

a number of senators to feel a little revived under the senator's delay.

HILL TO PROTECT DEPOSITORS.

A favorite bill with the majority element in the present legislature is the measure for the protection of depositors in state and private banks. A bill for this purpose was introduced early in the session by Mr. Johnson of Clay county. The committee to which it was referred today brought in a substitute bill which provides that every state bank shall pay semi-annually a tax of one-fourth of 1 per cent on the deposits in the state treasury. The accumulation of this fund is to be held by the state treasurer and he is required to keep 75 per cent of the same invested in state or federal securities. The fund is to be used to make good the losses sustained by depositors of insolvent banks. It is an available resource of such banks have been exhausted.

According to the report of the State Banking board for 1894, the total deposits of all the state and private banks doing business in Nebraska that year were \$17,974,832. The annual interest on these deposits is estimated on this amount would turn into the state treasury \$9,008. In that year there were eight banks failed and about eight hundred and fifty depositors the sum of \$1,377,283. The safety fund for that year would provide for something like 75 per cent of the amount.

The report of the State Banking board for 1895 is not so favorable. The total deposits in that year were \$18,000,000. The annual interest on these deposits is estimated on this amount would turn into the state treasury \$9,008. In that year there were eight banks failed and about eight hundred and fifty depositors the sum of \$1,377,283. The safety fund for that year would provide for something like 75 per cent of the amount.

DRAGGING'S TELEPHONE BILL.

Senator Deering of Cass county introduced a bill today for the regulation of telephone companies. Here are its main provisions: That it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association or corporation owning, controlling or operating any telephone line or system in the state to charge more than 25 cents per month for the use of a telephone in any of the incorporated cities or towns of the state. That it shall be unlawful for any person, firm, association or corporation owning, controlling or operating a telephone system in the state to charge more than 30 cents for each first mile and 10 cents for each additional mile within 100 miles, or 60 cents for each fifty miles for distances over 100 miles. That for the violation of this proposed law is fixed at not less than \$500 nor more than \$1,000.

Senator Deering of Cass county introduced a bill today providing for the appointment of clerks of the district court in counties which have attained a population of 8,000 or more. The present law requires that each county elect a clerk of the district court. The proposed bill authorizes the county board to appoint a clerk at an election that 1,800 votes shall be cast at an election to be held on the first day of the next general election, when one shall be appointed.

Another bill by Senator Deering provides for a State Board of Engineers. It is to consist of the governor, secretary of state and attorney general. The board is then to appoint three engineers. It is made the duty of the board to examine and certify in civil engineering or surveying without having first passed an examination by the secretary of state. Every certificate issued must have a certificate from the board and must pay \$5 for it. The secretary receives no compensation other than the money received for certifying and regular notarial fees for taking testimony.

Senator Metz introduced a bill providing for a redistricting of the counties of the state. It makes but one change in the existing districts. At present the state is divided into fifteen districts and the Fifteenth district includes the counties of Sioux, Rock, Holt, Brown, Daves, Sheridan, Box Butte, Cherry and Keya Paha. Senator Metz proposes to add to this district the counties of Holt, Rock, Brown, Keya Paha and Boyd, while the Fifteenth district will include the counties of Cherry, Sheridan, Daves, Sioux and Box Butte.

HOUSE VOTES DOWN THE BOUNTY.

Hill to Repeal the Law of 1865 Passed by a Party Vote.

LINCOLN, Jan. 26.—(Special).—At the opening of the house this morning quite a number of members were excused on account of sickness. Seventy-six only responded to roll call. Seventeen bills were introduced on first reading. Among the most important were Speaker Gaffin's measure to punish attempts of bribery at elections; a bill appropriating \$18,000 for an experimental station; a bill to amend the act relating to all prizes made good by bill provided for the appointment of district court clerks and house roll No. 282, providing for the organization of a normal school at Lincoln. House roll No. 270, provides for an appropriation of \$25,000 for a state normal school at Scott, Greeley county. This measure was before the house on the 26th. It was introduced by Representative Barry, at present adjutant general of the state.

House roll No. 4 was the first bill brought on third reading. It is a bill for the relief of Rebecca Perkins, appropriating \$121, alleged to be due for payment made of legal assessment of land owned by Rebecca Perkins in Cedar county. The bill passed by a vote of 87 to 0.

The calling of house roll No. 3 for final passage defeated the first amendment of the bill. The measure is a bill to amend the act relating to the repeal of the sugar bounty law passed at the last session and appropriating 50 cents a pound to the manufacturer of beet sugar. Dobson moved for a call of the house. Ten members were found to be absent. The bill was excused, and on motion of Robly, accepted by Dobson, further proceedings under the call of the house were suspended and roll call of the house was taken. The bill provided for the repeal of sections 12 to 20, chapter II, article IV, compiled statutes of 1885.

EXPLAIN THEIR VOTES.

Horne of Dawson explained his vote. He said he desired to vote for the good features of the bill and could not, therefore, cast his ballot in favor of repeal of the bounty. Sheldon of Dawes made a much longer explanation of his attitude. While he professed himself in favor of the farmers of Nebraska, he said he would not vote money into the pockets of the Oxards. The time, he said, had come to legislate in favor of the people. All counties should be under government control.

Mr. Pollard asked Sheldon if the latter believed that, under existing times, it could have been expected that new capital would come into the state. The bounty for all new factories had been fixed at 1 cent a pound, more than had been allowed the factories already in operation.

When Sederman's name was reached, he rose and said that he could endorse every word that had been said by Sheldon. The conditions, he insisted, were not favorable to the beet raiser. He said he knew one

man who had shipped two carloads to Grand Island and had paid \$12 in excess of what he had received for the beets in freight charges. He expressed the hope for repeal of the law, and it was carried by a vote of 83 to 39. The vote in detail:

Table with 3 columns: Name, Party, Vote. Includes names like Ainsworth, Hill, Sever, etc.

SALARY BILL SENT BACK.

House roll No. 210, by which the salary of the Kearnay Industrial school measure, is strictly in line with the populist policy of reform in salaries. It provides that an assistant \$1,600 and matron \$900 per annum. The salaries of all other officers and employees shall remain discretionary with the board of trustees. The bill was introduced by Senator Gaffin and passed on first reading. It was then referred to a committee of the house. The committee reported that it had discovered an error in printing the amendments carried in committee of the house. The bill was then referred to a committee of the house. The committee reported that it had discovered an error in printing the amendments carried in committee of the house.

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ICE CUT WHILE THE FROST LASTS.

Dealers throughout the State take advantage of the zero weather. HEHRON, Neb., Jan. 26.—(Special).—The ice men are making preparations to cut at once, as they fear this may be the last cold snap of the season. The ice now is in excellent condition and of a good thickness. This morning the thermometer registered 7 degrees below zero. Thousands of bushels of corn stored on the ground will be much benefited by the severe frost.

HEART OF PHILADELPHIA IS HARD HIT.

John Wanamaker's Big Establishment Damaged Slightly—More Than a Block Entirely Destroyed—Loss \$2,500,000. PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 26.—The most disastrous conflagration that has visited this city in recent years broke out shortly before 7 o'clock this morning in the basement of the big grocery of Hanson Brothers on Market street, and before the flames were under control property amounting in value to \$2,500,000 or more had been destroyed. The flames were first discovered by John Wagner, a reserve policeman, who was passing the building at 6 o'clock. He immediately turned in an alarm. Before the engines reached the scene the entire rear portion of Hanson & Bennett's big restaurant was ablaze. A second alarm was then sent in and a few moments later a general alarm was sounded.

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