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## STATE WIDE BILL

DIRECT PRIMARY COMMITTEE DECIDES ON MEASURE.

VOTE STOOD TEN TO FOUR

SUB-COMMITTEE TO BE NAMED TO DO THE WORK.

OPINIONS WERE AT VARIANCE

FULL DISCUSSION OF THE EFFECT OF SUCH A LAW.

Decision Reached That People Want the Broader Law and Participation in All the Nominations.

By a vote of ten to four, the joint committee on direct primary last night decided to draft a bill state-wide in effect for submission to the legislature.

The decision was reached after a general discussion of primary bills now before the legislature, together with methods for nominations employed in various states.

Some members voted for the drafting of a state-wide bill who in their discussion appeared to have doubt as to the result of such a law. But in the end the committee appeared of the opinion of Senator Aldrich, who said the state-wide primary law was a good way to nominate men for office who have "absolute individualism, independence of thought and action, who are of undoubted integrity of character, who know what the people want, and will stand for it."

The discussion took a wide range at first and only after the Dodge bill had been gone over in a desultory way and the committeemen had stated their positions and the desires of their constituents did Senators Aldrich and Wilson propose that the members get down to business and discuss the fundamental proposition of the general character of the bill. Representative McMullen, since the principles of the Dodge bill had been gone over in some detail, requested the opportunity to present the features of his bill, which was granted. Then for some time the advisability of making the bill state-wide in effect, covering every office in the state, was talked over.

On the vote, on a motion by Senator Aldrich, the result was as follows: For state-wide primary—Farley of Hamilton, Dodge of Douglas, Brown of Lancaster, Alderson of Madison, Phillips of Holt, Wilson of Pawnee, Holbrook of Dodge, Patrick of Sarpy, Thomas of Douglas, Aldrich of Butler.

For limited primary—McMullen of Gage, Mackey of Custer, Marshall of Kearney, Luce of Harlan.

### Discuss the Effect.

The motion of Senator Aldrich called forth an expression from practically everyone on the committee. Senator Patrick of Sarpy said he was for a state-wide primary if he could be assured that the plan would bring out a fair vote. Otherwise he believed it had no merit.

Representative Farley of Hamilton suggested for the consideration of the members the plan suggested by former Congressman Stark, published in The Journal of yesterday. He thought that would possibly give a

fair representation to all the voters. Representative Brown said this was the system in use in Jackson county, Kansas, where it had been employed for fifteen years. The method was discussed quite at length and some members saw in it much that was fair but they doubted whether it could be applied to a state-wide bill because of its complexity.

Representative McMullen at this point described his bill. He argued against a state-wide primary on the ground that it offered no way to maintain party organization or enthusiasm; that the law had never been tried in any state long enough to prove it thoroughly practical; that any system was good when the people were interested; that the expense was heavy on candidates running for state offices; that it was impractical to force candidates for judicial offices to make hard campaigns for their nominations; that there should be a way provided for the adoption of the party platform by direct delegates of the people.

### Some Party Actions.

This statement brought forth expressions from a few as to the result under the convention system. Senator Barnes of Platte, a fusionist, said that in his opinion if the people had spoken concerning the democratic nomination, C. W. Sarge would have been named.

Senator Patrick of Sarpy, fusionist, said the democrats had placed a plank in their platform to catch the Omaha votes and he would not consider himself bound by any such plank. He gave it as an instance of what the convention system does. Mr. Brynes said that if the people had spoken in the Third district, McCarthy would have been nominated.

The discussion at this point commenced to touch the main issue when Senator Aldrich said that the direct primary was a good way to shelve men of necessary record and to put in their place men of absolute individualism, of independence of thought and action and of undoubted integrity, who know what the people want and stand for it.

Mr. McMullen suggested that under the state-wide system there would not be a scramble for offices. He mentioned the expense.

Senator Aldrich believed the people wanted men in office and they would find them. They would select such candidates as will give honest, fearless administrations. There was little difference now between the platforms of parties. Men counted.

### Who Runs Conventions?

Mr. Farley said the results of the two latest conventions was a good example of the convention system at its best.

Senator Aldrich thought the conventions of the two parties recently held were good examples. It was easy to decide upon the forces that had managed them.

Senator Luce of Harlan believed in going only part way and not deciding upon the state wide primary at the outset. He did not want to jump overboard entirely.

In answer to a question from Senator Luce as to whether the people really demanded the direct primary plank in the platform, Senator Aldrich said they undoubtedly did. They were after anything that would give them a chance to keep the rain out.

Marshall of Kearney, fusionist, disagreed with Senator Aldrich. He thought conditions were different in Kearney county than in Butler.

Senator Luce declared that the big city dailies had pounded the direct proposition into the heads of the voters until they thought they wanted the system.

"Let the people assume the responsibility," suggested senator Aldrich. "They have asked for the direct primary, why give it to them. They have a right to say who shall serve them as public officers and they have been deprived of the right under the old system."

Representative Alderson of Madison said his constituents did not want the primary at all.

### As to Special Interests.

"The special interests have got to let go," said Senator Aldrich. "They are the ones who are opposing the state-wide idea. They hope thereby to control the railway commission and other offices that come directly in touch with them."

"I doubt the sincerity of the claim that the corporations are against the direct primary," said Mr. Farley.

"In reply to that," said Senator Aldrich, "I will say that I know personally that one republican who was looking to be representative from our county had a primary bill on which he was working. He received a letter from the general solicitor of a big railroad not to go any farther with the work until he had seen him and that was the last ever heard of the primary bill."

Mr. Dodge said that a member of the house was telling that the direct primary bill was not successful in Douglas county. It was news to Mr. Dodge for he had never heard any complaint about the system there.

"Isn't that true Mr. Thomas?" asked Mr. Dodge.

Mr. Thomas nodded his head in the affirmative.

The newspaper question came up again and Senator Aldrich declared that the newspapers could not foist a man to be of bad principles upon the people. The newspapers, he declared, cannot influence three per cent of the farmer voters. It was always the experience that the gang was beaten in his own local primary fights. Personally, he said, he depended on the farmers for his votes.

The question of a poor turnout at a primary on a bad day was brought up again. This was discussed several times before during the session and the example of York county was cited for and against the primary idea.

The vote was taken by roll call resulting as stated in 10 to 4 for the state-wide idea.

On motion of Patrick it was decided to include a flat filing fee in the bill for respective candidates.

Dodge moved that a sub-committee of five be selected to draft the bill and this carried. Chairman McMullen reserved the appointment of the committee until later.

## FIGHTING THE PRIMARY.

(Sterling Sun.)

As the Sun predicted, corporations and politicians interested in the control of state nominations, are fighting the passage of a primary election law harder than they are any other bill before the legislature. The passage of such a law, puts the politicians who have always controlled affairs, practically out of business. It will be a condition where one man's vote counts just as much as another, and if he does not choose to exercise his powers, that is his business. The ordinary man has practically nothing to say on state nominations, because the nominations are always practically made by the leaders of both parties, under the convention system.

## COMPANY MULCTED FARMERS

Kansas City Stockyards Sold More Than It Bought.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 4.—The house committee which investigated the Kansas City stockyards reported today. The report finds that during the last six years the stockyards company sold 14,000 bushels of corn and 15,000,000 pounds of hay more than it bought. The report asserts that the company mulcted the farmers and shippers out of money they paid for this feed. A bonded weighmaster is recommended who shall report to the state. The report also recommends a reduction in commission charges and the enactment of a law regulating weights and charges.

## WITHDRAW FROM THE STATE

Packing Companies Find Arkansas an Unprofitable State.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Feb. 4.—Certificates were filed today with the secretary of state showing the withdrawal from Arkansas of the Hammond Packing company and Nelson Morris & Co. of Chicago. Judgment was recently entered against the Hammond Packing company for \$10,000 because of an alleged violation of the Arkansas anti-trust law, and suits are now pending against Nelson Morris & Co., and four other firms on the same charge.

## SEES SLUSH FUND

SENATOR PATRICK SAYS BREWERS RAISED MONEY.

SAYS \$3,000 TO \$5,000 PAID FOR VOTES TWO YEARS AGO.

Charges of corruption against the brewers and the Nebraska retail liquor dealers' association were made publicly yesterday afternoon by Senator Patrick, fusionist, of Sarpy. He said it was understood that two years ago members of the legislature were credited by from \$3,000 to \$5,000 for their votes against the county option bill and similar bills and that within the past two weeks a fund of \$50,000 had been raised in Omaha to defeat the Gibson bill, to prevent brewers from having an interest in saloon licenses and similar bills. Senator Patrick has himself introduced one bill that provides that signers of a petition for a saloon shall be equally liable for damages with the saloonkeeper and his bondsmen.

In an impassioned speech the charge of corruption was made by Senator Patrick. He spoke earnestly in favor of the Gibson bill and arraigned the brewers and the liquor dealers' association with corrupt practices. He said the report had gone out at the beginning of this session that this legislature was hopeless from a brewers' standpoint.

"But within two weeks," he said, "the word has been passed along the line that something can be done, and as a result the modest subscription of \$50,000 was raised in Omaha to defeat the Gibson bill and similar measures. I desire to say that if the Gibson bill is passed it will do more good than any other bill that has been introduced. I predict that the time is at hand when either the brewers will have to stand from under and keep out of politics, or they will have to go out of business in the state of Nebraska. They attempt to dictate to the people of this state whom they shall elect. Their business has become a monopoly. I know from my own practice that the brewers send their wagons around daily to some of these slaves to collect the revenue due them. At every turn the slaves are ground down. They get short measure. They get five 'quart' bottles for a gallon. To the best of their henchmen who run such dives they send around a collector weekly. The business may be compared with that of the most unspeakable business known."

Senator Patrick read from a report of the president of the retail liquor dealers' association which said that while vast sums had been spent for various purposes, including "legislative work," the results might not be regarded as good as the result formerly attained. He said the report showed that bills had been killed in the legislature two years ago.

The brewers were represented by Attorney Fries of Omaha, who argued that many features of the Gibson bill were unconstitutional. He said there was no reason why a man could not borrow money from a brewer to start a saloon as well as from a banker, and they pay his just obligations. He argued that the provisions to limit the number of saloons in Omaha and South Omaha to one for each 1,000 inhabitants was bad, because some of the most reputable saloon men might be shut out and some of the worst admitted. He asserted that two years ago he represented the brewers and that he barely had enough to pay his decent expenses, that no corruption was used by his clients. He said he could not speak for the retail dealers, as he did not consult them or work with them.

"But for the shortsightedness of the retail dealers," he said, "I would not be here today."

Some laughter followed when Attorney Fries read a list of towns having saloons, including Topeka and