

LEGISLATIVE DOINGS

Unless the legislature gets at work itself during the coming week the members are likely to have to answer their constituency for the sins of omission much more fluently and apologetically than for the sins of commission. It is to be sincerely regretted that the members, through political and so-called fealty to party, have permitted themselves to block wheels of legislation, and yet they probably carrying out the wishes of the majority as it relates to the competency of each. The masses of the people are so wedded to their political parties that they will sanction almost any partisan course that is calculated to maintain the supremacy of their party, even though they be great sufferers thereby. Were it not for the everlasting and ever-increasing contest for political spoils and the readiness of legislators to reward their friends, the present legislature would be qualified to perform a great amount of serviceable work for the people.

taught to esteem as a traitor and poltroon any public official who does not stand with his party, be it right or wrong. Treason in its most insidious and dangerous form is growing to be esteemed as a virtue in the statesman of this day, and men must vote at the beck and call of their party rather than for wisdom, right and justice. As the populists and republicans neither have a majority in either house, the balance of power, it lies within the power of the democrats to be the golden mean between the two extremes, and they will be justly held responsible for the wrongs and creditable with the virtues of the entire legislation of the session. That some of them will be mean enough there is no reason to doubt, and as the lobby is already in the field some of them will likely achieve the golden attribute as well.

To the thoughtful student who looks upon political methods with the disdain they too often merit, the situation during the past week, when not exasperating, has been amusing. The adherents and representatives of three political parties, who, three months since were quarrelling like pirates and roundly condemning the personal char-

acter and principles of each other, have been conducting a very spirited three-cornered courtship, a mercenary courtship, with the political spoils as its object. No two of them hated each other so badly that they were prepared to spurn a union to make the spoils a common cause. In the house the populists and democrats effected such a union and the populists secured the spoils. In the senate the week was wasted in flirtations, then the republicans and democrats and then the populists and republicans. Three months since it had been suggested that a member of either party would offer to form a friendly relation with either of the opposing parties, that member could not have been elected.

If men could be taught to lay aside party zeal in the transaction of official duties, how much better and safer it would be to select legislative officials employees upon a standard of honesty and ability than upon any political standard. But such a reflection is simply doleful, for men will not lay aside party zeal or even allow it to be subservient to their duty to the state. If the interests of a party demand that a bad man be chosen, they will support the bad man. If the interests of their party demands that a good measure be defeated or a bad one enacted, the interests of the party are destined to win.

LEGISLATIVE GOSSIP.

The legislature comprises two fine-looking bodies of brainy men. Even the much abused populists lack the haggard, suspicious and desperately determined mein that characterized them just after the drought.

Up to within a day or two of the opening session almost every one in Lincoln believed that Hon. R. H. Oakley of this city, would certainly be the speaker. They had not figured out just why, other than that he is an able and trustworthy man.

Hon. John C. Watson will probably be more attentive to the gallery than heretofore. Two years since a local sketch artist, and a young lady at that, brought him into more or less notoriety and disgrace by surreptitiously taking a charming likeness of the back and crown of his head, taken behind his

back and without his knowledge and consent. It was worth going miles to see and was readily recognizable by its serene expression of innocence.

Senator Clark of Douglas, son of H. T. Clarke is the youngest and the best dressed senator on the floor, and destined to be among the most popular with the gallery. He is said to be the youngest senator yet elected in the state, and has already given promise of leadership.

The COURIER expects to form the acquaintance of every member and to be of service to each one of them when ever the occasion presents. It will devote considerable space each week to legislative gossip, and believes that no member who is onto his job can very well get along without it.

It was not until the decisive ballot was cast that republicans, inured to a long course of triumphs, could believe that they could be beaten in the organization of the house. The leaders were all sure that they would win, but none of them could tell why. They are still sanguine, though not quite so much so, that they will elect the United States senator, and are equally explicit in diagramming their reasons for so believing. But unless they

TALK OF THE TOWN

The Burlington and Union Pacific railway companies have submitted to the council a proposition that amply attests the sincerity of local officials when they proffered assurances some time since that the companies were anxious to proceed to the construction of a west O street viaduct. They have offered to donate to the city, as the same is needed to carry on the construction of the viaduct, a sum equal to the entire cost of building the same and the payment of abutting damages. This proffer is attached to the condition that the city shall wholly vacate O street from Seventh to Fourth street, within which limits the street is crossed by thirty-four tracks belonging to the two companies, and further condition that the city shall forever afterwards maintain the viaduct as a public street without expense to the railroad company. The Union Pacific also reserves the right to construct suitable approaches thereto from its freight and passenger depots, and the express stipulation is made that no

trains. It is to be built of iron and is to rest on four stone piers and about eight iron columns. Its approaches will carry its length far beyond that specified in the limits above named, as its height above the tracks at Seventh and Fourth streets must be almost twenty feet in the clear. The undertaking is one that involves a heavy expenditure of money and privileges and citizens may well undertake to direct the council into intelligent action for the general good.

The striking printers have been assured by the executive council of the international typographical union that they will be upheld in their demand for higher wages in Lincoln. The council, after an examination of the situation in Lincoln as presented by both sides, and the prices paid for composition in neighboring similarly situated, has sanctioned the recent strike and declared the strikers entitled to financial aid from the treasury of the international. The international organization numbers 36,000 men in the United States and Canada, and all will, if found necessary, contribute of their personal means to see the local union win its point. Upon re-



It is Rumored that Some of our Oldest Families are about to give a Loan Exhibit's made up of the Portraits of Their Ancestors. We wonder if it would look anything like this?

but instead the people, who "pay the freight," will be expected to smilingly settle the bill now accumulating at about the rate of \$1,000 per day and applaud and re-elect to office the men who are reaping the proceeds of that expenditure that they may do the same again.

The present legislature is in a position to do valuable service for the state such as no similar body ever before occupied in Nebraska. No one political party is in a position to control legislation and it lies within the power of any one of the three parties represented to direct legislation upon the most desirable and most serviceable channels. Especially have the few democrats in each house a magnificent and unprecedented opportunity of making for themselves and their party a record for wise and just legislation that will rebound in the years to come to the confusion of their political enemies. In fact other party may, by putting aside personal and partisan considerations and lending support to the cause of justice and wisdom in the enactment of good laws. But neither party will avail itself of the opportunity. Such tactics constitute no part of modern statesmanship, and people have been

agree among themselves even more thoroughly than they now appear to disagree, they are doomed to disappointment.

Retiring Governor Boyd has been making hay while the sun shone, and possibly when the sun was not observable. He is in the front in the race for senator, and it is said that he will get the vote of republicans should they find their preferred candidate not in it. Governor Boyd has been aptly termed the David B. Hill of Nebraska.

Frank H. Wilson of Plattsmouth, the republican who fairly squirmed his way into the temporary secretaryship of the unorganized senate, possesses qualifications for duties of that nature that would be hard to duplicate. He is a clever fellow socially, and Tom M. Cooke need suffer no shagrin at having been beaten by him.

further sums shall ever be required of either company than its proportion donated toward the original construction. It is further stipulated that no street railway shall be permitted to cross the viaduct until it has paid to the city an amount equal to the cost of paying between its rails across the same, which sum shall be turned over to the railroads. The proposition is one that looks decidedly advantageous at first sight, but it has not been thoroughly demonstrated that it would pay the city to forever agree to maintain that viaduct as a source of revenue to the railroads, even though it were originally built free of cost to the city and given to it outright. The probable cost of maintenance and the probable life of such a structure must be known before any intelligent conclusion can be reached as to the merit of the proposition. Forever is a long, long time. Nobody can ever comprehend even a small fraction of forever. There were some members of the council who failed to grasp the entire significance of the proposition at first glance and final consideration of it was deferred until next Tuesday. The proposed viaduct comprises a roadway twenty-five feet wide and paved with cedar blocks, and a six foot walk on each side for pedes-

ceipt of the intelligence that the strike had been sanctioned some of the printers who had remained in the Journal office after the strike was declared came out and joined the ranks of the strikers. The news that they would be the recipients of weekly benefits was not an unwelcome new year announcement to the strikers, as some of them have large families and small means and a hard winter is no respecter of persons.

The law prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors is a dead letter in this city, and more than likely in every other city where there is not an active organization to secure the enforcement of such wholesome measures. Hence it is that an aroma of burning opium is perceptible in the vicinity of almost every group of half-grown boys, and children age with remarkable rapidity. There is room for a society in Lincoln that would have for its object the inculcation of a little respect for this law to prevent the destruction of health in youth.

Dr. Giffin has moved to rooms 8 and 9 Lansing theatre building.

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