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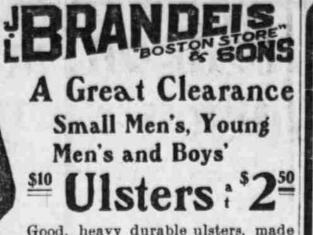
Adaptation of Direct Primary Election Laws of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Massachusetts to Nebraska Conditions.

The preparation of the direct primary nomination law, to be fathered by the Douglas delegation, has been undertaken by Representative-elect N. P. Dodge, jr., in consultation with his associates and others interested in the reform of party machinery. Mr. Dodge has been studying the primary election laws enacted in Minnesota, Maisachusetts and Wisconsin and the bill to the same import that was introduced in the last legislature by Senator Hastings, and is formulating his bill in the light of all this legislation, but with special adaptation of the Wisconsin law-to the conditions existing in Nebraska. As out lined by Mr. Dodge the features of his bill are explained as follows:

"A direct primary bill without the registration features, which the proposed bill will contain, was introduced by Senator Hastings at the last session of the legislature. This bill was also modeled on the Minnesota law. The proposed bill will provide for the primary elections of all parties on the same day, seven weeks prior to the general election in November and five weeks prior to the city election in cities of the metropolitan class. Frimary election day will be the first day of registration and the polls will be open from 8 in the morning until 9 at night in the larger cities. It will also be a legal holiday. The registrars will act as judges and clerks of the primary election. At this election all candidates for state, congressional, judicial, county and city offices will be nominated. The law will not apply to special elections or to village, township or school district officers not members of a board of education. In additon to the nominal fee as required by the Minnesota law candidates will be compelled to file petitions signed by an average of 2 per cent of the voters in the district wherein he is a candidate, no voter being permitted to s.ga more than one petition for any one office and he must declare his intention to support the condidate whose petition he signs, this provision being part of the Wisconsin law.

Rotation of Names on Ticket. "There has been considerable feeling of the unfairness of the placing of candidates' names alphabetically, thus giving great advantage to those whose names begin near the top of the alphabet. Consequently in the proposed bill the names will be changed in their order as many times as there are candidates for any one office, each candidate having his name at the top of as many tickets as any other candidate. If a candidate is nominated by more than one party he must select the party for which he desires to be the candidate. Consequently his name cannot appear on the ticket more than once.

"In order to vote at the primary the elector must be registered and must state that he has affiliated with the party at whose primary he desires to vote and that he intends to support its candidates at the coming election. He will not be permitted to change his party affiliation at the registration on primary day, but must give notice of such change of affiliation at some prior time. This time and manner have not been fully decided upon. The two remaining registration days will be placed at equal intervals between prit the al but a



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time will be set for the last registration day prior to the election than under the present law by giving at least a week to check up false registration.

"I is not the intention to compel registration in districts in which it is not reouired by the existing laws, but the direct primary system will apply to all sections of the state, doing away with all conventions except for special elections.

"Provision is made for the formation of new parties and their participating in the primaries and the nomination of independent candidates.

"The manner of electing a county, judicial, congressional and state committee has not yet been determined. I do intend to provide a law for the entire state, but should the legislature oppose such a measure the Douglas county delegation, insofar as I know, is unanimous to favoring a primary law for Douglas county."

NOTHING BUT A PLAIN DRUNK Fate Works Downward Even with Most Eminent and Distinguished of Crooks.

When J. McGee was arraigned in police court, pleaded guilty to having been drunk and was fined \$1 and costs, there was nothing in the procedure to mark the case from the hundreds of other "plain drunk" cases that go through the court from day to day. And no one, save a few of the old-time police officials, gave more than a passing look at the prisoner as he passed through the "mill."

J. McGee, or rather "Black Jack" McGee, as he was formerly known, could tell some thrilling stories were he so inclined. But he will not talk of the days gone by. He wants to bury the past and for a number of years has been burying it in the probial cup. He is now 60 years of age and bears the marks of both age and dissipation

Twenty-five years ago the name of "Black Jack" McGee appeared in many of the stories of crime on the western frontier. He was then a member of the notorious Keyes gang, long since broken up after years of aggressiveness on the part of the authorities. McGee was personally one of the boldest of the gang. He and his pais are said to have slugged men for a mere pittance, to have thrown dead bodies from moving box cars and to have committed numerous depredations of a brutal character. One case is on record of a robbery

committed in Iowa, in which crime McGee and Nugent are said to have kiled their victim, taken a watch, which they later placed in the pocket of an innocent party, who was sentenced for the crime.

In the old years McGee had a record from coast to coast, but today he is satisfied with being classed with the "plain drunks."

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PORK

