

SENATE SIFTINGS

Senate Chamber Proceedings Succinctly Stated.

UPPER HOUSE ACTIONS CHRONICLED

Labors of the Senators Boded Down to Digestible Size and Dished Up to Our Busy Readers Who Want to Know What is Being Done.

Tuesday, January 15.

The senate convened at 2 p. m., yesterday. A petition from the library board of Lincoln for the enactment of a law for traveling libraries and for a library commission was received and referred to the committee on libraries.

Arends of Otoe presented a resolution asking congress to pass a law for the establishment of a school of mines in each state.

Newell of Cass moved the appointment of a committee of three by the committee on revenue to confer with a like committee from the house in regard to a revenue bill. The motion was adopted and the chairman of that committee appointed Currie of Custer, Edgar of Gage and Woolstenholm.

Van Boskirk of Box Butte introduced senate file No. 101, an act providing a game and fish commission and the appointment of two deputies, each to receive \$1,000 a year, and expenses, one to live at Lincoln and the other to have charge of the state hatcheries.

Miller of Buffalo introduced a bill to repeal the oil inspection act. He introduced another bill fixing the compensation of county commissioners. The salaries are graded according to population and range from seventy five dollars to \$1,200 a year.

A bill was introduced to prevent the sale or manufacture of cigarettes. Nearly the entire afternoon was devoted to bills on second reading.

The two house rolls providing an appropriation for the salaries of the members of the legislature and the payment of legislative expenses were read a second time and on motion of Arends of the finance committee were ordered to the general file for consideration in committee of the whole. This action was taken to hurry the bills through.

Harlan of York secured the adoption of a rule governing the voting for senators in the senate today. It is similar to one adopted in the house. It provides that the voting shall begin at 11 a. m., and that each senator shall vote for two United States senators, his choice for the short term to be named first.

Wednesday, January 16.

The introduction of bills, the introduction of a resolution by the fusionists asking the supreme court a set of questions in regard to the condition of the railroad law since it had declared the board of transportation act invalid and half an hour devoted to the first ballot for United States senators, occupied the entire time of the senate. The two bills appropriating money to pay the expenses of the legislature were ready for passage when evening came, but an adjournment was taken just when the lieutenant governor announced bills on third reading.

The senate unseated Senator Hodges of Phelps county and declared that John M. Johnson, republican, of Harlan county was entitled to the place by reason of having received a majority of three votes. Hodges, fusionist, had been declared elected on the face of the returns by a majority of two votes. His seat was taken from him because of illegal votes cast. The committee on privileges and election has been at work on the case for several days and many witnesses were examined. Out of a large number of contests before the legislature, this is the only one resulting in the ousting of a member. The report of the committee was adopted by a strict party vote.

Martin of Richardson introduced a bill placing the clerk of the supreme court on a salary of \$2,500. The fees of the office are to go into a separate fund from which the clerk shall receive his salary and pay his expenses. The judges of the court are to designate the number of employees in the clerk's office and to determine the salary, no employee to receive over \$1,200 a year.

Thursday, January 17.

A precedent was set by the senate yesterday morning that interests all senatorial candidates. The body refused to receive petitions asking for the election of E. Rosewater as United States senator. Owens of Dawson presented three petitions from voters in his district asking him to vote for Mr. Rosewater. Objections were made by Harlan and Ransom and others on the ground that the petitions were not intended for the senate, but were mere private matters for Senator Owens to consider. It was stated that the right of petition could not be denied, but argument was made against the reception of private matters. Mr. Owens desired that the documents be received

The Shah as a Caricaturist.

The Shah of Persia is a great caricaturist. The walls of his private apartments are covered with plain white paper, and on these he scribbles funny pictures whenever the fancy takes him. When he grows tired of them they are washed off or the room is re-papered.

A Fossil Camel.

Among the fossil animals that have recently figured in geological literature is a fossil camel from Roumania which enjoys the distinction of being the only one so far known in Europe.

and placed on file. By a standing vote a motion of this nature was lost, only six voting in the affirmative.

The first business of the morning was the formal introduction into office of Senator John M. Johnson of Harlan who succeeds Hodges, who was ousted on account of illegal votes cast in his district. Senator Johnson took the oath of office administered by Chief Justice Norval. He took his seat behind a desk bearing a placard "Johnson of Harlan," which took the place of "Hodges of Phelps."

The two appropriation bills relating to legislative salaries and expenses, were read the third time and passed without opposition.

A resolution by Ziegler of Cedar asking the supreme court to explain the effect of its decision declaring the transportation act invalid was adopted.

Friday, January 18.

The senate met at 10:30 a. m. and for lack of a better subject of discussion indulged in a lively controversy over the form of standing committee reports. Senators Arends, Owens and Ransom took a leading part and gave their views on whether the bill should go to the general file without a motion or whether the committee reporting should recommend a bill for passage or merely to be placed on general file.

Lieutenant Governor Savage ruled that hereafter bills reported favorably would be placed on the general file without a formal motion.

Senate file No. 26, by Lyman of Adams, by request, relating to railroads and the filing of a plat of survey with the county clerk and requiring the builders of railroads to build within forty rods of such line, was recommended for immediate postponement by the committee on railroads, but on motion of Miller of Buffalo it was placed on general file.

One of the most important was senate file No. 113, by Edgar. This bill makes it obligatory upon all political parties to nominate candidates in cities of the metropolitan, first and second classes. The act provides that all political parties shall nominate candidates at one primary election, which is to be conducted after the manner of a general election. A ticket bearing the names of the proposed candidates of each party, arranged in separate columns, shall be used in the primary election, and an elector shall vote in but one column. The cost of the primary election is to be paid by the candidates. A plurality is all that is required for a nomination under this system. There is nothing in the bill to bind the electors to vote only for candidates representing their own party.

O'Neill of Lancaster introduced senate file No. 112, for the purpose of giving the young soldiers an opportunity of having their names placed in the biennial roster of soldiers and sailors which is compiled from the reports of assessors. Currie of Custer introduced an act increasing the salaries of the officers of the city of Omaha.

Saturday, January 19.

The senate made some progress in the consideration of senate file No. 44, a bill of Van Boskirk, for the protection of growers of cattle by providing for a registry of hides and the exhibition of hides. The bill was discussed and laid over for future consideration. The cattle men of the west have demanded a similar bill so far back that the memory of the oldest members cannot recall the various forms in which it has been before the legislature. Several years ago a bill for this nature passed the house and was killed in the senate. At another session one passed the senate and was lost in the house. Now it is up again with a fair prospect of passing the senate owing to the efforts Van Boskirk, Currie and Owens, three senators from the cattle region.

Among the new bills introduced was senate file No. 118, by Ransom of Douglas, to release the bondsmen of L. F. Hilton from the payment of interest which it is said was unjustly included in a judgment for \$6,000 secured on account of the shortage of Hilton as oil inspector under Governor Cromme. The supreme court has held that the interest was justly included in the judgment. The bondsmen have paid the judgment. Edgar of Gage introduced senate file No. 126, providing for a blanket ballot similar to the law that existed two years ago, with the exception that the candidate's name shall not be placed on the ballot more than once. The bill provided for voting the straight ticket by the making of one mark at the top of the column. Currie of Custer introduced senate file No. 127, fixing county attorney's salaries as follows: In counties having a population of from 3,000 to 5,000, \$500; from 5,000 to 10,000, \$650; from 10,000 to 20,000, \$800; from 20,000 to 35,000, \$1,000; 35,000 and over \$2,500.

Hybrid Fruit.

Crossings in fruit brings out some fine varieties—an improvement. Recently a new fruit was exhibited in London. The plant bearing it is a hybrid between the raspberry and the common blackberry. The taste of the fruit combines the flavor of the dewberry with that of the raspberry, and it comes into perfection as the raspberries are falling.

In Days of the Wafer.

Envelopes were unknown in this country until 1837, after Rowland Hill had introduced them in England. Letters were written, folded and addressed all on the same sheet, and stuck with a wafer or with sealing wax.

Providing for Queen Margherita.

The government of Italy will ask parliament to vote a civil list of 1,000,000 lire (\$193,000) for Queen Margherita. The king has also decided to give 1,000,000 lire of his 13,000,000 lire (\$2,500,000) of civil list to his mother.

Monstrous Idea of Justice.

Francis Parkman, the historian, had a monstrous idea of justice. A friend met him one day walking along the street, leading a street boy with either hand. "What in the world are you doing, Parkman?" asked his friend. "I found that Johnny here had eaten all of the apple, instead of dividing with his little brother. I am going to buy another for the younger boy, and make Johnny watch him while he eats it."

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HOUSE HAPPENINGS

The Work Being Done in the Hall of Representatives.

LABOR OF PAST WEEK BRIEFLY TOLD

Condensed Report of the Bills and Resolutions Introduced, Together with a Sketch of the More Important Transactions.

Tuesday, January 15.

The house was called to order yesterday afternoon promptly at 2 o'clock. Chapin Presson prayed that the members might transact business in an orderly manner and expeditiously. He prayed that the members may be guided in the excitement of the coming week and that in the selection of senator the very best choice may be made.

On second reading of bills Lane, of Lancaster, moved to advance house roll No. 88, to a third reading. Lane explained the purpose of the bill, which is to continue the service of jury drawing as it is now under the last census by reducing the population limit to 60,000 from 70,000. Should the bill fail to pass Lancaster county would be compelled to draw only twenty-four jurors, instead of having a much wider latitude as under the law before the census. The bill was advanced.

The Lancaster delegation will request the final passage of the law with the emergency clause.

The rules for voting in the house were agreed upon, simply to the effect that as each member's name is called, he shall vote for two senators, voting for the short term senator first.

The resolutions previously ordered drawn up over the death of Carl Morton were presented and passed unanimously.

An important action was taken on motion of Evans of Lincoln county that all claims to come before the legislature must be filed with the state auditor before the fortieth day of the session or they will not be considered either as an amendment or in original form after that except by unanimous consent of the house. This action was taken so that all claims might be filed early enough for deliberate action.

Wednesday, January 16.

When the house convened yesterday Loomis, of Dodge, moved the congratulations of the house for Mr. and Mrs. Herman Diers, at whose home a girl baby appeared Monday night. The motion carried and Mr. Diers thanked the house, wishing each member might experience that happiness which came to himself and the speaker. The speaker seconded the sentiment.

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The proposition to pay car fare for the house mail carrier was tabled.

Marshall of Otoe moved to reconsider the motion of Evans of Lincoln with reference to compelling filing of claims before the fortieth day of the session. The motion carried. Marshall moved to amend the motion by shortening the time for filing claims against the state to forty days from January 1, instead of making the limit by the fortieth legislative day and providing that they shall be passed to the senate by the fifty-fifth day from January 1.

The amendment carried, and the motion as amended carried.

Lane of Lancaster presented a petition from the library board of Lincoln asking for the passage of a library commission law.

On motion of Uhl of Douglas a committee of three was ordered appointed from the printing committee to investigate the furnishing of stationery to the house by Secretary of State Porter. The committee consists of Uhl, Murray and Lowe.

Beisner and Hamilton announced a pair for Wednesday and Thursday.

Taylor of Custer offered a resolution asking the supreme court for an opinion on the railroad laws of the state similar to the one in the senate.

The house adjourned till this morning at 10 o'clock.

Thursday, January 17.

Miskell of Saline, when the house convened yesterday, presented a petition from Crete asking for a library commission and for the bill for traveling libraries.

Residents of Madison county asked for the same thing.

House roll No. 71 was withdrawn by Crissey, of Johnson. The bill provides for establishing a hard fibre binding twine factory at the state penitentiary.

He introduced a bill later providing for a soft fibre factory, as the soft fibre can be raised in Nebraska.

A bill was introduced to reimburse Treasurer Meserve and Treasurer Stueffer for money expended for bonds.

After reading of bills, the chairman of committees were ordered to make public announcements of all meetings of the committees.

The printing committee was authorized to procure additional stationery for the members.

A photographer made a proposition

to take a group picture of the members.

At the afternoon session adjournment was taken until this morning as soon as the roll was called.

NATIONAL SENATE

Transactions of Upper House of Congress Succinctly Stated.

UPPER HOUSE ACTIONS CHRONICLED

Labors of the Senators Boded Down to Digestible Size and Dished Up to Our Busy Readers Who Want to Know What is Being Done.

Tuesday, January 15.

After the morning business in the senate yesterday the army reorganization bill was taken up. After some desultory discussion Mr. Bacon withdrew his amendment and offered another introducing the words "during the present exigency of the service," so that the clause would read "Provided, that the president, during the present exigency of the service, in his discretion may increase the number of the corporals in any troop of cavalry to eight and the number of privates to seventy-six."

Discussing the phrase "exigency of the service" Mr. Caffery of Louisiana said he presumed it was "the presidential idea of war in the Philippines."

Mr. Mallory of Florida, said as to exigencies it was possible an exigency might arise for the use of an army in Cuba.

Wednesday, January 16.

In the senate yesterday an effort was made to secure confirmation of the nomination of Mr. James S. Harlan, son of Justice Harlan of the United States supreme court, to be attorney-general for Porto Rico. Action was prevented by Senator Pettigrew.

Senators Foraker and Spooner united in an appeal to Mr. Pettigrew to withdraw his objections, saying that Mr. Harlan is an excellent lawyer and an accomplished gentleman, and would fill the place as acceptably as anyone who could be named.

Mr. Pettigrew responded that he had no doubt of Mr. Harlan's fitness for position for which he had been named and added that he had no personal objection to him.

"I can make no charge against the supreme court," said Mr. Pettigrew, "but I do say that the appointment of two sons of members of that court to important positions under the administration at this juncture of affairs in the supreme court is indecent, to say the least."

Thursday, January 17.

The feature of the debate on the army bill yesterday was the denunciation of the practice of hazing at the West Point military academy. Mr. Allen, Mr. Money, of Mississippi and Mr. Mcumber declared it to be an evidence of brutality and cowardice, the Mississippi senator maintaining that a cadet whom others attempted to haze would be justified in killing his assailants. He declared that if he were a cadet upon whom such cowardly brutality were attempted he would kill those who assaulted him if he had to wait a hundred years for the opportunity.

Senator Allen made a vigorous talk against hazing. Among other things he said: "Some of the regular army officers say hazing cannot be helped; that it cannot be prevented. You place one of the old volunteer officers at the head of that institution and in six weeks he will put a stop to it, or there will be some dead cadets there. This brutal outrage ought to be suppressed. Boy or man, he who will use his superior strength in humiliating or brutally treating a weaker person is a coward."

Friday, January 18.

As a demonstration in honor of the seating of a single senator, and as an elaborate and beautiful floral spectacle, the return of Hon. Matt S. Quay, of Pennsylvania, to the senate yesterday was unique in the history of the body. Within the memory of the oldest senators nothing approximating yesterday's scene ever was witnessed in the senate on a similar occasion.

A bill providing for sub-ports of entry and delivery in the Hawaiian islands was passed.

A bill fixing the compensation of district superintendents of the life-saving service at \$2,500 per annum, except in the case of the superintendent of the Eighth district, whose salary is fixed at \$1,500, was passed.

Saturday, January 19.

Just before 6 o'clock last evening the senate finally disposed of the army reorganization bill. The measure having originated in the senate the final question was not upon its passage, but upon agreeing to the senate amendments. They were agreed to by a vote of forty-three to twenty-three. While party lines were drawn on the measure four democrats voted for it. Senators Lindsay, McLauren, Morgan and Sullivan, Senator Hoar, who was detained at his home here by illness, was paired against the bill with Senator Spooner of Wisconsin.

Every effort to prevent the increase in the strength of the army was defeated by a decisive majority. As the bill originated in the senate it now will go directly to the conference committees, appointed by the two branches of the congress.

Many amendments changing the bill in minor particulars were offered, but as a rule they were rejected without division. The measure having originated in the senate, the question then was upon agreeing to the bill as amended.

January 21—Under a special order

A Negro Hospital.

Winton-Salem, N. C., is to have a negro hospital. The building is to cost \$10,000, of which sum R. J. Reynolds, a white citizen, contributed \$5,000, while the negroes of the community raised the remainder. The hospital will be operated in connection with the Slater industrial school.

Explorer Livingston's Aged Cousin.

A cousin of Dr. Livingstone, Mrs. MacQueen, who was Kate Livingstone, is alive at the age of 104 at Salon, in the Isle of Mull.

Position for Wagner's Non-ic-Law.

Herman Grimm's successor as professor of the history of art at Berlin is Prof. Heinrich Thode of Heidelberg, whose wife is Richard Wagner's daughter. The cause of Herman Grimm's retirement is bad health.

Birthplace of Conan Doyle.

It may surprise some to learn that Dr. Conan Doyle was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. His parents were of Irish descent and his father was one of four brothers, each of whom distinguished himself.

NATIONAL HOUSE

What the Lower Branch of Congress is Doing.

UPPER HOUSE ACTIONS CHRONICLED

Labors of the Senators Boded Down to Digestible Size and Dished Up to Our Busy Readers Who Want to Know What is Being Done.

Tuesday, January 15.

The house yesterday spent another day on the river and harbor bill without completing it. Twenty-six pages were disposed of. The friends of the bill successfully resisted all attempts to load down the bill with projects, and only one or two important amendments were adopted.

The senate resolution to appropriate \$7,000 to enable the secretary of the senate to pay the expenses of the inauguration of the president and vice president was called and precipitated a lively discussion because it did not recognize the house as a factor in the ceremonies.

Mr. Dalzell (Pa.), insisted that the house should be recognized.

Mr. Hepburn (Ia.), declared that the installation of the vice president was strictly a senate affair. The ceremony in the senate, he said, always had been the occasion of discourtesy to the house. He was in favor of the house confining its part strictly to the inauguration of the president with the east front. The resolution was recommitted with instructions to report back a resolution providing for inaugural ceremonies under the auspices of a joint committee of the senate and the house.

Wednesday, January 16.

The river and harbor appropriation bill was passed yesterday by the house. The bill has been under consideration over a week, and has been assailed from many quarters, but its friends have stood solidly by it and defeated every amendment to which the river and harbor committee would not agree. The bill passed practically as it came from the committee. It carries slightly less than \$60,000,000, of which \$23,000,000 is in direct appropriations.

Before proceeding with the river and harbor bill Mr. Hull, chairman of the committee on military affairs, reported back the De Armond resolution calling upon the war department for all information relative to the alleged action of General Chaffee in protesting against looting in China with the recommendation that it lie on the table.

Accompanying the report Chairman Hull submitted a letter from the secretary of war explaining the difficulty in obtaining the required information, pointing out that it could not be procured until after the expiration of the present congress.

Thursday, January 17.

Yesterday was an exceedingly dull day in the house. The entire day was spent upon the bill to revise and codify the postal laws, which is to be the continuing order, not, however to interfere with appropriation bills or conference reports undisturbed. It is a bill of 221 pages and is simply a revision of existing laws. Some disposition was manifested to inject into the measure some amendments to the present law in the interest of certain classes of mail employees, but such attempts were successfully resisted.

Friday, January 18.

The house spent the entire day yesterday on the bill to refer to the court of claims the claims of the William Cramp & Sons Shipbuilding company of Philadelphia for alleged damages due to the delay of the government in furnishing armor plate and material for the battleships Massachusetts and Indiana and the cruisers New York and Columbia. The claims aggregate \$1,367,244. The bill has been conspicuous at every session of congress for several years. It met with the strenuous and determined opposition of a portion of the minority under the leadership of Mr. McDermott, of New Jersey, and Mr. Robb, of Missouri.

January 21.—The session of the house Saturday was devoted chiefly to the postal codification bill, which was about half completed. The discussion turned mainly on the proposition to compel star route contracts to be let to persons contiguous to the route, but the proposition was defeated after extended debate.

The army reorganization bill was received from the senate, and Mr. Hull, chairman of the military committee, made an effort to send the bill to conference at once. But on objection by Mr. Richards (Tenn.) the disposition of the bill was deferred. Among the bills passed was that granting fifteen days' annual leave to employees of navy yards, arsenals, etc., and one providing for the entry of lands formerly in the Lower Brule Indian agency, South Dakota.

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Quarantined House Burned.

Recently the residence of H. L. Dosssee of Callaway, Neb., was discovered to be on fire, and although an attempt was made to save the property, nothing could be done on account of the high wind, and the entire building was consumed in less than a half hour. The inmates were quarantined with what was pronounced smallpox, but all escaped without injury. A portion of the furniture was saved, but almost everything the family had was burned. There was no insurance.

Joseph Koza broke out of jail at Stanton, Neb., made his escape undetected and is still at large. He is the same person who waived preliminary examination and pleaded guilty to the charge of burglary before the county court a few days ago. He had been committed to jail in default of bail.

Christian Manteuffel's fourteen year old son, Emil, started out from Madison, Neb., recently to see some of the country on his own hook, without telling his parents of the determination. The father is doing his best to locate his runaway.

Tramp Nuisance on Railways.

The tramp question in the United States has been a most serious one ever since the introduction of railroads. It is estimated that no less than 10,000 are carried nightly on trains and that 10,000 more are waiting to steal a ride at the same time. One of the eastern roads has taken a firm stand in the matter and has equipped a special police force for the purpose of preventing trespassing.

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