

SECRETARY'S BERTH APPEALS TO MANY

Lively Contest Indicated in Rumors About Capitol.

RULING PROBABLY STANDS

No Contest Expected Over Opinion by Attorney-General as to Governor's Status.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 8.—(Special).—The recent legal opinion of Attorney-General Brown, in which he held that there is no governor to be elected in 1920, and the formal announcement of Sam A. Koser for secretary of state at the republican primary elections to be held next May were the outstanding features in capitol political circles this week.

Acting under the advice of the attorney-general, Mr. Koser already has begun the task of preparing the necessary statements certifying to the county clerks of Oregon the state and district officers to be elected next year. The work on these statements has progressed sufficiently, according to Mr. Koser, to indicate that they will be completed within the next week or ten days.

Although the attorney-general has thrown down the bars and openly announced in his opinion that it is the privilege of any citizen and voter of Oregon to institute mandamus proceedings in the supreme court to compel the secretary of state to make provision on the ballot for the office of governor, it is not believed here that the ruling will be contested. This assertion is based on unofficial reports received from many sections of the state and conversations with some of the most prominent leaders of all political parties.

Should such proceedings be filed, however, it is the opinion of state officials that the supreme court would lose no time in hearing the arguments in order that a decision might be handed down several months prior to the primary election. The attorney-general based his opinion wholly upon the decision in the case of Chadwick vs. Earhart, and lawyers say the ruling is final unless the supreme court would go so far as to reverse itself in the matter at issue.

Chauncey Butler, in charge of the automobile department of the secretary of state's office, is preparing his announcement as a candidate for the latter office and probably will make public his platform some time next week.

"I intend to wage a campaign unique in the annals of political history of Oregon," said Mr. Butler today. "I not only have partly arranged to make addresses in all sections of the state and before all classes of people, but I intend to go further and challenge my opponents to open debate on the questions involved in the election."

Mr. Butler formerly resided at The Dalles and came to Salem about two years ago while Ben Olcott was secretary of state. He is a nephew of Justice A. S. Bennett of the Oregon supreme court and has a wide acquaintanceship in eastern Oregon. Mr. Butler has been a resident of Oregon for eight years and during the war served in the marine corps.

Although not having made any formal announcement as to his political aspirations, it is known here that Ed Wright, secretary of the Oregon public service commission, has received during the past few days many letters from eastern Oregon urging him to enter the contest for secretary of state at the republican primary election.

Should there be six or seven candidates for secretary of state from western Oregon it is not unlikely that Mr. Wright will decide to enter the contest, according to his friends. Mr. Wright has been connected with the public service commission for about two years, and formerly was county clerk of Union county for several terms.

There have been rumors about the capitol this week that A. H. Lea, secretary of the state fair board, has given up the idea of running for secretary of state and will accept his present berth for another term. These rumors are said to be based on the statements of members of the fair board, who have urged Mr. Lea to accept re-election when the body meets in annual session next January. The recent fair probably was the most profitable of any event of its kind ever held in the state and the board is said to be opposed to a change in the secretary's office at this time.

Mr. Lea is now en route to Chicago to attend the annual meeting of the board and nothing definite will be known regarding his intentions until his return.

"I have no ill-will against any candidates already announced or contemplating entering the contest for secretary of state," said Mr. Lea today, "and I will conduct my campaign free from personalities. Because of the increase in business in the secretary of state's office I will be unable to make any extensive campaign, but am willing to allow my candidacy to go before the voters on my record. Whether I will be able to visit all sections of the state before election depends upon the work in the office with which I am connected."

Rumblings from down Corvallis way indicate that an effort is being made to induce James Stewart, at present representative from Wheeler county to enter the contest for legislator in the lower house from Benton county at the next primary election. Mr. Stewart is recognized as one of the foremost good roads advocates in Oregon and now has in preparation an amendment to the state constitution increasing the highway indebtedness limitation from two to five per cent. He was active in the road campaign preceding the special election in Oregon last June, and to his efforts is attributed no little credit for the success of the measure. Mr. Stewart has not yet made any intimation as to whether he will accept the voluntary support of his Benton county constituents.

Like a man up a tree, J. H. Schilderman, state corporation commissioner, is said to be undecided whether to participate in the contest for secretary of state or enter the race for public service commissioner in opposition to Fred J. Buchtel, present chairman of the body. Both Mr. Buchtel and Mr. Schilderman maintain their legal residence in Portland, and each man is said to have an extensive acquaintanceship here.

Some friends of Mr. Schilderman say he has intimated that he would prefer opposing Mr. Buchtel for the reason that this contest would narrow down to the territory west of the Cascade mountains, while the race for secretary of state would necessitate a campaign in all sections of Oregon.

H. H. Corey, member of the public

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service commission, will be a candidate for re-election, according to his friends. His campaign will be confined to eastern Oregon, where he resided for many years prior to coming to Salem. Mr. Corey is expected to make an early announcement.

"You may tell the world that I am not at this time or will not be a candidate for secretary of state at the election to be held in 1920," said R. Lee Steiner, warden of the Oregon state penitentiary today. "Any reports that have gone out to the effect that I am entertaining the political bee are far from the truth and I have no knowledge of how they gained circulation." Mr. Steiner says he already has enough troubles, being the official custodian of a family of 240 convicts, as well as being responsible for a number of other matters in connection with the operation of the state government.

Reports reaching the statehouse indicate that John W. Cochran, ex-Portland newspaper man and until recently employed in a special capacity at the secretary of state's office, has about made up his mind to enter the race for county clerk in Multnomah county. Mr. Cochran was political writer on The Oregonian for a number of years, served in various capacities during the past several sessions of the state legislature and has a wide acquaintanceship among the political leaders of Portland.

The terms of four justices of the Oregon supreme court, Thomas A. McBride, Henry J. Bean, Henry L. Benson and Lawrence T. Harris will expire with the passing of the 1920 elections. Gossip here indicates that all of the men will be candidates for re-election, and as yet no opposing aspirants for the offices have been announced. Although the name of Judge Henry McGinn of Portland has been advanced in some quarters as a possible candidate, his friends say it is not likely that he will enter the race.

Maston Estate \$25,120.

The estate of Charles C. Maston is

valued at \$25,120.64, according to the inventory and appraisal filed in the probate division of the circuit court yesterday. Of this amount \$18,000 consists of property in Albina. The inventory filed in the estate of Effie Brandes yesterday shows \$17,500 in real property and \$5000 in personal property.

CHURCH HAS DIVISION

Eugene Members of Apostolic Faith Quit Portland Body.

"Because of certain unscriptural teachings of the Apostolic Faith mission in Portland," the Apostolic Faith mission of Eugene has severed all connections with the local mission, according to an announcement of Rev. A. J. Hegen and Rev. Fred Hornshuh, ministers in charge. The assertion is made in view of the recent suit instituted against the mission in this city because of alleged practices and teachings. According to the Eugene ministers, their mission withdrew from the parent organization several weeks ago on the same grounds on which was based the local damage suit and injunction proceedings, the Eugene ministry and members "refusing to countenance or acquiesce in certain unscriptural teachings."

ELOPER HELD FOR TRIAL

Frank Howe Faces Charge of Child Stealing.

ALBANY, Or., Nov. 8.—(Special).—Frank Howe, who eloped with Veneta Blackburn, 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Blackburn, who reside near Lebanon, and was arrested in Umatilla county this week on a charge of child-stealing, waived examination before Justice of the Peace Olliver here this afternoon and was bound over to await the action of the grand jury. He is in the county jail, but expects to furnish bonds soon. Howe and the girl were married at Walla Walla, Wash., October 31, soon



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