

LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

A Synopsis of Proceedings of the Twenty-Ninth General Session.

SENATE—The senate on the 1st ratified the work of the caucus and formally placed H. H. Gouding on the pay roll, as well as Peter Carter and Sam Grant. This swells the list to sixty-one. Upon the recommendation of the revenue committee S. F. 113, by Sheldon of Cass, was indefinitely postponed. This bill provided that taxes on personal property should be a lien on the property for two years after due. S. F. 9, by Thomas of Douglas, and S. F. 14, by Jennings of Thayer, were passed. The former provides that when an agent collects money on commission and misappropriates it he shall be guilty of embezzlement. S. F. 14 provides for the issuance of school district bonds in cities of the first class. The senate then resolved into a committee of the whole, with Thomas in the chair, and reported the following bills for engrossment and third reading: S. F. 47, by Tucker of Richardson, defining the duties of county judges in certain cases. S. F. 46, by Shreck of York, providing that railroad companies shall furnish transportation to shippers of live stock to accompany the stock. S. F. 58, by Giffin of Dawson, providing for the establishment of drainage districts. S. F. 34, by Giffin of Dawson, providing for printing the report of the irrigation board. S. F. 34, to provide for the printing of the irrigation board report, brought on considerable discussion, it being the sentiment of many of the members to kill the bill, it apparently being their idea there was no way to distribute the reports after they were printed. The bill was recommended to pass.

HOUSE—The house on the 1st passed senate file No. 43, authorizing the governor to enter into and sign a compact with the governor of South Dakota, as agreed upon by a commission appointed by the two governors, to fix boundaries between the states at certain points. In committee of the whole, with Casebeer in the chair, the house spent considerable time in debate on house roll No. 69, by Horton of Keya Paha, to allow physicians in communities where there is no registered pharmacist within five miles to dispense his own medicine. By motion the bill was indefinitely postponed. Bills were introduced: An act providing for the payment out of the state treasury of the premium on the state treasurer's bond when such bond is executed by a surety company. An act providing that bona fide owners of contracts for lease of educational lands which were in full force and effect prior to May 26, 1879, may perfect their title according to the terms and provisions of the laws which were in force and effect prior to May 26, 1879. An act to provide for the construction and maintenance of bridges, culverts and approaches thereto on public highways in the state of Nebraska. An act to prohibit printers and others from printing or publishing more copies of books, pamphlets, circulars or other publications than ordered by the author. An act disclaiming and relinquishing all claim of ownership or title on the part of the state of Nebraska to any and all lands now being within the boundaries of the state of Iowa which shall hereafter be or become within the boundaries of the state of Nebraska by virtue of the action of any commissions appointed by the said states, and the ratification thereof by said states and the sanction thereof by the congress of the United States, or otherwise; provided, however, that said land or

lands have been for ten years or more past in the possession or occupation of any person or persons co-partnership or corporation claiming ownership or title thereto, and those so in possession or occupation have for said period of ten years or longer paid taxes claimed by state or county authorities or officers to have been levied upon said land or lands. An act providing for the payment by counties of the premium on the bonds of the county treasurers where such bonds are executed by a surety company. An act to permit surety companies to be security for public officials for more than two successive terms. An act providing for the payment of premiums in surety company bonds when given by persons acting in a judiciary capacity. An act in relation to instruments of writing recorded, copied or noted in the books of the office of county clerk. Makes them competent evidence when the originals are lost or parties wishing to use them cannot get possession of them.

SENATE—The senate on the 2nd got busy and made report on a number of bills. The following were placed on general file: S. F. 79—Providing for the publication of the action of irrigation district meetings. S. F. 117—Re-enacts the law establishing the Hastings asylum and leaving out of the title of the institution the word "incurable." S. F. 21—For the appointment of a registrar of vital statistics. S. F. 59—To consolidate the Home for the Friendless and the Industrial School at Milford. S. F. 101, 102 and 103—Providing for constitutional amendments; providing the legislature shall create courts; providing the legislature shall have power to regulate the power of executive state officers; five-sixths of a jury in civil cases may return a verdict. S. F. 21—Providing that drivers of traction engines must use proper diligence in preventing the frightening of horses and damage to bridges and culverts, amended. S. F. 66—Allowing fishing in boundary streams. S. F. 120 was indefinitely postponed after a debate which lasted most of the morning. This bill gave authority to the State Board of Pharmacy to grant permission to any dealer or corporation to sell harmless drugs. The senate went into a committee of the whole, with Meserve of Knox in the chair. The entire time of the committee was taken up in the discussion of S. F. 55, which provided that the capital stock of banks should be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The bill was finally recommended for passage, after an amendment providing that no bank now organized should be affected.

HOUSE—The house on the 2nd passed these bills: H. R. 3, by Foster of Douglas—Making the bribing or attempted bribery of jurors a felony, punishable by a term of from one to five years in the penitentiary, eighty votes being cast for and none against the bill. H. R. 108, by Windham of Cass—Applying the fire escape law to office buildings of three stories or more—87 to 0. H. R. 30, by Douglas of Rock—to incorporate the Elks lodge in Nebraska—91 to 0. H. R. 80, by Jackson of Antelope—to increase the salaries of the chief deputy fish and game commissioner to \$1,800 a year, and that of his first assistant to \$1,500—was defeated by a vote of 37 to 40. H. R. 44, by Smith of Burt—to prohibit dumping in drainage canals or ditches—was recommended for specific amendment. The Omaha water board bill matter

was taken up and the motion of Lee to recommit for specific amendments voted down by 73 to 24. The clerk then began the reading of the bill, which consumed nearly an hour. The bill was passed by a vote of 67 to 24, just the required number to carry the emergency clause. H. R. 36, by Kid, providing for sewer districts in cities of Beatrice's size, was passed, as was also: H. R. 47, by Gerdes of Richardson—Creating village boards of health. H. R. 61, by Saddler of Adams—Allowing \$60 for the burial of an old soldier. Bills introduced: H. R. 213, by Crosby of Jefferson—to confer on cities of the second class, having less than 5,000 inhabitants, the authority to exercise "the right of eminent domain" in procuring rights-of-way for the construction of sewers and drains. H. R. 214, by Andersen of Douglas—to protect persons, associations and unions of workingmen and others in their labels, trade marks and forms of advertising.

SENATE—These bills from the house were recommended for passage on the 3d: H. R. 1, to provide for guaranty bonds for state officers. H. R. 5, providing for the publication of Cobbley Statutes. H. R. 21, recommended by former Land Commissioner Follmer and Land Commissioner Eaton, providing that when a person buys lands from the state and dies the contract shall hold good with the heirs. S. F. 65, providing for the keeping of probate records, was recommended for passage, as was S. F. 11, providing that justices of the peace may make a charge of 5 cents for indexing. S. F. 1, by Thomas of Douglas, providing that the Omaha firemen shall work twelve hours a day and lay off twelve hours a day, was recommended for passage. Senator Thomas explained the bill would require twenty-six men added to the department and that the expense to the city would be about \$20,000 a year. He has received a petition signed by several thousand citizens of Omaha endorsing the bill. The following bills were introduced: S. F. 155, by Jones of Otoe—Making it unlawful to kill squirrels between January 1 and August 1 and providing a penalty of \$5 for violation. S. F. 156, by Williams of Wayne—Allowing a person to take fish from a stream on his own land with a hoop net during the open season. S. F. 157, by Tucker of Richardson—Re-enacting and making constitutional that portion of the drainage law declared void recently by the of Platte (by request)—Making the open season for fishing, except for trout, extend to November 15. The season now closes on October 31. S. F. 159, by Hughes of Platte—Attaching a penalty for failure of an abstractor to file a \$10,000 bond.

HOUSE—The house upon convening on the 3d took up H. R. 78, by Burns of Lancaster county, a Lincoln charter bill which proposes to vest in the mayor instead of the excise board power to discharge and employ police. The bill was passed with the emergency clause. H. R. 79, also a Lincoln charter bill by Burns providing for a municipal electric lighting plant, was also passed with the emergency clause. H. R. 89, a concurrent resolution proposing a constitutional amendment for a biennial election of all state officers and to increase the supreme court commission membership from three to six, was passed with the emergency clause. H. R. 82, allowing soldiers' relief commissions in counties to retain 5 per cent of the amount of money they distribute was passed. H. R. 31, to pay bounties for killing large gray wolves or buffalo wolves, \$5 a head; prairie wolf or coyote, \$2, and wildcat, \$1, was passed. H. R. 72 prohibiting the manufacture and sale of cigarettes and cigarette material, imposing the penalty of a misdemeanor, was passed. H. R. 77, to create a state registrar of vital statistics, was passed. H. R. 119, prohibiting the marriage of first cousins, was passed. H.

R. 75, to compel dealers to put gasoline and benzine in red cans as a precaution, passed, 72 to 0. H. R. 125, to prevent conveying prohibited articles to penitentiary convicts and imposing a penalty of a fine not exceeding \$1,000 or a state's prison sentence not exceeding ten years, passed. H. R. 97, facilitating the obtaining of a change of venue in a justice of the peace's court, passed. H. R. 98, shutting out "professional" jurors in justice of the peace courts and giving defendants the right to peremptory challenges, passed. H. R. 99, providing for the payment to jurors in justice of the peace courts of \$1 each by the successful parties and 50 cents each when the jury fails to agree, was passed. H. R. 100, taxing plaintiff or defendant, whichever makes the application for a change of venue in justice of the peace courts, with the costs of such change, was passed. H. R. 44, making it a misdemeanor to dump into or obstruct a ditch or canal used for drainage purposes, passed. H. R. 51, giving the state board of equalization power to discriminate between classes of property and providing that county boards need not make their levy until after the state board has met, was passed.

Judicial Apportionment Bill.

Senators Shreck and Laverty are at work on a judicial apportionment bill which Senator Laverty introduced on the 3d. The bill cuts down the number of districts to fourteen and cuts out seven judges, two from Douglas county, one from Lancaster and four from the country districts. Under the bill the state will be divided as follows:

First District—Richardson, Pawnee, Gage, Jefferson; total population, 76,631; one judge.

Second District—Cass, Otoe, Nemaha, Johnson; total population, 69,767; one judge.

Third District—Lancaster; population, 64,835; two judges.

Fourth District—Douglas, Sarpy, Washington; population, 162,756; five judges.

Fifth District—Saunders, Butler, Polk, Seward, York, Hamilton, Saline, Fillmore; population, 128,894; two judges.

Sixth District—Dodge, Colfax, Platte, Merrick, Stanton; population, 128,894; two judges.

Seventh District—Thayer, Nuckolls, Clay, Webster, Franklin; population, 63,548; one judge.

Eighth District—Burt, Cuming, Thurston, Dakota, Dixon, Cedar; population, 65,668; one judge.

Ninth District—Wayne, Madison, Antelope, Pierce, Knox; population, 60,960; one judge.

Tenth District—Adams, Kearney, Phelps, Harlan, Sarpy; population, 54,149; one judge.

Eleventh District—Howard, Hall, Greeley, Wheeler, Garfield, Valley, Loup, Boone, Nance; population, 65,294; one judge.

Twelfth District—Buffalo, Dawson, Custer, Sherman, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, Grant; population, 61,189; one judge.

Thirteenth District—Lincoln, Logan, Keith, Cheyenne, Deuel, Scott's Bluff, Kimball, Banner, McPherson, Box Butte; population, 33,100; one judge.

Fourteenth District—Frontier, Red Willow, Hitchcock, Hayes, Dundy, Chase, Perkins, Furnas; population, 44,570; one judge.

Freaks of Fortune.

In January of last year a murderer named Helfert had just been sentenced in Moravia to penal servitude for life when he learned that he had won a prize of \$10,000 in the state lottery, and a few weeks earlier Ernesto Hijar was buried in a pauper's grave at Barcelona on the very day on which a ticket found in his possession won a prize of \$40,000 in the Spanish national lottery.

Little Destitution in Japan.

There is said to be no real destitution in Japan. Though some are very poor, yet all seem to be well fed, clothed and housed and are invariably cheerful and, what is more surprising, invariably clean.

Men may differ on their theories of sunspots, but they agree on the sunshine.