

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE LOWER BRANCH.

A Succinct Summary of the Past Week's Doings in the Nebraska House of Representatives—A Strictly Non-Partisan Review of the Proceedings.

Saturday, February 6.

In the house this morning petitions for and against an appropriation for the Omaha exposition were read and referred.

Mr. Clark of Richardson, chairman of the finance, ways and means committee, reported the exhibition bill with an amendment cutting the appropriation from \$350,000 to \$150,000. Placed on general file.

The following were among the new bills introduced:

H. R. 327, by Mr. Gaffin—To regulate convict labor and provide for the employment of the same by the state upon the public highways of the state, and to prevent competition between convict and free labor.

H. R. 418, by Mr. Yaiser—A bill for an act to provide for a 3-cent railroad fare.

H. R. 423, by Mr. Liddell—Relating to the state penitentiary and providing for the manufacture of certain articles, etc.

The house went into committee of the whole.

H. R. 166, to prevent desecration of the American flag, recommitted for amendment.

H. R. 185, to legalize certain acts of the county clerk of Buffalo county, to pass.

When the committee arose the report with recommendations was adopted.

After recess the house again went into committee of the whole and when H. R. 155, Mr. Grimes' bill for the submission of an amendment giving woman suffrage, was reached it brought on a fight in the committee.

Mr. Sheldon opposed the passage of the bill on the ground that it was not the proper time to submit the amendment.

The fusionists were divided on the subject, and only one republican, Mr. Roddy of Otoe, took part in the debate.

Mr. Roddy declared his position by saying that the bill was right, and that the only thing a member ought to ask himself was: "Is it right to do this thing?" If it is right then it should be done.

Mr. Wooster said he opposed woman's suffrage on general principles.

A motion to report back with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed, was declared carried.

When the house arose the report of the committee was read and the resolution was adopted.

Mr. Robertson moved to do up the report on this bill, and that it be ordered engrossed for third reading.

The roll call was demanded and the motion was lost, 32 to 23.

The house, without completing the acceptance of the report of the committee of the whole, adjourned until Monday at 10 o'clock.

Monday, February 8.

A quorum was not present at the morning session and a recess was taken until 2 p. m., when the speaker called the house to order and eighty members responded to roll call.

The first question before the house, taking up the business where it was left on Saturday night, was the consideration of the report of the committee of the whole on H. R. 155, relating to the submission of a woman's suffrage amendment to the constitution.

The report was for indefinite postponement.

A motion by Mr. Sheldon of Dawes to again refer the bill to committee on constitutional amendment was lost, and the bill was indefinitely postponed by the following vote:

YEAS—44.

- Billings, Groll, Prince, Sheldon, S. F. 119, requiring legal advertisements to be printed in clear type; S. F. 102, defining a legal newspaper to be one with a circulation of 200; S. F. 156, to eliminate the street railway pass for city officials; S. F. 199, relating to disposition of property of disbanded school districts; S. F. 203, allowing boards of education to provide transportation for high school pupils; S. F. 24, relating to salaries of county superintendents.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING—3. Dearing, Ransom, Steele.

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to make inquiry as to what foundation there may be, if any, for said reports and report their findings to this house.

A discussion arose over the adoption of the report of the conference committee as to a change in the amendments to H. R. 5, Mr. Pollard of Cass thought the amendments should be printed before the house acted on them finally.

The speaker held that this was not necessary and the vote was taken upon the adoption of the report of the conference committee, which had been made a moment before. The vote was 69 yeas, 23 nays. It was declared passed, the secretary of the senate having announced concurrence on the part of the senate.

Among the new bills introduced were joint resolution 442, by Mr. Wooster,

authorities from sending insane persons to other counties to get rid of the expense of committing them to the asylum; Mr. Hull's bill reducing salaries of county commissioners in counties of over 70,000 from \$1,800 to \$1,300; H. R. 145, by Mr. Soderman, to reduce salaries of county attorneys. All were recommended for passage.

Among other bills introduced was one by Mr. Kapp to provide for the assessment and taxation of sleeping and dining cars used and operated in the state of Nebraska and provide for penalties for the violation of the act. Adjourned.

Tuesday, February 9.

A number of petitions were read in the house this morning asking that the age of consent be raised to eighteen years and for the passage of H. R. 36, allowing women to vote at all except general elections.

The following bills were reported upon favorably:

H. R. 370, to establish a state normal school at Scottsbluff, to authorize women to vote at all except general elections; to vote to authorize county commissioners and supervisors to appoint judges and clerks of elections; 49, repealing sections of the statutes regarding fees of registers and masters in chancery.

A resolution by Mr. Grosvenor inviting Hon. W. J. Bryan to address the house, was amended to contemplate an evening meeting. As amended it prevailed unanimously.

Mr. Horner introduced a resolution denouncing the sale of liquors in the national capitol building and directing the state's representatives in congress to oppose it. The resolution met with some opposition, but was finally adopted.

The secretary of the senate announced the passage by the senate of the recanvass bill, with amendments.

After a short discussion of Mr. Hull's motion for a conference committee thereon, the bill was made a special order for 2:30.

Four new bills were introduced in the house, among them being one by Mr. Roddy, of Otoe, to provide for the purchase and display of United States flag in connection with the public schools. A similar bill was killed in the senate Monday.

Immediately on reconvening after dinner the house proceeded to act on the senate amendments to the recanvass bill, and after some debate, refused to concur, and a committee of three was appointed to confer with a like committee from the senate in regard to proposed changes.

A number of bills were read a third time and passed, among them being the resolution instructing Senator Thurston to vote for free silver; H. R. 15 for the relief of Boyd county for costs in the Barrett Scott murder trial; H. R. 185, to legalize certain acts of the county treasurer of Buffalo county; H. R. 135, defining cruelty to children. An effort was made to have the exposition made a special order for Wednesday at 2:30 p. m. but it failed, the matter being deferred.

The speaker signed H. R. 256, appropriating \$40,000 for incidental expenses. Adjourned.

Wednesday, February 10.

After the preliminaries this morning the house resolved itself into committee of the whole to consider bills on general file and took up H. R. 145, to fix salaries of county attorneys.

Mr. Burkett of Lancaster submitted an amendment to make the salary in Douglas and Lancaster counties \$2,300, and exhibited letters from Judges Broadway, Tibbets, Kirkpatrick, Attorney N. Z. Snell, and others, saying that the salary of county attorney in Lancaster county ought not to be reduced.

In the course of the discussion that followed Mr. Cronk referred to the evidence in the Douglas county contest showing that the county attorney in that county had contributed \$500 to the campaign fund, and said he was not in favor of taxing the people to enable a public office to contribute \$500 for the expenses of his office.

Mr. Burkett's amendment prevailed. Other amendments were made and as finally recommended for passage the bill provides that in counties of not more than 5,000 the maximum salary shall be \$300; 5,000 to 7,000, \$500; 7,000 to 10,000, \$800; 10,000 to 20,000, \$900; 20,000 to 35,000, \$1,000; 35,000 to 60,000, \$1,500; over 60,000, \$2,200. The law does not go into effect until expiration of terms of present officials.

In this form the bill was recommended for passage.

Messrs. Wooster and Gaylord rose to the question of privilege and scored the Omaha World Herald for certain statements it had made which they did not represent their constituents, and had entered into an alliance with others to prevent the passage of the exposition bill.

A number of standing committees reported bills, among them being H. R. 154, by Mr. Wooster, providing that gold and silver coin of the United States shall be a legal tender for all debts, both public and private, was recommended for passage as amended.

Report adopted.

H. R. 2, providing that lease on school land shall be forfeited on non-payment of rent within six months after notice of delinquency was given, was placed on general file.

H. R. 19, providing for reduction in salaries of officials of Kearney reform school was ordered engrossed for third reading.

Mr. Wooster of Merrick submitted the following resolution, which carried: WHEREAS, It is a matter of current report that intoxicating drinks are being sold in the basement of the capitol of the state of Nebraska; and

Whereas, Having by resolution in regard to the use of intoxicating liquors by members of congress, sought to cast the mote out of our brother's eye, it is now that we should seek to cast the beam from our own eye, therefore be it

Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to make inquiry as to what foundation there may be, if any, for said reports and report their findings to this house.

A discussion arose over the adoption of the report of the conference committee as to a change in the amendments to H. R. 5, Mr. Pollard of Cass thought the amendments should be printed before the house acted on them finally.

The speaker held that this was not necessary and the vote was taken upon the adoption of the report of the conference committee, which had been made a moment before. The vote was 69 yeas, 23 nays. It was declared passed, the secretary of the senate having announced concurrence on the part of the senate.

Among the new bills introduced were joint resolution 442, by Mr. Wooster,

a memorial to congress in relation to Union and Central Pacific railroads; H. R. 447, by Mr. Sheldon, to prohibit theatrical and other stage and circus performances, also baseball and football games on the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday.

In committee of the whole the house considered H. R. 111, which provides that when an inmate of the soldiers' and sailors' home is discharged the commandant shall furnish the inmate with transportation to the station nearest his former residence. The bill was recommended for passage.

H. R. 199, by Mr. Felker of Douglas, protects employes from being blacklisted through the machinations of guarantee bond companies and provides a penalty for the violation thereof.

Among other provisions the bill provides that each bond company shall deposit with the state treasurer at least \$25,000 of interest bearing bonds of the United States or of this state, the same to be liable for any judgment that may be rendered against the corporation.

The committee recommended that the bill be reported back to the house with the recommendation that it be recommended to the committee on insurance. Committee arose and reported. Adjourned.

Thursday, February 11.

After prayer and the reading of the journal, a communication was read from the legislature of South Dakota, in which it urged the legislature to pass a resolution asking congress to make some provision in the twelfth census for ascertaining the amount of property in the United States owned by non-resident aliens.

Some of the bills reported from committee are H. R. 47, providing that irrigation districts with no outstanding indebtedness may discontinue their organization, was placed on general file, being recommended for passage; H. R. 292, compelling railroads to give free transportation to persons accompanying shipments of stock, was placed on general file; H. R. 341, defining a legal newspaper, was recommended to pass as amended; H. R. 130, being a duplicate of No. 241, was postponed indefinitely.

H. R. 109 was placed on its third reading and final passage. The bill provides that where an insane person is an inmate of any state institution or a non-resident of the state, the expense incurred on his account shall be borne by the state. The bill passed, 88 voting yeas, and none against.

H. R. 140, relating to legal adoption of children deserted by parents, was passed with emergency clause.

H. R. 23, a bill to include chinery within the provisions of the warehouse law, was passed with emergency clause by a vote of 79 to 9.

Mr. Sheldon of Dawes introduced a joint resolution advocating the establishment of a "bimetallist" college at the state capital. It is similar to the one introduced in the senate.

In committee of the whole the bill making hog stealing a felony, was killed by the bill providing for the relief of Burlington county for costs in trial of murderers of Robt. Phillips, to appropriate \$1,392 therefor, was recommended for passage.

After some debate, H. R. 221, which provides that after July, 1898, vocal music shall be taught in all district schools and that no certificate shall be granted any teacher till he shall pass a satisfactory examination in the regular studies, including vocal music, was recommended to pass.

Speaker Gaffin's football bill, H. R. 235, next received the consideration of the committee.

Mr. Jenkins of Jefferson moved to amend by inserting baseball after football and make the penalties applying equally to each game.

Mr. Jenkins spoke in favor of his amendment. He thought that the record of casualties arising from baseball were quite as many as those resulting from football.

Mr. Clark of Lancaster moved an amendment to the amendment by including in the list of crimes skating and swimming. He related a very pathetic incident of a gentleman and lady who went skating and were drowned only three days before the time set for their marriage.

Mr. Wimberly of Lancaster moved to indefinitely postpone.

This precipitated a two hours' discussion. Mr. Wimberly's motion to indefinitely postpone was lost.

Mr. Clark's amendment was lost, as was that offered by Mr. Jenkins of Jefferson, and the bill was recommended to the house to be recommitted to the committee on miscellaneous subjects to receive some amendment that would permit children and young boys to play football without such action being a misdemeanor.

The committee arose and acted upon the report of the committee of the whole.

On motion of Mr. Cronk of Valley, the house adjourned until Tuesday, February 16. The adjournment was taken to give the members time to finish the work of drafting new bills, to allow western members time to go home, and afford committees time to visit state institutions.

Among the new bills introduced was one by Mr. Loomis to prohibit combinations among grain elevator men; and one by Mr. Gaffin to tax costs back to the county from which any case, civil or criminal, has been transferred by reason of a change of venue, and making the same an adjudicated claim against the said county and providing for the payment of the same.

Three Horsesmen Drowned. PAINTSVILLE, Ky., Feb. 13.—News has been received here of the drowning of Andrew Wilson, Preston Hall and Harry Brown in Pike county. The men had been on a spree for several days and had started across Big Sandy river on the ice on their horses. The ice was beginning to break, and when about half way across it gave way and the three men and horses went down together. No trace of them has been found.

Alaskan Gold Excitement. SEATTLE, Wash., Feb. 13.—Once again miners and searchers after fortune are getting in readiness to enter the gold regions of Alaska. The news of a marvelous discovery on Klondike creek has touched the match to the excitement. Boats leaving for the North are already carrying passengers who are anxious to get as near the gold districts as possible, and by March it is expected that the rush will begin.

SENATE PROCEEDINGS

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE UPPER BRANCH.

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

Saturday, February 6.

Introduced in the senate this morning, after preliminaries were over, were the following bills:

S. F. 249, by Senator Caldwell—Providing for an educational commission.

S. F. 251, by Senator Grothan—Authorizing an extension of the powers of the state board of transportation so as to give it power and authority to regulate by express, telegraph and telephone companies.

S. F. No. 253, by Senator McFall—To fix and define the liability of railway companies to their agents, servants or employees.

Senator McGinn sent up the following resolution which was adopted:

Resolved, That the payment of the wages and salaries of the senate employes be taken from the appropriation made for the incidental expenses of the session.

The senate then went into committee of the whole for consideration of bills and the following were acted upon:

S. F. 133, repealing the sheep branding law, recommended to pass; S. F. 47, by Senator Ransom, providing for signature of man and wife to mortgage on household goods, to pass; S. F. 37, to prevent blindness in infants, to pass as amended; S. F. 194, by Senator Beal, providing for creation of new counties by consolidation of two or more counties, to pass as amended; S. F. 103, by Senator Graham, relating to the organization of agricultural societies, to pass.

The committee then arose, reported, and the senate adjourned.

Monday, February 8.

In the senate yesterday afternoon Senator Lee of Boyd county presented a concurrent resolution authorizing Land Commissioner Wolfe to select and accept on behalf of the state odd numbered sections in the Fort Randall military reservation as land to indemnify the state for school lands which should have accrued to the state.

Formerly the land commissioners made such selections without authority from the legislature. Deputy Attorney General Ed P. Smith held that the old way was not a safe plan to follow, so Senator Lee introduced the resolution. From thirty to forty sections are due to the state.

Bills on third reading were reached, and H. R. 256, appropriating \$40,000 to pay incidental expenses of the legislature, was passed.

Senator Johnson's committee bill imposing a tax on state banks to insure depositors was read, but debate on the bill clearly showed that it needed amending, and it was recommitted to committee of the whole.

Senator Canaday reported S. F. 119, introduced by Senator Caldwell by request providing for the purchase and display of United States flags from school houses, with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed.

Many of the senators opposed the bill on the ground that a too free display of the flag would breed disrespect for the national colors and the use made of it in the recent campaign was meaningfully referred to. On the other hand, the senators favoring the bill argued that the display of the flag would tend to kindle in the breasts of the growing youth the fires of patriotism, and impress in their minds a conviction of the greatness of the nation whose emblem it is.

After an extended debate the bill was killed by the following vote to reconsider the report to indefinitely postpone:

YEAS—14. Beal, Grothan, Muffy, Canaday, Howell, Ransom, Parrell, Johnson, Ritchie, Gondreing, Lee, Miller, Watson, Graham, Sikes, Osborn, Spencer.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING—10. Dearing, McGinn, Steele, Evans, Mutt, Talbot, Feltz, Schaal, Weller, Heapy.

Tuesday, February 9.

Committees reported favorably on S. F. 236, amending the law establishing the state board of health; S. F. 119, requiring legal advertisements to be printed in clear type; S. F. 102, defining a legal newspaper to be one with a circulation of 200; S. F. 156, to eliminate the street railway pass for city officials; S. F. 199, relating to disposition of property of disbanded school districts; S. F. 203, allowing boards of education to provide transportation for high school pupils; S. F. 24, relating to salaries of county superintendents.

A resolution by Senator Ransom providing for the appointment of a committee of three to invite Hon. W. J. Bryan, "the most distinguished citizen in the state and the foremost bimetalist in the world," to address the senate. It was unanimously agreed to.

Before adjourning for the noon recess it was agreed that the president of the senate should act jointly with the speaker of the house in arranging for a Bryan meeting.

H. R. 5, the re-canvass bill, came up for passage in the senate and a lengthy debate was indulged in, the measure, as amended, being passed by a vote of 24 to 6. A joint committee was appointed to confer with the house committee to consider the measure, and the bill will probably be sent to the governor Wednesday. The vote was as follows:

YEAS—24. Beal, Frits, McFall, Schall, Canaday, Gondreing, Miller, Spencer, Evans, Grothan, Muffy, Sikes, Feltz, Howell, Ransom, Watson, Parrell, Johnson, Ritchie, Weller.

ABSENT AND NOT VOTING—3. Caldwell, Canaway, Dundas, Haller, Heapy, Lee, Steele.

The senate put in a good, long session in the afternoon, considering in committee of the whole S. F. 173, Senator Johnson's bill providing for a tax of half of one per cent on state bank deposits. This bill has been the subject of more discussion than any other measure introduced in that body. Set speeches were made for and against it, several amendments were offered and adopted and the bill was recommended for passage by a vote of 16 to 12.

When the committee arose and reported, the vote to adopt the report was a tie, 15 to 15. Lieutenant-Governor or Harris cast the deciding yeas vote and the report was adopted.

The matter of taking speedy action on the trans-Mississippi exposition appropriation bill was brought up in the senate by Senator Murphy of Gage who called up his resolution, which was offered the day before and laid over by objection of a fusionist.

Several members of the majority objected to the passage of the bill because it contained criticism of the house. These features were eliminated, and a motion made to refer to committee on labor. Senator Murphy spoke in behalf of his resolution. Senator Talbot said the senate could criticize any one or any body. Senator Dundas asked if the senator from Lancaster wasn't talking "arnica." Senator Talbot replied that truths are sometimes worse than anarchy. The resolution was referred.

In committee of the whole the senate recommended joint resolution authorizing the governor to invite states and nations to attend the exposition.

The senate adjourned till Monday at 2 p. m.

of the privileges of the act, so that they may become depositories for state or other public funds.

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Favors State Scrip. The fusionists in the house caused Monday night on the state scrip bill, which was introduced early in the session by Representative Soderman of Phelps county. The bill provides for the issue of state warrants which shall be receivable for taxes. A substitute was reported to the house and placed on general file, eliminating some of what were considered the most objectionable features. In the caucus very little objection to the measure developed. The bill as originally drawn provided for the issuance of non-interest bearing warrants of denominations from \$1 to \$5. There were numerous objections to this provision, and as revised the bill provides for the issuance of warrants that bear 2 per cent interest in denominations from \$1 to \$10. These are to be receivable for state and county taxes. It is claimed that the issue of such paper will stop the shoving of warrants.

Each receiver of a state and county warrant, when the same is issued, will be given his choice between the kind issued at present, bearing 5 per cent, or the kind provided for in the bill with 2 per cent interest.

The fact that the latter will be receivable for taxes, the projectors claim, will keep them at par and thus prevent the shoving of other warrants, everybody being free to choose between the two.

ABOUT BERLIN COPS. The German Policemen's Duties Are Numerous. Berlin has 30,000 booked and registered criminals. Her budget of crime rivals that of Paris and New York city in the most heinous—murder, says the Philadelphia Press. The rights and duties of royal policemen are infinitely greater and more elastic than those of their colleagues in American cities, but during the last ten years not a single case of police bribery, police blackmail or police connivance with criminals has been brought to public notice. Annually ten or fifteen men are dismissed from the force or degraded, but their worst offenses are over officiousness and inefficiency in handling great crowds. Serious opposition to arrest except in riotous times rarely occurs. Only once since 1880 has a policeman been killed while doing his duty. Prisoners with broken heads, bleeding or otherwise suffering from maltreatment, are unknown in Berlin. Policemen are armed with a sword, which they must not draw except to defend their own lives. If, in extreme cases, an officer is forced to do so, he must bring witnesses to prove himself innocent of rashness; otherwise he has to give up his sword and go without pay until his record is cleared.

The above refers to schutzmen (schutz means protection), officers doing service on the public streets. Criminal beaume (officers in citizen's dress on special duty) have carried revolvers for the last two years, though to what purpose is not quite clear, none of them ever having made use of the weapon. A heavy walking cane and a pair of wire "pinchers" suffice them.

A PERILOUS TRIP. That Made in China Many Years Ago Through Chinese Tartary. It may be safely asserted that not one of his episcopal brethren has ever performed such a feat as formed an episode in the early life of the newly appointed bishop of Norwich. After serving a couple of years as curate under Dr. Hooks at Leeds, Mr. Sheepshanks went out to British Columbia in 1859, when that colony was a far wilder and more isolated country than now. He did eight years of the rough work and then determined to go home for a holiday, at all events, electing to travel via Japan and China, in those days a by no means familiar route. For months he disappeared entirely from mortal ken and his family began to entertain serious misgivings as to his fate. One evening a young Cambridge man, afterward head master of a well-known grammar school, but tutor for the nonce to a Russian prince, was smoking a cigarette in his rooms in St. Petersburg, when his servant announced that a moujik wanted to see him very urgently. The unknown visitor was shown up and appeared in the well-worn garb from which Brian O'Lynn devised his simple but practical sartorial notions. To his host's utter bewilderment this unknown being addressed him in refined English, and presently explained that he was a brother Cant's desirous of securing his good offices. The man, in short, was Rev. John Sheepshanks, who, having landed some six months before near the mouth of the Amoor river, had made his way alone and on foot through Tartary, Turkestan and Siberia to the banks of the Neva.

John William Ohms, an aged St. Louis miser, was found dead in his room with \$10,000 in money and bonds concealed in an old iron pot.