

## WITH OUR ESTEEMED CONTEMPORARIES

Ah, ha! And oh, ho! And hurrah! Our legislature did one thing—and its very best thing—it adjourned, for which the entire state is profoundly and everlastingly grateful. May its like never happen again.—Juniata Herald.

There speaks the purblind partisan, who doesn't know what the legislature accomplished, doesn't care and wouldn't give it credit because its political complexion did not suit him. As a matter of fact the last legislature was one of the best the state has ever had, measured by the reform legislation it enacted. It gave us the initiative and referendum; it gave us a non-partisan judiciary, but the governor, disregarding a party pledge, vetoed it; it gave us a state board of control for the state's institutions; it struck a death blow at the "white slave" traffic; it reinforced the laws whereby the state railway commission is given greater opportunity to serve the people; it re-apportioned the state—a duty that has been neglected for twenty-five years; it gave us a bettered system of irrigation laws; it preserved the water powers of the state in the hands of the people; it paved the way whereby cities may make their own charters; it systematized our road laws; it gave us a better system of drainage laws; it enacted more legislation in the interests of the life and limb of the wage earners than any legislature during the past twenty-five years; it paid more attention to the needs of the state's wards; it provided for a new agricultural school in a section that needs it; it was liberal with appropriations for educational purposes. Viewed from an unprejudiced standpoint the thirty-second legislature of Nebraska made a splendid record. It is easy for ignorant partisans to misrepresent and criticize unjustly—and that is what they usually do.

When in all its history did Nebraska ever have a governor with the courage and fidelity of Aldrich? Holcomb, you say? Not on your life. Populist though he was, he was a politician first and a statesman afterward. Like Shallenberger he was a trimmer. We do not want the tree of evil merely trimmed—we want a man to reach for the axe and cut it down. His name is Aldrich of Nebraska.—Ulysses Dispatch.

Governor Aldrich has been in office too short a time to make a just estimate of what his record will be. So far he has made a good one, and he has shown that he has the courage of his convictions. "Courage of his convictions" is all right, but a man may have wrong convictions. For instance, has Governor Aldrich shown more courage than Governor Boyd did when he vetoed the Newberry bill? And did ever a man show greater courage than Governor Shallenberger did when he signed the 8 o'clock law? Or, when he declared at Grand Island that he would sign a county option bill if the legislature passed one? Is there anybody with nor-

mal judgment who will believe that such a man is a "trimmer?" Speaking of courage and fidelity—what governor showed them in greater degree than Lorenzo Crouse? In order to give Governor Aldrich all the credit that is due him it is not necessary to be unjust to other chief executives who have made good.

One day last week the lower house of the Nebraska legislature put in a few hours killing the last of a job lot of capital removal bills. It was time well spent. The majority of the people of our state are well satisfied to have the capital remain where it is—Howells Journal.

Capital removal was a "stockingful of mush" that a few illiberal liberals thought was a sandbag with which Lincoln could be waylaid and punished for having exercised the right to make her own excise rules. There never was a minute when capital removal worried Lincoln the least bit. The only result of the agitation was to prevent very intelligent and industrious legislators from being of any service whatever to their constituents.

Senator Volpp is author of a bill that may double the salaries of the members of the next legislature. What has Senator Volpp done for his constituents that makes him think the job is worth such a salary raise as that?—Fremont Tribune.

Senator Fred Volpp, a successful business man twice chosen to represent his senatorial district, made a good record. He knows, and everybody else knows, that it is unwise and unfair to expect men to give the state their best service on the paltry pay now allowed. He sought to enable the state to get the best service and pay a fairly decent salary therefore. Evidently Senator Volpp's services were satisfactory to his constituents, else they would not have re-elected him. The Tribune's question might not have been propounded had the senator's politics squared with the politics of that paper.

A Record to Emulate . . . . .

Every cloud has a silver lining. While the democrats assemble in an extra session of congress this week, the Nebraska legislature will adjourn. Cheer up!—Pawnee Republican.

There speaks again the editor blinded by partisanism. If the extra session of congress performs as good work as that performed by the thirty-second session of the Nebraska legislature the people may well be satisfied. Some of these days, maybe, the people will welcome good legislation regardless of what party enacts it. And the last legislature kept up the good work inaugurated six years ago by a republican legislature. The last four sessions, two republican and two democratic, have put Nebraska in the forefront of progressive states. Only blind partisans will dispute the statement.

raged. Will Maupin's Weekly is not fearful of the final result of the suit. Nebraska, up to date and thoroughly progressive on all sound economic lines, will not take a backward step.

Fourteen civilized nations of Europe bound themselves to treaty in 1906 to abolish night work for women and put the principle in practice on January 1 of the present year. Three of our states have reached a similar conclusion in line with modern judgment and modern conscience, Massachusetts, Indiana, Nebraska. You can not tell what the courts in this country will do. In New York about three weeks ago, they upset an employers' liability act, which they admitted was well drawn, as ignoring what they are pleased to call "due process of law," an arbitrary and unreal interpretation of the idea, such as the New York court of appeals has put forth before, in the bake-shop case and other cases. Ethical progress in industry will not be stopped by judicial folly. One way or another it will reach its end. This question of woman's work is to be faced by a Nebraska court this month. The legislature passed a law called for by the experience and intelligence of mankind. Will the court find an asinine way of interpreting some constitutional clause having no possible bearing on the present issue, or will it show that it realizes that American legislatures have the right to do what all the civilized nations of Europe have just done.—Collier's Weekly.

The Nebraska ten-hour law for women has been declared constitutional by the supreme court of the state. The editor of this paper, while at the head of the state bureau of labor, prosecuted two Omaha employers on the charge of employing women after 10 p. m., in violation of law. A conviction was secured, the defendants admitting the facts charged and setting up the defense that the law does not prohibit the employment of women at night, providing they are not worked more than ten hours in any one day, nor more than sixty hours in any one week. The intent of the law is plain, although it may be admitted that the section is somewhat loosely drawn. After prohibiting the employment of women in certain lines of industry more than ten hours a day, the statute says that the hours of work may be so arranged as to permit of employment between the hours of 6 a. m and 10 p. m., but does not specifically prohibit their employment between 10 p. m. and 6 a. m. The defendants claim that the language is merely advisory and not prohibitive of employment between 10 and 6. If the state loses in the district court appeal will be taken to the supreme court of the state, and if necessary from there to the supreme court of the United States. This much is assured, for the Nebraska State Federation of Labor, the Woman's National Trades Union League and the National Consumers' league will see to it that no effort is spared to prevent a plain intent of the law to protect workingwomen from being out-