

MUST STAY BY JOB

Will Knock Out Bucket Shops and Telephone Grafts

THE LOBBYISTS HAVE WON OUT

Senator Brown Delivers Speech Before Both Houses and Pledges Himself

From our staff correspondent Geo. W. Kline

In both the senate and the house there are members of exceptional ability. Members, eager for leadership and ambitious to push their measures, have displayed commendable zeal and industry. The senate is more advanced than the house when it comes to matters of legislation. Almost twice the number of bills have been introduced. Many of these have been advanced to the general file for the discussion in the committee of the whole. Senator McKesson of Lancaster has won the nickname of "chaperone" because he has been recognized as an authority on parliamentary questions. Senator King, Senator Root, Senator Sackett, Senator Epperson and Senator Aldrich are regarded as excellent leadership material and the mantle of the recognized majority chieftain may fall on any of them. Senator Patrick and Senator Ashton, two minority members, have taken a leading part in the deliberations. Senator Patrick has introduced an anti-lobby bill which probably will pass and Senator Ashton has called for the enforcement of the maximum freight rate law.

In the house Adam McMullen, "Ned" Brown and Representative Dodge are three of the leading figures. Cone and Van Housen are the chieftains of the minority. While there was a partisan vote in the house, the Van Housen investigation resolution being tabled, there has been no partisan alignment in the senate. Byram, Elmer Brown and Harrison are firmly entrenched in the councils of the house.

The joint committees are at work on the "party pledge" bills. These measures will include a bill to empower the railway commission to adjust freight and passenger rates, an anti-pass bill and a primary measure. It is also expected that a terminal tax statute will be enacted to empower the cities and towns of the state to tax the railroads for municipal purposes. It is predicted that the bills will conform to the ideas of Governor Sheldon and will come to the house and senate as party bills. Express, telegraph, telephone and all public service corporations will be placed under the jurisdiction of the state railway commission.

Senator Burns has presented a measure to the senate to clarify the judicial politics of the state. Representative Elmer Brown has introduced practically the same measure in the house. The bill prohibits supreme judges, district court judges and county judges from participating in politics or being a candidate for any position of preference during the terms for which they were elected. They may be candidates for re-election but are debarred from scrambling for other positions. According to reports there has been more or less violation of the spirit of this bill in the various parts of the state. It is argued that a judge cannot be unbiased and unprejudiced if he is continually dabbling in politics.

Norris Brown has been elected United States senator from Nebraska and will succeed Senator J. H. Millard on March 4. Mr. Brown polled the full republican strength in both the senate and the house, receiving 95 votes, while the minority, 36 members, voted for W. H. Thompson, of Grand Island.

Mr. Brown is 42 years of age. He was born at Maquoketa, Iowa, and was educated at the Iowa state university. After reading and practicing law in Perry county he came to Kearney in 1888. He has been county attorney of Buffalo county, deputy attorney general four years and attorney general two years. In his speech before the joint session Mr. Brown made the following declaration:

"The people can be trusted. The government in all its branches belongs to them. The lawmaking branch is perhaps nearer to the people than any other. The laws should respond to the immediate demands of those to whom the government belongs. There is no

justification for making one set of lawmakers directly responsible for the people and another set of lawmakers directly responsible to somebody else. I have abiding faith in the intelligence and conservatism of the American citizens and am willing to trust his heart and judgment on election day.

"Those who oppose the popular election of United States Senators pretend to a certain hallowed conservatism and charge those who favor the proposition with being radicals. Their conservatism is a pretense and the charge is untrue. It is not conservatism to remain wedded to a plan that experience has shown to be illogical and unreasonable, if not wrong and indefensible. It is not radicalism to favor a change that experience teaches is right and essential and necessary to a real and actual representative form of self-government. The legislator, no matter what his rank may be, is representative of the citizens, who should have the right to elect him by a direct vote."

The proposed bill of King of Polk in the senate if made into law will reduce the district judges from twenty-eight to twenty-two, a saving of \$20,000, enough to pay the expenses of the new railway commission for two years. His bill contemplates a reduction of one from the 1st judicial district, one from the 3d, two from the 4th and one from the 11th and enough other districts to make a total of six, a saving of about \$20,000, or enough to pay the expenses of the railway commission.

According to his intended bill the 1st judicial district shall consist of Jefferson, Gage, Pawnee and Johnson counties.

The 2d judicial district shall consist of Otoe, Cass, Nemaha and Richardson counties.

The 3d judicial district shall consist of Lancaster county.

The 4th judicial district shall consist of Douglas and Sarpy counties.

The 5th judicial district shall consist of Seward, Butler, Polk, York and Hamilton counties.

The 6th judicial district shall consist of Colfax, Platte, Merrick, Nance and Boone counties.

The 7th judicial district shall consist of Saunders, Dodge, Washington and Burt counties.

The 8th judicial district shall consist of Saline, Fillmore, Thayer, Nuckolls and Clay counties.

The 9th judicial district shall consist of Cuming, Stanton, Dixon, Dakota, Cedar and Thurston counties.

The 10th judicial district shall consist of Wayne, Madison, Antelope, Pierce and Knox counties.

The 11th judicial district shall consist of Adams, Webster, Kearney, Franklin, Phelps and Harlan counties.

The 12th judicial district shall consist of Hall, Howard, Greeley, Valley and Wheeler counties.

The 13th judicial district shall consist of Buffalo, Dawson, Custer and Sherman counties.

The 14th judicial district shall consist of Lincoln, Logan, Keith, Cheyenne, Deuel, Scotts Bluff, Banner, Kimball, McPherson.

The joint railroad committee of the house and senate is busily engaged in outlining the proposed railway reform bill. All the measures on railway subjects have been referred to this committee and Chairman Wilsey and his colleagues have invited the railway commissioners to attend.

Senator Sackett, of Gage, has outlined a demurrage bill. The bill exacts penalties for the failure of the railroad companies to fill requests for cars. Heffernan, of Cuming, has introduced a bill in the house demanding that the railroads maintain a car register at each station, the cars to be furnished in the exact order that the demands are tabulated.

The fierce, unreasoning antipathy against the lobby has almost disappeared. The dangerous type of lobbyists seldom came near the capitol or intruded on the floor of the legislature. Strange as this may seem the men who represented the true sentiment of the people were the persons who ran counter to the anti-lobby resolutions. Charitable workers, prison reformers, representatives of the women's clubs and persons with measures relating to public reform were debarred and hindered from explaining their views. Members could not deny their constituents a hearing and now the floors are free for the admission of the common people. Visitors come and go just as freely as ever.

AFTER THE RECORD

Experts are Now in the State to Secure Data

WILL BE THOROUGH INVESTIGATION

Records in Every County Seat in Nebraska Will be Probed for Evidence

A government employe in the census bureau at Washington has been engaged at the office of the clerk of the district court at Lincoln for several weeks gathering statistics on the divorce record of Lancaster county for the past twenty years. A similar canvass is being conducted by the bureau in every county in Nebraska. The statistics are to be used by the national government either in framing a national divorce law or in shaping recommendations to the various states with the view of securing greater uniformity in divorce legislation throughout the country.

The present investigation is due to President Roosevelt, who two years ago made the divorce question the subject for a lengthy discussion in his annual message to Congress.

When the divorce records in New York were desired they were found, in many instances, to be sealed. Wealthy litigants, who had secured divorces with as little publicity as possible, had managed to secure the sealing of the records in the hope that the futures of their children might be shielded or to protect their own reputations. Although the census bureau had no wish to delve into the secrets of the divorces, instant opposition was met when an effort was made to secure the data. Each examiner is sworn not to divulge what the records show, and to confine his investigation solely to the securing of the data desired, but the efforts of the government to open the New York records have as yet proved unavailing, although it is expected that in the end the statistics will be secured.

Notations are taken on the following matters: The state and county in which both of the litigants were born, the date of their marriage, the date of their separation, the date of the filing of the divorce petition, which was the libellant, how the notice was served, whether or not the case was contested, whether or not the decree was granted, the date of the decree or judgment, the number of years the couple was married, the cause for which divorce proceedings were started, whether or not intemperance was a direct or an indirect cause, whether the divorce was absolute or limited, the number of children by the union and the number affected by the decree, the amount of alimony, if any was asked, the amount of alimony granted, if any, the occupation of the husband and of the wife, and the residence of the libelee.

FOR RHODES SCHOLARSHIP.

Examinations for Coveted Prizes was Held at University.

The examinations for the Rhodes scholarship have been held at the state university. This was the third examination held for the coveted honor in this state. The first one was held four years ago and resulted in the choice of a son of President Sutherland of Grand Island college to represent the state in Oxford university as the first professor of a Rhodes scholarship from Nebraska. Two years ago Arthur H. Marsh of Blair, a student at the state university, secured the scholarship. No examination was held last year. The examinations were in Latin, Greek, Latin composition and mathematics. The questions were forwarded from England for this contest and were not opened until the examinations began. The committee in charge of the test was composed of Miss Grace Young of Cotner university and Prof. Guernsey Jones of the University of Nebraska. The papers submitted by the students will be sealed and sent to England, where they will be graded. The names of the students whose grades are high enough to entitle them to the scholarship will be sent back to the committee and the successful applicant will be named according to other qualifications.

Wolves have become so plentiful in Marion township that a grand hunt was indulged in.

THE PREMIUMS AWARDED.

State to be Divided for the Disposition of Prizes.

The premium committee of the State Board of Agriculture has made an important ruling, dividing the state into three districts for the more equitable disposal of prizes. Each district will take as its basis of scoring the highest score of that particular district and all other counties in that district shall score in order to be entitled to participate in the premium money. The board has set aside \$2,300 to be divided among the premium winners as follows: 60 per cent to be divided equally among all premium winners; the balance to be pro-rated according to the points made above the minimum number of points scored, \$50 will be added to the highest score in each district; \$50 sweepstakes to the highest score in the state.

The eastern district under the new division will be bounded on the west by the county lines of Knox, Pierce, Madison, Colfax, Butler, Seward, Saline and Jefferson.

The western boundary of the central district will be the western lines of Boyd, Holt, Garfield, Custer, Dawson, Frontier and Red Willow counties.

In the judgment of the board, this will leave the western counties in competition with their equals while the eastern corn counties will have their own class.

THE NEW OFFICERS

Members of the State Fair Association Hold Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the state board of agriculture held at Lincoln elected the following officers and board of managers for the ensuing year:

President, Peter Youngers, Geneva. First Vice President, C. H. Rudge, Lincoln.

Second Vice President, V. Arnold, Verdon.

Treasurer, E. Z. Russell, Blair. Secretary, W. R. Mellor, Loup City.

Board of Managers.

C. H. Rudge, Lincoln. H. L. Cook, St. Paul. G. W. Hervey, Omaha. E. Filley, Reynolds. O. P. Hendershot, Hebron.

The following were elected to membership in the state board, fourteen this year; next year, fifteen members will be chosen, the members to serve two years each, making the full board number twenty-nine:

C. H. Rudge, Lancaster. Will James, Saline. O. P. Hendershot, Thayer. O. E. Mickey, Polk. J. F. McArdle, Douglas. L. W. Leonard, Pawnee. H. L. Cook, Howard. I. W. Haws, Kearney. W. C. Caley, Knox. E. Filley, Jefferson. C. M. Lewelling, Furnas. J. A. Ollis, jr., Valley. E. M. Searle, Keith. Charles Bessey, Webster. Dr. Pritchard, Cuming.

With the exception of the election of officers the meeting was devoted almost entirely to the revision of the premium list.

SHELDON'S FIRST OFFICIAL ACT.

Delegates for Farming Congress in Denver Were Named.

The first official function by Governor Sheldon was the appointment of the following delegates to represent the state of Nebraska at the trans-Mississippi dry farming congress to be held in Denver January 24 and 26: Prof. E. A. Burnett, Lincoln; E. G. Montgomery, Lincoln; W. T. Snyder, North Platte; J. W. Pillsbury, DeWitt; A. S. Campbell, Imperial; Page T. Francis, Crawford; Robert Walsh, Morrill; Judge Hurlburt, Gering; John Powers, Mitchell; W. J. Harris, Ogallala; H. L. Gould, Ogallala; John E. Myers, Broken Bow; J. T. Ream, Broken Bow; A. Dobson, Lincoln.

NEWSPAPER ABSORBED.

State Journal Takes Over the Nebraska Independent.

It is authoritatively announced that the Independent, formerly owned by Frank D. Eager and run as a populist-independent organ, later taken over by Hon. George W. Berge, candidate two years ago for governor on the fusion ticket, has been absorbed by the State Journal of Lincoln. Just what the political composition of the Independent will be under its new management will be hard to guess, but it is said Editor Devine, who has had editorial charge of the paper for the past two or three years and a fearless writer on economic issues, will have editorial charge.

UNIFORM SYSTEM

The State Railway Commissioners Will Hold Meeting

OTHER STATES WILL BE INVITED

Nebraska State Officials Look up the Situation and Make a Report

To bring about a uniform system of state regulation west of the Mississippi river, a conference to be held by members of railway commissioners from a number of states has been proposed. The idea originated with members of the Iowa commission and is favored by Messrs. H. J. Winnett, Robert Cowell and J. A. Williams, composing the newly created body in Nebraska. Letters will be sent out soon from Des Moines suggesting the advisability of a meeting for the purpose mentioned, and if the plan meets with favor the gathering will probably take place in the Iowa capital, Missouri, Minnesota, Kansas and one or two other states, in addition to Iowa and Nebraska, will probably be included in the invitations to participate.

Dr. Winnett spent two days at Des Moines looking into the system of railroad supervision as practiced by the Iowa board, and while there he learned of the conference plan. In speaking of his trip Mr. Winnett says: "I found that the rates fixed by the Iowa commission in 1888 have not been changed much since then. This is the source of some complaint at present, as there are many who think the schedule needs to be revised and the charges lowered in a good many instances, notwithstanding that they are considerably lower now than the railroads in Nebraska have been charging. All the rates there are based on mileage. This plan works well so far as shipments inside the state are concerned, but on goods coming from outside or destined to points in other states the rates are in some cases much lower than they should be in proportion."

WILL TEST RAILWAY COMMISSION

In Order to be Sure of its Thorough Legality.

Judge M. B. Reese of Lincoln and Judge J. A. Williams of Pierce, the latter a member of the state railway commission, will appear jointly as counsel for that body in the test suit started by Attorney General Thompson in conformity with a resolution adopted by the legislature, to determine whether the commission has been legally created and how far its powers extend. An agreement has been reached to have the case heard at the first supreme court sitting in February. It is not known as yet whether any of the railroad companies intend to intervene.

MAKE NEBRASKA BEAUTIFUL

Let the Bleak Prairie be Dotted With Shade Trees.

That there is a constantly increasing interest and care in beautifying the broad prairies of Nebraska was shown by the large attendance of persons interested in horticultural subjects at the meeting of the State Horticultural society at the state university, Lincoln. The number present was far larger than ever before in the history of the organization, and all who participated in the discussions seemed thoroughly convinced of the practical as well as ornamental value of shrubbery of every nature. Instructive talks were given on "Forestry Planting." Some presented.

New Historical Society.

At a meeting of the State Historical Society new officers were elected for the ensuing year:

President, Dr. George L. Miller, Omaha.

First vice-president, Robert F. Harvey.

Second vice-president, J. E. North, Columbus.

Secretary, C. S. Paine, Lincoln.

Treasurer, S. L. Geisthardt, Lincoln.

The business session which was attended by about forty members became somewhat interesting before its close on account of there being two candidates for the office of secretary, Prof. H. W. Caldwell, who has served seventeen years, and C. S. Paine, managing editor of the Morton History of Nebraska. The latter gentleman was out.