

Senator Beal called up his resolution of the previous day relative to the limiting of appropriations to those for the benefit of the whole state, which was considered to be a slip at the exposition appropriation bill. The senators engaged in a very warm and lively discussion over the resolution, and finally tabled it.

Senator Watson offered a concurrent resolution calling upon congress to work to secure free coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1, without waiting for the consent of any other nation.

Lieutenant-Governor Harris signed H. R. No. 53, the legislative salary bill.

The judiciary committee reported favorably on senate files 6, 12, 13, and 14. They were placed on general file.

Among the seventeen new bills introduced were:

S. F. No. 132, by Senator Grothan—Authorizing the appointment of a state printer and stationer.

S. F. No. 134, by Senator Miller—To make all railroad tickets and mileage books sold good in the state of Nebraska.

S. F. No. 135, by Senator Dundas—To repeal an act entitled "An act to provide for the payment of bounties for the destruction of wild animals in the state of Nebraska," laws of 1877.

S. F. No. 140, by Senator Dundas—To repeal an act entitled "An act to provide for the destruction of grasshoppers," laws of 1877.

S. F. No. 141, by Senator Dundas—To amend section 189, chapter 19, of the criminal code, compiled statutes of 1886, so as to make it a crime for any member of a corporation to attempt to coerce voters.

The senate resolved itself into committee of the whole after the noon recess for consideration of bills on general file, Senator McGinn in the chair.

S. F. No. 4, by Senator Caldwell, providing for the assessing of property by county assessors, was the first bill taken up.

The bill provides that the owner of property on the first day of February of any year be liable for taxes of that year.

After ineffectual attempts to amend and to indefinitely postpone, the bill was sent back to the committee on revenue for amendment.

Senate file No. 14, by Senator Ransom, reducing the number of county commissioners from five to three, in counties having five, was considered and recommended for passage.

The report of the committee of the whole was adopted without debate.

Senator Talbot's resolution that the committee on revenue prepare a bill to compel counties to pay to the state taxes collected and held by county officers, met with opposition and was defeated by a vote of 19 to 9.

Adjourned.

Friday, January 22.

Several petitions relating to various subjects were read in the senate this morning.

Senator Ransom from the committee on labor reported favorably on S. F. 46 to compel street railway companies to protect motormen by equipping cars with vestibules. Placed on general file.

Senator Dundas of Nemaha offered a resolution for the purpose of keeping lobbyists off the floor of the senate and for the enforcement of better order while the senate is in session. Carried.

Senator Watson's joint resolution instructing the Nebraska delegation in congress to vote for the passage of a free coinage act was advanced to a second reading and referred to the committee on federal relations.

Eight more bills were introduced. One to provide penalty for disturbing literary or other meetings. To authorize county judges to select clerks in counties having 25,000 or over; to require railroads to mow right of way; to provide for board of examiners of railway telegraphers; to provide for agricultural statistics; to prohibit employment of telegraphers under 18.

Adjourned to Monday at 2 p. m.

Single Stalls for Cows.

Single stalls are better for cows, as the danger of one stepping on another's teats and injuring or wholly destroying them is avoided. The cows are kept cleaner when in single stalls. The usual width of the stall is four feet. One inch slope in the floor from the head of the stall to the gutter is sufficient. The length of the stall depends on the size of the cow, and as some are larger than others it is common to make the floor wider at one end than the other, and thus have a regular gradation by which the small and large cows may all be accommodated. The length of floor given is the clear space between the manger and the gutter. If the floor is too long the cows will not be kept so clean as if it is of such a length that the hind feet come at the edge of the gutter.—Mirror and Farmer.

Few men really know when they are well treated.

The more you talk about business being poor the worse you make it.

Public men learn in time that it is better not to talk when they have nothing to say.

LEGISLATIVE DOINGS.

NEBRASKA REPRESENTATIVES AT WORK.

Summary of the Past Week—Bills Introduced, With Number, Author and Text—Committees—Plenty of Matter to Work On—Other News.

IN THE HOUSE.

Monday, January 17.

The house was called to order this afternoon at 2 o'clock with eighty-five members in their seats.

The members sought to dispense with the reading of the minutes, but as only sixty-two voted for the motion, made by Mr. Hile of Buffalo, it was declared lost. The journal was read for half an hour, when Mr. Roddy of Otoe moved that further reading be dispensed with. Mr. Wooster of Merrick thought there was no necessity of reading the journal when nobody heard it. The speaker said that any one who failed to hear the clerk to-day should certainly have an ear trumpet. The motion prevailed. The speaker then announced that in the future only one motion to dispense with reading the journal would be entertained.

The usual petition for sugar bounty appropriation was read.

Shull of Nemaha offered a resolution instructing the committee on university and normal schools to visit Peru at an early date and investigate the needs of the Peru normal school, as the dormitory of that institution burned recently, and report the matter to the house at an early date. Wooster was opposed to jaunting expeditions at the state's expense, but the resolution carried.

The speaker announced a meeting of the committee on school lands and buildings Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock in the Grand Army rooms in the capitol building.

Mr. Clark of Lancaster moved to adjourn and the motion carried.

The following bills were read for the first time:

H. R. No. 169, by Giffin—To prohibit and punish bribery in elections.

H. R. No. 170, by Giffin—To amend section 186 of the criminal code and to repeal the original section. The bill provides for the appointment of a state voter at state elections.

H. R. No. 171, by Giffin—To prohibit and punish the bringing of illegal voters into the state with the intent to have them vote therein.

H. R. No. 172, by Giffin—To amend section 189 of the criminal code, and to repeal the original section, relating to intimidation of electors.

H. R. No. 173, by Fouke—To amend section 6, of chapter 61, of the compiled statutes of 1886, and to repeal said act regulating powers of notaries public.

H. R. No. 174, by Wimberly—To create a public library committee, defining its duties and for organizing a system of traveling libraries for the state of Nebraska. A provision clause is incorporated in the bill.

H. R. No. 175, by Wheeler—To amend sections 2, 3, 6 and 7, of "an act to provide for the depositing of state and county funds in banks," approved April 8, 1891, and to repeal said original section. The bill provides that interest shall be credited up to the general fund and in its minor provisions is not dissimilar to other bills on the general file.

H. R. No. 176, by Straub—An act providing for the taxation of telephone companies and fixing penalties for false statements.

H. R. No. 177, by Straub—An act providing for the taxation of telegraph companies and fixing the penalties for false statements.

H. R. No. 178, by Straub—An act providing for the taxation of express companies and to fix penalties for false statements.

H. R. No. 179, by Straub—An act to tax life insurance companies and fixing penalties for false statements.

H. R. No. 180, by Straub—An act to tax fire insurance companies and fixing penalties for false statements.

H. R. No. 181, by Straub—To regulate the charges made for the use of telephone by all persons, firms, etc., engaged in the telephone business in Nebraska, and fixing a penalty for the violation thereof.

H. R. No. 182, by Straub—To regulate the charges of telegraph companies, and fixing a penalty for the violation thereof.

H. R. No. 183, by Jones of Nemaha—To authorize the organization of mutual insurance companies.

H. R. No. 184, by Horner—An act compelling all persons, companies, corporations or associations owning or operating irrigation ditches or canals anywhere in the state of Nebraska to keep cut down all the weeds that may be found growing on the right of way granted to them in which the ditches or canals are located.

H. R. No. 185, by Gaylord—To legalize the acts of the clerk of the county of Buffalo in issuing certificates upon the treasurer of said county for bounty claims on wild animals, and grey squirrels.

H. R. No. 186, by Welch—To insure correct weighing of coal, stock, grain or other heavy merchandise in cities of less than 5,000 inhabitants or villages, making the town clerk weigh inspector.

H. R. No. 187, by Straub—To amend section 562, of Cobby's consolidated statutes of 1891, and to repeal said section, and provide for switches connecting railroads at intersections of lines.

H. R. No. 188, by Cronk—An act barring an insane wife's dowry or husband's property, and interest of such insane party in the real estate belonging to the husband or wife by deed of his or her guardian, and the procedure therefor.

H. R. No. 189, by Phelps—To provide for the posting of election notices, amending sections 12 and 13, chapter 25, statutes of 1886.

H. R. No. 190, by Smith of Douglas—To amend the Omaha city charter. This bill is the Poppleton Omaha charter.

House rolls 147 to 168 were given a second reading and were referred to the proper committees.

No bills on third reading were ready for the house and this order of business was passed.

Tuesday, January 19.

Ninety-one members of the house were present today at roll call. On motion of Mr. Soderman of Phelps the reading of the journal was dispensed with.

A petition from sugar beet raisers of Grand Island for a bounty on sugar beets was read.

Mr. Webb of Custer offered a resolution passed by the supervisors of his county, favoring the investment of county sinking funds in outstanding county warrants. Referred to committee on ways and means.

The following bills were read for the first time:

H. R. No. 194, by Mr. Welch—To amend articles 16 and 19, chapter 7, of the compiled statutes of 1886, relative to the duties and salaries of county attorneys.

H. R. No. 195, by Mr. Webb—An act authorizing county treasurers to invest an amount not to exceed 75 per cent of the sinking fund in their respective counties in registered warrants of their county at their full value.

H. R. No. 196, by Mr. Shull—To appropriate \$20,000 to rebuild the dormitory of the state normal school located at Peru, Neb.

H. R. No. 197, by Mr. Stebbins—An act to promote agriculture on land under irrigation in the state of Nebraska.

H. R. No. 191, by Mr. McGee—To repeal section 24, 26 and 27 of chapter 4 of the compiled

statutes of Nebraska for 1886, fixing a bounty on wolves, coyotes and wild cats.

H. R. No. 192, by Mr. Rich—To amend section 3 of chapter 26, entitled "Elections."

H. R. No. 193, by Mr. Rich—To provide for the foreclosure of real estate mortgages and other liens upon mortgaged real property by action in the district court and to repeal certain sections.

House rolls Nos. 169 to 190, inclusive were read second time and referred to committees.

Mr. Jenkins of Jefferson asked why the committees had not taken some action in regard to the bills referred to them. The speaker answered that it was because Secretary of State Piper had not furnished bill files and that the printer refused to furnish printed bills till he knew the shape of the files which had been ordered.

The committee on claims appointed as clerk John B. Anderson of Holdrege.

Adjourned.

Wednesday, January 20.

After prayer by Chaplain Malley, reading of the journal was dispensed with on motion of Mr. Roddy.

Several petitions, asking that the legislature pay the sugar bounty claims, were read.

A petition from the W. C. T. U., asking for favorable action on bill for municipal suffrage for women, was read and referred.

Mr. Soderman of Phelps, from committee on claims, reported favorably on H. R. No. 4, for relief of Rebecca Perkins for wrongful appraisal of school lands. The bill provides relief to amount of \$127. It was the first to be placed on general file.

The committee on miscellaneous subjects reported back house roll No. 1 with the recommendation that it should pass. The bill is an act to repeal the free high school law providing that the county shall pay the tuition of students at high schools who live outside the high school district.

Speeches for and against the bill were made and a motion to indefinitely postpone action thereon prevailed, and Mr. Dobson's measure was snowed under, being refused a place on general file.

The committee on miscellaneous subjects had done a great deal of work for reports on a number of bills. It recommended that house roll No. 3, an act to repeal the sugar bounty law, be placed on general file with the recommendation that it pass. The report was adopted. House rolls No. 17, 30 and 33, bills relating to the same law, were recommended for postponement, as their provisions were similar to those in house roll No. 3.

The report was adopted.

House roll No. 32, an anti-cigarette law, was placed on general file with certain amendments.

Sheldon of Dawes submitted a resolution providing for a legislative committee to investigate the state treasury.

Mr. Grimes of Holt offered a joint resolution petitioning the United States congress to submit an amendment to the constitution of the United States for national woman suffrage.

The secretary of the senate announced that house roll No. 53, providing payment for the salaries of the legislators and employes had been passed.

Mr. Loomis of Butler, for committee on privileges and elections asked that committee be granted power to summon witnesses in the Douglas county contest case. A heated debate was had, but the power was finally granted.

In the afternoon house rolls Nos. 198 to 217 were read for first time. Several of the bills were for university buildings and improvements.

Joint resolution 216, by Mr. Sheldon, relating to examination of state officers. Joint resolution 217 is one petitioning congress to submit an amendment to the constitution relative to woman suffrage.

House rolls No. 169 to 190 inclusive were read for the second time and referred to the appropriate committees.

The people of Seward county, through their representative, Mr. Eager, presented a petition requesting the legislature to defeat house roll No. 93, the same being the exposition bill.

The house then resolved itself into committee of the whole for the consideration of bills on general file. Speaker Giffin called Mr. Jenkins of Jefferson to the chair.

The bill appropriating \$121 for the relief of Rebecca Perkins was passed.

In committee of the whole a long discussion arose over the bill to repeal sugar bounty law. The measure was thoroughly discussed by the members, and recommended for passage.

The committee then arose and the bill was passed by a vote of 58 to 33.

Adjourned.

Thursday, January 21.

In the house this morning the following bills were reported back and placed on general file.

H. R. No. 5, by Mr. Hull of Harlan—To recount the ballots cast on constitutional amendment relating to judges of supreme court.

H. R. No. 19, by Mr. Hull of Harlan—To make the superintendent of the Kearney reform school \$1,500, that of his assistant \$1,200, and of the warden \$900.

H. R. No. 29, by Mr. Soderman, to make the salary of the superintendent of the Omaha deaf and dumb institute \$1,500.

The committee on joint rules reported that the joint committee had agreed to report for adoption the joint rules of 1895, except the rule regulating call of the house, was amended so that a majority of both houses could suspend the call. Adopted.

Sixteen bills were introduced, among them being a county depository law by Mr. Hamilton; one to give the brick manufacturers' association \$2,000; to provide for sinking three artesian wells; to provide an additional wing at the Norfolk asylum; for collection of justices' fees on change of venue; to provide for uniform garnishment proceedings; to prohibit impeding or obstructing railroads; to prevent entering of railroad cars in the night time; to prevent climbing upon railroad cars while in motion.

Mr. Felker of Douglas moved that his anti-cigarette bill be referred back to committee to receive amendments. He explained that since drawing it up, the supreme court of Iowa had held unconstitutional a similar bill. Motion was agreed to.

House roll No. 5, providing for recount on constitutional amendment, was discussed by the republican side only. On motion of Mr. Hull of Harlan the bill was reported back to the house with the recommendation that it do pass.

House rolls 19 and 20, providing for reduction in salaries of officers and employes of state institutions was discussed in committee of the whole and

no definite action being taken thereon the committee arose and reported progress.

A communication from the secretary of state was read, saying that he could not buy postage stamps for the members till their salary and expense bill passed.

On motion of Mr. Rouse of Hall, representative hall was granted to the Nebraska beet sugar association this evening, Soderman alone opposing.

Adjourned.

Friday, January 23.

After prayer by the chaplain Mr. Hamilton of Butler presented a petition from his county asking the legislature to express itself in favor of the establishment of a high court of arbitration and against the increase of the standing army. The petition was referred to the committee on federal relations.

Secretary Maret announced that the governor had signed the salary and expense bill.

A resolution by Mr. Wooster of Merrick condemning the actions of those who had the hall the evening previous was tabled.

Twelve bills were introduced. Among them are:

H. R. No. 23, by Mr. Felker—To amend sections 5 and 8 of an act relative to public schools in metropolitan cities, making the school board appointive by the mayor.

H. R. No. 25, by Mr. Giffin—To prevent football playing in Nebraska, providing penalties for violation of the act and providing for