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SINGLE COPY FIVE CENTS.

MAKING THE APPROPRIATION

How the Great Fight Was Waged in the Nebraska Legislature.

OPPOSITION TO MEASURE WAS STRONG

Middle-of-the-Road Populists and Kansas City Republicans Obstruct the Way, but are Eventually Swept Aside.

How the appropriation for Nebraska's participation in the Transmississippi and International Exposition was secured is a warm chapter of state history in itself, and not an especially creditable one to some of the members of the legislature which made it. It is charitable to think that some of the opposition to the bill was honestly made, but that much of it was malicious and some directly intended to assist Kansas City in its efforts to secure the transfer of the exposition from Omaha to that place is equally true.

When the bill was at last passed it was loaded with such provisions as the opponents could devise in the hope that Omaha would be unable to fulfill, and therefore lose the benefits of the measure. It is true also that the delay in the Nebraska legislature occasioned by the opponents of the exposition had a very decided effect upon the western legislatures which were in session at the same time, and which refused to make any appropriation because the enterprise lacked the proper support at home.

Charles Wooster of Merrick county, Wilson Winslow of Gosper, Fred Gaylord of Buffalo and W. C. Eastman of Custer, populists, and C. E. Jenkins of Jefferson, republican, were leaders of the opposition in the house, and they had a very numerous following, both open and concealed. They fought the bill from first to last with all their power.

As soon as the legislature was organized Governor Holcomb, as the state executive, recommended, in his annual message, legislative assistance in the following words: "You will be called upon by the management of the Transmississippi association to aid the enterprise, and I trust that the financial assistance given by you will be liberal and sufficient, so that our sister states and territories west of the Mississippi may be thereby encouraged to lend their substantial aid."

He called attention to what congress had done in the way of an appropriation, also to the action taken by Iowa, Utah and Louisiana.

On January 13 Representative Dudley Smith of Douglas county introduced a bill for an appropriation of \$350,000. As house roll 93, it became familiar to every citizen of the state. One of its provisions was the appointment by the governor of twelve directors to represent the state of Nebraska.

In its preamble it alluded to the action of congress and enumerated several strong reasons for the exposition. "It would make too long a story to follow the legislative history of the bill in all its details. From the very first opportunity he had to speak on the measure, before its passage, Wooster attacked it with a brutal candor, and the others were active, if not so frank.

Members of the Kansas City Commercial club were in Lincoln, too, snatching up every indication of antagonism, in their intention to report to the legislatures of Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas a prediction that the Nebraska legislature would vote down any appropriation. They went on a scheme to have the exposition removed to Kansas City.

The committee did not get ready to report the bill for the general file until February 5, and then the committee was about evenly divided on it. This committee consisted of Ralph A. Clark of Richardson, chairman, Richard Dobson of Fillmore, A. E. Sheldon of Dawes, D. S. Zimmerman of York, Henry Gerdes of Richardson, G. L. Rouse of Hall, C. E. Curtis of Douglas, E. C. Jenkins of Jefferson, W. V. Straub of Otoe, C. F. Wheeler of Furnas and E. M. Pollard of Nebraska. Jenkins and Gerdes fought the bill to the very last, but in their vote on the final passage witnesses. Chairman Clark was always friendly and frequently championed it. When the committee reported it the bill was accompanied by several amendments, one intending to cut down the appropriation to \$150,000. Another proposed to reduce the number of directors from twelve to six at \$75 per month.

It took the house three days to reach a consideration of the report. Wooster did not miss his opportunity then and Winslow, Gaylord and Jenkins all came out from their ambush. Hitherto they had been making their attacks from under cover, where they had been safely hid from public gaze. Now, however, they became bold and exhibited their teeth. All four got their

chance to show themselves in their true colors in opposing a motion made by Chairman Clark to have the bill made the special order for 2 p. m., February 10, the day following. In their efforts to indefinitely postpone they were defeated, but the bill had to take its place on the general file.

Gaffin's Special Ruling.

A second attempt to advance the bill was defeated in the house on February 18 by a vote of 55 to 28. Friends of the bill favored pushing it forward. These were O. Hull of Harlan, republicans; William Horner of Dawson, populists; Lucien Stebbins of Lincoln, populist, and Clark of Richardson, populist, who had always been friendly. But Wooster, Winslow and Gaylord were, if anything, firmer than ever in their opposition. At this stage Speaker Gaffin came to the bill's rescue somewhat by announcing a new ruling at which he said he had arrived after a careful study of parliamentary authorities. The new rule was that a majority of the house was sufficient to advance any bill. Hull had made the motion to raise the bill. Under the speaker's ruling fifty-one votes were all that were necessary to advance a bill. The committee on rules in a caucus decided to sustain him in his position. Clark of Lancaster made an objection, based upon "Roberts' Rules of Order," and contending

for the two-thirds vote up to that time considered necessary.

Things had come to such a pass by this time that it was thought by the free silver leaders, themselves, advisable to do something to prevent the fusionists from being made the victims of popular indignation in case the exposition bill failed to pass, so they decided that an entirely new bill should be introduced by Speaker Gaffin as a substitute for the Smith bill, might gain the support of the populists and best observe the interests of the exposition. Accordingly, one was drafted conjointly by Congressman-elect W. L. Stark of Aurora and Judge C. R. Scott of Omaha. It provided for an appropriation of \$200,000 for "a Nebraska exhibit."

In the event of neither the original bill nor the substitute going through, only five days of the forty allowed for the introduction of bills remained, when the Smith bill did finally come up in committee of the whole, February 22, and the Gaffin substitute was offered. In striking contrast to Wooster and his followers, Speaker Gaffin, Chairman Clarke of the finance committee, and Sheldon of Dawes, all populist leaders, and Hull of Harlan, republican, worked hard for the exposition. The bill had eventually been made the special order of the day almost unanimously, only E. J. Burket of Lancaster and Cole of Franklin voting against setting it this far along.

Hot Time in the House.

This meeting of the house in committee of the whole was a hot one and a long one. It continued for two days, the second until after midnight, and even then the opponents of the exposition could resort to only one expedient.

Present State Capitol.

REARS A FINE STRUCTURE

Concerning the Nebraska State Building at the Exposition.

OCCUPIES A PLACE ON THE BLUFF TRACT

Landmark that is Visible from All Portions of the Grounds and the Surrounding Country—List of Employees.

The Nebraska building occupies one of the most commanding positions among the structures erected by the many states participating in the exposition. Standing near the edge of the bluff overlooking the broad valley of the winding Missouri, the size and imposing appearance of the building make it an object of attention, even among the beautiful and classic structures which have been erected by other states as a mark of the state's part in the exposition, which has been done in bringing the exposition into life.

The building is massive in appearance, the general mass being rectangular. The huge dome, flanked by four smaller domes, give to the building an appearance which strikes it a landmark plainly visible from all parts of the grounds as well as from the surrounding country. The exterior is a light chocolate color against which the white columns supporting the cornice stand out in bold relief. The pediment over each of the entrances at the center of the main front of the building is crowned by a heroic figure representing Nebraska welcoming the people of every state and nation to the portals of the home erected by the state for all who may come. The pediments are flanked by groups of statuary symbolizing peace and plenty.

The building is two stories in height, measuring 90x142 feet on the ground and about ninety feet to the top of the lantern surrounding the dome.

Starting the Work.

When the Nebraska Exposition commission was appointed by Governor Holcomb about the first thing which was decided was that the state should have a building to be used for headquarters for the people of Nebraska who visited the grounds and for the official representatives of such other states as might wish to avail themselves of the hospitality of Nebraska. This much was decided upon before the commission had any official existence. The appropriation of \$100,000 was not available until the latter part of July, 1897, but at the first meeting held after this was available and the commission officially in existence one of the first business transactions related to the erection of such a building. A number of plans were submitted by architects from all parts of the state and these were taken under consideration by the commission at the first meeting. No formal action was taken, however, until the second meeting, August 12, when the plans submitted by John H. Craddock of Lincoln and John McDonald of Omaha, collaborating for this purpose, were accepted and detailed drawings and specifications were ordered made. The site on which the building stands was officially determined August 26, although it had been conceded from the very beginning that this place, regarded as the best location on the bluff tract, should be assigned to Nebraska.

Almost the first action taken by the Nebraska commission regarding the erection of the state building was the passage of a resolution providing that the building should be erected by day's labor and that the wage scale fixed by the Omaha labor unions should be the basis for the estimate of the cost of the building. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 53 to 43, although the fever of malignancy broke out the second day without waiting for anything like an excuse. It was started by Eastman of Custer, and Jenkins roared Omaha to his own satisfaction. All sorts of amendments were made in the bill, but they were all being considered to weaken it. Eager of Seward tried to have the appropriation cut down still further to \$50,000. Winslow, himself, had been a trifle more modest—or ashamed—than this; the figure he proposed was \$75,000. One of the amendments introduced in the bill was that no money should be expended in the building until the Omaha stockholders had been paid in full. This amendment was introduced by the Omaha stockholders. A statement was secured from Treasurer Meserve to please Wooster, showing the total amount available for appropriation by the state. His figures showed \$1,250,000 for the finance, war and means committee, a total of \$400,000 for the claims committee, a total of \$1,550,000. A table a day or so later, prepared by the finance committee, gave the figures of the legislative appropriations as \$754,550 for the departments, and \$1,140,655 for the state institutions.

Motions by Wooster to recommmit and Winslow to indefinitely postpone were both easily voted down. Frank Loomis of Butler said the condition of the state treasury demanded "something radical," and intimated that to refuse an appropriation altogether would be about "radical" enough to suit him, but the other senators did not see it that way. P. H. Elighy of Brown and R. H. Hill of Clay said they were not opposed to the \$100,000 appropriation, but were to an greater sum. At 12:45 a. m., February 25, the committee of the whole decided to arise and report the bill for engrossment and passage.

One of Wooster's threats was that he would block legislation, and particularly the other appropriations, by holding up the exposition bill. If his champions did not yield, why, he knew best. On the last day allowed for the introduction of bills in the house he got a resolution before it asking that the bill's constitutionality be inquired into by the supreme court before final action was taken. His motive was transparent to every one, but Clark of Lancaster did not intend to be trifled with by a rule of the court that it would not consider the constitutionality of any law until a case was brought formally before it. Wooster's resolution was tabled on a motion by Dudley Smith of Douglas.

He told the house he had information to the effect that the bill had been tampered with—that the word "association" had been erased from it outside the house—and he moved the appointment of an investigating committee. Though Dudley Smith explained that there was no "transmississippi association," yet Wooster's motion prevailed by a vote of 45 to 30, and he became the committee's chairman. His committee never reported.

Pleasant Vote in the House.

On March 4 the day of President McKinley's inauguration, the Gaffin substitute was finally passed by a big majority of the house.

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KING CORN AND HIS COURT

Noble Old Monarch Flanked by a Most Princely Retinue.

PRODUCTS OF THE FARM AND ORCHARD

Nebraska's Display in the Agricultural, Horticultural and Apiary Buildings a Magnificent Array of Material Evidence of Wealth.

Corn is king in Nebraska! This has been heralded to the world for several years and Nebraska is ready to prove the assertion. But His Majesty has a fine retinue of other grains and grasses and a general following of fruits of field and orchard. One is given some idea of the position Nebraska occupies in this respect by a visit to the Agricultural building. All the products of the field are shown in such a manner as to convey their good qualities to the judgment of the people.

Nebraska occupies a position in the middle of the lower floor to the right of the main aisle. There is no elaborate booth to attract visitors, but instead are pillars and arches, handsomely decorated with grains and grasses. Over the front arch hangs a large seal of the state, while above this is suspended a large horseshoe. Both of these are worked out in great effect with seeds. Underneath this on either side is "1877" and "1898," the year Nebraska was admitted to the union and the year of the event of the west, the Transmississippi Exposition. In order to set these decorations off to a better advantage and cover the usual ragged appearances they have been tied with the Ak-Ben colors, of yellow, green and red.

All about the arches are hung large sheaves of splendid grain, white the pillars

are composed of large glass columns of seeds, corn, beans, peas, etc., giving a splendid appearance to it all. To the bottom of each pillar are gilded letters "N," which represent Nebraska. Above the arches in large letters, worked in corn and grass, are those comprising the word "Nebraska."

Above this, to the very top of the arches, are small boxes covered with sheaves of grain, worked into the words, "Corn," "Wheat," "Oats," "Rye," "Barley," "Flax," "Cane," which comprise the chief cereals of Nebraska.

Where Old Glory Waves.

The large drum which stands directly inside the main arch forms the chief attraction of the exhibit, and is a canopy of straw, while from a flag mast above this hangs Old Glory. The pillars of the drum are formed with glass columns filled with grain, while around the arches are small glass globes of grain; above this are lanterns of all varieties, from the most antique to the most modern. The effect is pretty and the ornamentation costly. King Corn receives his credit from a column four feet in diameter and thirty feet in height, which is covered from top to bottom with a splendid exhibit of this grain in all its forms, from the smallest of popcorn. Huge corn stalks also form a portion of the decoration, which give one an idea of the height which they attain in Nebraska. Many visitors from the east are surprised at the height of the cornstalks and remark that they would like to see them growing in the fields, as it hardly seems possible for them to attain such proportions.

The hand of the decorator has had much to do in displaying the grain in sheaf, yet in manner that it was taken from the field. It has not been the aim of Superintendent Johnson to place any superfluous decorations in his display, rather preferring to let his state's products speak for themselves, which they are already doing.

What the Cereals are Doing.

Great enterprise has been shown among a number of counties of the state, which at a great expense have gathered material with which to make an exhibit in connection with that of the state, and earnestly to advertise the resources of their respective localities. Those already represented are Douglas, Dawson, Boone, Cuming, Washington, Fillmore, Burt, Saline and Frontier. Each one is in charge of some special commissioner and there seems to be a spirit of friendly rivalry among them, each to which will have the most attractive, as well as best exhibit. They are working with an earnestness which betokens a completed appearance for all exhibits by the time visitors arrive on the grounds this morning. The decorations in several cases are similar in some points, but there is such a great change in the balance as to completely overshadow this. All of the counties, with the exception of Frontier (which is in the gallery), occupy space on the lower floor, connecting directly with the state exhibit, and it is expected that Frontier will be removed to the upper floor. Dawson county's exhibits will command the attention of visitors from the very first.

What This Great State Offers.

Resources of Nebraska and Its Incentives to Home-Settlers.

The Transmississippi and International Exposition is just now drawing the attention of the entire United States, as well as a large portion of the world to the great stretch of country west of the Mississippi, by reason of the location of the exposition at Omaha, Nebraska, a particularly favorable one. Before it is over the people of the entire country will be made aware of what those who have lived here and those who have had intimate business connections in the state, have long known and that to the state of the union has greater resources than Nebraska. There is no product which the soil of the temperate zone produces that does not flourish here, and in many of them Nebraska can safely challenge the world to produce equal results.

For many years Nebraska has stood well up to the state of the union in the matter of production, gradually crawling up and passing many of its former rivals as the area of cultivated land was extended by the influx of settlers. Among men who have been engaged in farming in many states it has long been recognized that the same quantity of men and teams can produce more corn in Nebraska than in any state of the union, for the reason that in practically all portions of the state the soil does not bake and gives hard if worked while wet. This gives the advantage of a larger number of

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Almost the first action taken by the Nebraska commission regarding the erection of the state building was the passage of a resolution providing that the building should be erected by day's labor and that the wage scale fixed by the Omaha labor unions should be the basis for the estimate of the cost of the building. This resolution was adopted by a vote of 53 to 43, although the fever of malignancy broke out the second day without waiting for anything like an excuse. It was started by Eastman of Custer, and Jenkins roared Omaha to his own satisfaction. All sorts of amendments were made in the bill, but they were all being considered to weaken it. Eager of Seward tried to have the appropriation cut down still further to \$50,000. Winslow, himself, had been a trifle more modest—or ashamed—than this; the figure he proposed was \$75,000. One of the amendments introduced in the bill was that no money should be expended in the building until the Omaha stockholders had been paid in full. This amendment was introduced by the Omaha stockholders. A statement was secured from Treasurer Meserve to please Wooster, showing the total amount available for appropriation by the state. His figures showed \$1,250,000 for the finance, war and means committee, a total of \$400,000 for the claims committee, a total of \$1,550,000. A table a day or so later, prepared by the finance committee, gave the figures of the legislative appropriations as \$754,550 for the departments, and \$1,140,655 for the state institutions.

Motions by Wooster to recommmit and Winslow to indefinitely postpone were both easily voted down. Frank Loomis of Butler said the condition of the state treasury demanded "something radical," and intimated that to refuse an appropriation altogether would be about "radical" enough to suit him, but the other senators did not see it that way. P. H. Elighy of Brown and R. H. Hill of Clay said they were not opposed to the \$100,000 appropriation, but were to an greater sum. At 12:45 a. m., February 25, the committee of the whole decided to arise and report the bill for engrossment and passage.

One of Wooster's threats was that he would block legislation, and particularly the other appropriations, by holding up the exposition bill. If his champions did not yield, why, he knew best. On the last day allowed for the introduction of bills in the house he got a resolution before it asking that the bill's constitutionality be inquired into by the supreme court before final action was taken. His motive was transparent to every one, but Clark of Lancaster did not intend to be trifled with by a rule of the court that it would not consider the constitutionality of any law until a case was brought formally before it. Wooster's resolution was tabled on a motion by Dudley Smith of Douglas.

He told the house he had information to the effect that the bill had been tampered with—that the word "association" had been erased from it outside the house—and he moved the appointment of an investigating committee. Though Dudley Smith explained that there was no "transmississippi association," yet Wooster's motion prevailed by a vote of 45 to 30, and he became the committee's chairman. His committee never reported.

Pleasant Vote in the House.

On March 4 the day of President McKinley's inauguration, the Gaffin substitute was finally passed by a big majority of the house.

Continued on Tenth Page.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF STATE

What the Children, Large and Small, Have Contributed.

EDUCATIONAL DISPLAY IS EXCELLENT

Showing Made by the Institutions in Its Keeping with Nebraska's High Standing as a Leader in Enlightenment.

While the exposition is to a large extent commemorative of what Nebraska has achieved during its half century of existence, it includes also features that are significant of what the next generation will add to its measure of wealth and culture. Here is gathered together a vast representation of the work of its public schools whereto the children of the rich and poor alike is opened the way to a happy and successful future in the state system of Nebraska and that its percentage of illiteracy is less than that of any other state in the union, this exhibit commands more than ordinary interest and the lesson that it teaches us is at no time more pertinent than when the citizenship of the state is congregated to celebrate Nebraska Day.

The educational exhibit occupies over 14,000 feet of floor space, almost completely filling the gallery of the Manufactures building. The entire north side is devoted to the public schools, the east end is occupied by the "University of Nebraska and the State Normal school and the state educational institutions and the private and denominational schools occupy the south side. The public school exhibit includes contributions from 183 high and graded