# THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

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# HOLCOMB'S SECOND

Longest of His Messages Sent to the General Assembly.

GOVERNOR ADDRESSES THE LEGISLATORS

Points Out Many Matters that May Well Engross Attention.

SUGGESTS CHANGES IN THE BALLOT LAW

Would Avoid the Clash that Has Been Possible Hitherto.

TREASURY NEEDS MUCH ATTENTION

Suggests Some Radical Changes in the Methods Prevailing.

WOULD REMEDY THE REVENUE LAWS

System of Levying and Collecting Taxes to Be Entirely Reformed.

CARE OF THE PERMANENT SCHOOL FUND

Magnificent Endowment of Public Education Should Not Be Neglected.

FAVORS TRANSMISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION

**Advantages of the Great Enterprise Briefly Set Out and Liberal Appropriation for Nebraska's Exhibit Recommended.**

LINCOLN, Jan. 7.—(Special.)—Following is the full text of Governor Holcomb's second inaugural message to the Nebraska general assembly:

GOVERNOR HOLCOMB'S MESSAGE.

To the Members of the Twenty-fifth Session of the Legislature of Nebraska: In the discharge of the obligation imposed on me as the chief executive of the state to communicate to you such information and recommendations as may suggest themselves, I deem it not inappropriate to express my gratification that this message is presented to a legislative body a majority of the members of which I have reason to believe are in harmony and sympathy with the executive department, and that we can hopefully look for a hearty accord between the executive and legislative branches of this state government in the respective capacities to which we, the servants of the people, have been chosen by their suffrages to act, respecting the plans to be adopted and the policies we shall pursue. The existence of such harmonious relations will, I am sure, enable us to accomplish much good for our state. I feel confident that every branch of our state government is imbued with an earnest desire to promote the general welfare of our people, advance the prosperity of the state, guard, protect and encourage every interest which will add to the development of its resources and preserve the rights of its citizens.

I feel a deep sense of gratitude to my fellow citizens for the confidence manifested in me by my re-election and desire only in the future to profit by the experience of the past and thus prove myself worthy of the high honor bestowed upon me.

In administering the affairs of the people in a government such as ours those chosen for that purpose are but instruments to ascertain and then carry out the will of the people. This should be done with diligence and fidelity. The faithful servant merits and receives the approval of a sovereign people, and enjoys the satisfaction of mind which comes from the knowledge of a duty well performed in the discharge of weighty responsibilities. That the members of this legislature are impressed with the grave responsibilities resting upon each of them, and with the importance of the varied interests of this commonwealth which are for a time committed to their care, I believe and shall assume to be true; that you are determined to discharge your duties faithfully and fearlessly for the best interests of our beloved state and the welfare of our fellow-citizens, I doubt not in the least.

MANY DIFFICULT PROBLEMS.

You will doubtless be called upon to solve many difficult and perplexing problems of great interest to the state and I feel sure you will give to each important question, as it is brought before you, that mature deliberation which should characterize all legislation affecting the welfore of a great commonwealth.

I am not, in my judgment, overstating the case when I say that at no time in the history of the state has there been more urgent need for wise and intelligent action on the part of the lawmaking body, nor a more opportune time for the enactment of prudent legislation. Abuses and imperfections in existing statutes, which permit of inequalities, wrongs and hardships upon a part of our people, should be corrected, bearing ever in mind that the object of all legislation is to entirely eradicate or reduce to a minimum these various forms of evil in the enforcement of law and order.

As a nation we confidently assert that our people are among the most enlightened and progressive on the face of the earth; and you have the honor to represent the people of a state having the smallest percentage of illiteracy of any in the union, and who are the peer of any people in the land in patriotism, intelligence, integrity and love of equality, truth and justice in the affairs of mankind.

UNWARRANTED STATEMENTS.

Our public schools, colleges and universities testify to the love of our people for education. Situated geographically in the center of the United States, we are afforded every opportunity for constant and mutually profitable intercourse with all parts of our common country. It is to be regretted that partisan newspapers, having seemingly no regard for the public welfare and with a spirit of intolerance entirely out of place where free institutions are admired, have attempted to prejudice the minds of men who are unacquainted with our state and its citizens, by the publication of mendacious and slanderous articles reflecting on the intelligence and integrity of the people of Nebraska. It has been intimated by men high in the councils of our national government, as well as by some newspapers of general circulation throughout the country, that the present session of the legislature of Nebraska would undertake by vicious and hostile legislation to permit the repudiation of the debts of its citizens, to vitiate private contracts, and to discriminate in favor of one party to a contract so as to demoralize the business of the people of the state. These wanton attacks upon the free and enlightened people of Nebraska would not be worthy of attention were they not calculated to incite the ill will of a class of citizens of older and more populous states whose knowledge of Nebraskans is gleaned from newspaper comment and not from actual contact with our people. It has been threatened that the people of eastern states who have money invested in Nebraska property would withdraw their investments because the majority of our citizens have espoused a different political policy from that having general endorsement in the eastern portion of our country.

These unmerited reflections on the intelligence and integrity of our citizens will not, I am sure, deter you from discharging your full duty to your constituents by enacting any new laws or remedial legislation upon which you may determine. By wise and judicious action you will dispel any doubts which may exist of the determination of our people to be strictly just to all men; of their capacity, through their representatives, to enact legislation for the protection of all interests in the intimate relations of our own citizens with each other, or with the citizens of other states, and for the conservation of all legitimate business interests.

Nebraska is not the child of any other state or group of states. She is a sovereign state among the sisterhood of states of the union, with equal privileges, prerogatives, duties and responsibilities. Her citizens are intelligent, industrious, honest and patriotic. She has within her borders the natural and acquired resources and all the elements of strength and grandeur necessary to maintain her proud position as one of the foremost states of the union. Nebraskans demand only the right, and that they will maintain, of governing their own affairs, without any desire to infringe upon the rights of any other people.

NOT A DEPENDENT.

A sudden change in the business relations existing between citizens of Nebraska and citizens of other states would quite probably work much hardship and unnecessary suffering upon many of our people, yet I am of the opinion that ultimately greater permanent injury would be wrought to the states and communities adopting such an extraordinary and unusual course toward our citizens. Nebraska is not dependent on any one state or section of the country for the final or complete development of her resources and the comfort and happiness of her citizens; and she does not appeal as a dependent to have accorded to her citizens the fair treatment and consideration which should, and usually does, exist among the people of one common country, all having a mutual interest in the development of the whole. Rather, she demands this treatment because of the elements of strength in reciprocal relations which she possesses, and the ability of extending inducements to the business world, which make her territory an inviting field for the investment of capital and development of industrial enterprises.

That all property interests now in existence or that may hereafter be established will be treated with sacred regard and scrupulous honesty should not be questioned. To question it is to doubt the honesty of mankind and challenge the integrity of a nation. Our people desire friendly relations, commercially and socially, with the citizens of other states, and realize that in the maintenance and extension of mutual cordial regard all are alike benefited.

One and a quarter millions of patriotic, lawabiding people inhabit the state of Nebraska. They have builded thriving cities and villages. They have broken the sod over which the Indians and the buffaloes roamed a few decades ago. They are a hardy, independent people, and are proud of the great and growing commonwealth they have created. The fertile fields of Nebraska yield grain sufficient to supply the nation; horses, cattle and sheep fatten upon her broad prairies and meadow lands; thousands of carloads of pork are shipped annually from her farms to feed the people of other states and countries; her transportation facilities are unexcelled; she has factories for sugar, for chicory, for the manufacture of dry goods and various other commodities; she has mills for grinding grain; great packing houses and dairies all over the state—in fact, everything which makes a people prosperous in a great agricultural country, and goes to build up a great commonwealth.

These are the advantages which an intelligent, industrious, thrifty and energetic people present to the business world, and they will enable her to maintain, by virtue of merit alone, an honorable position among the great industrial communities of our country.

The more important of the subjects to be considered by you were generally discussed during the recent campaign and the people made known their desires by the election of officers committed to reforms in the management of the state's affairs, thereby rendering less difficult for you to perform your duty in executing the will of the people thus expressed. I will merely call your attention to such of these important matters as have come under my observation during my term of office.

By a wise provision of the constitution, the officers of the executive department and the heads of all public institutions of the state are required at least ten days preceding each regular session of the legislature to make a report to the governor concerning the condition of the state's business in their charge, such reports in turn to be submitted to the legislature. These reports were not all presented to me within the time specified by the constitution, and I have therefore been unable to give them the consideration I would have desired. They are submitted to you for your careful consideration, as they contain much valuable information which will be of great assistance to you in determining the needs of the different departments of the state government and of the various institutions for their proper management for the coming biennium.

**DEFECTS IN THE ELECTION SYSTEM.**

**Some Evils Which Should Be Guarded Against.**

One of the most important duties devolving upon you as legislators is the amendment of the election laws of the state. The legislature of 1891 very wisely adopted the Australian ballot system, and it has undoubtedly had an appreciable effect in purifying our elections. Experience in the use of the Australian system suggests many improvements which will have a tendency to render the perpetration of frauds still more difficult and give additional protection to the voter in the exercise of his right of franchise.

I heartily approve the general form of our ballot and believe it to be vastly preferable to the so-called "blanket" ballot system, in which the party tickets are each printed in separate columns, with provisions generally by which electors can vote the entire ticket by one mark or stamp. The independence of the voter is encouraged by our system, which leads him usually to read the names of the candidates for the various offices before casting his ballot, and he is encouraged thereby not to rely solely upon party designation. It has been urged by some as an objection to the form of our ballot that it is in effect the establishment of an educational test for voting. I do not regard this as a very serious objection. The voter has become accustomed to this form of ballot and any marked change in the general form, in my opinion, is entirely unnecessary and would serve no good purpose.

There are other objections, however, and more substantial ones, which I regard more as the resu't of abuses than of the law itself and which can be remedied by proper amendments. As an instance, William J. Bryan was nominated by the democratic party for the presidency. Afterward he was also nominated by the people's party for president. A convention of dissatisfied democrats met later and, styling themselves "national democrats," nominated John M. Palmer for president. The candidates placed in nomination by the Palmer wing for electors, as well as for state officers, were denominated on the official ballot in Nebraska as "democrats," with no means of distinguishing them from the regular democratic nominees. The result of such a course was necessarily the deception of many voters. I would respectfully recommend that such amendments be made to the law as would prevent the use of the party designation by "bolting" factions for the purpose of deceiving voters. The regular party nominees only should appear on the official ballot with the designation of the party which nominated them. Where one candidate has been nominated by more than one political party the party designations should be so arranged as to permit the elector to express by his vote his party preference as well as his preference for the candidate. Protection should be secured to the voter who, unacquainted with the names of all the nominees on the ticket, is desirous of casting his ballot for the nominees of the party he espouses.

I would also suggest that each party having a fair proportion of the electors in the state be given representation on the precinct election boards, and that no more than two members of any one political organization be made judges in any election precinct. The representatives of no one political organization should have entire control of any election booth, and where competent men representing different political parties can be secured the result must be more satisfactory to all concerned.

I believe this matter might be satisfactorily arranged by vesting the power of naming the judges and clerks of election in the county clerks or boards of county commissioners (and the mayors of cities of the first and second classes), restricting them to a choice from lists furnished by the chairmen of the county (or city) committees of the various political parties. Provision could be made allowing at least one representative on the election board to each political party receiving a certain per cent of the votes cast at the last general election held in the state, and providing that, in no event, should any one party have to exceed two judges and one clerk on any election board.

In order to secure a free and untrammeled ballot for every elector steps should be taken to prevent coercion, intimidation and undue influence on the part of the employers. Every citizen, whatever may be his station in life, should have every protection thrown around him in the exercise of his citizenship. Other states have seen fit to enact very stringent legislation to prevent undue influence on the voter by his employer. As an instance, the laws of Indiana provide that whoever, for the purpose of influencing a voter, threatens to enforce the payment of a debt, to injure the business or trade of an elector, or, if an employer threatens to withhold wages or dismiss from service any laborer in his employment, or refuses to allow employes time to attend the place of election and vote, shall be fined not more than $1,000 nor less than $20; imprisonment in the state prison not more than five years, nor less than one year, and be disfranchised and rendered incapable of holding an office of trust or profit for any determinate period. The enactment and strict enforcement of any such provision in the election laws of Nebraska would lessen the intimidation of voters and give encouragement to a free expression of the will of the people at the polls. Provisions should also be made directing all employers to allow each voter sufficient time on election day to deposit his ballot.

USE OF PASSES IN CAMPAIGNS.

Some action might very properly be taken to discourage discrimination between political parties by railroad corporations operating within the state. The issuance of passes to an army of political workers and the giving of special rates for the political meetings make the railroad companies a power in shaping the political destiny of the state. Where this power is all wielded in the interest of one party and to the prejudice of another party, its weight cannot well be overestimated. Railroad companies do the business of the public and should be restrained by wholesome legislation from active participation in party politics. The officers and employes of such railroad companies should be free to vote as may seem to them for their own best interests. Charges of fraudulent registration in the larger cities of the state have been frequently made and I would suggest the advisability of having the last day of registration at least ten days prior to election day in order that the complete list of voters may be scrutinized by all inquiring citizens and ample time be afforded for the apprehension of those who fraudulently register.

It is obvious that one of the chief sources of corruption in elections is the use of money in providing means or hiring the voter to go to the polls and vote, by this means placing him under obligation and thus unduly influencing his vote, or to hire the voter to stay away from the polls, thereby causing him to neglect his duty as a citizen.

In order to encourage and stimulate the free and honest exercise of the elective franchise it has occurred to me that it might serve a good purpose were a non-voting poll tax of reasonable amount levied against each elector who may relieve himself by voting at the general election, or by producing a certificate of sickness or disability or of absence from the state. Such a provision might incidentally be made a source of revenue to the state and the burden full upon a class of citizens who fail to discharge a very important duty devolving upon every qualified citizen. I suggest this idea to you for your consideration.

I hope that you will take the necessary steps for the remedying of defects in our election laws with a view to giving every possible opportunity for a free and fair expression of the will of the people at the polls.

**RELIEF OF DROUTH SUFFERERS.**

**State and Nation Responded Nobly to the Call for Aid.**

When I assumed the duties of the office of governor of the state two years ago the people of Nebraska were distressed, not only by reason of the general depression in business affairs, low prices and steady and continued depreciation in property values, but also from the result of an unprecedented and disastrous drouth. These adverse climatic conditions were not confined to Nebraska alone, but prevailed in various parts of the country. It was an abnormal condition and may not be experienced again during a generation of our people. Absolute want and distress could only be prevented by prompt and efficient organization for the purpose of supplying the pressing needs of the unfortunate drouth sufferers until another season should bring the usual bountiful harvest.

I found that, under the direction of my predecessor, steps had been taken looking to a systematic method of collecting and distributing provisions to alleviate the immediate wants of the people in the affected portion of the state. When it became generally known that provisions would have to be made to relieve those impoverished by the drouth there was a generous and spontaneous response from all sections of the nation. The contributions became so liberal that it taxed the ingenuity of those in charge of the distribution of these free offerings to place them in the hands of those most deserving of assistance, and, at the same time, to not tax the generosity of the benevolent people to a greater extent than absolutely required to prevent suffering.

I deem it my duty, in behalf of the unfortunate people who were affected by this calamity, to express to all who so nobly responded to their distress by contributions of provisions or money, and also to the railroad, express, telegraph and telephone companies which so liberally assisted in the work of alleviating suffering, our sincere gratitude and lasting thanks for their manifestations of human sympathy and benevolence exercised during this trying period. Since that unfortunate calamity, as before, Nebraska has been blessed with bounteous crops and the disagreeable experience it passed through appears to the people as a hideous dream.

After the organization of the legislature an act was passed creating a relief commission, composed of five well known citizens, giving to them entire control and management in the discharge of this important work. The report of the relief commission has been submitted to me, and you will doubtless be supplied with copies. You will observe by this report, as well as by reference to the acts of the last legislature, that the state contributed $50,000, which was placed at the disposal of the relief commission, and an additional sum of $200,000, which was, by the relief commission, distributed among the several counties of the state where the people were regarded as being entitled to assistance of this character for the purpose of purchasing seed grain for the following crop season, making a total appropriation by the legislature of $250,000. In addition to these cash donations by the legislature and the people of the country at large, an immense amount of supplies and provisions of different kinds were contributed, to obtain an accurate estimate of which requires a careful study of the report in detail of the commission. The work of the commission of necessity was of the most difficult character, carried on under trying circumstances, and I am of the opinion that the work of distributing supplies was done in a most thorough and systematic manner.

CUMBERSOME AND EXPENSIVE.

I was of the impression at the time, and have since found no reasons to change my views, that the organization and method of distribution of relief supplies was upon a cumbersome and expensive plan. By an examination of the report it will be observed that there were funds donated in the sum of $28,999.38 and realized from the general and special appropriations of the legislature the further sum of $52,364.70, making a total of $81,364.08. Of this amount there was expended $48,113.82 in printing, traveling and transportation charges and office expenses. The freight charges amounted to $36,809.03, divided into two items, one denominated "transportation," being in the sum of $30,181.67, and the other designated "in-freight," being in the sum of $6,627.36, leaving the sum of $11,304.79 to represent the other expenses of the relief commission in carrying on this work from its inception until its close.

It is perhaps proper to remark in this connection, and it is a source of gratification to myself, as I have no doubt it will be to all others who examine into the details of this work, that our own people who were more fortunately situated than their brethren contributed most generously to this work of relief and did their full share in alleviating want and distress among their fellow citizens. With a generosity unequaled, the people of every section of our country vied with each other in doing everything necessary to prevent want and suffering. It is to be sincerely hoped that no such calamity will again reduce our people to the necessity of asking or receiving aid from their more fortunate fellow countrymen; nor is there occasion to believe that under the influence of the ordinary laws of nature they will ever again be called upon to do so. Appreciating the magnificent generosity of our fellow countrymen, displayed in this instance, Nebraska will ever stand ready to extend a helping hand to the unfortunate and suffering of mankind wherever they may be found.

**DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION.**

**Many Miles of Ditch Already Dug and More Under Way.**

The drouth has not been without its lessons, which will doubtless add much to the material welfare and permanent prosperity of our people. In no state in the union is the rainfall more uniform, both in time and amount, nor can the precipitancy of the moisture be determined with greater accuracy. In any portion of Nebraska a study of the climatic conditions will disclose with reasonable certainty the average amount of rainfall during the crop growing season, thus enabling the people to determine in what portion of the state they may safely engage in agricultural pursuits, relying upon the material rainfall to cause the crops to grow to maturity and ripen in perfection. In the extreme western portion of the state experience has demonstrated that agriculture cannot be safely carried on with reliance upon the natural rainfall for a sufficiency of moisture to successfully grow and mature the crops. This condition has been made more apparent by the disastrous season of 1894, and the people have promptly turned their attention to irrigation, which has been developed with great rapidity and which has replaced partial failure of crops, with its attending disappointment, want and suffering, with bounteous crops, which can be relied upon with certainty as regularly as the seasons follow each other. The non-irrigable portions of the country within this territory being exceedingly well adapted to the raising of stock, the western part of Nebraska is thereby made one of the most inviting fields for intending settlers of any part of the great west.

In the report of the secretary of the State Board of Irrigation will be found much interesting and useful information. It is very gratifying to note the rapid development of this phase of agricultural industry. The work is as yet in its infancy, but so much has been accomplished, it may confidently be predicted that that portion of our state which is in the semi-arid region will soon become one of the most attractive places in any agricultural community. Millions of acres of Nebraska land will be brought under the favorable influences of irrigation and made to produce the most bountiful crops, and there is no limit to the development except by the exhaustion of the water supply before this result has been fully accomplished. The immense wealth, brought into existence through the development of irrigation and that which is created annually by the production of bountiful harvests gives assurance of plenty and prosperity to the inhabitants of this favored portion of the state.

It will be seen from the records in the office of the secretary of the Board of Irrigation that there have been completed 3,740 miles of canals, and that there are in process of construction 1,045.6 miles, making a total mileage at the present time of canals completed and in process of construction of 4,785.6. The estimated cost will exceed $3,000,000, of which over half has already been expended. This will bring under irrigation 1,207,966 acres of land, increasing the value of the land nearly $10,000,000. In addition to this there are applications on file for contemplated canals of a total mileage of 2,946. These statistics can but impress you with the importance of giving to this subject such further consideration as may be necessary to correct any imperfections existing in the present law, and of providing for a continuation of the work so auspiciously begun.

LEGISLATION ON THE SUBJECT.

The first general law upon the subject of irrigation was enacted in 1889. This law was found entirely inadequate for the proper development of the irrigation interests of the state. This law was superseded by a much more comprehensive one enacted by the last legislature, since which the work has progressed more satisfactorily and with much greater rapidity. Many suggestions have been made respecting the wisdom of amending the present law. In considering the subject of amendments, however, I deem it advisable to call attention to the fact that no amendments should be made which would materially change the underlying, essential principles of the present law, which has the sanction of the highest judicial tribunal of our land. The principles involved in this subject having been forever settled by a judicial decision of the character referred to, it would seem unwise, except upon urgent necessity, to so change them by legislation as to render less certain the principles involved and perhaps invite further litigation with its attending tediousness and wearisome delays. The advocates of irrigation interests, as I understand it, favor amending the law relating to the organization of irrigation districts so as to provide for uniform issues of bonds under the inspection of the State Board of Irrigation, as well as legislation touching the issue and negotiation of the bonded obligations of the irrigation districts so as to afford the taxpayers all needed protection, as well as having due regard for the interests of those who purchase such obligations. It has also been suggested that an amendment might properly be made with reference to the organization and control of irrigation districts so as to permit every resident freeholder to participate in and have a voice in the selection of officers and all other matters pertaining to the affairs of such districts; also that the offices of district treasurer and assessor might be abolished and the duties of these officers be imposed upon the county and township treasurers and assessors. Other amendments to the present law of more or less importance have likewise been suggested and will no doubt be presented to you for your consideration. I earnestly hope that you may be able to make such needful improvements as may seem advisable to encourage further and to the utmost extent this very important feature of the agricultural development of the state, and that all necessary appropriations may be made in order that the work may be carried on with renewed vigor.

**CONDITION OF STATE FINANCES.**

**Management of the Treasurer's Office Severely Criticised.**

I desire to earnestly call your serious attention to the condition of the state's finances. This is a subject of more than ordinary concern to every taxpayer in Nebraska. Several factors contributed to the unfavorable condition of the financial

(Continued on Second Page.)

# TURNING OVER THE OFFICES

Republicans Give Up Control of the Destinies of Nebraska.

POPULISTS HAVE FULL SWING NOW

**Every Office of the Government in Their Hands and All Settlements Made Except that of Treasurer.**

LINCOLN, Jan. 7.—(Special Telegram.)—The executive departments of the state government were formally transferred to the populist party this evening. The induction of the new state officials came very late in the day, owing to the tedious delay in canvassing the state returns and the extreme length of Governor Holcomb's biennial message. The latter contained nearly 30,000 words. It was a biennial message and an inaugural message combined, and was listened to with the most intense interest, in spite of its unusual length. The governor read it throughout in his clear, penetrating voice and his diction added much to the interest of the paper.

Governor Holcomb's official force remains practically unchanged, and with one exception all of his appointments remain as they were. Lieutenant Governor Moore leaves his office with the esteem of all members of the senate. As a presiding officer of the senate he has probably made more earnest friends in all parties than any Nebraskan who has fulfilled the duties of that position. The esteem in which he is held by the people with whom he has come in contact during his official term is one of the pleasant features of the state administration for the past two years. Secretary of State Piper, Attorney General Churchill, Commissioner Russell, Treasurer Bartley, Auditor Moore and Superintendent Corbett all expressed their relief at being able to retire from official life to resume the quiet career of citizens of Nebraska. Their books, papers, records and archives were all in readiness for the transfer, and their successors were able to commence their official duties without inconvenience.

MESERVE WILL REQUIRE CASH.

State Treasurer Meserve and ex-State Treasurer Bartley held their first formal conference tonight. Treasurer Meserve stated afterward that the details of transfer of the office had not been fully arranged, but that one point had been settled conclusively—the transfer of the funds for which ex-Treasurer Bartley and his bondsmen are liable will be made in cash. Treasurer Meserve stated that he would accept nothing else. With reference to the funds on deposit with the state depository banks, Mr. Meserve says that a number of questions will be submitted to the supreme court for elucidation. There are points in regard to the depository law which are yet undetermined. Before Treasurer Meserve settles the depository accounts with the outgoing treasurer he desires the opinion of the supreme court. The points which will be submitted to the court apply to all of the depository banks and to no one of them in particular. Further than this Treasurer Meserve will make no statement at present.

MESERVE'S LIST OF SURETIES.

The official bond of State Treasurer Meserve was approved today by Governor Silas A. Holcomb and filed in the office of the secretary of state. The bond is for $2,000,000, and is signed by the following:

| Name and address. | Qualifies for. |
|---|---|
| George Hacknell of Red Willow county | $100,000 |
| V. Franklin, Red Willow | 50,000 |
| J. W. Hupp, Red Willow | 10,000 |
| N. S. Harwood, Lancaster | 200,000 |
| E. E. Brown, Lancaster | 150,000 |
| C. M. Crawford, Lancaster | 50,000 |
| J. W. Fullerton, Lancaster | 40,000 |
| Charles A. Hanna, Lancaster | 40,000 |
| J. H. Evans, Douglas | 100,000 |
| Erastus A. Benson Douglas | 25,000 |
| George E. Barker, Douglas | 50,000 |
| William S. Rector, Douglas | 25,000 |
| A. B. Clark, Lancaster | 100,000 |
| Mary Fitzgerald, Lancaster | 150,000 |
| Frank Koudele, Saunders | 50,000 |
| W. C. Kirchman, Saunders | 50,000 |
| Henry Fisher, Saunders | 20,000 |
| Thomas Simanek, Saunders | 20,000 |
| W. J. Harmon, Saunders | 25,000 |
| H. C. Peters, Saunders | 5,000 |
| J. J. Johnson, Saunders | 2,500 |
| P. Kirchman, Saunders | 2,500 |
| Paul Berggren, Saunders | 25,000 |
| C. H. Parmelee, Cass | 60,000 |
| J. M. Patterson, Cass | 40,000 |
| John M. Ragan, Adams | 25,000 |
| C. M. Hunt, Douglas | 20,000 |
| J. E. Curtis, Douglas | 6,000 |
| Amos Gates, Sarpy | 40,000 |
| Elizabeth Howard, Douglas | 4,000 |
| A. W. Trumble, Douglas | 20,000 |
| Henry Ley, Wayne | 10,000 |
| G. A. Lulkhart, Madison | 20,000 |
| S. K. Warrick, Madison | 5,000 |
| Fred Scheeger, Madison | 15,000 |
| L. B. Baker, Madison | 50,000 |
| Henry Massman Madison | 15,000 |
| J. W. Risk, Madison | 10,000 |
| Herman Hogrefe, Madison | 25,000 |
| F. H. L. Willis, Madison | 10,000 |
| D. Rees, Madison | 15,000 |
| H. L. Smith, Lancaster | 50,000 |
| John Wilson, Polk | 30,000 |
| L. H. Headstrom, Polk | 5,000 |
| R. Gold, Polk | 5,000 |
| Lewis Larson, Polk | 5,000 |
| John Colson, Polk | 5,000 |
| Dana B. Little, Polk | 5,000 |
| O. W. Barnes, Polk | 2,500 |
| J. W. Wilson, Polk | 5,000 |
| John Erickson, Polk | 5,000 |
| L. Bloom, Polk | 5,000 |
| J. Bostrom, Polk | 5,000 |
| F. W. Johnson, Polk | 5,000 |
| Samuel Dowers Polk | 5,000 |
| J. W. Horst, Polk | 7,500 |
| S. B. Samuelson, Polk | 5,000 |
| William A. Wolf, Gage | 50,000 |
| W. A. Paxton, Douglas | 150,000 |

OTHER OATHS AND BONDS.

The official oaths of office of John S. Kirkpatrick and William Neville, who claim to have been elected to the supreme bench, were taken today before Notary Public C. H. Eubank at Lincoln. The oaths of office are now on file in the office of the secretary of state.

The official bond of Governor Silas A. Holcomb was filed today with Secretary of State Piper. The bond is for $50,000, and is signed by Herman Dierks, Hans Dierks, H. G. Rogers, O. P. Perley and J. S. Squires.

The bond of State Auditor John F. Cornell for $50,000 is signed by J. T. Sedisegood, Daniel Riley, J. W. Patterson, W. S. Sailors, George Watkins, Jesse Weaver, A. B. Foutch, G. E. Hall, J. H. Hall and S. B. Hoffenall.

Constantine J. Smyth, attorney general, files a bond for $50,000, signed by John A. Creighton, John F. Coad and Edward W. Nash. Lieutenant Governor Harris' bond for $50,000 is signed by Jeff Van Debergh, James Kenneda, William Peterson, John Carpenter and George H. Peterson.

The bond of J. V. Wolfe, commissioner of public lands and buildings, amounts to $50,000, and is signed by the following sureties who qualify for the amounts stated:

| | |
|---|---|
| William Leese | $40,000 |
| J. H. Harley | 5,000 |
| J. E. Miller | 25,000 |
| John McManigal | 10,000 |
| Daniel Kelley | 5,000 |
| W. D. Fitzgerald | 10,000 |
| Thomas Cochran | 5,000 |
| Alex Schlegel | 2,000 |
| T. S. Allen | 1,000 |
| Portis Wilson | 5,000 |
| H. W. Hardy | 25,000 |
| B. O. Kortpa | 3,000 |
| F. A. Korsmeyer | 5,000 |
| L. C. Chapin | 2,500 |
| L. H. Lawton | 2,500 |

All of the deputies in the offices of secretary of state, land commissioner, superintendent of public instruction, treasurer and auditor have filed their official bonds. Auditor Cornell has appointed Victor O. Johnson of Geneva to be bookkeeper in his office, Mr. Johnson succeeding Mr. Babcock. Norman Lichty will be insurance deputy and W. B. Price of Lincoln insurance clerk, succeeding Mr. Worthen.

The populist members of the house held a caucus this evening which did not adjourn until 11:30 and when the meeting broke up all of the places at their disposal were allotted. The following appointments were agreed to: Pages—Oscar Phelps, Dundy county; Willy Smith, Ted Schneringer of Custer county; one page from Hamilton county yet unnamed. Mail carrier—Dan. Burhard, Nemaha county. Assistant custodian of cloak room—L. S. Bruno of Merrick county. Janitor—John Vandenberg. Assistant bill clerk—H. F. Wesmund. Engrossing clerks—D. A. Way, Omaha, J. C. Wilson of Platte county, J. M. Whisenand of Thayer county, T. W. Murray of Fillmore county.

**SENATE'S PRO FORMA SESSION.**

**Several Routine Matters Passed and a Lieutenant Governor Installed.**

LINCOLN, Jan. 7.—(Special.)—The senate had no particular reason for assembling today, but a pro forma session seemed to be necessary. All members were present, for first time the present session, Mr. Muffley of Madison being the last to take the oath. A committee, consisting of Representatives Sheldon, Rich and Clark, appeared at the bar of the senate and announced that the house had been duly organized, and was ready for business. In a communication Adjutant General Barry invited Lieutenant Governor Moore and the members of the senate to a reception to be tendered to Governor Holcomb and the new state officers, and the invitation was accepted.

Mr. Beal of Custer moved the appointment of a committee of three senators to confer with a like committee from the house, in order to fix a time for the two houses to meet in joint convention to canvass the votes cast at the recent election. Lieutenant Governor Moore appointed as such committee Senators Beal of Custer, Conaway of York and McGann of Boone.

The most important work of the brief session was the appointment of a committee of seven senators to make up the list of standing committees of the senate. This committee was appointed by resolution, offered by Mr. Johnson of Clay, who named the committeemen in his resolution. The following senators make up the list: Dearing of Cass, McGann of Boone, Osborne of Pawnee, Feltz of Keith, Grothan of Howard, Mutz of Keya Paha, and Ransom of Douglas.

On motion of Mr. Grothan of Howard a committee of three, to act with a like committee from the house, was appointed to wait upon the governor and inform him that the legislature had been duly organized and was ready to receive any communication he might desire to make. The lieutenant governor appointed as such committee Messrs Grothan of Howard, Steele of Jefferson and Dundas of Nemaha. In due time the committee announced that Governor Holcomb had signified his desire to meet the senate and house in joint convention later in the day.

On motion of Mr. Talbot of Lancaster the secretary was directed to see that the flag of the United States be displayed over the senate wing of the capitol while the senate is in regular session.

WILL CHECK UP PROPERTY.

An unusual feature of the forenoon's deliberations was the adoption of a resolution having for its object a determination to locate the senate property turned over to the secretary of state at the end of the session two years ago. The resolution was offered by Mr. Gondring of Platte and provided for a committee of three to call upon the secretary of state and check over the list and report what property was on hand and what was missing. The lieutenant governor appointed as such committee Messrs. Gondring of Platte, Spencer of Lancaster and Miller of Otoe.

A resolution was offered by Mr. Sykes of Adams, directing the secretary of the senate to furnish the reporters of the daily newspapers with typewritten copies of all resolutions, bill titles and needful stationery for their use. It went over one day under the rules.

The hour for the joint convention of the two houses was fixed for 1 o'clock, and the senate took a recess until that hour.

After recess the senate immediately proceeded to the hall of the house of representatives to participate in the canvass of the votes and in the inaugural ceremonies. After the joint convention had adjourned the senate reconvened, with President Ransom in the chair for the first time since his election.

A committee of three, composed of Messrs. Beal of Custer, Caldwell of Nuckolls and Osborne of Pawnee, was designated to wait upon Lieutenant Governor Harris and escort him to the presiding chair of the senate.

Mr. Talbott of Lancaster offered a resolution directing the secretary of state to furnish all necessary supplies for the officers and members of the senate, upon requisition of the secretary of the senate. Objection being made by Mr. McGann, the resolution went over one day under the rules.

Mr. Grothan of Howard offered a resolution providing a stenographer for the secretary of the senate. It was agreed to.

On motion of Mr. Howell of Douglas, the lieutenant governor was authorized to appoint for his own service a clerk, a custodian for his own office and a page.

Lieutenant Governor Harris was at this point escorted to the chair and introduced to the senate by President Ransom. The lieutenant governor read the following greeting:

Gentlemen of the Senate: Should I follow my predecessors I would assume the duties imposed by the constitution as president of this honorable body without a word of greeting. The wisest of Israel's kings tells us that "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Silence may be golden, but the silver setting is Solomon's conception of words fitly spoken.

The task upon the twenty-fifth session of the Nebraska legislature is no light one. To undo what may have been done amiss is a duty no less important than to perform a duty yet undone. A legal act that adds burdens instead of blessings should be repealed. To be economical and yet not parsimonious in expenditures, to be just, honorable and honest with each and every interest and individual in matters of legislation, is the demand made by the people of Nebraska of their public servants entrusted with the duties of legislation.

My duty and your duty are reciprocal. It shall be my purpose to grant equal recognition and equal privileges to each senator composing this honorable body. To be just, rather than generous, impartial, firm and courteous is my conception of the duties imposed upon your presiding officers. For them I invoke that sweet charity, "that suffereth long and is kind, envieth not, vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil," which as a mantel covers all errors. I await the duties and pleasure of the senate.

The greeting of the lieutenant governor was ordered spread at length upon the journal, and the senate adjourned until tomorrow.

**HOUSE PUTS IN A BUSY DAY.**

**More Clerks Appointed and Arrangements for Supplies Made.**

LINCOLN, Jan. 7.—(Special.)—Speaker Gaffin's gavel fell promptly at 10 o'clock and Chaplain Marley prayed especially for the young men who are now in the house and trying to shape legislation. He asked that their hands and hearts might be kept clean. At roll call ninety-four members responded to their names, Burman, Hile, Mills, Mitchell, Schram, Shull and Stebbins being absent. During this, the first reading of the house journal, Secretary Schwind appeared on the floor and announced that the senate was now permanently organized and ready for business. The first two days of the house session have been carried on the journal as one day, the house not having perfected its organization until yesterday afternoon.

Sheldon of Dawes moved that further reading of the journal be dispensed with. Jenkins of Jefferson protested on the ground that it was important to have the proceedings so far had in the house perfectly comprehended. The speaker sustained this protest, adding that it was important that names of members and employes be corrected. Sheldon withdrew his motion and the reading of the journal proceeded.

At the conclusion of the reading of the journal Sheldon, from the committee appointed to wait on the senate, announced that the duty had been performed.

Jenkins of Jefferson, on behalf of the republican members, moved that the speaker be allowed a private clerk and page and that the speaker appoint them.

Wooster of Merrick moved that a committee of three, to act with a committee of two,

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

# BRYAN AT BANQUET TABLE

Guest of the Silver Branch of Chicago's Democracy.

FAITHFUL CELEBRATE JACKSON DAY

**Late Aspirant to the Presidency Talks to His Compatriots—Says He Poses No Longer as a Candidate.**

CHICAGO, Jan. 7.—In the banquet hall of the Tremont house the silver branch of the democracy held tonight its banquet in celebration of "Jackson day." The banquet was under the auspices of the W. J. Bryan league and was held one day in advance of Jackson day proper, as the guest of the league, William J. Bryan, could not be present tomorrow night, having an engagement in Omaha.

The banquet hall was tastefully and lavishly decorated with greens, cut flowers and the national colors and presented an extremely handsome appearance when, at 10 o'clock, the doors were opened to 300 followers of Mr. Bryan. As the members of the league marched into the hall every member bore upon his left breast the badge of the league, which was worn tonight for the first time. It is of purple satin and hangs suspended from a silver bar, upon which is printed the name of the wearer. Mr. Bryan's picture is upon the badge in the form of a medallion set in silver and the background of purple is relieved by elaborate trimming of silver.

Carter H. Harrison, the first president of the league, was at the head of the table and acted as toastmaster, Mr. Bryan being seated immediately at his right. It was fully midnight when Mr. Harrison rapped for order and in a few pleasant, well chosen words introduced Mr. Bryan. The latter was greeted with great applause when he rose to speak in response to the toast, "Andrew