THE STATE LAWMAKERS

Not Making Much Progress in the Selection of Senators.

THE VOTE IS WIDELY SCATTERED

Many Measures Being Introduced from Day to Day—Some Have Been Finally Acted Upon—Miscellaneous Legislative Matters.

HOUSE—In the house on the 25th John Mockett of the Lancaster delegation rose in his place and waved a rattlebox, carved out of an old piece of furniture. In a neat and humorous little speech he presented the toy to Speaker Sears to convey to his baby boy, with the compliments of the carpenter of the house, who had whittled it, he said, out of a valuable piece of state furniture. Bills were introduced: A bill for an act to prohibit the solicitation, taking or accepting any order for the purchase, sale, shipment or delivery of any malt, spiritous or vinous liquors in the state of Nebraska and to provide a penalty for the violation thereof. Penalty of $100 to $500 fine. Does not prohibit traveling agents of licensed dealers from soliciting or accepting orders. A bill for an act to locate and establish three additional state normal schools and to appropriate money for the same. To be located in Third, Fifth and Sixth districts, at points to be determined by the board of public lands and buildings. Carries appropriation of $75,000. A bill for an act to prevent discrimination by life insurance companies and mutual benefit associations on account of color and to prevent special contracts and discriminations between individuals. Not applicable to fraternal societies. A bill for an act entitled, "An act amend sections 75, 85 and 85a, of chapter 43, entitled insurance companies, of the compiled statutes of the state of Nebraska for 1899 and repealing the said sections so amended." To compel mutual benefit associations to furnish members by-laws and amendments; authorizes collection of extra assessments when deaths are in excess of table rates, and requires stipulated life premium associations to compute premiums on either the "combined experience" or "American actuaries" table. In considering bills on general file house roll No. 49, by Ream, a joint resolution petitioning congress for the submission of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people was recommended for passage. The ninth joint ballot for senator resulted: Allen 56, Berge 2, Broady 1, Crounse 6, Currie 21, Hainer 4, Harlan 1, Harrington 2, Hitchcock 17, Hinshaw 17, Kinkaid 3, Meiklejohn 32, Morlan 1, Martin 6, Rosewater 16, Sutherland 1, Thompson, D. E., 36, Thompson, W. H., 41., Van Dusen 1.

HOUSE.—When the house was called to order on the 24th, Messrs. Andrews, Beall, Marshall and Walker failed to respond. Reports on bills were made as follows: Concurrent resolution, requesting congress to call a convention to submit a constitutional amendment providing for election of senators by direct vote of the people. Placed on general file and recommended for passage. Joint resolution to amend the constitution so as to make constitutional amendments adopted when receiving a majority of the votes cast thereon. Placed on general file and recommended for passage. Making the warden of the penitentiary the executioner of death penalty. General file; recommended for passage. Providing that employers shall be liable for all damages done their employes in consequence of negligence of its agents or mismanagement of any employe, and invalidating contracts restricting such liability. Indefinitely postponed, on recommendation of the committee on corporations, consisting of Armstrong, Fowler, McVoy, Laffin, Mead, Ream and Hanks. Bills were introduced: A bill for an act to define "bucket shops" and to prohibit operation of the same in the state of Nebraska, and to provide a penalty therefor. A bill for an act to authorize and enable boards of supervisors, town boards and county commissioners to purchase road making implements, tools and machinery, to provide for payment therefor, the custody and care thereof, to provide for storing said implements and manchinery and to recover damages from any person who shall injure same and declaring the breaking in to such place of storage or removing said implements without authority to be a misdemeanor and providing a penalty thereof, and to repeal all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith. A bill for an act to provide for a more safe and expeditious method of conducting elections and for the casting, registering, recording and counting of ballots or votes by means of voting machines and supplementary to, and in aid of the election laws; also, creating a board of voting machine commissioners and defining their duties. A bill for an act to amend section 592 of the code of civil procedure, compiled statutes of Nebraska for 1899, and to repeal said original section. Proceedings for reversing, vacating or modifying judgments on final orders must be instituted within six months, instead of within one year. A bill for an act to amend section 677 of the code of civil procedure of Nebraska and to repeal said original section. Relating to appeals in equity from district to supreme court. The eighth vote for U. S. senator shows these figures: Allen 55, Berge 2, Broady 1, Crounse 6, Currie 19, Hainer 4, Harlan 1, Harrington 2, Hitchcock 4, Hinshaw 15, Kinkaid 2, Meiklejohn 31, Morlan 1, Martin 7, Richards 1, Rosewater 15, Sutherland 1, Thompson, D. E., 35, Thompson, W. H., 54, Van Dusen 1.

HOUSE—The house on the 23d was in session only three hours. Steinmeyer of Gage introduced a resolution instructing the "two United States senators about to be elected" to support the submission of a constitutional amendment providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people. The resolution was adopted. A resolution was also adopted authorizing the committee on insane asylums to visit and report on the hospitals at Norfolk, Lincoln and Hastings. Committee reports indefinitely postponed a number of bills. Among measures introduced were the following: A bill to provide for the taxation of express companies operating within the state of Nebraska, and to provide for penalties for the violation of the same. Taxes receipts on all business transacted in Nebraska 1 per cent net in lieu of all other taxation. Statements must be made to state auditor annually, who shall draw his draft on company for amount due and put it into hands of state treasurer for collection. Treasuer authorized to seize and sell personal property in settlement of amount due. A bill for an act defining the territory in which mutual insurance companies may do business and providing when mutual insurance companies organized in this state may do business in other states and when mutual insurance companies organized in other states may operate in Nebraska, and to repeal all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith. A bill for an act to amend and repeal section 19 of chapter 87, entitled "State University," of the compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1899. To reduce the State university levy from 1 mill to three-quarters of 1 mill. A bill for an act to punish persons who smoke cigarettes in public places. Fine of from $5 to $10 for each offense. House roll No. 8, by Loomis, to provide for appeals in action of forcible entry and detention or forcible detention only of real property, was passed with emergency clause by a vote of 75 ayes to 13 nays. House roll 40, by Boulier, extending mechanics' lien law to apply to wells and windmills, passed by vote of 68 ayes to 20 nays. The vote for senator resulted as follows: W. H. Thompson, 54; Crounse, 7; Currie, 20; Hainer, 5; Harlan, 1; Hinshaw, 15; Kinkaid, 2; Martin, 7; Morlan, 1; Meiklejohn, 29; Rosewater, 15; D. E. Thompson, 36; J. H. Van Dusen, 1; M. F. Harrington, 5; Berge, 3; Hitchcock, 2; Broady, 3; Hays, 1; Sutherland, 1.

HOUSE.—Introduction and reading of new bills occupied the attention of the house of representatives at the evening session on the 23d. At the afternoon session one bill was considered in the committee of the whole and recommended for passage, leaving only two bills on the general file, both of which were laid over. The bill recommended for passage was introduced by McCarthy of Dixon, and relates to exemption of property, strengthening existing laws on this subject. On recommendation of the committee on finance, ways and means, house rolls 43 and 81 were placed on file. The former was introduced by Muray of Thurston and provides for reducing the rate of interest on state warrants from 4 to 3 per annum. The other bill provides for an appropriation of $5,000, for medals for all officers and men who fought in the Nebraska volunteer regiments and the troop of volunteer cavalry. Among the bills introduced were three providing for the appointment of commissions to determine the boundary line of Nebraska along the Missouri river. The introducers were Representatives Cain, McCarthy and Hall. The measures contemplate the appointment of three commisions of three men each, one commission to determine the Nebraska-Iowa line, one the the line between Nebraska and Missouri. The commissioners would receive a salary of $10 a day, and the term of office would be limited to thirty days following January 1, 1903. Other bills on first reading were: An act to amend section 4 of chapter xxvii of the session laws of 1899, entitled "An act to protect primary elections and conventions of political parties, and to punish offenses committed thereat," and to appeal said original section; authorizes central committee to order and hold primary elections on twenty days' notice, to be published for three consecutive weeks. An act authorizing the governor of the state of Nebraska to appoint three commissioners to act conjointly with a like commission from South Dakota in agreeing upon a boundary line between Nebraska and South Dakota; appropriates $2,000 for the expenses of the commission, salary of commissioners to be $10 per day, to be appointed for duty after January 1, 1903. An act to declare void certain provisions in policies of fire insurance and to require the auditor of public accounts to refuse to authorize insurance companies whose policies contain such provisions to do business in this state; declares void any contracts requiring property insured to be insured for 80 per cent of its value. An act to amend section 3 of subdivision v of chapter lxxix of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska, and to repeal said original section; authorizes school district board to cause pupils to be taught in such branches as may seem adapted to course of study established by the board and provides for revision of course.

The sixth ballot for senator resulted as follows: Allen 56, Crounse 8, Currie 21, Hainer 6, Harlan 1, Hays 1, Harrington 0, Hinshaw 14, Kinkaid 4, Meiklejohn 26, Morlan 1, Martin 3, Rosewater 15, Sutherland 1, Thompson, D. E., 34, Thompson, W. H., 56, Van Dusen 2.

SENATE—In the senate on the 25th Senators Owens, Ransom and Crounse were appointed a committee of three to confer with a like committee from the house on the subject of adjourning over Saturday. The committee reported back in favor of a session tomorrow, and its action was indorsed by the senate. The live stock and grazing committee reported favorably on senate file 61, the measure providing for a state veterinarian, and it was ordered to the general file. The committee on agriculture reported favorably on senate files 8, 9, 13, 39 and 90, and they were ordered to the general file. The following were placed on first reading: A bill for an act to amend chapter 39 of the compiel statutes of Nebraska, 1899, concerning "Inkeepers," by adding thereto a new section giving to innkeepers, hotel keepers and boarding house keepers a lien upon the goods, baggage, property and effects of any person, whether guest, lodger or boarder, brought thereto or left therein, and providing a means of enforcing and foreclosing the same. A bill for an act to provide for the education of crippled and diseased children into the Home of the Friendless in the state of Nebraska. A bill for an act to amend section 20 of chapter 28, compiled statutes of Nebraska, 1899, entitled, "Fees," and to repeal original section. A bill for an act entitled, "An act to prevent corrupt practices at elections," to provide a penalty for violation of this act, being chapter 29 of the session laws of the state of Nebraska of 1889. The committee on constitutional amendments recommended this morning that senate file 53, by Zeigler, a joint resolution providing for a referendum, be indefinitely postponed. The report was adopted. With a few slight amendments, this same committee recommended the passage of senate fil 38, a joint resolution proposed by Oleson, providing for a method of submitting the question of a constitutional convention to the voters next fall. The report was adopted and the resolution placed on general file.

SENATE.—Senator Reuing, represening the Twenty-fifth district, will retain his seat. The report of the majority on the privileges and elections commttee made in the senate on the 24th recommending that Reuting be unseated was tabled by a vote of 19 to 12. Six republicans voted with the thirteen fusionists. The taree bills were all curative measures, introduced by Senator Young relating the the criminal code. The committee on miscellaneous subjects reported senate file No. 40 should not be passed. The report was adopted and the bill placed on general file. The following were placed on first reading this morning: A bill for a joint resolution proposing to amend section 2 of article 6 of the constitution of the state of Nebraska, giving the governor or either branch of the legislature authority to require of the supreme court an opinion on important questions of law and on solemn occasions. A bill for an act to amend 677 of the code of civil procedure and to repeal said original section and all other acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith. Emergency clause attached. This relates to appeals in equity cases and provides for bogus bonds. A bill for an act to fix maximum rates for the transportation of certain commodities, goods and merchandise therein named; to define and prohibit discrimination by railroad and railway companies; to provide for the enforcement of its provision by the attorney general and county attorneys, to fix penalties for the violation of its provisions, to provide for a certain defense in actions brought under it, to repeal article 5 and article 8, of chapter 72, of the compiled statutes of 1885, and article 8 and article 12, of chapter 72, of the compiled statutes of 1899, and to save any right of action now existing under said articles. A bill for an act entitled an act to prevent discrimination by life insurance companies and mutual benefit associations on account of color and to prevent special contracts and discriminations between individuals. A bill for an act authorizing the settlement, compromise or dismissal of suits now pending for the recovery of moneys alleged to be due the state upon official bonds and from depository banks and their bondsmen.

SENATE—In the senate on the 23d a resolution was adopted expressing sympathy with the relatives of the late Queen Victoria and the English people and ordering the flag over the senate chamber placed at half mast for twenty-four hours. The committee on irrigation recommended placing senate file No. 51 on general file and the recommendation was adopted. It requires the owners of all irrigation ditches to cut the weeds along their property between July 15 and August 15. The committee on live stock and grazing proposed a slight amendment to senate file 62 and recommended that it be placed on general file, which was done. This is a proposed amendment to the present brand law, doing away with the commission of three and empowering the secretary of state to employ such assistance as he may need. Senator Martin, chairman of the judiciary committee recommended that senate file No. 79 be indefinitely postponed and house roll 88 be passed. The two are on the same subject, that of drawing petit juries in counties of more than 60,000 inhabitants, the latter having the advantage of being passed through one house. No. 88 was adopted and ordered to third reading. The following bills were read for the first time: A bill for an act to authorize the organization of mutual insurance companies. A bill for an act to amend sections 2 and 5, of chapter 78, of the Compiled Statutes of the state of Nebraska, entitled "Roads," and to repeal said sections 2 and 5. A bill for an act to amend sections 84 and 85, of chapter 78, of the Compiled Statutes of Nebraska, and to repeal said original sections.

The bill introduced by Senator Van Boskirk divides the districts as follows:

First—Richardson, Pawnee, Nemaha, Johnson, Otoe, Cass, Lancaster and Seward.

Second—Douglas, Washington and Dodge.

Third—Sarpy, Cuming, Stanton, Colfax, Platte, Hamilton, Polk, Butler, Saunders, Nance, Merrick, Boone, Sherman, Howard, Greeley, Valley and Wheeler.

Fourth—Gage, Saline, Jefferson, York, Fillmore, Thayer, Clay, Nuckolls, Webster, Adams and Franklin.

Fifth—Hall, Kearney, Phelps, Harlan, Gosper, Furnas, Frontier, Red Willow, Hayes, Hitchcock, Chase, Dundy, Buffalo, Dawson, Custer, Lincoln, Perkins, Keith, Logan, McPherson, Deuel, Cheyenne, Kimball, Banner and Scotts Bluff.

Sixth—Burt, Thurston, Dakota, Dixon, Wayne, Cedar, Knox, Pierce, Madison, Boyd, Antelope, Hall, Garfield, Loup, Blaine, Rock, Brown, Keya Paha, Cherry, Thomas, Hooker, Grant, Sheridan, Dawes, Sioux and Box Butte.

SENATE.—Senator Young of the committee on privileges and elections reported in the senate on the 22d that the majority report in the contest case of Bonekemper against Reuting was ready for the senate, but on objection was raised to its being presented on the ground that the minority were preparing a report and desired more time, and upon motion the matter was made a special order for Thursday. The majority recommends that the seat of Senator Reuting be declared vacant. The senate upon motion of Owens, went into a committee of the whole, with Harlan of York in the chair, for the purpose of considering bills on general file. A number of curative acts were reported, some slightly amended, and recommended for passage. A bill which related to gambling brought forth considerable discussion for the reason that the manner in which it was worded it prevented whist or any other innocent game being played about a hotel or place of public resort, but it was so amended as to relieve this condition, and was recommended for passage. A bill by Lyman of Adams authorizing townships, cities, etc., to vote a bond for railroads was indefinitely postponed by a vote of fifteen to fourteen. Bills on first reading included these: A bill for an act to authorize and enable boards of supervisors, town boards and county commissioners to purchase road-making implements, tools and machinery, to provide for payment therefor, the custody and care thereof; to provide for storing said implements and machinery and to recover damages from any person who shall injure same and declaring the breaking into such place of storage or removing said implements without authority to be a misdemeanor, and providing a penalty therefor, and to repeal all acts, or parts of acts, in conflict herewith. An act to establish substations of the Nebraska Agricultural Experiment station at or near Culbertson, Ogallala and Alliance, Neb., and fixing the control and management of the same, and repealing sections 12-18, chapter 1, Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for 1891. S. F. 144, by Van Boskirk—An act for the apportionment of and designation of congressional districts and to repeal sections 224 and 225, chapter iii, Compield Statutes of Nebraska. An act authorizing the boards of trustees of any village now incorporated, or which may hereafter be incorporated, under the laws of the state relating to villages to purchase lands, lots or grounds to be used for parks or park purposes and to issue bonds of said village to pay for the same.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

Among the new bills introduced in the house is one by Lyman of Adams, which fiixes the fes of county treasurers as follows: Money collected for each year under $6,000, 10 per cent; over $6,000 and under $10,000, 4 per cent; over $10,000, 2 per cent. The above percentage shall be allowed on all moneys collected, provided, however, that on all township collections the treasurer shall receive his regular fees. In computing percentage all sums from whatever fund derived, shall be included together, except the school fund.

Senator Martin introduced a bill which has for its object the repeal of the corrupt practices act. The senator maintains that this act is so generally violated that in his opinion it should be repealed, and for the purpose of geeting the law off the statute books as quickly as possible, an emergency clause is attached to the bill.

A bill to amend the road law was introduced by Miller of Buffalo, which provides that no highway in general use by the public may be vacated, where objections against vacating the same, signed by at least twenty residents and property owners of the county shall be filed in the office of the county clerk where a petition to vacate such highway has been filed.

A bill introduced by Cummins of Seward makes it unlawful for life insurance companies and mutual benefit associations except secret societies, to discriminate on account of the color of a person and to prevent special contracts and discrimination between individuals.

At the request of dairymen throughout the state Miller of Buffalo introduced a bill in the senate today which repeals the law naming the time when the annual meeting of the state association shall be held and amending it so that the date may be fixed by the board of directors.

Senator Weber of Greeley is the author of a bill entitled and act to define liabilities of certain corporations in certain instances, and to prohibit contracts limiting liabilities. The act provides that every railway company organized or doing business in this state shall be liable for all damages done to any employe of such company in consequence of any negligence of its agents, or by any mismanagement of its engineers or other employes to any person sustaining such damage.

A bill by Senator Weber is one to reduce the maximum rates for the transportation of certain commodities within the state of Nebraska. No railway company shall demand, charge or receive, according to the bill, a higher or greater rate than provided between points in this state. The bill provides that the rate for such commodities as wheat, flour, coal, millet, flaxseed, corn, oats, barley and other grain and mill stuffs shall be 75 per cent of the rate published by said railroad company on the first day of December, 1889, as shown by its printed tariff sheets, which is the basis used for all reductions.

Senator Johnson has introduced a bill, the object of which is to make it unnecessary for county boards to advertise for bids on contracts by building and repairing bridges, culverts, roads, etc. He would amend section 84 of chapter 78 and repeal section 85 to accomplish this end.

Young of Stanton has introduced a bill which provides that the Nebraska State Poultry association shall hold a convention annually in January at such place in the state as the board of managers may select, for the purpose of gathering statistics and diffusing practical knowledge on subjects pertaining to the poultry interests of the state by addresses, papers, discussions and such other means as the board of managers may direct.

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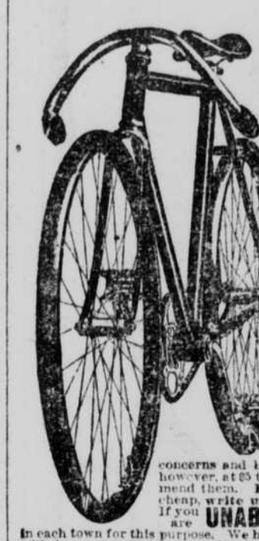

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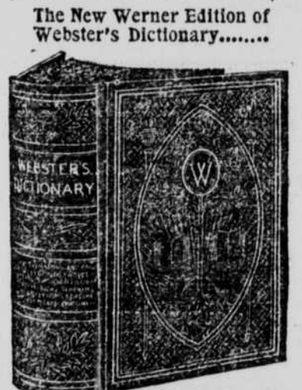

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