

LOPS THEM OFF

Finance Committee Slashes Many Appropriation Bills

STATE UNIVERSITY LOST \$180,000

Terminal Taxation Bill and Railway Commissioners Bill are Signed by Governor

Armed with a pruning knife of liberal dimensions, the senate committee on finance, ways and means unmercifully lopped the state appropriations a million and a quarter dollars. The house passed bills that reached the enormous total of more than four and one-fourth millions. This was reduced to slightly more than three millions by the committee. The state university lost \$180,000. All the building appropriations were cut off. In addition the buildings at the state farm will be erected out of the 1 mill levy. The engineering building to be paid for out of the 1 mill levy was lopped off. The senate directed the following building operations and the 1 mill levy must furnish the funds: To finish woman's building, \$20,000; heating and power plant, \$35,000; veterinary clinic and stock judging pavilion, \$30,000; cattle feeding building, \$15,000. All these improvements are for the state farm. Senators Burns and McKesson fought the university onslaught in vain.

The roll was called on the motion of Senator Ashton not to concur and the state university was abandoned by all but six members. The vote follows:

Ayes—Ashton, Burns, Byrnes, Goodrich, O'Connell and McKesson.

Nays—Aldrich, Burk, Clarke, Dodson, Epperson, Gibson, Glover, Gould, Hanna, Holbrook, King, Latta, Luce, Patrick, Phillips, Root, Sackett, Saunders, Sibley, Thomas, Thomson, Thorne, Wilcox, Witte—25.

Randall and Wilson did not vote.

The appropriation of \$2,000 for the fish hatchery was indefinitely postponed.

The Kearney industrial school was deprived of \$25,000 for additional land. This was taken out of H. R. 484.

H. R. 343 was doctored. The sum for studying animal disease was cut from \$2,500 to \$1,500, the cornstalk disease item was clipped out and several other minor items deducted.

The Norfolk asylum claim for \$100,000 was reduced to \$91,000 and it is stated that it will be placed at the former figure as soon as the "university howl" has died out.

The anti-pass bill has been passed by both houses and the amendments have been concurred in by both houses. During the voting Cone sent an explanation of his vote to the desk of Chief Clerk Barnard as follows: "I believe the house should have stood for H. R. 473 as an effective anti-pass law. I have explained my position on this bill. I vote 'no' on S. F. 2." The members absent and not voting on the bill were Duncan, Fletcher, Howe, Saunders, Richardson, Marlatt, Whitham, Walsh, Steinauer, Shubert and Quackenbush.

"Grandpa" Barnes of Omaha voted for the bill, and a general laugh arose, in which the patriarch joined. Mr. Barnes is reported to have a North-western pass and is said to have asserted that he did not care who knew it.

The anti-pass bill as it goes back to the senate carries many amendments. It does not, however, prevent lawyers and doctors in the employ of the roads from having the prized pasteboards. On this ground, more than anything else, Cone and others have declared the bill a nonentity. The bill provides a penalty for receiving as well as giving a pass. It does not have the anti-discrimination clause. This will permit the railroads to sell passes to any one they please for a nominal sum, it is asserted.

Governor Sheldon has signed the terminal taxation bill and the railway commission bill. The commission has organized and is now ready to begin the task of adjusting rates and listening to the complaints of shippers, and straightening details of schedules.

S. F. 326, requiring railroads to maintain hinged gates at farm crossings, has become a law.

An effort is being made by the legislature to make the present toll bridge over the Missouri river at Sioux City a free highway under the control of the United States government.

The people of the northwestern part of the state have taken considerable interest in the matter.

H. R. No. 9, the child labor law by Clarke of Douglas, was passed by a vote of 24 to 9.

S. F. No. 234, introduced by Burns, has passed the senate. It requires foreign corporations to keep an agent in the state upon whom service can be had.

Senator Burn's bill to eliminate the word "incurable" from the name of the Hastings asylum for the insane has passed the senate.

S. F. No. 445, introduced by the governor, to legalize the issuance of bonds issued heretofore for municipal heating and lighting bonds in cities of the second class and villages, has been passed by the senate.

THE STATE APPROPRIATIONS.

Amounts Asked Exceed Those of Two Years Ago.

The important question of appropriations for the biennium is now occupying the attention of the legislature. The amounts asked exceed the appropriation of two years ago. While requests for larger expenditures should be scrutinized closely, it does not follow that the allowance of larger sums is extravagance in every case. Nebraska has grown rapidly in the past five years and the demands of state institutions have legitimately increased. The state owes a duty to properly care for its institutions, and it is financially able to discharge that duty. It is true that there is an existing statute that limits the levy for the state general fund, and the argument is used that the appropriations must not exceed this limit. The legislature erected this barrier and the legislature can remove it. If the limit imposed by statute is inadequate to meet existing demands the statute can be amended. The estimate of expenditures of a former legislature is not necessarily a true guide. It may be too high; it may be too low. Appropriations should be considered on the merits. Whatever is needed for adequate support should be given—no more and no less. Because the state has prospered and is financially able to discharge its obligations is not a reason for expending money uselessly. It is a reason for supplying legitimate demands.

DID NOT GET FLAG.

Many Legislators Try to Secure National Emblem.

Some legislative practices of past years do not "go" at the present session of the legislature, and among them is the old custom of giving away state property to officers and members of the lawmaking bodies. The house of representatives tabled a resolution offered by Lahners of Thayer to donate one of the large flags over the speaker's chair to Thayer county for its new courthouse. This was done on motion by Baker of York.

A substitute motion was sent to the desk by Quackenbush proposing that the word "Thayer" be stricken out and "Nemaha" inserted instead. E. A. Brown wanted his county, Sherman, to be the favored one, while Carlin of Rock, a staunch fusionist, suggested in an "amendment" to the amendment that the house confer the flag on "the banner republican county in the state"—his own.

OPPOSES OWN BILL.

Thiessen Against His Bill When Time Came for Passage.

Thiessen of Jefferson opposed his own bill when it came up for final passage. It was H. R. No. 238, providing that railroads shall furnish track weights of carload lots of grain, coal, lumber and live stock in shipment and that weighmasters shall be furnished by the state at junction points. The bill originally applied to these various classes of freight, but the committee cut out everything save coal, and when the house considered it in committee of the whole all commodities were placed back in the bill and the provision for a weighmaster was included. Thiessen did not like this change in view of the information concerning rights in transit furnished at the meeting of the railroad committee, and when the bill came up for third reading he voted against it, preferring to wait for S. F. No. 297, which he says is a better bill.

MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS BILL.

Governor Only One Who Did Not Ask for Refund.

In the miscellaneous claims bill as passed by the house are a lot of items for payment of premiums on the bonds of state officers and deputies. A few of the officials listed claims on this account under their own names, but most of the items are put in under disguises by agents of bonding concerns, so it cannot be told for what departments they are intended. In the case of Deputy State Superintendent Bishop there are two separate claims, one for the ensuing biennium and another apparently for a year or two back. Governor Sheldon is the only state officer who did not ask to be reimbursed for the premium on his bond. The county treasury examiners wanted to be let in on the same basis, but for some reason they were ruled out by the house claims committee, although one or two clerks got their names on the list of approved items. Presumably, the heads of state institutions will be requesting the same treatment at the hands of the next legislature.

COMMISSION BILL SIGNED.

Measure Goes Through Carrying Emergency Clause.

The governor has signed H. R. No. 305, the railway commission bill, carrying the emergency clause. The bill provides that "it shall be the duty of all common carriers within the state to file with the state railway commission within thirty days after this act shall take effect all freight and passenger schedules, classifications, rates, tariffs and charges used by said common carriers and in effect on January 1, 1907; both state, interstate and proportional charges."

The bill then provides that the commission shall file as soon as practicable thereafter a complete schedule and classification. This will give the railroads thirty days before the bill may be effective in so far as alteration of rates by the commission is concerned.

The Baptist people at Peru are making a canvass for the purpose of securing funds to build a new church.

THEY ENDORSE IT

State Wide Closed Primary Bill Endorsed by Senate

AN IMPORTANT PLEDGE REDEEMED

Five Fusionists Join Republicans in Placing this Measure on the Statute Books

Endorsement of the state wide closed primary, a primary at which electors can participate only in their own party affairs, was endorsed by the senate, thus finishing one of the last and most important of the party platform pledges made to the people. The closed primary was injected into the bill, H. R. No. 405, a measure drawn by a joint committee, the house having first acted upon it and changed the plan to the open primary.

The five members of the fusion party joined with the republicans in endorsing the bill, but insisted upon eliminating a standing committee amendment that prevented fusion, or made it unlawful for a candidate to be designated upon the primary ticket as the candidate of more than one political party. This provision was stricken out.

THE MAXIMUM RATE BILL.

It is Wondered How the Roads Will Accept It.

Whether the railroads will accept the maximum rate bill which has passed the senate with as good grace as they accepted the 2-cent passenger rate remains to be seen, but the railroad commission does not anticipate any dissent. At the request of the commissioners the railroads have filed with the commission a schedule showing what the new freight rates will be on live stock in this state after the 15 per cent cut has been made. The schedule also sets out the old rate and the rates on the same freight under the new Iowa distance tariff, which will become effective in thirty days.

Under this schedule as filed by a representative of the railroads the new freight rates of Nebraska under the maximum freight bill, if it becomes a law, will be higher than those of Iowa for the shipment of cattle, but lower for sheep. The railroads did not file any statement on the cost of shipment of grain. The charges on grain are far in advance of those in the sister state.

WANT BOOKS AT COST.

Student Sentiment in Favor of Ancient Law.

State university students have a new fad. They threaten to turn lobbyists. Student sentiment is in favor of the enforcement of section 15, which provides that the university shall furnish text-books at cost. The act was passed in 1869, but no action has thus far been taken by the board of regents toward its enforcement until the present session.

Representative Cone of Saunders county recently proposed an amendment to the general appropriation bill for the university, providing for \$5,000 to be placed in a fund for books. The regents approve of this plan and are to come before the legislature to express their views on the subject.

Students are indignant because of alleged statements made by certain legislators to the effect that they are not particularly interested in the matter. Students claim they have been repeatedly quoted as saying that it matters not whether the books are to be bought at cost or not. Because of these alleged statements a movement is on foot at the university to send representatives before the legislature with instructions to use their influence with the lawmakers toward having some action taken on the enforcement of the provision.

THE NURSES GOOD LOBBYISTS.

Effort to Arouse Generosity by Daintily Prepared Lunches.

If the new appropriation bill recently passed by the Nebraska house of representatives making the orthopedic hospital a separate and distinct institution with a modern, first-class home of its own does not become a law it will not be the fault of the corps of nurses who are interested in it. With the exception of the Douglas county delegation every Nebraska senator has been entertained at the orthopedic hospital in the last four days.

Firm in the conviction that the shortest route to man's heart and sympathy is through the stomach, the discreet young women of the hospital paid close attention to the concoction of tempting viands, and by the time the senators had arisen from the carefully prepared feast all were in a generous mood. Then they were shown the various wards of the hospital, and the guides carefully explained where the cramped and unsanitary places were.

The Douglas county delegation, which wants the orthopedic hospital removed to Omaha, was the only one to hold out against the nurses' importunities to accept their hospitality. They were not open to conviction and they didn't want to be shown how things were conducted at the Lincoln institution.

It is generally thought the appropriation bill will pass the senate with little trouble.

REPORT ON STOCK FOODS.

Many Leading Brands of Stock Food Analyzed.

The report of State Chemist Redfern on the various stock foods on the market was submitted to the senate and 1,000 copies were ordered printed for distribution. Mr. Redfern said that it was impossible to analyze even a small per cent of the foods on the market in the short time at hand, so he outlined the result of similar work conducted by the Iowa experimental station, with comments from the United States department of agriculture.

Each of the stock foods is taken up in turn, and its contents described. Alfalfa is admitted to have much real merit, but not so much as is claimed. Experiment showed it was equal to average wheat, bran and shorts. Calf meal, it is asserted, on a basis of protein content, costs nearly two and a half times as much as oil meal. It depends upon linseed meal and blood meal for its high protein content and is adulterated with corn hulls.

Of Alfalfa dairy feed it is stated that its basis is ground alfalfa, the remainder seems to be made up of odds and ends, mill sweepings and cereal hulls. Approximate composition, per ton, ground alfalfa and molasses, 988 pounds; shrunken wheat grains, 373 pounds; fine portion and sweepings, 302 pounds; crushed corn and corn bran, 192 pounds; and oat and barley hulls, 145 pounds. "The presence of oat, corn and barley hulls is not explainable as accidental. Their presence in such large quantities is gross adulteration. Champion stock food is diagnosed as containing nearly 22 per cent molasses, in addition to as high as 15 per cent water; the remaining per cent is composed largely of milling offals with a liberal amount of oat tips or hulls and some corn hulls. Its average protein content is 11.21 per cent. Its chief claim to any special feeding value is dependent on its containing bran.

As to Fowler's farm food it is averred to be cheaper for the feeder to make the mixtures of blood meal and tankage which it seems to be.

Blatchford's calf meal is slated as a mixture of linseed and cotton seed meals. Cotton seed meal alone, says the report, with nearly twice the protein, costs less than half as much per ton.

TWINE BILL KILLED.

Effort to Compete with Twine Trust is Balked.

The Nebraska state penitentiary will not have a binding twine factory. The bill appropriating \$200,000 for this enterprise was killed in the house after a stubborn struggle, in which most of the democrats and a few republicans lined up for the bill. The vote that put the finishing touches to the bill was 32 to 43. This vote was taken when Quackenbush moved that the house do not concur in the report of the committee of the whole, which reported the bill for indefinite postponement.

The bill proposed the establishment of the twine factory at a cost of \$50,000 and gave an additional appropriation of \$150,000 as a working capital to do business with. It was recommended by a committee appointed by Speaker Nettleton.

STATE HISTORICAL BUILDING.

Liberal Appropriation for Its Construction.

With but two dissenting votes the house passed the bill which provides for an appropriation of \$25,000 for the construction of a basement to a fire proof building for the use of the State Historical Society on the Haymarket square. The bill sets out the fact that the square was given to the city provisionally, but that the sentiment in the city is favorable to the receding of the block to the state if a building will be built on it. The bill is the special pet of A. E. Sheldon of the legislative library. He has been at work on the proposition for several years and now sees victory in sight.

The block is admirably located for a building for the historical society, being close to the state university. The historical society has been located in the basement of the library building at the state university since its birth. It has accumulated a large number of exhibits of interest in the history of Nebraska, and the legislators believe that it is worthy of a permanent building.

Killed Hospital Bill.

H. R. 403, by Blystone, to appropriate \$50,000 for a building at the Lincoln hospital for the insane, was killed. The senate committee reported adversely and the bill was indefinitely postponed, no voice being lifted in its defense.

Gymnasium for the Blind.

Representative Dodge's bill, authorizing the expenditure of \$30,000 for a gymnasium at the Nebraska state hospital for the deaf, located near Omaha, was considered in the house committee of the whole and recommended for passage. It is the last of the appropriation bills for state institutions. Some opposition to the expenditure of this money developed. Greig of Platte antagonized it, saying that the "kids" in the country get along with such gymnastic apparatus as they themselves are able to rig up, and he thought the deaf children could do likewise.

Killed Veterinarian Bill.

The house killed H. R. No. 298, by Haffernan, allowing horse doctors who have practiced for fifteen years to advertise under a professional title, though holding no license. The vote was 34 in its favor to 44 against. This is the second bill of the kind introduced by Haffernan to go the same way.

STOLE THE PLANS

Details of the Battleship Nebraska Reported Missing

BIG SHIP IS NEARLY COMPLETED

Report Causes Much Suppressed Excitement About the Big Ship Yards

It has been learned that the plans of the battleship Nebraska which show the distribution of armor and batteries have been stolen from the office of the superintendent of construction at the Moran Bros. yards at Seattle, Wash., where the Nebraska is under construction.

The ship is practically completed and ready to be turned over to the government. About 500 men are now at work giving the finishing touches to the ship. The Nebraska was started before the Japanese-Russian war and numerous delays have been experienced due to changes which were thought necessary. A notice was displayed in the ship yards and about the city stating that the plans were not returned at once steps would be taken for their immediate recovery. The fact that the plans are missing and the preemptory language of the notice caused considerable suppressed excitement among the workmen.

AMEND PURE FOOD BILL.

Provisions for Inspection of Dairy Products Were Amended.

The house made short work of the pure food bill amending the principal provisions to conform with the federal law. The provisions for inspection of dairy products were amended in accordance with the desire of those interested in this work. Cone of Saunders sought to secure the incorporation into the bill as amended by the standing committee of the provision for "net" weights and measures stamped on the outside of packages. This, however, failed, as it was declared to be an injustice on packages liable to shrinkage.

The provisions with respect to dairy products are that there shall be a food and dairy commissioner at \$1,800 a year to take the place of the present food commissioner. There shall be besides two food and drug inspectors at \$3 a day and necessary traveling expenses and four dairy inspectors at the same wage per day. There shall be in addition a chemist at \$1,500 a year and a stenographer at \$840 a year. The commissioner is empowered to determine the best method of testing cream and every man engaged in testing cream for commercial purposes throughout the state is compelled to take an examination and qualify for the work from one of the dairy inspectors. This is intended to include men at all cream and milk stations. Provision is made beside for inspection of all dairy products. The senate provided for a dairy commissioner at \$1,200 a year and for other help that would have meant practically two office men. The house provides for one office man and that the others shall be on the road. The bill provides fees that will bring in from \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year.

THE NEW GAME LAWS.

Frequent Violation May Result Over Ignorance of Law.

Nebraska's new game laws probably will be frequently violated through the ignorance of offenders, so it will be as well for every person, whether hunter or not, to remember the following warning, which has been sent by the state game warden to his deputies over the state: "You are hereby advised that the legislature new in session has passed a law which prohibits the buying, selling or barter of all wild game in the state. This law excludes all hotels and restaurants from serving game at any season of the year. The law also includes fish, but only applies to fish taken from the public waters of this state, and does not exclude fish which have been shipped in.

Bills Reducing Charges.

The house recommended for passage the two bills of the house, one cutting sleeping car charges and the other express rates. There was little or no discussion. The senate has killed the sleeping car bill, but the house members who favor the bill are planning to put the matter up to the senate again.

Passed Demurrage Bill.

The senate has passed Sackett's reciprocal demurrage bill. The measure requires railroads to furnish cars when ordered or a penalty of \$3 a day will be assessed. The shipper must load promptly and unload within 48 hours or pay demurrage.

WILL REMOVE THE SNAGS.

Work Will Be Started Soon to Clean Missouri River.

Within the next few weeks the work of removing snags from the Missouri river and making navigation possible and safe will be commenced in accordance with the directions of Congress, which appropriated \$400,000 for the work. Three snag boats will do the work. When they have finished the Missouri between Omaha and Kansas City will be available for use by proposed freight line the greater part of the year. Two seasons will be required for the removal of obstructions.