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## WORK OF LEGISLATURE

More Activity Evincod as End of the Session Draws Nigh.

### MEASURES THAT HAVE PASSED

No New Bills Now Being Introduced—Measures Recommended for Passage—Others Indefinitely Postponed—Other Miscellaneous Matters.

HOUSE—When the house convened on the 8th the report of the committee on "hold-up" legislation was taken up as special order. Tanner of Nance moved that the committee be instructed to lay before the house for consideration along with its report all testimony taken and evidence adduced before it. The motion prevailed by a viva voce vote. The committee not being prepared to comply with the pleasure of the house the whole matter was made a special order for 11 a. m. Monday. At the afternoon session Taylor of Custer moved that the evidence to be submitted by the "hold-up" committee be ordered spread upon the journal. The motion did not prevail. Senate file 74, by Harlan, providing a charter for all cities of from 5,000 to 25,000 population was read for the second time, and Loomis of Dodge moved that the rules be suspended and the bill advanced to a third reading. So ordered. Senate file 133 was considered. McCarthy moved to strike out from the bill the amendment providing that not more than five of the supreme court commissioners should be republicans and not more than four fusionists. The motion prevailed by a viva voce vote, and the bill was then recommended for passage. House roll 191, by Anderson, to regulate the handling or selling of live stock or farm products in carload lots on commission, and requiring merchants to file a \$25,000 bond with the secretary of state, was recommended for passage.

HOUSE—The session of the house on the 8th was confined to morning work, there being no afternoon sitting, out of respect for the memory of Representative David Brown of Otoe county. The one bill passed was house roll No. 20, which, fittingly enough, was introduced by the member on account of whose death the house adjourned. The bill appropriates \$4,000 for the purpose of creating a public library commission and establishing traveling libraries. The following bills were placed on general file, on recommendation of standing committees: Appropriating \$2,000 for the purchase of a library for the battleship "Nebraska." To make the city treasurer treasurer of the board of education. Relating to the qualifications of teachers. To provide for the use of voting machines. Joint resolution of thanks to Nebraska volunteers of the late wars. To create a state parental home at Lincoln and abolish the Home of Friendless. Relating to water rights and irrigation. To regulate the purchase of supplies for all public institutions and state departments. The vote for senator resulted: Allen 50, Crouse 9, Currie 15, Dietrich 1, Harlan 2, Harrington 2, Hinshaw 19, Hitchcock 3, Kinkaid 2, Martin 2, Melklejohn 28, Morlan 2, Rosewater 14, Thompson, D. E., 36, Thompson, W. H., 50, Wethereld 2.

HOUSE—The house on the 7th placed the following bills on general file: House roll 413, by Marshall, to amend chapter 8, section 26, of the compiled statutes, relating to banks. House roll 255, by Ollis, fixing a maximum rate to be charged for the transportation of live stock. House roll 122, by Hall, to authorize the governor to name a revenue commission to draft a bill for the full assessment of all property, a just and equitable levy and complete collection of taxes, the bill to be filed with the secretary of state by March 1, 1920. House roll 374, by Lane, to increase the salary of the governor's private secretary to \$2,000 a year. House roll 378, by Fellers, concerning the compensation of attorneys in legislative election contests. House roll 436, by Lane, the salaries appropriation bill. House roll 388, by Coppoc, appropriating \$25,000 for the payment of bounties of wolf, wild cat and coyote scalps. Senate file 42, by Ransom, for the protection of feeble minded females. Emergency clause attached. Here is the joint vote for senator: Allen, 47; Crouse, 9; Currie, 16; Dietrich, 1; Harlan, 1; Harrington, 3; Hinshaw, 24; Hitchcock, 2; Kinkaid, 2; Martin, 2; Melklejohn, 29; Rosewater, 15; Thompson, D. E., 36; Thompson, W. H., 3; Wethereld, 2.

HOUSE—By a vote of 52 to 12 the house in committee of the whole on the 5th recommended passage of McCarthy's bill to authorize the appointment of a supreme court commission. An amendment was attached requiring the court to select five of the commissioners from the political party casting a majority of the votes at the last general election and four from other parties. There was very little opposition to the bill in general, but on McCarthy's amendment the members were divided strictly on party lines. Under the order of third reading several bills were taken up and speedily disposed of. The South Omaha charter, introduced by Wilcox, was first on the list and, as amended by the committee on cities and towns, the measure was passed, with an emergency clause, by a vote of 69 to 6. Mullen had an amendment to the taxation feature of the bill, but it was declared out of order because the bill had been announced by unanimous consent of the house. By unanimous vote the house passed Vandegrift's bill to reimburse Sherman county for \$610 expended for care and treatment of smallpox cases, and Warner's measure to reimburse the German Evangelical church for \$500 expended for a building site in this city. At the close of yesterday's session Whitmore had an amendment to change the name "supreme court commissioner" to "supreme court referee." When the bill was again brought up in committee of

the whole today Mr. Whitmore withdrew the amendment, saying that he would oppose the entire measure on constitutional grounds. The amendment introduced by McCarthy provoked a discussion that lasted nearly all the afternoon. Loomis of Dodge, a warm supporter of the bill, thought the selection of the commissioners should be left entirely with the supreme court.

HOUSE—The house on the 4th recommended for passage the bill providing for a system of free public traveling libraries and made some headway on the supreme court commission bill. Consideration of the latter measure will be resumed tomorrow. Reports of standing committees, recommending the passage of the following measures, were read and adopted: For relief of the village of Pender, for \$214.50 expended for care and treatment of smallpox patients. To reduce express rates for transportation of commodities, goods or merchandise between points in Nebraska to 85 per cent of the rates fixed and charged for like service on January 1, 1921. To authorize the State Board of Purchase and Supplies to contract for supplies for three months to one year for state institutions. To appropriate \$25,000 for the erection on state house grounds of a monument in memory of Abraham Lincoln and to Nebraska volunteer soldiers of late wars. Relating to the government of cemetery associations. To regulate the manufacture and sale of lard. To admit veterans of Spanish-American war and the Philippine insurrection to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, under rules and regulations governing these institutions. Relating to construction and repair of sidewalks and grading of streets in cities of metropolitan class; to prevent construction of wooden sidewalks and repair of wooden sidewalks that have deteriorated 50 per cent of their original value. To create a commission of entomology and to authorize quarantine, treatment and destruction of infected trees or plants and to appropriate \$1,000.

HOUSE—A motion by Taylor of Curtis in the house on the 2nd for the appointment of a conference committee to fix the time for final adjournment of the legislature, was defeated by a viva voce vote, after Taylor had spoken in support of the motion and Sprecher of Colfax in opposition thereto. In committee of the whole two bills were recommended for passage: House roll 266, by Fuller, providing that religious societies must be incorporated to have their property exempted from taxation, and senate file 116, by Pitney, to prevent the spread of contagious and infectious diseases. House roll 216, by Warner, to reimburse the German Lutheran church in the sum of \$500 for the money paid the state for its site, was recommended to be indorsed for a third reading. House roll 200, by Vandegrift, to appropriate \$610 for the relief of Sherman county, to reimburse said county for taxes collected in excess, was recommended for passage. House roll 247, by Harris, to allow the State Dairy association to meet annually at such time and place as its board of managers may designate, was recommended for indefinite postponement. Senate file 171, by Miller, identical with the foregoing, was recommended for passage.

SENATE—The South Omaha charter, with a number of amendments proposed since it passed the house, was ordered engrossed for a third reading by the senate on the 8th. It will probably come up for consideration Monday or Tuesday. A petition signed by several South Omaha electors, asking for the establishment of free employment bureaus, was read and referred to the committee having the measure under consideration. Senator Van Boskirk's bill for reapportionment of the state into legislative districts was recommended for passage. A number of amendments were attached. It is senate file No. 76. House roll No. 130, by Wenzel, for relief of Frederick Ulrich of Pawnee county, and appropriating \$55.35 from the state treasury to reimburse him for a tax illegally exacted from him, was recommended for passage. Senate file No. 202, by Young, to provide for exclusion of school bond taxes in computation of aggregate school taxes, recommended for passage. Senate file No. 149, by Edgar, providing that in all actions for constructive or indirect contempt the defendant shall be entitled to trial by jury, recommended for indefinite postponement. Senators Martin and Ransom spoke against it. Senate file No. 193, by Young, a curative act relating to section 509 of the civil code, was recommended for passage.

SENATE—Out of respect to the memory of Representative Brown, the senate on the 6th adjourned for the day after the joint session with the house at noon. A committee of three was appointed to draft resolutions appropriate on Mr. Brown's death. It is composed of Senators Arends, Newell and Meredith. Senator Harlan's bill providing for the incorporation of cities of the first class having less than 25,000 and more than 5,000 inhabitants, senate file 74, was passed on third reading and will be forwarded to the house tomorrow. On recommendation of the railroad committee, the following were ordered to the general file: Making it unlawful to counterfeit any railroad ticket, check or coupon or to offer such for sale. To prevent fraud in railroad tickets, coupons, receipts and passes. Making it unlawful to engrave or have any die, stamp or other matter for the purpose of counterfeiting railroad transportation of any sort. Providing a method for railroad companies securing right-of-way. To fix maximum rates to be charged by railroad and express companies for transportation of certain classes of matter. Other bills placed on general file were: To amend the chapter of the statutes relating to banks. Senate file 135, by Owens, (on request), defining the territory in which mutual insurance companies may transact business. Providing penalties for blackmail, extortion and kindred felonies. Relating to the scope of authority of certain classes of insurance companies.

SENATE—In the senate on the 7th the committee on judiciary recommended that McCargar's bill empowering the attorney general, state treasurer and state auditor to settle, compromise or dismiss all suits now pending wherein the state seeks to recover moneys alleged to be due on official bonds for indefinite postponement. This report was not concurred in, and the bill was placed on the general file. Bills ordered to the general file were: Senate file No. 265, by Martin, to determine and locate disputed section and boundary lines of adjacent lands. Senate file No. 272, by Ransom, on request, to repeal section 4164a of the statutes, relating to the making of contracts in writing between owners of land and brokers or agents employed to sell the land. Senate file No. 297, by Johnson, relating to county boards sitting as boards of equalization. Senate file No. 303, by Ransom, to make the record of ancient instruments competent evidence. Senate file No. 294, by Martin, to authorize investment of certain funds in hands of county treasurers under direction of county boards. Senate file No. 296, by Martin, to permit officers of the state relief commission to pay into the state treasury \$400 unexpended funds. The senate then resolved itself into committee of the whole, with Senator Trompen in the chair, to consider the normal school bill, house roll No. 37, by Broderick. The remainder of the day was devoted to the discussion of this measure. Senators Young and Owens speaking against it.

SENATE—The bill to create two new normal schools was again taken up. Its opponents gained a point when they secured an amendment by the narrow vote of 15 to 14. But this was in committee of the whole, while Senator Trompen, a supporter of the measure, was in the chair and not voting. The amendment adopted provides that the schools shall be located in the Fifth and Sixth congressional districts by the board of public lands and buildings, instead of the normal board. It was proposed by Senator Young, who, together with others opposed to the measure, have a number of amendments to offer later. Senator Crouse pleaded for economy and read from figures given him by Senator Arnds, which showed that with this \$100,000 appropriation there will probably be a deficit of \$415,000 at the end of the next biennium. He appealed to the republicans to oppose the measure as a matter of party principle, if for no other reason. Senator Arends also spoke against the bill, quoting freely from the statistics estimating the incoming and expenditures of the state for the next two years. He, too, wanted economy. He could see no demand for even one school, much less two. Senator Olesen also spoke in opposition to the measure. He declared that every member of the senate, regardless of politics, should by his voice and vote announce that the people's money shall not be frittered away. The matter was not disposed of when the senate adjourned.

SENATE—On the 4th senate file No. 61, Van Boskirk's bill providing for a state veterinarian, was recommended for passage with but a few dissenting votes. Senator Trompen's bill proposing to increase the fees of the office of sheriff, senate file 123, was recommended for indefinite postponement. The senate went into committee of the whole with Senator Martin in the chair to take up the state normal schools bill, house roll 37, out of its regular order. Its consideration occupied the entire time of the afternoon session. Senator Harlan was against the proposed appropriations and quoted figures to show that the state was already paying over \$500,000 a year for educational purposes. "Why place these schools in the Fifth and Sixth districts?" said the senator from York, "where the population is annually decreasing and where they have no railroad facilities to speak of? Why not consider the Fourth district?" Senator Miller, who lives in Buffalo county, spoke in favor of the bill. He thought the western part of the state should be recognized. Senator Harlan sent up an amendment which cut out of the bill all reference to districts and which would leave the board free to locate them at any point in the state should the bill pass. He had been accused, he said, of being suspicious of the action of the locating board. The amendment was lost. After further discussion the measure went over.

SENATE—A wave of anger swept over the senate on the 2nd culminating in several wordy encounters, during which Ransom of Douglas gave notice that he would ask for a time for the trial of Owens of Dawson for words used on the floor of the senate, and at one time President Steele ordered the floor cleared of all but members of the senate. All this turmoil grew out of a report signed by three members of the judiciary committee recommending the indefinite postponement of senate file No. 108, a bill by Martin to fix the salary of the clerk of the supreme court at \$2,500 a year, and to require all fees to be turned into the state treasury. Mr. Martin privately declared his intention of testing the right of the clerk to retain the fees of his office. Regardless of the disposition of this bill, he said he would bring a suit to test the constitutional provision which fixes the clerk's salary at \$1,500 a year. He said he placed the salary in the bill at \$2,500 knowing that \$1,000 of it would be unconstitutional, but hoping that the clerk and all future clerks would be willing to accept it without questioning the constitutionality of a law both fixing the salary at that figure and requiring all fees to be turned into the state treasury. It is to the state treasury. This was Mr. Martin's reply when some one spoke of testing the constitutionality of his bill if it became a law. The senate adjourned until Monday without taking action on the report.

### LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The big item in the appropriation bill is that for \$589,000 in favor of the State university, which is larger by nearly \$100,000 than the appropriation two years ago, when it was a tremendous record-breaker, eclipsing all former efforts. This colossal appropriation

is the outgrowth of the extra 1-mill tax levy imposed by the last legislature, which it is now proposed to make permanent.

The educational committee of the legislature will in a few days receive a petition which is very much out of the ordinary. It will consist of 8,402 ballots signed by parents of children attending the Omaha public schools. Of them 7,438 are in favor of allowing the board of education to continue under the present law to make the tax levy for school purposes; 752 are in favor of having the city council make the levy, and 212 are unmarked or so marked that their meaning is doubtful.

Owing to the death of Representative David Brown, which occurred at his home in Nebraska City, the legislature adjourned on the 8th until the following week in order that the members who so desire might attend the funeral Saturday.

Representative Brown, whose death occurred at Nebraska City, was born in Pennsylvania and came of the plain, rugged Quaker stock. He came to Nebraska City more than forty years ago. He has been engaged of late years in farming, stock raising, real estate and insurance, and has amassed considerable property. He has been postmaster of Nebraska City, was a member of the legislature at the time of the impeachment of Governor Butler and was elected last fall to represent the legislative district of Cass and Otoe counties. He leaves a widow and one son aged 14 years.

If the report of its committee on claims is adopted by the senate J. B. Meserve, ex-state treasurer, will not be reimbursed for the \$2,000 it cost him to furnish a guaranty company bond the last two years of his incumbency. The same committee, however, in the same report, recommends the appropriation of \$3,000 to pay the premium of State Treasurer Stuefer for the year 1921. The bill, with this committee report attached, was placed on the general file.

Calvin Ballows, aged 45, an employee of the Trees Manufacturing company at Greenfield, Ind., was instantly killed by the Pennsylvania fast mail.

The destruction of the penitentiary by fire and the largely increased appropriations which its rebuilding will necessitate discourages some of the enthusiastic "normalites" who have been working hard for the passage of a bill making appropriations for two additional normal schools. "We have not given up the fight by any means," said one of the more enthusiastic members, "but we are afraid that the changed conditions brought about by the burning of the penitentiary will have an effect on some of the senators who were indifferent as to the normal school bill, but on whom we were figuring to help us out by their votes, if not by their active support.

Some complications are apt to arise out of the penitentiary fire. A resolution was adopted in the house asking the State Board of Public Lands and Buildings to employ a competent architect at once to examine the walls of the burned building and submit an immediate report as to their condition whether available for rebuilding, and an approximate estimate of the cost of reconstruction. It is certain an effort will be made to retain the penitentiary at its present location, the principal factors enlisted to that end being the convict labor contractors.

The only feature of the balloting for United States senator on the 2nd was the appearance of N. D. Jackson of Neligh in the list. He received the votes which were cast the day before for Wethereld and in addition those of Jouvenat, Olesen and Cuming, Smithberger and Swanson. The position of none of the leaders except Melklejohn were changed by the switches. The Currie, 13; Dietrich, 2; Harrington, 4; Hainer, 1; Harlan, 2; Hinshaw, 11; Hitchcock, 29; Kinkaid, 2; Martin, 4; Melklejohn, 30; Rosewater, 14; Jackson, N. D., 5; Thompson, D. E., 36; Thompson, W. H., 17.

Following is the joint vote for senator on the 4th: Allen, 31; Crouse, 7; Crockett, 7; Currie, 13; Dietrich, 2; Dunn, 9; Hainer, 2; Harlan, 2; Harrington, 2; Hinshaw, 9; Hitchcock, 20; Kinkaid, 2; Martin, 3; Melklejohn, 26; Morlan, 1; Rosewater, 15; Thompson, D. E., 35; Thompson, W. H., 9; Wethereld, 2.

### WRITES OF SUICIDE.

Percentage of Self-Destruction Increasing Fast in Europe.

In a paper printed in the American Journal of Insanity, Mr. G. Styles presents statistics regarding the occurrence of suicides. Forty years ago it was shown that only four out of 10,000 persons rated as paupers died by their own hands, while seven coachmen or other servants, five bankers or other professional men, nearly eight soldiers, seven tailors, shoemakers or bakers, and only 1-10 carpenters, butchers and masons out of 10,000 were suicides. Sweden had the lowest average of all the countries considered, namely, one suicide to 32,000 persons; Russia had one to 35,000; the United States one to 15,000; Saxony, one to 8,446. In St. Petersburg and in London the proportion was one to 21,000. If we take the statistics of the fifty years just passed for France the following results: For every 100,000 inhabitants of France there were in 1841-50, ten; in 1861-70, thirteen; in 1871-80, fifteen; in 1876-80, seventeen; in 1889 alone, twenty-one; in 1893, twenty-two; in 1894, twenty-six. During the years 1826-1890 the percentage of suicides increased in Belgium 72 per cent; in Prussia, 41 per cent; in Austria, 238 per cent; in France, 313 per cent; in Saxony, 212 per cent; in Sweden, 72 per cent; in Denmark, 35 per cent.

### Set Speeches Set to Music.

To oblige a friend, the great Calvour, Verdi accepted a seat in the Italian parliament, but the proceedings bored him and he occupied his time setting the orators' speeches to music. The composer was very religious. He had a private chapel in his home in which mass was said daily.

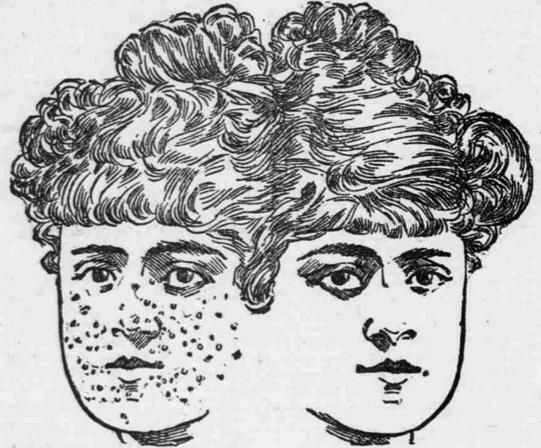
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