

SOLONS OF BEAR NOT WISE TO STATE GATHER ALTER CHARTER

Will Probably Enact Direct Primary Law--Japanese Question Up

SACRAMENTO, Cal., Jan. 5. — The Thirty-eighth California legislature met here yesterday with the prospect of sensational contest over the anti-race gambling bill and the direct primary measure, as the result of the reform element to end the domination of state politics by the Southern Pacific railroad machine. Numerous other matters of vital interest make the session one of the most important in many years.

Among the other prominent matters to be taken up are the consideration of measures curtailing the privileges now accorded Japanese, the passage of a bill almost completely revising the criminal laws of California, and the election of a United States Senator.

A vigorous fight is to be made against Senator George C. Perkins, but it is generally believed that the organization has decided to send him back to congress and that when it comes to the final vote the Republicans in the upper house will stand almost unanimously for him.

Lincoln Roosevelt League adherents desire the direct primary act drawn by the executive committee of the reform party adopted in its present form.

Another job laid out for the legislature this year is the passage of a new set of laws governing banking in this state. At this special session of the legislature held during the financial depression in 1907, a joint committee from both houses was appointed to investigate with a view to ascertaining what revision of the California banking laws was needed.

Direct Primary Law

The legislature will enact a direct primary law, but the anti-organization members of the senate and assembly are somewhat dubious as to the character of the measure that will be passed.

Few Officers Sought

A feature of the opening day of the legislature was the noticeable absence of the army of job-seekers and would-be attaches that heretofore always has invaded the capital city when a legislature convened.

PRESIDENT'S INVITATION TO CANADA AND MEXICO

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—Announcement was made at the white house today of a proposed plan for a conference at the white house on Feb. 18 looking toward the conservation of natural resources of North America.

Letters suggesting the plan have been addressed by the President to the Governor-General and the Premier of Canada and to President Diaz of Mexico. They will be delivered in person by Gifford Pinchot, chairman of the National Conservation Commission and chief forester. He will go to Canada first starting tomorrow, and then to Mexico.

In his letter to the Governor-General of Canada the President says:

"It is evident that the natural resources are not limited by the boundary lines which separate nations, and that the need for conserving them upon this continent is as wide as the area upon which they exist. In view, therefore, of those considerations and of the close bonds of friendship and mutual aims which exist between Canada and the United States, I take especial pleasure in inviting you to designate representatives of the government of Canada to meet and consult with representatives of the state and other departments of the government, and the national conservation commission in the city of Washington on Feb. 5, 1909. The purpose of the conference I have the honor to propose is to consider mutual interest involved in the conservation of the natural resources and in this great field to deliberate upon the practicability of preparing a general plan adapted to promote the welfare of the nations concerned."

W. C. Talby of Eugene is looking over the Rogue River valley with a view of locating.

New Building Awaits Result of Election--If Drys Win Halt Will Be Called

To the Editor: Why should the present charter of the city of Medford be amended or changed in any way?

That will be the principal question to be decided here at the election to be held next Tuesday, and to a large extent the prosperity of the city depends on the action taken by citizens at that time and to result of their decision.

That being the case, it is certainly the duty of every voter to consider the matter carefully during the week intervening and then cast a vote, not for mere sentiment, but for common sense for business reasons and for the center of the three links of the chain, the continuation of the present prosperity and the remarkable progress now being made by the city of Medford—a record equaled by few, if any, towns in the United States.

To begin with, who are the leaders of this so-called moral movement? Are they, as a rule, the men who represent the financial or the business interests of the community, or do they belong to that class who have little or nothing to lose? The latter is certainly the case, with the possible exception of a few whose zeal in which they honestly believe to be a good cause has made them forget the fact that discretion is the better part of valor, and, like Don Quixote, sally forth, clad in armor and helmet and armed with a spear, to fight with windmills.

What has been found so far to be any drawback to the present charter of the city of Medford? Simply that it allows the saloons to exist in the majority of the voters of the city decide that way. The saloons were here before any of the men came who are seeking by fair means and foul, by misstatement and misrepresentation to change the present order of things to suit their selfish purposes and personal ends.

What could be fairer than to leave this matter as it is at the present time, wholly in the hands of the people living in the city to decide for themselves as to what they want? If the policy of the city of Medford is to be decided by the votes of people living many miles outside, people who are not called upon to pay any share or part of the interest on the water bonds, to contribute to the sewer fund or help pay for the paving, in fact people without any interest whatever in the city or its affairs. Why allow the people living out side to say how the civic affairs shall be conducted?

As a matter of fact, there is one business firm which is now waiting on the decision to be rendered next Tuesday, the promotion of two business blocks, the erection of which depends, they say positively, on the vote at this election. The firm says: "If we want to locate in a dry town we can go to Ashland, to Grants Pass or to several other places we could name. The fact is, we looked those places over and could not see that they could compare with Medford. However, we would not think of investing our money if the city decides to make the change."

THE SERPENT IN VIRGINIA.

A pestiferous newspaper down in Virginia has collected some interesting statistics bearing upon the prohibition question, says the New York Sun. There is a probability that the good people who have the matter in charge in that state will not long be contented with the arrangement under which counties, communities, etc., may now exercise their own judgment in the matter of liquor, and will move to obtain the enactment of a law prohibiting whisky throughout the length and breadth of the commonwealth, whether the people in given localities wish it or not.

Actual results do not justify the optimistic but somewhat vague and irresponsible pronouncements of the evangelists. It takes, for example, 24 wet counties and 24 dry counties, gives their respective populations and the amounts in every case expended for criminal proceedings, and finds that by this standard the morals of the dry counties are no better than the morals of the wet counties. It discloses no difference between the two in the matter of public order and, presumably, decent behavior. Both the wets and the drys have improved during the last ten years but the drys have not improved any more than the wets. "Thirty-two of the dry counties sent 38 convicts to the penitentiary last year. A similar number of wet counties sent 28."

After ten years of the peace that prohibition is supposed to bring and ten years of the degradation attributed to liquor we find the balance of demonstrated virtue practically equal, though leaning slightly



SEWING THE STARS ON THE AMERICAN FLAG.

The picture shows the interior of the cottage once occupied by Betsy Ross, the patriotic Philadelphia woman who is reputed to have made the first American flag bearing the stars and stripes. The house is now the property of a patriotic association and has become one of the show places of the Quaker City.

ly to the wets. As regards the economic aspect of local prosperity then the amounts paid into the state treasury through the medium of assessment and taxation, localities contribute to the common revenue according to their condition and ability. If they are opulent they pay much. If they are pinched or behind hand they pay little accordingly. There are 100 counties in Virginia. Thirty-five of them do not meet expenses—that is to say, they receive from the general treasury more than they pay in. Twenty-eight of these counties are dry and one of those, Scott, obtains from the state treasury \$9000 a year. But the fact is that all the dry counties put together pay into the state's strong box \$94,000, whereas the wet counties altogether pay four times that sum—\$395,000.

In other words, the dry counties do not show any superiority as regards morals, public order and reputable conduct, while the wet counties furnish four-fifths of the state's total revenue. It is quite conceivable that the prohibitionists in combination with the anti-Saloon league may concoct some overwhelming answer to these lathsome statistics. We hope so, if only for the gayety of nations.

LONDON, Jan. 5.—At a meeting today of the women tennis players of England an invitation will be extended to Miss May Sutton to bring a team of women lawn tennis players to England next year to play in international matches on the lines of the Davis tennis cup series.

If she accepts this offer to come to England, a team of English women, of whom Mrs. G. W. Hillyard will be captain, will go to America to return the visit.

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RUSSIANS CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS TOMORROW

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5.—There are two Christmases at the Russian Embassy, presided over by Baron de Rosen, but the real celebration comes tomorrow. The fact that the joyous festival is, by reason of the use of the Russian calendar, somewhat belated, does not, however, affect the enthusiasm with which the celebration is carried out. The Russian ambassador has made elaborate preparations to celebrate Christmas day, and Countess Elizabeth de Rosen, the charming daughter of the Russian representative, is expected to entertain her young friends.

NOTICE

The Hotel formerly known as the Taylor House in Jacksonville, Or., has changed management and will henceforth be known as the **ABBOTT HOUSE** under the management of C. D. & M. E. ABBOTT. The house has been remodeled and made modern and up-to-date in every respect and rates are as reasonable as customary with first-class service.