

SUPREME POWER

Railroad Commissioners Have Full Control Over All

RATES REVISED IN SIXTY DAYS

A State-wide Primary Where All Parties Can Assemble and There Fight It Out

From our staff correspondent Geo. W. Kline

The railway commission bill must go through the legislature with a hop, skip and jump. There is no doubt that the measure will be hastened. The members of the legislature are anxious to make some proof of their party loyalty, and it is thought that the measure will receive nothing radical in the way of an amendment on the way through the house and senate. The house has wrestled with the question and the bill was sent on its way. It is expected that the measure will be out of the senate in a few days. The bill confers all powers concerning the regulation of railway, express, telegraph and telephone companies on the commission. Rates must be revised within sixty days and the railroads must go to the commission with their protests. The railroad attorneys were given a public hearing, but they made no protests against the commission bill.

"Who is a caretaker of stock?" This is the question that has been raised concerning the anti-pass bill. "Caretakers" can ride free along with railroad employes and the surgeons and attorneys, who draw \$500 per annum. It is probable that the bill will be so amended that the names of the persons favored with free transportation will be filed with the railway commission for the inspection of the public. The bill is expected to pass the house and senate without the least friction.

The primary bill, outlined by Senator Aldrich and several of his colleagues, will make some radical changes in the elections, and the measure will be first tested next fall. There is no doubt of the disposition to pass the bill favoring a state-wide primary. The bill provides that the primaries of all parties shall take place on the same day. The right to vote will be based on party affiliations, and the voter must affirm that he voted with a certain party at the last election and means to vote for a majority of its nominees at the next election. The officials of the regular election will act at the primary. The ballots are printed and the vote counted similar to the canvass after a regular election. Candidates for state offices pay \$100, while the local aspirants "dig up" \$10 each. This fund is applied on the primary expenses and the various counties must raise the balance. At present it is planned to elect the state central committee of each party and the state central committee outlines the platform. Concerning the cost of the primary no authentic figures have been cited.

The child labor law is scheduled for early passage. This bill prohibits all child labor in sweatshops and factories and insists on the enrolment of children in the public schools. A state position is created, which must be filled by appointment.

Senator Gibson's liability bill was recommended for passage in the senate committee of the whole without the least opposition. There was little oratory and the promised fight did not develop. The bill applies to the operating departments of the railroads. Senator Burns chaperoned a liability bill including all classes of laborers. The fight will now be transferred to the house.

The senate will pass without a dissenting vote a measure to place the tipping practice within the list of crimes. Fines of from \$5 to \$50 are prescribed by the provisions of the act for both the man who gives and the individual who receives a tip. The bill was outlined by the senate judiciary committee and is supposed to be law proof.

County option may be revived. There is a plan to introduce a bill making each county a voting unit and exempting all cities of 5,000 or more from the provisions of the law, such cities to hold their own elections. The verdict of a majority settles the "wet" or "dry" proposition for a period of five years.

Senator Sackett's bill to prevent pooling in bridge contracts was endorsed by the senate by unanimous vote. All combinations, pools or agreements among county bridge builders are declared criminal and against public policy. Severe penalties are outlined. For those who will give evidence an "immunity bath" is allowed and they will not be punished for their share in the deal.

Woman suffrage has been voted down in the house. The battle was an exciting one and the margin narrow. Some of the opponents of woman suffrage took the stand that the woman was the queen of the home and any participation in politics would lower the standard of woman-

hood. The senate has passed the bill, introduced by Senator King, abolishing dower and curtesy and giving the widows one-third of the real estate and personal property. This is in cases where the widow is the mother of one or all the children. In case she is not the mother of the children surviving the husband her share in the estate is one-fourth. Similar provisions are made for the surviving husband.

Bills to abolish the death penalty have been voted down in both the senate and the house. It is now absolutely certain that there will be no modification of the death penalty law. On the other hand, it is believed that bills will be passed compelling all hearings for pardons to be public.

Bankers are in a row concerning the series of trust company bills. It is claimed that the measure paves the way for "high finance," while the champions of the measures talk of changing the laws to permit "conservative banking." A number of the Lincoln banks are out with the avowed intention of killing the bills and they argue that the proposed changes will allow many evils to creep into the banking operations of cities.

The anti-pass bill introduced in the legislature on authority of the joint railroad committee applies only to steam railroads. There has been talk of bringing in another measure to cut off street railway transportation, express, telephone and telegraph franks. The fact that the state house is said to be overrun with free tickets and passes over the street railway lines of Lincoln is held by some senators and representatives as evidence that something needs to be done in that direction.

Included in the list of bills introduced in the house is one by Witham of Johnson amending the present statute on Sabbath observance. It excepts from the penalties therein any persons who conscientiously observe Saturday as the Sabbath, and also permits individuals or companies engaged in the transportation of the public to do business on Sunday. Medical prescriptions may also be compounded on that day under this act.

H. R. No. 61, by Representative Killen of Gage county, prohibits bridge contractors from pooling their bids and requiring them to produce their records when called for by the proper county officials. The bill was passed by the house. It imposes a maximum penalty of \$1,000 fine or six months' jail imprisonment or both for violations. The bill is of special interest to Gage county, which has been struggling with a large sized bridge scandal for the last year or two. Killen has introduced several bills intended to remedy various features of the present laws governing bridge contracts.

Legislative Librarian A. E. Sheldon has prepared some interesting statistics on the liquor business in Nebraska for members of the legislature who are studying on a new local option bill which will be presented. Mr. Sheldon states that the revenue derived from the saloon business in Nebraska is about \$750,000. The number of persons engaged in the liquor business in the state is estimated at 2,660. The salaries paid to manufacturers of liquor in the state amounted to \$231,269. Less than 400,000 bushels of grain was consumed to produce less than four million gallons of liquor.

Representative Dodge of Omaha declared in a speech in the house that the Nebraska state capitol building was a disgrace to the commonwealth.

He presented a resolution calling for the appointment of a committee to investigate the probable cost of repapering the capitol building and for repainting both the interior and exterior parts of the structure. Shubert of Richardson county offered an amendment to the resolution adding authority to the committee to inquire regarding the expense of making material improvements in the capitol grounds, particularly in raising the sidewalks above the low water mark. The resolution as amended was adopted by the house, the legislators signifying their approval by a vote of 41 to 21.

The judiciary committee is preparing to take up the local option baseball bill introduced by McMullen. Several ministers have promised to appear before the committee and plead for the death of this measure. The ministers declare they prefer to have the present law, although it is not obeyed in certain parts of the state.

To provide for the making of test borings or explorations for the discovery of oil, coal, gas or artesian water and other minerals in the state of Nebraska, and to appropriate money to aid in such borings or explorations is the object of H. R. No. 290, introduced by Representative Lahners.

S. F. No. 109, which was reported by the committee on revenue for indefinite postponement, has been resurrected and is now on the general file. The bill allows mortgages to be classed as an interest in real estate, the amount being deducted from the value of the property.

Representative Harrison of Otoe has been asked to present a bill repealing the statutes making the salary of the deputy secretary of state \$1,500.

A bill providing that grand and petit jurors shall receive \$3 per day was introduced by Representative Whitney of Sarpy county.

MUST GET PERMIT

Will Compel Air Castle Builders to Show Stability

BONDS WILL BE HELD IN CHECK

Railroad Commissioners Will Pass on Proposition of Issue—Void Without Sanction

Senator Aldrich of Butler would eliminate the methods of "high finance" from Nebraska railroading.

He has introduced a bill, S. F. 308, to forbid the issuing of bonds without the consent and authority of the state railway commission.

The law includes all forms of stocks and bonds. They must be listed with the commission and the purpose of the issue made known. Without the permission of the commissioners to issue the bonds the securities are worthless.

A bill providing for a state inspector of bees with a salary of \$1,200 was introduced by Representative Masters.

H. R. No. 330, by Representative Tucker, provides for the amendments to the state constitution providing for seven supreme judges for twelve years each; salary not less than \$5,000 each.

Representative Henry's bill for a joint resolution memorializing Congress in favor of woman suffrage was defeated by a vote of 40 to 48.

Representative McMullen's bill appropriating \$7,000 for a bacteriological laboratory for the use of the state board of health was defeated by a vote of 32 to 52.

The committee of the whole in the senate has recommended for passage S. F. No. 25, introduced by Thomas of Douglas county. This bill provides for the incorporation of interurban railroads.

The bill to abolish the death penalty created a long discussion in the senate and its passage was finally stopped. It is likely the bill will be killed. It is known as S. F. No. 106, introduced by Senator Clarke of Adams county.

Chief Game Warden George L. Carter is advocating the passage of a bill which will require every hunter and fisher in the state to secure a license. The only exception that should be made, he believes, is one excepting the hunting and fishing on the hunter's own land. A bill to that effect has been introduced in the house.

A bill to secure more safety in selling and handling gasoline, benzene and other high explosives within this state was introduced in the house by Representative Cone of Saunders county.

Senator Thomas' bill permitting coroners to charge \$5 and mileage where no inquest is held and applying the present law relating to examinations by physicians to counties under 125,000 population was successfully passed.

S. F. 161, by Aldrich of Butler, increasing the salary of the commandant of the Milford home for soldiers and providing that such officer shall be an ex-union soldier and that he may be removed from office at the pleasure of the governor has become a law.

A number of petitions protesting against the anti-Christian science bills and that the anti-Sunday baseball bill and in favor of the child labor bill have been received by the legislators.

Upon the request of his constituents Representative Thiessen of Jefferson county offered a bill to provide for the proper heating, lighting and ventilating of public school houses in school districts other than city and metropolitan city school districts.

A bill to compel the county assessor in counties of over 50,000 population to devote his entire time to the duties of his office has been introduced by Representative Tucker of Douglas county.

At the request of some of his constituents Senator Phillips of Holt county introduced a bill to create a state board of park commissioners to be appointed by the governor, to control and manage all lands the state may acquire for parks and experimental forest reserves.

A motion to create a state fire commission and providing for three deputy fire marshals was introduced by Senator Holbrook of Dodge.

Senator Sibley of Lincoln county introduced a bill providing that a decree of divorce shall not go into effect until six months after it is entered.

S. F. No. 295, by Patrick of Sarpy, prohibits the granting of license for sale of liquor within three miles of a military post and requiring thirty free holders to sign liquor license petitions regardless of number in ward or village.

To establish a uniform course of study in the first eight grades in the

common schools of the state of Nebraska, and to establish a uniform system of examination for all pupils in the common schools of the state of Nebraska, to make the completion of the eighth grade course, and for entrance to the high school course is the object of a bill submitted to the house by Representative Cudlice of Saline.

Bitter invective is expected when the employers' liability bill comes up for passage. Senator Burns of Lancaster has introduced a bill which includes all manner of employes.

Ashton of Hall has introduced a short weight coal bill in the senate. It will if passed require railroad companies to deliver the amount of coal named in the bill of lading, or to give some valid excuse.

The executive officers of the state W. C. T. U. petitioned for the defeat of S. F. 230, which permits city and county officers to authorize the playing of baseball on Sunday.

Haffernon of Dakota will introduce a measure fixing severe penalties for keeping gaming fixtures or devices on hand. The bill specifies a fine of \$300 to \$500, or penitentiary imprisonment not to exceed two years. Billiard tables for betting are classed with unlawful paraphernalia.

All real estate mortgages held by citizens of Nebraska will be taxed hereafter by the assessors.

It will be unlawful for any one to solicit money for the purchase of votes in Nebraska hereafter.

The senate has passed the bulk sales bill.

The bill of Lee of Douglas to increase salaries of legislators from \$5 to \$10 per day has been postponed.

Representative Hart of York is the author of a resolution presented in the house which directs a committee to investigate into the cost of furnishing the governor's mansion and making such repairs as may be advisable there.

The senate received a communication from a number of Merrick county people protesting against H. R. 51, S. F. 105 and S. F. 72, anti-Christian science bills, on the ground that the bills restrict human liberty.

The bill to abolish capital punishment in Nebraska was taken up by the house in the committee of the whole, and a large number of the representatives delivered speeches for or against the measure. The bill was indefinitely postponed by a vote of 60 to 25.

A delegation of Hastings people appeared before the senate committee on asylums to protest against the bill by Burns of Lancaster changing the name of the asylum for the incurable insane to asylum for the insane. The delegation was headed by Mayor Miles, who came two years ago on a similar mission. Mr. Clarke spoke for the citizens of Hastings, declaring that the incurable insane could have better treatment in a separate institution than in company with temporarily insane people and that the present plan is more in the interests of humanity than the proposed plan.

The Nebraska senators and members in Congress presented to the Senate and House the two resolutions recently adopted by the Nebraska legislature. One instructs them to vote against ship subsidy legislation and the other urges the adoption of an amendment to the cattle inspection law, which will provide for an inspection of cattle at the yards of the farmers and shippers, granting permission to ship within a period of at least thirty days after such inspection is made.

THE CHILD LABOR BILL.

Provisions of Child Labor Bill as Presented to the Legislature.

The child labor bill introduced by Representative Henry T. Clarke, Jr., of Omaha, providing for the regulation of child labor in the state of Nebraska, says no child under fourteen years of age shall be employed or permitted to work in connection with any concert hall, theater or place of amusement, or where any intoxicating liquors are sold or in any mercantile institution, store, office, hotel, laundry, manufacturing establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, factory or workshop, or as a messenger or driver thereof during the hours when the public schools are in session.

No child between fourteen and sixteen is to be permitted to work in the places designated, excluding unconditionally any place where liquor is sold, unless employer procures and keeps on file an employment certificate, signed by the parent or guardian, teacher and the principal of the school. A certificate must also be posted near the principal entrance of the building in which such children are employed. These certificates must show that the child has completed the work of the eighth grade or its equivalent, or is regularly attending a night school.

No child under the age of sixteen shall be employed or permitted to work at any gainful occupation more than eight hours a day. No child under sixteen years of age shall be employed in any work where the nature of the work or the place of performance is dangerous to life or in which either health or morals are injured. A violation of this act is subject to a fine not more than \$50.

RESPECT RIGHTS

Homesteaders Taking Land Are Given Full Rights

AUCTION ALL ISOLATED TRACTS

Must Bring Fifty Cents or More Per Acre, as Appraised by Land Commissioner

Representative M. P. Kinkaid has introduced a bill in the House of Congress pertaining to the public lands in Nebraska described and affected by an act approved April 28, 1904, and amendatory to the same. The text of his measure follows:

"That all qualified homesteaders who in the interim beginning on the 28th day of April, 1904, and ending on the 28th day of June of that year, made entry of a homestead of one hundred and sixty acres or less in the state of Nebraska within the area covered by an act of Congress entitled 'An act to amend the homestead laws as to certain unappropriated and unreserved public lands in Nebraska,' approved April 28, 1904, shall be entitled to the full benefits and privileges of the provisions of said act as if their said entries had been made prior to April 28, 1904; and, where it will not conflict with existing rights, those who made entries in said interim shall have the same right by virtue thereof as if made prior to April 24, 1904, or subsequent to June 28, 1904.

"Sec. 2. That all entrymen under said act specified in section 1 hereof who have performed military service, together with the widows and heirs of such, shall as to entries heretofore and hereafter made be entitled to the rights conferred by sections 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308 and 2309 of the revised statutes of the United States, second edition, 1878.

"Sec. 3. That the law governing the sale of isolated tracts of public lands as amended by an act approved June 27, 1906, shall govern as to the sale of isolated tracts of the land aforesaid, but the maximum area is hereby increased to three quarter-sections, and where it shall be made to appear to the commissioner of the general land office, on rules prescribed by him, that the fair value of an isolated tract is materially less than \$1.25 per acre the commissioner is authorized to sell such tract to the highest bidder at not less than 50 cents per acre, with the right to disapprove any sale on account of the inadequacy of the price bid.

"Sec. 4. That all homestead entries hereafter made of the lands aforesaid shall be held to be subject to the provisions of said act pertaining thereto approved April 28, 1904."

PUTTING UP THE BARS.

Heads of Families Placed Upon the Garnishment List.

A garnishment bill has been introduced in the senate by Thomson of Buffalo county. The bill as read permits the garnishment of 10 per cent of the wages of all persons who are heads of families, "both before and after such wages are due." Thomson's bill is senate file No. 305. The law now in vogue is an old one, and while it is admitted that it practically debars any one from garnishing the wages of heads of families, some allege that it should be so, and that grocers and others should use their judgment in selling to people on credit and not expect the state to give them an ironclad lien on payment in a law to enforce collection. Under the proposed law of the Thomson bill not only 10 per cent of wages can be garnished but the costs can be piled up to a considerable extent against the head of a family. The ordinary garnishment suit will cost at least \$15. A claim for \$10 or \$15 against a man who had \$25 due him in the form of wages would about absorb the entire amount of wages due.

MAY YET PULL THROUGH.

Friends of County Option Will Make Another Attempt.

There still remains a chance for the passage of a county option bill. Expressions of regret have been heard from several of the senators that the county option bill, defeated by a vote of 12 to 21, was not modified so as to meet the objections that were urged against it instead of being so early dismissed. In discussing the matter among themselves the senators find that several of those who voted against the bill really had strong leanings toward the proposition of giving the farmers a right to vote for or against the existence of saloons.

Some of the senators objected to the defeated bill because it allowed the question to come up in the counties every two years. Others objected to what seemed to be an unfairness in the bill in that it provided that "a dry" vote would make all the towns of the county dry but "a wet" vote would not necessarily mean wet. For these and other reasons the bill was voted down with a feeling in the hearts of several senators who voted against it that there ought to be some legislation along this line.

The Johnson Telephone Co. of Smartville has incorporated with a capital stock of \$3,500.