RATES OF TAXATION

FIXED IN REGARD TO EXPRESS COMPANIES, SLEEPING CARS, TELEPHONE COMPANIES.

FAST FREIGHT EQUIPMENT.

FIVE PER CENT ON GROSS EARNINGS OF EXPRESS AND TELEPHONE PEOPLE.

THREE PER CENT FOR SLEEPERS.

The Last Named to Be Based Upon a Valuation of the Property.

The special order of the house in the afternoon was a sort of omnibus taxation measure, under the form of five bills, as follows:

H. F. 357 (Dyer)—For the taxation of express companies.

H. F. 822 (committee on taxes and tax laws)—For the same purpose.

H. F. 811 (Anderson)—For the taxation of sleeping cars, etc.

H. F. 876 (McGrath)—For the taxation of telephone companies.

H. F. 933 (Ferris)—For the taxation of freight line and equipment companies.

These bills originated in and were passed by the legislature two years ago submitting the matter to the people in the form of a constitutional amendment, which was adopted.

The two bills for the taxation of express companies, one by Mr. Dyer and the other prepared by Mr. Smith, of Hennepin, chairman of the committee on taxation, were taken up together and in a manner explained by Mr. Smith. He stated that both bills were copies of Ohio statutes, both having been carried to the supreme court of the United States and both having been sustained as constitutional. The Dyer bill was copied from what is called an excise tax, which provided for a taxation of 2 per cent upon the gross earnings within the state of Ohio. The Smith bill provided that the property of express companies should be assessed at the same rate as all other property in the state is taxed, the value of the property to be ascertained by the state board of equalization. Mr. Smith showed that in Ohio both systems were in operation. In his mind the ad valorem tax was sufficient and equitable to the express companies and to the state.

After this explanation by the chairman, Mr. Dyer further elaborated his bill, which, he said, was a copy of the Ohio law except that instead of 2 per cent it fixed the tax at 5 per cent of the gross earnings.

Mr. Scott also spoke in favor of the Dyer bill and against the Smith bill, because he thought the income to the state would be much more certain in its result. It was generally understood that the express companies paid 40 per cent of the gross earnings to the railways. This would give the state 5 per cent on the 60 per cent remaining, and it was reasonably certain what the return would be.

Mr. Smith replied that the express companies could readily change their contracts with the railway companies to 70 or 80 per cent of their gross receipts, and that left the matter in an entirely different position; for this reason he urged the ad valorem tax as the safest and best.

Mr. Meyers made an argument for the Smith bill, and in support of this proposition he sent up to the desk to be read the decision of Justice Brewer, of the United States supreme court, March 15, 1897, sustaining the constitutionality of the ad valorem tax imposed by the Ohio legislature. Mr. Donnelly made the point that there was no machinery in the tax system of Minnesota to assess such companies; that it was outside the province of the state board of equalization; this was not an assessing board, but an equalizing board. Mr. Smith said the Ohio law was carried out by the Ohio board, and that in Minnesota the taxes of the telephone and telegraph companies were also assessed by the state board.

Mr. Douglas spoke for the Dyer bill, saying that it had been estimated that the 5 per cent gross earnings tax would net the state from $30,000 to $40,000.

Mr. Foss moved the third reading of the Dyer bill. Mr. Meyers moved as a substitute that H. F. 822, by Mr. Smith, be taken up. This motion was lost. The Dyer bill was then passed by a vote of 89 to 0.

The Smith bill (H. F. 882) was then indefinitely postponed, and the house took up the taxation of sleeping cars, as proposed by the Anderson bill, H. F. 811.

This bill, as reported back by the committee on taxation, had stricken out a provision in the original bill relating to the licensing of sleeping, dining and drawing-room cars. This was explained by Mr. Smith upon the ground that there was some question about it being a good legal proposition to combine a license tax and a gross earnings feature. The proposition had been to make each company pay a license fee of $500 a year, which was lost by striking out this feature.

The bill as reported, provides for a tax of 3 per cent upon the gross earnings. Mr. Jacobson moved to amend by increasing the tax to 5 per cent, and the house resolved itself into a class upon constitutional law for several minutes. The question arose whether sleeping cars could be taxed at a rate different from other railroad property, which the majority of the house seemed to doubt. Mr. Jacobson wanted to have the question settled by a trial, if necessary, of the question of whether the gross earnings tax cannot be changed. The Jacobson amendment was voted down and the bill, placing a 3 per cent tax upon the gross earnings of sleeping and similar cars, was passed by a vote of 88 to 0.

The next taken up was the McGrath bill, H. F. 876, providing for a tax of 5 per cent upon the gross earnings of telephone companies or owners. Mr. Dallimore moved to change the bill so as to make the tax 3 per cent upon the gross earnings. Mr. Basford said that the telephone companies of the state were now paying a tax of nearly 3 per cent, which was enough to tax such new companies are are now struggling for a foothold against the big companies in the cities. Mr. Dahl said that 5 per cent tax was none too great in view of the high rates charged by the telephone companies. Mr. Staples and Mr. Underleak also advocated the 5 per cent tax and the Dallimore amendment was defeated by a vote of 26 for the amendment and 48 against. The bill was then passed by a vote of 75 to 12.

The last bill on the special order was H. F. 933, by Mr. Ferris, for the taxation of fast freight and equipment companies. There was no opposition to this bill. Mr. Ferris explained that it was drawn upon the lines of the Smith bill, which the house had defeated in connection with the taxation of express companies. The Ferris bill is based upon a valuation of the property instead of gross earnings. In Ohio this tax amounts to $10,000 annually and is very satisfactory to the state. The bill was passed by a vote of 96 to 0.

SPOTS ON THE SUN

Come Up in a Discussion About Fire Marshal.

Ignatius Donnelly attacked the prevalent theory that forests have an influence on the rainfal. of a country. Mr. Donnelly scouts this idea and advances one of his own, that the sun spots regulate how much rain is to fall and the forests have nothing to do with it. His argument is based upon the claim that during the present season there has been a great precipitation of snow and rain, flooding vast areas that have been almost arid, yet there has been no difference in the forest area.

This discussion of physics was brought about in the report on a bill to abolish the office created for Gen. Andrews, by the last legislature, known as state fire marshal. The bill, H. F. 849. was introduced by representative Goss, of Winona, and when it went to the committee on forestry and fire protection, six members of that committee were opposed to the abolition of the office and three favored the passage of the bill. The two reports were presented yesterday morning and the house adopted the report of the minority, turning down the majority.

Mr. Jacobson said the proposition to keep a state fire warden, who is to have an office in the capitol, to prevent forest fires or prairie fires was ridiculous. If the idea was to pension some nice old gentleman, that was another thing; but in that case the state shoulud pass a bill which would include nothing more than the salary. He suggested that four years ago this same gentleman had a bill before the legislature to create the office of commissioner of agriculture, and his name was in the bill as the first commissioner.

Mr. Douglas said that this law passed two years ago, had acted to cause fires rather than prevent them, because in certain instances fires had actually been started for no other purpose than because it would give some people $2 a day while at work putting it out.

Mr. Lloyd made a speech for the bill which, however, fell on deaf ears. An attempt was made to put the bill at the head of general orders, but Judge Hicks objected and the bill took its regular place on general orders. It is almost sure of passing, however, if it can be reached.

The bill (H. F. 678) fixing the salary of Dr. Bracken, of Minneapolis, as secretary of the state board of health at $2,500, and prohibiting his receiving any pay as professor, etc., at the university, was passed.

The bill, (H. F. 397), by Mr. Snodgrass, to appropriate money for the relief of B. S. Russell and others who acted as a commission to settle a dispute about Duluth harbor was lost by a vote of 52 to 29.

Mr. Dare attempted to have the new state printing bill advanced to the head of general orders but there was objection and less than two-thirds vote was secured, although Mr. Dare had explained that the appropriation committeee was waiting to know how this matter was to be disposed of before taking action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS.

Elections—

H. F. 839 (Kelley)—Fixing the time for opening and closing of polls at township elections.

S. F. 57 (Theden)—Relating to elections. To pass.

S. F. 54 (Theden)—To regulate elections. To pass.

State Prison and Reformatory—

H. F. 581 (Masterman)—To amend chapter 254 of the General Laws of 1889, relating to state prison. To pass.

Towns and Counties—

H. F. 796 (Marin)—Providing for the organization of new counties. To pass.

H. F. 797 (Marin)—Providing for the government of newly organized counties. To pass.

S. F. 398 (Miller)—To provide for the destruction of Russian thistles, and granting power to county commissioners to rebate taxes levied under the thistle act. To pass.

Insurance—

H. F. 850 (Schmidt)—To revise and codify the insurance laws of the state. To indefinitely postpone.

H. F. 673 (Coe)—To construe fire insurance policies and the riders attached thereto issued by Minnesota fire insurance companies. To indefinitely postpone.

H. F. 751 (Dunn)—Relating to licensing insurance companies whose principal office is outside the state. To indefinitely postpone.

H. F. 991 (Barta)—To provide for the codifying of the insurance laws of the state. To pass as amended by substituting the figure 1 for 2.

Municipal Legislation—

H. F. 963 (McDonald)—Relating to salaries of firemen in cities of 50,000 or over. To indefinitely postpone.

H. F. 1010 (Barta)—To provide for a department of public water works. To indefinitely postpone.

H. F. 677 (McDonald)—To regulate organization and control of police departments in cities of 100,000 or over. To indefinitely postpone. Laid on the table.

H. F. 905 (Schmidt)—To authorize incorporated cities of 1,500 and less to issue bonds for the purchase of water works. To pass.

H. F. 957 (Ferris)—To authorize incorporated villages to change their names. To indefinitely postpone.

Printing—

H. F. 956 (Ferris)—To publication of proceedings of city councils in incorporated cities. To pass.

Prison Labor—

H. F. 381 (Dallimore)—Relating to the employment of convicts. To indefinitely postpone.

Appropriations—

H. F. 272 (Stone)—To promote and encourage immigration. To pass as amended, substituting $15,000 for $20,000 and $7,500 for $10,000.

H. F. 983 (Dallimore)—To provide for the appraisal of property at the state fair grounds. To pass as amended, cutting off compensation from the commission and limiting the amount to be awarded to $20,000.

Taxes and Tax Laws—

H. F. 974 (Coe)—To amend section 55, chapter 11, General Statutes 1878, relating to notice of taxation. To indefinitely postpone.

General Legislation—

S. F. 455 (Howard)—To amend section 1209, chapter 10, General Statutes 1894, relating to village assessment districts. To pass as amended. This bill was substituted for H. F. 756, covering the same ground, and given its second reading.

Special Committee—

H. F. 834 (Johns)—Relating to foreign building and loan associations, when insolvent. To pass as amended, as to apply to building, loan and savings associations doing a general business in this state.

Crimes and Punishment—

H. F. 616 (Johns)—To amend section 358 of the penal code, relating to prize fighting. To pass.

Forestry and Fire Protection—

H. F. 849 (Goss)—To repeal chapter 196 of the Laws of 1895, creating the office of state fire warden. Majority and minority reports for indefinite postponement and passage respectively. Minority report adopted.

From Education—

S. F. 425 (Cole)—To amend the section 3675, General Statutes 1894, providing that persons owning real estate in a certain school district and residing elsewhere, may offset the amount paid as school taxes against tuition charges. To pass.

From Ramsey, Hennepin and St. Louis Delegations—

H. F. 861 (McDonald)—To provide for a police pension fund for disabled policemen and their widows and children in cities of over 50,000 population. To pass, and placed on general orders.

SEPARATE CHURCH AND STATE.

Measure Relating to Sectarian Instruction Passes the House.

A measure over which there was some opposition was H. F. 397, introduced by Mr. Soule, to prohibit the wearing of sectarian garb and also sectarian instruction in public schools. No fight on the bill developed on the floor, but there was some systematic dodging on the part of members whose constituencies were divided.

When the bill was reached Mr. Soule demanded a call of the house to reduce the number of dodgers to the lowest point possible. Several members explained their votes, saying that they were in favor of one section but opposed to another, and so voted against the whole bill. Mr. Donnelly said he had been petitioned by constituents whose wishes he could not help respecting, to vote against this bill. He would not have introduced such a measure, and, moreover, he would have been perfectly satisfied to have winked at this for a few years longer until those foreigners who have brought with them their European ideas of the relation of church and school would become more thoroughly Americanized, but now that the issue was squarely made he could not refuse to stand by a cardinal American principle and vote for the separation of church and state.

Mr. Lloyd said he was in favor of the first section of the bill but opposed to the second, so he voted against it. The same position was taken by Judge Hicks, except that he voted for the bill. Mr. Meyers was of the same opinion as Mr. Lloyd. He did not wish to prohibit sisters of any denomination who, he said, were teaching without pay, from doing so in public schools. He voted against the bill. Mr. Boutwell, having voted for the bill, read over the second section and changed his vote to no. Whereupon Mr. Martin changed from no to aye. The bill was passed by a vote of 63 to 28, recorded as follows:

Yeas—		
Abbott,	Gilbertson,	McGill,
Barta,	Grondahl,	McLean,
Basford,	Hartshorn,	McNeil,
Bergley,	Head,	Olds,
Bigelow,	Heimerdinger,	Parker,
Briggs,	Henderson,	Sampson,
Coe,	Hicks,	Scott,
Cray,	Hollister,	Scribner,
Cunningham,	Jacobson,	Sederberg,
Dale,	Johnson,	Shell,
Dare,	Kelley,	Simonson,
Davies,	Kendall,	Sloan,
Donnelly,	Laing,	Snyder,
Drommerhausen,	Laybourn,	Soule,
	Leach,	Stone,
Dunn,	Lee,	St. John,
Dyer,	Littleton,	Torson,
Eigenbrodt,	Mansfield,	Vigen,
Emerson,	Marin,	West,
Fosnes,	Mattson,	Wilkinson,
Foss,	McElhaney,	Mr. Speaker—
Froslee,		
Nays—		
Belden,	Kraker,	Poetz,
Boutwell,	Larson,	Schroeder,
Feig,	Lellman,	Severance,
Foell,	Lloyd,	Snodgrass,
Goss,	Mahood,	Staples,
Hall,	Martin,	Truwe,
Hayter,	Meyers,	Underleak,
Hill,	McGrath,	Vail,
Jameson,	Nyquist,	Von Lehe,
Johns,		

MUST GIVE BONDS.

Trust Companies to Furnish Securities Same as Individuals.

A bill which has been attracting considerable attention was passed by the house yesterday. House File 256, introduced by Judge Littleton, requires that trust companies doing business as guardians, administrators, etc., must give bonds the same as natural persons. Mr. Schmidt, of Duluth, opposed the measure on the ground that the trust companies were acting under the most stringent laws, and were much more secure than any private individual could be. The plan to require bonds for each case would not be as safe as the general security put up by the companies with the secretary of state.

Mr. Fosnes pointed out that some of these bonds in the custody of the secretary of state were not worth 25 per cent of their face value, which placed the security of the trust companies down to a ridiculously small percentage of the property they sought to make good.

Mr. Littleton also pointed out the importance of further guarantees against mushroom trust concerns, and the bill passed upon a call of the house by a vote of 76 to 10.

BUSY EVENING SESSION.

Long List of Bills Disposed of Some Way.

After a very busy day the house held an unusually active evening session, and in three hours passed on a number of bills which have been advanced to the calendar.

The Boutwell bill, for the relief of Mrs. Lambert, the widow of a soldier who received injuries while on his way to the relief of Fort Ridgley, from which he afterward died, was briefly debated and then killed. It was explained that he had lost his life practically in the struggle against the Indians.

Mr. Basford, of Winona, opposed the bill. He said the injury had been received a long time ago, and that the claim had gone on too long to be allowed at this time. "I have fought Indians myself," he said, "and I have killed them, too. I killed one Indian, and I hear his death cries ringing in my ears yet. I vote no on the bill." As Mr. Basford is well up on the roll call, a large number of members followed his cue, and the bill was killed.

The house killed the bill for the state aid for schools for the deaf in special school districts. This bill (H. F. 655) was introduced by Mr. Cray, at the request of the Minneapolis board of education, which has such a school now in operation. The bill proposed to give $125 for each deaf pupil in the school, which is about $200 less than the cost to the state under the state school plan. The bill was opposed by Mr. Laing, Mr. Feig, Mr. Hollester and Mr. Kelley. The only voice raised in its defense was that of Mr. Cray. He pointed out the feelings of the parents whose children were sent away from home, but the house decided that the advantage was with the large state school, and the bill was defeated by a vote of 47 for and 37 against.

The following bills were passed or lost:

H. F. 678 (McDonald)—Fixing the salary of the secretary of the state board of health at $2,500. Passed.

H. F. 236 (Littleton)—Providing that trust companies shall give bonds for fidelity the same as natural persons. Passed.

H. F. 397 (Snodgrass)—For the relief of B. S. Russell and others. Lost.

H. F. 694 (Scule)—Forbidding the use of sectarian garb and sectarian instruction in public schools. Passed.

H. F. 761 (substitute for H. F. 609. Judiciary committee)—Relating to bonding counties. Passed.

H. F. 762 (judiciary committee)—To legalize bonds heretofore issued by counties in certain cases. Passed.

H. F. 790 (Dunn)—To repeal an act authorizing county commissioners to acquire public parks. Passed.

H. F. 199 (Kelly)—Relating to state fees of corporations. Passed.

H. F. 49 (Boutwell)—Providing that where county commissioners license a saloon within 160 rods of any village half the license fee shall go to the village. Passed.

H. F. 404 (Johns)—For the relief of Henry Dillery. Passed.

H. F. 655 (Cray)—Providing for day schools for deaf children in special district. Lost.

H. F. 897 (Johns)—To provide for the incorporation of the Independent Order of B'rai B'rith. Passed.

H. F. 172 (Boutwell)—For the relief of Mrs. Lambert. Lost.

H. F. 759 (substitute for H. F. 529. Committee on railroads)—Providing that railroads shall build cattle sheds at all stations where thirty cars of cattle are shipped in the course of the previous season. Passed.

H. F. 802 (Smith)—Relating to replevin bonds. Passed.

H. F. 803 (Smith)—Relating to the security for costs in municipal courts. Passed.

H. F. 740 (Schmidt)—To regulate the filing of notices of real estate actions. Lost—46 to 42.

H. F. 769 (Dunn)—To provide for the reorganization of banks and the levying of assessments upon stockholders.

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PREDICT A SPLIT

Continued From First Page.

be tied up in committee so as to prevent action on any legislation, not to mention legislation favorable to the large body of the people, which was frequently the case. He favored the adoption of the rule, but, after some discussion, the matter was referred like its predecessor, to the committee on rules.

REPORTED ON POWERS.

Senator Dunn Presents a Unanimous Report.

Senator Stevens moved the adoption of the report of the Powers labor bureau. Senator Culkin moved that the report be laid on the table. No hasty action, he said, should be taken. It was to some extent a political question. He favored making the report a special order for today at 10:30.

Senator Stevens admitted there was a political question, but he looked at it in a different light. He thought it was time that the Republican party saw to it that this department was thoroughly divorced from partisanship.

Senator Heneman said the people would stand by the committee, whether the senate did or not.

Senator Dunn said there was no reason, in his opinion, for hurrying the thing through.

Senator Young said the senate had no authority to reverse or amend the report of the committee. They were entitled to be discharged, unless there was something more for them to do. The senate could not make the report say anything that the senators who signed it did not say.

The report was received, and the committee discharged.

The report was as follows:

The undersigned, your special committee, appointed to investigate the labor bureau, under the charges appearing in the senate journal of March 1, respectfully report as follows:

Your committee heard all the evidence pertinent to said charges offered by the promoters of said investigation, and also the evidence offered in rebuttal on the part of the bureau of labor. All the evidence was taken in shorthand, which has been duly transcribed and is herewith transmitted.

From the evidence so adduced we find some of said charges sustained, and others not sustained, as follows:

First—Non-enforcement of the factory law. We find that the several factory inspectors have used their best endeavors to enforce this law, and have accomplished much good thereunder. Many orders, however, made by them in the course of their duty have not been complied with by the several factories concerned, and but little has been done by the bureau to bring those delinquents to a literal compliance with the orders made. We believe the bureau should hereafter give more of its time and attention to a systematic course of inspection and a more rigid enforcement of its orders.

Second—Publishing an unauthorized work, entitled "Purchasing Power of Gold" at the state's expense.

We find this book is not authorized by the law requiring the publication of biennial reports by the commissioner of labor. It does not treat of the subjects prescribed by the statute to be covered by such reports, and it was published at a time when the matters treated of therein were the subject of partisan discussion and party dissension.

We believe that it was unwarranted in its subject matter and because of the political issues then pending, was partisan in tone. That it was published earlier than usual, to wit, about Oct. 20, 1896, so that it appeared and was distributed during the heat of the late campaign. We believe the department should be non-partisan in every respect, and that no interference of the employes therein in political campaign work should be tolerated.

Third—Statistics gathered at expense of the state and never published.

We find all of the statistics that have been gathered by the bureau on matters pertaining directly to the domain of labor, have been published, as required by law.

Some statistics have, from time to time, been gathered on subjects which we do not believe to be within the legitimate purview of the labor law, notably, "milling statistics," "tax statistics" and "probate court statistics," which have never been carried to any definite conclusion in the department or published in its reports.

We think this speculative line of work should be abandoned, and the time of the department more completely devoted to the advancement of the practical interests of labor.

Fourth—Using office force during office hours upon a work called "Farmer Hayseed."

This charge is to some extent true. Not much of the time of the employes of the bureau was so consumed, but it is exceedingly injudicious to bring the private literary work of the commissioner of labor into the bureau to upset and interfere with the public duties of the office.

Fifth—"Mortgage statistics garbled." This charge is wholly untrue and unwarranted. The garbling of statistics would necessarily mean their falsification. There was no evidence offered to justify this charge.

Sixth—Personal charges.

We find none of the charges of personal delinquency on the part of Mr. Powers are sustained.

The time claimed to be wasted at Leech lake and Rainy lake was shown to be a part of the annual thirty days' vacation of the employes. We think, however, this custom of allowing a thirty days' vacation on full pay is unwarrantable, and the period should be cut down.

Your committee is of the opinion that fewer employes in this bureau could accomplish all the good in the cause of labor contemplated by this law, provided their united efforts were directed to the purposes outlined in the statute, and questions of speculative philosophy abandoned.

A commissioner of labor at a salary of $2,000 a year, a deputy commissioner and two competent factory inspectors will, we believe, accomplish the work, and by dropping unnecessary help, and confining the work of the bureau within the limits of the law, as demanded by the laboring element, a saving to the state can be accomplished of at least $6,000 per year over the present extravagant expense of the bureau.

We recommend the passage of S. F. 558, embodying the above suggestions, for the reconstruction of said bureau on the lines above outlined. Respectfully submitted,

—H. H. Dunn,
—E. T. Young,
—James McHale,
—P. M. Ringdal,
—C. J. Larson,
—A. B. Cole,
—John Peterson.

FEIG'S LICENSE BILL

For Peddlers Passes the Senate With Votes to Spare.

The towns and counties committee reported the Feig peddlers' license bill favorably. Senator Thorpe asked that the rules be suspended and the bill passed. Senator McHale said the bill was meritorious in his belief, as the majority of what he terms "city" measures. Senator Ringdal opposed the bill. He said it was honorable to sell goods from a pack as from a store. The tax was unconstitutional, in his opinion, under the provision that all the taxes should be equitably distributed.

Senator McHale said these peddlers imposed upon the rural people. He thought the only opposition to the bill was from the big city stores, who found it an expedient method of getting rid of shop-worn goods. Senator Howard said it was a species of paternalism, an effort to prevent people from being cheated.

Senator Ringdal said there were merchants who were after suckers, aside from the peddlers.

The rules were suspended by a vote of 37 to 10, and the bill passed by the same vote, as follows:

Ayes—Barr, Cole, Collester, Cronkhite, Culkin, Currier, French, Fuller, Greer, Hanson, Heneman, Hodge, Ills, Johnson (A. G.), Jones, Knatvold, Larson, Lloyd, Masterman, McHale, Peterson, Roverud, Schaller, Smith, Spencer, Sperry, Stebbins, Sweningsen, Theden, Thompson, Thorpe, Whitney, Wing, Wyman, Young—37.

Noes—Hanna, Howard, Johnson (W. E.), Morgan, Ozmun, Pottgieser, Reishus, Ringdal, Sheehan, Stevens—10.

WHAT WILL BECOME OF THEM?

The Sheehan charter bills were a special order for the senate to follow the reapportionment debate, but in the wrangle which followed the charter bills were forgotten entirely, and it is probable that they will be reset as special orders for some time the first of next week. Senator Sheehan still professes to be sanguine that the bills, or one of them, will pass, but some of the other senators are not so hopeful.

With a calendar bearing sixty bills, the senate has enough to do to keep it busy all day without the two special orders. One of these is the reform school certificate bill, which is marked for 10:30, and the other the department store occupation tax bill, which is set for 2:30. Senator Theden counts upon a generous support for the bill in return for his fidelity to the ruralists in their fight for the Feig bill yesterday, and is confident that the bill will pass, although it is very evident that an effort will be made to either defeat it entirely or substitute for it the Sperry bill, which aims to reach one of the evils alleged against the department stores by a different course, the punishment of fraud in bargains offered and not given.

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REVIEWED THE YEAR

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE HOUSE OF HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.

SHOWING IS SATISFACTORY,

ALTHOUGH IN SOME RESPECTS IT WAS NOT QUITE UP TO FORMER YEARS.

REPORTS OF CHURCH OFFICERS.

Membership Roll Contains Over 1,000 Names—Financial Statement—Election of Trustees.

The forty-second annual meeting of the House of Hope Presbyterian church was held last night in the large assembly room of the church. Rev. J. P. Egbert, pastor of the church, presided over the meeting, and at the close of the reading of the annual reports delivered a short address, in which he said that, although the showing made was not quite up to that of other years in some respects, it was, on the whole, most satisfactory.

The report from the session was presented by H. Knox Taylor, and was as follows:

Membership April 1st, 1896	1,011
Added by confession	32
Added by letter	25
Total	1,068

Total number of members dropped from the rolls during the year from various causes, 103.

Total membership of the church on April 1, 1897, 965.

The financial statement of the trustees, which was presented by the treasurer of the church, was as follows:

		Dr.
Balance March 31, 1896		$1.94
Foreign missions	$500.00	
Home missions	700.00	
Ministerial relief	200.00	
Church erection	100.00	
Education	100.00	
Publication, Sunday-school work	210.00	
Freedmen	150.00	
College aid	100.00	
		$2,060.00
Our missionary	$375.00	
Home Sunday-school	500.00	
Deacons' fund	350.00	
Assistant to pastor	1,200.00	
Hope chapel	800.00	
Presbyterian alliance	220.76	
Pastor's fund	100.00	
Sessional fund	536.59	
Our Church Visitor	480.00	
General assembly	110.77	
Dano-Norwegian church	30.96	
St. Paul Relief society	68.28	
		$4,772.36
		$6,832.36
Pew rentals		$8,823.05
Incidental collection		388.13
Special (deficiency fund)		3,874.90
Borrowed		975.00
		$20,859.38
		Cr.
Collections remitted		$6,832.36
Pastor's salary	$5,000.00	
Pulpit supply	240.00	
Music	2,132.50	
Sexton	680.00	
Collection pew rent	400.00	
Gas and electric light	422.42	
Fuel	468.58	
Insurance	481.74	
Printing and advertising	296.60	
Furniture	23.33	
Water and tax sprinkling	14.50	
Sundries	91.32	
Current repairs	35.88	
Interest	49.21	
		$10,316.18
Special—		
Storm sash and storm doors		$179.90
Paid note		3,350.00
Cash on hand		16.94
		$20,895.33

The following report was presented by the pew committee, for the year ending March 31, 1897:

Amount pew rentals for current year	$9,078.65
of which there has been collected	8,227.55
Leaving due and unpaid	$851.10
Previous year's rentals collected	$595.50
Current year's rentals collected	8,227.55
Total amount collected during the year	$8,823.05
Due and unpaid unpaid previous year	$134.25
Due and unpaid current year	851.10
Amount due and unpaid for rentals to April 1, 1896	$985.35
Estimated value of unpaid rentals	$500.00

The following board of trustees was elected for the ensuing year: Re-elected, Gov. Alexander Ramsey and Gen. J. B. Sanborn, to succeed Judge C. E. Otis, Kenneth Clark.

Reports were received from all the auxiliary organizations of the church, and all were found to be in a flourishing condition. These reports were as follows: Sunday-school, H. S. Dyer; Hope chapel Sabbath school, Dr. C. E. Lee; board of deacons, Douglas Putnam; Y. P. S. C. E., Miss Jessie Scott; Women's Home Missionary society, Mrs. C. R. Stone; Women's Foreign Missionary society, Mrs. P. R. Saunders; Church Visitor, Mrs. F. L. Williams; Willing Helpers, Miss Amelia Olmstead, and Hope Guards, Rev. C. W. Scovel.

FIRST BAPTIST QUARTERLY.

Reports Submitted as to Finances, Membership and Attendance.

At the quarterly meeting of the First Baptist church last night the treasurer's report gave the receipts for the quarter as $1,434.54 and the disbursements $1,410.75; balance on hand, $23.79. The revenue of the church being derived from monthly pledges, there being 227 contributors. The report of H. C. Drake, the church clerk, showed an increase in membership of eighteen, making a total membership of 531. George H. Briggs, superintendent of the Sunday school, gave the membership as 337 and the average attendance 283. After these reports were received, Dr. Conley made a short address. The church choir then gave a selection, followed by solos by Miss Gregg, and Messrs. Butterick, Hollowell and Titcomb. Following the programme refreshments were served, about 250 people being present. The ladies in charge were Misses Snider, Titcomb, Griggs, Rhodes, Twohy, Horton, Stillman, Taylor, Hatton and Parell.

LITTLE COURTESY TO DEARTH

Chairman Schmidt, of the house committee on insurance, reported for passage late yesterday afternoon H. F. 428, a bill for the codification of the insurance laws, which led to a decidedly interesting passage at arms, which lasted possibly half an hour.

The bill is substantially the same as H. F. 720, which was killed by the house some two weeks ago. The bill is opposed by the fraternal orders of the state. Mr. Leybourn, a leading member of the Modern Woodmen and Royal Arcanum, from Duluth, was commissioned to look after the interests of the fraternal orders, and he was not to be caught napping. He had done much to kill the bill in the first place. He led the fight against the adoption of the report of the insurance committee, and moved as a substitute that the bill be indefinitely postponed. He said it was not fair to bring the same bill back to the house again. The bill, he said, was opposed by 18,000 Modern Woodmen, 18,000 United Workmen, 4,000 Royal Arcanumites, 3,500 Foresters and 4,000 Maccabees, besides many members of the Knights of Honor and other orders which have insurance branches. The bill was indefinitely postponed.

* * *

Almost the last thing before the evening recess was taken, the house committee on legislative expenses reported out favorably the usual appropriation of $150 each for the official reporters. There was no debate upon the matter, save that when the roll was called Mr. Foss and Mr. Donnelly explained their votes. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 75 to 20.

* * *

A resolution to fix the salary of the reading clerk, John J. Ryder, at $8 a day, was presented by Mr. Feig, and referred to the committee on legislative expenses. A number of the members took occasion to say clever things about the present incumbent, and the able manner in which he has attended to the duties which at previous sessions have required the attention of two clerks.

* * *

The house committee on appropriations yesterday reported out H. F. 983 (Dallimore), to reimburse the Twin City Jockey club for improvements put in at the state fair grounds in 1892. The bill, as reported out, is slightly amended, doing away with the commission named to appraise the value of the improvement and reducing the amount asked for, $30,000, to some amount not to exceed $20,000.

Schuneman & Cans

ST. PAUL'S GREATEST STORE.

Jacket and Suit Dept.

A magnificent display of the new, swell styles, in greater variety, a larger assortment than ever shown by one concern in St. Paul—the prices will be found to be a particularly pleasing feature.

Ladies' All-Wool Storm Cheviot Serge Suits, new Eton Jacket, silk serge lined, fronts trimmed with new loops, skirt full width, percaline lined, velvet bound. Special value at.... $7.50

Ladies' All-Wool Storm Cheviot Suits, lined all through with colored taffeta silk, jacket made with new fly front, skirt full width, perfectly finished, colors navy, green and black. Special price only..... $10.00

The Jacket can be worn with any skirt.

Ladies' Silk Skirts, 4½ yards wide, percaline lined, velvet bound, perfect fitting; worth $6.50. For only..... $4.98

Better grades at $6.50, $7.50, $8.50 and $10.00.

Ladies' Skirts, in small checks, made with belt and pocket satchel to match, percaline lined, perfect fitting. Price only..... $1.98

Better grades at $2.98, $3.50 and up.

Ladies' New Spring Jackets, in newest shades of cloth, fly front, half silk lined, velvet collar, perfect fitting. Sale price only $5.00

Ladies' Cloth Jackets, made in new tight-fitting style, fronts trimmed with loops, silk-lined, colors tan, green, cadet, heliotrope and black. Special..... $10.00

Ladies' Underwear

Read these four bargains carefully; they suggest a great saving:

200 dozen Ladies' Vests, low neck, sleeveless, or high V shape neck, wing sleeves, worth 19c and 25c, colors ecru and white. Thursday, each..... 12½c

50 dozen Jersey Ribbed Vests, ecru, light weight, fleece-lined, high neck, long sleeves, silk-finished, pants to match; worth 35 cents. Today, each..... 19c

Hosiery Dept.

1 case Ladies' 25c Hermsdorf Black Hose, double soles and heels, extra long; a bargain at 25 cents. Today..... 17c

50 dozen Children's Fast Black Seamless Stockings, 15c kind, sizes 6 to 8½. Today, per pair..... 10c

MILLINERY.

Our Formal Opening is over, but the display remains the same, all the Exquisite Pattern Hats and Bonnets on exhibition, and in every case you will find reasonableness of price coupled with correctness of style.

Artificial Flowers.

2,000 bunches Lilies of the Valley, Clover, Bluets, Heliotropes, Silk Roses with Foliage, Poppies, all new, worth up to 50c per bunch. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, per bunch 19c

Dress Linings.

5c Cambric Lining, only... 2c
10c All-Linen Grass Cloth. 3c
7c Black Taffeta Lining... 4c
18c Black Taffeta, Fast Aniline Black..... 10c
60c Real French Hair Cloth, Gray..... 35c

Wash Goods.

Just received, one case more of fine Zephyr Ginghams, in checks, stripes and plaids; a regular 10c quality. Today, while they last..... 5c

One case of Fine Jaconets, white grounds, colored figures, 31 inches wide; a real 12½c quality. Today..... 7c

BUTTERICK'S PATTERNS ON SALE HERE.

IS LIKE A CONTRACT

POLICE PENSIONERS DOUBT THE VALIDITY OF THE LAW JUST PASSED

CUTTING OFF THEIR PENSIONS.

LIST OF THESE WHOSE SERVICES ENTITLED THEM TO PART PAY.

TWO ARE WIDOWS ON THE LIST.

How the Fund Was Started and the Amount That Has Been Dispensed.

The thirteen persons who have been drawing $550 per month from the police pension fund will be forced in the future to get along without this source of income. The bill repealing the pension law was signed by the governor Tuesday, and, according to Comptroller McCardy, all pensions will cease from the time the repeal bill became a law.

The pension fund was created by a law of the legislature in 1889. Under the law 10 per cent of the fines collected from criminal cases in the police court constituted the fund, together with such amounts as were imposed as fines on members of the police department. Members of the force who had served twenty years and were over fifty years of age were entitled to be retired on half pay, not to exceed in any case $1,000 a year. provision was also made for the payment of $400 a year to the widow or children under eighteen years of any member who might be killed in the discharge of his duty. Members who were totally disabled by injuries while on duty were also included in the provisions of the law.

The first person to take advantage of the pension law was the late John B. Bresette, who was retired in June, 1890, on a pension of $1,000 a year. In June, 1892, John Clark was retired and placed on the roll at a pension of $1,000 per year. Other members of the force who had served the time allotted under the law were retired in 1892 and 1893 and placed on half pay. The total amount paid to the pensioners since the pension board was organized in 1890 and the name of J. B. Bresette placed on the roll is $23,000. The names of those now on the list are John Clark, Thomas Kenaley, I. D. Morgan, Henry Calvin, Robert Palmer, John Vogtle, Edward Shields, James Nugent, W