

# LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

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

**SENATE**—The senate was not in session on the 18th, having adjourned from Friday until Monday.

**HOUSE**—When the house was ready for work on the 18th, it resolved itself into committee of the whole with Jackson of Antelope in the chair. H. R. No. 174, by Anderson of Douglas county, was first considered. It fixes the status of the Nebraska territorial militia, placing the members of this body on the same footing as soldiers of the civil war. It was recommended for passage. H. R. No. 220, by Fittle of Douglas, was recommended to pass as amended. The bill makes it a misdemeanor for another newspaper to make use of any current news that has been secured by one paper. The amendment that was attached to the bill is to satisfy the demands of the weekly newspapers of the state. It reads: "Provided, nothing in this act shall be so construed as to prevent publishers of weekly newspapers from compiling from available sources a brief summary of the current news of the week and publishing the same in their respective weekly newspapers." H. R. No. 179, by Douglas of Rock, providing a schedule of salaries of county superintendents in those counties where they receive pay by the day, was recommended to pass. Mr. Douglas made a speech of some duration in favor of the bill. H. R. No. 190, by McClay of Lancaster, appropriating \$20,000 for T. P. Kennard of Lincoln as commission for making a collection in the early days of the state from the national government, was recommended for passage.

**SENATE**—After a very strenuous though humorous fight, the senate, on the 20th, in the committee of the whole, voted to recommend for passage H. R. 75, by Foster of Douglas, compelling dealers to paint gasoline cans red. S. F. 88, allowing school districts to retire their bonds at the end of five years, was passed. The senate resolved into a committee of the whole, with Wall of Sherman in the chair. H. R. 60, the Foster dental bill, was recommended for passage. The following new bills were introduced: S. F. 207, by Bresee of Sheridan, that patent medicines containing 10 per cent of alcohol shall be deemed an intoxicating drink and dealers shall be required to taken out a liquor license.

**HOUSE**—The house went into committee of the whole on the 20th, with Bartoo of Valley in the chair. These bills among others were recommended for passage: H. R. 139, by Jackson of Antelope—Authorizing appeals to the district court on tax levies and giving courts jurisdiction. H. R. 191, by McClay of Lancaster—To consolidate biennial reports of state officers and department. These bills were passed: H. R. 163, by Bacon of Dawson—Providing for sale of penitentiary lands, control and disposition of funds and to create penitentiary lands fund. H. R. 175, by Howe of Nemaha—Making it mandatory instead of optional for county boards to appropriate 2 cents per capita per annum for the benefit of agricultural societies. S. F. 3, by Good of Nemaha—Fixing the date of convening the State Board of Equalization on the third Monday in July, making it after the county boards' equalization instead of before. H. R. 70, by Burns of Lancaster—One of the Lincoln charter bills.

**SENATE**—The senate on the 21st in the committee of the whole, indefinitely postponed the blacksmith

lien law bill, and recommended for passage the South Omaha sewer bill by Gibson. The blacksmith lien bill provided that for work on any kind of vehicle or for shoeing a horse or other animal the workman should have a lien on the animal or vehicle should his lien be filed within four months. Cady of Howard introduced the bill by request and spoke for its passage. H. R. 60 and H. R. 82 were passed. The former regulates the practice of dentistry and the latter provides for the construction of a live stock pavilion and fish building at the state fair grounds. H. R. 67 was indefinitely postponed. This bill provides for the printing of the report of the State Board of Irrigation. These bills were introduced and read a first time: S. F. 208, by Meserve, providing for the appointment of three commissioners to revise the insurance laws of the state for which each is to receive \$8 a day, the work to be completed by January 1, 1907. S. F. 209, by Jones of Otoe, providing that where a community gives a bonus of land for an industry the town or village shall have a lien on the property for twenty years. S. F. 75 was passed. This is the Thomas negotiable note bill, defining a negotiable instrument. Among the bills reported for general file was H. R. 8, the Omaha water board bill.

**HOUSE**—The house, on the 21st, passed these bills: Transferring \$20,000 from the clothing fund at the Hastings insane asylum to the repair and improvement fund; emergency clause. To enable the State university regents to condemn lands needed for university purposes. The emergency clause failed to pass. Empowering cities of the second class to grant franchises and make contracts with power plants. To prevent printers from publishing more copies of books, pamphlets, etc., than ordered. Emergency. Regulating the amount of bonds which school districts may issue. Authorizing county boards to appropriate \$100 a year for farmers' institutes. To allow surety companies to be surety for a public officer for more than two successive terms. To exact a penal bond of \$5,000 from an applicant for a saloon license before such license is issued. Permitting state and county treasurers to require guaranty bonds from depository banks, whereas now they may only require personal bonds, and it legalizes such guaranty bonds. Requiring a uniform examination under direction of the State Board of Education for all applicants for state teachers' certificates. Appropriating \$10,000 for an agricultural pavilion at the state fair grounds. Requiring school districts to estimate the money needed during the coming year instead of making a levy. Emergency clause. To allow mutual insurance societies to amend their charters after twenty years so as to issue five-year policies. To provide for payment of outstanding road district warrants and to liquidate all indebtedness against road districts. Emergency clause. Providing that any person insured in a mutual company, except in case of notes acquired by this act to be deposited at the time of its organization, may at any time return the policy for cancellation and on paying amount due on his premium note and be discharged from further liability. Emergency clause.

**SENATE**—In the committee of the whole, with Giffin in the chair, the following bills were considered on the 22nd: Senate file No. 36, by Shel-

don, to provide for open depots in small towns, recommended for passage. Senate file No. 142, by Bresee, providing for a year's residence for divorce applicants, for passage. Senate file No. 133, by Wall, permitting appeals in tax litigation, for passage. Senate file No. 148, by Bresee, to amend road tax collection statutes, for passage. House roll No. 131, by Smith, to pay county commissioners \$3 a day, indefinitely postponed. Senate file No. 76, by Bresee, dividing the Fourteenth judicial district, for passage. The following new bills were introduced: Senate file No. 214, by Thomas—To provide for notice in tax sale foreclosures. Senate file No. 215, by Thomas—To provide for the payment of tax claims any time before foreclosure and fixing the rate of interest at 15 per cent. House roll No. 3, by Windham, to appoint three supreme court commissioners and form a commission of six, was passed. Senate file No. 111, by Meserve, to make adultery a felony, was read for the third time and passed. This measure is designed to regulate the conduct of the Indians in Northeast Nebraska.

**HOUSE**—There was no suspension of business on the 22d, Washington's birthday: Hunker of Cuming offered a resolution commending Kansas for its fight upon the Standard Oil trust, pledging sentimental co-operation and taking a shot at John D. Rockefeller as the magnate of the most treacherous monopoly in existence. The resolution went over. H. R. 210, by Clarke of Douglas, was recommended for passage. It is the bill which imposes a one-year penitentiary sentence or a fine of \$500 for the game of policy. The bill to precipitate an unusual contest was H. R. 230, by Parker of Otoe. It provided for the prohibition of saloons within 400 feet of any schoolhouse. Jackson of Antelope offered an amendment making it apply only to retail places of selling liquor. The amendment was lost and the bill recommended for passage. H. R. 2, by McMullen of Gage, to amend the revenue bill so as to elect instead of appoint district assessors, brought out much discussion. The measure was finally indefinitely postponed. H. R. 87, by Hoare of Platte, prohibiting the granting of liquor licenses to any but the actual parties interested, was recommended for passage. Among bills introduced were the following: Concurrent resolution proposing an amendment to the constitution; for a state railway commission of three to serve three years, whose duty it shall be to enforce laws of the legislature. H. R. 333, by Perry of Furnas—To define the rights of creditors of decedents and to prescribe a manner for applying for an order of descent. To repeal section 11,412 of Cobbe's Statutes that provides for a clerk of the State Printing board. Creating a commission of three to revise the insurance laws of this state. To provide for placing questions relating to amendments of the constitution, constitutional conventions and all other questions and propositions submitted to the vote of the people on a separate ballot, which shall be of pink color, to be deposited in a separate ballot box, also of pink color. H. R. 337, by Pospisil of Saunders, to amend section 13 of an act approved April 4, 1903, entitled "An act to provide a system of public revenue, and repeal articles 1, 11, 111, 114 and 115, and sections 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 of article VII of chapter 77, Compiled Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1901," and to repeal said section 13 and all acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith.

**SENATE**—In the senate on the 23rd in the committee of the whole with Mockett in the chair some important measures were disposed of. One of these was by Epperson to repeal the law which creates the office of the state architect. Epperson quoted statistics showing that the state would have been at less expense had it employed outside architects instead of having a state architect. The

bill was recommended for passage. H. R. 132, appropriating money for the building of a fish pond at South Bend, was recommended for passage, as were these other measures: S. F. 18, fixing penalty for jury bribing. S. F. 15, fixing penalty for one who bribes a juror. S. F. 125, fixing punishment of parent who contributes to child delinquency as defined by the statutes. S. F. 33, permitting all fraternal companies to incorporate, was amended so as to include Scottish Rite Masons. S. F. 149, allows money now held by county treasurer of Douglas county to be paid into school districts, the same having been collected for tuition of high school pupils from outside districts, the law later having been declared void by the supreme court. S. F. 143, to allow the Omaha school board to elect a secretary for a term of three years instead of one year, as at present. Bills introduced were: S. F. 218, by Gibson of Douglas, increases the salary of members of South Omaha police board from \$100 to \$300 a year. S. F. 219, by Gibson of Douglas, to allow the mayor and city council of South Omaha to refund the special paving tax to property owners along Twenty-fourth street between A and Q.

**HOUSE**—In the house on the 23rd H. R. 40, to elect no county assessors in counties of less than 10,000 population was indefinitely postponed. The Hunker resolution pledging Nebraska's sympathy to Kansas in its fight against the Standard Oil trust came up, was amended and passed. Among bills introduced were the following: A bill for an act to compel railroad companies in Nebraska to afford equal facilities without favoritism or discrimination, to all persons and associations erecting or operating grain elevators and handling or shipping grain or other produce, and to compel railroad companies to afford equal facilities as between individuals shipping their own grain and freight, and said persons and associations erecting or operating grain elevators and handling or shipping other produce, and to equally supply cars to individuals and associations and persons engaged in the business of buying and shipping of grain and other freight and to provide equitable distributions of cars between shipping points and between shippers at such points, when the demand for cars is greater than the supply, and to fix penalties. An act to provide for the making of test borings or explorations for the discovery of oil, coal, gas or artesian water, and other minerals in the state of Nebraska, and to appropriate money to aid in such borings or explorations. Appropriates \$25,000. An act making appropriations for the current expenses of the state government for the years ending March 31, 1906, and March 31, 1907, and miscellaneous items. Appropriates \$1,828,000. An act creating and making the county treasurer in any county including within its boundaries a city of the metropolitan class treasurer ex-officio of such city, and also treasurer ex-officio of the school district in said city. An act to allow insurance companies to invest their capital and surplus in stocks of incorporated Nebraska companies. A bill for an act authorizing county clerks and recorders to accept printed books from water users' associations organized under the national reclamation act and to use the same for recording stock subscriptions of such association. A bill for an act to declare it unlawful to give or accept free transportation upon any railroad within the state, to provide for the transportation of state officers, members of the legislature and other persons traveling on state business. House adjourned till Monday.

With these amendments, it is said, the osteopaths will be satisfied, as in this form the bill, as applied to them, merely re-enacts the present law and insures that they are not to be shut out by any clandestine repeal of the law as it now stands.