

THE LEGISLATURE.

FOSS FOUGHT WELL.

MANAGED TO SAVE THE LIFE OF THE BILL TO CORRECT EVILS

IT GOES ON GENERAL ORDERS

Pederson Anti-Pass Bill Meets With Some Opposition and the Agitation for a Board of Control Makes Its Appearance in the Larger Branch of the Legislature—Other Work of the House.

The house drifted into a tangle over the question of adopting reports of committees yesterday, and nearly all the session was taken up in talk and roll calls. Nineteen bills were introduced and one bill from the senate passed under a suspension of the rules.

The trouble started over the report of the committee on taxes and tax laws, which recommended for indefinite postponement H. F. No. 128, by Mr. Foss (Rep.), of Grant.

The latter moved that it be printed and placed on general orders. It had been introduced by Mr. Plowman (Pop.), of Otter Tail, several days ago and turned down by the same committee.

Mr. Laybourn (Rep.), of Duluth, chairman of the committee on taxes and tax laws, stated that the bill of Mr. Foss had received fair treatment at the hands of the committee.

Mr. Pederson (Rep.), of Duluth, chairman of the committee on general orders, reported in

definite postponement on H. F. No. 68, by Mr. Pederson (Rep.), of Otter Tail, fixing the rate of fare on railroads at 2 1/2 cents per mile and prohibiting the issuance of passes to officers of the state. The author of the bill wanted it printed and placed on general orders.

Mr. Jackson (Rep.), of Ramsey, argued that if committee reports were to be turned down the house would have to sit until Christmas day to finish business.

Mr. Abbott (Rep.), of Faribault, said he did not intend to vote for any bill along the line until the bill to increase the gross earnings tax on railroads had failed.

Mr. Plowman (Pop.), of Otter Tail, was certain if the free pass business was done away with the railroads could afford to reduce rates.

Mr. Yale (Rep.), of Winona, was in favor of settling the question of what consideration should be given to committee reports at once.

Mr. Jacobson called the attention of the house to the fact they had got themselves into a tangle.

The Plowman bill had been defeated on the floor of the house by a three-fourths vote of the members.

Mr. Foss, however, secured the victory, as when the question came up again and a roll call was taken, the vote was 64 to 43 and the bill was ordered printed.

PLACES A LIMIT ON EXPENSE. Mr. McCollum (Rep.), of Kittson, H. F. 161, requires mutual hail insurance companies to furnish the insurance commissioner with copies of by-laws and charter.

proved by the commissioner, no change is to be made except on his approval. The expenses of the companies are limited to 8 mills on each dollar of the insurance written and these expenses are to include officers' salaries, commission to agents and operating expenses.

BILLS AFFECTING SALOONS.

Mr. Pope (Rep.), of Kanabec, wants the licenses for saloons increased. In H. F. 158, introduced yesterday, the city councils of cities containing more than 10,000 population are empowered to fix the saloon license at \$1,500, and in cities of less than 10,000 population the license is to be \$1,000.

The bill prevents any lower amounts being fixed than provided, but allows as much more as the city councils may determine.

Mr. Wheaton (Rep.), of Hennepin, makes it a penalty punishable by a fine or imprisonment to furnish "free lunches" in any saloon.

Reformatory Printing Feature Opposed by Organized Labor. The house committee on education gave a public hearing last night on H. F. 20, by Mr. Bush (Rep.), of Olmsted, providing for the editing and printing of text books at the state reformatory.

Mr. H. Dumbler, of Minneapolis, a teacher in a business college, spoke in favor of the bill, claiming that it would not only advance the educational interests of the state, but save money.

Mr. J. W. Page and C. J. Schott, representing the Minneapolis and St. Paul typographical unions, opposed the reformatory printing feature of the bill on the ground that it would cost most money to print the books at the institution than by contract.

Mr. Bostwick (Rep.), of Wright, favored the bill in order that the inmates be given something to do.

HANGING AND BONE-CURES. House Judiciary Committee Appoints Hearings on Two Bills. The house judiciary committee will consider the bill providing for the infliction of the death penalty at the state prison at a meeting next Wednesday afternoon.

SUGAR BEET ROYALTY. House Committee on Appropriations Thinks It's a Good Thing. The house committee on appropriations yesterday recommended for passage the bill of Mr. Foss (Rep.), of Grant, appropriating \$19,975 to pay for the royalty on 1,967,500 pounds of beet sugar, turned out by the Minnesota Beet Sugar company's plant.

Formal Senator Theodore, who is interested in the plant, informed the committee that about \$6,000,000 was now sent out of the state for sugar annually, and the greater part of this would remain in the state.

those who were entitled to it, rather than in the name of the company raising the sugar beet plant.

The bill of Mr. Pugh (Rep.), of St. Louis, appropriating \$30,000 to pay the members of the Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth regiments at Manila rates for the time between the arrival at Camp Ramsey and the date of mustering in, was discussed, but laid over for future action.

BILLS PASSED IN THE HOUSE.

S. F. 108 (Nixon, Rep., of Renville)—To amend section 1, chapter 103, General Laws 1897, relating to roads and bridges. Ayes, 99; Nays, 2.

Did Not Get Together. The meeting of the Ramsey, Hennepin and St. Louis county delegations, scheduled for yesterday afternoon, did not materialize.

HOUSE BILLS INTRODUCED.

H. F. 159 (McCollum, Rep., of Kittson)—Substitute for H. F. 158.—To amend an act to repress and punish disorderly conduct on public conveyances.

H. F. 151 (Wheaton, Rep., of Hennepin)—Relating to conviction of prisoners. Judiciary.

H. F. 152 (Wheaton, Rep., of Hennepin)—Prohibiting free lunches in saloons. Temperance.

H. F. 153 (Morris, Rep., of Hennepin)—To amend section 24, chapter 221, General Laws 1897, relating to Railroads, Games and Fish.

H. F. 154 (Foss, Rep., of Grant)—Appropriating \$30,000 to the Minnesota Sugar company. Appropriations.

H. F. 155 (Allen, Rep., of Fillmore)—To appropriate \$1,500 to pay commission investigating charges against Minnesota state prison, Olmsted.

H. F. 156—Appropriating \$10,000 to construct roads in state park at Itasca. Roads and bridges.

H. F. 157 (Pope, Rep., of Kanabec)—To appropriate \$1,500 for State Forestry association to distribute seeds and plants. Appropriations.

H. F. 158 (Pope, Rep., of Kanabec)—Relating to license fee for sale of intoxicating liquors. Temperance.

H. F. 159 (Jackson, Rep., of Ramsey)—Legislating certain probate proceedings. Judiciary.

H. F. 160 (Galt, Rep., of Freeborn)—To amend laws relating to fees of jurors. Judiciary.

H. F. 161 (McCollum, Rep., of Kittson)—To regulate mutual hail insurance companies. Insurance.

H. F. 162 (Davis, Rep., of St. Louis, by request)—To amend section 5408, General Laws 1897, relating to costs in civil actions. Judiciary.

H. F. 163 (Davis, Rep., of St. Louis, by request)—Relating to dismissal of civil actions. Judiciary.

H. F. 164 (Davis, Rep., of St. Louis, by request)—Relating to proceedings supplemental to executions. Judiciary.

H. F. 165 (Davis, Rep., of St. Louis, by request)—To legalize mortgage foreclosures. Judiciary.

H. F. 166 (Neubauer, Rep., of Washington)—To amend Laws 1897, relating to lien on grain for labor performed. Judiciary.

H. F. 167 (Haugen, Rep., of Otter Tail)—To require railroad companies to erect live stock yards and sheds. Railroads.

H. F. 168 (Haugen, Rep., of Otter Tail)—To require railroad companies to run trains on branch lines once a day. Railroads.

Senate Routine. Bills Introduced.—S. F. 128 (Nixon, Rep., of Renville)—Relating to the removal of county seats, prohibiting such counties within five years after an election has been had. Towns and counties.

S. F. 129 (Horror, Rep., of Ramsey)—To provide for the compensation of commissionaires appointed to investigate state prison, appropriate \$1,500. Finance.

S. F. 130 (Schellbach, Rep., of Yellow Medicine)—Relating to writs of attachment. Judiciary.

S. F. 131 (Ryder, Rep., of Polk)—To amend laws concerning expenditure of county funds on county roads. Roads and bridges.

S. F. 132 (Schellbach, Rep., of Yellow Medicine)—To amend section 401, Statutes of 1894, relating to actions brought against guardians. Judiciary.

S. F. 133 (Grindeland, Rep., of Marshall)—Fixing term of district court in Fourteenth district. Passed, under suspension of the rules—yeas, 49; nays, 0.

S. F. 134 (Smith, E. E., Rep., of Hennepin)—Relating to powers of notaries public, so as to disqualify officers of corporations from certifying to acknowledgments. Judiciary.

S. F. 135 (Knarvold, of Freeborn)—Appropriating \$201.06 for the widow of the late Judge John Whytock. Finance.

S. F. 136 (Greer, Rep., of Wabasha)—Amending hail insurance law to provide for a guaranty fund. Insurance.

VOTES TO REPEAL IT

SENATE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE WOULD ABANDON THE "CORRUPT PRACTICES" ACT

OMAHA EXHIBIT IN DISFAVOR

Several Senators Object to Paying for a Display That Was Made in Defense of the Judgment of the 1897 Legislature—Proposed Change in the Divorce Law Tangles Up the Senate.

Without a dissenting voice yesterday the senate adopted the report of the elections committee on the bill introduced by Senator Collier (Dem.), of Scott, to repeal the corrupt practices act of 1895, which has been made a farce of in the enforcement. The elections committee reported the bill for passage and it goes on general orders to be discussed at the next meeting after today's session, which will no doubt be Tuesday, as the senate will probably adjourn today until next week.

It has been notorious that the bill was not reaching the evils it was intended to correct, and Senator Hennepin, of McLeod county, introduced a bill at the session of 1897 to repeal it, but the law was defeated.

The fact that the candidate can file, under the law, a very small portion of his expenses, as in the case of William Henry Eustis, whose campaign had been going on a year and a half at least before he began keeping tab on the figures reported to the secretary of state, shows what a mockery the law, as at present constituted, is, and the repeal bill is aimed to put the honest and dishonest candidates on a par, as, in some respects at least, the present law acts as a handicap to the honest man, while only slightly, if at all, serving as a deterrent to the willful seducer of the popular will.

Some objection was made to the bill reimbursing the commissioners for the Omaha exhibit for the expense of the show.

Senator Roverud (Rep.), of Houston, and Senator Jones, J. D., of Todd, said it was bad policy. The 1897 legislature had refused to pass such a bill, and these people had gone out in the face of this dictum. Mr. Jones said some of the signers of the notes had urged him not to vote for their own reimbursement. He doubted if the exhibit had been for the benefit of the state, as a whole, although he did not question that it had benefited certain interests.

Senator Barker (Rep.), of Isanti, refused to be bound by a previous legislature's action. The exhibit was a credit to the state, and its expense should not be paid by a few of the people.

Senator Greer (Rep.), of Wabasha, said he would not vote for the bill until it had been shown that the state had cash enough to attend to the needs of the state institutions.

Senator Thompson (Rep.), of Fillmore, said he had voted against the appropriation two years ago, but he was ready to vote aye now.

Senator McGowan (Dem.), of Hennepin, wanted the bill delayed. Most of the benefit derived from the exhibit had gone to private interests, as nearly as he could ascertain.

It was finally decided to report progress.

TO LIBERATE PATIENTS. One measure for the reform of the abuses alleged to exist at the state insane hospitals was favorably considered in the committee of the whole, with Senator Daugherty (Rep.), of St.

Louis, in the chair. This was S. F. 39, introduced by Senator Johnson (Dem.), of Nicollet. It gives the superintendent of any insane hospital and the secretary of the board of trustees the right to discharge patients who, in the superintendent's judgment, are fit for discharge. Hitherto the law has required the concurrence of three members of the board, with the result that patients who were much improved were kept in the hospitals under conditions not desirable.

TO GUARANTEE HAIL POLICIES. S. F. No. 36, by Mr. Greer, amends the law of 1885 governing hail insurance companies, provides that every policy holder in any such company shall be in force and effect a member of the company while the policy continues, and shall be eligible to vote for directors. He shall be liable to the corporation for his pro rata share of all the losses and damage by hail, tornadoes, cyclones and hurricanes sustained by other members, and for his share of the expenses of the management and guaranty fund.

The corporation shall by its by-laws provide for the terms of said insurance, and may provide for a guaranty fund from which, when the total amount of losses and expenses in the hail department in any one year exceed the net amount collected from a full assessment duly made in that year, a sum sufficient to pay the losses and expenses in full, but not to exceed 75 per cent of that fund. No by-law shall exempt the corporation from the payment of its losses in full, and if any company fails to pay in full its legitimate losses, it shall be deemed insolvent and the commission shall be empowered to proceed as against other companies.

If any company or its officers shall fail to reply promptly and truly to any inquiry made by the insurance commission, or if any such company shall carry on its business in a fraudulent, extravagant and unsafe manner and so as not to afford its policy holders protection against loss, the commissioner is empowered to revoke the authority of said company. Whenever he shall have any reason to doubt the solvency of such a corporation he may examine its books and papers at its own expense, and if the examination satisfies him that such corporation is not financially sound, or is conducting its business fraudulently, he shall institute proceedings to close it up.

FORGOT ITS OWN RULE. The senate became tangled up in its own rules in a discussion of the bill changing the period of desertion necessary to the granting of a divorce, which did not reach the merits of the bill. The judiciary committee was unanimous in the judgment that one year was long enough, and recommended that it be not passed. The custom has been not to print bills thus recommended on general orders, but in this case Senator Wilson raised the point that all bills not recommended for indefinite postponement were entitled to a place on general orders.

After a fifteen minutes' dissection of the philosophy of parliamentary practice, the senate decided to place the bill on general orders under Rule 39.

WILL WEIGH ROBERTS' FATE. The house joint resolution protesting against Brigham H. Roberts, of Utah, occupying his seat in congress was referred to the committee on judiciary.

COMMISSION LICENSE BILL. It is Sturdily Opposed by Representatives of the Trade. Some time was spent by the senate committee on agriculture in a consideration of the Grindeland bill, requiring a license from commission men, which is aimed at the

by-night dealers who have been swindling the producers in the past. Mr. Longfellow, of Minneapolis; A. N. Randall, J. B. Hoxsie and C. C. Emerson appeared in behalf of the merchants, who, they said, could not continue in business if the bill was strictly enforced as drawn. Representative McCollum, of Hallock, spoke for the shippers, and the committee determined to return the bill to the author for modification, in order that it might at once protect the shipper without compelling the dealer in the central market to go out of business.

IS AFTER MEDICRAFT'S SEAT. Contest Brought by Henricks in Before the Committee. The house committee on elections listened yesterday afternoon to the attorneys in the contest brought by Peter M. Henricks for the seat now occupied by R. H. Medicraft, of Roseau, from the Sixty-third senatorial district.

The contest is brought on the ground that Medicraft was not, at the time of his election, a citizen of the United States. Papers were produced showing that on June 26, 1896, he secured his first papers, and that on May 19, 1898, he took out his final papers. This on its face shows up the contest as a legal declaration and the taking out of the second papers to less than the two years provided by the constitution. Medicraft is a citizen of the United States, and this also made him ineligible for the office.

A. Y. Merrill, of Minneapolis, representing Mr. Medicraft, argued that the committee should consider the contest only from a legal standpoint, and until the citizenship papers issued by Judge Tves were revoked Medicraft was a citizen of the United States. The further point was made that even if the house should unseat Medicraft it could not legally seat Henricks.

Henry Johns, who represented Henricks, urged the committee not to take notice of legal quibbles, but to decide the contest on its merits. The committee held an executive session after hearing the arguments of the attorneys, and announced that the case would be further considered.

BILLS PASSED IN SENATE. S. F. 162 (Underdak, Rep., of Olmsted)—Amending law defining a legal newspaper, so that when two legal papers consolidate under a new name the newspaper continues to have a legal existence and rights of both the old ones.

S. F. 163 (Underdak, Rep., of Olmsted)—Amending law relating to fore-closure of mortgages by advertisement, so that where advertisements were run in either the two later papers shall continue the legal existence of the former papers.

Helping the Capitol Along. The senate committee on public buildings recommended for passage two bills introduced by Senator Horton (Rep.), of Ramsey, the chairman. One of them removes the limit of 10 per cent on the amount to be held back from contractors in the construction of the new capitol, and the other permits the issuance of certificates of indebtedness to take up the entire cost of the new work.

QUEBEC TO DULUTH. DETROIT, Mich., Jan. 26.—The proposed telephonic extensions contemplated by the Michigan Telephone company provide for copper circuits in the connecting link between Detroit, "the Soo," Marquette, Calumet, and via the Long Distance company's system to Duluth. Four companies, the Bell Telephone and Telegraph company, the Michigan Telephone company, and the Wisconsin Telephone company, will comprise the organizations operating a continuous telephone system from Quebec and Montreal to Toronto, touching at Buffalo, Cleveland, Port Huron, Mackinac, "the Soo," Marquette, Lake Linden and Calumet at Duluth. In fact all cities and towns of importance situated on the chain of great lakes and St. Lawrence river will be in telephonic communication with each other. The value of this wonderful telephonic system to the shipping interests of the great lakes cannot be overestimated. The movements of vessels can be instantly reported from every city and town, in case of accident, disaster or delay, instructions can be obtained from owners, thereby aiding progress, saving life, and property, and the prospect of such facilities is received with great enthusiasm.

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