

HOUSE PROCEEDINGS

WORK ACCOMPLISHED BY THE LOWER BRANCH.

A Succinct Summary of the Past Week's Doings of the Nebraska House of Representatives—A Strictly Non-Partisan Review of Each Day's Session.

Tuesday, February 23.

After a lull of two or three days the house is again at work, and for the balance of the session much good work may reasonably be expected.

The senate bill requiring street railway companies to vestibule cars was recommended for passage, as were also S. F. 32, relating to roads; S. F. 13, a joint resolution referring to the manner in which constitutional amendments shall be submitted and the number of votes they require for passage; S. F. 6, allowing the judge of the district court to specify the day when jurors shall appear for duty.

By special message from Governor Holcomb was then read and referred to the committee on railroads. The message appears elsewhere.

When the house met this afternoon ninety-two members responded to roll call and the floor and gallery were crowded with spectators who had come to witness the anticipated fight over the trans-Mississippi exposition bill. The time set for the special order was 2:30 o'clock and when the hour arrived the interest manifested was great. The whole afternoon was consumed in speaking on a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill, made by Mr. Winslow of Gosper. No action of any kind was taken and the matter was laid over till Wednesday morning at 10:15 o'clock, when it will be taken up again.

At 2:30 o'clock Speaker Gaffin called Mr. Burkett of Lancaster to the chair and the clerk commenced to read the exposition bill.

Mr. Sutton of Pawnee offered an amendment providing for six directors instead of twelve to expend the appropriation.

Mr. Gaffin, when it became evident that the bill was to be considered section by section, offered his substitute bill. Before the matter was taken up in detail, however, the original bill was read in full. The committee amendments were then read.

Mr. Winslow of Gosper, populist, moved that when the committee arise it report the bill with all its amendments and substitutes back to the house with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed.

On the motion to indefinitely postpone debate was had. Messrs. Winslow, Wooster, and Jenkins spoke against the bill, while Messrs. Smith of Douglas, Pollard, Fouke, Horner, Clark of Richardson and others spoke for it.

In his lengthy argument against the bill Mr. Jenkins said that the finance, ways and means committee of the house has been intending at every possible opportunity to cut down expenses. The appropriation bill will be ready soon cutting down salaries. The members of the house now wanted to put all that had been saved into a basket and take it up to Omaha, saying: "Here is such as we have, take it."

Mr. Fouke of Gage made an eloquent speech in favor of the bill. He referred to the fact that if Nebraska did not take up the exposition some other state would do so. It would be equivalent to saying that one is ashamed of the state to say that he is opposed to the bill.

Mr. Hamilton of Butler county was against the bill. He did not see how members who had expressed themselves against the payment of the sugar bounty could advocate a tax to benefit the exposition as the principle is the same in both measures. He spoke for the farmers.

Mr. Wheeler of Furnas moved that the committee rise and sit again at 7 o'clock in the evening.

Mr. Clark of Lancaster moved to amend by making the time of meeting 10:15 o'clock Wednesday morning.

The amendment carried by a vote of 46 to 44. The committee then arose and reported progress.

A motion not to concur in the report and to meet in night session was lost by a vote of 43 to 53.

Wednesday, February 24.

When the house convened the special committee appointed to investigate the state offices reported after being given unanimous consent of the house. The report recommended the appointment of a committee of three from the house and two from the senate to make a full investigation of the state offices. A bill appropriating \$10,000 for this purpose was a part of the committee report. The report was adopted and the committee was discharged.

The house this morning continued its discussion of the exposition bill. Debate on a motion to indefinitely postpone the measure continued the greater part of the day. The motion was defeated as was another motion to reconsider the bill. There being no prospect of any other legislation receiving attention as long as this measure remained undischarged, the house decided to hold a session at night and the amount of the appropriation was fixed at \$100,000. Subsequent attempts were made to reduce the amount. Various sums, ranging from \$50,000 upward, were voted down, the house standing by its original decision to give \$100,000. Several amendments proposed by Speaker Gaffin, relating to manner of expenditure of the appropriation were adopted.

At the night session which lasted until 12:45 a. m. Thursday, the house finally agreed on a bill, and the amount was placed at \$100,000. The committee arose, the house adopted the report and adjourned to 10 a. m. Thursday.

Thursday, February 25.

After the preliminary business was over in the house this morning, Mr. Jenkins moved a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Burkett of Lancaster for his able and impartial rulings during consideration in committee of the whole of the exposition bill. It was carried unanimously. Mr. Burkett made a speech thanking the members for the courtesy.

Bills on third reading occupied the attention of the house during the entire day. Among others the following were passed:

H. R. 72, for the relief of Burt county for costs accruing in the murder trial of Robert Phillips; H. R. 211, providing that county boards may establish poor houses in counties under township organization; H. R. 242, fixing the boundary line between Dodge and Saunders counties at the center of the Platte river; H. R. 24, to prevent cattle rustling by exposure of hides of slaughtered cattle; H. R. 138, providing for change of a case in district court from one judge to another; H. R. 125, allowing county judges to hear claims against an estate while suit is pending on the probating of the will; H. R. 77, removing the provision from the present law excluding from its action girls between fifteen and eighteen years, who may be proved to have been previously unchaste.

Probably the most important measure passed during the day was Mr. Soderman's state script bill, H. R. 117. The bill failed to pass with the emergency clause. The vote on the bill without the emergency clause was 59 to 36, and it was declared passed.

Before adjournment on motion of Mr. Wiebe of Hall, Mrs. M. T. G. Mobley of Grand Island was granted permission to address the house Friday morning after roll call on matters relative to the asylum.

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Senator Ransom presented a concurrent resolution instructing the Nebraska delegation in congress to support Senator Allen's proposed law to prevent over-capitalization of companies doing an interstate carrying trade, and requiring the taking out of a license for conducting a carrying trade.

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CHEAPER RATES SOUTH

Governor Holcomb Approves an Interstate Conference—Is for Vigorous Measures.

Governor Holcomb submitted a special message to the legislature Tuesday approving a proposed interstate conference to devise ways and means of cheaper transportation rates to the seaboard on the south. The conference is to be between the states of Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and the territory of Oklahoma.

The message is as follows:

EXECUTIVE CHAMBER, LINCOLN, NEB., Feb. 23, 1897.

To the Senate and House of Representatives: Gentlemen: I beg to transmit herewith for your consideration a concurrent resolution passed by the legislature of the state of Kansas and accepted by the legislature of the territory of Oklahoma, the governor of that state, for the purpose of being presented to you. I need hardly say that I am heartily in sympathy with any movement tending to cheapen transportation rates to the seaboard, and am of the opinion that the object sought to be accomplished by a conference such as is contemplated by this resolution would be of great benefit to this state and this territory.

It would seem to me to be the exercise of ordinary business prudence for our people to take such action as would tend to divert trade to the nearest point of export and import. That we should be compelled to pay transportation charges for a distance of fifteen hundred miles to the Atlantic seaboard when equal facilities could be had at points one-half the distance is a great hardship and injustice to our people. If charges of transportation were just and equitable for the shorter distance, it would result in a decrease in the price of the products of our soil, and a decrease in the prices of articles imported for our consumption. The people of the great central west should be relieved of this burden by prompt and vigorous steps, looking towards the securing of reasonable land transportation rates to the