

DEBATE OF SPEAKERS FIGHT FOR PLUM

Abandons Ambition to Be Speaker When Plans for Caucus Fail.

CAMPBELL TO THE FRONT

Clackamas Man Now Most Formidable Opponent of McArthur for Head of Lower House in Coming Session.

Abandonment of the plan to sign up 40 Republicans for a House caucus and the elimination of Bean from the Speakership fight were two important developments yesterday in the contest for the organization of the lower house. This undoubtedly will result in the reintroduction of Campbell, of Clackamas, as McArthur's most formidable rival for Speaker. At the same time it necessarily involves the retirement of the House members, at least so far as Bean and his following are concerned. Whether or not they will flock to the support of McArthur or permit themselves to be delivered to the Clackamas County man remains to be seen.

Though abandoning the plan for a caucus of 40 Representatives, Republicans who would organize the House in a caucus are still confident of effecting an arrangement for the Speaker. Friends of McArthur are insistent that a caucus is the only proper way for organizing the House and will renew their efforts to secure the requisite signatures to such a call. They represent that as many as 34 Republicans in the House have indicated a willingness to participate in a caucus at the proper time. Only about 21, however, of that number have signed the call. McArthur's supporters expect to take their time about securing the requisite signatures for a caucus, which may not be completed until a few days before the Legislature meets.

Bean Fails to Get Caucus.

What is believed to amount to Bean's forcible retirement from the Speakership fight is the result of his failure to make good in his efforts to secure about a caucus of 40 members. When Bean fixed 40 as the minimum number of any caucus that should be considered binding he also agreed with the Republican Statement-Ofers of this county that in return for their prospective support he would show them a pledged support of at least 12 members of the House. This showing was to have been made by Bean Saturday, but he did not make good and the Statement members of this county are now making other arrangements. Had Bean been able to show the support he said he could muster, the Statement members who were supporting him on that condition intended to come into the proposed caucus the minute it was apparent that by such a combination they could defeat McArthur and nominate Bean for Speaker.

Failure of Bean to organize the support he had considered possible proved a serious disappointment to the Statement men, who wanted to see him succeed. But the fall-down of the 40-caucus plan means that the most important people than the defeat of Bean's aspirations. It has served to make them speculate if it will be possible for them by some combination to remain available to organize the House on the same basis that was proposed under the Bean programme. It is known that some of the Statement men earlier in the contest repudiated Campbell and would have nothing to do with his candidacy. Others, however, as a keen politician, and for that reason were distrustful of him. But with yesterday's turning of the tide, the men are disposed to forget the unkind things they had said and effect some kind of a deal with the gentleman from Clackamas.

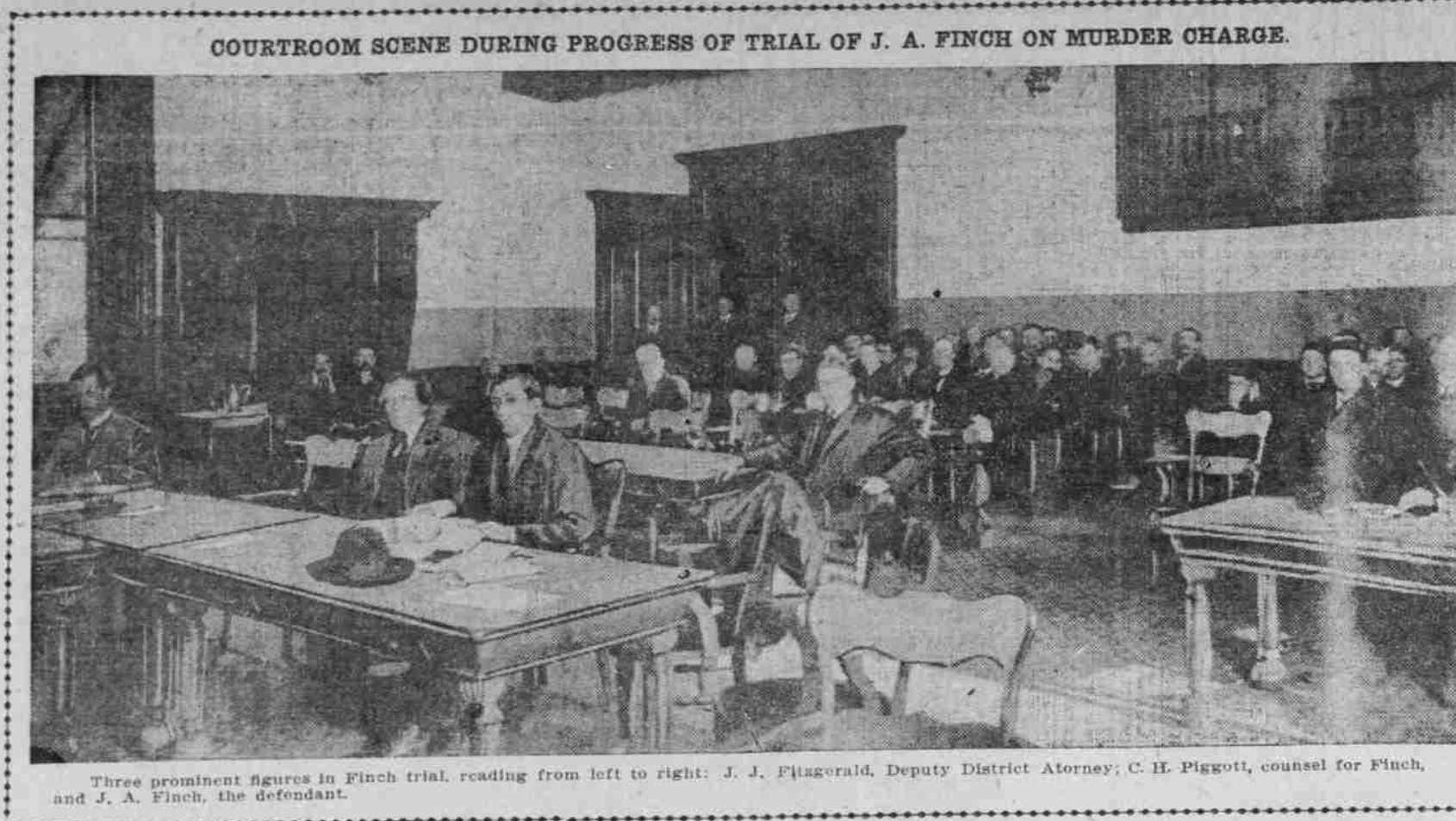
It remains to be seen if the standpat Statement men, numbering about 14 in the state, can obtain the same concessions from Campbell that were offered freely by Bean. The latter agreed in return for the support of the standpaters to give them the chairmanships of the State and the House committees and the same representation in the membership of each committee.

Campbell Wants No Caucus.

That the standpat Statement men, or at least a majority of them, may go to Campbell is regarded as likely from the fact that neither they nor Campbell are desirous of a caucus. It is charged against Campbell that he wants to throw the organization fight into the hands of the House. But even to get the support of the eight Democratic members. At any rate, Campbell has refused to sign the call either of the Statement men or of the Republican members for a caucus. His two colleagues, Jones and Dimick, of Clackamas, also have declined in any way to bind themselves to any caucus agreement.

In dealing with Campbell, the attitude of the standpat Statement men is undoubtedly well to be understood. What they want is to assist in making the Speaker and receive in return desirable committees. If it shows development in the course of their negotiations that Campbell could be nominated over McArthur in the House, the Statement people who have opposed a caucus would not remain out longer, but unless that strength can be assembled these forces will join with Campbell and make the organization fight a free-for-all contest on the floor of the House. In that event McArthur's friends profess not to be in the least alarmed. They will now busy themselves lining up a caucus of at least 21 members. McArthur reports that he now has 22 votes pledged to him for Speaker. It will be necessary for him to get only nine more, which he could win out either in a caucus of the entire Republican membership in the House, numbering 22, or in an organization fight on the floor of the House. Friends of the Multnomah County man are confident that he will be able to muster the necessary strength at the proper time.

One thing is sure, and that is there will be all kinds of political maneuvering during the next three weeks. The situation regarding the Speakership is such as to make any prediction difficult. Ever since the contest for Speaker began McArthur has borne the brunt of the fight. Apparently in every case he has been the man to be attacked, but he seems to have survived every onslaught and is the only candidate whose forces at one time or another have not been sadly disorganized. Friends of the Clackamas County man against whom no less than a half dozen rival candidates have been pitted, declare that if he eventually wins out it will be due to his small measure to the loyalty of his supporters.



Three prominent figures in Finch trial, reading from left to right: J. J. Fitzgerald, Deputy District Attorney; C. H. Piggott, counsel for Finch, and J. A. Finch, the defendant.

SHOT TO SAVE SELF

Finch Will Plead Self-Defense at Trial.

SAYS FISHER STRUCK HIM

In Cheery Interview, Prisoner Expresses Confidence in Outcome of Case and Says He Has Witnesses to Struggle.

Two more men remain to be selected for the jury which will pass upon the fate of James A. Finch, on trial in the State Circuit Court, before Judge Bronough, for the murder of Ralph B. Fisher. With ten men selected who are eminently satisfactory to both the prosecution and the defense and with the prospect of few technicalities arising to delay the trial, rapid progress is looked for in this sensational case. The completion of the jury, the opening addresses and perhaps the introduction of a little testimony will probably be as far as the case will progress today.

Has Witness to Encounter.

"I will produce ten or a dozen witnesses to testify to the condition of my head immediately after the affair and I will also produce from three to five witnesses who either saw the struggle through the window or were in the building at the time and heard the sounds of the struggle which Fisher forced upon me. I received a blow also on the back of my head and one on the side of the head and a contusion on the inner side of my right knee in the mix-up."

"I suppose it was a terrible experience for Miss Fisher, as I expect she would. I have no doubt that she tries to be truthful but she tells what is false as I understand her story. She no doubt was terribly excited and it is perhaps due to that she is not clear on what occurred but what she has told is absolutely false."

Satisfied With Speedy Trial.

"The speediness of the trial and the progress made so far are especially satisfying to me. Only one side of the story has been told and I am sure that the result will be as I hope. I have received a great deal of criticism in this case but I believe it is due to the fact that the witness on my side of it is revealed, the result will be as I hope. I have received a great deal of criticism in this case but I believe it is due to the fact that the witness on my side of it is revealed, the result will be as I hope. I have received a great deal of criticism in this case but I believe it is due to the fact that the witness on my side of it is revealed, the result will be as I hope."

PERSONAL MENTION.

Harry H. Collier, of Tacoma, a poultry judge licensed by the American Poultry Association, was in Portland yesterday on route Eugene, where he will act as judge of a poultry show this week. The show at Eugene begins Tuesday. He acted as judge last week at Payette, Idaho. The show there, he says, was of a high order and the fowls were high-class.

AT THE THEATERS

"A MIDNIGHT BELL" AT THE BUNGALOW.

Rev. John Bradbury.....Sydney Ayres
Deacon Lemuel Tidd.....William Dills
Squire Olcott.....Ronald Bradbury
Ned Olcott.....Donald Bowles
Stephen Labaree.....Earl Lewis
Napier Keene.....James Gleason
Martin Tripp.....Howard Russell
Doctor Wink.....Herbert Wilson
Ezekiel Siver.....Floyd Lynch
Nora Patford.....Louise Kent
Lizzie Webster.....Mina Cronin
The Widow Grey.....Lucia Webster
Nelle Bowen.....Ida Rainer
Hannah.....Ruth Lecher
Annie Grey.....Hazel Jewel
Dot Bradbury.....Maribel Seymour

BY ARTHUR A. GREENE.

IT WOULD BE a cheerless Christmas

indeed for the clientele of the Baker Stock Company if they could not see Billy Dills in his classic characterization of Deacon Tidd and Howard Russell was not in evidence as the mischievous yokel, Martin Tripp, in Hoyt's famous old rural New England comedy, "A Midnight Bell." For four or five holidays offerings the Baker company has presented its favorite and on yesterday afternoon, when it opened its latest week's run, a boisterously demonstrative audience was on hand, eager to applaud the excellent efforts of the various members of the cast.

The play is the most "legitimate" of the many things which Charley Hoyt wrote. It has a connected and probable plot and contains a considerable degree of human interest. Principally it is valuable because it reproduces a number of types which are to be found in country villages down East and are pictured without gross caricature. The part of Deacon Tidd, in which Mr. Dills has appeared annually ever since he has been identified with Portland theatrically, was written for L. R. Stockwell, but those who have seen them both will agree that the popular Baker comedian gives a more convincing performance than his illustrious predecessor. Dills has put such a degree of sincerity and honest effort into the personation that it is really great to be ranked with the really great comedy creations of the present-day stage.

It is interesting among those who appear is Howard Russell, in his inevitable part of Martin Tripp. I've always maintained that Russell clowning his part is a bit. He has played it as often as Dills has the Deacon, but it was noticeable that yesterday he adhered more closely to the uncouth character of the fat boy. He deserves a large share of credit for the success of the bill. It began to look as if the crowd would never let him go when he stepped into the ring and was compelled to improvise a number of verses in response to encores. Ronald Bradbury, as the old Squire, demonstrated that he is developing into a capable character actor.

Mina Cronin Gleason was exorcistically funny as the elderly spinster, who daunts, but they were more than usually delightful as the harrowing scarum sister of the minister, Louise Kent played the school mistress credibly, while James Gleason was particularly natural and convincing as the young city lawyer.

The stage was admirably dressed. It's a splendid attraction and a most timely one. During the week it will run there should be no question about the patronage it will receive.

Hi Henry's Minstrels at the Star

BY LEONE CASS BAER.

AN up-to-date minstrel show, the organization of that immortal old minstrel man, Hi Henry, known to theatergoers for half a century, is being presented at the Star this week. The company gives a show that possesses merit and has a number of original acts and specialties that one usually finds only in high-class vaudeville.

In accordance with all the established laws of minstrelsy, ancient and modern, the performance opens with an ensemble act, introducing the Imperial Rajah, and his royal court entertainers and serenaders. Those men sing some catchy new songs and crack some old jokes. All but one man, Pat Crawford, "the only one Dixie," has a lot of local stuff and some other remarks that are original and new.

"The Hoary," the closing chorus of the first act, as the Tipton Glee Club, is especially good. The last half of the show is a general round of fun and interest. Henry Nelson, who is the actor of acrobatic ability, does some remarkable stunts on a slack wire and feats of contortion that have never been beaten by any performer here.

Hold and Bester are two men with restless feet and anaemic voices, who introduce novel steps in the near terpsichorean act of wooden shoe dancing. The Davis Brothers, Charlie and George, have one of the best hits on the bill. They are musically inclined and get a lot of good music out of bells, a flute, saxophone, slide trombone, concert and a few other things lying around handy. Napanee is an Indian fantasy with characteristic scenery and costumes that are pleasing. The Alabama Sextet, who dress like peppermint sticks, are good and their song, "When the Moon Plays Pee-a-Boo,"

PICKS SELF AS WINNER

KAY WILL NOT CONCEDE HIS OWN DEFEAT.

VETERAN MARINE ENGINEER

Sketch of Career of Harry Coates, Who Came Here in 1873.

PORTLAND, Dec. 20.—(To the Editor)—Knowing the Oregonian's kindly feeling toward the older citizens of Oregon, I wish to pay a slight tribute to the life and character of Harry Coates, the well-known marine engineer, who died in this city December 12.

Mr. Coates was born in Paterson, N. J., and when he died was in his sixtieth year. As a young man he partially served an apprenticeship with the Danforth & Cooke Locomotive Works and came to Oregon probably about the year 1873. I first knew him in 1876, he at that time being fireman on the engine at the Cascade portage. Soon after John Gates, chief engineer of the O. & N. Co., selected Mr. Coates for steamboat service, and about 1878 he was given charge of the engine-room of the Dixie Thompson, and then he was transferred to the Oklahama, about 1880, when she was built.

After service until '88, Mr. Coates was for a time engineer of plants ashore, being engineer of the Oregonian building when it was opened, going later to the power-house under the superintendence of Julius Thielson. Returning to river and coastwise service, Mr. Coates' last position was on the George H. Mendell for United States Engineers Department.

Mr. Coates was a man of pronounced mechanical ability, a good reasoner and quick to decide and act in emergencies, and like Jim Bluden, his religion "was to treat his engine well." Possessed of a strong will, he did his duty as he saw it, without fear or favor.

Learning his profession in the old school, he was associated with such captains as wrote, McNulty, Fessan and Babbiagar; Engineers Pardon, John Marshall, De Buff, McDermott, and Purser O'Neil, Knages and Dillingham. Were these men in service today, they would probably be styled astronauts by the present generation of steamboat men, but there never was, nor will be, a better school in which to learn the discipline which goes with best service than the O. & N. Co.

Mr. Coates leaves a widow and grown son and daughter to mourn his departure. As a member and the past president of Marine Engineers' Benevolent Association No. 41, he will be missed in their councils, and in bonds of unity and friendship, his remains were borne to their last resting place by his brethren of that order.

"No farther seek his merits to disclose Or draw his frailties from their dread abode."

I am glad to have known Harry and shall, with many others, cherish his memory fondly. Peace to his ashes.

EAM F. GILL.

Financial and Social News.

Washington Star. "I see you are still engaged in high finance." "A little," confessed Mr. Comrox. "How are things going?" "Same as usual. I'm doing my best to keep my name out of the newspapers and mother and the girls are doing their best to get their in."

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HAND IN TURKEY'S REFORM

An Appreciation, by His Namesake, of Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, Missionary.

ALBANY, Or., Dec. 19.—(To the Editor)—I read with much interest the editorial in yesterday's Oregonian entitled "Turkey's Strange Reform." Strange as it may seem, like many another reform, it is not the product of a day and no one had more to do with laying its foundation than the progressive spirit than did Rev. Cyrus Hamlin, after whom I was named.

Graduating from Bangor Theological Seminary early in 1838, in the same class with my father, Rev. Elikanah Walker, who with my mother came as missionary to Oregon that same year, Rev. Hamlin in 1839 went as a missionary to Turkey. He established a school first at Bebek Constantinople. During the Crimean War he made a tour of duty with the British Army with bread, with a profit to the mission and the satisfaction of the army authorities. Returning to America, he made his home at Lexington, Mass. He wrote two books that make very interesting reading: "Among the Turks" and "My Life and Times."

I have a letter that came to me after my mother's death in 1897, a letter that Rev. Mr. Hamlin wrote my father, dated Feb. 1, 1842, in which is the following regarding my only sister, Abigail B. now Mrs. James A. Karr, of North Yakima, Wash., and myself: "My dear friend and brother: Too long has your long and kind letter been unanswered, and though pressed beyond measure with distracting cares and arduous duties, I seize by force, but very gladly, the time requisite to return all your fraternal regards with true sincerity of heart."

It is, perhaps, rather late to congratulate you on the birth of a son, since a daughter has since been added, but I will offer my heartfelt congratulations for the new addition. But what shall I say of the man? I little thought that my poor name would ever be heard beyond the Rocky Mountains, except in occasional conversation. To find it has become a household word is very pleasant and gratifying.

May the Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob bless the lad, and cause him to grow in stature and in favor with God and man. May he have more than all the virtues and none of the failings of his namesakes, and become a chosen vessel to bear the name of Christ before the dark and ignorant inhabitants of the Pacific Slope. With such a benediction and my early training it would be strange if I did not possess the missionary spirit, rather than that of money-making. Mr. Hamlin died several years since at his Lexington home. He rests from his labors and his works do follow him."

CYRUS HAMLIN WALKER.

COLD WAVE AT MEDFORD

Waterpipes Burst and Applegate River Partially Frozen Over.

MEDFORD, Or., Dec. 20.—(Special)—Southern Oregon is experiencing the coldest weather for several years. The temperature has dropped to 12 above zero twice since Thursday. Some inconvenience has been experienced in the homes from burst water pipes. The Applegate River is frozen well toward the center, notwithstanding the fact that its fall causes it to be considered a swift stream. The days are clear and beautiful.

Manila—A court-martial Monday began to try Major Charles J. T. Clark, of the 24th Infantry, at Mariveles, for drawing checks upon the Wood National Bank at San Antonio, when he knew that he had no funds in the bank, contracting unnecessary debts and dilatoriness in answering official communications.

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