

# Politics Stumbling Block to Solving Code Problem

## Proposal of Speaker Mathers Has Appeal to Desire for Reduction in Taxes—Bryan Issues 5,000-Word Statement Frankly Opposing Plan Because He Would Be Shorn of Power to Pass Out Plums.

By PAUL GREER, Staff Correspondent The Omaha Bee.

Lincoln, March 16.—(Special).—If politics could be laid aside, the controversy over reshaping the government of Nebraska would now come to a sudden end. The proposal of Speaker A. N. Mathers for transferring the duties now performed by the six code departments to four of the duly elected constitutional officers has a practical ring that appeals to the universal desire for a cut in taxes. On the score of economy, it should be acceptable to legislators of all parties. The consolidation proposed would cut off \$30,000 in salaries for heads of departments at a single clip. Their work would be handled by the state auditor, state treasurer, commissioner of public lands and buildings and secretary of state without any addition to their present pay. Under the Bryan code plan, which establishes nine departments, the salaries of the men in charge would aggregate \$27,500.

### Plan Is Compromise.

The Mathers plan, which arose as a compromise in what threatened to become a deadlock, would accomplish various other savings all along the line. It follows the general details of the tripartite bills. Instead of abolishing the departments of agriculture and public affairs, as Bryan's code would do, the Mathers compromise combines these with the labor department and puts all three under the secretary of state. This would bring all the inspection bureaus into a single group, eliminating the possibility of duplication of effort. The fire inspection office would also be transferred here, and it would be possible for a single inspector to examine several different sorts of things.

This all might be very well, except for politics. Yesterday Governor Bryan issued a 5,000 word statement denouncing the Mathers plan. He pointed out quite frankly that if it went through he would not have the power to make all the appointments. Instead, the four men heading the departments would hire their own assistants. He said that all the republicans are thinking of is the patronage.

It is at this point that political opposition to the Mathers bill will be keenest. The governor has been besieged ever since the day he entered office by hundreds of men and women who voted the democratic ticket and who feel that they are entitled to a state job. To his credit, let it be said, that he has not made many changes in personnel thus far, although he is admittedly waiting until the changes in the organization of the departments are made. But, the pressure of office seekers is becoming more than he can bear.

If the Bryan code plan should be adopted, the governor would be able to satisfy many of these deserving democrats. It is so drawn as to give him sole authority to hire or fire all the employees of the new bureaus he would establish. If the Mathers com-

promised my constituents I would fight for this," Representative Henry Bock, democrat, told members of the house today. He added that since coming to Lincoln he had decided to support the governor's new code plan. When Representative Strehlow asked him if the governor hadn't promised before election to put code activities under constitutional officers, Mr. Bock sat down without replying. "Two years ago, the democrats demanded this very plan which Speaker Mathers has proposed," said Rep. J. C. Gilmore of Hastings. "It was also demanded by a goodly number of republicans. You can put me down for it." Representative Kendall spoke in the same vein.

### Defend Bryan Code.

Theodore Osterman, the democratic house leader, defended the Bryan code and claimed that the Mathers plan is the same as that urged by ex-Representative Byram, when he ran for the republican nomination for governor. Others pointed out that by combining the departments of public welfare, agriculture and labor, the Mathers plan differed quite largely. If any changes in the state government are made by this legislature, it will have to come through the operation of republicans and democrats. At the present moment, the situation favors the adoption of the Mathers bill. Fifty-one votes are required to send any measure to the governor. There are 57 republicans in the house. However, if the governor should veto the measure, 60 votes would be required to pass it over his head. This means that some democratic support may be necessary.

### Prairie Schooner Pioneer Dies in Home at Sioux City

Sioux City, Ia., March 16.—(Special).—J. S. Horton, 87, a resident of Woodbury county for 63 years, died Thursday night. He was a member of the Woodbury county board of supervisors from 1860 to 1892. He had served in the state legislature. He came to Sioux City in a prairie schooner.

### Bank Secretary Very Ill.

Chris M. Gruenther, secretary of the federal land bank, still lies in a critical condition at his home, 1904 North Thirty-sixth street. Reports are that he was very restless last night.

### Damages Fixed for Lands Dam Waters May Overflow

Beatrice, Neb., March 16.—(Special).—After deliberating nine hours, the jury in the case of the Beatrice Power company against William T. Day et al., in which the value of lands near the recently completed Barnston dam were adjusted, found that the lands which might be damaged from overflow of the river would amount to sums ranging from \$25 up to about \$5,000. About 20 farms are subject to damage from overflow water because of the construction of the dam.

### Dr. Charles Barnes Desires to Announce His Return from the Abrams Clinic, Where He Has Perfected His Technique in Electronic Diagnosis and Treatment as Authorized by Dr. Albert Abrams.

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### Fleeced Folks Now Seek Arrest of Clairvoyant

Beatrice, Neb., March 16.—(Special Telegram).—Complaint was filed by

the county attorney against "Prof." Anderson, clairvoyant, who is alleged to have fleeced three Beatrice citizens out of \$2,000 during his recent stay in the city. J. E. Cronm, retired farmer, who says he lost \$800, is the complaining witness. Anderson opened up a nice suite of rooms when he came to Beatrice a few weeks ago and did a

### Maternity Act Accepted

Lincoln, March 16.—By a vote of 22 to 3 the Nebraska house yesterday adopted the bill accepting the provisions of the Sheppard-Towner maternity act of congress.



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