

LEGISLATIVE LORE.

Our Legislature Waking Up and Expediting Business.

Thirteen Bills Were Very Rapidly Ground Out.

Capitol and Home For the Friendless Appropriations Bills.

Church Howe's Delinquent Tax Bill and the Railroad Bill.

Mr. Troupe is Very Unmindful of Parliamentary Rules.

The State "Kow Doctor" Bill is Badly Slughtered For the Present—Will be Reconsidered.

THE SENATE.

Special Correspondence to the BEB. LINCOLN, February 18.—Whatever may have been the past reputation of the senators for executive ability, they certainly are expediting business this week in a way highly satisfactory to themselves and constituents.

Soon after assembling this morning the senate resolved itself into committee of the whole for considering the bills on general file. Thirteen bills were taken up, discussed and disposed of rapidly.

The most important of these was House Bill 375, appropriating \$10,000 for the Home for the Friendless and the capital appropriation bill, leaving a half million in committee. Two bills authorizing the transfer of moneys from one fund to another by the state treasurer, were passed.

The medical bill, Senate File No. 5, introduced by Senator Buckworth near the first of the session, was again taken up and ordered engrossed for a third reading. To all intents and purposes it is supposed to be a bill to prevent quackery. How well it will succeed remains to be seen.

The other bills considered were amendments to the compiled statutes and important measures of a general character in the management of the institution for the insane hospital are about ready to report. None of the members are willing to give away anything, but from the little that has been said, it is feared that no charges against Dr. Matthews have been sustained by the evidence of the witnesses who testified. It is said that the evidence shows lack of conviction in the management of the institution. Dr. Matthews is to be allowed to review the evidence before he makes his defense. As the evidence covers some 500 pages of reports, written in a type writer, he has quite a task before him.

The school land investigation committee will hold their next meeting next Thursday when they will whitewash all those aspects of complicity in the frauds.

Railroad matters are very quiet at present. The lobby is in view of subsequent victory. A gang of the lobby and a few senators indulged in a quiet high supper at one of the hotels last evening. Reporters were not admitted.

The BEB correspondents made a flying trip to the penitentiary the other day and were well entertained by Warden Noble, who opened a keg of nails and a bottle of mulligan for their benefit. Having designs on their lives he also offered cigars, written in a type writer, of course, refused. So far as observation extends, the management of the institution is excellent. A larger number of men were working in the drive shops than anywhere else. There are about 800 slaves, and the work they are doing is for the new capital.

Afternoon Session.

LINCOLN, February 18.—Almost the entire afternoon session of the senate was taken up in committee of the whole in considering the bill that provides for a change in the method of selling and leasing the school lands, mentioned in these dispatches yesterday. Many minor amendments were proposed and there was a little discussion on almost every point of the law. It was the first bill upon which there has been any political fighting.

McShane and Hastings, of the democratic side, argued against the bill at almost every point. The committee reported progress, and asked leave to sit again.

Several bills considered in the morning were put upon their final passage, among them the capital appropriation of \$10,000 for the Home for the Friendless. There was no opposition.

The bill allowing the Fairbridge to become a state corporation was again voted down. Lacking a sufficient vote, it was recommitted. Some, who saw a negro in the timbers of that bill oppose it.

THE HOUSE.

Special Correspondence to the BEB. LINCOLN, February 18.—After several reports from standing committees had been read this morning, Mr. Whitmore introduced the following resolutions:

Whereas, It has become evident that a large number of the bills upon the general file cannot be reached in the regular order of business, and

Whereas, Certain bills are of great importance to the people and should be disposed of. Therefore be it

Resolved, That the rules be suspended and the following bills be taken up and made the special order for consideration in the committee of the whole until the same are disposed of as follows:

100, 20, 92, 295, 267, 31, 117, 98, 72, 146, 28, 21, 240, 251, 239, 3, 93, 237, 1, 6, 13, 83, 99, 137, 347, 77, 358, 10, 88, 219, 314, 147, 142, 139, 113.

The above being the order in which said bills appear upon the general file, provided, nothing herein shall be construed to interfere with the special orders already made.

The debate over the resolution continued up to 11 o'clock. When the vote was finally ordered the resolution was lost.

The house then went into committee of the whole. House bills 2 and 111 and senate file 27 and 1 were taken first. These bills all deal with the collection of the rams. Some bills propose to

impose a penalty of 5 per cent. for delinquent taxes, and others to refund the penalties that have already been collected.

House roll 3 was the first to attract attention, and brought a speech from Mr. Troupe, which has not been excelled since the session met for its personal attack on the supporters of the bill generally, and Mr. Howard and all bankers in particular. Mr. Troupe was frequently called to order by the chair and requested several times to confine his remarks to the question before the committee.

Mr. Howard said he would not reply to the trade of abuse and petting of Mr. Troupe. He was unwilling to occupy the time of the house in personal abuse of any kind, and unless he had an argument he would keep quiet.

Mr. Stevenson moved to substitute Senate File No. 1 for House Roll No. 3. This led to more confusion in the midst of which Senate File 27 was made to appear upon the scene, which appearance made matters worse.

House Roll 111 was also introduced to the committee, and the confusion having become unbearable, the committee adjourned until the house that H. R. 3 has, and 101 be indefinitely postponed and that S. F. 1 do pass. The committee receiving no report from the committee.

Mr. Nettleton had moved that Senate File 27 be indefinitely postponed, and without arrest thought it would be a measure whereby a case after a stormy morning a session with no practical result so far as legislation is concerned.

Afternoon Session.

Special Telegram to THE BEB. LINCOLN, February 18.—Considerable excitement prevails here to night and there is great rejoicing in some quarters over the passage through the house of House Roll 324, a railroad bill.

One unacquainted with the present state of legislation, and who did not know better, would be led to believe that something very wonderful in the way of amending legislation had been accomplished. A close examination would reveal the fact that absolutely nothing had really been done.

The members who supported the bill knew right well that it would never become a law. The senate had rejected a similar bill of their own, and would not accept this, but the members were in a hurry to get it passed, and they might obtain a cheap notoriety, and be placed on record as having supported a railroad bill. This is their ambition, as to-day doing this for to-day it passed, as far as the house is concerned, is a law. The people, however, will have something to say of the persons who build up records on such false grounds.

The following voted against the bill: Adams, Bacon, Conger, Heinrich, Hocknell, Edmunds, Riley, Lincoln, Holt, Taylor, Troupe, Wait, Whitman, Wright and Mr. Spaker.

What is called the contagious disease amendment, which in reality is a bill to prevent the state cow doctor and to compensate stock raisers for losses sustained by death from contagious disease, is a piece of legislation which will cost the state in the sum of \$13,000 annually.

The bill met its fate, being rejected by one vote. It is to be recommitted, and his request was granted.

Church Howe's bill, senate file 27, to refund the fine paid by the penitentiary, was passed to-day, also a bill making county warrants payable in ten days instead of ninety as at present. Both laws being considered very beneficial.

THE HOUSE.

Special Correspondence to THE BEB. LINCOLN, Neb., February 17.—The house met this afternoon at 2:30 and proceeded to the business in a somewhat irregular manner. The bill that came up was H. R. 186, now well known as the Kearney reform school bill, which was on its final reading. The bill seeks to set aside \$30,000 of the state's money for the construction of new reform school buildings at Kearney. What is called the old buildings although only built some three years ago, are now deemed insufficient and unsuited to present requirements. This fact was unacted in the minds of the committee which went to inspect the present ones through a good lunch. The fact and the fact that the houses here at present working to obtain all the new state buildings for their respective localities.

After an incredible confusion in which Mr. Brown made himself conspicuous by arguing a point of order, the committee reported the bill to be indefinitely postponed.

The house then proceeded to take up a bill by moving that the report be not considered, but his motion was lost and the bill indefinitely postponed. It being now 10:30 the house adjourned.

It is intended that to-morrow the most important bills will be selected from the general file and presented to the house in the order of importance.

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Senate file 13, a bill to prevent the selling of cigars or cigars or tobacco to persons under fifteen years of age, was passed on its third reading.

The secretary of the senate announced that the senate had appointed Senator McShane, Burr and Skinner to act with a like committee of the house to arrange for the conclusion of the session.

The house then went into committee of the whole and took up house roll 14 for a consideration. This is a bill which seeks to change an old law and appoint only one supervisor to every 3,000 inhabitants instead of 1,000 as heretofore. Mr. Riley strongly opposed the bill as it would interfere with the rights of the people. Mr. Lempie said he could not understand Mr. Riley's objection, because the bill would not affect Douglas county, to which Mr. Riley replied he was legislating for the state and not D. only.

Mr. Lempie now attempted to substitute another bill for the one under consideration and after some wrangling was ruled out of order. On a motion of Mr. Riley the bill was ordered to be reported to the house with the recommendation that it be indefinitely postponed.

After house roll 10 was read and disposed of satisfactorily without comment, the committee took up house roll 78, a bill to amend the criminal code, and to allow the courts to forfeit for felony the power of calling fifteen witnesses in their behalf, and compelling the state to pay their expenses.

Mr. Holmes opposed this bill with some force and said it was a dangerous bill to pass, as it would handicap some of the counties. If prisoners were innocent they could get witnesses without pay.

Mr. Field supported the bill, and thought it should be recommended to all good lawyers practicing in this jurisdiction, as there can be no such thing as innocent prisoners until they are placed on a level with the state prosecutors, the latter always having plenty of money.

Mr. Stephenson hoped the bill would pass and after Mr. Johnson had spoken the committee ordered the bill to be reported for passage.

Senate File 8 was the next bill dealt with and after Mr. Colfax had explained its provisions to the house it was recommended to pass. The committee now rose and the house took a recess until 7:30 p. m.

On the motion of Mr. Russell the house held an evening session to-night at 7:30 to consider House Roll 170, a bill to provide for the establishment of a geological survey of the state. Mr. Russell introduced the bill and in a very lucid manner explained its meaning and object to the house.

The bill was in committee until the speaker and a speech was made of a scientific lecture which a few only listened to, the rest having no doubt ascertained themselves they wouldn't if they had listened. He said every other state had a geological survey and it was time for this state to adopt means to secure similar services. He also urged the bill for its own sake.

Mr. Wintwerp objected to the bill because the state had not on well up to now and geologists had never been any good. They said that the bill would cost the state \$25,000 a year. The speaker replied that the bill would cost the state \$25,000 a year, but that it would also save the state \$25,000 a year.

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WASHINGTON NEWS.

Ohio People Confident That Thurman Gets Into the Cabinet.

The Senate Passes the Foreign Contract Labor Bill.

The Old Renault Claim Again Sprung on the Government.

The Text of the Foreign Labor Contract Bill.

The Penalties For Violation Are \$1,000 Per Man.

A Protest Against the Freemasons Participating in the Washington Monument Exercises.

SENATE.

WASHINGTON, February 18.—At 11 o'clock the only senator in the chamber was Edmunds, who promptly at that hour entered with the chaplain. Edmunds, observing the situation, abstained from taking the chair and he and the chaplain took seats on the floor.

After a few minutes delay Merrill came in, and about two or three others.

The bill providing the construction of a bridge across the R. R. river at Stillwater, Minn., passed the house to-day, and goes to the president for his signature. This will permit the completion of the Minneapolis & St. Paul M. R. R., which the Minneapolis people believe is going to carry all their wheat to St. Paul and Portland, as it is by the way of the Canadian Southern, which carries 200 miles nearer to the seaboard than by the way of Chicago.

Associated Press. CLEVELAND WANTS THAT PETITION. Representative Reagan to-day received a communication from President elect Cleveland, requesting that the petition of the democratic members of the house, urging him to refrain from committing himself in regard to the coinage of silver, in his inaugural address, be forwarded to him by mail. It is understood that his request is in response to an inquiry whether he preferred to receive it by mail or at the hands of a delegation of agents.

Representative Millard, of the committee on reform in civil service. Submitted minority report, signed by the republican members of the committee, in favor of Representative Taylor's bill to prohibit the discharge of honorably discharged soldiers, officers or dependent relatives from any office in the civil service of the United States, except for cause. The report says in part: This class of government employes have a special grade of the nation that cannot be easily compensated. They are the country from dismemberment and dishonor. We submit it is but a just and proper recognition of their claim that they should be retained in the government's service as long as they can faithfully and effectively perform their official duties. The bill is eminently worthy of passage, and should be passed with the following amendment:

"It should not apply to a class of officers except in the original tenure of office as passed March 3, 1877, and amended April 5, 1883."

The general deficiency bill reported to the house by the committee on appropriations, \$3,501,916 of which amount \$75,000 is appropriated in compliance with the recommendation of the postmaster general for clerk hire in the various postoffices. The bill provides that the accounting officer of the treasury department shall not receive any claim against the United States unless it shall have been filed within one year from the date of the act, or within five years after it shall have occurred, or unless it shall have arisen under obligation or contract of the United States incurred by the authority of law, and unless such appropriation originally applicable to the payment thereof.

THE OLD RENAISSANCE CLAIM. For lands in Illinois which had been before the interior department for years, and has on several occasions been presented to congress for consideration, formed the basis of another decision of the secretary of the interior to-day. The bill provides that the claimants to have a patent issued to them. The secretary doubts the authority of the department to issue a patent and thinks it should be referred to congress for its legislative authority, in the light of information the department now possesses, he therefore declines to grant the petition. Forty-five fine farms are included within the lands claimed by the petitioner.

FOREIGN CONTRACT LABOR BILL. The following is the text of the house "foreign contract labor" bill. As amended and passed by the senate. Be it enacted, etc.

Section 1. That from and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for any person to employ or contract with any person in any manner whatever to transport, or in any way assist or encourage the transportation of any alien or aliens, any foreigner or foreigners, into the United States, its territories, or the District of Columbia, under contract or agreement, parole or special express or implied, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States, shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 2. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 3. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 4. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 5. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 6. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 7. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 8. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

Section 9. That for every violation of any provision of section one of this act, the person, partnership, company or corporation violating the same, by knowingly, assisting, encouraging or soliciting the migration or the importation of any alien or aliens, or any foreigners into the United States, its territories or the District of Columbia, to perform labor or service of any kind under contract or agreement, express or implied, parole or special, with such alien or aliens, foreigner or foreigners, previous to becoming a resident or citizen of the United States shall forfeit or pay, or be fined, etc.

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will probably be that of secretary of the interior. There is a strong pressure from the people generally, who remember with admiration his course in the senate with reference to railway and land matters, in favor of his being given a place.

Mr. Hewitt, who three days ago that Thurman would not be in the cabinet, now says he feels confident that a place will be tendered him. The change in the situation is brought about largely by the expectation of the stories which put down Thurman as a drunkard.

BRIDGE BILL PASSEB. The bill providing the construction of a bridge across the R. R. river at Stillwater, Minn., passed the house to-day, and goes to the president for his signature. This will permit the completion of the Minneapolis & St. Paul M. R. R., which the Minneapolis people believe is going to carry all their wheat to St. Paul and Portland, as it is by the way of the Canadian Southern, which carries 200 miles nearer to the seaboard than by the way of Chicago.

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