

# LEGISLATURE of NEBRASKA

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

**SENATE**—These bills were passed on the 15th: S. F. 138, by Tucker—To quiet the title to land which has been platted and laid out in town lots. The bill refers to towns of less than 5,000. S. F. 141, by Meserve—To provide for the issue of water bonds and erection of water plants in towns of 5,000. S. F. 191—Providing bonds for state and county officers and reducing the bonds of the deputy attorney general and deputy state superintendent. S. F. 211, by Cady—Cities not liable for damages by reason of defective sidewalks unless the town officials have been notified that the walks are defective. Applies to small towns. H. R. 157, the game law, was amended so that quail can be killed only between November 15 and 30, and recommended for passage. S. F. 171, the trading stamp bill, to prohibit the use of trading stamps, was recommended for passage without the emergency clause. S. F. 110, by Sheldon, providing the state levy shall be limited to 5 mills, was discussed but no action taken. S. F. 193, by Giffin, providing that poll taxes be \$3, to be paid in cash, was indefinitely postponed, but was resurrected and placed on general file by the senate, with an amendment making the tax \$2 or two days' work.

**HOUSE**—A lively debate ensued on the 15th on H. R. 330, by Voter of Cedar, and the bill finally was recommended for indefinite postponement in committee of the whole. This bill provided for a codification of the insurance laws, appropriating \$3,000 for the work. Casebeer of Gage led the opposition. H. R. 346, by the insurance committee, the compromise fraternal insurance bill, vesting authority in 80 per cent of the membership, came up next. Kyd of Gage offered an amendment substituting 85 per cent for 80. Kyd was the introducer of the original bill, which provided for a 95 per cent government. McMullen of Gage then offered an amendment to make the per cent of government 100. A long discussion followed, culminating in the amendment being lost. Burgess offered an amendment taking orders of less than 15,000 members from under the operation of the act and it carried. Dodge offered an amendment to strike out the provision exempting fraternal insurance orders from taxation. Carried. On motion the bill was ordered engrossed for third reading.

**SENATE**—These bills were passed in the senate on the 16th: S. F. 187—For the relief of the Boyd county settlers. S. F. 210—Authorizing the treasurer to return to Lincoln county money paid to the state in excess of what the county owed. The following were acted upon in the manner indicated: S. F. 27—Allowing the governor to fill a vacancy in the legislature during the session, without a special election; recommended for passage. S. F. 241—The Omaha salary bill; recommended for passage. S. F. 255, by Hughes—Providing that it is necessary when a proposition is submitted to the voters to move the county seat to first secure a petition of three-fourths of the voters, and if the county seat has been in the same town for ten years or more it will require a petition of three-fourths of the voters, ordered engrossed. S. F. 256—Allowing agricultural associations to sell their grounds when it is desirable to remove the location, instead of allowing the land to revert to the county; ordered engrossed. S. F. 194—Does away with road overseers and makes the county commissioners assume the duties; was indefinitely postponed. S.

F. 235—Providing how administrators may renew mortgages on real estate when it will be to the interest of the estate; was recommended for passage. S. F. 268—Provides for the abolishment of township organization; ordered engrossed. S. F. 278—Providing for the levy of a road tax and how the money shall be expended; ordered engrossed. Just before adjournment Sheldon moved to reconsider the action of the senate in killing S. F. 109, a bill to tax mortgages and the motion prevailed. The bill will now come up for passage. In all twenty-five or thirty bills were rushed through the committee of the whole, most of which were not discussed.

**HOUSE**—When the house convened on the 16th the following petition, signed by G. Cuscaden and fifty-six other citizens of Omaha, was read by the clerk:

"To the Honorable, the Members of the Nebraska Legislature, Now in Session:

"Whereas, Charges have been preferred against R. E. Stewart, superintendent for the institution for the deaf and dumb at Omaha, Neb., of gross irregularities in his official capacity and violation of the statutes governing said institution; and:

"Whereas, Complaints have been made of abuse and cruel treatment of the inmates of said institution, therefore, we, the citizens of Douglas county, Nebraska, request your honorable body to take steps to secure a legislative investigation of the charges, a copy of which is hereto attached, and make report and recommendation on the same."

The petition was referred to the committee on asylums.

In the committee of the whole the claims appropriation bill, aggregating approximately \$40,000, was considered and passed on item by item. McLeod of Stanton, Voter of Cedar and other members successfully attacked printing claims on the State Journal company, amounting to \$4,429.73, and they were stricken from the bill. The argument was made that the Journal company is defendant in a damage suit, brought by the state for \$85,400, and that no money should be paid the Journal by the state until that suit is settled. The claim of Sheriff John Power for \$2,075.80 for caring for state prisoners was passed upon favorably. Casebeer moved a reconsideration of the action of the committee in rejecting the State Journal claims, and that the claims be allowed, but that the state auditor be instructed to defer payment until the court shall have passed on the validity of the state's claim against the Journal company. This motion prevailed. The item of \$10,000 for Sarah J. Billmeyer, of Lincoln, for injuries sustained from a fall, due to a bad sidewalk on the capitol grounds, was reduced to \$1,000. With these and numerous other amendments of less importance, the bill was ordered engrossed to a third reading.

**SENATE**—After a somewhat spirited opposition the senate on the 17th passed the Cady railroad commission bill, which was opposed in the forum of debate to the Sheldon bill. The Cady bill, like the other one, is a joint resolution for a constitutional amendment providing for such a commission. The commission shall consist of the state auditor, land commissioner and treasurer, varying in this particular from the old law which placed the secretary of state on the board. The following bills were passed: S. F. 171—The green trading stamp bill,

to prevent their use. H. R. 157—The game law allowing an open season for quail for two weeks in November. S. F. 284—The county engineer bill. H. R. 207 was indefinitely postponed. The following bills were disposed of as indicated: S. F. 190—Land outside of city limits that is to be platted owner must show certificate that no taxes are due, and land must be accepted by county commissioners. S. F. 245—To allow cities and towns to install heating plants. For passage. S. F. 185—Repealing the law allowing a 7-mill levy. For passage. This law is now inoperative. S. F. 247—To facilitate the collection of delinquent taxes. For passage. S. F. 261—To make the party vote apply on constitutional amendments when the measures were endorsed by parties. To pass. S. F. 237—Allowing telegraph and telephone companies to condemn property for right-of-way. To pass. S. F. 254—Providing for the formation of cemetery associations. S. F. 271—Making scavenger statutes specific. To pass. S. F. 281—Providing for annual reports of insurance companies; was recommended for passage. S. F. 262—A bill to allow the people of Plattsmouth to regulate meter charges; was approved. S. F. 229—To limit senate employees to forty-eight; was recommended for passage.

**HOUSE**—These bills were passed on the 17th: To establish a hospital for crippled, deformed children and those suffering from any disease likely to make them deformed; and to provide for their education and for the location and government of the hospital. Providing that when any real estate is situated in more than one township or precinct, or in more than one school, road or other district, it shall be listed separately for the purpose of taxation. Disclaiming and relinquishing all claim of ownership or title on the part of Nebraska to any and all land in Iowa which hereafter shall become within the boundaries 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 national congress, or otherwise; provided, however, that the land has been for ten years or more in possession or occupation of any persons or copartnership or corporation claiming ownership or title thereto. The deficiency claims bill introduced by Stetson as chairman of the deficiency committee, appropriating approximately \$41,000. Granting to the United States government rights-of-way for the construction of irrigation canals. Providing for the admission of foreign accident insurance companies to transact business where the benefits do not exceed \$200. Providing for the purchase of legislative supplies for each session prior to its convening, limiting the cost of such supplies to \$3,000. Regulating the salaries of county commissioners. Defining the purpose and providing for the government of the School for the Deaf and the School for the Blind at Omaha and Nebraska City, respectively.

Some of the names of towns upon which Tennessee bases claims for prestige: Barefoot, Botts, Leap Year, Chimney Top, Chuckaluck, Half Pone, Hanging Limb, Ipe, Marrowbone, Mouse Tail, Opossum, Parch Corn, Peanut, Rip Shin, Sweet Lips, Tom Brown, U Bet, Yum Yum, Buzzard, Roost, Flits, Mashmead, Peeled Chestnut, Shoo Fly, Skull Bone, Snail-lope, Tiger Tail and Wahoo.—Washington Times.

#### Discouragement to Be Avoided.

It isn't necessary to become vain on compliments any more than it is necessary to grow sour on criticisms, but it is better to run the dangers of egotism on the favorable notices than to let the censor with a torpid liver and a nimble pen prick your comfort and poison your happiness.—Saturday Evening Post.

#### SEEDING IN PROGRESS IN WESTERN CANADA.

#### Mild Weather Is Bringing Thousands of Settlers.

The splendid yields of wheat, oats and barley produced by the farmers of Western Canada and the excellent prices received for the same, have been the means of giving an increased interest throughout the United States. As a result the inquiries made of the Agents of the Canadian Government have nearly doubled over those of the same period last year. Railroad companies are putting on increased carrying capacity to meet the demand made upon them for carrying passengers and freight. Everything points to a most prosperous year. There is room for hundreds of thousands additional settlers, much new land having been opened up for settlement this year.

It is quite interesting to look through the letters received from the Americans who have settled in Western Canada during the past few years, and considering the large number it is surprising how few there are who have not succeeded. An extract from a letter written by Mr. Geo. M. Griswold of Red Deer, Alta., formerly of Grever, Montana, written on the 2nd of January is as follows:

"I am located 1½ miles from a beautiful lake 10 miles long, where there is church, school, 3 stores, creamery and two postoffices. The fine stock, both cattle (cows and steers) horses, hogs and sheep are rolling fat, grazing in pasture to-day, just a little snow, hardly enough for good sleighing, as we just had a Chinook which has melted the roads and laid bare the fields and pasture. There are fine wheat, oats, barley and flax raised here, also winter wheat and timothy hay for export to British Columbia. This is a mixed farming and dairy country. This is the right time to get a foothold in the Canadian West, as it was some years ago in the United States. We are free from wind gumbo and alkali here and have fine, clear soft well and spring water at a depth of from 5 to 25 feet, and lots of open everflowing springs."

Telegraphic advices from Medicine Hat say that seeding has commenced at Medicine Hat, Lethbridge and other points. At the former place the temperature moderated gradually until on the 19th the maximum was 45 and the minimum 26. Thermometer readings since then have been as follows: 20th, 47 and 38; 21st, 54 and 34; 22nd, 56 and 39; 23rd, 48 and 40; 24th, 48 and 26.

During the last few days in February considerable ploughing was done near Lethbridge. P. A. Pulley, a recent arrival from Montana, ploughed and harrowed fifteen acres, and E. Laliboury about the same amount. Rev. Coulter White has also been harrowing his farm. All report the ground frost free and in excellent condition. Bricklaying has also begun in town. At Hartney further east on the 25th February the sun was warm and bright, wheeled carriages were in use and the plowed fields look as if they are ready for the press drills. There is every appearance that spring has arrived, but farmers do not wish to be deceived by appearances and consequently have not commenced to use their bluestone and seed wheat.

#### Proposal Made Plain.

An old millionaire paid his address to one of the prettiest girls in the place. On asking her hand in marriage, he frankly said to her: "Miss C——, I am old and you are very young, will you do me the honor to become my widow?"

#### Knew Him.

"When my husband comes home and tells me he has had a corking good time," said Mrs. Gayman. "I always know he has had an uncorking good time."

The greater proportion of divorces takes place between the fifth and tenth year of married life.