

## FOR SQUARE DEAL

Governor Sheldon Intends to be the Leader.

## BATTLE FIERCELY TO THE FINISH

Executive Declares He Was Elected by all Parties and Pledges Loyalty to Them

By our Staff Correspondent George W. Kline  
A party pledged to reform is making a struggle for square deal legislation in Nebraska. Gov. George L. Sheldon, the first native born executive, is the leader. In the senate and in the house he has conferred with men who are eager for laws in favor of the people. The legislature is organized and it will now be a battle to a finish. Sheldon is a non-partisan governor. For the first time in the history of the state a governor in his message has thanked all political parties. Governor Sheldon laid especial stress on the declaration that the independent voters, democrats, populists and republicans, had elected him to office and he determined to make his official actions pledges of his loyalty to the common people.

Governor Sheldon is a Nebraska farmer. His father was a member of that band of gallant pioneers which reclaimed Nebraska from the desert waste and laid the foundation for a prosperous state. At the state university George L. Sheldon was educated. He lived all his life on his father's homestead. In the Spanish-American war he went to the defense of his country. In education, in ethical standards and in his private life he has reached the ideal of the Nebraska people. He has determined to fulfil the pledges made to the people on the stump, and while he may make mistakes he is a man whom the people will trust implicitly and should he err they will overlook it because of the sterling qualities of the leader.

Early in the week the two houses resumed concurrent sessions after adjournment over Sunday. So far sixty-two bills have been introduced in the house and eighty-nine have been presented in the senate. These embrace all subjects. "Party pledge" bills on all partisan questions will be outlined by the joint committees of the house and senate and all other measures will be slain.

There was never a session of the Nebraska legislature when the chronic mud slingers were absent. In the heat of the speakership fight a number of epithets were bandied about. Adam McMullen, the author of one of the first primary bills introduced in the last session of the legislature and a consistent reformer, was attacked by his political enemies and denounced as a "railroader." H. D. Byram was also attacked and it was thought that his vote could be secured by a certain candidate if the "scare" was applied. Byram refused to be stampeded. Both men have settled down to do some hard work and thus get even with the early critics.

Partisan strife has so far not been displayed in the Nebraska legislature. Party lines may be drawn later in the session. It has been decided that the pledges contained in both the republican and democratic platforms will be carried out. Joint committees have been appointed in each house to look after reforms. The senate is represented by seven men on each committee, the house by a like number. There will be three joint committees. An anti-pass bill will be outlined. The measure, as sketched by the joint committee members, will forbid all sorts of political transportation. Railway officials and employes may be granted passes. Ministers of the gospel and charitable workers will be allowed passes. In other instances it will be a felony to ask or give a pass.

The context of the railway regulation bill has been outlined. The measure to be approved by the joint committee will contain provisions to allow the state railway commission to make all rates, hear all disputes and adjust differences. The commissioners must publish tariffs and rate sheets and must grant the railroads a hearing whenever a protest is filed. The commissioners probably will receive \$2,500 per annum, and a secretary will be provided at a salary of

\$1,800 a year. Two assistants will also be provided for at an annual salary of \$1,200 each. There are a number who wish the secretaryship of the commission. However, there is a pronounced sentiment for a man who knows railway rates, and the place doubtless will be given to a practical freight rate man. Any interest in a railway, telegraph, telephone or express company will disqualify any member or assistant from serving on the commission. Transportation must be paid in cash and the commissioners and their assistants must not receive, either directly or indirectly, any profits from the earnings of a public service corporation.

Confusion and divergence of opinion exist as to the form of a primary law. The statutes of Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota are being overhauled. To their surprise the legislators have discovered that dissatisfaction exists in each of the three states named. Daily newspapers, as a rule, favor liberal primary laws with long campaigns and protracted debate. In a large state it is impossible for a candidate to reach all the people except through the daily press. This means that a daily paper and a syndicate of weeklies must be secured in order to conduct a winning campaign. More depends on the country press, it is asserted, than ever before as a candidate can be made or unmade within a few days preceding the party balloting by a well directed newspaper attack. Partisans are also eager to preserve the party organization. This is another problem which vexes the republicans and democrats alike. It is predicted that there will be more strife and turmoil over the primary bill than all the rest of the legislation.

The half-trigger legislator is extremely liable to meet with mishap in the Nebraska legislature this session. Senator Wilsey of Frontier has already encountered his "package." He presented a resolution ordering the summary arrest, imprisonment and punishment of the lobby after a speedy trial at the bar of the senate. His resolution was so drastic that any casual visitor at the capitol could be arrested and disgraced. Sentiment was pronounced against such a measure and it was withdrawn after the author boasted that no one dared vote against it. It is not denied that a well organized band of senators and representatives allow reports to emanate that "Member Such-and-Such" is a railroad man. In this way a weak-kneed member can be forced into line for almost any bill. A lobby resolution was introduced in the senate to admit visitors at the request of the members, cards being issued. A similar arrangement exists in the house. The anti-lobby crusade has had one result. Lawyers are making money. As soon as a piece of legislation is introduced the interest affected must either hire a lawyer or argue in person before a committee. So the lawyers are picking up many \$50 and \$100 fees.

The status of the food commission will cause a lively row, both in the house and senate. In the latter body Senator Burns has presented the official copy of the pure food bill. In the house Representative McMullen has introduced a bill to reorganize the state food commission. Deputy Food Commissioner Redfern wants a salary of \$1,800. He would like a chemist and three inspectors, one for foods, one for dairy products and one for drugs, and is the author of the Burns bill. An unknown organization of chemists are championing the opposing bill which provides substantially the same reforms—the rigid inspection of impure foods, drugs and dairy products. The pure food reform is sure to be adopted. It will be merely a skirmish for the patronage. This cloud of cuttle fish mist may absorb columns of space, but the chief issue from the start will be the man after the pay check. Redfern has the advantage, which is nine points of advantage in a legislative scrap.

Senator Phillips of Holt wants to start another junior normal school at O'Neill. He is the author of a measure to establish no less than three nor no more than six normals. He designates the places as Alliance, McCook, O'Neill and Valentine, with the two other sites in doubt.

Senator Root of Cass is after the wolf bounty law. He has introduced a measure repealing the whole act in toto. A big deficit has piled up and the scalp claims are still coming in.

## CALL A CONGRESS

Meetings Will be Held in Denver During January

## IRRIGATION TO BE ITS PURPOSE

All States West of the Missouri River Will Send Large Delegations

For the first time in the history of America a general movement has been inaugurated looking toward the rapid development and settlement of the dry land sections of Nebraska and the west. Acting on the suggestion of many western farmers and business men, Gov. Jesse F. McDonald of Colorado has called the "Trans-Missouri Dry Farming Congress" to meet in Denver on January 24 and 25. The call has been sent to every state west of the Missouri river and assurances have already been received that delegates will come, with state sanction, from practically all of the sixteen commonwealths included in the call.

The importance of this movement cannot be overestimated. Nine acres of farm land out of every ten in the whole country west of the 98th meridian can never be irrigated and because of slight rainfall most of this great territory must look for its redemption entirely to some method of scientific agriculture. Within the last decade the spread of the so-called Campbell system, more commonly known as "dry farming," has convinced the thinking men of the country that in some such method as this lies the agricultural salvation of the west, and it is now proposed to start a broad, unprejudiced movement, in which every state affected shall take part, to further develop these soil culture systems and bring them to the attention of the world at large.

It is necessary also, so it is said by those who are interested, that some steps be taken to educate the farmers who are today coming into the dry lands of the west. In Colorado, Nebraska and Kansas alone 150,000 new homeseekers have settled themselves within a year. Twelve hundred homesteads in Kit Carson county, Colorado, were taken up in 1906, and this record was almost if not quite equaled by other counties in other western states. Of these great bodies of settlers the larger proportion are from eastern states and are entirely unfamiliar with western conditions.

The purpose of the congress which will meet in Denver is, first of all, to form a permanent, educational, interstate organization somewhat on the line of the National Irrigation Congress, and second, to afford a full and free discussion of the principles of scientific soil culture, and of their development in the west. Speakers will be present from every state west of the Missouri river. The United States Department of Agriculture will be represented, it is hoped.

## FARMERS WILL FIGHT TRUST.

Takes Possession of Omaha Plant and Offers Inducements to Independents.

The Farmers' Co-operative Creamery and Supply company, with the avowed purpose of fighting the creamery "trust" by taking into membership all the farmers in this part of the country, has been organized at Omaha. The concern proposes to unite 5,000 cream producers in the manufacture and sale of butter and the purchase of all farm supplies. The company has already 3,000 patrons. The members of the association will share in the profits of the entire business and will have their butter fat produced at actual cost. Members will be furnished separators and like goods at factory cost. Non-members will be charged a trifle more than members.

Farmers will be encouraged to ship their milk direct to the new factory instead of selling at the country stations of the other creameries.

Charles Harding, formerly president of a creamery company bearing his name is president and general manager of the new organization.

## Big Year for Auto Trade.

An estimate made by the dealers places the number of automobiles sold in Omaha in 1906 at 250. More could have been disposed of had the machines been obtainable.

Already orders have been taken in advance for 1907 for forty or more cars, something never before known.

## SENATE AND HOUSE COMMITTEE

The Following Named Will Act as Chairmen.

Accounts and Expenditures, H. E. Sackett.  
Agriculture, W. E. Thorne.  
Apportionments, George W. Wiltse.  
Banks and Currency, A. L. Clarke.  
Claims, J. C. F. McKesson.  
Constitutional Amendments and Federal Relations, C. H. Aldrich.  
County and County Boundaries, J. G. O'Connell.  
Deaf, Dumb and Blind Asylums, S. H. Buck.  
Education, L. Goodrich.  
Enrolled and Engrossed Bills, W. D. Holbrook.  
Finance, Ways and Means, J. L. Root.  
Fish and Game, George W. Wiltse.  
Highways, Bridge and Ferries, H. B. Glover.  
Internal Improvements, J. P. Latta.  
Insane Hospitals, P. F. Dodson.  
Insurance, Joseph Burns.  
Irrigation, C. G. Sibley.  
Judiciary, E. L. King.  
Labor, F. W. Ashton.  
Library, W. R. Patrick.  
Live Stock and Grazing, D. Hanna.  
Manufacturing and Commerce, J. C. F. McKesson.  
Medical Societies, F. Wilcox.  
Military Affairs, L. C. Gibson.  
Miscellaneous Subjects, W. H. Wilson.  
Miscellaneous Corporations, E. D. Gould.  
Municipal Affairs, L. C. Gibson.  
Privileges and Elections, F. W. Phillips.  
Public Charities, J. C. Byrnes.  
Public Lands and Buildings, Chas. A. Randall.  
Public Printing, W. H. Wilson.  
Railroads, A. Wilsey.  
Reform Schools, Asylum for the Feeble Minded and Home for the Friendless, H. E. Sackett.  
Revenue, B. F. Thomas.  
Rules, G. L. Saunders.  
School Lands and Funds, C. H. Epperson.  
Soldiers' Home, J. G. O'Connell.  
State Prison, C. A. Luce.  
University and Normal Schools, R. M. Thomson.

## The House.

Judiciary, E. P. Brown.  
Finance, Ways and Means, Keifer.  
Agriculture, J. Walsh.  
Roads and Brides, Killen.  
Public Lands and Buildings, Marsh.  
Internal Improvements, Michael Lee.  
Federal Relations, Raper.  
Engrossed and Enrolled Bills—Clark.  
Accounts and Expenditures, Davis.  
Constitutional Amendments, Tucker.  
County Boundaries, Etc., Barrett.  
Railroads, Harrison.  
Privileges and Elections, Farley.  
State Penitentiaries, McCullough.  
Insane Hospitals, Anderson.  
Other Asylums, Best.  
Corporations, Baker.  
Library, A. A. Smith.  
Cities and Towns, Knowles.  
Banks and Currency, Hart.  
Public Schools, Shubert.  
University and Normal Schools, McMullen.  
Public Printing, Hill.  
Mines and Mineral, Van Housen.  
Immigration, Eller.  
Manufacture and Commerce, Neff.  
School Lands and Funds, Doran.  
Miscellaneous Subjects, Wilson.  
Claims, Armstrong.  
Live Stock and Grazing, Masters.  
Revenue and Taxation, Dodge.  
Rules, Mr. Speaker.  
Labor, Leeder.  
Apportionments, Henry.  
Fish and Game, Green.  
Insurance, E. W. Brown.  
Telegraph, Telephone and Electric Companies, Jenison.  
Medical Societies and Sunday Laws, Fletcher.  
Fees and Salaries, Noyes.  
Soldiers Home, Blystone.  
Irrigation, Hamer.  
Deficiencies, Logsdon.

## MEETING OF AGRICULTURISTS.

Farmers of the State Attend Meeting at Capitol City.

Several hundred of Nebraska's most progressive farmers gathered in Lincoln to attend the sessions of the various agricultural societies of the state which met at the capital city. In addition to these meetings several commercial and professional societies held meetings, and men prominent in these lines throughout the country addressed the meetings.

The attendance of the farmers at the former annual gatherings has been very large and satisfactory, but this year's crowd broke the record. Most of the societies held their sessions at the state farm.

## FOR NEW GUARDS

The War Department Has Announced Its Intentions

## DON'T WANT REPETITION OF 1898

Nebraska May Have the Finest Military Organization in the United States

The new regulations for the mobilization of the national guard, just perfected by Assistant Secretary of War Oliver, will make it possible for Nebraska to have one of the best organizations in the United States. The new order will result in making impossible any repetition of the difficulties of reorganization of the militia forces in the face of war, as experienced in the early days of 1898, is expected by the war department.

These regulations, which have just been printed and promulgated are drawn under the terms of the constitution and existing militia law and preceding statutes. They provide for the minimum strength of the organizations of the militia in time of peace and equipment by the state authorities so that this force will be instantly available in time of need.

In the first place it is expected that the state authorities will take advantage of the generous appropriations made by the national government annually for the support of the national guard, to keep their organizations at a certain fixed minimum strength. These men are to be completely equipped and drilled. And, in addition, the state must provide ample equipment, arms, clothing, quartermasters' stores, tenting, everything necessary for the militiamen who may be called into service under the terms of the law.

The experience of the Spanish war recruitment demonstrated that it was an impossible task for the national government to equip recruits in twos and threes and half dozens in little country hamlets and feed and convey them to central recruiting depots.

## STATE HISTORIANS WILL MEET.

Researches into Nebraska's History Will Be Made.

The results of a year of research in the early doings of Nebraska people were recounted at the annual meeting of the state historical society held at the state university at Lincoln, January 16 and 17. Historic and prehistoric times were delved into and one of the features of the session was the report on the discoveries in the mounds near Omaha, which have formed the basis of some learned articles and comment in scientific publications all over the world. Reminiscences of the men who crossed the plains in the early days, of adventures with Indians and of the development of Indian happenings early and late, formed other points which were covered by the people on the program.

## GAIN IN ATTENDANCE.

Registration at Agricultural College Increases.

Registration for all courses at the agricultural college of the university has already exceeded last year's figures. The total will probably reach 445 for the year, an increase of over 20 per cent above last year's registration. Registration in the three-year course is 226, and in the winter course 171, a total gain over last year of forty-four. The growth of attendance has been so rapid that students at the farm are finding considerable trouble in obtaining board.

## New Telephone Lines.

The Independent Telephone company has completed a copper toll line to Lowell, which, as soon as the section at Kenesaw is completed, will give connections with Lincoln, Omaha, Des Moines and Kansas City and intervening points. The company has expended \$15,000 during the past year in extending its lines. The state association meets in Lincoln next week.

## Adams County Doctors Meet.

At the annual meeting of the Adams County Medical association the following officers were elected: Dr. W. H. Lynn, of Hastings, president; Dr. F. L. Taylor, of Hastings, secretary and treasurer; Dr. E. C. Foote, of Pauline, vice president.