

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE LOWER BRANCH.

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

Saturday, February 27. When the house met down to business this morning Mr. Shull's motion made on Friday evening to pay Representatives Baldwin, Taylor, Roberts and Yeiser, all of Douglas, and who were seated by contest proceedings, was called up. Mr. Hull favored payment in full, and Mr. Pollard of Cass opposed. The previous question being ordered, roll call was had, and the motion carried.

The claims committee presented a claim of the irrepresible John Currie for \$3,300 for labor performed in connection with the block of marble from Tennessee for an heroic statue of Abraham Lincoln. The claim was tabled on motion of Mr. Wooster.

The concurrent resolution for a commission to investigate the treasury was ordered engrossed for third reading, and a number of bills were read a second time.

About seventy-five new bills were introduced at the morning session. After the noon recess, by unanimous consent, the general appropriation bill was introduced, and a number of others followed, as there was some doubt whether the forty-day limit had not expired, notwithstanding the fact that the house took a recess from Friday to Saturday.

Among the bills introduced today was one by Mr. Sheldon providing that in case of suits instituted against state officials on their bonds, where the same occur in the capital of the state, a change of venue may be taken to an adjoining county. This is intended to apply in the present cases of the state treasurer and auditor, the supreme court having already held that such suits must be instituted in the county in which the state capital is located.

Monday, March 1. When the house was called to order this afternoon Mr. Clark of Richardson gained the floor immediately after roll call and presented to Speaker Gaffin a crayon portrait of Governor Holcomb and also one of the speaker himself. Both were hanging just over the speaker's chair. The portraits were the gift of the employees and members of the house and Mr. Clark said they were a slight token of the high esteem in which the speaker was held.

Speaker Gaffin responded with a few remarks, thanking the givers for their kindness.

Mr. Wooster, in view of the fact that the constitutionality of the exposition bill was questioned, offered a resolution to the effect that it be submitted to the supreme court for an opinion. Mr. Clark of Lancaster informed the house that the supreme court would render an opinion on nothing except questions which came before it in the regular course of law. On motion of Mr. Smith of Douglas the resolution was tabled.

The bill amending the recanvass law was ordered engrossed for third reading, and the appropriation bills were placed at the head of the general file.

Two bills were considered in committee of the whole, and when the committee arose the house adjourned.

Among the legion of new bills introduced today was one by Mr. Soderman, to prohibit employment of or maintenance of near relatives at state expense by officers or managers of state institutions; 673, by special committee, providing for promotion of beet sugar industry; 625, by Mr. Clark of Lancaster, to prevent hog cholera; concurrent resolution 632, by Mr. Lemar, requesting senators and representatives in congress to demand establishment of postal savings banks; 630, by Mr. Stebbins, for a state inspector of beer, wine and alcoholic liquors.

Tuesday, March 2.

The house convened at 10 o'clock this morning and got down to business in a hurry. A number of memorials and petitions relating to various measures before the legislature were presented.

Reports of standing committees consumed the remainder of the morning session. After recess, on motion of Mr. Wooster, a committee was appointed to investigate certain changes admitted to have been made in the exposition bill. The matter was brought about by a change in one section of the bill by an engrossing clerk, who on noticing that in one section of the bill the exposition company was called an association, inserted the word in another place. Mr. Smith of Douglas happened to drop in at the printers and noticed the change and remarked that the organization had never been called an association, whereupon the printer thoughtlessly changed it.

The members voted down a proposition to hold night sessions. In committee of the whole a number of bills were considered. Before the consideration of bills was taken up, Secretary of State Porter informed the house that the commission organized under H. R. 5, had no means of knowing the full number of voting precincts in the state. There was no way for the commission to ascertain whether the poll books from all precincts had been sent in.

Mr. Sheldon moved that the county clerks be instructed to send in such a list. Adopted.

H. R. 226, to prevent persons not permitted to do so from climbing on trains while in motion, and the concurrent resolution relating to elevator trusts, were recommended for passage. H. R. 183, providing for the organization of mutual insurance companies, was recommended for passage as amended.

The committee arose, and the house applied its report. After making the municipal suffrage bill a special order for 3 o'clock Friday afternoon the house adjourned.

Wednesday, March 3.

In the house this morning Speaker Gaffin, in compliance with a resolution passed some days ago, appointed a sifting committee composed of Messrs. Jones of Nemaha, Moran, Hull, Woodward, Robertson, Weibe and Fouke.

The house went into committee of the whole and the clerk started in to read H. R. 270, to establish a normal school at Scotia. Mr. Soderman ob-

jected to further reading, and moved that the bill be reported for indefinite postponement. He said the bill was simply an entering wedge for future appropriations. Mr. Bower of Howard said the bill was a proposition to give the state school property worth \$25,000 on condition that it maintain school there in for the coming two years. At the close of the debate Mr. Soderman's motion was defeated and the bill recommended for passage.

H. R. 10, by Mr. Clark of Lancaster, providing for non-partisan election boards, which had been entirely changed in committee, was recommended for passage, as was also his H. R. 12, to remove judges and clerks of election from the list of elective officers.

When the committee arose the report was adopted.

After the noon recess the house again resolved itself into committee of the whole and considered several bills, among which were, H. R. 142, to regulate sale and manufacture of vinegar; 150, to regulate the manufacture and sale of elder and to prevent adulteration.

When H. R. 36, by Mr. Soderman, granting women municipal suffrage, was reached, Mr. Jenkins moved it be recommended for passage, while Mr. Robertson of Holt moved to indefinitely postpone, and the discussion opened.

Messrs. Loomis and Wooster opposed the bill. The former thought it would be detrimental to society, the latter said suffrage tended to unsex women.

Messrs. Jenkins, Soderman, Snyder, Wheeler, Yeiser, Sheldon and Fouke favored the bill and gave reasons why it should pass. The motion to postpone was lost, and the bill, after being amended by Mr. Pollard having added the emergency clause, was recommended for passage.

H. R. 154, by Mr. Wooster, providing that gold and silver coin of the United States shall be a tender in the payment of all debts, both public and private. The object of the bill is to prevent contracts being made specifying that payment shall be made in gold.

The discussion hinged on the point whether the state has the right to declare what shall be a legal tender for debt. A number of the majority believed that the United States constitution was already explicit on the matter. The bill was reported for passage.

On the adoption of the report of the committee of the whole relative to the municipal suffrage bill, the vote stood yeas 66, nays 24.

Roll call was again demanded on a motion not to concur in the report of the committee on H. R. 150. A strict party vote resulted, the vote standing yeas 27, nays 60.

The committee on printing made a report on the matter of the shortage of printed bills. It was discovered that no contract had ever been signed with Jacob North & Co. to print bills and that he had been furnishing only 300 copies of each bill up to February 20, though he had bid on 500.

The committee recommended that 150 copies extra of those bills under consideration be printed, and that payment only for the actual number printed be made.

This was agreed to and the house adjourned.

Thursday, March 4.

The house took up bills on third reading this morning. House roll No. 435, by Mr. Kapp of Boyd, was passed on first. It is a joint resolution authorizing the commissioner of public lands and buildings to select and accept for the state certain tracts of land in the Fort Randall military reservation as school land, the same having been granted the state by the United States government. The bill received ninety-one votes.

House roll 93, the trans-Mississippi appropriation bill, carrying \$100,000, was read the third time. Wooster wanted to know if it was proper to put this bill on its final passage pending a report of the committee appointed to investigate reported changes in the bill. The chair held that the committee had had ample time to report and that the only business in order was a motion to recommit for a specific purpose.

Mr. Severe reported that the bill was engrossed exactly as sent from the house to the committee on engrossed and enrolled bills.

After considerable heated discussion a motion by Mr. Enger to recommit for the purpose of striking out the word "association" in the two places where it had been interlined was declared out of order, as the printed bill corresponded with the original bill.

On a call of the yeas and nays the bill passed by the following vote:

Table with columns for YEAS-70 and NAYS-21, listing names of members and their respective counts.

ABSENT AND YOF VOTING-10.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1. Senator Dearing, relative to elevator trusts and directing county attorneys to take steps to prosecute all who break the law in this regard, was passed by a vote of 89 to 6.

A number of petitions relating to various subjects were handed in and a number of committee reports received.

House roll 440, providing for display of United States flag on schools was postponed.

The house went into committee of the whole for the purpose of correcting house roll No. 183, which had been referred to the committee for specific correction. This was done and the bill was ordered printed. Committee arose and the house adjourned.

Friday, March 5.

This morning in the house the sifting committee reported H. R. 463, 170, 171, 172 and 169, recommending that they

SENATE PROCEEDINGS

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE UPPER BRANCH.

A Condensed and Concise Non-Partisan Report of the Labors of the Nebraska Senate for the Past Week—Action Taken on the Various Measures.

Saturday, February 27. After preliminaries in the senate an effort was made toward immediate consideration of S. P. 219, regulating the penitentiary. Strong opposition to take any bill out of its regular order was expressed. The bill was made a special order for next Friday at 10 a. m.

Immediate action on bill was asked by Senator Lee, the introducer, in response to a letter from the governor. With his letter the governor sent a communication from the warden of the penitentiary stating that two companies had quit operating their plants and that 105 able bodied men were on his hands with nothing to do.

Senator Canaday's joint resolution establishing a "bird day" was advanced to third reading.

On recommendation of committees a number of bills were placed on general file.

Senator Dundas' bill for the construction of a burglar proof vault for the safe keeping of state moneys was made a special order for March 8 at 2 p. m.

In committee of the whole the senate voted to put S. P. 18, the bill debated on Friday, at the foot of the general file.

An extended debate occurred in committee of the whole at the afternoon session on H. R. 3, for the repeal of the sugar bounty law.

Senator Murphy opposed repeal and said the people of the state believe the duty of the state lies in encouraging this industry. Senator Goudring, Dundas and Muffy favored repeal, claiming that raisers of beets would be benefited thereby.

After amending the bill so as to make repeal absolutely certain it was recommended for passage.

The stock yards and Omaha charter bills were made special orders for March 2 at 10 a. m. Adjourned.

Monday, March 1.

As soon as preliminaries were over in the senate that body resolved itself into committee of the whole for the consideration of S. P. 236, by Senator Lee, providing for a state medical examining board, and an extension of the course of study for medical colleges from three to four years. The bill was a special order, and fully fifty physicians were present on the floor of the senate when Clerk Clancy of the committee of the whole read the bill. The provisions creating a state examining board says such board shall consist of three examining committees of three members each, one committee from the regular school, one from the eclectic school and one from the homeopathic school, the appointments to be made on recommendation of the state

medical societies of the three schools named. The fee for an examination is fixed at \$25, of which sum \$10 shall be set aside for incidental expenses of the several committees, and the balance if any to the formation of a fund for the prosecution of illegal practitioners.

Many of the doctors favored the bill as originally introduced, some wanted amendments, while others were satisfied with the present law and desired no change.

As to the senators, they were divided, several favored the bill as a good measure, while others were of the opinion that the bill would create a medical trust.

Physicians were quoted as wanting no protection, as they felt that intelligence and ability were thoroughly competent to cope with ignorance and quackism.

After a debate lasting all afternoon, the bill, being considered section by section, was specifically amended. On motion the committee arose and reported the bill back to medical committee with the understanding that a bill would be drawn up satisfactory to all.

Tuesday, March 2.

Trouble commenced in the senate this morning when the special order was reached, which was the stock yards bill and the Omaha charter bill, in the order named.

The senate went into committee of the whole, with Senator Watson of Saline in the chair.

The original bill, majority and minority reports were read. The original bill fixes the following charges for weighing and yarding: Cattle, 10 cents per head; hogs, 4 cents; sheep, 3 cents. The charges for feed are limited to double the market price. The original bill also makes it unlawful for proprietors of stock yards to deliver or sell less than full weight and measure of feed. It also limits charges of commission men as follows: Cattle, 88 a car; hogs, 85 a car; sheep, 84 a car. Penalties for violation of the law are prescribed.

The majority report of the committee on agriculture to whom the bill was referred, signed by Senators Miller, Ritchie, Osborn and Heapy, is in the form of a new bill in which the attempt to fix charges of commission men is abandoned, owing to the doubtful legality of such a provision in a bill regulating stock yards. The majority report reduces charges for weighing and yarding 20 per cent below the rates now charged, and fixes them as follows: Cattle, 20 cents a head; calves, 8 cents; hogs, 6 cents; sheep, 4 cents, and there is to be only one yearling charge. It limits the price for feed to 50 cents per hundred above the wholesale price. An annual report of expenditures and receipts is also required.

The minority report, signed by Senators Farrell, Johnson and Caldwell, was in the form of a substitute bill placing stock yards under the law by declaring them public markets, and limiting the price for feed to 50 cents more than the retail price. It also requires full weight and measure and requires owners of stock yards to report annually to the secretary of state the number of head of live stock received during the year, and also a statement of gross earnings and expenditures. Penalty clauses are attached to all the bills.

After a long debate on Senator Goudring's motion to recommend the majority report to pass, Senator Howell introduced a compromise amendment relating to charges, and other amendments were proposed, but all were

voted down. The committee arose, adopted the report of the committee of the whole recommending the majority report, and the senate adjourned.

Wednesday, March 3.

The senate this morning refused to take the two-cent railroad fare bill up out of its regular course or to lay it aside, and the bill has a fighting chance to pass.

The senate then went into committee of the whole to consider the Omaha charter bill.

There are 191 sections to the bill and its consideration occupied the attention of the senators nearly the whole day. No opposition was expressed, and but little attention was paid to the amendments offered by friends of the bill. It was recommended for passage and ordered engrossed for third reading. Adjourned.

Thursday, March 4.

In the senate today a very warm discussion arose over a motion made by Senator McGinn to advance the Lincoln charter bill to the head of the general file, and a lively wordy battle between Senators McGinn and Talbot was had. Senator Howell of Douglas endeavored to have the bill made a special order but failed. The senate refused to advance the bill.

Republicans wore silk flags on the lapels of their coats in honor of the inauguration of McKinley, and later Custodian Leibsen presented the majority members with flags.

PLATING SHIPS' HULLS.

Iron Ships to Be Placed in an Electric Bath.

A new departure in the sheathing of vessels is to be undertaken in this country, and the future cruisers and battleships made for the United States navy will probably be copper-sheathed, according to the new process of electroplating. Experiments have been going on for many years to electroplate with copper the hulls of iron or steel vessels, and the results obtained now justify the general adoption of a process of protection that can be called purely American. An electric plant has been established at Jersey City by the Ship Copper-Plating Company, and the seagoing tug Assistance was treated to the new process as an experiment. She has stood the test so well that, after a year, she has a hull nearly as free from all defects caused by corrosion and sea animals as when first launched.

Copper sheathing has been adopted by ship-builders of all the leading countries for years, and it has always proved the best protection to the hulls that could be devised, but rust and corrosion find its way between the copper plates in time, and starts up openings that eventually destroy the ship's bottom or necessitates the costly work of re-sheathing it.

The old way was to plate the bottom of the ship carefully from stem to stern with stout wood, and then coat this with sheath copper, but the new method is to place the vessel in a bath of copper sulphate, into which an electric current is passed. Liquid-tight compartments are made to fit firmly upon the sides and bottom of the hull, and when filled with a solution of the copper the four anodes are placed through an opening in the top. These constitute the positive pole, and the iron hull acts as the negative. A film of copper without seams or breaks gradually forms on the bottom of the ship, and in forty-eight hours this air-tight sheathing is one-sixteenth of an inch thick. The sheathing fits so tightly to the hull that it cannot be removed without cutting into it with sharp instruments, and even then it has become so welded to the iron that the two cannot always be separated.

The value of this unbroken surface of copper plating can be readily understood when some of the injuries to the bottom of iron vessels are examined. The old method of copper sheathing added so much to the weight of the vessels that the naval advisory board in 1882 refused to have the hulls of the Chicago, Boston, Atlanta and Dolphin sheathed. In the case of the Chicago it was estimated that 255 tons would be added to the weight of the vessel, and 160 tons would be added to both the Boston and Atlanta. Pursuing this same policy of keeping the vessels light and buoyant on the water, and thereby gaining additional speed, the department refused to have any of the subsequent war vessels copper sheathed. As a result, none of our war vessels are sheathed, although a good percentage of the ships of the English, French, German and Russian navies have their bottoms protected in this way. By the new process of electroplating the weight added to the vessels amounts only to 2.85 pounds to the square foot.—Philadelphia Times.

Senator Talbot's election bill, S. P. 247, was ordered advanced to the head of the calendar.

S. P. 24, by Senator Mutz, taking the matter of salaries of county superintendents out of the hands of county boards and fixing the salaries at from \$200 to \$1,200, according to population of counties, was read the third time and passed.

S. P. 166, by Senator Conway, authorizing county superintendents to charge county institute fees and to expend such fees in support of such institutes, was read the third time and passed as amended.

H. R. 3, repealing the sugar bounty law, was passed by a strict party vote, nineteen yeas and four nays, the yeas and four republicans voting against it, as follows:

Table with columns for YEAS-19 and NAYS-4, listing names of senators and their respective counts.

ABSENT-10. In committee of the whole, with Murphy of Gage in the chair, S. P. 247, by Senator Talbot, was considered. The bill is an act to prevent corrupt practices at elections, to limit the expenses of candidates and political committees. It was taken up because it was believed to be the best of several on the same subject.

Senator Goudring opposed the sections allowing the persons receiving the next highest number of votes to go into court and secure possession of an office by proving certain charges against the officer elected or by proving that the officer elected had violated any of the provisions of the law, or that any of the officers' agents or political committee had violated any of the provisions.

These sections were stricken out on motion of Senator Goudring. On his motion the violation of certain provisions was declared a misdemeanor instead of a felony.

The committee of the whole decided to report progress on this bill and take up expenses incurred in the contest of Jefferson vs. Evans.

The fee for attorneys on each side was reduced from \$1,500 a side to \$750. Other claims were approved without change. The original claims amounted to \$2,900, but as allowed by the senate they aggregate \$2,300.

Adjourned.

Friday, March 5.

In the senate today a number of bills were reported from committees and sent to the general file.

S. P. 25, prohibiting the giving of favors by candidates for office, and 97, on the same subject, were indefinitely postponed.

S. P. 27, the bill to repeal the law creating the Milford home was reported with a majority report for indefinite postponement and a minority report to send the bill to general file.

A motion to adopt the majority report opened discussion. Senator Mutz favored abandonment on account of expense. Senator Murphy said the home should be maintained as a debt of gratitude to the old soldier. Senator Ransom said the Grand Island home was located where there was only sand; that sooner or later it would have to be abandoned and the Milford home ought to be kept open. Senator Beal said as a matter of fairness the bill ought to go to the general file. Senator Conway wanted both homes maintained. Senator Talbot was opposed to abandonment. Senator Farrell declared it a matter of business and two homes ought not to be maintained. After a few more senators had declared their position on the matter, the senate sent the bill to the general file by a vote of 19 to 9.

S. P. 210, the penitentiary bill, was a special order but for cause was not considered in committee of the whole, and was made a special order for Tuesday at 2 p. m.

After a wrangle the Lincoln charter bill was advanced and made a special order for next Wednesday at 10 a. m.

The Omaha charter bill was passed at a night session, although it required a call of the house to get members enough present to do so. It was passed with the emergency clause and at 9:50 the senate adjourned until Tuesday at 10 a. m.

Fire at Fort Wayne, Ind.

FORT WAYNE, Ind., March 2.—A most destructive fire raged here for several hours yesterday morning, and before it could be subdued had laid in ashes half of a prominent business block, entailing a loss of \$125,000.

Like Office Girls.

They are introducing office girls in Chicago, and those who have them in their employ are well pleased with them. They say that the office girl is superior to the office boy in many particulars. In the first place, she does not smoke cigarettes, and she does not whistle. As a rule she has absolutely no taste for dime novels. She is usually bright, quick and energetic, and ever so much cleaner, and neater than a boy can be. Testimony upon this point is almost unanimous, and most of these who have tried office girls declare that never again will they have an office boy around the premises.