

**MORE LEGISLATURE
DOPE FROM FEDER.**

(Too late for last week.)
Topeka, Kan., Jan. 20, 1915.

Dear John:—
The second week of the 1915 session of the Legislature is now on and it may be properly stated that the session is in full swing.

The House, as usual, was much slower in getting started than the Senate, but with that practically all of the committee appointments have been made. Committees of both houses are hard at work and the Senate has already spent the greater part of two days in Committee of the Whole. A large number of bills have been introduced, among them some that have been before former sessions of the Legislature. Among the important measures introduced up to Saturday night were the following:

- Initiative and referendum.
- Creation efficiency and economy commission.
- Short ballot act.
- Three-fourths jury verdict.
- Amendments "blue-sky" law.
- Semi-monthly pay day.
- Four-year term for state officers.
- Mother's pension bill.
- Municipal farm home bill.
- Abolishment barber board.
- Eight hour labor bill for women.
- Repeal ten per cent garnishment act.
- Anti-tipping bill.
- State insurance.
- Amendments utilities act.
- Anti-"snitch" lawyer bill.
- Jocelyn bill limiting campaign expenses.
- Widow's exemption.
- Ore ho ise legislature.
- The full crew bill.

Of these the semi-monthly pay day, the full crew bill, the initiative and referendum and the eight hour labor bill for women are recognized as old friends by habitués of the Legislature.

A provision is pending before the Senate to amend the constitution providing for a four year term of office. Probably the most radical amendment to the constitution that has been proposed is the one house plan, which has been advocated by Governor Hodges and which has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Howe. The important points of the provision are:

- The legislative power to be vested in a legislative assembly.
- Membership to consist of two representatives from each congressional district and two additional members for each congressman at large.
- Assemblymen to receive \$3,000 a year and traveling expenses when visiting state institutions.
- Members must be residents of and voters in districts from which elected.
- Election to congress or appointment to federal office automatically to vacate holder's seat in assembly.
- No person convicted of embezzlement or misuse of public funds to be allowed to have a seat in the assembly.
- Members must take oath to support constitutions of federal and state governments.
- A majority of the assembly to constitute a quorum and qualifications of its own members.
- All vacancies for unexpired

terms to be filled by election, provided, should a majority of the members resign or be disqualified, the governor shall fill such vacancies until a special election can be called unless such vacancies occur within sixty days of a general election.

Voting to be by yeas and nays, which must be entered immediately upon the journal of the assembly, which latter must be published.

Every member to have right of protest which must be entered immediately upon the journal.

Bills shall originate in the assembly and may be amended or rejected by a majority vote.

A majority of the members elected to the assembly voting in the affirmative shall be necessary to pass any bill or resolution.

Bills may be passed over the veto of the governor by a two-thirds vote. They shall become effective even though not approved by the governor if not returned by him within three days. The governor shall have right of partial veto in appropriation bills.

Every bill must be read on three separate days, except in emergencies.

No member of the assembly may be arrested, save for a felony, while going to, coming from or engaging in a session nor shall he be served with any civil process during session or for fifteen days before.

All terms shall begin the second Tuesday in January.

How far this will get is a hard question to answer, that the tendency of the times are along that direction goes without saying, but it is doubtful if anything will come of the move at this session. Like all other changes in our form of government it will be a question of education.

In the appointment of committees Mr. Stone backed up on his ultimatum issued last week and granted to the minority members of the House the representation on committees and committee chairmanships which was the rule two years ago. Senator Sutton of our district fared very well in the matter of committee appointments. He was a member of the following committees:

- Rules.
- Employees.
- Insurance.
- Judicial appointments.
- Public utilities.
- Railroads.
- Ways and means.
- Committee on committees.
- Chairman of the Agricultural committee.

This gives him membership on practically all committees of importance except the judiciary committee.

Representative Zutavern was also fortunate in getting good committee appointments and is serving on the following:

- Committee of the second class.
- Militia.
- Public utilities.
- Penal institutions.

Public buildings and grounds. Barton county is represented on the Senate pay roll by Louis Hans, Sargent at Arms of the Senate, who, notwithstanding a little jib or two from the Topeka Capital, is getting around good. I. W. Yenser is on the pay roll as an assistant journal clerk and Miss Alice Brady, although now residing in Topeka, is stenographer to Senator Paulen.

We hear a great deal now about an efficiency commission. I imagine I hear some reader say that we have too many commissions now, which may be true, but an efficiency commission, if composed of the proper persons, and giving the right kind of service, will be of considerable benefit to the tax payers of the state. It is absolutely out of the question for Governor Capper or anyone else, by himself managing one department already, to give their time and attention towards seeing whether or not every other department is properly managed and following the lead of Illinois and some of the other states, I believe that it would be a good thing for this state to have a permanent efficiency and Civil Service Commission. Two resolutions are now in the Legislature and we may expect some sort of legislation on this proposition.

abolishing the barber board and we expect to see considerable capital made out of the abolishing of this board by the Republicans in the next campaign, as having effected the saving and the running of the state. The facts are, however, that the expense of keeping up the barber board was not paid by the tax payers of the state, but by the barbers. A bill has also been introduced to abolish the hotel inspector, another proposition over which much ado will be made. The facts are that in the recommendations to the 1913 Legislature by the health department, which, up to that time, had been doing the hotel inspection work, this department was created and it, like the barber board and other departments, was not sustained by the tax payers of the state, but by the hotels of the state and the intention of the bill introduced is not to eliminate the inspectors, but to eliminate the department and place is back on the Board of Health, simply changing the name an authority of the department, but not lessening the expense to either the state or the hotel people.

The law was originally passed as above stated in accordance with the recommendations of Dr. Crumrine, Secretary of the Board of Health, and at the urgent solicitation of the traveling men. Right here I want to say that there are a large number of hotels in Kansas which need some one to get after them with a red hot poker frequently.

By reading some of the publications in circulation in Kansas, one would think that the Democratic Senate was spending considerable money because it voted an appropriation for postage stamps, as well as for telephone and telegraph service. It might be well to call the attention of our brethren to the fact that a number of years previous to the 1913 Legislature, which was done in both branches, a postage stamp appropriation as well as free telephone and telegraph service had been provided by the members for themselves. When this question came up in the 1913 Democratic session although the Senate voted for this kind of a proposition, the House stopped it and no free telephone or telegraph service was extended to the members. Not so with the Republican House of 1915, who have voted themselves this service. These are things that we might bear in mind in the next campaign.

Numerous measures have been introduced for the purpose of getting mortgages on the tax roll, one of the most drastic along that line being that of Senator Wagner which provides that any mortgage which has not been listed for taxation shall constitute a valid defense to the foreclosure of it. About a dozen forms of Mothers' Pension bills have appeared and no doubt there will be some legislation on this point. Another old friend of former sessions to appear is on providing for a uniform system of blanks. As the law now is, every company can purchase its blanks from whomever and wherever it pleases, but if this old friend should become a law, it will practically put out of business that class of commercial printing and will place the printing of the class of work with the state printer. This is a matter that has been up a number of times and every time was defeated.

The inheritance tax law has also bobbed up again but in a much different form from the previous law. The rates fixed in the bill now pending, which was introduced by Senator Troutman, range from one-half per cent for the first twenty-five thousand up to the exemption of ten thousand in case of bequests to widows, to a rate of fifteen per cent upon everything above five hundred thousand left to persons not related by blood or marriage to the deceased. The law provides an exemption of ten thousand in the case of widows, and five thousand and each for husbands, sons, daughters and adopted children; widows or widowers of sons, daughters and adopted children and for grand children. These are placed in Class A. The second, Class B, includes brothers, sisters, parents, nephews and nieces and for this the exemption is a thousand dollars each. Class C includes strangers to the line of blood and the exemption is only two hundred. The rates for Class A are one per cent for the first twenty-five thousand after exempting ten thousand for widows and all others in this class, while the rate upon legacy widows is about one-half per cent for the first twenty-five thousand dollars above the exemption. The rates graduate from there on up. No doubt a hard fight will be made for the passage of this bill.

Stock shippers of Kansas will be interested in the passage of a bill which Senator I. M. Mahan of Smith county introduced. The bill is aimed at the cupidity of the Kansas City stockyards company, but incidentally will curb the avarice of all stockyards in the state of Kansas.

Senator Mahin stated that the Kansas City stockyards usually charge about 400 per cent above wholesale prices for feed which it sells to shippers, or which is fed to cattle and hogs in the yards. The Mahin bill prohibits any stockyards company from charging in excess of 50 per cent above the prevailing wholesale price of feed.

If adopted, the Mahin bill will save thousands of dollars to the live stock interests of Kansas. A similar bill is now before the Missouri Legislature. The Mahin bill is aimed to supplement the Missouri bill, as the Kansas City stock yards are situated partly in both states.

We have with us, as usual, many women lobbyists and among them, of course, a good representation of the Good Government Club of Topeka, headed by Lila Day Monroe.

Representative Mahurin of Coffey county, has introduced in the House a bill providing for state life insurance. The bill would put insurance companies doing business in the state entirely out of business if the dreams and hopes of the Coffey county member are realized. He asks for an appropriation of \$10,000 to put in operation the provisions of the act.

Two years ago Mahurin came to Topeka with a bill in many ways similar to the one just introduced. He has made some material changes in the measure, however, and believes that his bill has been materially strengthened. The operation of the new law would be placed in the hands of the state executive council.

The Coffey county man claims for his bill a saving to Kansas life insurance policy holders of from six to eight million dollars per year. The bill provides that the state shall establish a mortuary basis on which rates shall be established and that policies shall be written for actual cost, based on probable annual losses. The money collected in premiums would be available for loans on Kansas real estate, such loans to be approved by the executive council.

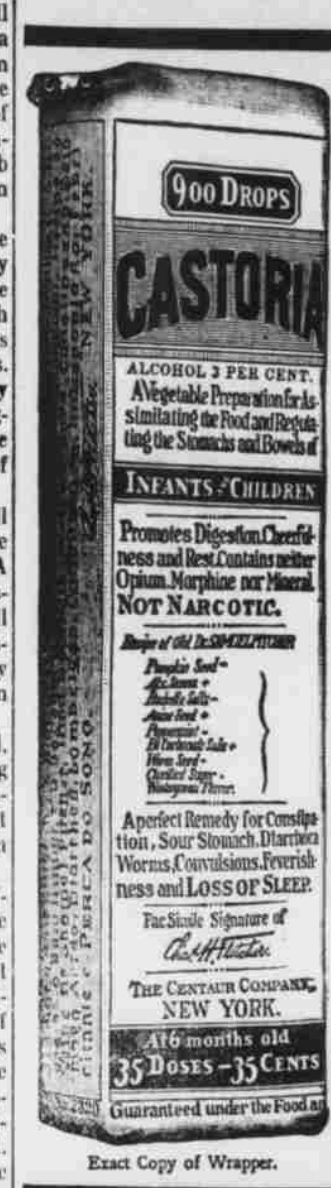
To get at the 500 millions of dollars of Kansas property which is not listed for taxation purposes, according to claims made by the state tax commission, Senator Joseph has presented to the legislature a bill fixing almost confiscatory forfeiture provisions and penalties for the failure either of property owners or assessors to properly list taxable lands or goods. His bill also provides that the state tax commission shall send experts to assist in the work of assessment of property where the local deputy assessor is unable to intelligently arrive at values to be put on the tax rolls.

This bill is supplementary to another by the same author in reference to mortgages. Where the first mentioned bill provides the forfeiture of one-third of any property that shall be improperly omitted from the tax rolls, the second bill provides for the gradual withdrawal of mortgages from taxation. It is expected that as the state's income from taxes on mortgages decreases, the income from the workings of the other bill will vastly over balance the loss. Under the mortgage exemption bill it is provided that registry fees shall be assessed, in lieu of other taxes on mortgages, and that this registry fee shall diminish in amount for the next five years after which time it shall automatically be abolished.

"Mortgage taxation is poor public policy and should be abandoned," declared Senator Joseph. "But 68 millions of mortgages are listed in Kansas, when as a matter of fact approximately 700,000 are outstanding. But if we could draw out the concealed property and tax it we could well afford to give over any attempt to collect a tax on mortgages which must, in the nature of things, be eventually paid by the borrower of the money."

Proposed laws for which the Good Government club of Topeka will lobby in the 1915 legislature:

- Reformatory for girls.
- Humane education in the public schools.
- Minimum wage for women.
- Temperance day in the public schools.
- Child Hygiene Bureau, under the state board of health.
- Mothers' compensation.
- Tax exemption for all householders.
- Establishment of municipal and county farms.



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INTERNAL CATARRH

"Peruna Has Done Wonders For Me. I Was So Weak."



Mrs. M. P. Curry, P. O. Box 615, Petersburg, Ill., writes: "I have been troubled with internal catarrh since my girlhood, and was sick in bed three months. When I was able to get up I was so weak and thin I could hardly walk. What I ate disagreed with me. I had stomach and liver trouble, and my feet and limbs were swollen so I could scarcely drag around."

"I took Peruna and it has done wonders for me. My cure was a surprise to my friends for they never expected to see me well again. I just took two bottles of Peruna after doctoring for five months and growing worse all the time."

Continuous Headache. Mrs. Esther M. Milner, Box 191, De Graff, Ohio, writes: "I was a terrible sufferer from internal catarrh, and had the headache continuously. I was not able to do my housework for myself and husband. You recommended Peruna. I took four bottles and was completely cured. I think Peruna a wonderful medicine and have recommended it to my friends."

Equal property rights for men and women.

Proposed law the women lobbyists will fight:

Inheritance tax for direct heirs.

A change has been made in the rules of the House which is going to make it pretty hard for a member to escape responsibility for his vote, practically all legislation that is killed is killed either in Committees or in the Committee of the Whole; in that committee the rule has been so that it was hard to get a roll call upon any pending questions, however, the House rules have been so changed that twenty-five members can demand a roll call and it is going to be pretty hard for a member to evade responsibility without his constituents finding it out.

Zutavern, of Barton county, scored this week when he called the attention of the House to the fact that the members were violating some of the rules and regulations of the state as laid out by our various departments and that was when he offered a resolution providing for individual drinking cups for members of the House. It is needless to say that Mr. Zutavern's resolution went through as the members of the House would rather be law abiding and law makers instead of law breakers.

Municipal ice is the dream of Senator H. F. Sutton of St. John. His dream has been crystallized into the form of a bill in the state senate and it has a fair prospect of finally being congealed into a state law which will bring relief to the parched municipalities of Kansas where the price of ice still soars. If it passes the Sutton bill will enable the smaller towns of Kansas to make their own ice where the smallness of the field has failed to attract capital for the operation of a commercial ice factory. In the larger places it will serve as a club over the heads of practical ice makers and persuade them to keep their figures down to reasonable level.

"I live in one of the progressive towns of the state where our commercial club has arranged for an ice factory which will give us fair prices," said Sutton, "but I have learned by observation of our own past experience that such a law is worth while. I propose merely to extend the power which Kansas cities already have to vote bonds for such utilities as water and lighting plants. Where a town already owns its water and lighting systems it has nearly everything but a little machinery necessary for the manufacture of ice. Ice is now a necessity. But in the smaller towns its price ranges high because of the limited market. In such places a municipal plant would serve a crying need."

"And of course the power vested in a city to make its own ice would always serve as a relief from the occasional annoyance due to high prices or insufficiencies of supplies."

Senator James A. Troutman of Shawnee today introduced four bills relating to election matters, the first of what will probably be a series of efforts to amend the

existing state laws on primary and general elections. The general purpose of the Troutman bills is to simplify election business and they call for some radical alterations in the laws as they were left by the last legislature.

Briefly, they provide:

First, the abolition of the nominating petition and the substitution therefore of the privilege of a candidate to file his name as a candidate, together with a fee amounting to 2 per cent of the salary for one year in the office to which he aspires.

Second, for the abandonment of the party council and the substitution thereof of an early party convention to be held before the primary election and in time for the various candidates to subscribe to the platform which it may adopt.

Third, for a non-partisan convention for the nomination of candidates for the state supreme court. This bill directs the chairman and secretaries of all county committees of all parties to join in the issuing of a call for an election of delegates to this convention with the object of making it as representative of all parties as possible. This convention would pick the names to go on the non-partisan ballot.

Fourth, to change the office of superintendent of election from an elective to an appointive office. This would, believes Troutman, enable the governor to select a man for the position for his special qualifications and remove him from the hazards of political race.

The legislation wheels will grind pretty fast from now on and wit is going to be pretty hard for one who is anxious to keep up with what the solans are going to but at that I suppose there are a large number of people who will be mighty glad when the legislature adjourns and will heave a sigh of relief.

Yours truly,
W. P. FEDER.

Fred Steuri was in Wichita the first of the week on a business trip and visit.

KANSAS SPENT 31 MILLION.

Yearly Increase in State, County and City Expenditures Is 1 1/2 Million

Topeka, Jan. 23.—The governmental expenses of Kansas, state, county, city, and townships, is almost 31 million dollars a year and has been growing at the rate of one and one-half million dollars a year. H. T. Howe, chairman of the state tax commission, has just received from the county clerks the amount of taxes raised in the various counties for all purposes in 1914. The total was \$30,988,122. In 1913 the total taxes were \$29,483,883 and in 1912 the figures were \$27,806,606.

The expenses of the state and local governments have been growing at the rate of 1 and one-third to one and one-half million dollars each year for the past ten years. The state taxes make up only one-tenth of the total. They have not increased quite as fast as the local taxes.