

GETTING IN LINE

The Railroad Bill Framed to Have no Loop Holes

EITHER PARTY LINE OR STATE WIDE

Leaders on Both Sides Anxious to Present Bill Best Suited For All Parties

From our staff correspondent Geo. W. Kline

After a month of careful, deliberate and arduous labor the sub-committee appointed to outline a railway commission bill has reported. The result is a railway regulation measure in its entirety. This must be scrutinized by the joint committee of the house and senate and then reported to the legislature. Within a week it is expected that the bill will be running the legislative gauntlet. In the bill the railway commission is given complete authority over the railroads. From the decision of the commissioners there is no appeal except by filing a transcript of the proceedings before the railway commission. In this way the railroads will be prevented from eluding the new schedules by injunction suits. Included in the jurisdiction of the commission are the telephone, telegraph, express and railroad companies, Pullman concerns, interurban and all public service corporations. Within thirty days after the passage of the bill schedules must be made out. These shall be published and within sixty days and in not less than thirty days these schedules shall go into effect. In absence of a protest from the companies concerned the rates shall be judged as reasonable, and no appeal can be taken. Complete reports must be filed and officers and employees may be fined for not giving the commissioners the information demanded. The bill provides that there shall be no secrets connected with railroad management and the reports submitted to the commission shall be summarized at the end of the biennium for the information of the governor.

Several red-hot debates have been held on the primary subject. Expert opinions and the laws of other states have been analyzed. So far the primary reformers have been divided into the "state wide" and "party line" groups. The former, including a number of party leaders, insist on the nomination of officials, state and local, at a primary which may include all parties. The voter approaches the booth, gets a blanket ballot and votes his preference. Democrats, Populists and Republicans could vote at the polls regardless of party affiliations. The opposing group suggest that United States senators, representatives, members of the legislature, judges and county officers be named by the primary system. The voters would also name the delegates to the state convention. The delegates would name the state officers, according to pledges exacted by the voters, and outline a platform. The champions of the first plan insist that a platform is not essential in a state campaign. One of them, during a recent debate, said: "I would rather have George Sheldon as governor without a platform than some men with a platform a mile long." The opponents of the "state wide" plan declare that parties will disappear should the bill prevail and state politics would involve intricate muckwumpery with the Nebraskans disorganized and divergent when it came to national issues. The question of official patronage, it is claimed, would become puzzling, for there would be no method of distinguishing Democrat for Republican.

Interurban promoters met with a serious set-back in the senate. The bill introduced at the suggestion of G. W. Wattles of Omaha was re-committed to the judiciary committee for a number of specific amendments regarding the amount of capital stock of new concerns, the manner of bonding and methods of gaining publicity. Senator Ashton of Hall and Senator Aldrich of Butler, opposed the bill, alleging that it would lead to the formation of a holding company. The operations of Hill and Harriman were alluded to and the two senators declared that the interurban promoters meant to repeat the history of high finance in railroading in the jobbing of interurban stock. Senator King, Senator Thomas and Senator Burns defended the bill. All three pleaded for the liberty of investment and immunity from the caustic criticism of the opponents of the bill. However, it is predicted that some changes will be made in the bill before it is allowed to pass. During the debate Senator Aldrich declared that for thirteen years there had been no real competition between the railroads of Nebraska.

Members of the senate have a few pet names for their colleagues. Senator McKesson was dubbed "the chaperone" early in the senate. Senator Thomson, a linguist and classical scholar as well as a lawyer, is the grammarian of the body. Senator Ashton of Hall is regarded as the beauty of the senate. Senator Burns of Lancaster has been hailed as the "sawed off Hercules" on account of his manifestations of energy. Senator Aldrich is regarded as the eloquent, silver tongued member. He scatters rhetorical bouquets about. Senator Epperson has won the title of

senate humorist. In the house the dictionary has not been compiled, although a number are vaguely described as "windy."

Christian Science and county option have been debated at length. Champions of the scientists were heard by the medical committee, while the county option reformers explained the proposed bill to the members of the house. It is predicted that the bill requiring the scientists to take an examination before the state board of health will be defeated, while county option may be approved. The county option advocates claim a large number of pledged votes.

The child labor bill has passed. The bill prohibits the employment of children for more than forty-eight hours a week and limits the hours of labor of children between the ages of 14 and 16 from 7 a. m. to 7 p. m. Under 14 years the employment of child labor is allowed in but few instances and these must be approved by the proper authorities. The bill does not affect the employment of children on farms, providing that they are not worked more than forty-eight hours a week.

Governor Sheldon is reported to be in favor of a rigid anti-lobby law. He is declared to be opposed to the presence of lobbyists, although he is in favor of giving corporations a full and fair hearing on any proposition involving their interests. The attorneys for the roads are beginning to rely on the "fair play" sentiment of the administration, as they are beginning to realize that the old system will not work with the present members.

The wolf bounty will be maintained. Senator Randall has a bill to forbid wolf bounties unless the counties pay a bounty. Should this bill pass no county could participate in the state bounty without taxing the citizens locally to exterminate the wolves.

Charles Schavland of Madison county has been complimented by legislators on his faultless penmanship. Senator Randall of Madison presented resolutions in memory of Judge Robertson of Norfolk. The tribute was so beautifully engrossed that the senators asked concerning the penman. Senator Randall explained that the youthful pen artist lived in Madison county.

A stunt was on before the house committee when house roll 103 and senate file 100, pertaining to telephones, had a hearing. The feature of the hearing was the opposition of both the Bell and the Independent companies to the physical connection feature of the bill, whereas two years ago the independent companies were insisting on the passage of the bill. Each insisted that the measure, if passed now, would destroy competition and would be likely to receive poor service from the company furnishing it.

Farmers and companies which manufacture patent medicine are opposing H. R. 74. This bill forbids the sale of all patent medicines except the sale of the medicine through the registered pharmacists. The champions of the measure claim that the bill is in line with federal legislation while the opposition charges that the druggists of the state are vitally interested in "knocking out" the itinerant peddler of household remedies.

Senate file 140, introduced by Aldrich of Butler by request of Victor Rosewater of the Omaha Bee for the appointment of a constitutional revision committee, has been indefinitely postponed. The reason alleged for the action of the committee are said to be that the proposed expense is useless, as the members of the committee or the members of the senate are fully competent to point out the defects in the state constitution and to report proposed amendments to the legislature for submission to a vote of the people.

The bill of State Senator Joseph Burns of Lancaster to do away with the obnoxious word "incurable" from the official name of the insane asylum at Hastings should and no doubt will be passed. If it does it means that the hospital for the insane at Norfolk and Lincoln will each care for their own patients, and the odium now attached to the Hastings institution on account of the obnoxious appellation of incurable will be done away with.

The Fletcher Christian Science bill was fully discussed at a meeting of the legislative committee. Judge William Ewing of Chicago championed the cause. The purpose of the bill, drawn by Dr. Brash of the state board of health and introduced in the house by Dr. Fletcher and in the senate by Dr. Wilcox, is to compel all persons who heal disease without the use of drugs to have the ability to diagnose disease in order to be able to report to the health authorities. The scientists objected to the provisions on the ground that they would be hindered in the exercise of their religion, and the bill was favored by the physicians on the ground of safety to the public health.

Governor Sheldon received from the federal government \$790.37, and in a special message to the legislature defined its disposition as belonging to the counties of Blaine, Grant, Cherry, Thomas and McPherson, being their portion, 10 per cent, of all money received by the government from the forest reserves of the United States. There are three reserves in Nebraska, the Dismal river, Niobrara and the North Platte.

CONTINUE BOUNTY

Payment of Wolf Scalp Bounties Will Be Made as Before

QUAIL PROTECTED FOR TWO YEARS

An interesting Grist in Grinding by the House and Senate A Busy Week

McKesson's wolf bounty bill, senate file 67, has been laid over, which practically kills it, and the bounty will stand. There are claims against the state amounting to \$22,000 for payment of wolf scalps and it is claimed that instances are known where one scalp was presented the second time for payment. During the past two years the Fourteenth district has presented claims amounting to \$4,279; Fifteenth district, \$1,156; Twentieth district, \$1,714, while the Thirteenth district tops the list for \$4,343. The other districts range from \$500 down to \$12, while the Twenty-second has had no claims at all.

House roll 220, introduced by Knowles of Dodge, is a bill that should be made a law. It provides that railroad companies operating in the state shall issue and sell to persons desiring to purchase the same mileage books or tickets for 1,000 miles over their respective line of road, making the same good in the hands of any holder thereof, fixing the maximum charge therefor at \$20.

There will be no open season for the killing of quail for at least two years, a bill to that effect having been passed.

All records being lost the order to prosecute the State Journal for failure to deliver printed bills within three days after receipt has been withdrawn.

A bill giving cities of the second class and villages power to sell light, heat and power has passed.

Root of Cass succeeded in having his bill to repeal the law giving the governor power to pardon convicts on the Fourth of July passed by the senate.

The Burns senate bill providing that judges of the supreme court shall be ineligible to any office except the one they hold or any judicial office during their term, has been passed.

Thomas of Douglas has introduced senate file 221, a compulsory educational measure. The bill exempts blind, deaf and dumb children.

Representative Howard of Adams has introduced a bill which places all hotels and lodging houses throughout the state under a system of state inspection of fire escapes and other details of hotel operation from the standpoint of public safety.

The prevention of wrongs to children and dumb animals is the object of a bill introduced in the house of representatives by Harvey of Douglas county. It creates a state board for the purpose, and confers upon that body power to enforce all humane laws of Nebraska.

A bill will be passed making it a crime to bring stolen horses and cattle into the state and offering them for sale.

Graff of Coming has house roll 206, which empowers cities of less than 25,000, also incorporated villages to raise and expend funds to repair and improve public highways.

House roll 210 compels owners of stock in state corporations to list same with assessor.

Basset of Buffalo has introduced house roll 216, authorizing cities and villages to erect and maintain monuments to departed soldiers and sailors of the civil war, levying a tax to pay for same.

A. E. Brown of Sherman has a bill introduced in the house which will prohibit the collecting of money for subscriptions unless paper is ordered.

A bill by Killen of Gage provides four years of free public high school education for all children of the state whose parents or guardian live in public school districts maintaining less than four-year high school course of study.

Dodge of Douglas has house roll 188, which provides an appropriation of \$30,000 for a new gymnasium for the Deaf and Dumb institute at Omaha.

Clark of Douglas, in house roll 192, provides for the taxation of railroad, union station, depot, car and freight line companies by cities and villages and for collection of taxes. This bill by Mr. Clark is intended to correct certain defects found in the first measure of this sort that he placed before the legislature. He answers the argument that by taxing the railroads locally the school fund of the state will suffer the loss of money the roads are now paying. This new bill provides for an added tax on railroad property and is not an amendment to the present revenue law, but is a measure complete in itself, giving authority to the local assessor of every town in the

state to tax for local purposes railroad property located within his jurisdiction.

Johnson's house roll 169 reduces the panel of jurors from 24 to 18 in a justice's court.

Decoys in the shooting of wild game or the killing of game at night is prohibited in the bill of Hart, house roll 174.

Root of Cass has a bill in the senate which will place those committed under the dipsomaniac law in the list of persons to whom saloonkeepers and druggists shall not sell liquor.

Aldrich of Butler memorializes congress to submit a woman suffrage amendment to the constitution.

Clarks' child labor bill has passed the house. Every member voted for it with the exception of the following: Adams, Funk, Glem, Hagemester, Hill, Lahners, Mackey, Marlatt, Marsh, Master, Murphy, Pilger, Richardson, Stolz, Volalensky, Nettleton. The vote stood 72 to 16.

A contract was given C. L. Stonecyper of Omaha for the printing of the senate journals daily at \$2 per page.

A combination bill in the house, 193, provides for seven junior normal schools; to shorten the term to eight weeks.

Senate file 222, by Randall of Madison, if it becomes a law will raise salaries of deputy county officers in counties having more than 15,000 and less than 25,000 population.

The bill for appointment of a constitutional revision commission has been indefinitely postponed.

E. P. Brown's bill, doing away with technicalities in granting new trials in criminal cases, was killed.

Senate file 21, permitting road overseers to build roads from twelve to sixteen feet wide in Douglas county, has passed.

Wiltse's senate file, allowing witnesses at coroner inquests fees same as witnesses in district court, has been introduced.

Prohibiting the sale of wild game at any time during the season, house roll 98, has passed.

The bill of Wilcox, which provided that lawyers only should be eligible to the office of county judge, has been killed.

STATE FARM EXPERTS.

Specialists in Soils and Seeds to Address Farmers.

During February many towns will be visited by lecturers from the University State farm to talk farm to the farmers of Nebraska. Places and dates where meetings are scheduled are as follows:

- February 1 and 2—Anselmo and Humboldt.
- February 4—Atkinson.
- February 4 and 5—Harvard and Orchard.
- February 5 and 6—Sutton, Carroll and Battle Creek.
- February 6 and 7—Fairfield, Laurel and Wisner.
- February 7 and 8—Edgar, Allen and West Point.
- February 8 and 9—Clay Center, Dakota City and Scribner.
- February 11—Crete.
- February 11 and 12—Papillion.
- February 12—Beaver City.
- February 12 and 13—Valley.
- February 13—Davenport and Alma.
- February 13 and 14—Shickley and Arlington.
- February 14—Naponee.
- February 14 and 15—Geneva, Franklin and Blair.
- February 15 and 16—Exeter, Guide Rock and Lyons.
- February 18—Culbertson.
- February 18 and 19—Grand Island and Comstock.
- February 19 and 20—Wood River, McCook and Loup City.
- February 20 and 21—St. Paul, Cambridge and Gibbon.
- February 21 and 22—Kenesaw, Arapahoe and Palmer.
- February 22 and 23—Windon, Atlanta and Archer.
- February 25 and 26—Marquette.
- February 26 and 27—Aurora.
- February 28 and 29—Auburn.
- February 29 and 30—Johnson.
- February 30 and 31—Tecumseh.

A JOLT ON THE GOVERNMENT.

Full Tariff Demanded by Railroads for Transporting Soldiers.

Two railroads have refused to make any special rates to the government for the shipment of soldiers en route to the Philippines to and from San Francisco, and the quartermaster's department of the department of Missouri is much disappointed, the officers expressing themselves in forceful language over the action of the railroads.

Bids were opened in Omaha for the transportation of 600 men, 500 horses and a large amount of equipment, from Forts Robinson and Russell to San Francisco. Only two roads submitted bids and both were for regular and full rates. Railroad officials say the government will secure no more cheap fares. It is the opinion of many that congress will be prompted in passing a law compelling all railroads in the United States to transport soldiers and equipment of war without cost to the government.

GRAZING LANDS

The Bill Introduced by United States Senator Burkett

PRESIDENT FAVORS ITS PASSAGE

Settlers May Occupy Land in Grazing Districts Under Permits Issued to Them

The leading feature of the bill introduced by Senator Burkett at the last session of the congress, and recommended for passage by the president, at this session respecting the control of grazing lands are as follows:

Section 1. That the president of the United States, with the consent of the governor of the state or territory affected, is hereby authorized to establish, by proclamation, grazing lands of the United States. Thereupon the secretary of agriculture shall have charge of such grazing districts, appoint all officers necessary for their administration and protection, and all local officers shall be appointed from the qualified electors of the states or territories in which such districts are respectively situated.

Sec. 2. That the lands so classified as agricultural shall be occupied for grazing purposes under annual or season permits only and shall be continually subject to disposition under the public land laws. Lands so classified as grazing shall be occupied under permits for periods of not more than ten years and upon application agricultural settlement shall be allowed whenever an inspection by the secretary of agriculture of the lands applied for shall show such lands to be agricultural in character, but no other settlement or entry therein shall be allowed except under the mining or town site laws.

Sec. 3. That the jurisdiction, both civil and criminal, over persons within such grazing districts shall not be affected or changed by reason of the existence thereof, except so far as the punishment of offenses against the United States therein is concerned.

Sec. 4. That settlers residing within the exterior boundaries of such grazing districts or in the vicinity thereof may occupy, under permit from the secretary of agriculture, any part of the said grazing districts necessary for school houses, churches and state or county buildings, and after such permit has been granted the land shall be listed in the local land office and shall not be subject to appropriation under the public land laws during such use.

Sec. 5. That the secretary of agriculture shall fix a date, which shall not be less than one year from the establishment of each grazing district, and after such date it shall be unlawful to pasture any class of live stock thereon without a grazing permit.

Sec. 6. That so much of the special reserve fund provided for in section five of the act of February 1, 1905, as the secretary of agriculture may from time to time allot, is hereby appropriated, to be available until expended for the purpose of payment of classification and all other expenses necessary to execute the provisions of this act.

MANY SCORES WERE HIGH.

Yearly Record Being Kept at the Experiment Station.

Results of the cow judging contest, conducted during the meeting of the Nebraska Dairymen's association, recently held at Lincoln, have been made known. Two Lincoln men made the highest possible scores, 49 points. Many other contestants show high scores.

There were seven cows in this contest, no one of which had a record of milk and butter production; these cows had just been received at the experiment station for the purpose of an experimental test for the ensuing year. They will be milked with a milking machine for the entire year and a record kept of the milk and butter fat produced by each; these cows, with one exception, a cow furnished by the station, have been contributed for the year by six different breeders of the state.

HOW THINGS GET MIXED.

Curios for the Nebraska University From Japan Held in New York.

The university has had no small amount of trouble in obtaining some curios and books that have been sent within the last year. In June a package of curios from Japan was billed for Nebraska and loaded on a steamer. It is not known what the box contains, but it is thought that there is an old suit of armor among the other curiosities. The box arrived at Seattle in due time, but was sent from there by an accident around the horn to New York. The New York authorities notified the university of the arrival but held the box for duty, which was not in accordance with the law providing that all gifts to educational institutions shall come into this country free of duty. The curios are still held in New York. They will be forwarded to Nebraska only when the institution gives a bond for twice the amount of the duty demanded on them. This can not be done until after the spring meeting of the board of regents. It is hoped that the boxes and their contents will be received here some time early in March.