

THE VALENTINE DEMOCRAT STATE GAMBLING LAWS

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Entered at the postoffice at Valentine, Cherry county, Nebr., as Second Class Matter.

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1905.

Eight Men Dominate United States Senate

They are Allison, Aldrich, Hale, Frye, Foraker, Elkins, Cullom and Spooner.

Are in the Majority on Every Important Standing Committee.

World-Herald Washington Bureau, No. 11 Postal Building, Washington, D. C., Dec. 21.

That eight men practically dictate the legislation of congress is the remarkable claim put forth and vigorously sustained by a senator who, not being of the eight elect and not desiring to antagonize them, naturally doesn't want his identity published. He said: "We aren't very popular with the people as a class, but if the public knew how very innocent most of us are of dominating legislation, either in the interests of the corporations or of anybody else we would be forgiven. We don't really have much to do with it. The little group of veterans who have retained to themselves the best committee assignments on the powerful committees run the senate. When they are named as the eight men who really control legislation it will, of course, be understood that a reservation is made in favor of the speaker and the president, who really have some power—the speaker by his rules and the organization of the house and the president through the appointive power and the fact that his recommendations about legislation are supposed to represent a crystallization of public opinion."

The eight senators thus credited with dominating legislation are: Allison, Aldrich, Hale, Frye, Foraker, Elkins, Cullom and Spooner. How they do it was pointed out graphically by the statesman who was voicing the anonymous protest. He said:

"Here's the senate committee list. The great committees which handle the most important questions and which are able by reason of their immense influence to force their views on others are: Appropriations, finance, judiciary, foreign affairs and commerce. Rules is very important and military affairs would be placed in the first division by some people."

ANALYZES THE LIST.

The speaker then took up these committees, one by one, and analyzed their makeup. He was using a committee list of last season but the changes made in the new committee organization rather strengthen than weaken his case. Taking, first, appropriations. Its chairman is Allison, who, by the way, is really entitled to more consideration than any other senator because he is the oldest in service. Senator Allison has never made such strong demands for recognition as some others of this group of leaders and this is one reason for his great personal popularity in the body. He has not been a self-seeker as other senators have too often appeared.

Along with Allison on appropriations are Hale, Cullom and Elkins. The four dominate the committee, for they constitute just half of its republican membership,

and in practical operation they might almost as well be the entire committee.

The committee on finance, from whose chairmanship Nelson W. Aldrich of Rhode Island has exerted such power that he has been called general manager of the country, includes Aldrich, Allison, Platt and Spooner. On commerce are Frye and Elkins, Frye being chairman. It will be observed that the powerful position of chairmanship is regularly retained by one or another of this group of directors, who might well be called the executive committee of congress.

Take foreign relations. This group of eight is again found to hold half of the republican places on this most important committee. Cullom is chairman, and with him are Frye, Foraker and Spooner. So much for the committee that handles reciprocity and other treaties relating to commercial relations abroad.

THE "BIG" EIGHT.

Taking next the committee that has most to do with home commercial affairs—interstate commerce—and once more this dominating group is found to have four of the eight republican members. Elkins is chairman, and his associates from the "big eight" are Aldrich, Cullom and Foraker. Thus the committee which must handle rate legislation was supposed to be safely under control, but the republicans of the pro-regulation faith refused to be dominated, Cullom being one of them; they made common cause with the democrats of the committee, and they hope by this combination to bring out a bill. But, in order to get past the "big eight" and report a bill, it would be necessary to have such a revolution in senatorial proceedings as Senator Elkins declares will "split the republican party." To turn down the "big eight" is equivalent to splitting the party in the West Virginian's view.

Occasionally the committee on rules, even in the senate, has a large importance, though never to compare to that of the same committee in the house. It has only four republican members, and three of these are Spooner, chairman, Aldrich and Elkins—three out of four in control of the overpowering eight.

The most convenient committee, the most useful to control for purposes of patronage though not one of the great ones in power over legislation, is printing. This has two republicans and one democratic member. Platt and Elkins are the republicans, and Gorman the democrat.

So much for the domination of the great senate committees by these leaders of the body. It is through the committees that they do their work. It is hard work, doubtless, for these elder statesmen, to run the whole machine; but they do it with a willingness, even an eagerness, that is beautiful to see. Such patriotism, such beautiful unselfishness is a splendid example to the rest of the country.—World-Herald.

For Sale—Good 6 room house and lot on Hall street, good stable. Inquire at this office.

From the Compiled Statutes of the State of Nebraska for 1905.

GAMING IN PUBLIC PLACE—BETTING

7881, Sec. 213. If any person shall, at any time, play in any ordinary, tavern, or race-field, or in any booth, arbor, out-house, or other erection connected with such tavern, ordinary, or race-field, or at any other public place, at any game whatsoever, except games of athletic exercise, or shall bet or wager on the hands or sides of such as do play as aforesaid, every such person shall pay a fine in any sum not exceeding \$100.

GAMING.

7882, Sec. 214. Every person who shall play at any game whatever for any sum of money or other property of value, or shall bet any money or property upon any gaming table, bank, or device prohibited by law, or at or upon any other gambling device, or who shall bet upon any game played at or by means of any such gaming table, or gambling device, shall, upon conviction, be fined in any sum not less than \$100, and not exceeding \$300, or be imprisoned in the penitentiary not more than one year, and upon a second or any subsequent conviction shall be fined in any sum not less than \$300 and not exceeding \$500, or be imprisoned in the penitentiary not more than two years; PROVIDED, That if any person or persons who shall lose any property or money in a gambling house or other place, either at cards or by means of any other gambling device or game of hazard of any kind, such person, the wife or guardian of such, his heirs, legal representatives, or creditors, shall have the right to recover the money or the amount thereof, or the property or the value thereof, in a civil action, and may sue each or all persons participating in the game, and may join the keeper of the gambling or other place in the same action, who shall be jointly and severally liable for any money or property lost in any game or through any gambling device of any kind, and no title shall pass to said property or money, and in an action to recover the same no evidence shall be required as to the specific kind or denomination of money, but only as to the amount so lost.

KEEPING GAMING FIXTURES.

7883, Sec. 215. Every person who shall set up or keep any gaming table, faro bank, keno, or any kind of gambling table or gambling device or gaming machine of any kind or description, under any denomination or name whatsoever, adapted, devised, and designed for the purpose of playing any game of chance for money or property, except billiard tables, or who shall keep any billiard table for the purpose of betting or gambling, or shall keep same to be used for such purpose, shall, upon conviction, be punished by fine of not less than \$300 and not exceeding \$500, or to be imprisoned in the penitentiary not exceeding two years.

GAMING ON PRIVATE PREMISES.

7884, Sec. 216. If any person or persons shall suffer any game or games whatsoever to be played for gain upon or by means of any gaming device or machine of any denomination or name, in his or their house, or any out-house, booth, arbor, or erection, of which he, she, or they have the care or possession, the person or persons so offending shall each pay a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$200.

GAMING AT PUBLIC HOUSES.

7885, Sec. 217. If any keeper or keeper of any tavern, ordinary, or other house of public resort, shall suffer any game or games whatsoever, except games of athletic exercises, to be played at or within such tavern, ordinary, or house of public resort, or in any out-house, building, or erection appendant thereto, every such

keeper or keepers shall pay a fine of not less than \$50 nor more than \$100.

KEEPING GAMBLING ROOM.

7986, Sec. 218.—
If any person shall keep a room, building, arbor, booth, shed, or tenement, canal boat, or other water craft to be used or occupied for gambling, or if any person being the owner of any room, building, arbor, booth, shed, or tenement, canal boat, or other water craft, shall rent the same to be used or occupied for gambling, the person so offending shall be fined in any sum not less than \$30 nor more than \$100, or be imprisoned in the county jail not less than ten nor more than thirty days, or both at the discretion of the court; and if the owner of any room, building, arbor, booth, shed, or tenement, canal boat, or water craft, shall know that any gaming tables, apparatus, or establishment is kept or used in such room, building, arbor, booth, shed, or tenement, canal boat, or other water-craft, for gambling, winning betting, or gaining money or other property, and shall not forthwith cause complaint to be made against [the] person so keeping any such room, building, arbor, booth, shed, or tenement, canal boat or other water-craft, he shall be taken, held, and considered to have knowingly permitted the same to be used and occupied for gambling.

COMMON GAMBLER.

7887, Sec. 219. If any person shall keep or exhibit any gaming table, establishment, device or apparatus, to win or gain money, or other property of value, or shall aid, or assist, or permit others to do the same, or of [if] any person shall engage in gambling for a livelihood or shall be without any fixed residence, and in the habit or practice of gambling, he shall be deemed and taken as a common gambler, and shall be imprisoned in the county jail not less than one nor more than three months, and be fined in any sum not exceeding \$100.

ENTICING MINOR TO GAMBLE.

7888, Sec. 220. If any person shall, by any device or pretense, entice or tempt, and prevail upon, or cause any minor to engage with such person, or any other person or persons, in any game whatsoever, for any sum of money or property of value, or shall make any bet or wager with such minor, or shall cause it to be done, upon the result of any game, every such person shall be fined in any sum not less than \$50 nor more than \$100, or be imprisoned in the county jail not less [than] one month nor more than 3 months.

MINOR IN BILLIARD SALOON, ETC.

7890, Sec. 222. If any owner or keeper of a billiard saloon, or any owner or keeper of a billiard table, at any grocery, or other public place, shall permit or suffer any minor under the age of 18 years to play at the game of billiards in such grocery, saloon or public place, or upon such billiard table, or to remain or to be in or upon the premises so occupied by him as such billiard saloon, or in which shall be such billiard table as aforesaid, every such person or persons shall forfeit and pay a fine of \$20 for the first offense, and \$50 for each and every succeeding offense.

Lincoln, Neb., Dec. 15, 1905.
I. M. Rice,
Valentine, Neb.

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