

The Frontier

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A Non-Partisan Sample.

It is only an issue or two since our beloved contemporary was parading its broad and all comprehensive political dimensions and professing great non-partisan principles. At the same time it brought out the name of one of the staunchest partisans in the county for office. A local paragraph in the last issue of this late non-partisan champion gives a further glimpse of the breadth of its liberality and sincerity of purpose. It reads:

The editor spent a few days with the Holt county delegation in the legislature at Lincoln. We found them all busy and also very much in evidence at all times. James A. Donohoe is easily the big man in the Senate and enjoys the full confidence of all his co-workers and he takes an active interest in all legislation coming before that body. In the House we found H. R. Henry at his post of duty, watchful and alert and here again we found a man who held the confidence of all and one who is able and conscientious in all he does. Holt county has reasons to be proud of Senator Donohoe and Representative Henry.

Ordinary newspaper courtesy would include also the mention of the other member of the legislature from this county, but the established policy of this local fusion organ is strictly adhered to that the name of no republican will appear in its columns unless in derision or slander. Mr. Allen, the republican member from this county who stands with the hopeless minority down at Lincoln, is probably not grief stricken that the editor of the only democratic paper in his county did not pay him a visit at Lincoln and omitted his name from the roll of honor, but the Independent's rank partisan conduct gives the lie to its professions to the contrary.

It was probably a source of great satisfaction to George to be able to see in Mr. Donohoe the "big man" in the Senate and H. R. Henry the wise one of the House, but to most everybody else it has appeared that they amount to about as much as a toothpick in a tornado beside Ransom and Howell.

The Omaha World-Herald accuses our own immaculate Jim Donohoe, who got up in the Senate and tore great chunks out of the air in a speech opposing "tainted money" when it was proposed to accept of the Carnegie funds for the state university, of being made a tool by the public service corporations and brands his bill relating to municipal franchises as an infamous affair prepared by Omaha and Lincoln corporation interests.

The World Herald gives the date of the meeting in Omaha, the hotel and the number of the room in which it was held and the names of the men who attended, at which the Donohoe bill was framed up and the campaign organized for getting it through the legislature. This campaign, the World-Herald charges, the expenditure of much money and the employment of shrewd means to secure the support of the anti-corporation element. The corporations professed to be against the measure and Donohoe as an anti-corporationist, is accused of having been hoodwinked into introducing and standing sponsor for the bill. The World-Herald regards the bill as placing into the hands of a chosen few an entire monopoly of water, light and other municipal franchises, these corporations being thereby enabled to squeeze the people, for any price they see fit. Has "Jimmie" fell to the blandishments of the corporations? The foremost democratic paper of the state says he has.

The Donohoe franchise bill has stirred up considerable of a fuss. This paper would not impute any dishonest motive to the O'Neill senator for his part in the framing and passage of the bill in the senate and concede to him the right to his

opinion as to the merits of the proposition, but we can not approve of any measure which places the control of purely local affairs in the hands of a state commission. If rightly understood the Donohoe measure would take the right of granting franchise entirely out of the hands of municipalities and place it with the three railway commissioners. That is a wrong principle. Every town should have the right to grant franchises as it saw fit and control its own affairs.

The democratic delegation from Holt county in the legislature may be "easily the big men" of the session, but they have failed to get a normal school for their home town or doing anything else to hand their names down to history.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Lincoln, Neb. Mar. 29.—(Special Correspondence.)—A fight on the open floor of the House of Representatives between two members of the democratic majority of that body was one of the exciting incidents of the past week, even if it is one in which the people of the state will take no particular pride. The pugilistic contest came off during the discussion of the bill introduced by Taylor of Custer, giving to women municipal suffrage. Taylor had introduced the measure and advocated it in debate when the bill came up for consideration. Judge Shoemaker, a member of the democratic delegation from Douglas county opposed the measure, and in his argument asserted that in the state of Wyoming, where woman's suffrage had prevailed for many years, open gambling and similar practices had still continued. Taylor retorted from his seat near which the Omaha orator was delivering his address that this ought to be satisfactory to the Omaha member. Shoemaker replied hotly that he was not a gambler, did not approve of gambling, and that Taylor's insinuations were low down, disrespectful, and had been continued through the session and that the Custer county member was a falsifier. This aroused the ire of the Custer county man to such a degree that he stepped forward and struck the Omaha member, who is an older man than himself, a blow on the face with his clenched fist. Before hostilities could be further continued, nearby members and employees of the House had rushed between the angry men and succeeded in subduing the impending difficulty. At the close of the morning session, Taylor offered the House a serious apology for his loss of temper and resulting conduct. Shoemaker also following suit with an apology. Thus doth the democratic majority legislate on the important matters affecting the interests of all the people of the state. From incidents such as these and the lack of needed legislation, curbing the corporate interests of the state, will the people draw their conclusion as to the value of a democratic legislature, when to its kindly care is given the important interests of all the people.

Governor Shallenberger has sent his first veto message to a bill passed by the present session of the legislature. The bill was directed to H. R. 60 by Gates of Sarpy, the bill repealing the law passed by the session of two years ago, which abolished saloons in the town of Fort Crook near the U. S. military post of that name, and made a "dry" town of Fort Crook for the past two years. The Gates bill repealed this law and although it was vigorously opposed by the temperance sentiment in both Senate and House, Mr. Gates was able to pass it through both bodies and it went to the governor for his signature. The governor returned the bill with a veto message which said in part, "The war department does not permit the sale of liquor at any army post and congress has forbidden it by law. To permit its sale at the very border of a military reservation, as would occur if this bill becomes a law, is, in my judgement, to nullify the purpose of the war department in isolating army posts from the cities and making futile the act of congress forbidding the canteen."

A distinct difference of opinion exists as to the governor's motives in finding occasion to veto this particular bill. Some see in it a leaning of the governor towards temperance legislation, while other astute observers classify it as mere politics and cite the fact that the bill refers to one isolated spot in Nebraska where the general liquor interests of the state will find no objection to a closed season, and at the same time the democratic politicians can point out to the temperance element of the state that the governor actually vetoed a bill permitting a saloon somewhere.

Final adjournment and the elimination of a mass of legislation now pending in both houses, and which it is impossible to reach, and yet to sift out the party obligations and enact them into law, are the items that trouble the dreams of the democratic majority in the legislature at this

time. Sifting committees have been at work in both Senate and House for a week, but even this makeshift was not sufficient to sift proposed legislation close enough to make any possibility of a nearby final adjournment. A committee of three was appointed both in the House and the Senate to reach a further agreement for the elimination of many of the pending bills in process of incubation. This committee reported to the House and Senate a scheme whereby, after March 24th, the Senate was to consider only House bills and the House only Senate bills, in this way reducing the actual work to bills already passed by the other house. The Senate agreed to the arrangement, but the House would have none of it, leaving the matter hanging in the air, and the consideration of bills presented by the sifting committee goes merrily on. The joint committee on final adjournment rendered a report agreeing on March 30th as the date of final adjournment. This was acceptable to the House, but the Senate has as yet refused to adopt it, leaving even the date of final adjournment as yet undecided. The anxiety of many of the farmer members to get home to the spring work indicates, however, that adjournment will be had somewhere near the first of April, and at farthest probably not later than the third.

The democratic majority is having an endless amount of trouble with its platform pledge which promised to the people the physical valuation of railways of the state S. F. 133 by Ollis of Valley was introduced in the Senate many weeks ago and was framed to carry out this party promise. Its provisions were in the main for the physical valuation of the steam railways. The bill was passed by the Senate and sent to the House, where the radical element, who desire great reforms to be accomplished in a day, added to the bill the South Omaha Stock Yards, the Stock Yards Railway, the street car systems of the state, and other matters, making an enormous volume of work for the state railway commission. With these amendments, the bill was returned to the Senate and under the lead of Senator Ollis who framed the bill, the Senate unanimously refused to concur in the House amendments. Conference committees were appointed both in the House and Senate to adjust these conflicting views, and reached a conclusion that the House should recede from its effort to amend

the Senate bill and permit the bill to become a law in the form in which it was originally passed by the Senate.

The difference between the Senate and the House on this issue have as yet failed of adjustment. The probabilities are that the House will accept the mutilated bill rather than lose physical valuation altogether, but only the final action of the House will indicate the temper of those who wanted a bill which would value the public service corporations of the state without exception of that section which comes next to the railroad, the closest to the interests of the farmers and stockraisers of the state, viz: the Union Stock Yards and its railroad.

The governor has signed H. R. 428, the famous "guarantee of deposits" banking bill, and in due time the bill will become a law. As finally passed and accepted, the bill is little more than a miserable makeshift with which to fulfill the promises made by the democrats in the last campaign. The democratic promises were to so guarantee the deposits in bank's that under any and all circumstances the depositor should have his money any minute he asked for it. Under this law, as enacted by a democratic legislature, no such a result is attained. While weakening the entire banking system of the state in several ways, it does not provide for that immediate payment of depositors which was so glibly promised by democratic campaign orators. Some conception of what the bill does in the way of guarantee of deposits may be gained from a slight review of one item. The total deposits of the state banks of Nebraska range around sixty-five million dollars. To guarantee this enormous sum, the democratic guarantee bill proceeds to raise a fund of a little more than half a million dollars at the end of the coming two years. In other words, the guarantee law will be in existence two years before the fund, without any withdrawals from it, amounts to a sum in excess of one-half million. With this "30 cents" of a reserve fund accumulated in twenty-four months, the democratic mathematicians pretend to stand ready to pay the losses that might occur in a total of sixty-five million dollars, for which the guarantee fund must stand responsible. This might do very well in times of continued prosperity, when no losses occur, but in a period of business depression the decidedly false conclusion of the democratic plan as provided in

this law will become sadly apparent. The democrats themselves, many of whom helped to enact the law, admit privately that the law would be of little use in a period of business disaster, and furthermore, that it is not by any means a fulfillment of the party promise made to the people, when they were asked to elect a democratic legislature.

Governor Shallenberger attempted a political stroke during the past week and broke into the legislative limelight by sending a special message to the legislature accompanied by a bill for a proposed law, as he has a right under the constitution to do. There is a well founded belief that in this undertaking the governor is playing to the grandstand, as a careful examination of the situation at the time the governor sent in the bill shows that similar measures are not only pending before both bodies, but that less than an hour before the receipt of the message and bill a very similar and comprehensive law that has been pending before the Senate for weeks was passed by that body. After the fortieth day of the session, no member is privileged to introduce a new bill, that right being conferred by the constitution upon the governor alone, who sends his message and suggests the act. This was the provision under which Governor Shallenberger acted, and the fact that similar measures were pending in both houses gives good color to the belief that the governor's play was made distinctly to the galleries. This is further sup-

ported by the character of the proposed law transmitted by the governor. The title of the bill is, "For an act regulating the issuance of stocks, bonds and other forms of indebtedness of common carriers and public service corporations and providing penalties therefor."

Stated briefly, the bill provides that any obligations issued by a common carrier to run over a greater period than twelve months may be issued only on the order of the State Railway commission after a thorough knowledge of the facts. The bill provides further that the obligations issued by common carriers for shorter term than twelve months, must not be refunded by an issue of bonds, except by the consent of the railway commission. The merger of separate corporations is also covered and a provision of the proposed act is in effect that the merger of two corporations must not result in a capital stock exceeding the capital stock of the corporations so consolidated and at the par value thereof.

Penalties of \$5000 for each offense is provided and every violation is to be considered a distinct offense. In case of persistent violation of the act, each day it continues to be counted a separate offense. The penalty for an officer or agent of the carrier becoming a party to the violation of the act is declared a felony and subjects the offender to imprisonment for any period from one to ten years.

In the files of the House and long awaiting passage is the bill by Stoek-

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