

LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

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

SENATE—The senate on the 7th spent the entire morning in passing these bills: S. F. 96—Allowing complaints against opening of roads to be filed in district court and giving that court original jurisdiction. S. F. 97—Fixing the term when mill sites shall revert to original owner. S. F. 22—Allowing the laying of sidewalks in villages without regard to grades. S. F. 70—Allowing cities of the second class to own and operate electric light plants. S. F.—Legalizing osteopathy and prescribing examination of those who intend to practice such a profession. S. F. 180—To make state historical society custodian of public records of a historical nature. S. F. 108—Providing for the selection of grand and petit jurors. S. F. 165—To establish a state board of veterinary medicine. S. F. 137—Making it lawful to serve a summons on any agent of a foreign corporation doing business in the state, and making the summons binding on the corporation. H. R. 44—Any person who shall deposit refuse in any drainage ditch shall be liable for damages. H. R. 108—Making fire escape laws applicable to three-story buildings.

HOUSE—In the house on the 7th, H. R. 23, by Parker of Otoe, prohibiting a saloon within 400 feet of a public school, was recommended for passage. Lee of Douglas objected to the bill because it did not include all schools, saying the state was as vitally interested in the morals of private school children as those of public schools. Governor Mickey submitted a bill to the house to transfer \$800 from the clothing to the repair fund at the Geneva girls' school. The bill points out that repairs are greatly needed and while there is \$1,775.68 in the clothing fund, the repair fund is exhausted. The governor says the Board of Public Lands and Buildings agrees with him in this matter. The house passed S. F. 69, by Jones of Otoe to provide for annual correction by county boards of evident and gross errors in the valuation of real property. The present law makes this once in four years. H. R. 154, by Ernest of Johnson, limiting the number of saloons in towns of 1,000 or less to three, and more than 1,000 to four, was indefinitely postponed on recommendation of the committee. H. R. 9, by Warner of Lancaster, occupied much time. It provided originally an appropriation of \$100,000 for a sub-experimental station at North Platte and the purchase of land for the university. As the bill did not state what portion of this sum might go to each purpose the bill was amended, appropriating \$18,000 for the purchase of land adjacent to the University campus, \$20,000 for the substation, \$15,000 for library purposes and \$7,500 for poultry culture, cutting the total to \$82,500. In this condition the measure was recommended for passage.

SENATE—The following bills were passed in the senate on the 8th: Senate file 226, a bill limiting the number of proxies of building and loan stock to the actual number of shares held by the member who wished to vote them. Senate file No. 196, creating a state railway commission. Senate file No. 157, a drainage bill. House roll No. 172, transferring \$20,000 from the Norfolk to the Hastings asylum. Senate file No. 33, by Senator Griffin, a bill to provide for a prosecuting attorney system in the state, was killed in the committee of the whole of the senate by a decisive majority. Senate file No. 160, a companion bill, was also slaughtered. The state prison

committee reported that the penitentiary was in excellent condition, the damage done by the fire having been repaired and the administration of Warden A. D. Beemer was most excellent. The warden was complimented on his manner of conducting the institution. Senate file No. 17, by Senator Gibson, was indefinitely postponed on the report of the standing committee. It provided for the care of dependent children.

HOUSE—In the house on the 8th the following bills were read for the third time and passed. House roll No. 188, by Douglas, eliminating the county clerk and county assessors as members of the county board of equalization. House roll No. 214, by Anderson, to protect labels and trademarks of union labor organizations. House roll No. 229, by Parker, to prohibit the granting by county boards of licenses to sell liquors within 400 feet of country school houses. The railroad committee reported to the general file, with a favorable recommendation, house roll No. 282, by Hill, requiring the running of at least one train daily on every line of railroad and fixing a minimum speed of twenty miles an hour for passenger trains, ten miles for freight trains and twelve miles for mixed trains. At 2 o'clock Dodge moved that the house go into committee of the whole to consider house roll No. 297 and other bills on the general file. House roll No. 297 provides for the submission of a constitutional amendment for the creation of an electric railway commission of three members, which commission shall have the power to establish, modify and enforce reasonable freight rates and prevent discriminations and abuses. Mr. Dodge spoke forcibly in support of his motion, calling attention to the importance of the bill and the lateness of the session and arguing that unless the bill be considered at once it would have but little chance of passage. Porter objected to the advancement of the bill over the rate bill, and Peabody of Nemaha moved that the bill be not considered at this time, which motion prevailed by a rising vote of 34 to 16.

SENATE—Upon the personal request of Governor Mickey the senate on the 9th allowed the introduction of the county engineer bill, which the governor vetoed because of defects in the bill recently passed which invalidated it. The salary bill introduced by Good of Nemaha to make the pay of all deputy state officers \$1,800 a year was killed, the vote being 15 to 12, not a constitutional number having voted in the affirmative. S. F. 87, providing for the payment of costs in misdemeanor cases, was passed. S. F. 176 and S. F. 184 were recommended for passage. The former fixes the length of a school term according to the number of pupils, making the shortest term five months. S. F. 184 provides that when a district fails to levy a tax for school purposes the same may be done by the county clerk upon the recommendation of the county superintendent. The morning was spent by the senate in the committee of the whole, with Shreck in the chair, in a discussion of S. F. 112, which was finally recommended for passage. The bill reduces the salary of bank examiners from \$1,800 to \$1,500. An amendment by Gilligan was adopted to cause the discharge of examiners when a bank fails within six months after having been reported solvent by the examiner. These bills were recommended for passage: S. F. 174, allowing cities of the second class to make

a levy for the purpose of improving the roads leading into the towns, upon the petition of a majority of the freeholders along the road, and to make the poll tax \$2 when paid in cash. S. F. 152, to compel railroads to carry stock at a rate of eighteen miles an hour on the main line and fifteen miles an hour on branch lines and to allow the roads to designate three days in the week as stock shipping days for the branch lines; the law not to apply on branch roads other than on these three days. This designation of shipping days was an amendment put on by Gould, the introducer of the measure.

HOUSE—On the 9th the committee on revenue and taxation reported for indefinite postponement house roll No. cities and towns locally to assess, for municipal purposes only, railroad terminal property within their limits. McElhinney of Burt moved that the report of the committee indefinitely postponing the bill be adopted and McLeod seconded the motion. Clarke vigorously protested against any such summary action on a bill which means \$250,000 to \$300,000 more railroad taxes a year to the cities and towns of Nebraska. The vote for indefinite postponement resulted, yeas 65, nays 34. Wilson of Pawnee, chairman of the finance, ways and means committee, moved that the two big appropriation bills yet pending—house rolls Nos. 342 and 302—be made a special order for Friday, at 10:30 a. m., and continue such until completed. The motion prevailed. The following bills were read for the third time and passed: House roll No. 12, by Horton, to allow counties of less than 5,000 to assess property at 33 1/3 per cent for purposes of local taxation only. House roll No. 250, by Wilson of Pawnee, carrying the salary appropriations for all the state departments and institutions for the ensuing biennium; total, \$1,094,280. House roll No. 247, by Rouse, requiring liverymen to post price schedules in a conspicuous place and to punish by fine and imprisonment failure to pay livery bills. House roll No. 231, by Marks of Fillmore, establishing the pay of deputy county assessors at \$3 per day for time actually employed. House roll No. 215, by Dodge of Douglas, to transfer free high school funds now in county treasuries to school districts maintaining such free schools. House roll No. 233, by Hoare of Platte, invalidating salary loans unless made with the written consent of the employer, and requiring the assent of the wife, if the borrower be married. House roll No. 261, by Perry of Furnas, to outlaw mortgages in ten years after maturity and in fifteen years when containing an indorsement. House roll No. 267 by Hill of Hitchcock, establishing a fee system for the compensation of the secretary of the state board of irrigation. House roll No. 189, by Atwood of Seward, fixes the salary of road overseers at \$2 per day for time actually employed, not to exceed \$50 a year. House roll No. 262, by Hofre, a curative insurance act to allow foreign mutual companies with assets of less than \$50,000 to do business in Nebraska. House roll No. 268, by Hill of Hitchcock, giving the state board of irrigation an official seal. House roll No. 271, by McAllister of Deuel, limiting the amount of warrants to be issued by irrigation districts.

SENATE—These bills were passed in the senate on the 10th: S. F. 184, by Gilligan—Which provides that when a school board at its annual meeting makes no provision for a term of school the levy can be made by the county clerk after the county superintendent has estimated the cost. S. F. 50 and 52—Two of the Cady decedence bills. S. F. 164, by Mockett—Making the statutes conform to the federal statutes in matters pertaining to the filing of transcript of judgment. S. F. 197, by Meserve—Fixing the boundary line of Dakota county to conform to the agreement between

the Nebraska and South Dakota commissioners. S. F. 176, by Epperson—Prescribing the length of a term of school under which a district can secure a part of the state school apportionment. S. F. 174, by Gould—Providing that cities of the first class can make a levy to improve roads leading into the city and providing that the poll tax when paid in cash shall be \$2 instead of \$3. S. F. 206 by Dimery—Giving the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings power to rent buildings owned by the state. S. F. 112, by Good—Cutting down the salary of bank examiners to \$1,500 a year and making it a cause for dismissal should a bank fail within six months after it is reported solvent by the examiner. The vote was 17 to 10, just barely enough to carry. Six were absent. The senate went on record as absolutely opposed to any increase in salaries of state employees, but rather a reduction, and expressed its disapproval of the liberality of the house in the matter of allowing claims indiscriminately, by indefinitely postponing, with only one voice opposing, that of Mockett of Lancaster, the claim of Tom Kennard for \$10,000. It refused by a vote of 10 to 15 to reconsider its action in turning down the Good bill providing that all deputy state officers be paid \$1,800. A resolution of sympathy to Senator Giffin because of the death of his brother was adopted and the senate adjourned out of respect to the bereaved senator.

HOUSE—Committee reports were read on the 10th, showing these bills indefinitely postponed: S. F. 76, by Bresee of Sheridan—A judicial reapportionment bill. H. R. 417, by Burgess of Lancaster—Providing for a weather signal service through the state superintendent to warn teachers and pupils of approaching storms. On motion of Lee of Douglas S. F. 44, by Gibson, the South Omaha sewer bill, was ordered for third reading. With Jackson of Antelope in the chair the house went into committee of the whole and took up H. R. 347 and H. R. 302, the deficiency and general appropriations bills, on special order. Clarke of Douglas made a fight for an amendment providing for a salaried deputy game warden at Omaha, but failed. McMullen of Gage submitted an amendment adding \$4,000 for allowances to the National Guard. It was adopted. McLeod's amendment to strike out the \$50,000 item was lost by a vote of 21 to 42. The appropriation for junior normals was raised from \$12,000 to \$15,000. The statutes appropriation goes to Cobbe instead of Wheeler. The house cut out Wheeler and put in Cobbe. The general appropriations, a total of \$1,800,000, approximately, was not vitally altered. The deficiency bill had an original total of \$40,166 and the committee brought this up to \$55,560, which the house did not change. Both bills were then recommended for passage, the house having concluded consideration of them at 4 p. m. H. R. 235, by Perry of Furnas, the biennial election bill, making the term of all county and state officers two years, was recommended for passage.

English Names.

In a list of candidates who were recently admitted to the bar in England there were men whose parents had given them such "Christian" names as these: Elidyr, Amiend, Laxmishanker, Benaiah, Samson and Archimedes. Evidently they have no S. P. C. C. in England, or if there is one there it can't be very watchful.

Cemetery for Books.

"A cemetery for books" is what a French writer calls the National Library in Paris, in which the history of France alone is represented by 300,000 volumes.

You may have observed that certain people who believe in saying only some are said to be lucky because they have good sense.