

WILL CONVENE MONDAY MORN

A Lively Session Is Assured; Pierce Is Sure of Support, Also Opposition; Politics Play Unlikely.

One week from today the 30 senators and 60 representatives of the Oregon legislature will mobilize at Salem, preparatory to starting the session Monday morning, January 8. Just how soon the fireworks will start is not certain, but those who observe and participate in matters political forecast one of the most lively and exciting 40-day sessions in recent years.

There is no organization fight in sight, for A. K. Kubli, representative from Multnomah, has about 45 pledged votes for speaker of the house, and Jay H. Upton has 18 pledged votes for president of the senate. All these pledges are signed on the dotted line. Among the supporters of B. L. Eddy there is still some hope that something may happen to compass the defeat of Senator Upton and bring about the election as president of Senator Eddy, but there is, apparently, no good ground on which to base the hope.

Support Assured Pierce. Ben W. Olett will deliver his farewell address on the opening day and Walter M. Pierce will deliver his inaugural message and Oregon having changed governors, the session will proceed. As governor, Mr. Pierce will have the loyal support of the house organization, headed by Mr. Kubli, and he will have the backing of the senate machine, captained by Senator Upton. In the house, George A. Lovejoy, democrat, and in the senate, W. H. Strayer, democrat, will be the official spokesmen for Mr. Pierce, democratic governor.

The full extent of the Pierce program is not yet revealed to the public, but so far as known it meets practically with the good wishes of the republican majority. There will be measures behind which the governor will throw his influence, which will meet with strong opposition, but in the main the governor need expect no antagonism from the republican camp. There is no desire to place the governor in a hole and, by the same token, republican leaders in the legislature have no intention of permitting the governor to "pass the buck" by sending up sky-rocket bills for spectacular ef-

fect and then, when these bills fail to pass, charge the legislature with failure to back him up. State Welfare Paramount. Not one republican legislator thus far interviewed has expressed a wish to play politics and each has declared he will support the governor in any legislation of state benefit.

On the surface, there is a good working organization in house and senate, but it should be borne in mind that the minority is strong in each branch of the legislature. Many of the veterans of the house, some of them skilled legislators, have not agreed to vote for Mr. Kubli for speaker, and there are 14 of the 30 senators who have not gone into the Upton camp. If these minorities are organized it will be a nip-and-tuck contest on test-vote measures throughout the session.

Among the pledges for Mr. Kubli are a number of representatives who may bolt his organization when certain legislation crops up. A similar situation exists in the senate. This adds to the uncertainty of what may happen at Salem and prevents a pre-session forecast of the actual lineup.

Klan Sentiment Factor. Gossip among eastern Oregon senators is to the effect that no disposition exists to punish the members of the Eddy camp in committee appointments, and that Senator Eddy and his 13 signed supporters are likely to be as well taken care

of as if Senator Eddy himself was selected for president. The idea back of this is promotion of harmony. All is not serene in the eastern Oregon bloc, because the Klan-influenced senators are with Senator Upton, and there are some strong anti-Klan men also pledged to Senator Upton. The two elements do not mix, and about their only sentiment in common is the election of Senator Upton. This is one reason why Senator Upton may have trouble holding his organization together. But, after all, the line of cleavage in house and senate will depend on the character of legislation.

Inasmuch as Mr. Pierce has been advocating a reduction of expenses and taxes, a bill is to be introduced in the house proposing to reduce the salary of the governor to \$5000 a year. No such recommendation will

be in the message of the governor, however. Also, Mr. Pierce's proposal to create salaried jobs for highway commissioners will be opposed, not only because it is inconsistent with his promise of economy, but for the reason that non-salaried commissioners have been found heretofore. Some Opposition Certain.

On Mr. Pierce's proposed severance tax he will also run up against opposition and he will find opposition on his particular plan for a state income tax—the difference of opinion in the matter being as to a graduated tax or a flat tax.

Mr. Pierce is expected to recommend a number of economies and where these are workable he will have the legislature with him, for the general feeling is to make reductions where efficiency will not be impaired. How far consolidation of boards and commissions can be

carried out is for the future to determine. Mr. Pierce will advocate consolidation and it is reported that he favors a super-commission, to be appointed by the governor, this super-commission to handle all state affairs except those especially delegated to the state treasurer and secretary of state.

As the matter of salary cuts and reduced appropriations rests largely with the ways and means committee, there is a scramble among senators and representatives to be assigned to this committee. There is almost as great a demand for places on the committee on taxation and assessment and the third popular committee is roads and highways. Lawyers, of course, want to be on the judiciary and revision of laws committees.

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