

Legislative Proceedings

THE SENATE.

A resolution was introduced in the Senate Monday by Senators Pindall and Montgomery, to extend the session until June 10. No action was taken on this resolution.

The reform school appropriation measure, carrying \$32,800, was called up for final passage by Senator Rector. The bill had previously been considered in Committee of the Whole and favorably recommended with an amendment by Senator Rowland, giving the penitentiary physician \$50 a month to attend the inmates of the reform school. The bill passed with only one dissenting vote.

The Patterson bill asking for \$35,000 for the payment of the state guard, which was defeated and reconsidered last week was passed with only seven dissenting votes.

The Cloud measure repealing the Lee Prohibition Act of 1907 was also passed. The bill regulating poll tax receipts was passed. Under the measure the sheriff or collector cannot take out a bundle of the receipts, but must have an order for every receipt that is issued. The idea of the bill is to prevent certain county officials from using the poll tax receipts for the purpose of carrying elections.

The appropriation bill as passed by the Senate carries nearly half a million dollars divided among the following departments: Legislative, \$150,000; judicial, \$192,100; executive, \$44,000; maintenance and repair of state house, and state departments, \$133,360; governor's office, \$8,000; office of secretary of state, \$8,472; attorney general's office, \$5,850; auditor's office, \$14,207; treasurer's office, \$11,974; land commissioner's office, \$12,772; superintendent of public instruction's office, \$6,172; office of commissioners of mines, manufactures and agriculture, \$5,000; clerk of Supreme Court's office, \$6,025; railroad commissioners, \$22,187; janitors wages, \$3,720.

The Rowell bill prohibiting any railroad in the state from working its telegraph operators for more than eight hours in a shift was passed by unanimous vote in the Senate Tuesday. Several hundred telegrams from different parts of the state were received in favor of the bill.

The Craven measure, which is a misdemeanor for an individual or public body to spend more money than was appropriated by law for the purpose was read a third time and passed with only two dissenting votes. The bill is aimed at the university trustees, and others who have been presenting deficiency bills at every session of the legislature.

Senator Goodwin introduced a bill allowing the school commissioners to increase the school funds of the state for the purpose of securing additional funds for the erection of school houses.

The appropriation bill for the State Hospital for the Insane, carrying more than \$400,000, was considered in Committee of the Whole and passed by the Senate without a change in exactly 25 minutes Wednesday. This is the quickest action that has ever been taken on an appropriation bill of this magnitude in the present session.

The Rowland resolution which authorizes the attorney general to bring suit against the railroads in the state to recover \$300,000 in taxes that have been due since 1887, was passed by a unanimous vote.

The Senate killed the Goodwin bill which has for its object the investment of the school funds of the state by the State Board of School Commissioners. At present all the school funds of the state are very materially reduced. The bill would invest in Arkansas bonds that are drawing interest at the rate of 3 per cent, and the Goodwin measure is to provide for the investment of the funds in the various school districts at the rate of 4 per cent of the state, the money to be used for building purposes. The bill was passed in the early part of the session.

The bill by Senator Patterson, allowing the shooting of ducks and snipe at a time in the year was passed by a vote of 16 to 7.

New bills introduced were: By Senator Toney, requiring water companies to comply with the provisions of their contracts and pay damages caused by the violation of the same.

By Senator Cloud, giving to traction engines the same rights on the roads of the state that automobiles have, providing that the latter repair all bridges that are broken.

By Senator Bush, giving to the railroad commission power to fix rates on interurban trains.

The Senate consumed nearly all of Thursday in the consideration and disposal of local bills. It refused to recede from its amendment to the Reform School bill requiring the penitentiary physician to serve as physician at the Reform School, and amended the bill providing for the printing of the Supreme Court reports by authorizing the board to receive bids from publishers outside the state and to award the contract to the lowest bidder irrespective of locality.

The only bill of general character introduced in the Senate was presented by Senator DeLoist, providing for the building of a macadamized road from Fort Smith through the counties of Sebastian, Crawford, Franklin, Johnson, Pope, Conway, Faulkner, Lonoke, Prairie, Monroe, St. Francis and Crittenden counties to a point on the Mississippi river opposite Memphis. The bill appropriates \$25,000 for the survey and location of the road and provides for the creation of a board of commissioners to look after its construction.

Senator McKnight presided over the deliberations of the Senate Friday.

The Senate Friday passed the Browning bill appropriating \$40,000 for the reprinting of the Supreme Court reports, the House bill by Mr. Leigh, regulating the employment of child labor, and House bill by Mr. Kizzie, increasing the pay of judges and clerks of elections from \$1 to \$1.50 per day.

House bill by Mr. Barker, regulating the practice of suggestive therapeutics and magnetic healing, also encountered Senator Wingo's opposition. He spoke against the measure, attempted to have it tabled and later moved to indefinitely postpone its further consideration, but failed in both instances. The bill was accorded a first reading, but a motion to suspend the rules and have it read a second time was lost. A number of House local bills were passed and others advanced in the stage of legislation.

New bill in Senate: By Senator Gross, by request, for the relief of W. H. Maxey of Crawford county, providing for an appropriation of \$50 to reimburse him for the purchase of a tract of land belonging to the United States, but which was sold to him by the state. Read twice and referred to the Judiciary Committee.

For the second time during the session the Senate convened Saturday morning at 8:30. The reading of the journal was dispensed with and Senator Nance was called to the chair.

In accordance with the request of the Arkansas State Association of Bankers, Senator Goodwin introduced a bill to secure the negotiable paper law in this state. Thirty-five states now have the law. The bill introduced by the Senator from Bradley is a copy of the New York law.

The appropriation bill for the Deaf Mute Institution and house cuts bringing down the amount by \$10,000 were not considered.

THE HOUSE.

The House Monday trimmed the penitentiary appropriation bill about \$100,000 and disposed of another of these important measures when it gave its final approval to the bill for the support and maintenance of the Deaf Mute Institute. The measure had been gone over several times in the House Committee of the Whole, and in the final action there was no discussion of the bill.

A bill asking for an appropriation of \$10,000 for the support of the Eureka Normal School was taken up and saved from a final sacrifice by deferring action. In Committee of the Whole the House recommended that it do not pass.

New bills in the House were: By Mr. Dulaney of the House Committee on Chancery, the regular appropriation bill for the support and maintenance of the Confederate Home in the sum of about \$57,000.

By Mr. Stevens of the Ways and Means Committee, amending the inheritance tax law and providing that certain large estates shall not be divided until the tax is settled.

The entire afternoon session in the House Tuesday was devoted to the Amis insurance bill, under the provisions of which the life insurance companies doing business in the state were to have been required to invest 75 per cent of the reserve held for policyholders in this state in investments within the state. The bill had passed the Senate and was up for a final test in the House. It failed to pass the vote being 64 to 65.

The following bills were passed: By Mr. McCallum, chairman of the Roads and Highways Committee, an act requiring corporations and persons to give the names of such persons holding their employment as subject to road tax.

By Mr. Stirling, requiring the railroads to maintain track scales at every point in the state where more than 100 cars and freight are handled in any one year, and prove weights when demanded to do so.

By Mr. Oldham, prohibiting any persons from drawing a pistol or weapon on another, or threatening or intimidating another, making the penalty a fine of from \$500 to \$1,000 and one year in the penitentiary.

The House spent the greater part of the day Wednesday in Committee of the Whole passing on the various items of the blind school appropriation bill. The salary of the superintendent was reduced from the committee recommendation of \$3,200 per annum to \$2,800. Other items were cut but slight changes and as a whole the bill was reduced but slightly from the recommendations made by the Joint Committee.

Among the bills passed at this session was one by Mr. Carl Lee, making it unlawful to permit the running at large of stock and giving persons taking up such stock 50 cents per day for having taken it up and 10 cents per day for feeding same. And one by Mr. Wingo, regulating the peddling and peddlers and requiring that peddlers in the counties shall have a county license.

The House Thursday passed the bill which seeks to preserve the sixty acres of land surrounding the new state capitol. A bill recognizing and regulating suggestive therapeutics as a healing medium passed the House at the morning session. Under the provisions of the bill "absent" treatment can be given only by those who have graduated in its schools.

The salary of the superintendent of the Blind Institute, which had been reduced to \$2,800 in House Committee of the Whole Wednesday was Thursday restored to \$3,000, which is the rate paid the superintendent of the Deaf Mute Institute.

Other bills passed at this session were: By Mr. Anderson, regulating the auction business and hours in which auctions shall be held.

By Mr. Beck, requiring owners of additions to cities to file their plats with the county clerk before disposing of lots.

By Mr. Stevens of the Ways and Means Committee, amending the inheritance tax law and raising the tax on large estates.

A protest from the Arkansas Federation of Woman's Clubs, in session at Forrest City, against the demolition of the old state capitol building and asking the Legislature to pass a law that will protect the building to future posterity, was read Friday morning.

More than \$100,000 was stricken from the state university appropriation bill Friday by the House in Committee of the Whole before that body had passed on a dozen items. The indications point to a continued clipping of the items until the appropriation bill is reduced to one-third from the form in which it had passed the Senate.

The university deficiency bill was declared passed at the Friday morning session, although it had not received approval of two-thirds of the membership of the body. Speaker Hamiter ruled that a majority could pass the bill, this ruling was challenged by Mr. Killough, who served notice that he would later ask for a definite ruling on the question.

The Blind Institute bill has been about completed in the House and will go to the Senate within a very short time for consideration there.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Killough which repeals that part of the 1903 statutes authorizing the capitol commission to dispose of the property of the old state capitol.

The Oldham anti-lynching bill met defeat in the House Saturday after a severe attack made upon its provisions by Messrs. Killough and McCollum, who charged that it was revolutionary and would place the sheriff of any county under an attitude of dictating to the judiciary. Under the bill any sheriff who held a prisoner against whom the community was aroused, and who feared that such prisoner would suffer from lynch law, could order the Circuit Court in session for immediate trial of the case. The bill was called up by Mr. Rowell, who stated that it was a solution of the lynch problem that had been presented by Father Lucey of Pine Bluff, and that this distinguished man believed it would serve to reduce mob violence in the South. Mr. Rowell made a strong plea that Arkansas give the law a test.

A bill was introduced by Mr. Finley, which prohibits smoking of cigarette, pipe or cigar in any hotel, rotunda, railroad train or depot, street car or public place of any character where women are generally assembled with men. Ball rooms and cafes are among the places where smoking is to be absolutely tabooed.

A bill introduced by Mr. Quinn, which sought to shorten the hours in the school room of the cities of the first and second class to a maximum of five hours per day, was taken up and overwhelmingly defeated.

Mr. Bishop opposed the bill stating that it discriminated between the city schools and the rural schools, and he favored leaving the hours of school instruction in the hands of the directors of the schools.

Under the head of petitions and memorials Mr. Combs sent up a petition from many citizens, asking for the enactment of a measure that would authorize the county judge to provide a place in the court houses for an office for the county surveyors.

The first rupture on the floor of the House during the present legislative session took place Tuesday afternoon when Representative Foster of Cleveland sent the hall at the head of Representative Quinn of Garland. The difficulty grew out of a discussion of the Amis insurance bill which was defeated in the House and the purpose of which was to require every life insurance company doing business in the state to permanently invest 75 per cent of the reserve held for policyholders in this state in investments within the state without direction as to in what manner.

LEGISLATIVE NOTES.

The two-cent rate as applied to the Memphis gateway is giving residents of eastern Arkansas much alarm. Following the fact that the Cotton Belt had taken advantage of the fact that its Texarkana station is just across the state line and in Texas, has refused to apply the two-cent fare, it is feared that after the Legislature has adjourned every road to the East that goes through the Memphis gateway will consist of Memphis. The corporation the fare for crossing the bridge is 25 cents and the bridge corporation collects it, making the actual destination at Bridge Junction as far as railroad fare is concerned. But baggage is checked through to the Memphis depots, or on further to the East. An investigation of the probable result is to be made, and if it is believed that the railroads will have an advantage at the Memphis gateway, a bill is to be drafted and presented which will require a station at this end of the bridge, so that the Arkansas passenger tariff may be demanded at least to that point.

In pursuance of a settlement of matters of difference between the United States and this state arising out of the swamp land grant of 1850, and other grants, which was ratified by concurrent resolutions March 10, 1897, there was due the United States the sum of \$103,915.65 from the state. There not being this sum in the state treasury to the credit of the general revenue fund, in order to raise the sum, by act of the General Assembly approved June 1, 1897, Governor Jones as governor of the state executed his notes, and an International Improvement Fund, and one to the Swamp Land Fund for this sum, and the money was paid into the United States treasury from these funds settling the difference between the United States and the state. The situation has been that these notes have been in the treasury since and the bill by the Ways and Means Committee in the House Wednesday has introduced that the state might pay the sum from these funds into a sinking fund, cancelling the notes. Under the bill the levy for the sinking fund is to put one-eighth of a mill for the four years.

In speaking of an extension of the Legislature, Senator Oldham said: "I will say that the Joint Committee on Capitol have not considered the matter of the extension of the present session. I want it understood that the committee has not given the matter a thought, and at the present time we do not know whether an extension would be necessary. I am sure that the taking of a recess for about 20 days at the end of the session. One of the best lawyers in the state has declared that Governor Moore will hold office until the regular session, John Little, returned. Other good and able lawyers, on the other hand, hold that the term of John Moore in the executive office expires at the same time that his tenure as president of the Senate does. In that case, in order to be on the safe side, it would be a good idea to take the recess and give Acting Governor Moore a chance to sign all of the measures that have passed the Assembly. If the recess is taken, there is no doubt of the legality of the acts, for John Moore would still be president of the Senate."

A bill was introduced in the House Friday morning, which would authorize the sale of the old state capitol grounds and building. The bill was presented by Mr. Killough. The defeat of the Quinn bill, which sought to save the property by turning it over to the Arkansas Historical Society, was interpreted by many to mean that the old capitol grounds would be sacrificed to sale, but this idea is combated by the warm reception the Killough bill received. "If the people will protect the property of the capitol grounds, the property will be disposed of," said Mr. Killough, "but they are not ready to do that."

Just so we protect the property from sale until the next two years is that it is asked. In that time there will have developed a well-defined idea as to how the property should be kept."

When it became known in the House yesterday that the Senate had under consideration a resolution to extend the legislative session there were many expressions of regret that the matter had been taken up. There is a question in the air whether body to extending the session further than May 14. A great majority of the members believe that the appropriation bills should be given every minute of time until they are finished, and the unfinished business on May 14, will not be of sufficient importance to hold longer to dispose of. For this reason the House Monday devoted much of its time to the consideration of many hard working bills, and the clamor for a recess was not that clamor for a recess that has been in evidence heretofore.

While the clerk was calling the roll on a Senate bill next Wednesday the House was disturbed by a second personal conflict of the session. In this instance Mr. Foster of Cleveland was again one of the besting. Mr. Foster, a member of the Democratic in the House, was the other. Members of the House intervened as soon as possible and the fighting was stopped. Speaker Hamiter announced that gentlemen with fighting should be removed from the room, but the stir soon subsided and the participants were brought to peace. The trouble is believed to have grown out of an interview concerning the duties of the bill, Foster and Mr. Quinn on Tuesday.

It is estimated that the present Legislature will cost the state \$150,000. Before the Legislature convened there was a sum of \$250,000 left over from the appropriation for contingent expenses of the Legislature of two years ago. A bill was passed in the early days of the present session appropriating \$100,000 for contingent expenses of the present session. These funds have been drawn against until there is about \$22,000 of the \$125,000 left to be paid out before a second contingent appropriation is necessary. Under the present sum will be insufficient to meet the expense until the end of the session, and a second appropriation will be necessary.

The election of a lieutenant governor in the closing days of the present legislative session promises to become a very important event since the opinion of Judge U. M. Rose to the effect that Acting Governor Moore shall remain as acting governor, and the lieutenant governor elected shall be president of the Senate. The commission from the governor to the lieutenant governor shall sign the last bills as president of the Senate, and as to when the term of John I. Moore as president of the Senate is concluded.

Bills of a general nature in the House will most probably be sacrificed. There are more than one hundred local measures on the calendar of the House, and every one of them represents something of importance to the member who introduced it. There is seldom any contention over these local measures, but to gain recognition and get a roll call is no easy thing to accomplish when almost one hundred other men are asking for the same privilege.

One important measure that the Senate will take up during the week will be the bill asked for by the bankers of the state. The bill introduced and read twice in the Senate last week has the approval of the bankers who were assembled in an informal way here last week. There is little probability of any fight being made made on the measure, and if it is not crowded out there is every reason to anticipate a new general banking law from this Legislature.

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Farmers' Co-operative Union of America.

The things to shun as you would the adder is debt and the saloon, either by express or in the barroom style.

You will be an awful busy man if you do all you can to enable your boys and girls to make the best fathers and mothers of the coming generation.

Say, have you got your split log drag made yet? It is a mighty good time to make it now. The spring rains will be the opportunity of a lifetime.

Don't forget that there may not be another opportunity for the boys and girls to go to a good school. Keep them in every day.

Don't fail to talk over the coming picnic at the next meeting and arrange to have it right soon. Farmers are entitled of all men on earth to all the fun that is going.

Your last meeting ought to be the worst one that you will ever hold, because each succeeding one should be better and better, and you can make them that way if you will try.

The Farmer's Union that is not spending a good deal of time in inculcating knowledge of fruit and truck raising is losing a great opportunity to EDUCATE. Get busy getting out of the ruts.

Give the boys a chance. Encourage them to speak in the local. Bring them up right and they will not depart from it. The statesmen of the future must come from the farm, as they have always done.

With the daily delivery of mail to the farm house, there is no excuse for the old-fashioned ignorant sort of way of getting on that has been too common for the good of the human race. Take the papers and read them and know what is doing in the world that you are feeding.

Remember your "silent partner" should have as much of your attention and thoughts as she used to have before you were married. If she did it is a sure bet that she would have some improved house helps as often as you put a new and better tool or implement in the field. Think it over and do the right thing about it.

It doesn't make so much difference what we call the men who are working for the betterment of the condition of the cotton grower, if they all work along some sort of an agreed plan for the same object. Common sense ought to convince all sober minded men that can pull together only when they do pull together. See?

Have you taken time to notice if the girls have the right sort of dirt in the flower beds around the house to make them grow? If you haven't you ought to, for it would not take long to fix 'em up all right, and it would prove that you were the right sort of a man to have about the place. Sometimes this needs proving.

Wherever it has been tried, it has been found that the diversifier has always won out. When we say diversifier, we mean just that. To quit exclusive cotton and go to some other specialty is not diversification at all. This is simply quitting the acting of one sort of a fool to act some other sort. A diversifier diversifies, and he does not know what failure is. He is a cautious man, and has not the foolhardiness to go into some line with all his money and time without knowing about it. He is material for a good Union man, for he is first an EDUCATOR. EDUCATION is the thing first, and the practical application of the learning is wisdom. The diversifier is wise.

Say, Old Fogey, you are the man to hop into the Union right away, because there isn't an organization on earth that can't help somebody or else receive help from that somebody. Now, it may be that you are the very man to help "educate the boys down" to the text, "EDUCATE, CO-OPERATE, UNITE," for the common good of the tillers of the soil. The telephone, the daily mail delivery and some other things that have happened lately have finished up the job of making a "business man" of every brainy, sensible farmer. Come in and find the warmest welcome you ever had. We aren't sitting around waiting for you at all, but we have fixed a place for you, and it is yours at any time; and the sooner you get into it, the longer you will be a man among men. Get into the band wagon while the music is going on. You will be dead after awhile, and then you will not be missed if you are way off by yourself somewhere. Get among your fellows!

Are you the kind of a man that your boys will refer to with pride? If you are not you are not a good Union man.

It has taken a long time to teach the farmer that somebody had to warehouse everything until there was a consumptive use for it, but he has learned the lesson, and will hereafter do the warehousing himself, and keep the profits that have gone into the pockets of a host of speculators. The warehouse on the farm is the best thing; but the warehouse in the home town comes next after this.

Since the organization of the Union there have been numerous tree plantings all over the country, and there will be more and more of them. Plant a tree under any sort of a provocation. The rate of destruction that is overtaking the forests of this country is something beyond calculation. The price of lumber is practically twice what it was a decade ago, and the beginning is hardly begun. Plant trees, and then some more trees.

There is hardly a man on earth that has sense enough to keep him from thinking that most of the other fellows have an easier time than he has, and there isn't a baker's dozen who could be persuaded that they don't know a splendid lot of things about the other fellow's business that would make it hum, if they could only get these ideas put into use. That is natural but after all, Solomon had a bit of advice about "Contentment with a dinner of herbs" that is mighty good think-tank filling.

The Texas Cotton Warehouse Company has thought it wise to issue a card distinctly setting forth the fact that it is no part of the Farmers' Union, and is in no way connected with that organization, and that it will act as an independent corporation, having as its object the storing of distressed cotton and the making of advances on it, just as any other business institution might do. It is not out of place to state that this concern has in its organization several members of the Union, and its work will be along the lines of the Union's warehouse plans. This concern purposes building several warehouses in different parts of the State, where cotton will be accepted, stored and advances made upon it or not, as the depositor of the cotton may choose.

The time now is that there must be some sort of retrenchment in the expense of conducting the sort of government most of the States have to endure. Texas is on its ears because with the increase of population there is an increase in all expenses, a raise in taxes and no sort of improvement in the conduct of State affairs. The old theory that things can be done for a less per capita expense when done on the wholesale is not working out in that state. The expenses are increasing with the population not in an even ratio, but by leaps and bounds, and there is no improvement in the efficiency of affairs. Many other states are in a similar condition. There is no honest reason for this, and the dishonest reason should be circumvented by a demand from the people for a dollars worth of service for every dollar they pay in taxes.

CO-OPERATOR CLIPPINGS.

The boys will stay at home on the farm only when farm life is made less lonely and the farm more profitable.

"Hard times" will run up against a mountain sure enough when there is a warehouse at every market town in all this land.

The planting of trees at all the school houses where Local Unions are held will be of great improvement of itself for the country. Plant trees. No brave man is content to remain under a system which steals from him and those dependent upon him. He will do all in his power for the new system of equity and justice. No sectional organization of producers can exist. There must be a perfect understanding among all producers. The Farmers' Union knows no section. It is for the producers of all sections.

Let us never think that this system under which we are forced to market our products will be changed by law. We must build a new system. We are building it. The dumper not only hurts himself, but also all other producers, by thus becoming a bear on the market. Let it be a perfect understanding. The producers must not be in competition with each other.

Now, really, is your local all you would have it to be? There are many subjects you can discuss which will be life for your local and your community. Make the meeting the best.