

THE LEGISLATURE

Doings of the Nebraska Solons—Railroad Lobby Beginning to Crack Its Whip H. R. 330 Killed

When the legislature adjourned last Friday the 34th legislative day was finished. Tomorrow will complete the 39th day. So far substantially nothing has been done, aside from the introduction of bills, most of minor importance, and the killing of House Roll 330—the measure for equitable taxation in cities. The revenue bill, of course, is the one measure of prime importance, and its passage in its present form will mean much heavier taxes for the farmers and small business men and relatively, if not absolutely, lighter taxes for the railroads and other corporations big enough to afford brass-collared legislators and lobbyists to lead them.

HOW THEY DID IT.

Fifty-one republicans and two fusionists in the house Tuesday were compelled to admit that they are wearing the railroad collar. This is how it came about. The house had under consideration the standing committee's reports on House Roll 330—a majority report signed by five republicans recommending indefinite postponement, and a minority report signed by four (including one fusionist) recommending that the bill be placed on general file. Speaker Mockett held that the majority report was the only one pending. Ten Eyck of Douglas moved that the report be not adopted and that the bill be placed on general file. Douglas of Rock, the railroad republican leader, opposed the motion and persisted in going into the merits of the bill. Ten Eyck thought this should be done in committee of the whole. Kennedy (fusionist) of Douglas and Loomis (fusionist) of Dodge believed so, too. Finally a roll call was had, and every railroad republican answered "no" as his name was called. Memminger and Shinstock were absent, but aside from them every fusionist voted "aye," except Mikesell of Dixon and Shipley of Hitchcock. The vote stood 38 to 53, shoving perhaps somewhat less than the real railroad strength if it came to a pinch.

THE FIRST LINE-UP.

The following is the detailed vote on H. R. 330, fusionists in capitals, republicans in lower case: For equitable taxation: Aye—ANDERSON of Kearney, BECHER, DOBRY, EGGENBURGER, FELLERS, Friedrich, FRIES, Gilbert, GISHWILLER, Gregg, HOY, Jahnel, JOHNSON, Jones of Otoe, KAVEN, KENNEDY, KITTELL, Koetter, LOOMIS, McAllister, McCULLOCH, Mangold, Morsman, Nelson of Douglas, Ramsey, Riggs, Sadler, Sears, Spurlock, STARTZER, Sweezy, Ten Eyck, THORPE, TOOLEY, TRASK, VLASK, WARING. For railroad tax-shirking: No—Anderson of Hamilton, Anderson of Knox, Atwood, Bacon, Bartoo, Belden, Burgess, Caldwell, Cassel, Christy, Coats, Copey, Cravens, Cropsey, Cunningham, Currie, Davis, Delesdernier, Detrick, Douglas, Ferrar, Fisher, Ford, Good, Hanna, Harmon, Herron, Hogrefe, Holliet, Hunter, Jones of Richardson, Jouvenat, Junkin, Kerns, Knox, McClay, McClain, Mendenhall, Meredith, MIKESSELL, Nelson of Pierce, Reed, Ribble, Robbins, Roberts, Rouse, SHIPLEY, Smith, Spier, Stetson, Warner, Weiborg, Wilson, Mr. Speaker.

Thus was the question of equitable railroad taxation for municipal purposes neatly strangled without permitting discussion on the merits of the bill. Douglas of Rock handled the railroad lash with the dexterity of a master, although, to tell the fact, the opposition to him was feeble to say the least. Sears and Sweezy had gumption enough to favor the motion, thus putting off the evil day when they would be compelled to obey the railroad summons; but most of the republican members stolidly voted as they were told, making no comment.

The amount of fog which has been raised over this question of local assessment for municipal purposes is simply wonderful. And the Douglas county contingent has been handicapped in combatting the railroad sophistries (even assuming every member to be earnestly in favor of the principle—which is very doubtful) because the question has not been presented in an open, frank manner. Leaving off the second section of House Roll 171, the measure was absolutely flawless standing alone. But laws do not stand like lone trees on a boundless prairie. The school levy for the metropolitan school district of Omaha is made on the CITY valuation—not upon the county valuation. Accordingly, with House Roll 171 a law,

there would be double taxation for SCHOOL purposes—but not for city purposes. But the railroads seemingly did not care to have this known, because it would clinch the argument as concerning CITY taxes—and they made a dishonest fight. The partisans of House Roll 171 must have known about the double taxation for SCHOOL purposes, but they said nothing about it; and quietly dropped 171 and introduced 330, extending the principle to all cities and towns having a separate taxing jurisdiction, and attempting to remedy the school district provision by inserting the very thing they fought so hard in the law as it now stands. House Roll 330 would have been just as unfair to the other taxpayers of the Omaha school district, with regard to school taxes, as the present law is with regard to both city and school taxes in that city. The proper remedy was to have amended the school law so that the Omaha school taxes should be levied on the COUNTY valuation.

However, it was a step in the direction of equitable taxation, even if not as good as it might have been made, and every fusionist and republican who voted for it deserves credit. It has shown that the majority of the republican members are absolutely under railroad domination—something that is no news to The Independent, but hard to make the average mullet head believe.

Mikesell and Shipley may have what they believe the best reasons for their vote on H. R. 330, but it will be difficult to convince many people that they are any less subservient to the railroads than were the 51 republicans with whom they lined up. Refusing even to allow discussion in committee of the whole is rather a high-handed way of killing a bill that purports to rectify as rank an injustice as now exists in the case of Omaha, South Omaha and Lincoln city taxation.

THE "STAR" JOKER.

The Lincoln Daily Star reporter, who "does" the house, unconsciously got off a good joke Tuesday in his report of the slaughter of House Roll 330. He said:

"Mr. Douglas again objected to the consideration of the bill, thinking that it had been discussed enough. He was sure that the people understood the principal involved, and he was tired of having the matter dinged into the ears of the house all the time." Of course the people understand the "principal involved"—Mr. John N. Baldwin of Iowa. They understand him thoroughly. And they understand the 51 republicans and two fusionists who followed Mr. Douglas' leadership in helping this "principal" out of a hole by killing H. R. 330.

The Bee professes to believe that there is no difference between the parties on the question of equitable taxation; thus it is simply a question of railroad and anti-monopoly legislators. Well, how can we judge a party except by the action of the majority of its representatives? Let us look at the vote of H. R. 330:

For equitable taxation: Republicans18 Fusionists20 For railroad domination: Republicans51 Fusionists2

The fusionists stood ten to one for equitable taxation. The republicans stood nearly three to one against. Sixty-eight per cent of the entire republican membership of the house brazenly wore the railroad collar; 24 per cent refused to do so; and 8 per cent did not vote. More than two-thirds of the party representatives standing one way is enough to show the party leaning.

On the other hand only one-twelfth of the fusionists fell by the wayside; one-twelfth did not vote; and five-sixths of them showed their colors.

The Revenue Bill

Although 2,000 copies of this bill were said to have been printed, The Independent was unable to procure one Tuesday, and, therefore, cannot discuss in detail the objectionable features.

In a general way the bill aims at raising greater revenues—by making the farmer and small property holder pay more taxes, but allowing the railroads to continue their tax-shirking, both as to state, county and school district taxes; and as to city taxes. This is wholly in harmony with the republican platform of last year, when given a fair interpretation in the light of the surrounding circumstances.

A majority of the farmers and small property owners said by their votes they wanted just such a measure. They ought to have it. But fusion members of the legislature cannot af-

ford to sit passive and allow the bill to become a law, without an attempt to amend it by offering a substitute bill which contains the essential features outlined in the Grand Island platforms.

No elaborate substitute bill is necessary. A few important amendments to the present revenue law are sufficient. At a cost of many thousand dollars—probably into the hundred thousand mark—many of the sections of the present law have been interpreted by our supreme court, and an entirely new law will mean years of lawsuits and great expense to reach the status of the existing statute on revenue.

The prime necessities are (a) amendment of section 75 by making it possible for the state board to levy a dollar of state tax for every dollar appropriated by the legislature. That will raise more revenues—and the railroads will come in for part of the increase, unless Baldwin's board should cut down the railroad assessment this year. (b) Amendment of section 32 in harmony with the supreme court's holding in the Omaha case. (c) Amendment of sections 39 and 40 so that in arriving at the fair cash value of railroad property, the market value of the stocks and bonds shall be taken to represent the value of the tangible property and the franchise. Other amendments might be suggested, but these will cover the ground sufficiently to fulfill the promises made at Grand Island.

House Roll 375, by Belden, aims to restrict the clerk of the supreme court to his \$1,500 salary. But the legislature will not pass the bill, for the same reason that the fusion legislature of 1897 did not cut Clerk Campbell's income in hope of capturing the office.

Knox of Buffalo wants Bartley and Meserve investigated and has introduced a resolution covering the subject. Attorney General Prout has the most effective weapon to make Bartley talk—a bill of discovery. Why doesn't he try it?

For Sale and Exchange

- No. 447—480 acres in Furnas county for merchandise. No. 450—Stock of clothing, invoice \$7,000, for land. No. 463—Hardware and groceries, \$4,000; \$1,500 cash, balance land. No. 469—Huber threshing outfit complete for land. No. 477—General stock, \$7,000; small ranch. No. 484—\$10,000 stock of clothing for land. No. 486—General merchandise, \$5,500, for city residence, \$2,000 to \$3,000, balance cash. No. 492—General merchandise and building, \$5,000; small ranch, must have \$1,500 in cash. No. 510—360 acres, Harlan county, for merchandise. No. 511—160 acres in Harlan county, for livery. No. 512—Ranch equity \$3,500, even deal for merchandise. No. 505—Omaha residence for land. No. 513—Hardware, \$3,500, for land. No. 481—10 acres suburban, fine improvements; want 160 to 640 acres; pay cash difference. No. 493—General merchandise, \$3,500, at 85c. No. 507—General merchandise, \$10,000, for land. No. 515—Kansas City, Kas., property, \$15,000, for ranch. If you wish to buy, sell or trade, this is headquarters. T. M. CLINE. 1238 O st., Lincoln, Neb.

Lincoln Hide Market

The Lincoln Hide & Fur Company, 920 R street, Lincoln, Nebraska, successors to S. J. Dobson & Co., quote the following prices, f. o. b. Lincoln, until further notice: No. 1 green salted hides, per lb., 6 1/2c, No. 2, 5 1/2c; bulls and side branded, 5 1/2c; green hides 1c lb. less than salt cured, horse and mule hides, large, each, \$2.35; small, 75c-\$1.50; green sheep pelts, each 40-75c; dry pelts, 5-8c per lb.; dry flint butchered hides, per lb., 12-13c; dry fallen, weather beaten and murrain hides, per lb., 5-10c. Our classified fur list, together with little booklet telling how to trap, skin stretch and handle furs and hides to obtain the best results, will be mailed free to all upon request, also write for tags and general information any time.

A ST. PATRICK EMBLEM FOR 1903 By Mail, 15c. AM. CARD COMPANY. 1246 Q St. Lincoln, Neb.

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HELP WANTED—COPYING LETTERS at home, either sex. We pay \$15 per 1,000. Send stamp for particulars. National Supply Co., Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Notice of Special Meeting Notice is hereby given that a special meeting of the stockholders of the National Manufacturing Company, a manufacturing corporation organized under the laws of the state of Nebraska doing business at 1530 to 1534 N street in the city of Lincoln, Lancaster county, Nebraska, is called to meet at the office of said manufacturing corporation at 6 p. m. Monday, March 16th, 1903, for the purpose of electing a board of directors for the ensuing year. J. H. RING, President, C. M. RING, Secretary. Dated February 11, 1903

Doyle & Berge Attorneys at Law NOTICE OF PARTITION SALE

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned, as referees, duly appointed by the District Court of Lancaster County, Nebraska, in an action pending in said court, wherein Mary J. Canfield Taylor and Cleora Wilkinson are plaintiffs, and Henry M. Sanford, Rebecca Sanford, Alonzo D. Wilkinson and William G. Taylor are defendants, to partition the lands of the parties to said action, and on the 4th day of March, 1903, the report of said referees to the effect that said real estate could not be partitioned without great prejudice to the owners thereof, was approved, and said referees were ordered by said court to sell said lands at public sale, as upon execution, at the front door of the court house in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, for cash. The said referees, pursuant to said order of said court, and their powers as such referees, having given the bond prescribed by law, and taken the oath of their office, will on the 7th day of April, A. D. 1903, at the east front door of the court house in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, at the hour of 2 o'clock p. m. of said day, sell for cash, to the highest bidder, at public auction, the following lands, to-wit:

Lot twenty (20) in Fairbrothers' Subdivision of part of the northeast quarter (N. E. 1/4) of section twenty-four (24) township ten (10) range six (6) east of the 6th P. M., and lot four (4) in Harley's and McFarland's Subdivision of Block thirty-six (36) and part of lot thirty-five (35) in Fairview, as described in the recorded plat thereof. Said Fairview being on a part of the southeast quarter (S. E. 1/4) of section thirteen (13) township ten (10) range six (6) east of the 6th P. M.; also lot seven (7) in block five (5) in Mechanics' Addition to the City of Lincoln, all Lancaster County, Nebraska; also the southeast quarter (S. E. 1/4) of section twenty-seven (27) in township six (6) north of range twenty-five (25) west in Frontier County, Nebraska, containing 160 acres; also lot twelve (12) and the east one-half (E. 1/2) of lot eleven (11) all in block one hundred-eighty-three (183) in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska; also lot six (6) in block two hundred forty-three (243) in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska; lot "B" of Brock's Subdivision of lots thirteen (13) and fourteen (14) in block fifty-six (56) in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska. O. S. WARD, NICHOLAS RESS, CARLETON E. LOOMIS, Referees. Dated this 4th day of March 1903.

ANNOUNCEMENTS. ILLINOIS CENTRAL R. R.

MEXICO Special Tours to Mexico and to California via the Illinois Central and New Orleans, under the auspices of Raymond & Whitcomb, will leave Chicago and St. Louis February 21 and March 14. Entire trip made in special private vestibule trains of finest Pullmans with superb dining car service. Fascinating trips complete in every detail.

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HOMESEEKERS The Passenger Department of the Illinois Central Railroad Company is issuing monthly circulars concerning fruit growing, vegetable gardening, stock raising, dairying, etc., in the States of Kentucky, West Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana. Every Farmer or Homeseeker, who will forward his name and address will be mailed free Circulars Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and others as they are published from month to month, on application to J. F. Merry, A. G. P. A., I. C. R. R., Dubuque, Iowa.

Full Particulars concerning all of the above can be had of agents of the Illinois Central, or by addressing the nearest of the undersigned representatives of the "Central." A. H. HANSON, G. P. A., Chicago, Ill. J. F. MERRY, G. P. A., Dubuque, Iowa.