

ATTACK ON PRIMARY LAW IS PREDICTED

Opposition in Washington
Legislature Is Strong.

CAPITAL CITY IS QUIET

State Officials Attend Banquet at
Tacoma Given in Honor
of Legislators.

OLYMPIA, Wash., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—With practically all the state officials at Tacoma, where members of the legislature were guests at the biennial banquet given tonight in their honor by the Tacoma Chamber of Commerce, the state house and hotels in the capital city have all the quiet aspect of Sunday or a legal holiday. Although professing no other purpose than to become acquainted with the new members, mingle with them socially and welcome them to Olympia, there is the precedent of past sessions to justify the suspicion that the officials did not neglect the opportunity offered to inform legislators of the pressing needs of their respective departments.

The prediction that an effort will be made at this session to secure an amendment or repeal of the state primary law was given support with the arrival of Representative Mires of Kittitas county, who is strongly opposed to a continuation of the law as it stands upon the statute books. Mr. Mires was a member of the state constitutional convention 21 years ago. Opposition to the primary law has been voiced by other members, and the movement undoubtedly will have considerable strength.

Expense Not Only Objection.
The tremendous expense involved in the primary plan is not the only objection raised, although it is the one which will appeal more directly to the taxpayer. Expenditures of large sums by candidates for some of the offices at the last general primary tended to give color to the objection that the law operated as a handicap to the poor man in politics—although the results would not seem conclusively to demonstrate that theory.

It is certain the law will be amended in some of its provisions, particularly with a view to preventing voters affiliated with one party from participating in the primaries of another party. This proposal is intended primarily to shut out the radical elements from seeking to control nominations of other parties. When the law once becomes the object of attempted change, the final result is problematic.

Many leaders of the majority party favor a return to the convention system. Shortly after the result of the November election was announced a campaign was started to elect E. H. Gule of King county speaker of the house, and pledges of support were obtained from a sufficient number of members-elect to insure his selection.

Several weeks ago a large majority of members of the senate joined in a petition urging Senator Taylor of King county to consent to be elected president pro tem of the senate. On the showing made, no opposition to either Gule or Taylor for the respective positions developed and one of the interesting topics of speculation was early eliminated. Both Gule and Taylor are veteran legislators, though neither is old in years. C. R. Maybury will again be chief clerk in the house and Victor Zednick, secretary of the senate.

With the organization of both houses largely determined, little talk has been heard of party caucuses. With no contests to be settled matters of policy will be the only thing to require caucus consideration.

For the democrats, the process of caucusing on any question will be somewhat unique in the simplicity of procedure. When the democratic party in the house desires to hold a caucus, Representative Banker of Okanogan, will retire and agree with himself upon the policy to be pursued and thereafter the party will vote as a unit on all questions. Banker is the only democrat in the house. A similar procedure will take place in the senate, where Senator Oharra of King is the only democrat.

The farmer-labor party has two members in the house and one in the senate, all from Pierce county. The report of the public service commission, which will be released for publication Saturday, will suggest to the legislature the propriety of enacting provision for the issuance of a certificate of necessity and convenience for the establishment or abandonment of public utilities. Efforts in the past to have a statute enacted containing such provision have met with defeat. As the question has not been under discussion in connection with the deliberations of this session, no line on how it will be regarded is available.

Authority Is Sought.

The commission contends that regulation cannot be efficient where the regulatory body lacks authority to prevent needless duplication of public utilities. The commission, it is understood, will also recommend that automobile transportation be placed under the jurisdiction of the public service body and that the issuance of stocks and bonds of utility corporations be subject to supervision by the commission. The supreme court having decided recently that the commission had no jurisdiction over rates and service of ferry boats under the public service commission law passed in 1911, the commission urges the desirability of legislation conferring such regulatory powers. The court held that the old ferry boat statute which placed them under the jurisdiction of county commissioners was still in effect.

Indications are increasing that the fight over the proposed educational code will develop into one of the warmest of the session. Mrs. Josephine Coville Preston, state superintendent of public instruction, has announced her opposition to the new school code as drafted by the commission appointed by Governor Hart and is prepared to fight the plan all the way in its course through the legislature. The commission's plan as affecting the administrative features of the school system proposes to abolish the state superintendent as an elective office and make it appointive by a board of education of seven members to be named by the governor. Mrs. Preston declares this an attempt to remove control of the schools from the people and to make the educational system of the state a political plaything.

FISH LEGISLATION BIG ISSUE

Grays Harbor Lawmakers Ready
With Conservative Programme.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—Grays Harbor legislators will take a more active part in fish legis-

lation than in any other to be brought before the coming session of the state house and senate, according to interviews with State Senator Loomis and Representative Stieglitz. Loomis and Morris of this county. Morris will be the champion of the fish interests, and as a practical fish man has outlined his campaign on measures affecting the industry.

Morris will oppose any radical changes in the fish and game administration of the state, especially appointment of a fish and game commission to serve without pay. He says that some changes are needed, but that radical revision of the fish and game code is not needed and is inadvisable. Morris also seeks erection of rearing ponds instead of further additions to the hatchery expenses are wasted unless the spawn are cared for after leaving the hatcheries.

Representative Stieglitz is most interested in the revision of the state educational code, and favors removal of the state superintendent of instruction from politics.

Senator Loomis and Representative Dollar have no hobbies in legislation, but are expected to protect Harbor road interests. Loomis declares himself an advocate of reduced taxes and therefore of administration economy.

AUTOMOBILE IS WRECKED

POLICEMAN'S CAR IS HIT BY
MACHINE IN REVERSE.

Patrolman Scott's Flivver Saves
Driver From Colliding With
Central Station.

J. R. Scott, patrolman, saved the Portland police station from a shake-up yesterday afternoon, but lost two front wheels from his automobile in so doing. He really doesn't consider it an action in the way of duty, but feels that he played the role of the instant bystander.

When Scott left to patrol his beat in Woodlawn he parked his car under Captain Moore's window on Second street. All went well till E. C. McIntire, 661 Ladd avenue, passed by on Oak street about the middle of the afternoon. McIntire was following another car closely and when it double-parked at the southeast corner of Oak and Second streets, he found himself so close that he had to back up to get room to pass.

That was where Scott's car saved the police station, for when McIntire, who admitted that he was more used to driving a flivver than his new six-cylinder car, reversed his machine he found that everything he did only accelerated its backward motion. As a consequence his machine described a parabolic curve across the intersection of Second and Oak and timed to hit the station just under Captain Moore's window. Instead, it crashed into the left front wheel of Scott's car, swept it against the curb and stripped every spoke from both front wheels.

Alleged Forger Returned.

EUGENE, Or., Jan. 7.—(Special.)—Mrs. Minnie Mack, charged with forgery and arrested a short time ago

at Long Beach, Cal., was brought to Eugene last night by Mrs. George F. Croner, who was deputized by Sheriff

Fred G. Stickle to go after her. Mrs. Mack was accused of forging the name of the owner of a farm which

she occupied to an instrument pur-

porting to be an agreement to sub-

lease the place to another party.

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