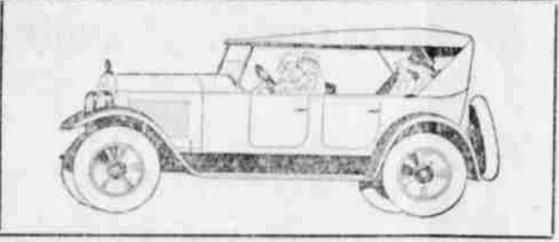


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PIERCE HAS POLITICAL PROGNOSTICATORS GUESSING ATTITUDE ADMINISTRATION

Highway Commission Prepared to Tender Resignations—Voters in Many Places Desire Investigation of Huge Expenditure Charges.

PORTLAND, Ore., Nov. 22.—It has been announced in semi-official form that all three members of the state highway commission will tender their resignations, to take effect January 1, or as soon as the then Governor Pierce can or will accept them.

Within a few days after the result of the voting was known the members of the board decided that under all the circumstances it was up to them to quit. The result is that they wrote out their resignations without delay, and Mr. Pierce is at liberty to appoint new men the day he goes into office. This means that the threatened investigation of the department, which has been the talk of the state since the election, will have little if any effect. Mr. Pierce will be able to put into force his reforms without the delay incident to getting the old commissioners out of office.

Interest in this matter will be keenest in those counties that have uncompleted highway programs, and there will be a rush to get contracts let before the men now in office go out. Just what attitude the commissioners will take is a question, but rumor has it that they are disposed to let all the pending contracts and as far as possible go out of office with a clean slate. In most cases the action to be taken has long been agreed upon, but there is an important matter pending in Polk county, there being about 14 miles of pavement to lay to complete the west side highway. This has been due to Polk county having a county court that antagonized the commission. At the recent election those favoring action in harmony with the commission prevailed, winning by a big majority. It is believed that it will be possible to have the contracts let for this paving before the present highway commission goes out of office.

Rumors Specify in Some Cases.

So many rumors were circulated during and following the election concerning the highway commission that it would be useless to attempt to verify them all, and their narration would prove tiresome, but it remains a fact that the claims of extravagance of this department had much to do with the outcome of the election. It was claimed, for instance,

that all employees of the department are overpaid, and that in nearly all cases the contractors were paid more for the completion of their work than their contract price called for.

Stories floated about to the effect that contractors, finding that they were going to lose money, appealed to members of the board and were allowed huge extras; that roads built through sections requiring little grading cost much more than the contract price, and that, in fact, the commission spent money with a reckless hand. Even before the votes were polled it was said that Mr. Pierce stood pledged to an investigation of the charges, and that if he found them well founded would proceed to remove the highway commissioners and put in new men.

These rumors of charges have gone to the point where there are many voters who would like to know the truth. The mere resignation of the commissioners in office will not enlighten those who would like to know. If Mr. Pierce and his supporters really believe in the charges made it would seem that they ought to delve to the bottom and report their findings. All the records will be at their disposal. Somehow there is a general belief upon the part of the people that the so-called ultra-liberal trust has been having things its own way in Oregon and that it is getting too much of the business at a price that yields a fat profit. Taxpayers all over the state really want to know the facts, and if they do not get them from Mr. Pierce they will soon be questioning the good faith of the new governor, who, during the latter days of his campaign, gave most of his time to denouncing the methods of the highway commission.

Both Senators Are in Bad.

Both United States senators from Oregon are really on the anxious seat. In the face of the advice of their strongest supporters that they remain out of the recent state campaign, they responded to the appeal of the republican organization and campaigned for Olcott. It is true they did not want to come. Their presence was only secured after repeated appeals, both men having made other arrangements to spend that part of the congressional recess.

It was remarked in Portland that neither of the senators were seen about their old haunts in the Northwestern bank building after their arrival in Oregon. It was from these old haunts that they were asked to keep out of the fight, and which they ignored. It is now said that Senator Stanfield stuck by his guns and left without calling upon the powers that directed his election in an effort to mollify the men who had been offended.

It was not two days after the election until informal gatherings began in the search of a suitable candidate to urge against McNary, who comes up for re-election in 1924. It is hardly probable that any such man had been selected when the senator opened negotiations for the very support that he had ignored when he decided it was his duty to support Olcott. What has been the outcome of all these informal gatherings is not known, but it remains an almost certainty that McNary will have strong opposition in the forthcoming campaign. There has not been even a whisper as to the identity of this man, however, and it is always possible that the senator may be able to convince the men who put him across four years ago that he did not get into the Oregon campaign willingly. At any rate it can be said that he did not take any too active part, and that his speeches were not of the red-hot order. If McNary loses the support of the element that tried to keep him out of the campaign he may have a real fight on his hands, for he is not in such decided high favor with the supporters of Olcott.

Pierce Said to Be Firm.

Governor-elect Pierce is said to take the position that all heads of state institutions should tender their resignations, following the example of the state highway commission. Strong pressure was brought to bear on Pierce in favor of letting things stand for at least a few months, and the Oregonian wrote several real editorials making the governor-elect be reasonable. The reply came back that Mr. Pierce wants complete control. It was upon receipt of this news that the highway commissioners decided to resign, and several other high appointees will also offer to get out of the way. This includes Dr. Steiner, superintendent of the insane asylum, who was made a secondary issue in the campaign.

That four of the principal officers have decided to step aside will doubtless set the example that will make it possible for Pierce to have his own way. This means that there will be such a house-cleaning in Oregon as has not been seen in years, and that the new governor will be able to assume the full responsibility that he seems to want.

The go-betweens that approached in the interest of keeping officials in office are said to have found the LaGrande man in very bad humor, in fact almost as angry as he was when first asked to sign up in favor of the state bill, which is another story that may get a telling in the future. Pierce is said to have said bluntly that he proposed to use all the power vested in a governor to "get" the various officials, and that nothing would please him so much as to have them tender their resignations.

Plenty of Applicants.

Incidentally it is said that Pierce has all the way from a dozen to fifty applicants for every place that it will be possible for him to fill during the four years, and that already he is getting a touch of that disappointment in human nature felt by every man elected to office carrying with it desirable patronage. The governor-to-be is genuinely worried about the possibility of outbidding all the elements that contributed to his election. This is particularly true in view of the fact that the democratic organization is demanding from their candidate practically every place at his disposal and then has not enough to go around. The Democrats have been out in Oregon for many years and do not seem disposed to recognize the Republican groups that elected Pierce.

Fred L. Gifford, as spokesman for the Ku Klux Klan, admits that his organization must be decidedly recognized, and is riling an alleged pre-election agreement by which he was to have a say in the appointments made. Although somewhat discredited by the outcome of the election in Portland, Mr. Gifford admits that it was the Klan that put Pierce over in the outgoing sessions of the state. He goes into particulars by citing the counties where the Klan was strong and where Pierce made a fine showing.

These statements are disputed by the leaders of the Oregon Federation of Patriotic Societies, who contend that Pierce lost more votes in Portland through the support of the Klan than he gained in all other sections of the state. This feature of the fight between the leaders of the so-called Protestant movement, in fact, has given so many that it promises to get into the courts. Gifford is claiming the last days of the campaign during the late days of the campaign and promises to get a goodly chunk of Woodrow money before he is through.

It is already evident that the Klan leaders have the ear of the governor-elect, and if this element is to secure recognition at the hands of the state administration it will likely be through Gifford. The most influential supporters of Pierce in Portland are said to be opposed to this outcome, but up to this writing have not been able to convince Pierce that he is recognizing the weakest wing in the Protestant movement.

Hall for Highway Commissioner.

There is a persistent rumor that seems to be verified, that Charles Hall of Marshfield has been offered a position on the highway commission. Judging from the attitude that he took in the campaign, Mr. Hall will decline the proposed appointment. But, on the other hand, it is known that he is so strongly in favor of the proposed highway that he may be induced by his friends in the east section to take the place.

It will be remembered that Mr.

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Car Is Damaged.
The fine new Buick sedan recently purchased by Clarence Baker, local Buick salesman, was quite badly damaged last night when it was driven into a band of cattle. The car was rounding a turn and the lights were not showing on the road ahead, so that the driver did not see the cattle until he was upon them. The car struck two cows, injuring the animals considerably and doing a great deal of damage to the machine.

At the Douglas.
Mrs. W. A. Bean and daughter, Corvallis; H. Edits, Portland; C. E. Work, Seattle; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Morse, Eugene; Mrs. Edward Edmunds, Camas Valley; Mrs. G. A. Lucas, city; C. R. Clark, Cashmere; Wash.; J. J. Brier, Cashmere; Alvin Andrews, Colfax, Wash.; E. L. Hook, Colfax, Wash.; V. T. McCrook, Colfax; Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hill, Pendleton; Mr. and Mrs. W. Churchill, Tacoma; A. H. Baker, Tacoma; J. D. Snodgrass, Spokane; Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Law, Spokane; H. O. Madden, Portland.

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A profit of \$300 from three-quarters of an acre of land planted in potatoes is the record made by L. P. Conn of Melrose. Mr. Conn today brought in 23 pounds of late Minnesota potatoes, grown in one hill. These potatoes were taken from a single hill and placed on display at the Lawrence real estate office. Mr. Conn planted three-quarters of an acre of land to the same variety of potatoes and filled 290 sacks when the tubers were dug. The crop brought \$300 cash.

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MALE house pups for sale, \$5 each. Emil Hill, Sutherland, Ore.

FOR RENT. One large, clean front housekeeping room. 615 Mill St.

ROOM HOUSE. Large lot. Paved street. \$100. Easy Terms. G. W. Young & Son. Phone 417.

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FOR RENT. Nice sleeping room with all conveniences. Board if desired. Watson preferred. 522 1st Ave. N. Phone 283.

FOR SALE OR TRADE. 10 to 15 thousand foot capacity sawmill. If you mean business address "Sawmill" care News-Review.

COTTAGE FOR RENT. Four room cottage, nicely furnished; good part of taxes. Twenty dollars per month. Lawrence Agency, 125 Cass Street. Phone 218.

FOR SALE. Small house on paved St. two blocks from court house. Lot 40x100 ft. Price \$600. \$250 cash, balance \$10 per mo. Inquire Chas. Kyles, 124 N. Pine St.

FOR RENT. Modern seven room bungalow; three blocks from Elks Theatre; all newly decorated, clean and ready to move in; three bed rooms; built in kitchen; living room, dining room, den, bath, full size cement basement; stationary wash tubs; wood lift, etc. Would like permanent renter. Lawrence Agency, 125 Cass Street. Phone 219.

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EASY MONEY IN IT. Will sell my modern ten room hotel fully furnished; everything clean and new; big dining room fully equipped; kitchen; everything in running order; filled full every day; doing a fine tourist business; on Pacific highway; near depot. I am going to sacrifice this business to go east at once. Will take half it's value; twenty five hundred dollars; this includes the lot, buildings, and all furnishings; complete in every way. Full information, see Lawrence Agency, 125 Cass Street. Phone 219.



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