

ble the interests of education could be forwarded by "any combination of teachers which operates through politics." This feeling may not be justified by experience. Weighty philosophers of ancient civilizations were strongly opposed to paying teachers anything, considering that paid teaching degrades education and prostitutes teaching talent. We are only half over that notion now, for we still insist that teachers work for about half the wages paid for equal service in other lines of endeavor. Perhaps we shall in like manner get over the notion that teachers should not organize to help themselves to the other half. Whether we do will perhaps depend much on how the teachers go about it.

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **POLITICAL • ITEMS** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

An important admission is made by the Missouri railroads in their efforts to effect a compromise with the legislature on the two-cent fare bill. The roads offer to accept a two and a half cent fare, with a further reduction to two and a fourth cents on round trip tickets. They thus acknowledge that a two and a fourth cent rate would be equitable, and their willingness to concede this much indicates their doubt of being able to prove the unreasonableness of a two-cent fare.

Illinois has caught the force of the legislative reference library. Owing to the complexity of political interests and public affairs in that state, largely due to the presence of the nation's second largest city, legislation in that state has been more than ordinarily tangled. The idea of an information bureau in connection with the legislature, to serve the same purpose in state legislation as the congressional library in national matters, has spread from Wisconsin to Springfield, and a bill is under way to establish a legislative reference library there.

An effort to get through the Illinois legislature a bill submitting a constitutional amendment to modernize the state tax system, has about been given up as hopeless. It is desired to cut the state revenues loose from the general property tax, making them depend upon franchise and inheritance taxes, leaving the property tax to be applied only locally. The proposition has been beaten by the familiar cry that the change would rob the country districts by depriving them of the benefit of the tax on Chicago property. It is observed that it is not the country districts that make this complaint. In this respect the case is similar to that of the proposed terminal tax in Nebraska, where the protest is raised that the tax would rob the country for the benefit of the cities. This assertion, which is entirely without foundation, comes not from the country people, but from sources that are usually found speaking for the railroads. In the case of Illinois, the obvious answer to the argument against the change in taxation is that New York state has been on that basis for some years, with no evil results to the country districts. The cry of wolf raised by the interests that have great reason to oppose any simple, scientific system of taxation which could not be juggled as the railroads have juggled their way out of city taxes in Nebraska, is to be successful, however. This is not the first, or the second or the third time that these interests have raised the same false alarm. In the parable two false cries of wolf were sufficient to end its effectiveness. It sometimes takes more in these days.

Connecticut, oftentimes regarded as a hopelessly corrupt state politically, proposes to make a record for reform in this winter's legislature. A bill is about to be passed forbidding salaried employes of the state to employ themselves as lobbyists.

Colonel Colt's thirty-eight votes which he gets regularly in the Rhode Island senatorial balloting are a little more than a third the total. His legislative supporters represent less than one-tenth the qualified voters of Rhode Island. One vote in elections in some parts of Rhode Island thus equals in force more than three votes in other parts, and if all reports are to be credited, the price fully represents the difference. We feel quite indignant on viewing the German election returns to note that parties polling a majority of the votes get only a fourth the seats in the Reichstag. Germany is a thinly disguised despotism, anyway.

The testimony of D. R. Francis of St. Louis on behalf of his friend, Senator Bailey, is not conclusive in establishing the innocence of the eminent Texan. It goes to show that Senator Bailey assisted the Waters-Pierce Oil company in gaining admission to Texas. For this service he declined payment in cash, but did accept the courtesy of a loan. For the senator it is argued that he

did not know that this oil company was associated with the Standard Oil company, and that there was nothing improper in the assistance he gave to secure for the concern permission to do business in Texas. The difference between a cash payment for services and a loan in cash is not very great, and yet his friends argue that there is a difference. The value of the testimony offered by Mr. Francis must depend largely upon what has gone before and what will come hereafter in this remarkable case.

One by one dwindles the number of crafts whose members are not asking to be saved by statute from the full operation of the law of competition. The chiropodists of Massachusetts and the cab drivers of New York are among the new claimants for special protection, and others might be found by a careful examination of the bill files of both houses of the Nebraska legislature. In California the barbers are asking for a second trial of a license system for barbers, a first trial having failed as it did in Nebraska. The architects of California are also organized for an effort to get a law forbidding any house to be built that has not been planned or the plans approved by a licensed architect, a board of architects, self interested perforce in keeping down the number of architects, being the licensing power. Why the tailors have not proposed a law forbidding men to wear clothing unless passed upon or made by a licensed tailor we cannot imagine unless it be that the tailors lack strangely in political influence. Almost everybody is firmly attached to the principle of competition. It is the life of trade. But as to its application, we are inclined to think as did Mark Twain when asked where he considered was the best place to have a boil. He thought the best place was on some other fellow's neck.

An Iowa legislator has introduced a bill intended to outlaw the firecracker throughout the commonwealth. The father of the measure is sixty-three years old and of a nervous temperament.

Lincoln's birthday recalls an opinion recently expressed by Professor Goldwin Smith of the effects upon reconstruction of the untimely death of Lincoln. Mr. Smith was regius professor of modern history at Oxford during the civil war, and devoted himself ably during that period to combating the pro-southern sentiment voiced in Great Britain, particularly by the London Times. In the last year of the war he visited the United States partly to convey to the president at Washington assurances of English sympathy for the north. He has told, among other things, how completely his first glance at the president dispelled his idea, then prevalent in Great Britain and due largely to the president's story telling habits, that Lincoln was given to levity. Professor Smith, now a resident of Toronto, wrote a few days ago: "Never was a more fearful blunder than was the assassination of Lincoln by a southern hand. It proved the ruin of reconstruction. I cannot help thinking that Lincoln mistook the nature of the problem with which he had to deal, taking for a rebellion, as he always did, that which in fact was not a rebellion but the sudden creation of a new nationality by a rupture which was inevitable and which had been long foreseen. But the influence of his character on reconstruction would have been inestimable."

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* **LEGISLATIVE** \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

The child labor bill introduced by Representative Henry T. Clarke, Jr., of Omaha, providing for the regulation of child labor in the state of Nebraska, says no child under fourteen years of age shall be employed or permitted to work in connection with any concert hall, theater or place of amusement, or where any intoxicating liquors are sold or in any mercantile institution, store, office, hotel, laundry, manufacturing establishment, bowling alley, passenger or freight elevator, factory or workshop, or as a messenger or driver thereof during the hours when the public schools are in session.

No child between fourteen and sixteen is to be permitted to work in the places designated, excluding unconditionally any place where liquor is sold, unless employer procures and keeps on file an employment certificate signed by the parent or guardian, teacher and the principal of the school. A certificate must also be posted near the principal entrance of the building in which such children are employed. These certificates must show that the child has completed the work of the eighth grade or its equivalent, or is regularly attending a night school.

The senate and the house of representatives have been extremely courteous to one another so far, neither having turned down a bill originating

in the opposite branch. Let them be as courteous as this to the people of Nebraska by passing laws which have received the popular indorsement, and no fault will be found with the work at this session.

Representative Dodge of Douglas yesterday dictated a new primary bill which had been agreed upon in general at the meeting of the sub-committee on the previous night. The new bill will be much shorter than the original Dodge measure and will contain a number of provisions for simplification which were contained in a measure drafted by Representative E. P. Brown of Lancaster and considered by the sub-committee. It was found possible by referring to the general election laws for procedure to simplify greatly the procedure.

While the new bill has not yet even been approved by the sub-committee, it is the opinion of the members that it will go through with possibly some amendments. It will provide for the adoption of a state platform by a convention of candidates elected to state legislative, senatorial, judicial and congressional offices together with the county chairmen of the various counties. Members of the state committee will be elected at the primary but members of the county committee, congressional and judicial committees will be appointed by the candidates, the committee to select a chairman.

The committee is practically evenly divided on the question of rotating ballot and this will be put up to the joint committee. It will be provided that the high man at the primary shall receive the nomination to avoid the necessity of a double primary.

The sub-committee plans to complete its work by the end of the week.

Professor Howard of the state university, head of the department of institutional history and sociology, was one of the speakers before the senate committee on judiciary yesterday afternoon, in favor of the passage of H. R. No. 9 or S. F. No. 50, the child labor bills. Senator King of Polk resided as chairman of the committee. Many men and women, some of the latter club women of Lincoln, were present to favor the bill. A large number of members of the senate and some of the house listened to the addresses. The speech of Professor Howard made a profound impression. He reviewed the history of legislation in favor of children, beginning in 1802, in England to the last bill of the kind, one that was passed in 1903. He told of the conditions that once existed, told hairraising stories of abuse and torture, and narrated the changes that had been brought about by public sentiment and laws, some of the latter having been in force in Massachusetts, New York and Illinois for many years with marked success. Professor Howard gave the objection to the bill that had been raised by a very few Nebraska newspapers, and each point in his own forceful way. In regard to the personal statement of many men that they had labored in their childhood days; and had got along, he said the children of today need greater advantages than their parents to meet the advanced times and must have all the time possible to prepare for the battle of life that is growing fiercer. In reply to the statement that such a bill might enforce idleness and thus beget vice, he said children today can be given manual training that will keep them busy, creative work that a child likes, to keep them from idleness, but even if there is some enforced idleness it will do less harm than overwork. He admitted that there are not so many children at work in Nebraska as there is in some of the eastern states, but he argued that there never should be and the proposed bills will have a tendency to keep this condition as it exists today, that an ounce of prevention is better than a pound of cure, and that it will be easier to enforce such a law than when the state becomes filled with shops and factories. Even if there is only one child in need of protection, he believed the state should use its power to save. The economic and moral sides of child saving were discussed.

Ex-Representative Frank Currie of Dawes was in town last evening accompanied by his partner in the cattle business, Mr. Tulleys, whom Mr. Currie defeated for the house two years ago. Mr. Currie's friends were sympathizing with him on his escape from drowning near Anselmo, Custer county, Saturday in the flood waters that sometimes sweep across canons in that part of the state. "You fellows are just wasting your ammunition," said Mr. Currie. "What unfortunate being was ex-Senator F. M. Currie of Custer county. As for myself I make it a rule never to go near the water. I do not believe in dipping. Spraying is good enough for me."

The two Curries have often been mixed up in charges of fencing of government land but this is the first time they ever got into the water together. Two years ago Representative Frank Currie distinguished himself by making one speech, and for its brevity he received a vote of thanks. He had introduced a bill to make it unlawful for any one to bring stolen horses into

this state, an offense that is not now covered by the law, and one that is said to be frequent in his district near the Wyoming border line. When the bill came up for consideration in committee of the whole Mr. Currie explained the purpose of the bill and closed with this assertion:

"Gentlemen, here is a bill that no one but a horsethief will oppose."

Whether or not the men of this profession got in their work or whether it was merely the work of lawyers will never be known, but the bill did not pass both houses. Senator Hanna of Cherry has introduced the same bill and a similar one relating to the bringing of stolen cattle into the state and the offering of the same for sale, and both bills passed the senate without objection.

At a meeting of passenger representatives of the Northwestern, Burlington, Rock Island and Union Pacific railroads held in Omaha yesterday forenoon important concessions to the traveling public were agreed upon in relation to mileage books. It was decided to make the interchangeable two thousand mile book, now sold east of the river for \$50 with a rebate of \$9.50 when used and cover returned by the original purchaser, good in Nebraska and that book will be placed on sale in this state just as soon as the change can be made and the proper notice of rate reduction can be made with the interstate commerce commission. The rebate on this book is paid only when the book is entirely used within one year from the date of sale. This makes the rate two cents a mile, plus 50 cents for two thousand miles. The book is good on all roads in this state. It has been in use east of the Missouri river for some time.

It was further decided to place on sale west of the river the black book, or credential, where for three thousand miles traveled the companies make a rebate equal to one cent a mile. In this scheme the purchaser buys tickets on the credential plan, and when he has used three thousand miles he presents his credentials to the roads and gets the rebate. He pays full rates for the tickets purchased, and is out but one dollar for the book.

Discussing this move, General Passenger Agent Wakeley of the Burlington said: "The effect of this action practically wipes out the Missouri river line, the books good in Iowa being good in Nebraska. This concession has been made to the people who travel."

"The net receipts of passenger mileage in Nebraska is two cents a mile. A few years ago it was two and three-quarter cents. You see the rates have been reduced gradually. The Burlington is now operating trains on some of its branch lines that do not bring in revenues equal to more than forty cents a train mile. These trains are operated at a great loss. Yet for the purpose of development and to help the country served passenger train are run."

"We are opposing a two-cent rate law. There is no money for the Burlington in passenger traffic. It is necessary to run trains, but the profit is in the freight. The people of Nebraska should wait until the roads are able to improve their lines, build needed terminals and get in a position to handle the business of the state."

Mr. Wakeley compared the population of Nebraska with Iowa and other eastern states, and showed that Nebraska has a much less population per square mile. The Burlington road has 2,600 miles of road in the state, with nearly one thousand miles west of the central part where population is lightest. He was certain that his road cannot stand a cut to two cents on local passenger fares.

**Safe Investments.**

"Are those mining-stock certificates safe investments?"

"In a sense. They are the sort of investments that you lock up in a safe and then hope for the best."—Washington Star.

**Lucky She Didn't Hear Him.**

Marks—"Say, old man, did I ever tell you about the awful fright I got on my wedding day?"

Parke—"S-sh! No man should speak that way about his wife."—Boston Transcript.

**LITTLE AILMENTS**

of the Stomach, Liver, Kidneys or Bowels, if neglected, will soon develop into ones of a more serious nature. Therefore we urge every man or woman thus afflicted to resort to

**HOSTETTER'S STOMACH BITTERS**

at the first sign of any derangement. It restores the appetite, induces sound sleep, steadies the nerves and cures Flatulency, Heartburn, Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Costiveness, Chills, Colds or Grippe.