

THE NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

Thirty-Six Days of the Present Session Consumed.

A REVIEW OF THE LAST WEEK.

The Senate Chiefly Distinguished By the Number of Measures It Succeeded in Killing—Bills Introduced.

A Legislative Resumé.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 17.—[Special to THE BEE.]—The legislature has been in session thirty-six days. As it must meet on sixty separate days, there is little probability of winding up the session before March 30, and the feeling here is that it is more likely to run until April 1. Every week some measure is introduced, and an effort will be made for three to five days, and an effort will be made for a ten-day vacation about the time of Harrison's inauguration.

Over four hundred bills have been introduced in the house and half as many more in the senate, making a grand total of about 625. Each house seems bent on thrashing its own straw and pitching it over into the other. One more the finished results of a week's labor are two bills.

The senate passed the bill amending the pharmacy law. It requires the board of pharmacy to hold four meetings each year, instead of three, for the examination of would-be medicine mixers. It increases the examination fee from \$5 to \$10 and the annual fee from \$1 to \$2. The bill also provides for the creation of a board of pharmacy.

The house passed the bill amending the insurance law. It authorizes residents of the state to associate and mutually insure their own property. Among the others were the following:

Allowing cities of 1,000 to 5,000 to levy an aggregate school tax of 25 mills, the present limit being 30 mills.

Authorizing cities of the second class to spend yearly as much as \$1,000 for a city engineer's services, the present limit being \$500, at 25 per cent.

Making a county liable for damages to a person injured by reason of a defective bridge or highway.

Authorizing the government to condemn a postoffice site, another empowering the police commission to hire and employ a constable or disabled policeman, and a third authorizing the chief of police and police judge to sell unclaimed property taken from owners.

The week has been more notable for what the senate killed than for what it created. It failed to pass a bill in the form of a bill permitting women to vote at municipal elections. Both were considered in one afternoon. They were rejected by a narrow margin but considerable filibustering. Both were indefinitely postponed, the vote being 16 for and 12 against. The republican members of the house also failed to pass a bill which has all the burden it should carry for the present.

Senator Sutherland's railroad resolution was also knocked out by a vote of 17 for and 14 against. It had a long preamble quoting the republican state constitution and the republican constitution of the United States. It provided for a transportation question and concluded with a resolution requesting the railroad commissioners make a report on the subject. The bill would prevent unjust discriminations in Nebraska. The opponents of the measure state that it would allow the railroads to discriminate against the farmers and stock raisers.

Considerable time has been consumed discussing a constitutional amendment allowing the state to issue bonds for the purpose of district bonds with the state's permanent school fund. The constitution mentions national, state and county bonds for such purposes, but does not mention district bonds. At present it is \$1,000,000, and it is proposed to increase it to \$2,000,000. The state has \$1,000,000 nearly \$300,000. The state has \$1,000,000 nearly \$300,000. The state has \$1,000,000 nearly \$300,000.

The senate adopted a resolution directing the removal of the home for the friendless from the city of Lincoln to the state farm, near Lincoln. The bill provides that the home be removed to the state farm, near Lincoln. The bill provides that the home be removed to the state farm, near Lincoln.

The senate is liable to defeat the home bill abolishing state oil inspection. The committee to whom it was referred reported adversely, and in its stead recommended a bill retaining inspection, but with a change in the number of inspectors, from 10 to 15, and 125 degrees and adopting the New York test, being used in Iowa.

A sub-committee of the senate judiciary committee is at work on a constitutional amendment increasing the number of the supreme court judges from three to five. There is a feeling here that the judiciary of Nebraska has more business than three judges can properly handle, and at present no one is expected to introduce an amendment is anticipated in either house.

The investigation of the state farm and the experimental station has continued without startling developments. It appears that the farm is being run at a loss of about \$250,000 a year. It has 220 acres, about ten of which have been used for the purpose of raising corn. The number of acres being farmed has not been disclosed, but six or seven hands are drawing pay for doing the work. There is kept on hand a large number of cattle, horses and swine, but for what purpose does not appear.

The experimental station is a separate institution from the farm, though run in connection with it. The station is conducted under an act of congress granting \$15,000 a year for investigations and experiments in animal diseases, insects, plants, crickets, etc. Witnesses have testified that the expenses have been kept within that sum. The whole amount is not used in any one year. The unexpended balance will be deducted from the allowance for the next year.

The conductors of the Nebraska station, like those of other states, are careful, therefore, to spend all the pocket money Uncle Sam allows them. Prof. Billings, of Iowa, whose notoriety has been getting the biggest slice of the \$15,000. He has been allowed \$1,000 a year for salary and nearly \$2,000 for expenses of his investigations. About \$2,500 were spent one year for printing. An entomologist is allowed \$1,500 a year, and a number of gentlemen, of Iowa, have been sent to draw additional salaries from the station ranging as high as \$500. Prof. Billings says he has discovered a disease which he has averted by inoculation with the germ of the disease, and he has captured the germ. His experiments, however, have been too irregular to be complete to prove anything, and deservingly or not, he rests under the suspicion of being a humbug. As yet the investigating committee has discovered no other practical results emanating from the station. Individual members of the committee express the opinion that fancy farming at the station ought to be stopped. They think work on the farm had better be limited to that which is experimental, and that the expense should be borne by the station.

The most important measure before the

senate at present is a bill to regulate state banks. It provides that banks must have a capital according to the population of its place of business, and the bill embodies a scale of this kind. It provides for an annual inspection under the direction of the state treasurer, and for quarterly reports, which are to be published. It fixes severe penalties for a bank receiving deposits when insolvent, and for a treasurer who represents an insolvent bank. Senator Manderson will be here Tuesday, and arrangements have been made for a joint session of the two houses in the afternoon at which the senator will be expected to speak.

This week has been almost frittered away in the lower house, nothing of importance being accomplished. The members are bent on every measure, lobbyists pushing this and that claim, and they are so brazen and impudent in their demands as not only to retard business, but almost to block the wheels of legislation.

The process of separating the sheep from the goats is now going on, and fortunately will be for the more honest members successfully resist the pressure and maintain their present position in favor of economical government to the end of the session. About 75 of the forty-seven farmers can be relied on to vote as a unit against every species of reckless and extravagant legislation, but they may lose their grip through some skillful combine and not be able to protect the state treasury from the well-organized enemies who regard the public money chest as their legitimate prey. The capital city is full of well-to-do citizens who are waiting for an opportunity, and who interest themselves in the meantime pushing special claims and lobbying for more of them. The more they are introduced by this class of vamps, the more they are introduced, and unless a halt is soon called, it will degenerate into a regular orgy of graft and corruption.

An effort to make a special order of these bills failed, but another effort will be made to make the coming week which will likely bring the session to a close. The legislature have not taken kindly to the idea that they should be compelled to "pay the full face" of the bills, and they are determined that such a law would greatly increase the insurance risks, and have a strong tendency to raise the cost of doing business. However, they will hardly be able to strangle or defeat the bill.

Gilbert's usury bill, forbidding both principal and interest where illegal interest is charged, came up for discussion two or three times. The author made a plea for it, and the bill was finally ordered to a third reading by a vote of 18 to 18, but it may not be passed. A less stringent measure, as a bill reducing the legal rate of interest, would very likely pass.

Hall's bill fixing a maximum freight tariff on all the railroads in the state was up for consideration several times during the week. On Thursday former Judge Mason, by invitation, addressed the house on the subject of railroad extortion in general. He did not make a favorable report on the bill, and the measure was already lodged in the railroad commission, and thought that about 90 per cent of the business of Nebraska is through railroads. He contended that the railroads are a cheap long haul. He admitted that local rates on lumber, coal, stock, grain and hay were at least 50 per cent higher, but that the railroads managers would retaliate by raising the through rates if the commission undertook to arbitrarily reduce the local rates. The bill will come up for consideration again in a few days.

The joint resolution instructing the commission to reduce freight rates, which was killed in the senate a few days ago, was introduced in the house on Friday by Mr. Johnson and will pass that body with a good majority. It is a measure for consideration again in a few days.

The committee, composed of Hampton, Johnson, Farley, Hanna and Cushing, which is charged with the duty of securing a proper conduct of the business of the house, is divided into two factions. One faction is composed of the members who are now on the payroll, and there is a well grounded suspicion that the public interests do not demand so much of them.

The committee investigating committee, appointed to sift the charges made by F. R. McBrine, is still at work. The committee received bribes to influence their votes on the question of submission, has been sitting with closed doors for several days. So far the investigation has not been successful, but it is being made to secure some positive proof.

Mr. McBrine introduced a resolution on Wednesday last, providing for a court of claims, to be composed of five of the disinterested judges, who would receive extra pay, to reduce all claims against the state. It is claimed that this royalty would develop a wonderful sugar industry in the state, and would be especially in the hands of the Republican party.

The house wrestled with the dog question this week and finally decided in favor of making dogs "property" and narrowing the protection of the law around them and taxing them like all other property.

Representative Atwood introduced a bill appropriating the sum of \$2,700 to be expended in holding farmers' institutes throughout the state. The bill provides that the president and secretary of the Agricultural and Horticultural societies, Dairymen's associations, Farmers' alliance and other similar organizations, be authorized to carry on the work and that no institute shall cost over \$100 and no local expenses shall exceed \$25.

On Wednesday next the supreme court will hear arguments on the constitutionality of the double-headed submission bill. The case is known as the "Double-Headed Submission Case." The case is known as the "Double-Headed Submission Case." The case is known as the "Double-Headed Submission Case."

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Certain persons high in authority made application for a passport at the asylum, and the man should be worthy of a wealthy widow. He appeared a short time after accompanied by a beautiful woman, who was addressed as his wife. The man was tall and well made, and dressed in the height of fashion. He had a bold and open countenance, and his hands that betokened gentility of birth. The woman was young and aristocratic in looks and bearing. About the face of the man was a thin veil, which he refused to remove. He was rarely admitted, and conversed with few. His food was given to his wife, and the inmates of the asylum knew nothing of his name and history, further than the fact that they were from Russia. Rumors were rife, as was natural, and many ingenious stories connected with his name and imprisonment. But the mystery has at last been solved, and the "Man of the Linen Mask" proved to be the hero of a strange and romantic tale.

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This arbitrary demand on the part of the plumbers is not necessarily a kick for higher wages. The union made a plan to fix the rate at \$4.00 and \$5 a day at the present time. They simply demand that each journeyman shall receive at least \$3.50 per day. Those who are worth more than that amount may receive what the master plumber and such employe may determine upon.

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Certain persons high in authority made application for a passport at the asylum, and the man should be worthy of a wealthy widow. He appeared a short time after accompanied by a beautiful woman, who was addressed as his wife. The man was tall and well made, and dressed in the height of fashion. He had a bold and open countenance, and his hands that betokened gentility of birth. The woman was young and aristocratic in looks and bearing. About the face of the man was a thin veil, which he refused to remove. He was rarely admitted, and conversed with few. His food was given to his wife, and the inmates of the asylum knew nothing of his name and history, further than the fact that they were from Russia. Rumors were rife, as was natural, and many ingenious stories connected with his name and imprisonment. But the mystery has at last been solved, and the "Man of the Linen Mask" proved to be the hero of a strange and romantic tale.

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The dissatisfaction arose some time ago. It was all on account of wages of workmen. The workmen wanted to have their condition, and on Monday, February 11, William Thompson, secretary of the plumbers' union, notified the master plumbers that they would work for less than \$1 per diem. The compensation of the master plumbers was not to be less than \$3.50. This came to a dictatorial way to suit the employers. He decided to call a conference to remedy matters, instead of urging such a peremptory charge. The master plumbers say they would have tried to arbitrate.

This arbitrary demand on the part of the plum