

OREGON GROCERS MEET THIS WEEK

Many Matters of Proposed Legislation Will Be Presented to Convention.

BIG ATTENDANCE EXPECTED

Merchants of State Will Turn Out in Force to Lay Plans for National Gathering in This City.

Grocers of the state will gather in annual convention in Portland during the coming week. The session promises to be one of the most important of the organization, both in point of attendance and interest. In addition to important matters to come up for consideration, there will be several novel features of entertainment offered the state grocers.

The third annual convention of the Oregon Retail Grocers' and Merchants' Association will open next Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock in the convention hall of the Portland Commercial Club. The convention will last for two days. It is not necessary for grocers of the state to be members of the association in order to attend, for Secretary Merrick, in sending out the programmes, calls attention to the fact that all members of the fraternity are welcome.

Banquet at Commercial Club.

A special rate has been made by the railroads of the state, and an unusually large attendance is looked for. While in the city the visitors will be entertained by the retailers, jobbers and manufacturers of Portland. On the night of January 5 a vaudeville smoker will be given on the top floor of the Marquam building. Special preparations are being made to introduce new stunts and make this affair as novel as any ever given in the city. The following night the Manufacturers' Association of Portland will give a banquet to the grocers at the Commercial Club.

S. L. Kline, of Corvallis, president of the association, will be in attendance and will bring a good-sized delegation from with him from his section of the state. It is expected there will be over 100 grocers in town from the outside cities during the present week to attend the convention.

There is unusual interest in the convention from the fact that legislation will be discussed for recommendation to the grocers who will gather at Salem later in the month. Among other laws that will be discussed and no doubt recommended to the Legislature for passage is that providing for the government of the salaries of public officials, which is not now allowed. Grocers have suffered from this provision, which has in some cases allowed state and county officials to take salaries out of their bills. Salem grocers, particularly, complain against the law, saying they have lost a good deal of money in this way.

Want Law Against Peddlers.

Eastern Oregon grocers want a law against peddlers, and this subject will also be taken up. Merchants throughout the less thickly settled portions of Eastern Oregon complain of peddlers who come through that country with goods of various kinds that they hawk about and dispose of to farmers. The regular dealer complains that these peddlers pay no taxes and should not be allowed to sell their wares where they have no established business. The credit rating system, which has already been established by the grocers of the state, will be perfected at the convention. There is widespread interest in this system, which promises to do away with a large part of grocers' losses. By this plan one who beats a grocer out of his bill will be traced when he moves to another city and credit will be refused him. It is believed this system can be developed until it will become a valuable aid to the grocers.

The law passed two years ago requiring the Food Commissioner of the state to issue bulletins each month will be brought up. It is asserted that Food Commissioner Bailey has not complied with this law, and has issued only three bulletins since it was passed. It is thought a movement will be started to separate the offices of dairy and food commissioners.

Programme for Convention.

Wednesday, January 3, 10 A. M.—Convention called to order by President S. L. Kline, Corvallis, address of welcome in behalf of City of Portland, Mayor Harry Lane; Invocation, Rev. Clarence True Wilson; Business Session, President S. L. Kline, address of welcome in behalf of Portland Association; Reports of local associations in following order: Albany, Astoria, Baker City, Burns, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Forest Grove, Grants Pass, Hillsboro, Hood River, La Grande, Medford, Milwaukie, Newberg, Oregon City, Portland, Seaside, Tillamook, Salem, Silverton, The Dalles.

5 P. M.—Vaudeville smoker, top floor Marquam building.

Thursday, January 4, 9:30 A. M.—Resort of committee on resolutions; address of welcome by George Backus, president of the Oregon Retail Grocers' Association; reports of local associations in following order: Albany, Astoria, Baker City, Burns, Corvallis, Cottage Grove, Eugene, Forest Grove, Grants Pass, Hillsboro, Hood River, La Grande, Medford, Milwaukie, Newberg, Oregon City, Portland, Seaside, Tillamook, Salem, Silverton, The Dalles.

5 P. M.—Banquet at Commercial Club, tendered by delegates by the Oregon Manufacturers' Association.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Rev. C. C. Poling, of the Second United Evangelical Church, East Side, left yesterday for Dallas, to be absent over Sunday. Rev. F. M. Barrett will occupy the pulpit tomorrow.

Mrs. N. W. Osterhout, accompanied by her mother, Mrs. A. MacDonald, and sister, Miss Jessie MacDonald, left Wednesday evening to spend the winter in Los Angeles, Cal.

Dr. C. C. Newcastle is in the Good Samaritan Hospital awaiting an operation for appendicitis. Dr. Newcastle was taken ill about the middle of December, and was operated on about a week ago. His attack was very sudden, and many of his friends

were not aware of his illness until after the operation had been performed.

Captain George Conway, superintendent of the O. R. & N. water lines, returned yesterday from a trip through the South and East. He was accompanied by his wife and son, and was much improved in health.

Miss Lena Simpson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Simpson, 201 Fourteenth street, who has been attending Mills College in California, has been at home during the holidays. Miss Simpson will return January 5.

The committee states that hereafter all solicitors will have credentials bearing the signature of S. A. Arata, chairman, and all donors are requested to write their names and the amount given on the book or subscription lists bearing the signature of Mr. Arata. All checks should be made payable to D. M. Dunne, treasurer.

James B. Melkie, president of the Trustee Company of Portland, has been appointed Commissioner-General of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition. The papers of Seattle congratulate the management on the appointment, saying that Mr. Melkie proved his worth when he was secretary of the Seattle Chamber of Commerce, some years ago. He said Friday, when in Portland, that his efforts will be devoted to visits to the Governors of states west of the Rockies, where no appropriations have been made for state buildings at the coming fair, to urge prompt action in that regard.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—People from the Pacific Northwest registered at New York hotels today as follows:

Portland—Gregorian, T. S. Brooke, Miss G. Brooke, Mrs. E. H. Brooke, Miss M. Brooke.

Spokane—Imperial, A. H. Hoffman; Grand, K. E. Plank; W. D. Plank.

Seattle—Imperial, A. Kennedy, H. W. Burdard, H. A. Garland; Cumberland, Miss B. Worthington; Hermitage, C. F. Closs; Collingwood, G. H. Beach; Mrs. Gilley; Gilley, E. R. Jordan; Besslin, W. M. Johnson.

ALASKA IN NEED OF ROADS

DAN S. KAIN TALKS OF CONDITIONS IN NORTHERN ALASKA.

Lights to Mark Water Ways Also Necessary—Portland Has Good Chance to Get Trade.

"What Alaska needs more than it needs anything else just now, more than it needs railroads—because with other things railroads will come—is good wagon roads and trails," said Dan S. Kain, a well-known Alaskan miner, at the Perkins Hotel last night. "Give Alaska wagon roads and trails and they will do more to develop that great country than anything else in the world. We of Alaska are without great influence at Washington, but there is to be an awakening."

"I recently attended a meeting held at Seattle, at which over 150 Alaskans were present, and it was the consensus of opinion that unless the Government will take hold and help us, the great wealth of that vast country will not be fully developed. There has been a great deal of talk about railroads for our country—a country that produces \$21,000,000 of pure gold each year. It would be a great thing to have all of these railroads on paper become actual railroads on the frozen surface of Alaska, but they never will be at least not until the country and its resources are 20-fold more developed than they are now. Alaska has only been touched on the surface, and yet these surface settlements for they cannot be called anything else, give promise that the territory has wealth in its minerals beyond the want just now is recognition from Congress, and steps have been taken to make this possible. It would be a boon to Alaska if during this present session Congress would appropriate a million dollars to be used for the construction of wagon roads and trails and for placing lights along the water route into that country."

The Canadian government in developing its territory has marked its waterways with lights and has constructed trails and wagon roads, while the United States hasn't one single light or mark between Cape Pelly and Valdez, a distance of something like 1400 miles."

Mr. Kain has devoted much of his personal time and money to obtaining for Alaska wagon roads and trails. He has taken the matter up personally with President Roosevelt and his letter met with a hearty response. Mr. Kain had written the President, telling him of the needs of Alaska and furnished him with valuable data, and urged him to assist in obtaining a large appropriation to be used to build roads and trails in Alaska. The appeal was not in vain. All that Mr. Kain received this characteristic response.

White House, Washington, December 22, 1903—My Dear Mr. Kain: If there is any man in the world who knows more about Alaska than you, I know none. I am glad to hear of your interest in the matter, and I am sure that you will do all in your power to help us develop this great territory.

The rest of the letter was personal, but President Roosevelt intimated that just as soon as he could decide upon some one to take up the work of helping Alaska, he would see that something was done.

"Portland is a bit backward in reaching out for Alaska trade," Mr. Kain, after discussing President Roosevelt's letter, "but why I cannot understand. Of course Seattle gets the bulk of the trade now, but it is simply because Portland's business men have not made an effort to convert it to this city. I personally have always bought my supplies here, and I know many others who do the same thing. Still others would do their buying in Portland if they were given the slightest encouragement. We want the business interests of Portland to help us, and above all we want the Oregon delegation in Congress to work with the Washington delegation, and if it does Alaska will get the appropriation that she so badly needs."

WE RENT FINE PIANOS

Every Home May Have Music Now at Very Moderate Cost.

We are offering for rent for short or long terms, a large assortment of very fine, brand new, highest grade pianos, as well as less expensive kinds. A piano can now be secured at Ellers Piano House at a monthly rental of \$3.45, \$4.50 and \$7.50. Instruments delivered and returned free to parties renting for a period of six months or longer. All rent paid (less reasonable interest for amount invested) is allowed in the event of eventual purchase. Telephone or call at Ellers Piano House, 324 Washington street, Portland—largest and leading dealers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

Thompson, the internationally indorsed sight expert, guarantees to fit the most complicated cases. Second floor Corbett bldg., 5th and Morrison.

CARD OF THANKS.

Mrs. Rodney L. West and W. Norman West wish to extend to their friends their hearty thanks and appreciation for the courtesies and kindness shown them during their late bereavement.

Rummage Sale. See page advertisement, Page 3, Section 1. Tull & Gibbs.

BOTH HOUSES ARE TO ENTER CAUCUS

Senate Forces Strengthened by Addition of Senator Nottingham.

BOWERMAN VERY HOPEFUL

Friends Contend They Have Enough Votes Pledged to Elect Him President—Followers Say They Are Satisfied With Things.

Organization of both branches of the Oregon Legislature by caucus is believed to be assured. That the Republicans in the Senate will select their candidate for President in this way is a certainty unless some of the 17 members who have signed the caucus call desist. During the last few days Senator Nottingham, of Multnomah, joined the caucus call, bringing the total number of actual signatures to the call up to 17. Advocates for a B-House-caucus have not succeeded in getting the required number of signers, but assurances have been received from a sufficient number of non-signers to make certain a caucus by the Representatives.

In the contest for president of the Senate, Bowerman's friends are more hopeful of electing the Eastern Oregon man than they have been at any time since Bowerman launched his candidacy, which was shortly after the June election. They are so pleased with the situation that they cannot figure out how it will be possible for any other man to get the caucus nomination, which will be equivalent to an election. Of the 17 Senators who have signed the caucus call, the Bowerman forces say they have pledged more than enough votes to give their man the caucus nomination. He should the 22 Republican members all attend. In the final vote, the supporters of the Eastern Oregon man are claiming for him a total strength of 15 of the 22 Republican Senators.

Nottingham Strengthens Bowerman.

The decision of Nottingham to go into caucus is regarded as an accession to Bowerman's strength. Nottingham from the beginning has openly said that he preferred Selling for president, but Bowerman was known to be Nottingham's second choice. The failure of Kay and Selling to reach a satisfactory understanding regarding the presidency has in effect released Nottingham from his support of his Multnomah County colleague. At the same time the fact that Nottingham has signed the caucus call is not taken to indicate an outright alliance with Bowerman, although he will probably be found supporting Bowerman at the finish.

While admitting that the necessary number of signatures has not been obtained to make a House caucus binding, the McArthur supporters point to the fact that another week remains before the Legislature meets. They express entire satisfaction with the situation, which, they aver, will improve as the week progresses. It is apparent that the present activity among one of the State's foremost political leaders is by an absence of recognized leadership and possibly further disorganized by reason of petty jealousies among the various ones that would like to be Speaker, the McArthur supporters were busy organizing their strength until it has assumed such proportions that his election is assured, say the wise ones.

Statement Men to Take Chances.

The Statement men, however, take the McArthur claims of strength not too seriously and say they will be able to assemble considerable strength at the caucus. The men behind this meeting declare there will be over 20 of the Statement members of the Legislature in attendance. It is the intention of Bean of Lane, Campbell of Clackamas and Patton of Marion, leading Statement candidates, to go into the conference and take chances for the nomination with other Statement men.

Friends of McArthur expect to profit by any possible sore spots that may be left after the Friday conference of the opposition. That there will be several disappointments, whatever action the conference may take, is altogether probable, say the anti-Statement legislators, from the fact that there is no understanding among the Statement men to the effect that they shall be bound by the action of that meeting. Every one of the different aspirants for the nomination insists that he is the proper man for the place. Only one of them can be accommodated, though.

As a result, unless the assurance can be given that the Statement nominee can be elected Speaker and at the same time a promise of satisfactory distribution of committee jobs, the McArthur men expect to see several of the disappointed Statementites come over to the opposition at the last minute.



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Thompson Will Guarantee to Fit the Most Complicated Cases.

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Our regular \$10 and \$12.50 Suits at the nominal price of

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We promise you that these are the equal of the \$15 suits sold elsewhere.

SPECIALS IN CHILDREN'S CLOTHES

All Boys' \$10 Suits and Overcoats Now **\$6.95**
All Boys' \$7.50 Suits and Overcoats Now **\$4.95**
All Boys' \$5 Suits and Overcoats Now **\$3.35**
All Boys' \$3.95 Suits and Overcoats Now **\$2.60**

WHEN YOU SEE IT IN OUR AD IT'S SO

MOYER THIRD AND OAK 1st AND YAMHILL

ute and get what they can in the way of a game that cannot win out. That is the way the anti-Statement representatives regard the situation. They declare that it is absolutely impossible for the Statement following, through any possible avenue, to elect one of their own number, or McArthur, or any other anti-Statement anti-McArthur man who will agree to play the game of the Statement members.

That several of the Statement members will desert the cause the minute they learn the true situation is the confident prediction of the anti-Statement camp. This development is expected not later than next Saturday.

Immediately following the conference of Statement members.

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L. H. Campbell, pianist, pipe organist, one of Portland's best teachers, has been organist for some of the largest churches in the United States. Read his opinion of the wonderful Mason & Hamlin—costliest piano in the world. Katherine Guzman will play one at the symphony concert, Masonic Temple Hall, January 11.

Four years ago he played all the famous makes of pianos in the world, and on account of three or four being out of tune he played the Mason & Hamlin, with its wonderful "Tension Resonator." I am compelled to admit that it is the finest and most beautiful tone piano in the world and no other make can even be compared to it in any way.

How unfortunate it is that every pianist cannot own one.

(Signed) L. H. CAMPBELL.
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\$5.85

Which means a price reduction of \$6.00 to \$7.50. Former prices have been \$15.00 to \$16.50.

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