WASHINGTON STATE VOTERS APATHETIC

Republican Victory Seems to Be Assured.

REGISTRATION IS 450,000

School Bills Expected to Draw to Polls People Uninterested in Candidates.

PUGET SOUND BUREAU, Seattle, Wash., Nov. 2.—Candidates for office and political party managers who have been finding cause for worry in the apparent indifference of Washington state voters should also find some cause for encouragement in the registration figures and in reasonable deductions therefrom. City registration has fallen off heavily from the figures of 1920, when the presidency of the United States and the governorship of the state, one United States senator and five representatives in congress were all involved; but country registration shows an increase, and the total registration in the state is much larger than in 1918, the last preceding political off year.

With the close of registration on October 17, Spokane had registered about 6000 less and Tacoma about 5000 less than in 1920. In most of the smaller cities there has been proportional shrinkage. The big slump is in Seattle, where registration is now about 27,000 less than in 1920. On the other hand, the country districts, wherein registration is necessary only once in four years, provided the voter turns up at each general election, have held their 1920 figures and added many new names.

City Registration New.

City registration is all new this year. The spring municipal campaigns were tame by comparison with many of the fights of former years and did not excite or scandalize the electorate to the point of heavy registration. Conditions were different in 1920, when radicalism was an issue in nearly every city campaign and the former laborites and non-partisan leaguers were busy in every part of the state.

In Seattle's 1920 city campaign, for example, more than 100,000 citizens qualified to vote by registering. James A. Duncan, radical secretary of Seattle's central labor council, was then a candidate for mayor against Major Hugh M. Caldwell. Caldwell won by a big majority. Duncan is now the farmer-labor candidate for United States senator and Major Caldwell is touring the state speaking for Senator Poindexter and the republican ticket.

Seattle Interest Keen.

The big national and state issue of 1920 ran Seattle's registration up to nearly 120,000 in advance of the fall elections. By that time Spokane's registration had reached 41,204 and Tacoma's was 38,400. This year's showing is Seattle 92,245, Spokane 35,147, Tacoma 33,427.

Registration returns made by all cities and country precincts to the secretary of state indicate an aggregate registration over the whole state of approximately 450,000, in round numbers. Party leaders and campaign managers have usually felt that they were doing pretty well to bring out 65 per cent of the registered vote on election day in an off year. On that very conservative basis the state vote November 7 should be around 290,000 to 300,000.

Even with no more than a 65 per cent vote it seems impossible to figure success for either of the parties opposing the republican. In 1920, with a total vote of 444,684, the republican vote for president was 223,137, considerably more than half, or a clear majority over all.

Jones' Victory Recalled.

Wesley L. Jones was re-elected senator with 217,069 votes as against 99,309 for his nearest competitor, the farmer-labor candidate. Going back to the off year of 1918, the total vote cast in the state was only 215,684. Of this number 112,966 were republican votes, as against 81,350 for the democratic ticket and 7870 for the socialists.

It is necessary to refer all the way back to the upset of 1916 to find any statistical ground for anti-republican hopes. Even in that year, with a total vote cast of 392,709, the republican vote for president was 167,208—only 16,180 less than was given the democratic candidate—while Senator Poindexter was elected with 202,287 votes as against 135,539 for his democratic opponent.

This year's party managers, properly concerned with the success of their party tickets, naturally appraise the situation on the evidence of general apathy toward the strife between individual candidates. There has been no wild rushing of voters to attend campaign meetings and hear the issues discussed; nor has there been any noticeable rush of contributions toward the several campaign chests.

Overconfidence Is Blamed.

Republicans ascribe all this to overconfidence. But overconfidence as to the election of a republican candidate—Senator Poindexter, for example—doesn't necessarily mean that republicans are going to stay away from the polls on election day. Party managers, in a word, are not giving enough credit to the pull of various unpartisan issues in which a good many thousands of voters are intensily interested. Initiative No. 46, the 30-10 plan, and referendum No. 13, affecting physical examination of children in school, are particularly powerful incentives to voting this year, and influential forces are arrayed on either side of the various other questions submitted directly to the people. All these things will bring voters to the polls, though they have no effect in bringing voters to strictly party rallies.

Judged by the figures of the more recent past elections and by reasonable analysis of present conditions, it would seem that better than a 65 per cent vote might well be expected. The same sort of judgment will indicate that, whatever the proportion of the vote to the registration, the republican share should run to half the total and will probably be a clear majority over the combined vote of the divided democratic and farmer-labor opposition.

CHURCH OFFICIAL QUITS

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF COUNCIL RESIGNS.

Dr. R. E. Close Takes Position as Worker With Anto-Saloon League.

Although announcement has not been made from any official source, it became known yesterday that Dr. R. E. Close had resigned as executive secretary of the Portland Council of Churches and that the registration was accepted at a meeting of the council last Friday. Temporarily the functions formerly performed by Dr. Close has been transferred to the shoulders of J. W. Palmer, social and church work secretary of the Y. M. C. A.

That straightened financial circumstances of the church council had something to do with the resignation was admitted by a member of the federated body last night. This man, a well-known minister, who did not wish to be quoted, said that Dr. Close's retirement was brought on partly because of the fact that the church council has been forced to make retrenchment in the expense of conducting the secretary's office and partly because Dr. Close, hampered as he was declared to have been by a diminished appropriation, found it hard to fill the shoes of his predecessor, Dr. Ralph C. McAfee, who quit the same position nearly a year ago to go to Kansas City.

Dr. Close has taken a position as field worker with the Anti-Saloon league of Oregon. In tendering his resignation the ex-secretary said he had received an advantageous offer.

"The salary of executive secretary of the church council," said the member before mentioned, "has been $2750 a year. In making arrangements for carrying on the work in future it was found necessary to reduce the expenses of the office and abolish the position of assistant secretary. Dr. Close, no doubt, felt that he could not continue in the office and do himself justice under these circumstances.

"Under the temporary arrangements made Mr. Palmer of the Y. M. C. A. will assume the duties of executive secretary of the council in addition to his other work until a permanent successor to Dr. Close is elected, or other plans carried into effect."

RAIL DECISION SOUGHT

CHAMBER DIRECTORS TO DEBATE ISSUE TODAY.

Unmerger Case Represented by Three Camps; Special Committee Report Opposed.

Directors of the Chamber of Commerce will endeavor to arrive at a decision this afternoon in regard to adoption or disapproval of the report of the special chamber committee on the railroad unmerger situation as it affects the interests of Oregon. The committee, after an exhaustive inquiry into all phases of the divorce of the Central Pacific from the Southern Pacific, made the recommendation that the Central Pacific be left a separate railroad system, the belief being expressed that this would best serve Oregon and its future.

The directors, however, were not convinced that the decision was the correct one and have since withheld their approval of the report, there being at least three camps into which chamber directors are divided. One favors an independent Central Pacific, another is for its retention by the Southern Pacific, while a third group believes it will be to the best interests of the state for the property to be entrusted to the Union Pacific.

A proposal has been made that the matter be put to a referendum vote of chamber members, but this is being opposed on the ground that the matter is highly technical and the rank and file of the chamber will not be prepared to vote intelligently upon it, since the subject demands a careful study.

MEMORIAL IS PLANNED

Chaplains Who Lost Lives in War to Be Honored by Churches.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 3.—Decision to establish a national memorial to the army, navy and marine corps chaplains who gave their lives in the service was reached today at a meeting here of the general committee on army and navy chaplains of the Protestant churches of the United States. Twenty-two chaplains made the supreme sacrifice, according to the committee's record.

The committee decided also to press claims before congress for larger appropriations in the annual army and navy budgets for the pay of chaplains.

Proebstel Farmer Dies.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Nov. 2.—(Special.)—Sam Moody, aged 50 years, a farmer living near Proebstal, dropped from a tree in his orchard yesterday and died a few moments later, presumably from heart failure. He was apparently in good health when he went into the orchard to pick some fruit. He was found in a dying condition some time later by Mrs. Harding, his mother-in-law. A doctor was called, but when he arrived Moody was dead. Moody's only ssurviving relatives are brothers who live in the east.

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100 BABIES EXAMINED

MOTHERS ARE TOLD HOW TO CARE FOR OFFSPRING.

Clinic Lecturer at Health Exposition Assisted by High School Students in Eugenics.

Subtract six from the number of months a baby is old and the number left is how many teeth the infant should have. That's the way you figure for babies under two years of age and the information was divulged by a young high school girl who attended the clinic held yesterday afternoon at the health exposition in the auditorfum under the auspices of the Co-operative Infant Welfare association.

Dr. C. U. Moore conducted the clinic and examined nearly 100 velvet-skinned prides of Portland. In calling attention of the mothers to the defects of their offspring the doctor frequently called on the members of a high school class in eugenics and the fact about teeth was one of numerous bits of information volunteered b ythe young students.

The babies examined yesterday were all far above normal, as they were being entered in the contest being staged by the health exposition to determine the most nearly 100 per cent American in Portland.

One of the most strongly accentuated features of the contest was the fact that breast-fed infants are far and away healthier and better looking than the poor mewlers that start o na bottle. One of the principal points of difference between the bottle-fed and the breast-fed baby is the tint of the skin. Those who take the food provided by nature are noted fo rthe delicate pink of their satiny coats. Babies fed on artificial milk have white skins.

Dr. Moore advised every mother who came before him of the advantages of breast feeding and declared that in only rare instances is their any excuse for bottle feeding. Mother's milk, he said, contains all the elements that make for healthy babies up to weaning time.

But in some cases other foods must be given to supplement this natural food. It used to be ten years ago, said the doctor, that no mother would think of feeding an infant under two years of age vegetables. It is modern practice to begin feeding vegetables at the age of seven or eight months. Many medical works on baby feeding are now out of date, declared the clinic lecturer.

Atablespoonful of raw cabbage juice a day is a good thing to give some infants. Tomato juice or that of oranges are also advisable under certain conditions. These and many other interesting and useful bits of knowledge were imparted by the doctor at yesterday's clinic.

MINER, 70, IS SUICIDE

F. W. DAVIDSON KILLS SELF IN OREGON HOTEL.

Ill Health Cause of Act, Declare Friends of Southern Oregon Prospector.

Suicide was the resort of F. W. Davidson, mining prospector, about 70 years old, as an escape from ill health and disability after a life of activity in the open air. He shot himself through the head with a .38-caliber revolver in his room in the Oregon hotel some time between 10:30 Wednesday night and noon yesterday. The body was found by hotel employes.

Friends declared that Davidson for the past year or more had feared the loss of the use of his legs. His act was evidently not premidated, for the police found a letter addressed to his widow, Dora E. Davidson, Whitehall, Mich., in which he told of plans to go south to spend the winter in California.

A chambermaid discovered the body when she went to make up the room about 1:30 yesterday afternoon. The revolver was beside him.

Davidson was last seen at 10:30 Wednesday night. No report of a shot reached hotel authorities.

Wesley W. Caviness, surveyor-general and a friend of the dead prospector, said that he had spent some time in Malheur county and other parts of southern Oregon. Asbestos and oil were his interests, he said.

CHECK SUSPECT HELD

Carl Baker Flees Twice, but Is Caught and Put in Jail.

Carl Baker, alias Miller, was arrested yesterday on a charge of attempting to pass a forged check on the Blaesing Granite company, Third and Madison streets, in payment for a "tombstone for his mother's grave."

After listening to the man's tale, H. J. Bleasing, manager of the company, went to the telephone to call F. H. Brandes, who Baker said was his employer and whose name appeared on the check. Then Baker dashed to the street. Bleasing ran after him. A horde of pedestrians joined in the chase.

Two blocks away Baker was caught. While waiting for the police patrol, he again broke away, but was caught and taken to the jail.

Creswell to Have Chautauqua.

CRESWELL, Or., Nov. 2.—(Special.)—Creswell will have a winter Chautauqua under the management of the Ellison-White company, the dates being November 15 to 20 inclusive. The local organization was perfected Monday with the following officers: C. H. Sedgwick, president; Mrs. Ethel Everson, vice-president; Clay Stone, secretary, and Leonard Zinkiker, treasurer. The entertainments will be held in the Woodmen hall.

WILKINS ADMITS CHARGE

ILLICIT RELATIONS WITH SISTER-IN-LAW CARRIED ON.

Acts, However, Declared to Have Nothing to Do With Accusation of Wife Murder.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 2.—Charges that he had illicit relations with his sister-in-law, Miss Helen Lange, are freely admitted by Henry Wilkens, on trial for wife murder, "but that has nothing to do with this case," Frank J. Murphy, Wilkens' counsel, said today in his final argument to the jury.

"Henry Wilkens succumbed to the same temptation that has changed the history of the world and has made thrones otter," Murphy said, "but that is not to be considered in determining the question of his guilt or innocence here."

Murphy referred to the testimony fo Frank Seebank, mechanic for Wilkens, as "reluctantly glen." Seebank testified that Arthur Castor, accused as a co-consipartor with Wilkens in the murder of Mrs. Wilkens, visited the Wilkens' garage both before and after the murder.

"Seebank did not have the bearing of a truthful man," Murphy said. "Statements by Robert Castor regarding Wilkens' relations with Miss Lange could have been gotten from Seebank."

Robert Castor is a brother of Arthur Castor. Both were prosecution witnesses.

"Walter and Arthur Castor planned to hold up Mrs. Wilkens on the ocean when she was shot," Murphy said. "They did not plan to kill her.

"We do not deny the testimony that Wilkens met Robert Castor at an isolated spot in the city after the murder, but Robert Castor merely tried to blackmail Wilkens on that occasion. He did not know Robert Castor's real identity until Castor appeared in court."

It was indicated to day that the case would not go to the jury until Saturday morning, as I. M. Golden, assistant district attorney, intends to occupy all of tomorrow's session in his closing argument.

CONGRESS AIDS FARMER

REPRESENTATIVE McARTHUR REVIEWS RECORD MADE.

Address at Gresham Deals With Republican Accomplishments Under President Harding.

GRESHAM, Or., Nov. 2.—(Special.)—In a campaign speech here tonight Representative McArthur enumerated the various pieces of legislation which the present republican congress has enacted in the interests of American agriculture. He discussed the emergency and permanent tariff acts, the act for the regulatio nof packers, the grain exchange law, the act by which the war finance corporation was revised and a revolving fund created for the purpose of making loans to farmers, the act conferring upon farmers the right to form organizations for the marketing of their products, the agricultural inquiry commission and the conference called by President Harding for the purpose of considering the problems of American agriculture. In summing up the record, he declared that no congress in the history of the government had enacted so much important legislation in the interests of American agriculture as has the present congress.

Mr. McArthur also discussed the general record of the present congress and stoutly defended its action in repealing the excess profits tax. He said that the repeal was recommended by President Wilson and his three secretaries of the treasury—McAdoo, Glass and Houston—as well as by President Harding and Secretary Mellon. He declared that the excess profits tax was a war measure and that its operation in time of peace only served to drive capital into non-taxable securities.

MASS MEETING TONIGHT

OPPONENTS OF SCHOOL BILL TO OUTLINE VIEWS.

Gathering to Be at Peoples Theater; Dr. Pence, Dr. Sisson, Mr. Montague to Talk.

Opponents of the compulsory education bill will outline reasons for the rejection of the measure at a mass meeting to be held tonight at the Peoples theater. Dr. Edward H. Pence, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian church; Dr. Edward O. Sisson of Reed college, and Richard W. Montague, lawyer and member of the library board, will be the principal speakers. Ben Selling will preside. The meeting will be open to the general public and is to be held under the auspices of the non-sectarian and Protestant committee for freedom in education.

There was an interesting debate on the bill last night at the First Methodist Episcopal church, Mr. Montague taking the negative and George B. Cellars the affirmative. Rev. B. E. Parker, pastor of the church, presided.

Opponents of the bill are preparing a whirlwind finish for their campaign. In addition to tonight's meeting at the Peoples theater two other meetings will be held in different sections of the city and four in outside cities.

At 3:30 P. M. today the women's service club will conduct a meeting in hall J of the Labor temple. Mrs. Laurence Phillips will be the principal speaker.

At 8 o'clock this evening Mrs. Grace Townsend will address another assemblage at the Brooklyn school.

An afternoon meeting will be held at Eugene today. Mrs. Norman F. Coleman will speak. At 8 o'clock tonight Milwaukie people will be told the reasons for voting against the measure at a public mass meeting to be held in the city hall of that city. Other meetings will be held at the same hour at Banks and Beaverton.

The Oregonian publishes practically all of the want ads printed in the other three Portland papers, in addition to thousands of exclusive advertisements not printed in any other local paper.