

# HOUSE HAPPENINGS

### The Work Being Done in the Hall of Representatives.

## LABOR OF PAST WEEK BRIEFLY TOLD

Condensed Report of the Bills and Resolutions Introduced, Together with a Sketch of the More Important Transactions.

Wednesday, January 23.

The house convened at 1 o'clock yesterday. The committee on ways and means reported:

H. R. No. 43, to reduce interest on state warrants, to pass.

H. R. No. 81, to appropriate \$4,200 to buy medals for Nebraska soldiers, to pass as amended.

Speaker, of Colfax, moved that the secretary of the senate be requested to furnish copies of the proceedings of the joint session by 4 o'clock every day, so they may be embodied in the mimeograph copies of the house proceedings. This carried.

The house went into a committee of the whole with Hibbert in the chair.

H. R. No. 29, by McCarthy, relative to the share of a widow in her husband's estate, was discussed. The bill gives certain property to the widow and provides that a greater share than under the present law shall go to the children. The bill also provides that the husband shall be on the same footing as the wife in the matter of inheritance. The bill was recommended for passage.

The committee rose and its report was accepted.

When the house gathered for the afternoon session, Speaker Sears mentioned the Iowa system of holding sessions of the legislature in the morning from 9 to 12, reserving the afternoon for committee work. He asked for some instruction for the committee on rules and said if the house was willing, such a rule would be reported by this committee.

Taylor thought something ought to be done to get the committees to work. Lane, suggested that the plan be tried for a short time without making it a permanent rule. Loomis moved to adjourn till this morning at 9 o'clock, which carried.

Thursday, January 24.

The house passed some bills on third reading yesterday during the morning session. One of these was the measure to give to Lancaster county a deputy county attorney. Another was a bill providing for an appeal in forcible entry and detention cases. The bill providing for a mechanic's lien on windmills and wells passed.

In receiving reports of standing committees, a bill intended to make an agistor's lien on live stock above a mortgage, was postponed after a lively discussion. A resolution was adopted in the house asking Nebraska's congressmen to favor and work for an amendment to the constitution providing for the election of United States senators by direct vote of the people. The house committee on insane hospitals was instructed to make an early visit to the three insane hospitals in the state with a view to making a report of the repairs necessary.

Resolutions of respect over the death of Queen Victoria were passed on motion of Beisner of Thayer. The flag was ordered at half mast for twenty-four hours.

The house continued its new plan of working mornings and adjourning in the afternoon. It will meet today at 9 o'clock again. In the afternoon many of the committees worked on bills.

Among the new bills introduced yesterday was a measure to tax gross receipts of express companies. Tanner introduced it. Tanner's bill to punish persons caught smoking cigarettes appeared.

The troubles of rival telephone companies will be aired in the consideration of a bill by Armstrong of Nemaha.

The first bill in any way effecting the state university was introduced yesterday by Taylor of Custer. It reenacts the section of the law relating to revenues of the institution and changes the one-mill levy for this purpose adopted last year to three-quarters of a mill. No other change is made says Mr. Taylor.

Friday, January 25.

The house yesterday in committee of the whole agreed to the bill reducing the interest on state warrants to 3 per cent from 4 per cent. The bill appropriating \$4,200 to purchase medals for the soldiers of the Spanish-American war was agreed to as was Fowler's bill taking school districts and villages out from the provisions of the corrupt practices act which requires the filing of statements of expenses after nomination and election. The bill introduced by Warner of Lancaster providing that admission to the state normal school shall be by examination which may be given by the county superintendents of various counties on questions sent from the school, was agreed to and recommended for passage.

Several bills were introduced in the house aimed at the corporations. One of these was by Tanner of Nance county, imposing a tax of one per cent on gross earnings of telephone companies in the state. The bill is framed along the same lines as his bill taxing express companies. Mr. Tanner also introduced a bill prohibiting the operation of bucket shops. A bill by Steinmeyer of Gage county, provides for the rate to be charged for transmission of telegraph messages in the state. The limit is placed at 20 cents for ten words and one cent each for each additional word.

# SENATE SIFTINGS

### Senate Chamber Proceedings Succinctly Stated.

## UPPER HOUSE ACTIONS CHRONICLED

Labors of the Senators Hotted Down to Digestible Size and Dished Up to Our Busy Readers Who Want to Know What is Being Done.

Wednesday, January 23.

The majority of the senate committee on privileges and elections submitted a report yesterday morning in the matter of the contest of John J. Bonekemper, republican, against Henry Reuting, fusionist from Clay county. The report finds that Mr. Reuting is not entitled to retain his seat because he violated the anti-corrupt practice act and that Mr. Bonekemper is not entitled to take the vacant seat, he also having violated the same act.

The report is signed by Chairman Young of Stanton, Martin of Richardson and Harlan of York. The two fusionists comprising the minority have not yet made a report. The majority report was made a special order for consideration Thursday at 3 o'clock.

Several bills were introduced, among the number senate file by Van Boskirk of Box Butte, to reappropriate the state into congressional districts. This is the first bill of the kind introduced in the legislature. Part of the afternoon was devoted to a discussion of a curative bill intended by the author, Young of Stanton, to make valid several sections of the anti-gambling law, that are now considered invalid.

When the senators saw the old law before them they did not appear to favor its re-enactment without change. Several amendments were presented but the bill was finally recommended for passage in almost the same form as it exists today. Ransom and Young indulged in a little spat over what had happened to the gambling law two years ago.

S. F. No. 145, introduced by Meredith by request—Provides that no more than one person shall be eligible to membership on the state board of agriculture from any one county at the same time, and that no person shall be a member continuously for more than ten years.

Senator Edgar of Gage, a newspaper man himself, has introduced a bill to protect newspaper publishers from a prejudiced court in actions for constructive or indirect contempt. His remedy is simple. His bill simply provides for a jury trial.

S. F. No. 146, by Young—Provides that the state poultry association shall hold a convention annually in January, at a time and place to be selected by the board. The present law fixes the time.

Thursday, January 24.

The senate passed a quiet afternoon yesterday and adjourned for the day after the joint convention in order to devote time to committee work and to caucus on the contest case of Bonekemper against Reuting. The minority of the committee on privileges and elections submitted a report in favor of permitting Mr. Reuting, fusionist, to retain his seat, contrary to the majority report which was in favor of declaring the office vacant because Mr. Reuting had violated the anti-corrupt practice act. The caucus was divided on the question and no vote was taken on the matter. This leaves all republican members free to fight the matter out on the floor of the senate. The loss of a few republican votes will result in the adoption of the report in favor of the fusionist member.

Senator Edgar offered a resolution expressing sympathy to the relatives and people of the late queen of England and ordering the flag over the senate chamber lowered to half mast.

The bills on second reading were senate file Nos. 135 to 151, inclusive.

Alva Gaylord of Lincoln was placed on the pay roll as a page.

House roll No. 88, changing the limit of population so as to bring Lancaster county within the law prescribing the matter of drawing petit jurors was substituted for senate file No. 79, a bill on the same subject.

After the joint convention the senate adjourned.

Friday, January 25.

Yesterday forenoon in the senate was devoted to second reading of bills and introduction of new ones. A total of 172 have been introduced so far.

The special order for 3 o'clock was the report of the committee on privileges and elections on the contest of J. J. Bonekemper, republican, against Henry Reuting, fusionist, of Clay county. Chairman Young, Senators Martin and Harlan, reported in favor of ousting Reuting on account of violations of the corrupt practice act, by the use of money to secure his election. The committee reported that Bonekemper had also violated the law by treating electors, and therefore he could not be seated. The committee held that the election in that senatorial district was void.

Magnolia as Mississippi Emblem.

The school children of Mississippi have voted in favor of the magnolia as the state's flower. The legislature is expected to accept their choice as decisive and formally to make the magnolia the state's floral emblem.

Demand for High-Power Machinery.

The modern demand for high-power machinery is shown by the fact that in Paris the average horse-power per machine exhibited in 1867, was 16; in 1878, 62; in 1889, 170; and in 1900, 973.

Senators Campbell and Woolstenholm, the minority members of the committee, reported that the evidence was insufficient to prove a violation of the law and that Reuting was entitled to his seat.

The expected flow of eloquence following the reading of both reports did not materialize. A dead silence settled on the senate.

Liddell of Douglas, broke the spell by presenting a written motion to table both reports.

Lieutenant Governor Savage asked for a viva voce vote and declared the motion carried. A roll call was demanded. It resulted in the tabling of the reports by a vote of 19 to 12. Thus without any fireworks Senator Reuting was permitted to retain a seat which he had won at the polls by a majority of 78 over his opponent.

The six republicans who voted to not unseat were Berlet of Nemaha, Crouse of Washington, Edgar of Gage, Olsson of Cuming, Steele of Jefferson, and Trompen of Lancaster. They were joined by the thirteen fusionists present, Reuting himself not voting.

The twelve republicans voting to sustain the majority report were Allen, Arends, Currie, Harlan, Johnson, Martin, McCarger, Newell, O'Neill, Owens, Van Boskirk and Young. Allen explained his vote by saying he wanted to hear the evidence.

Saturday, January 26.

A new turn was taken by the senate yesterday morning when a committee comprising Owens, Ransom and Crouse reported that it had conferred with a like committee from the house and had decided in favor of a session of the legislature on Saturday. The report was adopted. After the joint session an effort was made to change this decision, but it was ineffectual.

A large batch of bills was reported by standing committees.

Senate file No. 53, by Riegler, proposing an amendment to the constitution providing for a referendum, was indefinitely postponed. Senate file No. 24, also by Ziegler, for instruction in the theory and art of agriculture in public schools, was also indefinitely postponed. The following bills were placed on general file:

Senate file No. 38, by Olsson, for a constitutional convention; senate file No. 77, by Laman, for the election of United States senators by the people; senate file No. 34, by Ziegler, to restrain male animals from running at large; senate file No. 78, by Allen, for two new normal schools; senate file No. 6, 8 and 9, by Young, curative bills; senate file No. 13, by Young, relating to the catching of fish; senate file No. 39, by Baldrige, relating to support of county agricultural societies; senate file No. 90, by Arends, to encourage forestry; senate file No. 61, by Van Boskirk, to provide for a state veterinarian; senate file No. 86, by McCarger, relating to road tax.

Senate file Nos. 156 and 172, inclusive, were read a second time and referred to standing committees.

Monday, January 28.

Bright and early Saturday morning a committee from the house appeared in the senate to notify that body of the appointment of a committee of five by the house to act with a like committee of the senate in an investigation of the charges of corruption in connection with the senatorial contest. The senate held its breath for a long time. Finally before adjourning for the day Martin of Richardson moved the appointment of a like committee, the mover to be exempt from serving. Lieutenant Governor Savage sat down, and after glancing at a list of members announced Harlan of York, Ransom of Douglas, McCarger of Saline, Ziegler of Dixon, and Owens of Dawson as such committee. The charge to be investigated is that railroad passes and promises of political appointments have been used to influence the election of United States senator.

Secretary Furnas of the state board of agriculture sent a communication informing the senate that the state board had approved senate file No. 101 and house roll No. 138, as the bills are designed to protect insectivorous birds which are true friends of the farmer. The board asked that some legislation be enacted to prevent the destruction of cattle by the cornstalk disease.

House roll No. 29, by McCarthy, amending section 176, chapter 23, entitled "Decedents," was read the first time in the senate.

A number of bills were placed on the general file on the recommendation of standing committees.

Senate file No. 29, by Newell, to amend section 17 of the criminal code, was postponed because a similar bill has taken its place.

Bills numbered from 180 to 187 were introduced.

Sensible Giving.

Russell A. Gardner, a vehicle manufacturer of St. Louis, gave \$10,000 to his employees as a Christmas present. When he balanced his books for the year he found that the company had made \$10,000 more than had been expected and more than was necessary for the business or for personal wants. The money was distributed among the employees according to their length of service.

Example of Humility.

"Some years ago," said Mr. Moody at one of his meetings, "I saw what is called a sensitive plant. I happened to breathe on it, and suddenly it dropped its head; I touched it, and it withered away. Humility is as sensitive as that; it cannot safely be brought out on exhibition."

A Woman's Rights Calendar.

In the interest of reform Mme. Prascovic Arlan publishes every year in Russia a woman's rights calendar, including the laws passed relating to women and various women's societies.

# NATIONAL SENATE

### Transactions of Upper House of Congress Briefly Stated.

January 21.—Under a special order the senate devoted a greater part of the session Saturday to eulogies upon the late Senator John H. Gear of Iowa, who died in Washington last July.

A resolution offered by Kyle of South Dakota was adopted, calling upon the secretary of war for copies of the reports of other authors upon educational work in the Philippines.

Jan. 22.—No business of any importance was transacted by the senate yesterday in open session. An executive session of more than two hours duration was held, and sixty-six pages of the executive, legislative and judicial appropriation was completed before adjournment.

At the opening of the session of the senate, the chaplain in his invocation referred with deep pathos to the condition of Queen Victoria, paying tribute to her virtues as a sovereign and a woman, and invoking divine tenderness and sympathy to all the members of her family and to the people of her realm.

At 1 p. m. the senate went into executive session and confirmed the nomination of James S. Harlan to be attorney general of Porto Rico. The final vote was reached after a discussion of more than two hours' duration. All the republicans cast their votes in the affirmative, and two or three democrats voted with them.

At 3:25 p. m., the senate resumed the transaction of legislative business in open session.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The senate yesterday, in executive session, ratified the treaty with Spain for the acquisition of the islands of Sibutu and Cagayan, of the Philippine group at a cost of \$100,000. There were no votes to spare, a two-thirds vote being needed, and the vote standing 38 to 19.

In the debate prior to ratification a number of senators manifested a disposition to oppose the further acquisition of oriental territory. Senators Lodge and Chandler spoke in behalf of the treaty and Senators Bacon, Money and Pettigrew in opposition.

The announcement of the death of the queen conveyed unofficially to the senate was recognized by that body by the adoption of an appropriate resolution which was ordered to be engrossed and forwarded to the prime minister of Great Britain.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The senate yesterday passed the legislative appropriation bill and resumed consideration of the shipping bill. At the instance of Mr. Frye, who relinquished the chair temporarily to take charge of the measure on the floor, it was made the unfinished business of the senate, thus restoring it to its privileged position.

Mr. Vest, of Missouri, took the floor immediately and in a characteristically brilliant, forceful and interesting speech lasting nearly three hours, he advocated free ships and vigorously attacked the navigation laws of the United States, holding that they were responsible for the decadence of the merchant marine of America. He was accorded close attention by his colleagues on the both sides of the chamber.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The senate yesterday devoted the day to the Indian appropriation bill and made only fair progress. The chief feature of the debate was a sharp attack by Mr. Pettigrew on the Dawes commission which he said was extravagant and was accomplishing little in the way of results. An interesting announcement made by him was that he did not purpose to filibuster against any bill.

The shipping bill was not taken up but today witnessed a speech on it by Mr. Depew. It then will give way to appropriation bills, Mr. Frye saying he did not want to delay them. At the opening the senate adopted the Pettigrew resolution concerning the reported deportation of A. Mabina a citizen of the Philippines to Guam.

Washington, Jan. 28.—The expected fight on the irrigation proposition in the Indian appropriation bill opened up in the senate Saturday and the entire afternoon was devoted to the consideration of that amendment. The opposition split on the question of national irrigation, one faction favoring such a policy but denouncing the amendment, while the other scented danger in the beginning of government assistance in reclaiming arid lands.

During the debate Senator Thurston made an extended speech, in which he declared that congress was not yet ready for the subject of national irrigation, as had been advocated by some members who opposed the amendment in question. The practical information necessary could only be gained through experience such as proposed in this plan for storing the flood waters of the Gila river in Arizona.

The public schools of Minden are overcrowded on account of a large number of non-residents. An additional teacher will be employed.

Armored Automobile Train.

A large English constructor has recently furnished to the British government an armored automobile train, consisting of a number of cars towed by a road locomotive. This is the first of a series which is to be constructed upon the same principle. It will, no doubt, be of great service in the army.

George C. Riddle, who was hurt by a car collision near Toledo, O., had hair turned black in less than an hour it turned white as snow. The phenomenon is explained as being the result of fright and pain.

Better After.

"Colonel Toper, can you shoot better before or after lunch?" "Eh? Well—ahem! It all depends on the lunch, you know."—Pick-Me-Up.

# CONGRESSIONAL

Washington, Jan. 22.—The house yesterday, after passing the District of Columbia bill by a vote of 135 to 57, passed a number of bills under suspension of the rules. They were to provide a home for aged and infirm colored people out of the fund now in the treasury to the credit of the deceased colored soldiers, amounting to about \$230,000; to establish a branch soldiers' home at Johnson City, Washington county, Tenn., and to increase the salary of the commissioner of education of Porto Rico from \$3,000 to \$4,000. A bill to give citizens of foreign countries the right to sue in the court of claims for indemnity for injuries which had been recommended by the state department, was disastrously beaten. The postoffice appropriation bill was reported.

Washington, Jan. 23.—The house yesterday adopted a resolution expressing profound regret and sympathy for the English people on account of the death of Queen Victoria. The president was requested to communicate the expression to the British government and as a further mark of respect to the memory of the queen the house immediately adjourned.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The blind chaplain of the house yesterday referred feelingly to the death of Queen Victoria. The house then passed the District of Columbia appropriation bill. The senate resolution for the celebration of John Marshall day, Feb. 4, was adopted. The house then took up the naval appropriation bill.

Mr. Foss (Ill.), chairman of the naval committee, explained its salient features. He said that our navy was larger than the German navy and was keeping a little ahead of it.

Mr. Grosvenor (Ohio) said he considered this remark unfortunate, and capable of misconception. We were friendly with Germany and there was no reason why that country should be singled out for the purpose of comparison. Mr. Foss disclaimed any idea that we were directing our energies toward keeping ahead of Germany. He had simply stated a fact.

Washington, Jan. 26.—The house yesterday considered the naval appropriation bill all day and completed it with the exception of one paragraph. The item for the increase of the navy will remain as reported, namely, two battleships and two cruisers. Some opposition was manifested to any increase of the navy, and Mr. Cannon of Illinois sounded a note of warning as to the size of our annual appropriations and added that with the present appropriation \$310,000,000 would have been spent on our new navy and we should stop.

Washington, Jan. 28.—The house on Saturday made good progress with the bill to revise and codify the postal laws. Only twenty-eight pages of the 223 pages remain to be disposed of. Efforts were persistently made to load the bill up with a lot of changes in the existing postal laws. The pressure was especially strong in favor of reclassifying certain classes of post-office employes by Mr. Loud of California, in charge of the bill, fought all of them, explaining that such amendments were out of place on a modification bill, and would, if adopted, mean its death in the senate.

In this way every attempt to amend the bill was successfully resisted. The latter part of the session was devoted to eulogies upon the life and public service of the late Senator Gear of Iowa.

Women as Curates.

One of the Liverpool clergy of the established church of England is trying to employ church women as regular supplementary curates, and he suggests that such organizing work of the parish might be better done by women than by clergymen. He declares that he can get three women to work for the price of one curate and to do three times the work.

Arizona Hopes for Statehood.

Governor Murphy of Arizona hopes that the territory will be admitted to statehood soon. If the territory is not admitted, says the governor, it will be due mainly to the indifference of men who have made fortunes in the territory and who think they can wield more influence over a territorial than a state legislature.

A Lamb-Feeding Center.

Glowing reports come from the sheep-raising district in southern Colorado. The Arkansas valley is under irrigation over an area of eighty-five miles long and ten miles wide, and it will shortly become the greatest lamb-feeding center in the world. At the present time over 315,000 sheep and lambs are on feed there.

A Patron of Esthetics.

A new institution, called the School or College of Esthetics, and also the Academy of the Beautiful, has been founded in Paris by a young literary man, M. de Boubellier. His object is to unite on a common ground poets, painters, sculptors, musicians, and all who are interested in the beautiful in art.

Mill Hand Becomes a Scholar.

James Owen, B. A., of Balliol college, Oxford, who has just been elected to a modern history fellowship at Pembroke college, is the son of a Lancashire collieryman, and himself worked in an Oldham mill when he left school at the age of 13.