

ST. PAUL NEWS.

PURELY LOCAL MEASURES

Was the General Order of the Day in Both Branches of the Legislature Yesterday.

Duluth Gets a Little Ventilation for Having Repudiated Her Harbor Improvement Bonds.

A Bill Passes the Senate Authorizing St. Paul to Issue \$800,000 in Water Bonds.

Gallant Mr. Muzzy Proposes to Violate the Constitution by Extending Suffrage to Women.

SENATE.

Yesterday was another "local" day in the senate. The senators are firing of their woodchucks with commendable vigor, and when Mr. Hickman proposed to make the father of his country still more famous by a resolution forbidding the introduction of any bills whatever after Feb. 22, there was general murmur of dissent, and it went over under prompt notice of debate.

Duluth got a rather unfavorable airing by the memorial of N. P. Langford and others, protesting against the legislature memorializing congress for appropriations for Duluth harbor improvements, until that bad city party for the payment of certain local harbor improvement bonds which had been repudiated. Senator Billson made an ineffectual attempt to get the memorial into the hands of the Duluth delegation, but Senator C. D. Gillilan blocked that game, and the subject matter of the memorial is likely to be heard of again during the session.

The senate had an industrious streak, and held a second session in the afternoon, the first one of the session.

Continued Report.

The senate was called to order at 10:15 a. m. yesterday, and after roll call the president announced the following committee on third insane asylum: Senators Morrison, Ackerman, Comstock, Walden & Christiansen.

By Senator Sergeant—Empowering township and other officers to condemn certain land, to improve and repair the public highways.

By Senator Goodrich—Relating to the state militia, making several amendments, among which are that the pay of a captain when on duty, be the same as paid by the regular army, another that the colonel of a regiment have the power to court martial any enlisted man in his command, and to carry out the usual sentence after the usual time of appeal. Also that an additional sum of \$5,000 be appropriated for the national guard of the state.

By Senator Comstock—Relating to the salary and compensation of the treasurer of Clay county. Passed under suspended rules. The bill fixes the salary at \$900 per annum.

By Senator Clement—Relating to the corporation of the city of Fairbault in regard to licenses of cabs, shows, concerts, etc., and liquor, the latter to be placed at \$500 if the citizens so vote.

By Senator Truax—A memorial to congress relating to the improvement of the headwaters of the Mississippi river. Passed under suspended rules. A resolution to print 100 copies of the same passed.

By Senator Wheat—To create a timber land commission, the governor to appoint three citizens of the state, who have been selected to thoroughly inquire into the condition, character and value of timber lands belonging to the state.

By Senator Shaloven—To fix the salary of the recording clerk in the office of the secretary of state at \$1,300, instead of \$730.

By Senator Wheat—To prohibit and suspend all sales of timber land, or timber thereon, belonging to the state fund of the state.

By Senator Wheat—To constitute the crime of wilful and malicious trespass upon the timbered school lands belonging to the state a felony.

By Senator Blake—To provide forms of conveyances for real property.

By Senator Fletcher—A bill to provide for the storage and disposal of unclaimed baggage, freight and merchandise. The bill sets forth that when unclaimed baggage, etc., has remained in the care of the carrier for sixty days said carrier may turn it over to any warehouse man, who shall store it until claimed, the time of storage being four months, said warehouse man to hold a lien on the property for all claims.

By Senator Wheat—To authorize the city of St. Paul to issue \$800,000 bonds for the purpose of extending, enlarging and improving the water works of said city. Passed under suspended rules.

By Senator C. D. Gillilan—To authorize the city of St. Paul to purchase the water works of Duluth, the same to be a commission. Passed under suspended rules.

By Senator Gillilan, J. B.—Regulating sawing of logs and lumber in the Second district.

By Senator Gillilan, J. B.—Amending section 5, chapter 23 of the statutes of 1878, relating to the survey of logs and lumber.

By Senator Knudson—Requiring the education of all healthy children.

By Senator Sergeant—To prevent the sale of indecent literature.

By Senator Hickman—Offered a resolution that no bills shall be offered after the 22nd of February. [Notice of debate.]

A NEW OFFICE TO BE CREATED.

The judiciary committee reported the bill for an additional judge in the Eleventh district, recommending it to pass. The report was adopted.

The bill amending section 10, chapter 16 of the statutes of 1878 was indefinitely postponed.

HOUSE BILLS PASSED.

Appropriating \$28,000 to pay the expenses of the state exhibit at New Orleans, Ayes 21, noes 5.

Providing for taking the census of the state the current year.

GOING FOR DULUTH.

Senator Gillilan, C. D., offered a memorial of N. P. Langford and others relative to the repudiated bonds of Duluth.

Senator Gillilan moved to have the memorial printed and sent to the finance committee.

Senator Billson asked to have referred to the delegates of the Forty-sixth district, which embraces Duluth. He said the city had issued the bonds to improve the harbor, which was a benefit to the entire state, and had almost become bankrupt in doing so. Under these circumstances most of the holders of the bonds had assented to the scaling down.

Senator Gillilan said they wanted the facts in the case, and he thought the reference to the senator from Duluth might not produce them. It may be any citizen of Duluth had placed himself beyond the reach of the courts if he had not been understood. Duluth was the only city in the state, the memorial stated, which had repudiated her bonds, and she could not afford to stand in that position. If the improvement was for the benefit of the entire state perhaps the state should pay it. Duluth owned but about \$50,000 besides this, and is one of the leading cities of the state. Mr. Gillilan's motion was then adopted.

Recs. to 2:30 p. m.

Afternoon Session.

It was a quarter to 3 o'clock when the senate was called to order for the afternoon session.

BILL INTRODUCED.

By Mr. Tucker, of Pope—To authorize a state rail road and appropriating money for a bridge in Stevens county.

By Mr. McKaskic, of Pine—To authorize the commissioners to issue bonds in \$10,000 for building a court house and jail. Rules suspended and bill passed.

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ASKING FAIR PLAY.

Legislation Under Way to Place Farmers on an Equal Footing With the Millers.

The Most Important Resolution Read was to Put the Inspection of Wheat Under State Control.

Thus Establishing a Uniform Grade, Enabling the Producer to Obtain a Living Price for His Grain.

The house committee on railroads and warehouses and grain inspection had a meeting at 3 o'clock yesterday afternoon in the chamber of the house, where it was met by a committee of the chamber of commerce of Minneapolis, which, by the way, is antagonistic to the millers' association, by members of both the house and the senate, railroad officials and citizens of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

After coming to order Mr. Sammis, of the Minneapolis committee, read a series of resolutions adopted Jan. 14, which recommended that grain grading and elevators be under state supervision, favoring a reduction of railroad rates; an amendment of the law of chattel mortgage as connected with grain in store or growing; an equalization of flat and transit rates, and a law prohibiting discrimination in receiving and shipping grain.

Mr. Drake, of Ramsey, moved the resolutions be taken up and considered seriatim. Adopted.

The first item was that of public elevators and state inspection. Mr. Sammis explained that the idea was that by means of state inspection, grain would be guaranteed so that a party selling his grain in the interior could go to Minneapolis or St. Paul, or other elevating point, and sell the same, the purchaser being guaranteed the amount and grade called for in his receipt. In answer to a question he explained that as all grain would have to be inspected, it would make no difference to shipper or purchaser whether the receipt was given by a public or private warehouse.

R. Barden, of Minneapolis, said the idea and purport of the resolutions were laws to secure uniformity of inspection, so that the purchaser of a grain receipt from the interior would know just exactly what he was buying and the seller just what he was selling. He referred to the practice formerly on the Sioux City road, where the railroad company became responsible for the grade and amount of wheat purported to be represented on their warehouse receipts, which receipts found a ready sale in St. Paul. This was the system the resolutions favored, except that the state inspection shall be the guarantee rather than the railroad company. What was wanted was simply and get matters as near right for all parties as possible. The mode of operation was to state inspector with established grades. Then buyers at interior points would be compelled to conform to such grades, so that buyers at terminal points would know when they bought a ticket calling for a certain grade they would get that grade as well as the amount called for. His first experience in purchasing wheat was on the Michigan Central railroad, which controlled the business and guaranteed the deliveries it made, so that receipts given were always negotiable. False grading, he thought, should be made a crime and severely punished.

Mr. Edmond, of the house, wished to know if the heavy bonds and arbitrary grades proposed would not have the tendency to drive public elevators out of business.

Mr. Marshall, of Minneapolis, thought state inspection and fair grades would be generally accepted by parties engaged in the elevator business. The charges should be made reasonable and no unnecessary hardships imposed.

Mr. Serle said he had talked with a large elevator man who said he would welcome state inspection and uniform grades.

Mr. Smith said the system would not interfere with the sale of grain by sample. The mill with which he was connected now paid little attention to elevator grading, buying their wheat on its merits, often raising it higher than elevators would grade it.

Mr. Marshall said there was no desire to make war on elevators, public or private. Public elevators were a necessity in this country, they being constructed very often at points where private enterprise would not go.

Chairman Storck believed that with an open market the questions of grades and other matters would soon settle themselves. He said as the business was conducted now it looked as if the elevator men and railroad companies absolutely controlled the market, and compelled the producer to sell his grain at the market and at the price they dictated. There was no uniformity in the manner of grading now, the buyer grading it up or down just as he happened to feel that day—if he had an attack of dyspepsia down goes the grade, or if he felt particularly good, better grades would be given.

Mr. Sammis said buyers at Minneapolis could not get at Duluth and Minneapolis, where a grade fixed by state or other inspection would be wanted as state inspection at the receiving points. That done the interior points would soon conform to such grades and thus uniformity would be secured.

Mr. Storck thought that was the trouble with the interior buyers were too quick in conforming to the grades fixed at the receiving points.

Mr. Barden again called attention to the Sioux City system before referred to, and said that at that time he did not hear one complaint from farmers where there are now fifty. He further said that what grade No. 1 at Minneapolis, if shipped to Milwaukee or Chicago, would almost invariably be graded lower. He had tried it, and knew whereof he spoke.

Mr. Storck explained his personal experience both at Duluth and Minneapolis, where on one occasion he faced much better at Duluth, and again Minneapolis treated him the best. The trouble was, as it seemed to farmers, that the elevators at both points fixed their grade to suit the market and their necessities at the time. The remedy, in his opinion, was state inspection and uniform grade.

Mr. Marshall said the effort to establish uniform grades at Duluth and Minneapolis had failed, but he claimed the Minneapolis market paid the full value of all wheat shipped to it. An open market brought largely on the market of the grain offered.

His idea was that the same rule should apply at interior markets, and then have a state inspection at receiving points. He also claimed that the wheat of the northwest was steadily deteriorating; that soft wheat was steadily working into the hard varieties, thus reducing the grade. Grades must be retained and made rigid, but any attempt to establish state inspection in the interior would result disastrously. The state ought to compel free markets, fair grades and prevent discrimination.

Mr. Drake thought he appreciated the difficulties of the situation. He did not think the difficulty arose altogether from the desire of dealers, men and buyers, to take advantage of the producer. It was a delicate matter to decide upon grades. What was wanted was justice to all concerned. That could be done by giving the producer an open market, uniform grades at receiving points, and fair rates for handling and transporting. Fixed grades at all receiving points was the essential thing in his opinion.

Mr. Serle, also urged such an open market under state supervision. An open market with established grades at the receiving points, would, he believed, do away with the present friction.

The next point was a modification of the present law of chattel mortgages upon grain. In explanation of this Mr. Sammis said that under the present law a mortgagee, in