

Commissioners Urge Passage of Larkin Measure

Huge Profit of Sheriff in Feeding Prisoners Is Explained to Committee—Endres Charges Politics.

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Charles L. Unitt, Douglas county commissioner, pleaded tonight with the senate committee on fees and salaries to return to the county board power to fix salaries of all county officers, excepting elective, and also restore to the board the right to enter into a contract with the sheriff for feeding county prisoners.

"In the last 10 years, taxes in Douglas county have jumped more than \$20,000 through increases over which the county board had absolutely no control," Unitt said.

"Take, for instance, feeding of Douglas county prisoners. The sheriff must make from \$10,000 to \$15,000 a year from this source and the taxpayers pay the bill.

"The legislature has fixed an arbitrary price of 50 cents a day for feeding county prisoners, and yet the board is cursed roundly every day for high taxes.

"The legislature, under present laws, also fixes the salary of nearly every minor official in the county. Every year these officials get on the good side of a member of the legislature from our county and get a salary boost.

"I think the board of Douglas county commissioners, held responsible by the people of Douglas county for tax levies, should be placed in a position to handle such matters."

"The Unitt arrangement of existing laws occurred during debate before the committee on the Larkin bill, which places purchasing of prisoners' food in the hands of the county purchasing agent. Other members of the board of county commissioners before the committee in behalf of the bill, included C. H. Kubat, John Briggs and Henry McDonald.

Cost Is 30 Cents. Mr. Unitt read figures showing that at the Douglas county hospital inmates are fed for approximately 30 cents a day.

"In addition, we employ our cooks, our waitresses and all of our help," Unitt said, "while the sheriff uses trustees to a great extent.

"Isn't it a fact you have a large acreage at the County hospital upon which you produce vegetables?" Sheriff Mike Endres asked.

"We don't produce a thing on the acreage," Commissioner McDonald said, "and you know that, Mr. Endres. We haven't even a cow on it for our own use. Nearly the entire tract is leased for a golf course.

"Another thing, the sheriff usually has dozens of state and federal prisoners in the jail. He gets 75 cents a day for feeding them and that means thousands additional in his pocket annually."

Endres Objects. Sheriff Endres asserted if the power of feeding prisoners were taken from him it would break discipline and cause dissension. He charged politics was behind the move.

Representative George S. Collins presented a resolution of the West Side Improvement club protesting against the Larkin bill.

"How many members in that club?" Larkin asked.

"I don't know," Collins replied.

"Well, I do. I am a member myself," Larkin asserted. "It has about 15 members."

"Isn't it a fact, Sheriff Endres, that after this session you plan to make Representative Collins a deputy?" Larkin asked.

"I haven't considered it, as yet," Endres replied.

"I just want this committee to know Mr. Collins' interest in this matter," Larkin said.

Suggests Old Plan. Commissioner Unitt said that the Endres objection to a county purchasing agent interfering in feeding prisoners might be overcome by amending the bill so the county commissioners and sheriff could enter into a contract each year in which a price is fixed.

"We used to do that until the state took the power from us," Unitt said. "The last year such a contract existed was 1913 and we fed them for \$8,000. The next year the state regulated us and it cost \$20,000. In 1922, feeding of prisoners cost \$24,000, not including thousands received by the sheriff from the state and federal government for their inmates in the county jail."

The committee took the bill under advisement. Senator Cooper is the only member of the committee from Omaha. The others are Senators Wiltse, chairman; Gumb, Reed, Wilkins, Reiferath.

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House Rolls

H. R. 454, Book—Providing for charters for commercial banks in cities of 500 or more, with capital exceeding \$100,000.

H. R. 455, Book—Providing for vesting powers of department of public works in the governor and empowering him to suspend during investigation any employee or officer of the department.

H. R. 456, Book—Requiring that 20 persons and 20 shareholders of a corporation be present at a meeting of the board of directors and raising amount of stock which may be owned by individuals from 5 to 25 per cent of the total amount of co-operative organizations where there are 25 shareholders and where it is solvent.

H. R. 457, Book—Requiring all roads to furnish cars for grain, livestock, merchandise to shippers without discrimination.

H. R. 458, Book—Establishing a uniform trademark to be used on all manufactured products in Nebraska and requiring certain standards for use of such trademark.

H. R. 459, Strehlow—Repeals the entire compiled statutes of 1921, with a view to later re-enactment, amendment and substitution of new matter for various parts. Refers especially to civil administrative code by section numbers.

H. R. 460, Strehlow—Constitutional amendment for redistribution of executive powers of the state government. Governor to be chief executive officer and chairman of any state executive council created by the legislature.

H. R. 461, Timme—Calling special election for voters in certain counties to appoint and Douglas counties, retail binding of approved by voters, each county.

H. R. 462, O'Malley—Providing for supervision and regulation of motor transportation and regulation of motor transportation by state highway commission; prescribes fees, licenses and enforcement provisions.

H. R. 463, Lamb—Restricting life insurance agents to agreeing only to those provisions of the policy which are plainly specified in the policy.

H. R. 464, Reese—Permits owner of lake upon his own land to keep, propagate and sell game and fish therein.

H. R. 465, Reese—Prohibits trapping of fur-bearing animals upon cultivated land without the consent of the owner of the land.

H. R. 466, Lamb—Provides that laws relating to the issue of stocks, bonds and notes common carriers shall not apply when such issues are under the control of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

H. R. 467, Morgan—Wiping out the state reformatory at York.

H. R. 468, George B. Collins—Requires surety on bonds civil action to qualify for twice the amount of said bond.

H. R. 469, Timme—Providing that county treasurer shall handle license fees from employment agencies.

H. R. 470, Smith—Making numerous amendments relating to street franchises and elections to gain consent for use of additional streets.

H. R. 471, George B. Collins—Authorizing metropolitan utilities district to operate a public market.

H. R. 472, Winget—Strikes out from election law provision relating to foreign born voters to make it conform to the constitution.

H. R. 473, Dyball—Making it unlawful to commence or permitting to be concealed mortgaged property.

H. R. 474, Smith—Permits street railways to supplement service by use of motor buses and amends general laws relating to railways.

H. R. 475, Dyball—Provides that suit on bond of contractor on public works shall be brought within six months after work is completed.

H. R. 476, Barbour—Related to bonded indebtedness of consolidated school districts when dissolution ordered.

H. R. 477, Baughman—Prohibits adding freight charges to cost of goods when such goods have not been shipped by freight.

H. R. 478, Barbour—Validates organization of irrigation districts.

H. R. 479, Mitchell—Provides for appeal by any taxpayer from allowance of any claim against the county.

H. R. 480, Mitchell—Provides for claims against counties held up in court to draw 7 per cent interest pending settlement of suit.

H. R. 481, Winget—Allows owners of motor vehicles to pay a license for the year in which they own cars.

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H. R. 506, Wilson of Lancaster—Makes two years high school training and 1,000 hours in school of optometry necessary requirements for practice of optometry after 1925 requirements raised to four years high school and 1,500 hours.

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Senate Deluged by Flood of Bills on Closing Day

Over 100 Measures Thrown in Hopper and Adjournment Is Taken to Complete Final Cries.

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—The closing day for the introduction of bills in the senate brought another deluge similar to the flood in the house yesterday.

Over 100 proposals were thrown into the senate hopper at the afternoon session, and when word came out that the senate took a short recess until 5:30 to permit the introduction of the remaining bills.

Haastings introduced a bill which greatly enlarges the state's authority to inquire into the status of children in the home. The bill gives the board of control jurisdiction over delinquent dependents, neglected and defective children and creates a clinical psychologist to inquire into their status.

Good and Gumb introduced a bill legalizing a Nebraska dairy council to promote the dairy industry in this state.

Rickard and Meacham are sponsoring a measure which amends the 2-cent passenger fare law and makes it 3 cents. Good introduced a bill specifying sanitary conditions for bakeries and Cooper introduced a measure

Library Letter False, Governor Bryan Says

House Fails to Decide High School Tuition

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—The lower house spent two hours endeavoring to decide whether city school boards were charging country pupils in high schools too much tuition. At the end of that time, the members decided to study the problem for 10 days and then resume the debate.

The row broke out when the Kemper bill, calling for a reduction in tuition from \$3 to \$2 per week per pupil, appeared on the calendar. Friends of city school boards declared they were barely breaking even, if not losing money, under the tuition as it stands today.

Farmer members asserted that unnecessary frills and fads practiced in city high schools could be eliminated and thus warrant the reduction. Finally the farmers offered to amend the bill so the tuition would be \$2.50 a week. But the city folks stood pat for \$3 a week.

Error in Reporting Vote. Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Through error it was printed in The Omaha Bee that a motion to send a committee from the house and senate to inspect state institutions was lost by one vote in the lower house. Instead, the motion carried by one vote.

Butler and Bryan Are Asked to Prove Charges

House Demands Bryan Prove His Statement

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—The lower house adopted the Jacoby resolution. This resolution instructs Dan Butler, Omaha city commissioner, and Governor Bryan, former Lincoln city commissioner, to place at the disposal of the attorney general all information available to substantiate a charge that coal dealers in the two big cities are in a combination. Jacoby declared in support of his resolution that coal dealers were endeavoring to get lists of municipal coal yard customers for the purpose of harassing them. The resolution calls on the attorney general to prosecute the dealers if he finds anything in the report of the two officers to warrant such proceeding.

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Governor Bryan produced a letter written on state stationery by an employee of the Nebraska Public Library commission calling on all public librarians in the state to use their influence with legislators to overcome that part of the governor's budget recommendations urging consolidation of the commission with the university library.

"One part of the letter is absolutely false," the governor said. "It says I plan to abolish the commission when, in fact, I merely recommended to consolidate it."

"I believe using state stationery and stamps to fight an attempt of the taxpayers to reduce their taxes is absolutely unfair."

A copy of the letter shown to newspaper men by the governor contained the names of Malcolm G. Wyer, Chancellor Samuel Avery, State Superintendent John M. Matzen, H. C. Lindsay, clerk supreme court, and Mrs. Charles H. Dietrich, Hastings, as members of the commission.

Normal Board Meeting Is Postponed for Week

Urges Rent Commission

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—The first meeting of the year of the state normal board, including the new members, will be postponed from next Monday until February 12 or 13. State Superintendent John M. Matzen announced Thursday. Dan Morris of Kearney, one of the members, is ill. It is probable that the appointment of a new president for the Perun normal will be considered at the next meeting.

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—(Special.)—Representative A. W. Elsasser of Omaha calls for creation of an industrial commission vested with power to fix rentals in Omaha, in a bill introduced on the lower house last night.

The bill gives a dissatisfied tenant or landlord, on whom the commission may set a rental rate, power to appeal to the courts. But, during the



Mr. Henry A. Thompson, after thirty-seven years association with Thompson, Belden & Co., decided to retire. Charles C. Belden and C. R. Belden have purchased the common stock of Mr. Henry A. Thompson and Mr. Harold A. Thompson.

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