

ROADS HARD HIT

Low Rate Bill Is Hurried Through the House and Senate

ATTEMPT TO POSTPONE ACTION

Representatives Declare That The Railroads are Still Issuing the Forbidden Pass

From our staff correspondent Geo. W. Kline

Following the lead of the senate the house of representatives of the Nebraska legislature by unanimous vote placed the seal of its approval upon the two-cent passenger fare bill.

Consideration of the measure on its final reading had been made a special order. When Speaker Nettleton called the house to order many of the members were not in their seats. This state of affairs prompted a motion by Henry of Holt county for a call of the house. His suggestion carried with a rush, the sergeant-at-arms being instructed to lock the doors and to conduct a skirmish for the absentees.

While the hunt was in progress Clarke of Douglas moved facetiously that the house suspend its rules and permit smoking. Speaker Nettleton ruled that a two-thirds vote was necessary to suspend and that the motion had not carried.

After a five minute wait a motion was made to raise the call, but there was still a long list of absentees and the majority of those present insisted upon a larger attendance, rejecting the motion by a vote of 27 to 56. Finally the missing ones began straggling in and the call was raised.

Immediately a motion was put for a third reading and that it pass, which was adopted by a unanimous vote of 90 to 0.

The house bill adopted differs only slightly from the Sackett bill which was passed by the senate. The house measure is the one drafted by the joint committee. The two bills after going through the conference committee where a speedy agreement leading to the final adoption of the conference measure was effected the tacking on of the emergency clause by both houses put the rate law into effect immediately after its approval by Governor Sheldon.

The anti-pass bill, the primary bill and the railway commission bill are on their way to the senate. Jenison's anti-lobby bill has been referred to a senate committee, while Gibson's employers' liability bill has been sent to the senate. In the anti-pass bill the list of exemptions has been paired and it is probable that about the only pass holders will be railway employees and caretakers of stock.

Senator Luce of Harlan has made a plea for the builder who is trying to erect a home for his family. He declares that such an individual has some rights. He announced his belief during a debate on a bill to modify the lien laws of the state so that builder could not be held for more than the contract price of the house while the contractor would be liable for any mistakes or errors or losses in erecting the building. The lumbermen have able representation and a half dozen representatives of the alleged trust are fighting the bill.

Lieutenant Governor Hopewell secured the passage of the suffrage bill in the senate, his vote breaking the tie of 16 against 16. The house defeated the bill, which is in the form of a joint memorial to Congress in favor of an amendment to the constitution of the United States to prevent discrimination in the matter of elective franchise on account of sex. Senator Latta of Burt was absent, being at the bedside of a very sick son. There was much discussion as to whether the lieutenant governor had the right in such a case to declare the bill passed by a constitutional majority, but the general impression seems to be that the lieutenant governor acted within his powers and according to the constitution of Nebraska.

Slight amendments to the terminal tax bills by Senator Thomas and Representative Clarke have been agreed upon by the joint committee on revenue, which will now report favorably on the measures. The bills provide that local assessors shall assess local railway property for city purposes and make returns to the state board of assessment.

A bill similar to a law now in force in Colorado and Oregon was introduced by the senate judiciary committee. The bill imposes an annual license tax of from \$5 to \$200 upon all foreign and domestic companies doing business in Nebraska. By the provisions of another bill the fee for filing articles of incorporation will be slightly increased. Many claim that the question of state revenue will be solved by the license tax bill, as it will produce annually about \$300,000.

One of the bills of Representative Renkel of Webster county on the subject of live stock transportation was placed on the general file in the house despite the fact that the railroad committee had twice reported it for indefinite postponement. The bill is H. R. No. 139, requiring live stock trains

to be moved at an average rate of sixteen miles per hour, including stops between the point of shipment and market. The present statute compels the railroads to make eighteen miles an hour, but allows time lost at stations to be deducted.

The salary bill is now practically ready for introduction by the finance, ways and means committee of the house. Scarcely any reductions in salary have been made. Slight increases all along the line seems to have been the general plan followed.

The charges of express companies will be reduced 25 per cent below what they were January 1, 1907, if the bill introduced by Senator Aldrich of Butler becomes a law. The bill provides a fine of not less than \$1,000 nor more than \$2,000 for each violation. Senator Aldrich has also introduced a bill calling for a reduction of 20 per cent in railroad freight charges. The penalty in the latter case is a fine of not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$50,000.

The house has adopted a resolution by Keifer of Nuckolls, chairman of the finance committee, directing the committee on public lands and buildings to investigate the cost of installing passenger elevators in the state house. The resolution recites that the building has become crowded, that the use of the upper floors is now demanded and that it is a detriment to business as well as an inconvenience to the public for everyone to be compelled to climb several flights of stairs.

A bill to remove public officers who refuse to enforce laws which it is made their duty to enforce, including mayors of cities, was passed.

Representative Blystone of Lancaster county has presented a bill appropriating \$50,000 for a new hospital building at the Lincoln insane asylum, and E. W. Brown of Lancaster is the author of one setting aside \$2,800 for the purchase of additional ground at the state home for the friendless.

An attempt was made to override a judiciary committee report on house roll No. 227 by France of Otoe, giving threshermen and corn shellers a lien on grain. The bill was adversely reported, and when Best of Douglas moved not to concur the house rejected his proposal. It was explained by Chairman Brown that the men whom it was proposed to protect had other means of assuring their payment.

Employees of the senate received a rude jolt when Senator Holbrook reported that bills were being piled up in the engrossing and enrolling room. He also declared that he was doing his own clerical work. His help, in part, in the engrossing room was incompetent. Two employees were especially deficient. They had engrossed two bills since the beginning of the session, each bill costing the state \$109.50.

A bill which, when it comes up for final passage, will probably bring the lumbermen and other material dealers flocking to Lincoln, was considered by the senate in committee of the whole. It is senate file No. 263 by Senator McKesson, and provides that property shall not be subject to a lien by material men or sub-contractors when the amount of such lien exceeds the amount of the original contract.

A new bill known as S. F. No. 346, recommending that the salary of the warden of the penitentiary be raised from \$1,500 to \$2,000, of the deputy warden from \$900 to \$1,500, and the clerk to \$1,200, has been introduced.

The churches and the baseball fans of Lincoln are in the midst of a strife over the bill now pending in the legislature, which contemplates granting the ruling authority on Sunday baseball to local option. Representative McMullen's measure has been recommended favorably by the judiciary committee, and has the support of City Attorney Strode and a large number of business men. Resolutions condemning the bill have been read in practically every church in Lincoln, and votes of the congregation were taken and the resolutions were signed by large numbers of the members.

The Omaha hotel and restaurant men do not look with very great favor on the "anti-tipping" bill which has been recommended for passage in the State Senate. As a rule the hotel proprietors and restaurant men say they discourage tipping, but allege they can not control it, neither do they believe any law against tipping can be enforced.

At the request of the special house committee named to investigate the feasibility of a state binding twine plant at the penitentiary, figures have been obtained from Kansas by Legislative Librarian Sheldon showing the results of operation at the prison manufactory in that state. During the year ending June 30, 1906, the excess earnings over expenditures were \$2,490, and for the two years prior to that date the profits reached \$67,491.39. The success which Kansas has had will probably lead to a report from the committee favorable to establishing a plant in this state. The committee is now waiting to hear from Minnesota, which also has one.

The appropriation of \$4,000 for the purchase of the Furnas collection of woods, etc., now in the possession of the Nebraska State Historical Society, is the object of a bill recently introduced by Hamer of Buffalo.

MUCH RED TAPE

The Fish and Game Commissioners Will Be Excluded

THE SALOON BILL LAGS BEHIND

Taxpayers Object Claiming That the School Fund Will Suffer If the Bill is Passed

Senator McKesson has introduced a bill providing that when an official or employee finds it necessary to do any traveling he shall present to the ticket agent a coupon furnished by the secretary of state, which coupon shall give the name of the person getting the ticket, between what stations it is used and the purpose for which used. This coupon is to be sent to the state auditor, who shall issue a warrant in payment of same. Senator Patrick moved to exclude from the provisions of the bill members of the state fish and game commission, stating that the nature of their work required secrecy, as it frequently happened that when they started on an expedition those at the end of the line were notified by wire of their coming and the trip rendered fruitless. McKesson objected to any secrecy, when Patrick stated that he had discovered another feature about the bill which might prove objectionable. At present state officers are in the habit of using mileage books which are sold at a half-cent per mile less than the regular rate. If this bill passed under present conditions the state would be obliged to pay one-half cent more per mile than it now pays.

The Gibson bill that was heralded as one that would stop the brewers from gobbling up the saloon business in cities and towns is lagging in the senate. The author says he has not got cold feet, but that he is in favor of the bill as much as ever, but he was somewhat surprised to find how many of his constituents at home were supposed to favor the bill, now talking against it because it will reduce the number of saloons and take away from South Omaha about \$60,000 a year license money that goes to the support of schools. He says the taxpayers have begun to object to the bill. It is also said that the provision intended to prevent brewers from having an interest in a building used for a saloon or from using one of their own buildings for a saloon is unconstitutional. The bill regulates the number of saloons in accordance with the population of towns and it applies to the entire state. It prevents a brewer from having a license except in his own name.

The senate judiciary committee will introduce a committee bill to impose an annual license tax of from \$5 to \$200 upon all domestic and foreign companies doing business in this state. Such a tax will produce annually about \$300,000. Oregon and Colorado have a law of this kind. Another bill will slightly increase the fee for filing articles of incorporation. The advocates of the license tax bill say it will solve the question of state revenue.

Representative Shubert of Richardson county has again bucked the lawyers of the house and reversed the judiciary committee's report on his bill, H. R. No. 249, which had been recommended for the graveyard. The bill permits guardianships and other probate matters to be conducted by persons other than attorneys. Shubert declared that in many small estates where there was no contest it was an injustice to make the persons interested pay attorney fees. The house thought so, too, and his motion to place the bill on general file prevailed.

Mrs. Sheldon, wife of the Governor, takes an active interest in legislation and general affairs of state, and can talk as intelligently upon these subjects as any person, man or woman. She attended the senate session for the purpose of hearing the debate on the 2-cent passenger fare bill and many good points were rewarded by a smile or a nod from her. Mrs. Sheldon's interest is a womanly interest, the interest prompted directly and indirectly by love for one whose welfare is affected by public affairs. And it is altogether fine to see a woman taking a part in timely matters when she has a motive like that.

Because of the refusal of the legislature to submit the question of county option, the friends of temperance have decided to at once have introduced a bill providing for the submission of a constitutional amendment at the election in November, 1908. The announcement was made that this course had been decided upon, and every church in the State would be enlisted in the work of pushing through the measure.

Bankers and people interested in banks and other citizens stormed the senate in the lobby and the result was that Sibley of Lincoln county, the introducer of S. F. No. 143, a bill to give assessors additional powers and to make plain some vague provisions of the revenue law, was committed to the committee of the whole for amendment just when it was ready to be placed upon its passage. It is alleged

that the bill will close nine-tenths of the banks in the state, though many cannot see that it will do much harm. For the purpose of studying its provisions more carefully its advancement was blocked.

The house committee on telegraphs and telephones met and decided to recommend for passage the house telephone bill, H. R. No. 103, by Jenison of Clay, making telephone companies common carriers. This is a duplicate of the Epperson bill, S. F. No. 100, which is in the hands of the senate committee on railroads and over which the committee was tied when the bill last came up.

A bill introduced by Representative Killen of Gage county provides that secretaries of the state board of health shall receive \$15 a day for services to come from fees and holders of diplomas applying for examination shall pay \$15 instead of \$10 as at present.

Representative Witham of Johnson county introduced (by request) H. R. No. 364, which prohibits keeping any store open on Sunday, but permits filing of prescriptions.

A bill providing that members of the board of village trustees of any village shall have power to arrest without process any one violating the laws of the state or village ordinances is one of the new ones recently introduced in the house.

To provide for the use of the road drag on public highways, and particularly along United States rural delivery routes, for the selection of persons to use the same, for their compensation and providing a penalty for the violation of this act is the object of H. R. No. 396, introduced by Representative Noyes of Cass county.

Among the bills successfully passed by the senate was S. F. No. 188, by Patrick of Sarpy, making it a misdemeanor to solicit orders for intoxicating liquors from any one except from licensed dealers in liquors who have an established place of business.

Harvey of Douglas county has introduced a bill to limit the power of the city council of Omaha to contract for light, gas or electric power to five years.

H. R. No. 381, introduced by Killen of Gage, authorizes the construction and furnishing of two additional fire-proof buildings at the Nebraska institute for feeble minded youth, located near Beatrice, Neb., making an appropriation of \$60,000 therefor.

A bill was passed by the senate to change the penalty for false swearing in regard to the listing of taxable property from perjury, which is a felony, to a fine of from \$100 to \$1,000.

A bill regulating the selling, charging, collecting or receiving of prices for hay, corn or other produce by owners, proprietors or managers of stock yards, allowing 25 per cent above market price of hay and corn at wholesale, was introduced by Representative Harrison of Otoe county.

SUPREME COURT'S DECISION.

The Railroad Commissioners Will Have Full Sway.

The supreme court of Nebraska handed down an opinion declaring valid the amendment to the State constitution, adopted by the voters at the last election and providing for the creation of a railway commission of three members.

This opinion enables the commission to begin work immediately. The three members of the commission will have supervision over railway affairs in Nebraska. The validity of the amendment was attacked by the attorney general of the State for the purpose of establishing the legality of the commission and the regularity of its creation.

HELPED BY CONGRESS.

Pensioners of Nebraska Get Increased Pay.

Ten bills have passed the House granting increased pensions to ten Nebraska veterans of the Civil war and one in favor of a soldier's widow. The beneficiaries of these measures are Asa J. Clother, who received \$12 but will not get \$24; James Millmore, from \$12 to \$24; Robert McMillen, from \$12 to \$24; Joseph Brooks, from \$12 to \$30; Elijah Devore, from \$12 to \$30; Ralph D. Parsons, \$24; George C. Vance \$40; Edmund P. Weatherby, from \$12 to \$24; Hosea Hudson, from \$12 to \$30; Mrs. Mildred L. Alles, from \$8 to \$15.

COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS.

Farming Communities Want Schools Independent of Cities.

Voicing a demand that has come from several counties of the state, a bill will shortly be introduced in the legislature providing for county high schools, separate and distinct from those maintained by cities and towns. The referendum will be a feature of this act, permitting the people of any county to vote on the question of whether or not such a school shall be established and where it shall be located. It is intended to support the schools wherever they are created by a county tax. They are to be for the benefit of all pupils who have passed the eighth grade, to whom tuition will be free.

The free high school attendance bill by Senator King and others like it which have been introduced do not satisfy the people who are pushing the new measure.

PASSLESS PRESS

Nebraska Newspaper Men Hold Annual Session

HOLD OMAHA HOSPITALITY HIGH

The Most Thoroughly Independent and Business Meeting Ever Held by the Association

The meeting of the Nebraska Press Association, which was pulled off in Omaha, went down in history as being the most independent gathering of editors ever assembled in one body in the State. The session was attended by the State's most representative members, who were free in opinions adverse to oppressions which heretofore have been battled against without telling effect. Stripped of pass privilege the editors paid their way to the City of hogs and from the large attendance it was plainly shown that the newspaper men of Nebraska really relished the new order of things. It was a pleasure to see so many ladies present and the manner in which they were entertained by the ladies of Omaha stamped the latter as hostesses equal to that pleasant yet tiresome duty.

The entertainment committee, made up from the different wholesale houses, certainly endeared itself to every newspaper man, as there was nothing left undone to further the pleasure of those in attendance. The headquarters of the association was at the Murray and the hospitality of its chief clerk, Mr. Albert Hastings, and his able corps of assistants, while taxed to a very large degree, was doubly marked by the manner in which the guests were so admirably cared for. The theatre parties and sight-seeing jaunts were all thoroughly enjoyed.

Representatives of the press from all parts of the State attended and the business sessions were interesting and instructive. Excellent papers and poems were read. The resolutions committee drafted sound and stable recommendations, among them being a law requiring insurance corporations to publish in a newspaper in each county the certificate of the State Auditor and a brief financial statement, the repeal of the law authorizing the postoffice department to supply printed stamped envelopes, the payment of postage by the government on matter sent out by its departments, a reduction in the rates paid to railroads for carrying mail, and recommend that the association, in conjunction with D. M. Butler of the Lincoln Legal News, codify and publish in pamphlet the printing laws of the State. The discussion over mail rates was thorough and several good papers on the subject read.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: C. Richmond, Fremont Herald, president; A. B. Wood, Gering Courier, vice president; W. M. Maupin, Commoner, secretary-treasurer; C. C. Johns, corresponding secretary. The executive committee, Frank B. Reed, Shelton Clipper; Lewis F. Baber, Benson Times; Will Owen Jones, Lincoln Journal; John B. Donovan, Madison Star-Mall; C. A. Ready, Hayes Center Times-Republican; historical committee, A. E. Sheldon, A. F. Wells and H. M. Bushnell; legal committee, D. M. Butler.

BIG CLASS TURNED OUT.

Students at the State School Given Degrees in Several Branches.

The mid-winter graduates of the state university have taken degrees as follows:

Bachelor of Science—Gratia Lyndall Ames, Abner Blue, Grace Marie Clark, Ellery Lothrop Davis, Florence Louvina Donelson, Anna Agnes Foster, William Everett Hannan, Carl Pierce Hartley, James Strashley Jackson, Theodore Alexander Kisselbach, Anna Elizabeth Krumbach, James Adams McGeachin, Clara Chloe Mallick, Amelia Ida Metzger, Ernest Franklin Monroe, Roy V. Pepperberg, Harry Scott Smith, Eugene Garfield Spencer, Helen Elizabeth Travis.

Bachelor of Laws—Henry Walter Barre, Oscar Asbury Ellis, John Arthur Fenlon, Arthur Garfield Hastie, John Frederick Kryder, John Clyde Moore, Henry Oscar Nilsson, Archibald E. Pallin, Arthur William Sampson, Lloyd Parker Stone, Roland Ellsha Stone, Dean Eddy Winchester, Joseph Zavodsky.

University Teachers' Certificates—Glen Roy Cameron, Ernest Edgar Sprague, Gratia Lyndall Ames, Florence Louvina Donelson, Anna Agnes Foster, Anna Elizabeth Krumbach, Clara Chloe Mallick, Amelia Ida Metzger, Ernest Franklin Monroe, Helen Elizabeth Travis.

State Military Commissions—James Adam McGeachin, Archibald E. Pallin, Lloyd Parker Stone.

SOME BIG PLUMS.

Branches of Uncle Sam's Postal Tree Shaken Hard.

President Roosevelt has nominated the following Nebraska postmasters: Edward C. Hall, David City, reappointment, salary \$1,800; Lew E. Shelley, Fairbury, to succeed B. W. McLucas, salary \$2,200; Chester H. Smith, Plattsmouth, reappointment, salary \$2,100; George W. Shreck, York, to succeed T. E. Sedgwick, salary \$2,400; James M. Brooks, Rushville, reappointment, salary \$1,100.