

NEBRASKA SENATE

PROCEEDINGS OF UPPER LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

A Special Summary of the Doings of a Week—A Mass of Bills, Resolutions, Etc., Acted Upon.

Thursday, February 23.

The senate was not in session yesterday.

Friday, February 24.

The chaplain led in singing in the senate yesterday morning "America." The singing was proposed in memory of George Washington. The prayer that followed was full of patriotic sentiment.

A large number of petitions were presented relating to various bills before the senate.

Lieutenant Governor Gilbert appointed Noyes of DeWitt, Barton of Johnson and Farrell of Merrick as a committee to make an investigation requested by ex-Senator Gilbert Gillespie of the institution for deaf and dumb.

Senate file 38, by O'Neill of Holt, authorizing county judges to appoint judges and clerks of action, was reported back by the committee on privileges and elections in the form of a substitute embodying all amendments formerly adopted in committee of the whole. The committee recommended that the bill be passed.

Senator O'Neill of Holt offered a resolution calling upon congress to encourage enactment of a constitutional amendment providing that all persons who hereafter encourage war shall be conscripted into the army and be made to bear the hardships of war.

The senate held a session last night. It was held for the purpose of allowing senators to introduce bills, yesterday being the fortieth day of the session and the last day bills could be introduced. Eighteen bills showed up making a total of 253 for the session.

Senator Reynolds introduced a bill to remedy the defect in the bill passed two years ago relating to the appointment of superintendent of Kearney industrial school. At the session two years ago a bill was introduced for the purpose of authorizing the governor to appoint the superintendent of the Kearney industrial school. The bill was taken to the governor and signed, but it was discovered that the bill failed to pass in the house. Governor Frazier acted under the bill and appointed John G. Spruce superintendent of the institution. It is now believed that the governor will be relieved of all responsibility in the matter by the courts when Mr. Spruce's suit to secure possession of the place comes up for decision. The bill introduced yesterday is almost an exact copy of the bill taken to the governor four years ago.

Saturday, February 25.

Nearly two hours were spent by the senate during yesterday forenoon in discussing senate file 15, by Dunn, a bill fixing charges of live stock commission men and requiring commission men to give bond for the prompt return of money to shippers of live stock, the bond to be in the sum of \$10,000 approved by the governor. The committee on live stock and grazing had recommended that the bill be indefinitely postponed. The Douglas county delegation worked hard to postpone the bill and in this they were assisted by many senators who deal in live stock or come from a stock-grazing country. The bill was placed on general file by a majority of one vote.

Senator Crow of Douglas made a splendid effort to save his joint resolution relating to the prevention of the mortgage sale of unimproved Pacific lands, but the senate was against him and the resolution was indefinitely postponed. Mr. Crow quoted law and read from sworn testimony to prove that the 800,000 acres of land should revert to the government and be opened to public entry at not to exceed \$1.25 an acre. The history behind the resolution is said to have killed it. The admission was made by a former attorney of the Union Pacific that he drew up the resolution. This man already has a suit of his own against the Union Pacific company for salary alleged to be due and some of the senators concluded that there might be some spite work behind the resolution. Mr. Crow said he offered the resolution in good faith and because he believed he had the facts and the law on his side. A motion to make the bill a special order for Monday afternoon did not pass. The motion to postpone carried by a vote of 23 to 10, as follows:

Those voting AYE—10
Conroy, Powell, McCarver, Crow, Howard, Miller, Farrell, Keppert, Smith

The embalmers bill from the house was passed in the senate by a close vote. Canada of Kearney, fusionist, may be credited with the praise or blame in passing the bill, for it was the change of his vote from nay to yea that gave it the necessary number. Immediately Farrell of Merrick, fusionist, voted for the bill, after once having refused to vote at all. The senate adjourned to Monday at 11 a. m.

Monday, February 27.

The senate was not in session Saturday.

Tuesday, February 28.

The senate yesterday was told that the governor had signed house roll 18, an act to make the plowing up of a highway a misdemeanor.

Nearly the entire afternoon was spent by the senate considering an original insurance bill, senate file No. 5, introduced by Gilbert by request. The bill creates a law for the government of insurance companies transacting life insurance on the stipulated premium plan. There is no law of this nature in this state at present, and similar laws have been enacted in New York and in Ohio. A committee of the senate was appointed to look into the general insurance laws of the state if they comply with the provisions of the bill. A com-

pany must deposit securities to the amount of \$5,000 and have 250 members holding policies amounting to \$250,000 before it will be permitted to transact business under the law. The bill was recommended for passage.

The senate passed one curative bill yesterday and two amendatory bills. The law relating to farmers' mutual insurance companies insuring against damage by hail, was amended so as to permit such companies to insure crops in the shock or in the stack.

House roll No. 114, re-enacting the law providing for the appointment of supreme court commissioners was approved by the committee of the whole.

Wednesday, March 1.

Senator Fowler secured a victory in the senate yesterday in getting his bill relating to bank receivers recommended for passage. The bill was opposed by some of the best lawyers in the senate, but the bill received a large majority of the vote. It is an amendment to the banking law and its object is to require bank receivers to report to the state banking board so that the board will have some knowledge of the affairs of the bank after it has gone into the hands of the receiver. Another provision of the bill permits the banking board to recommend the removal of a receiver who is believed to be unfaithful to his trust or who is not using his best effort in winding up the affairs under his keeping. The power of removal remains with district courts. The bill is senate file No. 61.

A bill, senate file 127, by Talbot, making some slight changes in the Lincoln charter, was considered and recommended for passage. A joint resolution, senate file 298, by Talbot, thanking the officers and men of the First Nebraska regiment, was passed.

The senate held a session in the afternoon, but devoted the time to committee work. The session will begin this morning at 10 o'clock.

The committee on miscellaneous subjects met during the afternoon and decided to recommend the indefinite postponement of senate file 29, a bill by Talbot that relates to the recovery of damages from stolen keepers in cases in which notice has been served not to sell liquor to the person damaged. Only one member of the committee was in favor of reporting the bill for passage. Senator Talbot drew up a substitute, but it was not satisfactory to the committee.

THE HOUSE.

Friday, February 24.

The house yesterday listened to a long string of standing committees, and action was taken on them.

The question of visiting state institutions was broached by the committee on other affairs. The committee said it had had numerous requests for buildings and desired to look over the ground. The committee on public lands and buildings desired to do likewise. A motion was made that they be excused from session and allowed mileage. Considerable discussion followed on motion of Prince of Hall.

A motion to allow William M. Wheeler, chief enrolling and engrossing clerk \$1 extra per day for the entire session was tabled.

The special order was called up, being consideration of house roll 44, the salary appropriation bill.

Wenaver of Richardson moved to raise salary of governor's private secretary to \$3,000. It has been cut to \$1,500. Discussion ended in the motion prevailing.

No changes were made before the committee rose except the increase of the salary of the governor's private secretary. The bill was placed at the head of the general file.

A movement to adjourn till evening for a night session was snatched and the house adjourned till this morning at 10 o'clock.

Saturday, February 25.

The house yesterday put in a good share of the time introducing bills, it being the fortieth day of the session for the house. Fifty-eight new bills showed up, making the total for the session 651. This occupied pretty much all the forenoon.

In the afternoon the house spent considerable time in committee of the whole considering house rolls 110 and 360, the former James's bill to amend the law relating to the management of the state board of agriculture, and the latter the bill introduced by Sturgess of Douglas, giving the bureau of labor more authority in regard to the collection of statistics. The two bills were conflicting in that James's measure provides for a complete system of collecting agricultural statistics, while the statistics the collection of which the labor bureau has in charge pertain to all industries in the state. Sturgess claimed his bill was the more comprehensive. The committee deferred action.

The senate favorably recommended senate file 46, repealing the section of the game law that hunters may not use blinds in the Nebraska streams.

Among the bills introduced was one by Speaker Clark providing for a commission to take charge of erection of a monument to Abraham Lincoln on Capitol grounds. Dr. Anderson of Lancaster offered one that if passed will reduce the fare on the street railway to Harrocks for Lincoln to 1 cent. It is now 1 1/2 cents.

Among the bills introduced yesterday were several which are placed on file to be used in case other measures pass. Chief among these are some which will regulate the amount of levies that may be made in cities. Should the Pollard revenue bill become a law, the property of the state will be assessed at its cash value, which will reduce the levies that have been regularly assessed on lower valuations. Mr. Pollard promised on the floor of the house that he would see to it that such bills would be introduced to be ready to pass when the other bills went through. A bill affecting the university levy is also on file to be passed should such be necessary. As the bill now stands sets the property of the state assessed at its cash value, something over \$50,000,000, would be given to the university. This was discussed when the bill was passed and provision has thus been made for a possible contingency.

The bills from the state committee and the committee on deficiencies were also introduced yesterday. As the committee have not finished all the work in relation to the same, there are still a good many amendments to be made. The claims bill aggregates

only \$25,000, while the deficiency bill will total more than \$50,000. The claims for beet sugar bounties have not as yet been acted upon and if they come in they will swell the total by \$125,000.

The house concurred in the action of the senate and adjourned over Saturday to Monday at 11 a. m.

Monday, February 27.

The house was not in session Saturday.

Tuesday, February 28.

The house was entertained yesterday morning by a lively tilt between Representatives Burns of Lancaster and McCarthy of Dixon. The tilt was brought about by the committee on corporations reporting for postponement Mr. Burns' bill taxing express companies 5 per cent on gross earnings and at the same time reporting for passage a bill by Moran of Platte, taxing them only one per cent. During the debate on Burns' motion to place bill on general file Mr. McCarthy showed that the companies paid 50 per cent of their earnings to the transportation companies, 41 per cent to employees, etc. This left them but 9 per cent. He intimated that Burns' bill was not introduced with good intentions, as a tax of five per cent would be declared unreasonable. The bill was postponed, and Moran's 1 per cent bill went to the general file.

The house spent the afternoon in committee of the whole. The initiative and referendum bill was postponed.

The resolution was passed calling upon the clerk of the supreme court to submit a report of fees for the entire term of his office.

Wednesday, March 1.

The house spent the entire day yesterday in passing bills. Among the bills passed the most important was the bill by Prince of Hall abolishing the office of oil inspector. The measure received just fifty votes. Olmsted's bill to prevent corrupt practices at elections was passed as was Zeller's bill amending the Australian ballot law so as to eliminate the blanket ballot provision and prevent one candidate having his name upon the ballot more than once when indorsed by more than one party. A bill passed, drawn by Speaker Clark, was to the effect that insurance companies may not urge certain technicalities at present incorporated in policies. A bill by Speaker Clark reducing the number of justices of the peace in Lincoln from three to two was also passed.

There is talk of a recess if the United States senator is elected this week. Senator Allen's term expires next Saturday.

The senate and house committees inspected jointly the condition of the state house and noted its needs in the line of repairs.

The need of a new roof on the capitol was admitted, but while some urged the purchase of copper, others asserted that a tin roof properly cared for was good enough. Some thought a copper roof would cost from \$15,000 to \$25,000. Others said a good copper roof could be had for \$8,000.

The board of public lands and building has made an estimate for repairs and improvements needed, amounting to \$65,000. This is more than the legislature desires to give. Repairs alone are estimated at \$35,000. The board of public lands and buildings asked for \$25,000, but the house committee put in only \$10,000 in the appropriation bill. This amount may be increased.

Electing a Senator.

The 33d ballot for senator taken on Monday was as follows:

Allen..... 25
Hayward..... 24
Thompson..... 23
Webster..... 22
Field..... 21
Weston..... 20
Hinshaw..... 19

Reece..... 18
Aamus..... 17
Connell..... 16
Lambertson..... 15
Van Dusen..... 14
Hinner..... 13

Absent and paired..... 1

A Joke That Was Lost.

Both the motor and all car were crowded with shivering people. The mercury was away down in the vicinity of Zanesville. The windows had been finely decorated with Jack Frost, and the stores were lit with Little Consolidated iron. The train reached the viaduct and the passengers pulled their caps down over their ears and took fresh grips upon the brass rails to avoid being blown into the river. At last the hollow rumble under the wheels indicated that the cars had reached the easterly division of the big bridge, and a moment later the trolley man, knowing that he had regular passengers who alighted at Water street, stuck his head into the trail car and yelled: "Water." This was too much for a stout man who had just prepared to jump into the snow drift that was heaped up along the track. "No water here," he said. It passed the water stage long ago. It's all ice now. If you'd put a few sparks of Little Consolidated heat into that stove, you might bring it back to water again, but not otherwise. Then he looked back to see what anybody was laughing or not. The other passengers were too busy shivering to laugh, so he permitted a look of disgust to overspread his countenance and jumped, muttering things about bloodless corporations that are not worth printing.—Cleveland Leader.

Decline of Bull Fighting.

The wholesome change that the character of the Mexican people is undergoing is shown again by the movement headed by President Diaz and taken up by the better social element to abolish bull fighting. That brutal sport is one of the handicaps which Mexico got from Spain. In the mother country it still flourishes, and any attempt to suppress it would be resisted as strongly by the ruling classes as by the common run.

Tradition of the Wedding Ring.

The wearing of the wedding ring on the third finger of the left hand follows the custom of the Egyptians, who believed that finger to be directly connected by a slender nerve to the heart. And as these ancient worshippers of Isis held this finger sacred to Aphrodite and the son of Isis was therefore chosen as the metal for the ring.

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Lincoln Nebraska

NOT CORNELL.
(Continued from page 1.)

conced and the charges for the work were reasonable. I might say that Mr. Orchard went over practically the same work in one half the time usually occupied by examiners who have done the same work, and that his charges were more than one half less. Yours very truly,

H. S. HALBERT,
President.

The Grand Lodge of the Ancient Order of United Workmen deny the authority of the auditor to make an examination and object to a bill of \$5.00 a day and \$3.00 a day for board and rail road fare. It has never paid anything.

The Mutual Aid and Accident Association of Ohio, writes: The charges were so much more reasonable than we had been in the habit of paying that we paid them without any objection whatever.

THOMAS KINNEY,
Secretary.

The position that the republican investigating committee now occupies is so ridiculous that everybody is laughing at them, even many of the republicans around town say that Mr. Fisher has burned his fingers. He started out to prove that the auditor had been holding up the insurance companies. When he got his evidence together he found out that it proved beyond question, that not only had they been held up, but that they had been charged much less than ever before. Then the republican committee secretes the evidence and spends hours asking witnesses if they had a good time, did they drink any whisky, and such foolish and irrelevant questions. It is the old story of Haman and the gallows fifty cubits high over again.

That the examination of insurance companies is not looked upon by them as "hold ups" and that they are anxious to have them made is shown by the letter of the secretary of the Traveler's Accident Association. It belongs to that class of companies that claim that under the law they are not subject to examination.

The secretary writes: The services of Mr. Palm and his charges regarded by us as reasonable. While we did not consider that the department had authority to examine our association, we submitted to same cheerfully as we believed that the examination by the insurance department would be of considerable benefit to us and we have no complaints to make.

ARTHUR L. SHEETZ,
Secretary.

A REP. POSTOFFICE ROW.

Editor Independent:

I wish to report to your paper a few facts that have come under my observation, helping to prove the wrong done by individuals of political parties concerned when the people have no voice in the matter, even among the little sect of people living in College View and posing themselves to be persecuted but never persecuting others.

In this case you will find scheming and intrigue practiced in just as rampant a way as among the more influential leaders of the republican party. One would hardly expect to find this among a God fearing people of their class, as they are a people that do not believe in voting to any extent or taking any part in politics and would not shoulder a gun to defend their country's honor, their prophets teaches them not to but it seems they have a great deal of trouble about the little postoffice in the town as all claim, or for it from the oldest patriarch in the church to the youngest school boy.

One of these men who has a great influence over them, by some hook or crook, you know, got on the right side of J. B. Strode, who he claimed promised him the office for his young brother, and as the postmaster's time was not out for three months or so and Strode's time was out the 4th of March, something must be done—couldn't wait and take their chances like honorable men with the rest, so privately he tried to get the P. M. to resign in his favor, using as a threat, if he did not, they, the republicans, Bushnell, etc., would have him removed any way. The P. M. thinking it a shame to get the office and not



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a very honorable one at that refused, so the next move was an inspector visiting the office and informing P. M. that the report had been sent in. He was not in harmony with the faculty of the college, and some other trival charges. The facts were these: The school faculty were not in harmony with themselves, one would order the students mail sent to the college and other would order it kept at the office and the students would order it kept so a complete jangle was kept up between professors and students to the discomfort of the P. M. who tried to please them all, but this man took the inspector to those of his own pleasure to find fault with the P. M. while those more honest that were not a cat's paw for him were not questioned. The P. M. was removed and the young man appointed to his place, or near as I can find out the P. M. had served them faithfully expending his own money and fitted up on office a credit to the town. The people have no voice in the matter those who pay taxes are pushed aside and a few cunning scheming ones are allowed to run affairs the people's choice not considered, as many wanted to see an old republican in his office, one who had done service for his country and had earned his right to the office, but this little game was played on a smaller scale but with the same results as with large interests at stake showing the same political corruptness.

Me THOL.
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