

REFORM PROGRAM OF LAWMAKERS

Will Be First Business Taken Up at Coming Session.

NORTON OF POLK GIVES NOTICE

Will Have Amendments Ready For Submission to Democratic Caucus Immediately Upon Its Convening, Speakership Fight.

Lincoln—Adoption of the reform program outlined by the legislative committee of 1913 will be the first important business taken up at the coming session of the lawmakers. Representative John N. Norton of Polk county, a member of that committee, served notice on legislators this week that he would make this a matter of business for the Democratic caucus immediately upon its convening and that he would urge the endorsement of the reform by the majority party of the house and senate.

The reforms outlined are in the main worthy ones viewed from the angles of the old-time members. They believe that much good can be accomplished if the members will adhere to the program. There are several places in which changes can be made of benefit to the taxpayers and of distinct benefit to the lawmakers end of distinct benefit to the taxpayers of the state. Representative Norton says that he has prepared for these and that he will have amendments ready for submission at the caucus which will take up any of the slack that appears in the line at that time.

The plan of holding committee session in the forenoons and regular house sessions in the afternoon, for instance, would meet the approval of few members. It would play into the hand of but one paper, the State Journal, for instance, and would give that paper an inside on the news save to great expense at the hands of the Omaha papers. Inasmuch as the Daily Star of this city and the World-Herald of Omaha have both come out editorially in opposition to this plan—and inasmuch as these two papers are the ones that fought during the campaign for the party that is now in power—it is believed that their wishes in this apparent detail will be respected. The Omaha papers could gather the news readily, but it would mean the payment of large telegraph tolls in the end and would put upon them an unnecessary burden. On that account it is probable that the Democrats will listen to the wishes of their own organs in this state.

Twenty-two senators out of the total of thirty-three members of the upper house and forty-five of the 100 representatives will be set free virtually by the board of control's probable attempt to be sole dictator in the matter of appropriations for state institutions during the coming session. That is the members from the districts where the institutions are located will not have to attend to their wants, as they have in the past. The board's recommendations are expected to govern with the lawmakers this year. The board has made an extensive study of all the needs of the institutions and its members are better prepared to say what the appropriations should be than any members who have given only short time in which to make cursory investigations at each institution. The fact that the junketing trip expense will also be cut down speaks strongly to the taxpayers and they believe that the saving in the end will be a potent one.

Governor Morehead has taken no interest in the speakership fight as yet—but there is no telling but what he will begin to prick up his ears within the next few days. F. M. Broome of Alliance has arrived on the scene and is here to stay. He has made it clear at the outset that he is not an avowed candidate for the honor and that if it comes his way it will have to seek him rather than he seeking it. He says that if he sought the votes of the members he would be prone to favor those who favored him, while toward those who did not support him there would be at least a slight estrangement. In this he is only reproducing human nature and showing frankly what would be the attitude of almost any man in the gathering. It is probable that Mr. Broome will play the role of dark horse and compromise candidate at one and the same time and that his part will be excellently taken. He is a southern Democrat, the urbane, chivalrous kind that makes good with Democrats everywhere. He is a western Nebraska member—from a section of the state manifestly where the Democrats expect to show some favors before the session is over. Western Nebraska is a section where the Republicans at the late election—surprised everybody by doing what it never did before, by turning a Democratic pale under the kind of campaign that was carried on by the state committee.

Meanwhile another urbane, suave and chivalrous gentleman, representative also of the southern aristocracy, is a candidate for the same honor. That is none other than Henry C. Richmond of Omaha, former close friend of Champ Clark of the "Show me" state. Mr. Richmond is a big, broad minded, open hearted Democrat,

who counts it more to have friends among his fellow workers than to gain any signal honor that it might be in their power to bestow. On that basis his race assumes a different attitude than a mere material affair and he is gaining support because of his announced desire to conduct the party's affairs as speaker with such dispatch and such dignity that the party history of the future will surely have something to say about it.

In the offing, as it were, there are lurking George Jackson and G. W. Meredith and one or two others whose candidacies have not as yet become as strong as they would have to be in order to win. Some peculiar turn of fate might swing the honor their way, but from a preliminary canvass of the Democrats of the house it is apparent that it would have to be an unusual proceeding to give them a chance at carrying home the bacon. Mr. Jackson is the strongest minor candidate, but he has no chance if present line-ups continue at marching past the stand as the winner. Neither has Mr. Fries, whose candidacy has been started by a few who are more intent on having their joke than they are on working for the best interests of the party. Mr. Fries is a very good floor worker, but twenty or more legislators who have commented on the matter since announcement of his candidacy by John Sink of Grand Island, have said that it would be a physical impossibility for him to get anywhere in the race. His ultra-wet policies would hardly be accepted by the bulk of the Democratic members, in view of the fact that there are other moderately damp members whose selection might reflect no discredit upon the party. There are wet members, and again there are wet members, all of which the party leaders recognize. The greatest stumbling block, perhaps, to the Fries campaign would be Governor Morehead, who would hardly get behind such a move when it meant so much to him to select a high class legislator for the important job.

While members are talking about affairs here there is some talk about the membership of the third house, that large but active body which is always on the job and whose business it is to act as pickers for some special interest. But one member is on hand of that house at the present time, that is Thomas Benton of the Pullman company. Many there have been who have wondered what kept Mr. Benton here the year round, in hot season and in cold, but here he is and there are none to deny that he will keep busy. His principal duty during the coming session will be to attempt to prevent the levying of more taxes upon the business done by his company. The state tax commission recommended a gross earnings tax, and Mr. Benton does not believe such a plan would be profitable to his company. He admits that their payment would be greater than under the present loose and ineffective system. He will keep busy during the session with this and other matters and in time there will be men around him whose interests are not entirely at right angles to his interests.

From away out in Custer county it is said that W. J. Taylor, warrior of the house of Populism, now a knight errant of the cause of Democracy, is preparing for an assault upon the stock yards of South Omaha. Just why the big concern needs a flying or why the assault is being planned with such care has not been disclosed, but it is said that Mr. Taylor "will be here with bells on when he arrives." Several members have anticipated the attack and say that it may be that it will be frustrated—and that in a way to convince Mr. Taylor that unless he has a very good case he should not try to yank the trolley off the Democratic cars while in the Capital City.

Sam Patterson, representative elect from Harlan county, was a city visitor. He is looking ahead to a session of real accomplishment and believes that the people's hopes will not be dashed to pieces this session with regard to law appropriations and real efficiency. Mr. Patterson indorses the plan of doing things up in business-like style and getting away from here as soon as possible without slighting anything that should be done.

"The people of southwestern Nebraska want us to come here and get down to business from the start and do the things that should be done without waste of time, and then call the job finished and return to our homes," was the interpretation of public sentiment given by Mr. Patterson. Clerk of the Supreme Court Harry C. Lindsay, for twelve years at periods when the legislature was in session, has urged that body to provide a fire-proof library building for the protection of a state library, considered one of the most valuable in the country. In his report this year Mr. Lindsay recommended this recommendation. Over \$500,000 are invested in the books which now lie exposed to the ravages of time and of fire and water, in case of fire. A large number of these books, valuable as references and others invaluable from a historic standpoint, would be destroyed and could never be replaced. Books dating back several hundred years which could never be replaced, but on which no value could be set, would be destroyed and it is probable outside of the financial loss of \$500,000, which the state would sustain in case of fire, there would be that much more on a comparatively small number of books even if it were possible to replace them by purchase.

SOLONS FAVOR 60-DAY SESSION

Lawmakers Expect to Finish Labors by March 20.

NEW LEGISLATION PROPOSED.

No Radical Changes Necessary to Rectify Present Laws—No Change in Speakership Race—Nichols and Cronin Minority Candidates.

Lincoln—People who have been talking about a thirty or forty day session of the legislature would do well to disabuse their mind of any such thing as that. The constitution makes it mandatory upon the lawmakers to stay in session sixty days and while the constitution should be "nothing between friends," it must govern in this instance at least.

But despite this barrier to a shorter session the lawmakers can get through with their work and can be ready to return home at the end of the sixty day period. Lawmaker after lawmaker who has visited the city since election has declared himself in favor of such a program. Now it is up to the solons to keep their word with the taxpayers and to show them that not later than March 20 they will be ready to pack their duds and return to their constituents.

After all, according to some of the old-time members among the legislators, there are only a comparatively few things needed to rectify the present laws. The present laws do not run amok grossly at any place so far as has been reported and it is not likely that any real harm would be done if the state were to go on for two or four years more under the very same laws that are now in force. A glance over the field justifies the assertions that there are to be the following pieces of legislation proposed during the session:

A public warehouse law, in conformity with a pledge of the Democratic party.

A law making more drastic the statute governing the sale of done.

Amendment to the present tax laws, allowing assessment of property at full value, gross earnings tax for Pullman company, abolishment of municipal taxes for express and telephone and telegraph companies, and collection of this tax by the state.

Amendment to the Smith mortgage law, allowing deduction of real estate mortgages only by trust companies.

Changes in the pure elections law of Douglas county, giving the election commissioner power to enforce the law and preventing the police from assuming such an important part in its administration.

Amendment of the metropolitan wide district law of Omaha, permitting of the manufacture and sale of electrical current also.

Amendment of the primary law, so as to make the filing of candidates more difficult. In this connection there may perhaps be an attempt made to do away with popular nomination of some of the under state officials and give his duty back to the state convention. If this is done it is likely that delegates to the state convention will be selected by some sort of a county primary system. There will likely be no attempt made to return to the old open primary scheme, as that is now deemed by nearly every one to be utterly destructive of party unity and a force that in the end defeats the very ends the people seek to accomplish.

Establishment of a registration system for the "third" cities of the state such as Kearney, Hastings, Superior, Columbus, Norfolk, Beatrice, York, Nebraska City, Grand Island, North Platte and Fremont.

Possible consolidation of some of the departments of the state over which the governor has control, such as the labor commission, the hotel commission and so on.

Probable amendment to the state water power laws, clearing up the status of some of the important sites that have been located upon, but which have not been developed, owing to the more stringency in the east.

Enactment of a complete or partial completion of school laws following recommendations by the state school law revision commission.

Provision for a jury commissioner in Douglas county and other likely legal reform intended to correct apparent miscarriages or delays of justice under present laws.

Possible establishment of a state printing plant doing away with printing bills of about \$75,000 to \$100,000 a year.

Change in prison legislation, allowing establishment of a broom factory at the prisoner ownership by the state.

Possible slight amendments to the code insure law, correcting discriminations against home companies and putting them on an equal footing with the foreign companies doing business in the state.

Enactment of a new military code, placing the national guard of the state on a parity with the federal war department and making it possible for swearing of state troops into federal service with lessened tape than would be encountered under existing laws.

Members are already beginning to

arrive for the session. Naturally the first talk is of the organization of each house. The lower house members outnumbering the upper house members, the talk naturally gravitates toward that body.

No change in the situation is apparent. Those who have been keeping close watch of the affairs say that the main race for the speakership is going to be between Henry C. Richmond of Omaha and George Jackson at the outset, with the probability that neither one of them is going to have enough votes to win out on one or two ballots. After that, according to the seers there are several things that might happen. One is that F. M. Broome of Alliance might run to the front and inherit enough support from both of the leading candidates, plus some of his own and of the minor candidates, to put him in the chair. Others say that G. W. Meredith of Ashland occupies better ground as the compromise, dark horse candidate and that he may dash into the lead after the preliminary ballots have been taken. Others hold that some man yet unnamed is likely to prove a better vote getter than any of those who have yet been mentioned for the honor.

In spite of the fact that the Republicans are in the minority in both houses this year and that the lower house majority is decidedly against them, there is to be a spirited contest for the Republican speakership nomination. John H. Mockett, who has held the honor and who was once speaker in fact, will likely have to pass over his title in that connection. The most widely talked of candidates in that connection are Jim Nichols of Madison and Dennis Cronin of Holt county. The latter was a candidate for the honor at the last session. Mr. Nichols was a member of the 1913 session and frequently electrified the members of the house with his flights of oratory. He acquitted himself with considerable distinction in the investigation of the doings of the railway commission. On that affair he passed a pleasant coat of whitewash over the bodies of the three commissioners. One of them, Thomas L. Hall, resented it somewhat and told his friends after the ordeal had been gone through with that it should never have been done in that fashion. There are many of the members who swear to this day that Mr. Hall himself brought on the investigation.

Farmers will have ample representation in the early lists of candidates. Agricultural board members or close friends, for instance, are entered in the four important races, the speakership and clerkship of the house and the presidency and secretaryship of the senate. George Jackson, superintendent of gates at the fair, is the candidate for speaker, and George W. Potts, superintendent of sanitation, is the candidate for clerk. J. A. Ollis of Ord, one of the board of managers of the state fair, is a candidate for the secretaryship of the senate, and Peter Wink of Kearney is slated to become a candidate for the presidency, so it is stated here.

Appropriation bills, the bane of the legislators' experiences, will be easier disposed of this year than in the past if everything contemplated for their attention is done. The institutional budget recommendations of the board of control will be put up to that new body exclusively, in all probability, and its word will go a considerable distance with the members. The normal board will assume a similar capacity in the matter of appropriations for the four state normal schools, and the board of regents will exercise like influence in the matter of appropriations for the state university, the medical college at Omaha and the various experiment stations scattered over the state. Each of these boards will be placed in a position to do more this year than at any time in the past in the way of keeping down appropriations and in giving the solons the advice that they should have before setting aside money for operating expenses during the coming two years.

Peru Will Entertain Legislators.
The Peru Commercial club will give a banquet to members of the legislature from that section of Nebraska this week. A number of leading senators and representatives and prominent men from other parts of the state have also been invited. H. C. Richmond of Omaha has promised to be present, as has State Superintendent elect A. O. Thomas. The plan is to have these people see Peru and its outlook as it really is; also to see the normal's needs at first hand.

Omaha Ordinance Before High Court
Validity of Omaha's ordinance, requiring public service corporations to elevate their overhead wires whenever required to do so by house movers, at the corporation's expense, is at stake in a case appealed to the supreme bench here. The Omaha and Council Bluffs Street Railway company appeals from a district court case, in which W. H. Barnum obtained the upper hand. The company holds that the ordinance in question is in violation of the constitutional guaranty against confiscation of property without due process of law.

Thirteen Important Witnesses Called.
Names of thirteen additional witnesses who will be called before the United States commission on industrial relations in its investigation into American charitable and philanthropic foundations, to be held here by Frank P. Walsh, chairman. The list includes names of persons leading in the philanthropic and business world.

FRANCIS B. HARRISON.

Governor General, Who Minimizes Uprising of Discorsted Filipinos.



THIRD ADVANCE ON WARSAW IS FAILURE

Russian View of Military Situation in Poland.

Petrograd, Dec. 31.—The Russian view of the military situation in Poland, in the light of recent developments, is that a definite check has been administered to the Germans. The evacuation by the Germans of the village of Mistrzewice, related officially by the war office, is regarded by military critics here as "ringing down the curtain on the third German advance toward Warsaw."

At a tremendous loss to themselves, the Germans had succeeded in establishing a foothold in Mistrzewice, on the east bank of the Bzura river, but their persistent siegehammer attacks during the last three weeks failed to penetrate the Russian line before Warsaw.

When it became evident that the Austrian advance from the Carpathian mountains had failed, the Germans evacuated the village during intervals between Russian attacks. The Austrians' operations from the Carpathians evidently formed an integral part of the general plan of the Germans for the Warsaw campaign.

Heavy artillery is being brought up by the Germans along their center between Skirpiewice and the Pelica river. This is regarded here as purely a defensive move, designed to prevent the breaking of the German line by the Russian infantry forces.

In Galicia the Russians have taken the important town of Gorlice, fifteen miles south of Tuchow, where the Russians recently halted the west Galicia army of the Austrians, preventing it from joining with that of General Boehm-Ermoll, which was advancing from Sanek-Lisko. Gorlice is the junction point of several railroads running through the Carpathian district.

The pursuit of the retreating Austrians in the Sanek-Lisko district has been carried as far as Yaslsk, on the extreme left flank of the Austrians, which has been captured. Yaslsk commands the most important highway into Hungary.

BELGIANS GETTING U. S. FOOD

German Officials Are Not Interfering With Distribution.
London, Dec. 31.—E. Watts, United States consul general at Brussels, who is on his way to America on sick leave, arrived in London.

He told the American commission for relief in Belgium that the food-stuffs sent to that country were being wisely distributed and that the Germans were not interfering in any way in the work of the agents of the commission.

Between 200,000 and 300,000 people are fed in Brussels every day, according to the consul.

DUMDUM BULLETS DO NOT FIT ALLIES' GUNS

Washington, Dec. 31.—State department officials have practically completed their investigation of charges by the German ambassador, Count von Bernstorff, that dum dum bullets were being supplied from the United States to the armies of the allies. An answer to Count von Bernstorff will be made within the next few days.

The department's investigators have reported that the samples of dum dum bullets submitted by the German ambassador as having been made in the United States would not fit any rifle being used by the allies.

State department officials also have been informed by an American diplomat just back from Europe that he found no ground for charges that Belgians have been mutilated by German soldiers.

AN APPEAL TO SANTA CLAUS



*Oh, Santa, can't you come again?
Just see the dolly that you gave!
She's gone and slipped out of my hands—
Her head is all that I can save!*

*My daddy says that you can't come
Until another year has passed,
But years are very, very long—
Just think how long a year can last!*

*I loved my dolly—oh, so much!
My heart most broke when down she fell.
But, Santa—let me whisper it—
Another doll might do as well!*

IN PLATTSMOUTH FORTY YEARS AGO.
German Officials Are Not Interfering With Distribution.

The following are the officers of Macey Lodge No. 22, A. F. and A. M., for the ensuing year:
W. M.—V. V. Leonard.
S. W.—E. B. Lewis.
J. W.—R. Ballance.
Treasurer—J. N. Wise.
Chaplain—J. W. Barnes.
Senior Steward—W. R. Darrah.
Junior Steward—R. Petersen.
Tyler—A. Jerkensen.
S. Deacon—E. A. Kirkpatrick.
J. Deacon—W. B. Shryock.

We had quite a little flurry on the owl train from Omaha Monday night. Somebody left a stone train on the main track, and "we uns" ran into it, car-smash, up-ending two or three platform cars. It threw Hatt over on Feeman, the marble man, and tipped Mike Murphy amongst the other males, just where he's used to being.

The ladies of the Presbyterian church desire most heartily to express their thanks to Gen. Jeff C. Davis, the commanding officer of Omaha barracks, and to Col. Charles Bird, adjutant of the post, for the delicious music furnished by the band on the occasion of their late entertainment.

Mrs. Goodwin was shot in the foot about a year ago, caused by the discharge of a loaded gun which was carelessly laid in the bottom of the wagon in which she was riding. The wound apparently healed, but one of her toes commenced to grow crooked, causing such pain that she had to have it amputated last Monday a week. The operation was performed by Dr. J. W. Waterman of Louisville.

At the regular meeting of the Plattsmouth fire department on Wednesday evening, November 17th, the following officers were elected:
Chief engineer, Wm. L. Wells; assistant chief engineer, O. M. Straight; president, Jos. W. Johnson; secretary, Rush O. Fellows; treasurer, J. Ph. Young.
Engine Company—Foreman, F. J. Metteer; first assistant foreman, H. Sage; second assistant foreman, P. B. Murphy.
Hook and Ladder—Foreman, Wm. B. Shryock; first assistant foreman, W. J. Manholtz; second assistant foreman, Patsey Morrissey.
E. Peterson of Chariton, Iowa, arrived in the city this morning to visit with his wife here for a few days at the home of her sister, Mrs. L. H. Karnes and family, and to attend the Karnes golden wedding.

Paul Morgan and wife, who have been here visiting with relatives and friends over Christmas, departed this afternoon for their home in Hay Springs, Neb.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.
The Kind You Have Always Bought
Bears the Signature of *Dr. J. C. Watson*