

SENT TO THE WRONG WOMAN

Unaddressed Letter Causes a Ripple of Excitement in the Legislature.

HOUSE POSTMASTER OPENS THE MISSIVE

Causes Some Embarrassment for Eastman and the Postmaster's Actions May Yet Be the Subject of an Investigation.

LINCOLN, Jan. 27.—(Special.)—The sensation which was caused in the house this morning by the introduction of a resolution by Cawthra of Gosper asking for an investigation of the house postoffice, before...

The story is that some days ago a letter was dropped into the house postoffice, upon which there was no address. Some time during the same day Representative W. G. Eastman was in the postoffice and one of those in charge showed him a letter addressed to "Mrs. W. G. Eastman, Kingston, Neb."

Mr. Eastman said he thought no more about the matter at the time, as he was in the habit of writing to his wife nearly every day. The postmaster, however, allowed him to inspect the contents of the letter, and he knew no more about it until it was returned by his wife with the suggestion that he send it to the right woman.

The contents of the letter are not made public, but it seems that it was a letter from a man who would write to his wife, being addressed to "Minnie" at the beginning and being signed "Weeley." Mr. Eastman's first name is William, and that of his wife is Jane, so it must have taken quite a stretch of imagination to discover that the letter was intended for Mrs. Eastman in the first place.

The member from Custer, while naturally embarrassed over the notoriety that has been caused by the bad guess of the postoffice department, is not seriously worried over any impending domestic difficulty.

The committee appointed to investigate the matter went over the ground this evening and concluded that the trouble was all caused by one of the men in charge of the house postoffice.

A "man of straw" who, while making a mistake as to his duties in the case of unaddressed letters, was innocent of any intention to commit a wrongful act. It is probable now that the whole affair will be dropped.

The news that the habeas corpus case had been decided against Judge Skipton of Fillmore county caused a little ripple of applause in the house this afternoon. It was later learned that Skipton had taken an appeal to the supreme court and had been released on a supersedeas bond.

The case will probably be considered by the supreme court week after next. In the meantime the election committee will likely hold its report until after the Skipton case is fully decided in order if possible to gain possession of the missing ballot.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOUSE. Declaration in Favor of Voting. LINCOLN, Jan. 27.—(Special.)—A petition was presented in the house this morning, signed by members of Cherry county, asking that an appropriation be made for the payment of the expenses of the members of the legislature.

A petition from the officers of the Lincoln Red Ribbon club was presented protesting against the passage of S. F. 26. One of the signers on this paper was Samuel Liberty, acting president of the society.

A communication from the State Board of Agriculture relating to county societies was read and referred to the committee on agriculture.

The committee on judiciary reported H. R. 31 for passage. There was also a minority report asking that the bill be indefinitely postponed.

The one section of the bill, which amends section 2 of chapter 111 of the statutes, is as follows: "A married woman, while the marriage relation exists, may bargain, sell and convey her real and personal property and enter into contract with reference thereto in the same manner, to the same extent and with like effect as a married man in relation to his real and personal property and she shall be bound by her personal contract in every respect the same as a married man is bound by his personal contract."

Eastling of Buffalo spoke in favor of the minority report. He said that such a law would bind the property of women who sign contracts under duress or to accommodate the husband.

Prince of Hall spoke for the bill, and held that the women of Nebraska were as well educated as the men and would sign only such contracts as they intended to observe to the letter.

Haller of Washington and Fisher of Dawes opposed the bill, and after some further discussion the minority report was adopted. The bill was killed.

Committee reports. Rs. 171, 77, 78, 84 and 88 to the general file.

Wyman of Buffalo offered a resolution declaring it to be the sense of the house that United States senators should be elected by direct vote of the people. On this roll call was demanded and the resolution was adopted. Those voting against the resolution were Anderson of Lancaster, Burman of Douglas, Chittenden of Gage and Grafton of Saline.

Burns of Douglas complained that senate bills were not on the desks of the members and offered a resolution instructing the chief clerk to see that the bills were furnished. After some discussion the resolution was withdrawn, the speaker of the house explaining that the bills would come to the house in good time.

Cawthra of Gosper offered the following resolution: Whereas, it has come to the knowledge of members of this house that grave irregularities exist in the house postal department which reflect upon the honor and jeopardize the domestic relations of the members of this house; therefore, be it resolved, That the speaker appoint a committee of three to investigate any charges, call witnesses, papers, etc., relative to this house, and report its findings to this house.

Mr. Cawthra failed to explain definitely the reason for offering the resolution and it was voted down. A few minutes later, after some of the members had held a private consultation with Cawthra, a similar resolution was offered by Fisher of Dawes and was adopted without opposition.

The chair appointed as such committee Fisher of Chambers, of Burt and Cawthra of Gosper.

Young of Cass offered the following resolution, which was adopted: Whereas, Our chaplain has just learned that his son, Harry Seabrook, a member of Company H, First Nebraska volunteer infantry, is seriously sick at Manila, Philippine islands; and, Whereas, Chaplain Seabrook has asked the secretary of war to grant an immediate discharge for his son; therefore, Resolved, That the house of representatives of the state of Nebraska hereby request that said discharge be granted.

After the noon recess bills on third reading were the order and H. R. 18, to prevent the plowing up of public roads, was passed by a vote of 56 to 6.

H. R. 27, by Eastling, re-enacting the old law relating to the obtaining of money or goods under false pretenses, was passed, no vote being recorded against it.

H. R. 44, by Thompson of Merrick, the bill relating to marriage relations and who was discussed in committee at the whole yesterday, was passed by a vote of 55 to 35. Eastman of Custer, in explaining his vote, said that the peculiar position in which he seemed to be placed impelled him to vote against the bill.

As this appeared to refer to the postoffice incident brought to the attention of the house during the forenoon it raised a general laugh.

H. R. 45, requiring leases and contracts of sale to be in writing, was passed by a vote of 91 to 4, Chambers, Elwood, McCracken and Wright voting in the negative.

The following report was received and adopted: The undersigned special committee appointed to maintain the dignity of this house in the matter of application by F. Skipton for a writ of habeas corpus, in reporting to the house that his honor, Judge Lincoln Frost, has held said Skipton and decided he was not unlawfully imprisoned; said Skipton taking said case on error to the supreme court.

ALLEN G. FISHER, Chairman. The house went into committee of the whole with Weaver of Richardson in the chair to consider bills on general file.

H. R. 77, a bill by Lane of Lancaster to cure a defect in the wording of the road law yesterday, was passed.

H. R. 78, by Lane, providing for the plowing alongside of highways to prevent the spread of prairie fires, was indefinitely postponed.

H. R. 68, Beverly's bill to prevent the removal of a child labor, was recommitted for amendment.

Shortly after 4 o'clock the committee arose and the house adjourned to 11 o'clock Monday morning.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SENATE

After a Skillful Adjournment in the Morning.

LINCOLN, Jan. 27.—(Special.)—President Pro Tem Talbot offered a communication at the beginning of this morning's session from Robert W. Furnas, secretary of the State Agricultural board, opposing the passage of S. F. 7, introduced by Knepper of Butler, to abolish county agricultural societies.

Secretary Furnas' letter contained resolutions passed by the board, and was as follows: "At an annual meeting of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, held at Lincoln, Nebraska, January 18, 1899, the following resolutions were unanimously adopted, and the secretary directed to furnish the senate and house of representatives, Nebraska legislature, with official copies thereof:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of this board of agriculture, members of the State Board of Agriculture, with the delegate representation from county agricultural societies of the state, assembled at Lincoln, Nebraska, January 18, 1899: That the present law governing the organization and maintenance of county agricultural societies in Nebraska has been the means of greater agricultural educational influence among the citizens of our state than all others combined, and that the present encouraging condition of agricultural development in the state cannot afford now to be embarrassed by the repeal of any law which will tend to check progress in this direction, and that the county agricultural society is today and has been the nucleus from which the state of Nebraska has acquired its reputation as being the leading state agricultural exhibition in the United States. Be it further:

"Resolved, That it is our belief that the taking away from county agricultural societies the county aid now provided will not only discourage the organization of agricultural societies in the newer counties, but will have a tendency to discourage agricultural society work now being accomplished in the state, thereby giving Nebraska a backward reputation rather than an incentive to lead in every feature of agriculture production adapted to our soil and climate. It will furthermore result in killing the greatest means of education and advancement the progressive and enterprising farmer of today enjoys—a comparison with that of his neighbors, the products of his own labor from the field, the orchard, the garden and the home.

"Resolved further, That the members of this convention, and especially the legislative committee, be authorized to use its influence against the repealing bill referred to and all other bills adverse to the agricultural interests of Nebraska, and that a copy of these resolutions be furnished each, the president of the senate and the speaker of the house."

The letter, with the resolutions, were ordered spread upon the journal.

The judiciary committee recommended S. F. 68 for passage. S. F. 70 to pass, S. F. 67 to pass, and S. F. 65 to pass. They are all amendments to the constitution.

S. F. 230, introduced by Owens of Dawson, proposes to redistrict and reappoint the state into senatorial and representative districts, giving the northwest and western part of the state increased representation. The bill gives Douglas county four senators and one float senator, between Douglas and Sary. Douglas county is given eleven representatives and one float between Douglas and Sary.

Lancaster is given two senators, one float between Lancaster, Cass and Otter, and one representative. Gage is given one senator, one float senator with Lawrence and Johnson, and three representatives. The number of senatorial districts is reduced from thirty to twenty-eight, and the number of representative districts increased from sixty-seven to seventy-two.

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Resolved, That the speaker appoint a committee of three to investigate any charges, call witnesses, papers, etc., relative to this house, and report its findings to this house.

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SENATORIAL DISTRICTS

1-Nemaha and Richardson, one senator. 2-Nemaha, one representative. 3-Pawnee, Johnson and Gage, one senator. 4-Otoe and Cass, one senator. 5-Lancaster, two representatives. 6-Douglas, four senators. 7-Dodge, Sary and Douglas, one senator. 8-Saunders and Colfax, one senator. 9-Washington, Holt, Thurston and Dakota, one senator. 10-Cumling, Wayne, Dixon and Cedar, one senator. 11-Madison, Antelope, Stanton and Pierce, one senator. 12-Platte and Butler, one senator. 13-York and Seward, one senator. 14-Saline and Thayer, one senator. 15-Fillmore and Jefferson, one senator. 16-Nuckolls, Webster and Franklin, one senator. 17-Adams, Clay, Hamilton and Polk, two senators. 18-Hall, Howard and Sherman, one senator. 19-Merrick, Nance, Boone, Greeley and Wheeler, one senator. 20-Knox, Holt, Rock, Brown, Keya Paha and Butler, one senator. 21-Custer, Valley, Garfield and Loup, one senator. 22-Buffalo and Dawson, one senator. 23-Phelps, Kearney and Harlan, one senator. 24-Furnas, Rock Willow, Hitchcock and Gosper, one senator. 25-Fremont, Haas, Dundey, Chase and Perkins, one senator. 26-Lincoln, Logan, Blaine, Thomas, Hooker, McPherson, Arthur, Grant, Keith, Deuel, Cheyenne, Kimball, Banner and Scotts Bluff, one senator. 27-Cherry, Sheridan, Dawes, Sioux and Box Bluff, one senator.

Several new bills were introduced. The committee on printing was instructed to print 1,000 copies of S. F. 210, the revenue bill introduced by Van Dusen of Douglas, printed.

Allen of Furnas moved that when the senate adjourn it adjourn till 11:30 a. m. Monday. Talbot of Lancaster said he had conversations with Knepper of Butler, Saturday. The motion was not seconded, with no new arguments on either side.

The motion prevailed by a vote of 17 to 14, after a call of the house, which was moved before any of the absentees were brought in.

Upon the report of the committee on education S. F. 41 was recommended for passage. It is the free high school law. S. F. 2 was indefinitely postponed. S. F. 41 covering the same subject more completely.

The senate went into committee of the whole, with Canada of Kearney in the chair. S. F. 52, by Talbot of Lancaster, was recommended for passage. It simply adds a proper repealing clause to the present law, with one or two minor amendments.

S. F. 7, by Knepper of Butler, was next considered. This is the bill to wipe out county agricultural societies and compulsory county aid for fairs. The judiciary committee offered a substitute, leaving the law in force, except it makes it optional with county boards whether county aid shall be given or not. Van Dusen of Douglas explained the objects of the substitute bill.

Miller of Buffalo favored the repealing of the law, saying the people had grown tired of paying annual contributions to these fairs. He said he would support the substitute, however, as probably the best that could be done this time.

Fowler of Fillmore favored the substitute, as it would let each county decide whether to have the fairs or not.

Farrell of Merrick thought he could support the bill as it now stood. The taxpayers of his county were opposed to the present law.

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Representative Districts. 1-Richardson, one representative. 2-Nemaha, one representative. 3-Richardson and Nemaha, one representative. 4-Nemaha, one representative. 5-Pawnee, one representative. 6-Otoe, two representatives. 7-Cass, two representatives. 8-Otoe and Cass, one representative. 9-Sary and Douglas, one representative. 10-Douglas, eleven representatives. 11-Washington, one representative. 12-Burt, one representative.

Ways and Means

13-Wayne and Thurston, one representative. 14-Dodge, one representative. 15-Cumling, one representative. 16-Dodge and Cumling, one representative. 17-Stanton and Pierce, one representative. 18-Dixon, Cedar and Dakota, two representatives. 19-Knox, one representative. 20-Seward, one representative. 21-Nance and Greeley, one representative. 22-Boone and Wheeler, one representative. 23-Madison, one representative. 24-Platte, one representative. 25-Saline and Madison, one representative. 26-Colfax, one representative. 27-Saunders, one representative. 28-Butler, one representative. 29-Saunders and Butler, one representative. 30-Saline, two representatives. 31-Saline, three representatives. 32-Lancaster, seven representatives. 33-Jefferson, one representative. 34-Thayer, one representative. 35-Nuckolls, one representative. 36-Fillmore, one representative. 37-Clay, one representative. 38-Clay and Fillmore, one representative. 39-Merrick, one representative. 40-Hamilton, one representative. 41-York, one representative. 42-York and Hamilton, one representative. 43-Polk, one representative. 44-Antelope, one representative. 45-Jefferson, Thayer, Nuckolls and Webster, one representative. 46-Hall, one representative. 47-Hall, one representative. 48-Adams, two representatives. 49-Hall, Keya Paha and Boyd, two representatives. 50-Adams, two representatives. 51-Brown and Rock, one representative. 52-Cherry, one representative. 53-Sheridan, one representative. 54-Valley, one representative. 55-Valley, Garfield and Loup, one representative. 56-Custer, two representatives. 57-Fremont, one representative. 58-Buffalo, two representatives. 59-Dawson, one representative. 60-Kearney, one representative. 61-Phelps, one representative. 62-Harlan, one representative. 63-Phelps, one representative. 64-Furnas, one representative. 65-Furnas, one representative. 66-Furnas, Gosper, Hayes and Frontier, two representatives. 67-Hitchcock and Dundey, one representative. 68-Chase and Perkins, one representative. 69-Blaine, Thomas, Logan, McPherson, Hooker, Grant, Keith, Deuel, one representative. 70-Cheyenne, Banner and Kimball, one representative. 71-Box Bluff, Sioux and Scotts Bluff, one representative. 72-Dawes, one representative.

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At this juncture Allen of Furnas moved that when the senate adjourned, it adjourn till Tuesday at 10 o'clock. Upon the suggestion of Van Dusen of Douglas the hour was made 10:30. This brought forth the opposition of the Lancaster members, backed by the fusionists. Senator Rocke moved to amend that the senate adjourn from tomorrow till Monday. His motion was declared out of order. Prout of Gage favored adjournment to the senate a rest. Allen of Furnas thought the senators ought to confer with their constituents on the senatorial situation. Talbot of Lancaster contended that the legal election of a senator would be jeopardized by adjournment for this length of time. Steele of Jefferson said the best legal talent differed from Senator Talbot.

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After the joint session the senate took a recess till 2:30 o'clock. In the afternoon the senate was called to order at 3:05 o'clock. The committee on municipal affairs reported favorably upon S. F. 81. The judiciary committee reported amendments for S. F. 60 and also S. F. 79, with recommendations thereon. S. F. 71 was reported back by the judiciary committee to pass with slight amendments. The committee on live stock and grazing reported favorably upon S. F. 41 with some amendments. The committee on privileges and elections reported favorably upon S. F. 38, to allow county judges compensation for appointing judges and clerks of election.

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