

Legislative.



HOUSE.

Defeating a motion to go into committee of the whole and consider bills on general file, the house Friday morning entered immediately upon bills on third reading. These measures were passed:

By Casbeer, of Gage, to establish a hospital for crippled, deformed children and those suffering from any disease likely to make them deformed.

By Horton, of Keya Paha, providing that when any real estate is situated in more than one township or precinct or in more than one school, road or other district, it shall be listed separately for the purposes of taxation.

The deficiency claims bill introduced by Stetson as chairman of the deficiency committee, appropriating approximately \$41,000.

By Perry, of Fernas, and Warner, of Lancaster, the biennial election bill.

By Hill, of Hitchcock, granting to the United States government rights of way for the construction of irrigation canals.

At 2:30 p. m. Monday, the house convened for the week and immediately went into committee of the whole, with Douglas, of Rock, in the chair.

Pursuant to previous action senate files were first considered. The Griffin bill, S. F. 79, providing for the publication of the proceedings of the regular and special meetings of the directors of irrigation districts, was the first bill taken up. It was recommended for passage.

No house rolls were considered.

At 5:15 the house adjourned until 9 a. m. Tuesday.

Convening at 9 a. m., the house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, with Jackson, of Antelope, as chairman.

S. F. 13, by Laverty, of Saunders, which was recommended for indefinite postponement Monday, was recommended for passage, after a reconsideration. This bill seeks to prevent the illegal expenditure of public funds.

House rolls were then taken up. H. R. 328, by Gliem, of Red Willow, the famous bill to allow Russell F. Loomis to perfect his title to the quarter section of land he homesteaded in Red Willow County in 1872, was the first bill recommended for passage.

Among other bills recommended for passage were:

By Zeulow, of Colfax, providing for state ownership, control, construction and repair of all bridges 500 feet or more long on or part of a public road.

By Foster, of Douglas, a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment, providing for the safe investment of the public school funds.

The house adjourned at 6 p. m.

After the closing scenes of excitement over the commodity rate bill Tuesday evening the house started off peacefully Wednesday morning by adopting a resolution by Kaley, of Webster, felicitating and thanking the late Nebraska commission to the World's Fair for its splendid administration of affairs and its economy in saving from the appropriation \$15,190.30.

Bills on third reading were then taken up and these passed:

By Casbeer, of Gage, raising the salary of the county physician of Gage County.

By Saddler, of Adams, abolishing the soldiers' home visiting board.

By McClay, of Lancaster, defining ways in which the American flag may be used as an emblem.

By Anderson, of Hamilton, to remit all taxes due the state from Hamilton County prior to 1891, when the county court house was destroyed by fire and all records thereby wiped out.

By Scilley, of Dodge, to prohibit children under 15 years of age from carrying firearms.

By Cropsey, of Jefferson, amending the law fixing the time of holding annual school meetings.

By Bartoo, of Valley, to enable Ruth Ahery to sue school district No. 22 of Douglas County for personal injuries.

By McClay, of Lancaster, prohibiting the sale of liquor within four miles of an army post.

By Ferrar, of Hall, permitting cities to condemn property for school sites.

By Coats, of Holt, Gliem, of Red Willow, and McAllister, of Deuel, providing for not less than five nor more than seven junior normal schools, and that the appointive schools shall be relocated each year.

By Jouvenat, of Boone, to regulate giving of bonds for county funds by depository banks.

By Johnson, of Adams, appropriating \$25,000 for test borings for the discovery of oil, coal, gas or artesian water.

By the insurance committee, providing for representative form of government of fraternal insurance companies on a basis of 85 per cent of the membership.

The house spent two hours Wednesday night in committee of the whole. Among the bills recommended for passage were:

To make the county assessor of Douglas County ex-officio tax commissioner of Omaha.

By Clarke, prohibiting the stealing of rides on railroad trains.

By the finance committee, allowing the state printing board to buy supplies in wholesale quantities.

By Hill, of Hitchcock, prohibiting the sale of liquor within five miles of government irrigation construction camps.

H. R. 330, requiring pharmacists to register annually.

The popularity of amending the constitution became apparent in the house Thursday morning when H. R. 306, proposing an amendment so as to allow the investment of the permanent school fund in city bonds, came up. On original roll call the bill undoubtedly was passed.

Foster, of Douglas, introduced the bill. When many members awoke to the facts enough changed their votes to defeat the bill 32 to 50.

These bills were passed Thursday:

By Lahners, of Thayer, amends the act relating to the holding over of tenants and their failure to vacate.

By Gliem, of Red Willow, enabling Russell F. Loomis to perfect his title to a quarter section of land homesteaded in Red Willow County in 1872.

By Burgess, of Lancaster, the Lincoln city charter bill.

The house adjourned for a recess at 5:15 and reconvened for the night session at 7:30. The entire time was spent in committee of the whole. Among other bills recommended for passage was H. R.

345, by Lee, of Douglas, consolidating the county and city treasuries of Omaha making the county treasurer ex-officio treasurer of Omaha and the school district.

SENATE.

The senate spent nearly the entire afternoon Monday passing bills. On nearly all of the ballots ten members were absent, but the measures of these members, as well as those bills carrying the emergency clause, with the exception of one or two, were passed over until the full membership could be present.

These bills were passed:

To compel county assessors to furnish a copy of assessment to party assessed, which shall be a notice to appear before the board of equalization.

Compelling the enforcement of scavenger law.

Fees to be paid for protests with the board of equalization.

To prevent the desecration of Memorial day.

Agents of corporations to make out assessment when asked to by the assessor.

Providing for a board of control to buy supplies for state institutions.

A bar to actions in any other state will be operative in this state.

Action against an insurance company can begin in county where cause arises.

To prevent issuance of special benefit life insurance policies.

Consolidating offices of city, county and school district treasurer of Omaha and Douglas County.

A joint resolution requesting congress to enact a law to place insurance companies under federal control.

Allows administrators to bring suit for damages against trespassers.

The Cady railroad commission bill, a copy of the act of 1887, repealed by the legislature of 1901, passed the senate Tuesday afternoon with only four votes against it.

Friends of the movement to establish a binding twine plant at the state penitentiary, which will cost the state in the neighborhood of \$200,000 to establish and maintain the first year, received great encouragement Tuesday morning in the senate, when the bill by Haller to appoint a commission to investigate the proposition was killed. The bill, had it become a law, would have settled the movement for the next two years at least. The bill to establish the plant has already passed the house and for many weeks has been in the senate. Members have been flooded with petitions from all quarters of the state favoring the bill and until recently there has been little done against it.

These bills were passed Tuesday afternoon:

The Omaha salary bill.

The Lincoln charter bill.

Reducing the pay of members of the insanity commission of Lancaster County.

The interurban railroad bill.

S. F. 193 considered and passed. This bill provides that poll tax shall be \$2 cash or two days' work. The bill was killed Monday, but was resurrected by its author, Senator Giffin, Tuesday afternoon.

In an impassioned speech in which he declared his lack of any knowledge that an attempt had been made to raise \$5,000 among Douglas County officials to be spent in securing the passage through the senate of the biennial election bill, the money to be handled by a Douglas County senator, Gibson, of Douglas, Wednesday morning demanded of the senate that a committee be appointed to investigate the charge and report to the senate. A half dozen senators moved a second to the motion, and Saunders and then Thomas made speeches for the investigation.

The motion to appoint the committee carried almost unanimously and President Jennings appointed this committee: Dimery of Seward, Sheldon of Cass, and Bresse of Sheridan.

The sitting committee made its first report Wednesday afternoon, reporting back for the general file seventeen bills. Among the important ones were:

Giving the rights of eminent domain to the university.

Appropriating \$32,000 for a library building at the Peru normal school.

Appropriating \$35,000 for the Norfolk asylum.

These bills were passed Wednesday:

Providing that three months' notice shall be given occupants of land before a purchaser under tax sale can secure a deed.

Defining property exempt from taxation.

Providing for redemption of land sold for taxes.

A curative bill requiring insurance companies to file annual reports.

Providing for organization of cemetery associations.

To prevent the publication of more books than called for by contract.

Allowing saloonkeepers to give surety bonds.

County depositories to give surety bonds.

Allowing surety companies to go on the bond of more than one officer.

To liquidate warrant indebtedness of road districts.

Appropriating \$100 to pay expenses of farmers' institutes, to be paid by the county.

Appropriation for live stock pavilion at state fair.

Providing fee banks must pay before receiving charter.

H. R. 165, known as the anti-Christian Science bill.

The senate adjourned at 6 o'clock.

By a vote of 18 to 9, H. R. 49, providing for the establishment of a binding twine plant at the state penitentiary was recommended for passage by the senate in committee of the whole Thursday.

That it will pass the senate there is not the slightest doubt, though it is a question whether the measure will receive the executive approval.

These bills were passed Thursday:

Appropriating \$32,000 for the Peru normal school for a library.

Allowing insurance companies to consolidate with the consent of the auditor.

Giving the right of eminent domain to the state university.

Allowing the sale of penitentiary lands.

To abolish the soldiers' home visiting board, was recommended for passage.

Allowing the governor to appoint a member of the legislature to fill a vacancy during the session, was recommended for passage.

Senator Giffin attempted to amend the house irrigation bill so as to give to the irrigation districts of the west the right of eminent domain, but the attempt failed.

The Thomas primary election bill, applying only to Douglas County, was passed.

THE WEEKLY HISTORIAN



One Hundred Years Ago.

Napoleon declared the marriage of his brother, Jerome, to Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore annulled.

An epidemic of typhoid fever caused hundreds of deaths among French prisoners in England.

Bonaparte assumed the title of king of Italy.

The sudden rising of the waters of the River Elbe inundated ninety villages.

Tecumseh, the great Indian chief of the Northwest, had begun to show his jealousy of the white man's progress.

Admiral Nelson began his pursuit of the French and Spanish fleets.

The Cisalpine republic was merged into the kingdom of Italy.

Seventy-five Years Ago.

The Russian ship St. Nicholas was blown up at Ismail.

The population of the United States was 11,600,000.

General Orville was elected President of Chile.

A violent hurricane caused great damage to life and property in Washington County, Ohio.

The United States government had spent but \$8,000 on internal improvements in the State of Illinois in 25 years.

There were in Illinois four tribes of Indians, the Menominee, Kaskaskias, Potawatomes and Chippewas, numbering in all about 6,000.

The province of Concepcion declared itself free and independent of Chile.

Fifty Years Ago.

French and Russians contended fiercely for the rifle pits which the latter had established between the French advance and Mamelon.

Recruiting stations for enlisting men in the British army were discovered in New York and Philadelphia.

The President issued a proclamation declaring in force the reciprocity treaty between this country and Great Britain.

A fire works manufactory at Bergen Point, N. J., exploded, killing seven persons.

An explosion took place in the Middletown coal mines in Virginia. Of the 55 persons in the mines at the time 35 were killed.

Forty Years Ago.

The Confederate Congress at Richmond adjourned sine die.

A heavy storm accompanied by freshets swept over New York and Pennsylvania, doing great damage.

News reached the north that Sheridan on the previous day arrived at White House on James River.

That Jeff Davis had resigned in the interest of General Lee was reported in the north and denied.

President Lincoln issued a proclamation ordering the arrest and punishment by court martial of all persons supplying arms and ammunition to the hostile Indians.

A breach had occurred between Emperor Maximilian of Mexico and the Roman Catholic Church.

A week of panic in the New York markets had resulted in declines of 23 points in gold, \$4 a barrel in pork, 50 cents a barrel in flour, and 15 to 18 cents in wheat.

Thirty Years Ago.

The Hawaiian treaty was ratified by the United States Senate.

Port Jervis, N. Y., was inundated by the breaking of an ice gorge. Wilkesbarre, Pa., and other places were flooded.

John Mitchel, the Irish champion, whose election to the House of Commons was set aside, died.

Miss Bessie Turner, girl witness against Theodore Tilton, told her story at the Tilton-Beecher trial in Brooklyn.

Governor Tilden of New York sent a message to the Legislature declaring the State canals to be mismanaged and the funds loaned by contractors.

The mills of the Austin Powder Company, near Cleveland, O., blew up, annihilating three persons and fatally injuring others.

Tiburcio Vasquez, noted California brigand, was executed at San Francisco.

Twenty Years Ago.

A fierce engagement took place between the British and Arabs under Osman Digma at Hasbeen.

The British under General Graham were ambushed by Osman Digma's men near Hasbeen, who later attacked Saunkin, the English base.

General Grant was able to sleep only through the use of opiates and the inflammation in his throat became severe.

WAR DURING A WEEK

SCREEN IS DRAWN OVER MILITARY OPERATIONS.

Dispatches of Past Week Show No New Light on the Conflict in the Far East—Remnants of Russia's Routed Army in Full Retreat.

The week, which opened with the Russian army in full retreat from Mukden, closed with its fate in doubt. Kuropatkin's divisions that had escaped death or capture arrived at Tieling, where reserve supplies and a fortified position awaited them. Then the Russian army was driven out of Tieling. The remaining stores were burned, many guns abandoned, and the retreat resumed.

St. Petersburg, naturally, was filled with alarming rumors. It was reported that the railroad had been cut at Changtufu, 40 miles north of Tieling; that there were strong Japanese columns east and west of the railroad even farther to the north; that the Russian forces had been driven into the hills east of the railroad and were trying to reach Kirin or Vladivostok; that they were without food, ammunition, and artillery. There were no dispatches, official or otherwise, to confirm or deny these sensational reports.

The week's dispatches added a few details to the sum of Russia's disaster at Mukden. The war office at Tokio estimated the Russian force engaged in the battle of Mukden at 376 battalions of infantry, 178 squadrons of cavalry, 171 batteries of artillery, or a total of 327,500 men and 1,368 guns.

Field Marshal Oyama reported the capture of 40,000 prisoners. His armies counted 26,500 dead. He estimated the Russian wounded at 64,500. This total of 130,000 casualties reduced the effective Russian force to 197,500 men—all that got safely through to Tieling. St. Petersburg reports credited Linevitch—who succeeded Kuropatkin—with 208,000 men, the figures being achieved by including the railway guards and the Fourth army corps, which had just arrived at Harbin. This force of 268,000 men, badly equipped, short of supplies, was retreating before a force of perhaps fully double its strength.

At a council of war held at Tsarskoie Selo it was resolved to send a new army of 400,000 men to the far East to continue the war. General Kuropatkin was recalled, practically in disgrace, and General Linevitch placed in command. The war party apparently is still in power at St. Petersburg.

There are disturbing indications that Russia's credit is reaching a limit. The refusal of the French syndicate to contract for a fresh loan of \$125,000,000 has caused uneasiness in St. Petersburg. At Paris it is stated vaguely that the loan has only been postponed. In St. Petersburg it is insisted the loan will be made within ten days. The proposal of the Russian Minister of Finance that the banks of St. Petersburg float an internal loan of \$100,000,000 has not been well received. Still, it would be foolish to assume that Russia has reached the limit of her resources. The fact that her gold reserve still stands at \$674,500,000 proves that the czar's empire is not penniless.

Czar's Minister for Peace.

While Emperor Nicholas, whose word is final, still declines to abandon the prosecution of the war and the government maintains its ability to continue the conflict, The Associated Press states that powerful influences, including several of the emperor's own ministers, are now strongly urging that the time has come to indicate to Japan Russia's desire for peace upon a reasonable basis.

Should Japan then attempt to impose too onerous conditions, these influences argue that, in view of the universal wish to see the bloody conflict ended, Russia's position will be strengthened abroad by the alienation of sympathy from Japan, and the situation at home improved when the nation is made to understand that the emperor's pacific proposals have been met with impossible terms.

One of the emperor's ministers in a conversation with The Associated Press correspondent said:

"We have suffered bitter defeat on land and sea. We can, however, still continue the war. But both countries have suffered great losses in blood and treasure, and it would only profit the rivals of both were we to fight on until one or the other is exhausted."

"What would be Russia's attitude on the subject of indemnity?"

"Russia never yet has paid indemnity and history practically affords no precedent for indemnity when territory is not occupied to insure payment and Japan holds not a foot of Russian territory. Japan could, however, take the proceeds of the sale of property and rights of the Chinese Eastern railway, which was built with Russian money."

Sparks from the Wires.

Pittsburg postal authorities will try to trace a box of poisoned bonbons sent to the wife of an attorney in that city. The woman's name is kept secret.

The total loss of life in the anthracite coal mines of Lackawanna county, Pa., in 1904 was 137, against 121 in 1903, when the output was much larger.

Judge Albertson of Seattle decided that no man should be mulcted in damages who breaks a promise to marry a woman he afterward finds is afflicted with tuberculosis.

THE INCORRIGIBLE CASTRO

May Yet Succeed in Getting Uncle Sam Into Trouble.

The French cable complications in Venezuela have reached a crisis and Minister Bowen has informed the State Department that the French minister at Caracas, by instructions of his government, has notified the Venezuelan government that there must be no further proceedings on its part toward the cancellation of the company's franchise or interference with its property. Further, Mr. Bowen reports that two French warships have been ordered post haste to Venezuela to act in accordance with the instructions of the French minister.

Apparently, in the opinion of the Chicago Daily News, this country will be most fortunate if the incorrigible Castro does not succeed soon in creating an international situation even more embarrassing than that which culminated in the Anglo-German blockade of Venezuelan ports. The latest developments at Caracas suggest that if he is not actually seeking complications with foreign powers he is not restrained by any fear of them. Through his control of the Venezuelan courts, which are absolutely subservient to his will, he seems to have succeeded in putting the American asphalt company out of business and confiscating its property. Following the same high-handed policy he is now proceeding against property interests belonging to citizens of European nations.

To appreciate the broad possibilities of the situation which may result from those repeated attacks on foreign property, it should be remembered that the granting of concessions to foreign firms is one of the most characteristic features of Venezuelan industry. Like the asphalt lakes, many of the mines are worked by these concessionaires. An American company operates the country's telephone service. A German company is exploiting its sulphur deposits. The French Cable company has a contract giving it terminal facilities and the use of overland telegraph lines, the contract providing that all disputes shall be settled "by the courts of the republic and shall in no case give rise to international claims."

The French company's contract and the concession of an Italian coal mining company have now been annulled by the order of Castro, who threatens to seize the properties of those concerns. That this is no new proceeding may be gathered from the fact that last February he annulled nearly 300 concessions "for lack of fulfillment of the legal provisions." The Daily News says that so long as a large part of Venezuela's industrial enterprise is of this character the possibilities for international complications will remain almost unlimited. The facts tend to emphasize the argument that if the United States is to maintain the Monroe doctrine it must adopt some fixed, practical policy upon which to proceed when foreign property interests are injured by the acts of any irresponsible government on this hemisphere.

CITY ATTACKS GRANTS.

Chicago Council Revokes City Railway Permits and Starts Suit.

War has been renewed by the city of Chicago on the Chicago City Railway Company in its opinion had purchased it to prevent a satisfactory settlement between it and the city. They had persistently declined to say whether or not they would accept the tentative ordinance in case that measure was approved by the people and the City Council. Further, the company had shown a desire to test its rights in the federal courts rather than in the State courts. As the processes of the former were slower than the latter it would be to the advantage of the city to take the initiative by beginning suit in the State courts. Realizing that the Mayor's recommendation would be likely to precipitate action by the company, the Council hastened to carry out his suggestions.

ROBBERS DITCH LIMITED.

Rails Removed in Iowa and Cars Go Down Embankment.

Rock Island officials in Des Moines say that the wrecking of the Rocky Mountain limited near Homestead, Iowa, was the work of robbers, who succeeded in scarping. Seven persons were injured, three of them dangerously.

An examination of the track showed that the spikes for nearly the length of a rail had been removed. The wreck occurred on a high embankment. The Denver and Colorado Springs sleepers landed in the ditch, on end, the embankment at that point being about thirty-five feet high. The engine, mail car and composite car also went down the embankment. The wreck, it is reported, was caused by an unknown person who removed spikes, bars and anglebars and misplaced the rail. Spikes were removed from two rails on the south side of the track. The engine and first four cars were thrown down a 45-foot embankment. The engine was completely stripped, the mail car destroyed, the buffet car thrown on its side and two sleepers badly damaged.

Immense Loss of Sugar.

The total production of sugar throughout the world is about 2,000,000 tons per annum. Of this quantity nine-tenths is afforded by the sugar-cane, 25,000,000 tons of which are required to produce the above quantity of cane sugar. The total value of the sugar in the cane, if it could be extracted, would be about \$200,000,000, but one-half is lost in the process of manufacture.

The cowboys who attended the Roosevelt inaugural presented Theodore, Jr., with a pony.

MISSOURI'S NEW SENATOR.

Major Wm. Warner, Who Was Chosen 'Mid a Riotous Scene.

Major William Warner of Kansas City was chosen United States Senator to succeed Francis Marion Cockrell after one of the most stormy scenes ever witnessed in the General Assembly of Missouri. After having been in a deadlock since Jan. 18 the legislature at 15 minutes before nine adjournment elected Major Warner to fill the contested vacancy. Seven ballots in joint session were



MAJOR WILLIAM WARNER.

taken in effecting a decision, and the closing scenes of the legislature have not been paralleled in the history of Missouri politics.

The time for sine die adjournment had been set for 3 o'clock by concurrent resolution, and as the hour approached the clock was smashed in the melee. Amid an uproar that almost baffled control at times the seventh ballot of the day was cast, resulting in the election of Warner. The vote stood: Warner 91, Cockrell 83, Niedringhaus 1. The total vote was 175, making 88 necessary to a choice.

FROM NORTH TO SOUTH.

Great Progress Made on Inter-Continental Through Railway.

Slowly but surely for a long time the iron bands that will make possible a journey by rail from Manitoba to Buenos Ayres are being lengthened out. Reports made at a recent meeting of the Pan-American Railway committee, held in Washington, D. C., show that in the past year there has been unusual activity in railway construction in the Latin-American countries, particularly in the way of additional links in the inter-continental trunk line.

An official statement from the Mexican government announces that the line from the Isthmus of Tehuantepec to the border of Guatemala frontier is duly proceeding.

In Central America several inter-oceanic lines are being completed so as to form through connection. The extension of the Argentine railway north into Bolivia is going forward. The Bolivian congress has dedicated the \$10,000,000 received from Brazil as territorial indemnity to railway construction. It is probable that these lines will be built by American capitalists, and United States engineers are now on the ground. In Chile the tunnel through the Andes, which will provide through railway communication from Buenos Ayres to Valparaiso, is under construction and the material goes from the United States.

Peru is following the law of the Peruvian congress last year, providing a railway guaranty fund. The government has completed surveys for the lines, which will close several of the links between Lake Titicaca and the existing systems. In Ecuador work on the railway from Guayaquil to Quito is proceeding.

ONE EFFECT OF THE WAR.

Many Cargoes Leaving Western Ports for Japan.

One effect of the war in the Far East is to greatly stimulate exports from the northwestern ports of the United States to Japan. The Mikado's success in forcing the Russian bear to take to the tall timber has led to the liberal purchase of supplies, not alone of necessities, but of construction material as well, the whole making many shipments.

In consequence large numbers of extra steamers are being chartered to rush across the Pacific supplies of many kinds. The big steamship Minnesota, four Japanese liners and the big freighters of the Boston Steamship Company running from Tacoma are insufficient to carry to Japan the immense shipments of barley, flour, meat products and other supplies now piling up at Puget Sound ports. One firm has chartered four large steamships to load at Tacoma during the next thirty days.

At least six heavy cargoes for Japan will leave Tacoma this month, and as many more next. Their cargoes will include railroad supplies and equipment for a road that is being built across Korea. The steamships Shawmut and Trenton have already sailed, with an aggregate of 29,000 tons, chiefly for Japan.

CANADA'S PERIL.

To Be Invaded by 200,000 Russian Student Immigrants.

Canada is to be invaded by a peaceful army of Russian student immigrants, according to a report which says that 200,000 of these people are preparing to emigrate this year and settle in the Canadian Northwest.

There are leaders of public opinion in the Dominion who, having the experience of the United States before them, regard with serious misgivings the steady annual increase of the foreign element in the population of Canada. But the present prospect of hundreds of thousands of European immigrants swarming like locusts over the choice western lands is now giving Canadians something to think about in pursuing the policy of populating the Dominion.

During the early part of the winter the arrivals of Russian Jews in unusually large numbers gave the Canadian authorities very serious trouble. The invasion, therefore, by this new immigrant army of 200,000 persons can only inspire officials and others with feelings of apprehension, if not dismay.

Lawyer Shoots Himself.

Charles Erd of St. Louis, a lawyer, 35 years old, was found in his apartments at the Hotel Imperial in New York suffering from a self-inflicted bullet wound in the left temple. Mr. Erd declared that he had not attempted to kill himself.