

tion to slip by that was neither wise nor wanted, and it failed to enact some legislation that is needed. But being made up of fallible men no one with common-sense expected perfection of it. But measured by results, by the rules of justice instead of the rules of blind partisanship, the legislature of 1911 will lose nothing by comparisons with other sessions.

The Kearney Hub, than which a more bitterly partisan organ cannot be found within the confines of Nebraska, declares that an honest revision of the tariff cannot be made by democrats and that "intelligence goes to the dogs when democrats begin to manufacture political tariff buncombe." Really, some men seem willing to seriously indict their own intelligence in return for a postoffice. But what is to be said of the intelligence of a people who will allow a tariff law to be made for them by a small coterie of men who are the only ones to profit by that tariff, and make their profit wholly at the expense of a supine people who permit it? What about the intelligence of a Nebraska farmer on the treeless plains who boosts for a tariff of \$2 a thousand on lumber, and then sells his wheat in the free markets of the world in order to get the money to pay that added tribute of \$2 to the protected lumber barons? What about the intelligence of a man who will advocate a wool tariff like that of schedule K of the Payne-Aldrich tariff and willing fine himself \$7 a year for each member of his family in order to "protect" the one-sixth of a sheep for each inhabitant of this republic? We hasten to assure the esteemed Hub that schedule K will not make wool grow on the back of a hydraulic ram, nor the lumber schedule make sawmill timber out of the spindling saplings so laboriously planted on the plains of Nebraska. The present tariff law is not a credit to the intelligence of the American people—not by a long shot. It is merely a proof that a few shrewd, conscienceless men are still able to pull tariff-protected wool over the eyes of a majority of the people, often through the partisan bigotry and partisan support of such newspapers as the esteemed Kearney Hub.

Through the death of Lieutenant Governor Hopewell, John H. Morehead of Richardson, president of the senate, becomes lieutenant governor, and acting governor during the absence from the state of Governor Aldrich. This is, we believe, the first time this has happened through the death of a lieutenant governor of Nebraska, although not the first time a president of the senate has become acting lieutenant governor. When Lieutenant Governor Savage became governor through the election of Governor Deitrich to the senate, the president of the senate stepped up. It is the first time, however, that a democratic president of the senate has stepped into the place of a republican lieutenant governor. It is

rather a curious coincidence that at the first time such a thing has happened the man who steps up seems to be first in line for the democratic nomination for the governorship.

Senator Lorimer seems destined to a term of trouble coincident with his senatorial term. He "got away with it" during the last session through the votes of "special interest" senators who had themselves been discredited and were about to step down and out at the request of the people. If he thought the decision of the old senate ended the matter he was mistaken. The new senate is rather different from the old senate in its make-up, although still republican by a safe majority. But there is no longer a safe margin for the "special interests" so unhappily long continued. Senator LaFollette is taking the lead in pressing for a real investigation, and new developments having come to light since the former action of the senate, it is evident that Lorimer is going to have vastly more trouble in getting the next vindication than he had in getting the other one.

Col. C. B. Edgar, formerly editor and publisher of the Lincoln Daily Star, has purchased the Oklahoma City Daily Times. This means that Oklahoma City has gained a newspaper man who will give the community and state a conservative, clean, well edited and newsy paper.

A contract has been let for the construction of an interurban railroad from Omaha to Sioux City, with branches from Elk City to Norfolk and Madison on the west, and from Bertha east to Decatur and west to West Point. There will be 285 miles of track, and the electric power will be generated by water near Elk City on the Platte river. There are many reasons for hoping that this road will be constructed with speed. In the first place a start is needed in the work of ribbing the eastern part of Nebraska with interurban lines. In the second place we need a practical demonstration of the fact that Nebraska is allowing thousands of horsepower to go to waste in her unharnessed streams.

In times past this newspaper has made some rather harsh criticisms of Governor Woodrow Wilson. It therefore gives it great pleasure to pay him a tribute. Governor Wilson's views of the liquor question as it touches upon politics, so exactly accord with our own that we cannot fail to endorse them. He says: "I can never consent to have the question of local option made an issue between political parties in this state. I do not believe that party programs of the highest consequence ought to be hopelessly embarrassed for long periods together by making a political issue of a great question which is essentially non-political and non-partisan."

This is exactly the position assumed by this paper—then under another name

—last year in Nebraska. It is exactly the position always held by this editor. Since being drawn from the field of academic discussion to the field of active public and political life, Governor Wilson has developed some unexpected and wholly welcome traits. He is a much bigger man than he was a year ago, and he seems to be growing bigger all the time.

Serious labor troubles threaten in various large industrial centers. The jurisdictional troubles between the plumbers and steamfitters in Chicago threaten to tie up building operations and throw 10,000 building tradesmen out of employment. Of course this is a rank injustice to the contractors and the public, and is one of the several fool things that organized labor is doing to its own eternal disadvantage. Maintenance of way employes—we used to call them "section hands"—in the employ of Chicago terminal roads are striking for recognition of their union, and shopmen on the Pennsylvania lines are striking for the same thing and an increased wage. The Pennsylvania's importation of professional strikebreakers, who are merely thugs, thieves, porchclimbers and highwaymen under another name, is resulting in the usual trouble. Chicago brickmakers are on strike against a wage reduction and to enforce a demand for better working conditions. The indications are that the spring of 1911 will have more than the usual amount of labor disputes.

Representative Quackenbush of Nehama, one of the "dry" democrats in the last legislature, has been mentioned in connection with the nomination for governor next year. He very modestly remarks that it is a bit too early to begin talking of candidates. Mr. Quackenbush introduced some thirty bills, the high mark of the session. Most of them had to do with relieving the pressure on the supreme court. He and Harlan of Harlan were co-authors of the bill to recodify the statutes.

### COME OUT OF IT!

The two bills organized labor was strongly interested in down at the legislature failed to pass. They were the plumbing inspection bill and the bill which provided for the protection of the lives and limbs of the building trades mechanics. We have no complaint to make on the Douglas county delegation. It was not their fault that the bills did not pass.—Omaha Western Laborer.

Come out of it! The bill providing for the protection of the lives and limbs of building trades mechanics did pass, and it was signed by Governor Aldrich, and it is now a law. Its enactment into law is due to the earnest work of the legislative committee of the State Federation of Labor. True the plumbing inspection bill did not pass, but these two bills were by no means the only ones organized labor was interested in. How about the bill providing for factory inspection? That