

NEBRASKA

A good deal of scarlet fever prevails in Fairbury, and one fatality is reported.

A potato famine struck Beatrice the other day and not a peck of the article could be purchased anywhere.

Lehman C. Peters, of Beatrice, a sergeant in company C at Manila, has been appointed war correspondent by the Chicago Record, his first contribution appearing a few days ago.

Mrs. G. W. Townsend of Franklin met with a serious accident. She slipped and fell on the ice, breaking her hip and hurting herself internally. Her injuries are believed to be fatal.

There are nearly 1,300 men in the First Nebraska regiment and it is stated on good authority that there is only one man in the regiment who is unable to read and write. This is another feather to be added to Nebraska's cap.

At Fremont, after being out fifty-eight hours, the jury in the \$10,000 damage case of Frank Fuhrdort versus Herman Blumenthal, failed to reach an agreement. A new trial will be necessary. The vote stood 11 to 1 in favor of the plaintiff.

Fire destroyed a small cottage in Kearney, and its only occupant, an old man named Eck, was suffocated and burned. When the firemen broke in the door they found the old man lying on the floor in an unconscious condition, from which he did not recover.

Farmers of this section of the state, says a Beatrice dispatch, are greatly alarmed over the condition which the wheat is believed to be in. For several days discouraging reports have been brought in and it has led to a thorough investigation that appears discouraging.

Uncle Henry Harmon, of Nemaha county, now 76 years of age, was obliged to submit to amputation of one of his legs. He had been suffering with a corn on one of his toes that developed into dry gangrene and in hopes to arrest the disease amputation was effected between the knee and ankle. His chances for recovery are not good.

Thomas Dunn, whose home is at Appleton, Wis., while leaving his room at the Commercial hotel in Curtis, to take the early train for his home, fell down the stairs, breaking his collar bone, three ribs and frightfully disfiguring his face. He died a short time thereafter. He was eighty-four years of age and came to Curtis to visit his son and invest in real estate.

Large, well-formed horses without a blemish are in good demand around Sutton, and farmers have no difficulty in disposing of all the extra animals on the place. Horses weighing not less than 1,200 pounds are most sought after and many of them have found their way to market. All animals of this description are bringing a much better price than has been paid for them in recent years.

Just now Burt county farm lands seem to be in great demand, especially farms around and near Lyons. In the last two weeks there has not been a day when there has not been from one to four men in Lyons for the purpose of purchasing farms. Farms that have been offered for sale heretofore at \$25, \$30 and \$40 per acre are now being sought for and purchased as readily as their owners offer them for sale.

The latest scheme to swindle farmers in this section, says a Wynmore dispatch, is the collection of a "war tax" from the most ignorant class of agriculturists. Well-dressed and smooth-talking swindlers have been traveling through this and adjoining counties working this scheme and from recent reports they seem to have been quite successful, having held up a large number of farmers for amounts ranging from \$4 to \$10 each.

When Frank Blue, of Blattsouth, returned home the other evening from work he was quite disappointed to find the house vacated. On the table he found a note informing him that their boy (8 years of age) was at one of the neighbors. From the boy he learned that his little sister, 5 years of age, had been sent to her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. George Hunt, in Weeping Water, but he did not know where his mother had gone.

Master Henry Struve, of Dodge county, a little boy of three years, was the victim of a "didn't know it was loaded" case. The family of Peter Struve lives a mile east of Hooper. Preparations were being made to move and while the furniture was being loaded the children were left alone in the house. An old musket, which had been around the house for some time, had been left on a chair. Anna, aged thirteen, threw it to the floor, when it was accidentally discharged, killing Master Henry instantly.

For the last ten days the finest weather has prevailed in this section, says a Sidney dispatch. Stock of all kinds is looking well and not a half per cent of loss occurred throughout the entire country. The new feed yards in contemplation by the Union Pacific railroad are assured and operations will be begun within the next sixty days. That point will be the dividing line between the great west and Omaha and thousands of cattle and sheep will be benefited by the immense pasturage afforded as to grazing lands and plentiful spring water, which abounds in great quantities.

The Pawnee city schools have a library now of 1,300 volumes. It is probable that no other school in the state can make as good a showing, everything taken into consideration. Frank Mooney, city marshal of Crawford, was shot and is in a critical condition at this writing, lingering between life and death. Louis Grossman, an honorably discharged trumpeter in company C, First United States cavalry at Fort Robinson, which is situated three miles from Crawford, is incarcerated in the county jail, and in case of Mooney's death the charge of murder will be preferred against him.

The Week in The Legislature.

Senate.

The senate was called to order on the 27th by President Talbot at 11 o'clock.

S. F. 122, to fix the fees to be charged by county surveyors and also that all fees over \$2,000 in Douglas county and \$1,500 in Lancaster county be turned into the treasury, was passed.

S. F. 87, allowing mutual hail insurance companies to insure crops at all stages, whether growing or matured, against hail, was passed.

S. F. 37, a curative act, was passed. S. F. 22, the bill to elect county commissioners by a vote of the entire county where the population exceeds 70,000, which was recommitted to correct some numerical errors, was again recommended to pass.

S. F. 39, the bill introduced by Giffert of Cuming, enacting a new law to regulate the business and formation of insurance companies working on the "stipulated premium" plan, was the first measure considered, two being passed because the introducers were absent.

The bill defines the "stipulated premium" plan as follows:

Definition of Stipulated Premium company. Any corporation, company or association issuing policies or certificates promising money or other benefits to a member or policy holder, or upon his decease to his legal representatives or to beneficiaries designated by him which money or benefit is derived wholly from stipulated premiums collected in advance from its members or policy holders, and from interest and other accumulations and wherein the money or other benefits so realized is applied to or accumulated solely for the use and purpose of the corporation as herein specified, and for the necessary expenses of the corporation and the prosecution and defense of its business, and shall comply with all the provisions of this act, shall be deemed to be engaged in the business of life insurance upon the stipulated premium plan and shall be subject only to the provisions of this act. It shall be unlawful for any corporation, company or association not having complied with the provisions of this act to use the term stipulated premium in its application or contracts or to print or write the same in its policies or literature.

The sponsors of the bill say it conforms to the New York law and is similar to acts in other states. They say that: "This bill if passed will give Nebraska a law as good as that of New York, Ohio, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa or that of any other state. It will insure the building up of strong insurance companies in this state, the reason why other states have built up large insurance companies, that bring a large amount of money for premiums for disbursement and investments in these states being that the legislatures enacted laws providing for the organization of good companies and for the protection of the investments and policy holders."

After amending the bill to their satisfaction and striking out section 12 relating to personal liability, it was recommended to passage. This discussion consumed the entire afternoon.

As soon as the roll call was completed in the senate on the 28th and the invocation given Van Dusen moved that the senate resolve itself into a committee of the whole, with Currie of Custer at the helm. His motion prevailed.

S. F. 136 was recommended to pass. It is Senator Crow's bill and may be of interest to owners of pet canines. It provides as follows:

"That dogs are hereby declared to be personal property for all intents and purposes and the owner or owners of any dog or dogs shall be liable for any and all damage that may accrue to any persons, firm, or corporation by reason of such dog or dogs killing, wounding, worrying or chasing any sheep or other domestic animals belonging to such person, firm or corporation and such damage be recovered from any court having jurisdiction of the amount claimed."

S. F. 135, by Holbrook, amending the mutual insurance laws of the state to include the following risks, "country school houses and contents, country churches and contents, country parsonages and contents, town halls and contents," was recommended to pass.

S. F. 61, by Fowler, to amend the law relating to receivers, was warmly discussed. Senator Fowler thought that receiverships under the present law only furnished men a fat job for an indefinite period, and that at the close of the receivership they had all the assets, while the banks' creditors held the sack. He was informed that a receiver to an Omaha bank was drawing \$2,500 a year and he so managed the bank's affairs that his annual receipts were just sufficient to meet his salary and necessary expenses.

The receiver act as amended by this bill is as follows:

"Provided, however, that it shall be the duty of such receiver to make to the state banking board, consisting of the auditor of public accounts, the state treasurer and attorney general, detailed reports of the affairs of such bank at such times and in such manner as may be directed by said state banking board, and said receiver shall submit the affairs of such bank to the inspection of the state examiner when so required by the state banking board and if the said state banking board shall at any time find that said receiver is not winding up the affairs of such bank in a satisfactory manner and in their opinion it is for the interests of the creditors and stockholders of such bank that the receivership of such person shall terminate, it shall be the duty of said state banking board, or any two of them, to instruct the attorney general to file with the judge or court appointing such receiver a written request for the removal of such receiver and the termination of his receivership, and it shall be the duty of the judge or court which appointed him to at once and without unnecessary delay, remove such receiver and appoint in his place another person in the manner heretofore provided,

ed, unless it shall be made clearly to appear that the opinion of the banking board is unfounded."

The bill was recommended to pass.

March 15 was the forty-fourth day of the senate.

Senate file No. 251, Senator Canada's anti-trust bill, was recommended for indefinite postponement by the committee on manufactures and commerce.

Senate file No. 129, by Senator Spohn, was read for the third time and put upon its passage. The purpose of the bill is to empower cities of the second class to purchase, own, improve, maintain and control lands for public parks and public grounds and to issue bonds, when voted by the electors, for the purchase and improvement of such parks and public grounds. The bill was passed by a unanimous vote.

Senate file No. 15, Senator Van Dusen's bill to protect primary elections and to punish offenses committed thereat, was read for the third time and put upon its passage. The bill provides that party primaries are to be held in the same form and manner as are regular state elections.

Notice of the holding of a primary must be given at least twenty days in advance. Only such persons may vote at any primary as have at the last general election, registered their names in a book kept for that purpose at the polling place, as adherents of the party in question. No person not so registering and declaring himself shall be allowed to vote at any party primary.

Any person desiring to submit his name as primary or as a candidate for office or delegate to a convention must give ten days' notice thereof to the central committee. The provisions of the bill shall be compulsory only in counties having over 100,000 population. In other counties they may be adopted at the option of the party central committee.

The bill was passed by a vote of 22 yeas to 11 nays, a strict party vote, save that Senator Smith (fus., Antelope) voted with the republicans in the affirmative.

Senate file No. 132, extending the term of office of village trustees from one year to two years, was read for the third time and passed with the emergency clause. Senators Hale and Knepfer alone voting in the negative.

Senate file No. 135, to allow mutual fire insurance companies to insure country school houses, churches, parsonages and town halls, was read for the third time and passed by a vote of 30 yeas to 2 nays.

Senate file No. 136, declaring dogs to be personal property and making owners thereof liable for damages done by them, was passed by a vote of 31 to 1.

Standing committees reported as follows:

Senate file No. 162, to prohibit the selling of beef and veal carcasses without exhibiting the hides to the purchaser to the general file.

Senate file No. 250, to amend the law relating to reports of state banks to the state banking board, to the general file.

Senate file No. 106, to amend the school laws, was indefinitely postponed.

In the senate on the 2nd S. F. 264, by Smith of Antelope, was indefinitely postponed on recommendation of the railroad committee. The bill sought to amend the laws relating to suits against railway corporations for alleged discriminations and unreasonable rates, and provided that when any suit is brought at law to recover unjust and unreasonable charges in any court of competent jurisdiction the burden of proof that the charges in controversy are just and reasonable shall rest upon the common carrier or carrier.

The same committee also reported S. F. 289 for indefinite postponement. This is the "anti-pass" bill introduced by President Gilbert with the consent of the senate. As will be remembered, it provides stringent laws against the giving or receiving of passes and goes so far as to prohibit railway corporations and newspapers from entering into contracts to exchange advertising for mileage, although the constitutionality of such a provision has been doubted.

Farrell of Merrick moved that the committee report be not concurred in, and the bill placed on general file for consideration in committee of the whole. His motion prevailed and the bill was placed on general file, eighteen senators having voted to sustain his motion and twelve against.

tion, the commissioner is unable to do so, he may offer the same for lease at less than the appraised valuation and lease it to the person or persons who will pay 6 per cent on the highest offered valuation, as annual rental. If, in his judgment, it is to the best interests of the state to accept such bid."

Standing committees in the senate on the 3d reported S. Fs. 234 and 238 to general file, H. Rs. 183 and 115 to pass and S. F. 248 indefinitely postponed. The latter bill enacts a lien upon grain for threshing the same. Another bill more fully covers the ground.

H. R. 24, by Lane, relating to guardians, requiring them to take an inventory of all property coming into their hands and file same in probate court, was passed.

H. R. 31 was also placed upon its passage and received the required majority.

In committee of the whole S. F. 160, by Prout, was amended and recommended to pass. This is the bill providing for a commission to revise the Nebraska statutes. Section 1 provided that J. E. Cobbe, S. A. Holcomb and C. S. Lobingier should be the commissioners. Canada of Kearney offered the following amendment to the first section, which was adopted:

"The governor is hereby authorized to appoint, immediately after the passage of this act, three commissioners for the purpose of revising the general statutes and the civil criminal code of Nebraska, subject to the approval of the legislature of 1901, in manner hereinafter provide. The commission herein created shall be nonpartisan and the members thereof appointed with reference to their skill and ability to perform acceptably the work herein contemplated."

Another amendment reducing the compensation of each commissioner from \$3,500 to \$2,000 prevailed.

H. I. 22, by Lane, relating to the removal of guardians proven unfit for their trust, was recommended for passage.

S. F. 203, by Newell, adding city marshal and attorney to the list of elective offices in cities of the second class, was recommended to pass, also S. F. 139, by Prout, repealing section 10, chapter xxx. of the statutes.

S. Fs. 122 and 161 and H. R. 37 were recommended for passage.

S. F. 122, by Barton, provides that funds for library boards may be drawn directly by the board from the treasury. At present all bills must pass through the city council in cities and towns having public libraries.

S. F. 161, by Fowler, is a bill to transfer funds collected under provisions of chapter ix of the 1895 laws to the county free high school fund.

H. R. 37, by Esterling, relates to obtaining money, goods, etc., under false pretenses.

In the afternoon H. Rs. 22 and 37 were passed.

House.

In the house on the 27th standing committees reported to the general file H. R. 421, 210, 510, 465, 404, 398, 403, 219, 348, 301 and senate file 66, 41 and 98.

The following house rolls were indefinitely postponed: 335, 227, 228, 236, 519, 479, 255, 52, 110, 480, 456 and 488.

Of the bills indefinitely postponed 335 was the Burns express bill; 227 was by Fisher, also taxing express companies; 228 was a new regulation for the insane hospital, being a duplicate of S. F. 66; 236 was by Dorby, amending the compulsory education law so to allow the attendance of private schools; 519 was to define and establish legal holidays; 479 prohibited the employment of relatives of members of school boards as teachers; 255 related to changes of boundary lines of school districts; 52 was the Grosvenor bill for the free attendance at high schools, being a duplicate of S. F. 41, which was placed on file; 110 related to the manner of granting teachers' certificates; 456 and 488 were to locate normal schools; O'Neill, Hastings and Holdrege.

The secretary of the governor appeared and announced that the governor had approved and signed H. R. 18, the bill to prevent the plowing up of public highways.

Mr. Dittmar of Otoe offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

Be it resolved by this legislature, That the chief clerk of the supreme court of Nebraska is hereby ordered to make an accurate report of all receipts and expenditures of his office for the year ending January 1, 1899, and report same to this legislature within forty-eight hours after the passage of this resolution.

Pollard offered a substitute for the pending resolution, that the clerk of the supreme court be required to report the receipts of his office for the eight years ending January 1, 1899, and that the report be made to the committee on fees and salaries within forty-eight hours. The substitute was adopted.

H. R. 53, the Zellers bill, was passed by a strictly partisan vote of 51 to 45. The provision of the new act is to do away with the blanket ballot and go back to substantially the same form as was in use prior to 1897. This prevented a name from appearing in the ballot more than once and fusionists referred to the bill as "an act to prevent fusion."

H. R. 65, Burman's bill defining and regulating pawnbrokers and imposing a license tax, was passed by a vote of 81 to 9.

H. R. 196, Clark's bill defining and determining the effect of conditions in fire insurance policies, making void the contract of insurance in case of change in the title, ownership, interest or possession of the insured in the property which is the subject of insurance, or liens created thereon, and likewise conditions providing for a forfeiture of the contract of insurance in case notice of contract is not furnished within a time certain, or in a prescribed manner, was passed by a vote of 87 to 10.

H. R. 152, the bill by Sandall to compel railroads to maintain fences, was passed.

H. R. 136, the bill for the relief of certain residents of Pawnee county who purchased tracts of the David Butler land from the state and afterward had to pay back taxes, was passed.

H. R. 134, Olmsted's bill to prevent corruption at elections, limiting the expenditures of candidates and compelling them to file statements of expenses, was passed.

S. F. 46, the Alexander amendment to the game law, was passed by a vote of 67 to 21.

H. R. 7, by Beverly, to regulate the employment of children in factories, manufacturing and mercantile establishments, was passed by a vote of 84 to 9.

H. R. 204, by Jensen, requiring carcasses of swine dead from cholera to be buried or burned within twenty-four hours after death, was passed by a vote of 73 to 9.

S. F. 28, to repeal sections 917 to 924 of the civil code, was passed by a vote of 43 to 2. The sections repealed relate to arrest for debt.

S. F. 8, by Farrell, to require school boards to keep in repair suitable water closets in connection with all public buildings, was passed by a vote of 77 to 7.

H. R. 163, by Lemar, was passed. It provides that banks shall pay an incorporation fee to the state graded according to the capital stock.

The joint vote for senator resulted as follows: Allen, 55; Hayward, 35; Thompson, 12; Webster, 9; Field, 5; Lambertson, 1; Adams, 1; Weston, 1; Hainer, 1.

In the house March 1 petitions asking for the passage of the Jensen pure food commission bill from Knox, Burt and Thayer counties were read.

The following was introduced by Chambers and adopted:

"Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of this house that there are a number of bills for hair brushes, combs, blacking brushes, shoe blacking, mirrors, etc., and as these and similar goods have been procured by order of employees of this house; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That this house notify all employees and clerks that this house does not furnish goods for private use, and to notify the committee to reject all bills of this nature."

A communication from the governor was received transmitting a number of letters relative to the White Cross society's work at Manila, and a resolution by Prince was introduced, providing that \$250 be appropriated and transmitted to the president of that society, who is on the eve of sailing for the Philippines. After discussion the whole matter was referred to a committee to be presented to the governor for his consideration, as it will require a special message from him, before an appropriation can be made.

The following were read the third time and placed on their final passage:

House roll No. 271, the barber's examiners' bill, was passed without the emergency clause.

House roll No. 196, to allow growers of grapes to sell wine of their own manufacture in small quantities without license, failed to pass.

House roll No. 111, relating to contracts by school boards for supplies and permitting members of the board to bid on contracts for school supplies was passed.

House roll No. 363 and senate file 41, school bills recommended by the state association, were called up, and a motion to make the consideration of them by the committee of the whole a special order was defeated.

When the house was called to order at 2:30 by Speaker Clark it resolved itself into committee of the whole for the consideration of house roll No. 171, the Weaver insurance bill, Harkson in the chair.

Before the consideration of the bill was completed the committee arose and asked leave to sit again. The report was adopted.

The governor's private secretary delivered the following special message from the governor which was read by the clerk:

To the Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, Gentlemen: I would most respectfully call your attention to the propriety of making some provision for the welfare and comfort of the brave boys in the First and Third Nebraska volunteer regiments, now stationed at Manila and Cuba respectively. As the rainy season is fast approaching in these latitudes and the possibility of our soldiers being afflicted more or less with diseases prevalent in these climates, and the further fact that many soldiers have been wounded in recent battles, and still more may be killed and injured in skirmishes and battles which will take place in the future, the White Cross society of the United States is intending to establish a permanent hospital in Manila as soon as possible for the purpose of providing better accommodations for the sick and wounded. Other states have made provisions for the special care of their sick and wounded by appropriating adequate sums for the purchase of hospital supplies and delicacies so essential to the welfare and comfort of the boys in that far-off country.

It seems to me that it would be entirely proper for the legislature to remember our gallant soldiers at this time by an appropriation which could be used in case of need for such purpose, as well as to care for and return home the bodies of deceased soldiers.

The vote for senator today resulted: First ballot: Hayward 39, Thompson 15, Field 5, Webster 9, Hainer 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Talbot 1, Reese 1. Second ballot: Hayward 37, Thompson 16, Field 5, Webster 9, Hainer 1, Lambertson 1, Adams 1, Talbot 1, Reese 1.

In the house on the 3d the following bills were placed on general file: H. R. 532 is the Beverly bill to prohibit the manufacture of harness and coverage in the state penitentiary.

H. R. 482, by Hibbert, is a bill to define and regulate bucket shops.

H. R. 592 is Dittmar's bill asking for \$5,000 for the relief of Nebraska City on account of the smallpox quarantine.

Esterling moved that the action of the house which yesterday indefinitely postponed H. R. 34 be reconsidered and the bill be placed on general file. The motion prevailed. The one section in the bill is as follows:

"Section 1. That a railroad company receiving for shipment goods, chattels or merchandise consigned to a point on the line of a connecting carrier under an agreement to transport them to the terminus of its own road and to deliver them to connecting carrier named in the bill of lading, or contract of shipment, is answerable therefor for their safe delivery to the place of their destination, notwithstanding any contract, stipulation or agreement to the contract made between the original consignee and consignee."

H. R. 7 was passed by a vote of 79 to 11. The bill is by Evans to provide for the submitting to the electors of the state in the year 1900 the question of holding a constitutional convention. The house went into committee of the whole with Smithberger in the chair. H. R. 54, the Zellers voting machine bill, was first taken up. This bill had been considered once before and recommended for amendment. When taken up today the objection was urged that the bill would compel the counties to purchase some special make of machine, and a motion to indefinitely postpone the bill carried by a large majority.

In committee of the whole H. R. 191, the Weaver insurance commission bill, was taken up. There was little discussion on the provisions of the bill until the taxation feature was reached. The original bill provided a 4 per cent tax against foreign companies doing business in the state. The committee reduced this to 2 1/2 per cent. When this was reached today Weaver moved that the rate be fixed at 3 per cent. An amendment by Grosvenor making it 2 1/2 per cent was defeated and the Weaver amendment was adopted.

The bill as adopted provides a 2 per cent discriminating tax against insurance companies of states other than Nebraska, and 3 per cent against companies from foreign countries. It was this latter tax that caused the debate. The vote for senator was without result, standing as follows: Hayward 39, Thompson 15, Webster 9, Field 5, Adams 1, Lambertson 1, Hainer 1.

A motion by Surgress that when the house adjourns on the 4th it be to meet Monday at 11 a. m. prevailed by a vote of 52 to 43.

House roll No. 137, the Pollard revenue bill, for an act to provide a system of revenue assessment of property for taxation, levy and collection of taxes and to provide penalties for violations thereof passed by a vote of 51 to 29.

Chairman Thompson reported from the committee on accounts and expenditures the bill for the volunteers at Manila.

The bill is as follows: That the sum of \$2,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated out of any money in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated, for the relief, aid and comfort of the sick and wounded soldiers now members of the First and Third regiments of the Nebraska volunteer infantry in the Philippine islands and in the island of Cuba, respectively.