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IS END IN SIGHT?

Fulton's Fight Reaching a Crisis.

RED-HOT DAYS AT HAND

If He Wins, It Will Probably Be This Week.

MAY BE ALL-SESSION CONTEST

Strong Effort to Break into Multnomah Delegation—Ex-Governor Geer Has No Purpose of Withdrawing.

SALEM, Ore., Jan. 25.—(Staff correspondence.)—If Mr. Fulton is not elected United States Senator during the current week, it will in all probability be an all-session fight, and his prospects will diminish as the days go by without result. It is not likely that Mr. Fulton will agree with this view of his chances; but it seems to be the consensus of opinion among informed observers of the progress of the campaign, that he must make it soon or not at all. Withal he is now within sight of success. This is not to say that he has to do so in a week, but he has made a careful and a gaining fight from the beginning last Tuesday, and nothing has so far occurred to stay his onward progress. It is not thought by anybody that he has reached the summit of his strength, and it is the general expectation that he will tomorrow add one or more recruits to his ranks. If Mr. Hume returns from San Francisco, where he has been for several weeks, confined to a sick bed, he will have another supporter, just at a time that is critical for the Astoria candidate, and it is commonly believed that he can without great difficulty pick off one or two more from the Geer column. The Fulton opposition says his maximum is 36 votes, or 37 at the outside. The Fulton people say it is 46, and that when they get them it will of course be easy to win the remainder of Republicans. Of course it will be no doubt about it. Fulton will not need them, but the opposition will not take the trouble to keep them away from him. The Fulton managers think, too, that when they get 37 or 38 many Republicans will fancy they see the band wagon gliding down the corridors of the capitol, and there will be a grand rush for seats thereon. In other words, they believe that when about 38 enroll themselves on the Fulton lists the rest will be easy. Maybe so. Never prophesy unless you know, says a sage who has doubtless acquired a great reputation for wisdom by prophesying not at all. We shall soon know, and then we shall all be beyond the need and temptation of telling what is going to happen.

It has not been the history of Senatorial fights in Oregon that any candidate was elected until he was elected. It is within the memory of all that in the historic contest of 1882, Senator Mitchell for days had 42 votes, and all the abundant resources of that skillful and successful political manager were fruitlessly exhausted in his 40-day effort to secure the remainder. In 1886 Senator Dolph on the opening day had a majority in the Senate and lacked one vote of a majority in the House. He had a total of enough to elect, if they had been cast in joint convention, for under the Federal law a candidate must have a majority in each of the separate houses, and, failing that, there must be further ballots in conjunction. On the following day, Senator Dolph had 45 votes, and he was finally beaten. Two years ago Mr. Corbett had a maximum of 36, but he could not procure enough. The reply of the Fulton people to these citations is that the conditions in all these cases were entirely different. In 1882 a fierce personal war was waged on Mitchell. In 1886 the silver issue divided men and parties, and these irreconcilable elements could not be brought together. In 1891 there was a determined purpose to defeat Mr. Corbett on the part of the opposing political faction. Now Mr. Fulton's friends say that there is no personal hostility to Mr. Fulton from any source and that no principle whatever is at stake, in so far as it may be declared that he does not represent the united sentiment and purposes of his party. The chief question that has arisen between him and the opposition is a mere quibble about geographical location, they say. He lives at Astoria; therefore, he does not live at Portland. They think that the reasons for a minority holding out to the last, which have been present in past campaigns, will be absent in this, and that Mr. Fulton will on that account have little trouble in making up the small deficit after he attains 38 or 40 votes.

Mr. Fulton will no doubt some time during this week make a determined effort to mass his strength and scatter the opposition. His problem is to break into Multnomah County, which has so far presented a solid front against him. This unity, however, is unity only in so far as it has formed a policy of keeping away from Fulton. Various distinguished citizens of Portland have been presented with a harmless, though pleasing, testimonial of the high esteem in which they are regarded by the delegation at Salem. If any prominent resident of suitable sex, age and vocation thinks he has been overlooked in the grand free-gift distribution of bouquets, let him speak now or forever after hold his peace. But, joking aside, this policy, while a trifle mysterious, has so far been none the less effective as against the Clatsop Senator. It appeared to the delegation to be the safest way to foster the sentiment for a Multnomah County man, and it seems now to be the fact that the members of the delegation are much nearer together than they were at first. Doubtless there have been impossible last Monday to swing the Multnomah men to any one person. It may be impossible now. No man hath appeared as yet for whom the Multnomah Republicans are ready to raise, their 19 individual voices, and declare that he shall be United States Senator if they can make him so. Perhaps they will never reach that largely desired perfection of harmony—that is highly desirable from the standpoint of Multnomah County, or a majority of its people.

Just here is where there is a collision between Mr. Fulton and the dominant sentiment of Multnomah County—or rather the sentiment that the opponents of the Astoria Senator say is dominant. His friends deny, first, that it exists, and secondly, that it can be made, by reason, for it, if it does exist. They cannot see, they declare, why a Senator that is good enough for Astoria and the rest of Oregon is not good enough for Portland. The reply is that Mr. Fulton in the very nature of things—because of his Astoria environment, Astoria influences, Astoria prejudices, Astoria ambitions and purposes—could not, if he would, effectively and heartily represent the interests of Portland, while the interests of the state so far as the Columbia River is concerned—and river improvement covers pretty much the whole question of Astoria's rivalry of Portland and hostility to its commercial welfare. It is admitted in this connection that Mr. Fulton has frequently gone on record for an open river. Then, aside from this, it is asked why any Senator can be made, by a member from Multnomah, prefers support to Mr. Fulton. It is urged that the opposition to him is by no means confined to Portland. It extends to members from all parts of the state, and no question of claims for commercial precedence by Astoria or Portland enter into their reasons for taking that position. For example, the 17 votes for Geer and the three scattering are not from Multnomah County, and are not likely to be—all of them—at this stage of the game. It is clear that the Geer votes—except possibly two or three—have no present tendency toward Mr. Fulton, even as second choice. If Mr. Geer were to step out of the race, no doubt a few of his supporters would be released to Mr. Fulton, but the bulk of them would just as certainly seek a new candidate. But if Mr. Geer were now to abandon the contest, Mr. Fulton might perhaps not need more than a few. Ex-Governor Geer says he is in the fight to stay. With him the vote last June was no idle and meaningless declaration of the popular will, and he considers that, while the Legislature may wobble around for awhile before it settles down to a serious purpose to abide by the decision of the people, it is in his hands now. The matter is not in his hands now, is his argument. It is in the Legislature's, he could not withdraw if he would.

Multnomah County will occupy this week a front seat in the center of the stage. Mr. Fulton's friends say he can be elected without Multnomah County, but he does not want to be nor expect to be. He has voters there, they think and say, that will vote for him when they are needed. His figures of his prospective Portland vote range variously from six to ten. The Fulton opposition disputes this claim, and says that he will probably get none, though it is conceded that several Portland members have a great personal regard for Mr. Fulton and one or two of them might in the end be induced to vote for him. But they rely on the pressure of local sentiment, not of the Astoria line, and as for the rest there seems to be no question. As between these two opinions no reliable conclusion can now be drawn. It is up to the delegation to decide. It is not probable, however, that Mr. Fulton can be successful unless he secures votes from Multnomah.

If in the foregoing canvass of the situation the inference is drawn by any reader that it is his opinion, that Mr. Fulton will win, or that he will not win, it should be corrected. I have endeavored merely to point out that the fight, as I view it, is extremely critical from the respective standpoints of Mr. Fulton and the opposition to Mr. Fulton. E. B. P.

MAY STOP FIGHT

Solution for Venezuelan Trouble.

AGREEMENT THIS WEEK

Report That Blockade Will Be Raised Today.

UNITED STATES TO TAKE HOLD

Sunday Activity Among Diplomats at Washington—Who Is Responsible for Bombardment of Fort San Carlos by Germans?

BRUSSELS, Jan. 25.—A dispatch to the Petit Bleu from Berlin states that an agreement in the Venezuelan trouble will be reached next week, and that a commission appointed by the United States will be charged with the administration of all the maritime customs in Venezuela.

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ROME, Jan. 25.—The Patria asserts that the Venezuelan blockade will be raised tomorrow (Monday).

ACTIVITY IN WASHINGTON.

Appearance Tend to Confirm Story of Early Settlement.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25.—A long conference between Minister Bowen and Sir Michael Herbert, the British Ambassador, beginning at noon, followed by further conferences between Sir Michael, Signor Mayor des Planches, the Italian Ambassador, and Count Quadt, the German Charge d'Affaires, indicated diplomatic activity in Washington today over the Venezuelan matter. All the negotiations decline to discuss the results of today's meeting, but general statements by them in the preliminaries, necessarily are of the allusive throughout the present negotiations. While acting at all times under instructions from their Foreign Offices, they have expedited matters greatly by their straight-forward manner of dealing with Venezuela's representative. This fact has especially appealed to the Washington officials, who, while not participating in the preliminaries, necessarily are of great interest in their results. Although Germany is sending a special envoy here to conduct the negotiations for her, Minister Bowen has taken occasion to express his absolute satisfaction with the manner in which Count Quadt has represented his government. The German Charge, of course, has been acting under instructions from Berlin, but the point was made today by Mr. Bowen and by officials of the Washington Government that the activity of Germany's representative in the preliminaries, necessarily are of great interest in their results. Although Germany is sending a special envoy here to conduct the negotiations for her, Minister Bowen has taken occasion to express his absolute satisfaction with the manner in which Count Quadt has represented his government. The German Charge, of course, has been acting under instructions from Berlin, but the point was made today by Mr. Bowen and by officials of the Washington Government that the activity of Germany's representative in the preliminaries, necessarily are of great interest in their results.

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PANTHER BEGAN THE ATTACK.

So Say Venezuelans, Who Allegedly Have Proof.

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WOLCOTT IS OUT

Gives Up the Battle in Colorado.

SAYS TELLER IS ALL RIGHT

Opinion That Manner of Election Was Legal.

MIGHT HAVE BEEN DIFFERENT

Candidate Wolcott Charges Treachery on the Part of Certain Legislators and State Officials as the Cause of His Defeat.

DENVER, Jan. 25.—The climax in the Senatorial fight in Colorado came tonight when ex-Senator E. O. Wolcott, the candidate of the so-called "stairway" wing of the Republican party, announced his practical withdrawal from any further contest and urged the people of Colorado to accept the situation as it stands by the election yesterday of Senator Henry M. Teller to succeed himself by the joint session of the Democratic Senators and Representatives. The announcement was made in a signed statement in which Mr. Wolcott charges certain Republican leaders associated with the anti-Wolcott forces in the Republican ranks with treachery, deliberate and continuous, although he disposes of others of the anti-Wolcott crowd by characterizing them as "dupes" of the main conspirators. He refers to the refusal of the anti-Wolcott members of the House to unseat the Democratic members from Arapahoe County and calls it "a crime against the Republican party and justice."

Mr. Wolcott declares that Lieutenant-Governor Haggott, when he withdrew from the Senate Chamber and with less than a dozen Senators, whose seats were undisputed, organized another Senate, was assured of support by his associates in the state government, which support "fell away from him," however.

Continuing Mr. Wolcott says:

"There were three joint sessions of the General Assembly. At the last one 51 Democrats voted for Teller. No other joint session had been held and no Republicans had voted in a joint session. The election of Mr. Teller was tainted with fraud; first, in the trickery of adjournment by the Democrats of the House; second, in the arbitrary and fraudulent expulsion of two legally elected Senators. There is, however, now no other legally constituted Senate, as might have been but for this conspiracy (referring to the alleged combination between Democrats and anti-Wolcott Republicans), and it is now too late to undo the wrong, and by unseating the fraudulently elected members from Arapahoe County (naming the said election) Governor Peabody, 'Wicked and unforfeitable as is the wrong done the Republican party, yet from the point of view of the highest citizenship there is but one thing to be done and that is for the people to accept the deplorable situation and the Governor of the state to issue a certificate of election to Mr. Teller.'

Mr. Wolcott says that important matters requiring legislative action will be considered and will demand all the time and attention of the Legislature, therefore the Senatorial contest should not be further continued.

Speaking of Mr. Teller, the ex-Senator says that in no sense was he a party to the frauds above referred to, although he was the beneficiary. He pays the following tribute to the Senator-elect:

"He has served Colorado nearly a generation at Washington and whatever may be our regret that he no longer marches in the ranks of the party which has so long honored him, every citizen of the state wishes him health and strength and believes that he is single-minded in his devotion to the material interests of the state."

Mr. Wolcott concludes his statement by saying that for himself he has not the slightest sense of personal disappointment nor does he cherish rancor towards anybody. He declares that he will always be found in the ranks of the Republican party of Colorado.

Henry M. Teller, who was elected for his sixth term in the United States Senate last evening at a joint executive session in which only Democrats participated, left the city last night for his country place at Grand Junction. Governor Peabody, who went to Canyon City to spend Sunday at home, was a passenger on the same train. The two distinguished citizens met on the train and Governor Peabody extended congratulations to the Senator.

"My election, I feel sure, was perfectly legal and regular," said Senator Teller in conversation with friends, "for I succeeded in getting the majority of the votes of both houses. I am entitled to a certificate from the Governor and shall expect it but if I fail to secure the gubernatorial credentials, I shall be able to take my case before the Senate, nevertheless."

"When asked if he would sign a certificate of election for Governor Teller, Governor Peabody replied:

"I will cross that bridge when I come to it."

It is understood, however, that the Governor will not be in haste to act in the matter, but will allow the fullest time for the determination of all the issues before he signs a certificate for any person.

The Colorado Senator's term does not begin until March 4, and he is not likely to need any certificate until Congress assembles next November, unless an extra session should be called.

D. B. Fairley, chairman of the Republican state committee, whose resignation has been demanded by a majority vote of the committee for account of his opposition to the candidacy of E. O. Wolcott for the Senatorship, has given out a statement declaring that the Republicans will not recognize Teller's election.

"In my opinion," he said, "the election was illegal and no attention will be paid to it by the state central committee or other faction of the Republicans in the House or Senate. The election is invalid for the reason that the proper officers did not preside over the joint session."

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Assistant-General announces list of many Oregon volunteers who have not claimed their money. Page 4.

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Civil Service Commissioners are unofficially announced. Page 8.

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