

THE NEW CABINET OFFICER

WHO TAKES CHARGE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE HAS LONG BEEN IN PUBLIC LIFE AND

BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO HIS POST

Geo. B. Cortelyou Has Been Private Secretary to Two Presidents of the United States During a Period of Commercial Activity.

George B. Cortelyou as secretary of the department of commerce carries to the new cabinet position a ripe experience, the fruitage of many years of public life. The private secretary of the president is a man of ability, has opportunities for knowledge of public affairs afforded in no other position. Secretary Cortelyou occupied this responsible confidential post during the administration of President McKinley. When President Roosevelt came to the White house he retained him and promotes him to a cabinet position as an evidence of his worth and ability. THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE has been talked about for many years. It will now be organized into a branch of the government. Like the interior department, it will grow rapidly. New bureaus will be added from time to time. Having direct relations with the business affairs of a progressive country it must alternately be one of the great departments. The new cabinet officer will have no sinecure. The organization of his office along the broad lines contemplated by law will tax the energy and ability of even so vigorous, experienced and able a man as George B. Cortelyou.

AN INSURANCE BUREAU should be one of the subordinate branches of the new department. Here should be gathered information of value to insured and insurer alike. Ultimately no company should be permitted to do business in our land excepting under the supervision of the department of commerce. The government should exercise powers similar to those governing national banks and state supervision should be auxiliary only and not supreme. Life and fire insurance companies are engaged in interstate business and for the protection of all should be under national control.

THE BANKERS RESERVE LIFE hopes to see the day when the life insurance business of our country shall be conducted under national laws; when the department of commerce will issue the charter under which life companies shall do business; when some power of guaranty shall be deposited with the national government for the protection of the insurer.

B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT of the Bankers Reserve Life Association, is very much interested in the new cabinet position. He believes in the new secretary and suggests to insurance men that a common effort be made to provide for a national bureau of insurance. No other commercial institution in this country, barring none, is closer to the people or of greater economic importance.

Catalpa Seedlings and Seeds

2,000,000 Catalpa seedlings. Varieties: Bigonioides, Speciosa, Teas' Hybrid, Japan, Golden Leaf, and dwarf, 12 to 36 inches high. 1,000 pounds seeds of same, growth 1902. Write ROBT. W. FURNAS, Brownville, Neb.

Good Seed Corn

In looking over seed corn advertisements W. W. Van Sant & Sons advertisement of special brands of seed corn stands out prominently. Mr. Van Sant is a conscientious grower and breeder of seed corn. This is his speciality. He raises his own corn, sorts it and it is for sale only by W. W. Van Sant & Sons, Farragut, Ia. He puts his experience behind it and stakes his reputation on its being just as he represents. If you want a sure crop and a big crop of corn the coming season, buy your seed corn of W. W. Van Sant & Sons. Mention The Independent when writing.

THE LEGISLATURE

Short Paragraphs Relating to the Work of Nebraska Solons

HOUSE ROLL 344.

This is the long-looked for revenue measure. It is entitled: "A bill for an act to provide a system of public revenue and to repeal articles 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of article 7 of chapter 77, compiled statutes of Nebraska for the year 1901." Introduced by J. A. Douglas, George L. Loomis, W. T. Thompson, W. G. Sears, F. A. Sweezy, C. J. Warner and W. H. Wilson, special revenue committee.

Those who understood the republican platform last year know that if its revenue plank meant anything, it meant an increase of taxes on farmers, merchants and small property holders, and little if any change in the amount to be paid by the railroads. Both the populists and democrats promised higher taxes on the railroads—because careful study of the question showed beyond a doubt that this class of property was not paying its fair share of the taxes. But the result of the election must be construed as an indorsement of the republican position and, accordingly, we could expect nothing else than that the new bill will insure heavier taxes on the farmers and small property owners and relatively if not absolutely lighter taxes on the railroads and other corporations.

The bill has not yet come from the printer; hence, nothing specific will be attempted in commenting on it this week. In a general way Newbranch in the World-Herald sizes it up as follows:

"From its first section to its last section this bill is a railroad bill. It is a bill designed to allow railroads to continue dodging the payment of taxes at the expense of other property owners, whose taxes are increased. It is a bill designed to take to task all tax dodgers except railroads and a few other favored corporations. Its effect will be to levy and collect a largely increased tax from farmers, merchants and owners of city property, thereby providing a sufficient revenue to meet all current expenses and wipe out the state's floating indebtedness. But it will not affect the taxes paid by the railroads, save as it may operate to protect railroads from paying city taxes. So far as the county and state tax of railroads is concerned the bill makes no real change from the present law, except that it increases the membership of the state board which assesses them from three to five. And to the extent that five men may be harder to handle than three men, the bill may be said to increase the burdens of the railroads.

"It amply compensates for this, however, in the safeguards it throws about railroads to shield them from paying their share of city taxes. In this regard it goes far beyond the present law and grants to railroads that are shirking municipal taxation, and wish to continue the process, every immunity and protection that could be asked."

FUSIONIST POSITION.

Representative Loomis of Dodge was the caucus nominee for speaker and thus became floor leader of the house. His duties as member of the special revenue committee took up his time so thoroughly that he had no time to look after caucus matters, and Monday he announced that he is so thoroughly tired and disgusted with work on the revenue bill that he will make no attempt to fight for it or against it. It is said that the republicans will attempt to "railroad" the bill through by refusing to allow any amendments to be offered—a characteristic republican scheme; and if this is done the fusionists should be organized and ready to fight.

So far as state taxation is concerned an amendment to section 75 of the present revenue law, removing the absurd five-mill limit for state general fund purposes, would enable the state board to levy sufficient taxes to meet state general fund appropriations and give latitude for equalizing by varying the rate on the different counties—and substantially all the cause for complaint would be at an end. Allowing the county boards to assess railroad property would give the state board a more accurate guide as to how the rate of state levy should be varied—but this could be dispensed with. A single amendment to a law which has run the gauntlet of the supreme court so many times would certainly be safer than rushing through a mushroom bill, drawn up in star chamber, and giving no chance for amendment.

ELEVATOR SITES.

The joint railroad committees held an open session Monday night (17th). Senator Brady of Boone and Repre-

sentative Ramsey of Gage explained their bills (S. F. 102 and H. R. 70) requiring sidetracks to be laid to farmers' elevators. R. B. Schneider of Fremont, W. H. Ferguson of Hastings, Mayor Miles of Hastings, T. D. Worrall of Lincoln and C. M. McConoughey of Holdrege, all members of the elevator trust, were present, aruing that the bills be killed in order to prevent the dear farmers from losing their money building and operating elevators. Senator Brady's Irish wit helped him turn a neat joke or two on these solicitous friends of the farmer.

A STREAK OF ECONOMY.

The senate conference committee reported that the senate amendment to H. R. 60, reducing the appropriation for incidental expenses from \$48,000 to \$28,000, had been accepted by the house.

A BIT OF BALDERDASH.

H. R. 88, by Shelby, to prohibit and punish the desecration of the American flag by using it for advertising purposes, was recommended for passage. It is a bill recommended by the national flag association. A speech favoring the bill was made by Representative McClay of Lancaster after which the bill was quickly recommended favorably.

A CLOSE SHAVE.

By a vote of 48 to 41 the house defeated house roll 135, by Tooley of Custer providing that one-fourth of the school apportionment shall be on the basis of the number of school districts in each county.

FOR PARTISAN PURPOSES.

In committee of the whole the house spent much time discussing H. R. 103, by Jones of Otoe, which provides for the election of county commissioners by a vote of the entire county. The bill was strongly opposed by Loomis of Dodge, Kennedy of Douglas, Perry of Furnas, Sweezy of Webster and others, and seemed doomed to failure. When this became evident the author of the bill, with Morsman of Douglas and Wilson of Pawnee as his lieutenants, vigorously cracked the party lash and demanded that the bill be enacted in the interests of the republican party. "We make no bones about it," declared Morsman, cynically. "So far as Douglas county is concerned this bill is a party bill. We want it in order to give the republicans in Douglas county control of the county board."

Loomis came back neatly by declaring that the fusion county government of Douglas county and the republican city government of Omaha have been running along for several years, side by side. "And I do not believe," said he, sarcastically, "that the inhabitants of the county outside of Omaha, accustomed to democratic rule, are anxious to get in under cover and enjoy the rule of the Omaha machine."—World-Herald.

BILLS PASSED.

In the house—
H. R. 119, by Gregg, to require county superintendents to notify school district officers when report is due, was read for the third time and passed.

H. R. 88, by Shelby, to prevent and punishing the desecration of the flag of the United States by using it for advertising purposes, or by publicly mutilating or tramping upon it.

H. R. 166, by Kittel, repealing the wolf bounty law.

H. R. 279, transferring money from the board and clothing fund of the Norfolk hospital to the funds of the Lincoln insane hospital passed by a vote of 70 to 4 with the emergency clause.

H. R. 175, by Burgess, the bill to change the means of bidding on county printing and supplies and letting contracts for the same, passed by a vote of 70 to 0.

S. F. 3, by Sheldon of Cass, giving county boards greater latitude in quarantine regulations, passed by a vote of 70 to 0 with an emergency clause.

H. R. 18, by Douglas of Rock, giving a seal to county treasurers, passed by a vote of 63 to 18.

H. R. 154, by Gregg of Wayne, providing for reports of pupils to county superintendents and to state superintendents, passed without the emergency clause by a vote of 54 to 14.

H. R. 202, by Good, appropriating \$2,800 out of the state library fund for the library at Peru normal.

H. R. 37, by McClay, providing for state burial grounds for inmates of charitable institutions located at Lincoln.

In the senate—
S. F. 114, by Senator Hall of Douglas, a concurrent resolution calling for a constitutional convention.

Wm. N. Parcel, North Platte, Neb.: Socialism is the coming politics. I have been an independent and voted for James B. Weaver the first time he ran for president; but the pops are dead for good, so take up the next best, which is socialism.

A Few Land Bargains

We can save you from \$100 to \$1,000 cash in the price of a farm or ranch. If none of the following interest you, write us just what you want and we will submit full description and price.

No. 657—160 acres unimproved, joining the town of Ruelton, Sherman county, Kansas, for \$800.

No. 648—320-acre farm 3 miles from Ragan, Harlan county; new frame house, barn, etc; 200 acres under cultivation; splendid farm land; few such bargains as this left; price, \$7,200.

No. 643—280 acres joining the town of Shickley, Fillmore county, at \$46 per acre; will sell this in smaller tracts; no better land can be found in Nebraska.

No. 641—This is a choice 160 acres in Custer county at \$3,300.

No. 638—240-acre farm in Knox county at \$30 per acre; part time.

No. 637—This is a 160-acre farm under irrigation ditch, water right paid up; unimproved except that it is fenced; must be sold at once; price, \$3,000.

No. 635—240 acres 4 miles from Valparaiso; splendid improvements and is on the market for a short time at \$40 per acre.

No. 634—182 acres in Thayer county, one mile from town of Hubble; this is a first-class farm and we are authorized to sell it for \$5,000; part time if desired.

No. 630—175 acres, level farm, in Harlan county, two-story house, good barn, 15 acres of bearing orchard, 160 acres in cultivation, 50 acres in fall wheat, near school, 1/2 miles from good town. Price, \$4,000. A snap to be sure.

No. 628—Unimproved quarter section in Harlan county for \$1,000; half cash.

No. 617—A highly improved 160-acre farm near Republican City, Harlan county; best land in the Republican valley; price, \$6,000, and \$4,000 must be cash. This is one of the very best bargains offered in Nebraska.

No. 599—160 acres of the best farm land in Fillmore county, near town, 140 acres in cultivation, 5 acres in timber; price, \$6,500, and only \$2,500 cash required.

No. 572—1,480-acre ranch, all deeded land; 142 head of cattle; first-class improvements. Price of everything, \$15,000.

No. 596—290 acres, best stock farm in state of Missouri; price, \$50 per acre.

No. 600—320-acre ranch, highly improved, for \$3,500.

No. 659—640 acres deeded land, 1-280 acres leased school land, near Julesburg, Colo., fairly good improvements, for \$2,000. Also 75 head of cattle. Will trade the ranch and cattle both for Nebraska farm.

No. 660—403 acres deeded land, good hay land and first-class improvements; plenty of free range; deeded land will cut 250 tons of hay; 1 mile Loup river front, good school, close to town. Price, \$2,800.

We have a large list of ranch property to trade for good farm land. Many of these include land and stock. Also an extensive list of farms in all the best counties of Nebraska. Do not think of buying till you have investigated our bargains.

Nebraska Real Estate and Exchange Agency

WEBER & FARRIS
1328 O Street, Lincoln, Neb.

SPECIAL MARKET LETTER

FROM NYE & BUCHANAN CO., LIVE STOCK COMMISSION MERCHANTS, SO. OMAHA, NEB.

Schwartzschild & Sulzberger have had a buyer here since last week, which has been a big help to our cow market. We sold a load of cows Thursday at \$3.90 and one cow at \$4.30. The steer market is also higher, but heavy steers show the least gain. Two days this week bring liberal receipts and a steady market, but Wednesday is weak to 10c lower. We quote best beef steers \$4.40 to \$4.90, good \$4.00 to \$4.40, warmed-up \$3.50 to \$4.00; choice cows and heifers \$3.50 to \$4.00, fair to good \$2.85 to \$3.40, canners and cutters \$1.50 to \$2.50; choice stockers and feeders \$3.65 to \$4.25, fair \$3.25 to \$3.75; bulls slow sale at \$2.00 to \$3.25; veal \$4.00 to \$6.50.

Hog receipts liberal and market is weakening. Range \$6.60 to \$6.95.

Sheep receipts fair. Market 10c to 15c lower.

Killers.
Lambs\$5.00-\$6.25
Yearlings 5.25- 5.75
Wethers 5.00- 5.25
Ewes 4.00- 4.65