

yers on the judiciary committee and practically all of the lawyers of the house, are not opposed by all attorneys by any means. As a matter of fact, some of the leading men at the bar of the state have been asking for important court reforms for many years, and have always been turned down by the lawyer members of the legislature. One of the most brilliant of all the attorneys of the state, a former member of the supreme court commission, tried repeatedly to secure certain needed reforms in court procedure, and was disgusted to find that every time the judiciary committees tackled the subject they made matters worse instead of better. In sheer disgust he announced a few months ago that he would never make another attempt to secure this kind of reform in Nebraska. If the Brown bills go through against the protests of the attorneys he will no doubt feel that the general membership knows more about justice than the men who are supposed to make it a specialty.

A professor in the university of Nebraska has just declined a tender of a similar position in a state institution in a rich state toward the east. The offer was an urgent one and was baited with an increase in salary amounting to several hundred dollars a year, besides an opportunity to equip a large and costly new building with apparatus to suit himself. The professor hesitated two weeks, but sent his declination last Sunday. He wants to stay in Nebraska because he founded his department here and wants to stay with it until it is permanently established with a building of its own. When the members of the legislature learn more about these cases of loyalty to the state, they will understand why people who know the most about the university are so strong in advocating its interests. The professor who made this sacrifice refuses to allow his name to be published.

With a railroad commission to see that the rule is enforced, a law such as Senator Phillips proposes giving publicity to the names of all pass users is highly desirable. In fact, since there are numerous exceptions to any anti-pass law that is likely to be enacted, such as ministers and employes including railroad lawyers, a publicity provision is essential to the best operation of an anti-pass law. The bill introduced by Senator Phillips applies also to free transportation of freight. No harm and some good would result if it applied also to free service by all other public service corporations, express, sleeping car, telegraph and even telephone, gas and street car companies.

One part of the program of the lumber dealers' meeting in Lincoln is a discussion of why lumber is so high in price. To what extent Mr. Frederick Weyerhaeuser figures, to what extent the narrowing of supply and enlargement of demand and the price of labor, also whether any lumber trust this side of Mr. Weyerhaeuser and the railroads has a finger in it; these are points which we hope will be cleared up by a public discussion. It would be interesting to know further how soon the substitution of brick and cement may be expected to check a further rise in lumber prices. Recent advices have it that the glass bricks which were at first a failure on account of their cost are again coming into the market, this time cast hollow and accordingly much less expensive than before. These bricks are laid in a cement made of a special glass, which seals the wall hermetically, making a wall proof against damp, sound, heat and cold. With glass, stone and clay competing for wall space how much longer can lumber keep "going up?"

Two facts seemed to be established beyond dispute in the debate in the house of representatives on Monday over the wolf bounty question. Representative Armstrong showed that the present wolf bounty law is costing the state sixty dollars a day, a matter of about twenty thousand dollars a year. Representative Doran gave his word that wolves are very destructive in northwestern Nebraska, and Representative Caslin knew of a farmer who lost three cows in a single night from coyotes. The case would have been made complete out for a single lack. Nobody seems to have tried to establish a connection between the two facts, the wolf bounty and the wolf. We know that coyotes are destructive of cattle in Nebraska, as is, we know, the corn stalk disease. But is the wolf bounty destructive of coyotes any more than it is destructive of the corn stalk disease? That is the question that seems to need proof, and a question on which proof has been singularly lacking. In case the evidence shows, as seems possible, that the bounty increases instead of decreases the number of wolves, and if as Representative Cone suggests, eastern Nebraska has too much to say about appropriations, and the west should therefore have the wolf bounty if it wants it, the suggestion seems in order that the money appropriated and spent be in some way less favorable to the wolves; distributed west of the hun-

dredth meridian, say, according to child population instead of wolf population, as the temporary school fund is distributed.

POLITICAL

Members of the house of representatives at Washington appear in a better light while voting increases in their own salaries than they did a couple of weeks ago when trying to induce the senate to take the initiative in the matter. It is to the interest of the constituents of any member of congress that their member be paid a living salary. It should be possible for a poor man to serve in congress without undergoing humiliation or extraordinary temptation by reason of his poverty. Most people realize this, and it is not likely that any considerable resentment will be manifested throughout the country if the senate passes the house bill increasing congressmen's salaries from \$5,000 a year to \$7,500, and the president signs it.

Massachusetts legislators are considering the advisability of establishing a board of chiropody to regulate the practice of corn doctoring. The plan has the advantage of creating three public positions, one for a regular physician and two for chiropodists to act as an examining board to determine who shall be permitted to tamper with the ailing Massachusetts foot. It is remembered that Senator Davis of Minnesota came to an untimely death by essaying to cure his own corn; a convincing argument against allowing people to prescribe for their own or their neighbors' feet. Since the abandonment of the attempt to make barbery a learned profession in Nebraska the field for boards of examiners has not widened as it might have done. Here is a suggestion.

While the decision of the United States supreme court a short time ago, in the Cleveland traction case, was held to be a divided victory, not altogether satisfactory to either side, the effect seems to have been to place the traction interests hors de combat. They have offered to surrender, would apparently be glad enough to get their franchises renewed on a three cent fare basis, and Tom Johnson remains, after a six years' battle of injunctions and the fiercest kind of political warfare, the hero of the heap. Cleveland is apparently to have three cent fares with universal transfers, and a larger share for the city in the profits than was received when fares were five cents.

Iowa's endorsement of Senator Dolliver, the withdrawal of the charges against Senator Gamble in South Dakota and the election of Bailey in Texas clear the winter's senatorial field of all but two contests. These are in New Jersey and Rhode Island. Senator Bailey was chosen yesterday, but an election may not end his case. Senator Dryden has secured a caucus nomination in New Jersey, but with enough republican members staying out of the caucus to leave his followers in the minority. This is the real contest of the season, something like a principle being involved in the action of Colby and his followers in refusing to swallow the life insurance senator. The sham battle in Rhode Island will be kept up until such time as Senator Aldrich is ready to notify Messrs. Wetmore and Colt as to his choice between them.

Exactly what form has been given the bill governing campaign contributions just passed by the national house of representatives is not made clear by the reports. The senate last year sent over to the house a bill dealing with the subject of corporation contributions, and the passage of a bill on the subject by the house promises that some sort of law dealing with the matter will take effect before another national election. The house bill as passed forbids corporations having national charters, such as national banks, to contribute to any campaign fund whatever, local or national, and forbids any corporation whatever to contribute to funds used in the election of national officials, such as congressmen and presidential electors. If the bill in its final form provides in addition for complete publicity of all contributions from whatever source for use in national campaigns it will leave little to be desired.

The house committee has decided to go back to the original purpose of the free seed business, appropriating money only for the purchase of "rare seeds to be distributed by the department of agriculture." But the committee recommends that the original appropriation, a quarter of a million dollars, be set aside for this purpose. If this amount could be cut down to a few thousand dollars the country would be more impressed with the good faith of the committee.

Not the least important of the contests in the New York legislature arises over the effort to adopt a form of ballot in behalf of good officials

rather than in the interests of party bosses. A bill has been introduced which provides the ideal ballot, a ballot in which the names of candidates are grouped as on the Nebraska ballot, except that they go on alphabetically instead of according to party strength as here, and that, of course, there is no device for inducing voters to swallow yellow dogs and all, the chief object of the party circle. The party circle is apparently to be the main point of conflict, the last stand of the political manipulator.

Two special state tax commission reports have been made to legislatures since the beginning of the year. A California commission on revenue and taxation was created in 1905, to study means of improving this system in vogue in that state, and a like commission has just submitted to the New York legislature a report said to have been written by Professor Seligman. The conditions in the two states were markedly different, but the two reports run remarkably close together in the principles involved, and agree closely with the most generally accepted conclusions of economists who have made a special study of taxation.

The first conclusion of the California commission is that the state general property tax should be abolished. It is full of inequalities. Personal property escapes taxation largely, and the more personal property a person has the more largely it escapes. The assessed value of personal property in the state is now hardly greater than it was a generation ago. Concealable personal property is given an advantage over property less easily concealed. The general system of property tax involves inequalities between sections, between city and country, between different lines of business. The tax the farmers pay in California is equivalent to an income tax of 10 per cent, the commission declares, while the manufacturers of the state pay the equivalent of only 2 per cent on their incomes.

So far as personal property goes, the New York commission takes exactly the same ground as the California commission. The personal property tax, it declares, puts a premium on perjury, and discriminates heavily in favor of the rich. It injures investment and business, and yet yields an amount of revenue altogether disproportionate to the evil it involves. If localities, where people know each others' affairs well enough to make evasion of the personal property tax difficult, wish to continue it for local purposes, the commission would grant them the right, but it advises against making it anything more than optional.

The Californians propose as a remedy what others of the more advanced states have already done, the localizing of the property tax, leaving the state to derive its revenues from franchise taxes and others that are general in their bearing. Taxation of the railroads through a levy on their gross receipts is recommended, the proceeds to go to the state. Real estate would then be taxed only by the county or municipal organization, doing away with the possibility of sectional discriminations. The localizing of real estate is the real beneficiary of local public improvements and competent local administration, whether it be town or country property. It applies also the principle of local home rule to the direct taxation of the state. On the other hand, the commission reasons, the right to do business that is enjoyed by a corporation is a privilege granted by the state, and not by the cities and counties. Therefore, any tax that may be levied upon the revenues derived from the enjoyment and use of the state privileges used by corporations, especially public service corporations, ought to be paid into the state treasury for the support of the state government. They apply this proposition to railroad, express, street railway, light, heat and power, telegraph and telephone, banking and insurance companies.

Both of these reports were drawn by able men in search of a practicable ideal of state and local taxation. In neither state is there believed to be much chance to secure the enactment of the recommendations into law. It is one thing to conceive a system of taxation that is fair to everybody, and another thing to get it made into law by a legislative body where the influence of everybody is by no means the same.

MUST LEARN MACHINE WORK

Day of Hand Typesetting Has Ended Says Stillings.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 22.—Public Printer Stillings has issued a general order, in which he says the days of hand composition are fast coming to a close. The order was issued to call attention to the government printing office's night school of instruction on type setting machines. The school held its first session last night. The instruction will be free, but no pay will be given for the work accomplished.

STEAMER HIGH ON ROCKS

Heavy Sea Has Gone Down and Not in Immediate Danger.

HAVANA, Jan. 22.—The British steamer Arcola, which went on the rocks close to Moro castle shortly after midnight, is in no immediate danger, as the heavy sea has gone down.

Captain Wry of the Arcola declares that he twice asked the pilot just before the steamer went on the rocks whether he had seen any lights and the latter said he had not. Continuing, Captain Wry said:

"We were making the channel easily and safely when we were struck on the port side by an enormous wave, which was followed by others in quick succession. This listed the Arcola from the channel. Her helm was put hard down, but we failed to work back into the channel. Then she grated on the rocks. The engines were reversed, but that did not improve the situation. Every wave that hit the vessel drove her harder on the rocks." The Arcola is loaded with coal. She is so high and dry that the stevedores are throwing her coal ashore.

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