IDAHO LEGISLATURE.

Members Now Waiting for the Laws to be Printed Before Proceeding.

MEMORIAL ABOUT ROBERTS.

Action Indefinitely Postponed—Legislators Did Not Want to Meddle with Affairs of Another State.

Boise, Idaho, Jan. 28.—(Special correspondence.)—Two-fifths of the Fifth session of the Idaho State legislature has passed, and all that has been done is the re-enactment of the laws that have been passed since Idaho became a State, and which, under a ruling of the supreme court were all invalidated because they were not passed in strict conformity with the regulations prescribed in the constitution of the State. Early in the week the judiciary committee of both houses recommended that a concurrent resolution of the senate and house be adopted, providing for the enrollment of the re-enacted laws by the printing thereof. This was concluded to be a much quicker way of getting the work done than employing clerks to write them, as is generally done in the enrollment of bills. About 75 of the 113 re-enacted laws have been enrolled, and the legislature are anxious to expedite the completion of the work, as they have several bills they want to introduce, amending some of the laws which have been re-enacted. As these re-enacted laws cannot be recognized as valid statutes until they receive the signature of the governor, and as he cannot sign them until they are properly enrolled (printed) and sent to him, there is nothing to about, and consequently much important legislation is still blocked until this work of enrollment is finished. In the meantime the legislators have quietly laid their bills in the pigeon holes of their desks.

Being aware of the good feeling that everywhere exists towards the legislators here who are members of the Mormon Church, and being impressed with the justice of his claims, a memorial favoring the seating of B. H. Roberts was introduced, in the house honorable Hon. Thomas Averitt, a Democrat from Fremont county, and a non-"Mormon." The memorial, which was introduced unexpectedly to the "Mormon" members, is as follows:

"To the House of Representatives of the United States: We, your memorialists, the legislature of the State of Idaho, do respectfully represent that Hon. B. H. Roberts, of the State of Utah, was at a regular election in said State, duly and legally called and held, elected a member of your honorable body by a large majority of the voters of your sovereign State; and, whereas, each and every charge now preferred against him and every reason now urged against his being seated by your honorable body were made an issue in the campaign of 1898 and studied and thoroughly understood by all the people of the State; and, whereas, notwithstanding said charges and issues, said Roberts was supported strongly and with all reasonable and expected unanimity by the non-"Mormon," or Gentile, vote of the entire State, that it is our earnest and very belief that said Roberts was honorably and legally elected to said position because of his pre-eminent ability; and we desire it as our belief that he has at all times since the enactment of the Edmunds-Tucker law, in his private life, manifests by the Church of which he is a member, been a true, patriotic and law-abiding citizen; therefore, in the name of the facts, we entreat your honorable body to permit said Roberts to take and occupy the seat and have and enjoy the office to which he has been elected."

Under suspension of the rules the memorial passed by a third vote. When it came up for final disposition, Mr. Moss, one of the Democratic leaders, moved that it be indefinitely postponed. He desired it understood that he was not opposed to Roberts being seated, but was opposed to the Idaho legislature meddling in the affairs of another state, and repeated the arguments of other legislators who had adopted memorials on the question without knowing whether Roberts was guilty or innocent of the charges his enemies had hurled against him. Judge Stockslager, a Democrat, also opposed the same disposition of the memorial. He would not attempt to prejudge Roberts' case, he said, pending the facts. It was a matter solely for the national legislature to determine, and he was not willing to do business. As a man, as a Democrat, standing with Mr. Roberts on all questions of national importance, "I endorse and Mr. Roberts, without having the facts before me, now stand the peer of any Republican in the house." The Republican leader on the floor, and who voted against indefinitely postponing the memorial, said he was opposed to meddling, but he was in favor of the legislature voting constitutionally their the moral force of the country. "The only method to be adopted, this gentleman said, is for it to refer to the proper committee, and if it be approved, "a, we Roberts fairly elected? If he was, he should take his seat." Averitt, father of the memorial, made a grand plea for the adoption. "All this talk about Roberts being a polygamist is all clap-trap," he said. "Everybody knows that the judiciary of Utah is in the hands of Mormons. Why is it, then, that Roberts has not been prosecuted in those courts? Why have the authorities not taken that man out and he had been exclude to this high official position to oustign him? This spit (tobacco juice) is purely political." In hotly proclaimed, "a damnable attempt to steal a seat in Congress from a high-minded man, a man of recognized ability, a scholar, an orator, a Democrat. I am not a Mormon, and I shine in polygamy, but I believe in fair play, and I do not hesitate to say that the Idaho legislature should voice its voice against this attempted injustice." Representative Ellsworth of Fremont, a grandson of Brigham Young, and Judge Osmond of Bear Lake, a son of President Geo. Osmond of the Star Valley Stake, both advocated the adoption of the memorial. The latter paid a beautiful tribute to the stirring character of Roberts, and his matchless ability. "The Mormon" leaders have kept faith with the United States," he exclaimed, "and I know the leaders of that church have always advised strict observance of the law. Rather let us foster the feeling of friendliness that exists between Idaho and Utah, than disturb these pleasant relations by judicial action." After the question had been discussed for an hour or more, a motion to indefinitely postpone the memorial was carried by a vote of 27 to 21, all political parties being divided on the question.

None of those who addressed the house in favor of indefinite postponement of the memorial took a stand on the moderate. Not an unkind word was said against Roberts, and many were seemingly in favor of him being seated, and many of those who voted to indefinitely postpone stated they would have taken the same action on a memorial praying that Roberts be not seated. They all objected to a consideration of a matter concerning which the House had no facts before it on which to base its judgment, and concerning which they felt they were not justified in meddling with. The motion to postpone indefinitely could have been stated by Mr. Moss, and the result plainly shows. Aye—Mr. Chadwick, Cornett, Dagnett, Dalton, Eakins, Evans, Frank, Hall, Hanley, Hains, Johnson, Kingsley, Mahlen, Murray, Malley, Mr. Moss, Osborne, Patterson, Perkins, Smith, Stanton, Mr. Fisher (Ada), Hyde, Jones, Lyons, Miller, Moody, Mrs. Nichols, Nicholson, Osmond, Peterson, Reynolds, Stark, Thatcher, Wickersham, Speaker—total 31.

Nays—Messrs. Bell, refusing to vote—Ar, Brooks, Hess (Mormon), Mason—4.

Absent—Burke, Stephens—2.

One of the bills of such facts that has ever been urged against any legislature in Idaho is that now being considered, namely, the passage of Nicholson's anti-gambling bill. Although not discernible, it is known that a powerful lobby is at work to defeat the measure. The members of the bill do not attempt to do any work against the measure, in the lobby, on account of its numbers, but they left it null it come into the senate before opening their battle against it. Somewhat dilatory tactics have kept the champions of the bill from tacking any headway with the measure, and for a short time play on the part of senator Watts of Owyhee, the leader of the opposition, an adjournment was taken from Friday noon until Monday (this) to prevent action on the measure. This has acted as a blight, however, in the cause during the interim one or two of the worst scandals have been bestirred up by petitions from their constituents advocating the passage of the bill. It seems as though the bill would pass, although the gambling forces are still confident. If it does pass, it will be by with any more than a bare majority.

Among the important bills introduced during the week were the following:

By Peterson—Fixing the maximum passenger fare at 2½ cents a mile, and compelling the railroads with a sliding scale of freight charges, ranging all the way from 25 cents per ton per mile for shipment up to 18 miles, to ¼ of a cent a ton per mile for 300 miles. It provides that not to exceed $2 per ton shall be charged for carload lots between any points in the state.

By Hyde—For the appointment by the governor of a commissioner of irrigation, labor and statistics, who shall receive $1,800 a year and his traveling expenses.

By Fisher—Providing the compensation for witnesses in criminal proceedings before justices and justice courts at $2.25 a day and 15 cents mileage.

By Peterson—Amending the poll tax law, so as to release from its payment all those who pay a property tax of $5 or over.

By Eakins—To submit to the people an amendment to the State constitution, providing the people with a right to propose laws and to vote upon the enactment of same; and to adopt, approve, disapprove or repeal the acts of the legislature by direct vote at general elections.

By Roberts—A proposed amendment to the State constitution, providing that no proposed amendment shall be made a part of the constitution, "unless a majority of all electors voting at such general election for the office of governor ratify the same."

At present the State constitution can be amended if a majority of those voting on the question vote for the proposed amendment.

By Osmond—To create and maintain a school for the deaf and blind, the location to be selected by a commission of five appointed by the governor.

By Averitt—Providing a tax of 10½ cents on each head of sheep in the county to be sent to the State treasurer and constitute a State scalp bounty fund.

By Planck—Striking the final day's attendance in each school district the basis of the distribution of school money.

By Price—Providing for the appropriation of $200 to help construct a bridge across Snake river, near Marsh Creek, between Minidoka and Oneida.

By Johnson—Inviting the legislature of Utah to visit Idaho.

By Hays—Relating to the manner of selecting juries.

The bill increases the number of jurors to be drawn every year by the county commissioners from 200 to 300. By its provisions no special venire can, in any event, be issued, until all the names of jurors in the box have been drawn.

By Hodges—Classifying the counties of the State of Idaho, and fixing the maximum salaries of certain county officers and their deputies, and authorizing the boards of county commissioners to fix the amount of such compensation; and providing for all moneys received for fees, perquisites, counting of all fees and commissions, and their disposition.

By Wright—Creating the office of bank examiner, and fixing his compensation at $1,800 per annum.

By Wright—Providing for the organization of the State bank and regulate the deposit of public money in banks and to provide for the payment of interest thereon.

It provides that State and county funds may be deposited in the banks offering the highest interest on monthly balances.

By Gooding—Relating to lawful fences and providing that a barbed wire fence may be a lawful fence.

By Hays—Prohibiting games of lottery, and providing punishment for drawing and selling lottery tickets.

By Wright—Concerning the enrollment and publication of the laws of the State of Idaho, and appropriating $1,000 for two years' maintenance.

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AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION.

Its Proper Application Will Make Better Crops for Farmers.

WATER A GREAT FERTILIZER

The Agricultural Department Will Undertake Irrigation Investigations as an Agricultural Problem for the Benefit of Every Farmer in the United States.

The Arlington Hotel, Washington, D. C., Jan. 25, 1899.

E. B. Young, Sec., First Vice President National Irrigation Congress, Salt Lake City, Utah:

Dear Sir:—The Irrigation Congress has never exerted very much influence in the past in actually accomplishing what it has favored in its resolutions. I think one reason for this has been that we are not well organized. If we could all work as a body, combine the influence of these states which are repaid by the national government, I think we could accomplish a great deal.

I was appointed by the chairman of our national executive committee as a member of the congressional committee, and being in the East have come here to try and get something done to help the cause. Those who are interested here have all agreed that in this session we will work for three appropriations, viz.:

1. In the agricultural appropriation bill, $50,000 for irrigation investigations by the department of agriculture.

2. In the river and harbor bill, $25,000 to build the Coeur Pack reservoir in Wyoming as surveyed by Col. H. M. Chittenden.

We hope by concentrating on these three propositions to get support enough to carry them. Will you not aid by getting the senators and congressmen from your State solemnly interested to work for these appropriations? They would inaugurate a policy which would be the beginning for a new period of development and prosperity throughout the whole arid region. Every commercial organization ought to take hold of the matter. Whatever is done must be done immediately.

You could also aid if you could get any of the papers in your State interested so they will give us their editorial support. I enclose an article which I think would do good to have published in as many papers as possible.

Hoping to hear from you favorably, I remain,

Yours very truly,
GEORGE H. MAXWELL.

The recommendation of the secretary of agriculture in his last annual report that an appropriation of $50,000 should be made for an investigation into the correct principles of irrigation that are of such vital importance to so many thousands of farmers has attracted a much wider attention to the subject of irrigation than it has ever received in the past as an agricultural problem.

The last Irrigation Congress held at Cheyenne, Wyoming, in September, 1898, passed a strong resolution urging an appropriation for the work by the department of agriculture and showing its vast importance.

George H. Maxwell of California, a leading member of the Irrigation Congress, who has taken an active interest in irrigation development for a number of years, and is recognized as an authority on all matters pertaining to that subject, arrived in Washington a few days ago and represents the Irrigation Congress by appointment from the chairman of the national executive committee of that body, I. D. O'Donnell of Billings, Montana.

EASTERN FARMERS BENEFITED.

In an interview today Mr. Maxwell said: "Our great difficulty that has always been met with in getting the attention of Congress to the great subject of irrigation is the wrong impression which has prevailed with so many in the past that irrigation is of interest only to the West. On the contrary, it is of the most vital and far reaching importance to every farmer in the East.

"The experiments which have been carried on by Prof. King of the Wisconsin agricultural station, by Prof. Voorhees of New Jersey, and by Dr. Clarke Capen, now of Madison, Wisconsin, when he was superintendent of the Illinois hospital for the insane at Kankakee, Illinois, have demonstrated what pharmacal results may be obtained by what Dr. Capen calls supplemental irrigation in Illinois, meaning that it, by giving the cultivator of the soil control of the greatest factor in growth which is water applied in proper quantities and at proper stages of the growth of the plant.

"The results of Prof. King's experiments were published as a farmer's bulletin by the agricultural department, and could be obtained without charge by application to the secretary of agriculture. Dr. Capen read at the Phoenix irrigation congress in December, 1897, a paper describing his experiments and detailing the marvelous results which he had obtained. I suppose a copy of Dr. Capen's article would be obtained by writing to him for it at Madison, Wisconsin.

NEW JERSEY EXPERIMENTS.

"A careful investigation by Prof. E. B. Voorhees, director of the agricultural experiment stations of New Jersey, showed that a quarter of a million to a million acres of land in the State might readily be irrigated and experiments made by him in a quarter of a dozen or a number of places in that State showed that this was a profitable procedure. Prof. Voorhees reported in his annual reports of the New Jersey experiment stations for 1896 and 1897, and is holding it of the office of experiment stations of the United States department of agriculture.

"Every farmer in the whole country, no matter whether he now irrigates or not, should get and read these pamphlets. They are exceedingly interesting and valuable, because they show that there are "millions in it" for the eastern farmer if he would study the possibilities of irrigation, especially those who are farming near the great eastern centers of population, and have a ready market for diversified products from intensive farming.

"The increased population of these eastern farms under these methods of intensive culture with supplemental irrigation would not only enormously increase the value of the farms and permanently benefit their owners, but it would open up new opportunities of employment for the surplus labor of the cities without the necessity of entering upon the perils of the West."

IRRIGATION AND EDUCATION.

"The fact is, and it is only a question of time when the people of the whole country will see it, that in intensive culture with irrigation and in agricultural education as advocated by Governor Mount of Indiana, to which he so strongly referred in his last annual address, lies the simple, steady and complete remedy, and in fact the only remedy, for the social and political evils which threaten our body politic because of the overgrowth of our cities, and the congestion of population in the great manufacturing and commercial centers.

"In his annual address Governor Mount says:

"President Washington, in his annual message to Congress, December 7, 1796, recommended the establishment of a national university, in which, among other things, the science of agriculture should be taught. 'It will not be doubted,' he said, 'that with reference to individual or national affairs, agriculture is of primary importance. In proportion as it is rendered advance in population and other circumstances of prosperity, this truth becomes more apparent, and renders the cultivation of the soil more and more an object of public patronage.'

"Hon. James Wilson, secretary of agriculture, in his annual report for 1896, commends the teaching of this science in the schools. He says: 'There is a growing interest in the education that relates to production, and all classes of intelligent people favor it. More knowledge by the farmer of what he deals with every day should enable him to control conditions, to produce more from an acre and contribute more to general wealth. Nothing is being done in most of the common schools of the States to cultivate and lead the mind to inquire into and store up facts regarding nature, so that the young farmer may be directed into the paths that lead to education concerning his life work.'

"In a recent speech at Savannah, Ga., Mr. Wilson said: 'The young farmer of the South should study nature rather than dead languages, he should learn of the moment's leaves to read ancient history, and the feeding of animals before giving time to belles-letters. The study of the governmental of nations in the soil will pay better than the study of orators. Bare-yard poetry offers greater rewards for its intelligent care than country offices.'

"Mr. Maxwell said further: 'It is a mistake when our land has all been brought under cultivation, we have reached the limits of its possibilities as land for the support of population and for the accumulation of the wealth of labor on it. That limit is not reached until