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## FROM THE STATE CAPITAL.

House to Organize.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 21.—There seems to be no doubt that this afternoon will witness two different organizations in the same hall. The Benson men will undoubtedly organize. They will be enabled to command 30 votes, with the assistance of Gratke (democrat) of Clatsop. There are 29 Benson republicans, Davis, temporary speaker, and Gratke will make 31.

Great pressure is being brought to bear on Gratke to stay out. He remains firm in his determination, saying that events have gone beyond party lines. He is here to do his duty and to secure legislation, not to block it. It is a cardinal democratic principle that the majority should rule.

No serious trouble is anticipated, as the Benson men are emphatic in their determination to avoid it. Their program is to elect Smith of Marion, temporary speaker and R. R. Hays chief clerk. Smith will be seated by the side of Davis. They will then proceed to organize permanently. They will ask one of the supreme court judges to administer the oath of office to them, and in the event they meet with a refusal they will wait upon circuit Judge Burnett who, it is understood, will swear them in. The carrying out of the program depends solely on the contingency of their being 31 members present.

The plan of the opposition is to prevent the attendance of 31 members. Failing in this they will rest their case on the legality of the proceedings of what they will designate as a rump body. The opposition say they have consulted ex-United States Attorney-General Williams and others on the legality of the proceedings. They agree that it would not be legal, and that Senator Hoar's telegram is based on a misconception of the situation.

A Benson Caucus.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 21.—As the result of a protracted caucus of Benson men, held last night, it was decided to make an attempt to capture the organization of the house today at 2 p. m.

Opinions received yesterday by Senator Mitchell from Senators Hoar of Massachusetts, and Thurston of Nebraska, to the effect that the house could be legally organized with 31 members, to a great extent influenced the Benson men in their determination to make the effort. The Benson men number only 29, and are therefore not certain that the necessary 31 members will be present at 2 o'clock today to make the attempt, but they think it likely that a majority will be present. The intention is to attempt to reconsider the action by which Davis was made temporary speaker, and if this is ruled out of order to go ahead and place another speaker by Davis' side and set up a rump organization.

The Benson men claim that in accomplishing their purpose no force will be used, but they neglect to explain how trouble can be averted in case Davis and his supporters resist, as they are almost certain to do.

Senator Mitchell's telegram of inquiry to Senator Hoar, as to the authority of a majority to organize the house was as follows:

"Salem, Or., Jan. 19.—Hon. G. F. Hoar, Chairman Judiciary Committee, United States Senate, Washington, D. C.: The constitution of the State of Oregon provides as follows:

"First, that the senate shall consist of 33, and the house of representatives of 60 members. Second, two-thirds of each house shall constitute a quorum to do business, but a smaller number may meet, adjourn from day to day, and compel the attendance of absent members."

"Can the house organize permanently, a majority only being present, and can such house elect a senator and lawfully do other legislative business, provided two-thirds of such majority are present? Thirty-one republicans, and four democrats (being all of the democrats in the house), 35 in all, are now present in the house, ready to organize while 19 populists, being all of the populist members of the house, and six republicans, refuse to come in and be sworn. While we believe the house has a perfect right to permanently organize, provided 31 or more members are present, and that two-thirds of such number will constitute a quorum to enable the house not only to elect a senator, but transact any and all legislative business, in order to avoid any possible fiction, the majority has been patiently waiting, in the hope of securing the presence of two-thirds of all of the members elected to the house before organizing. Any suggestion or advice you are willing to give for use here will be gratefully appreciated."

JOHN H. MITCHELL

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 19.—Hon. John H. Mitchell, Salem Or.: "I think two-thirds of the number actually qualified make a good constitutional quorum. If only 35 qualify, they may organize and lawfully do business. The same question and principle was settled in the national house and senate in the time of the rebellion."

GEORGE F. HOAR.  
The dispatch received by Senator Mitchell from Senator Thurston was as follows:

"WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—Hon. John H. Mitchell, Salem, Or.: Strongly advise the organization of the house with the members ready. Elect a speaker. Notify the senate and governor of the organization. Jointly with the senate agree on a time of voting for senator. If the bolting members hang out, appoint a committee to investigate, report a reason for their action, and declare their seats vacant. There is no doubt about the legality of such a course, and I believe such action would bring absentees in quickly."  
JOHN M. THURSTON.

The Morning Session.

SALEM, Jan. 21.—There was an air of expectancy around the house this morning when that body met. It was thought by some that the Benson men might try to force organization this forenoon instead of waiting until 2 p. m., as announced. This expectation was, however, not realized, and after a 15 minutes' session the house took a recess till the fateful hour of 2.

When the house convened, 29 members answered to their names. After the roll-call Crawford of Douglas made a statement. He said:

"We have waited here about 10 days for the members to come in and organize this house, and we have been under the impression that the majority can organize. After waiting for the others to see the error of their way and come in, we have sent for the advice of Hon. G. F. Hoar, who is considered the best authority in the United States on constitutional law."

Crawford then read a dispatch from Senator Hoar which is printed elsewhere. In commenting on the dispatch Crawford said:

"It seems that both sides of this controversy have had the same advice, and it seems to me that both sides should come in and organize this house. I give notice that we propose to meet in this house at 2 o'clock this afternoon and organize, and we take this opportunity of notifying all members that they may have ample time to come in, and if they do not, the responsibility will rest on them. If they do not come in we propose to organize and go ahead with the business of this house."

At the conclusion of his remarks Crawford moved an adjournment till afternoon. The motion was adopted.

SUGAR BEETS WEST OF THE CASCADES.

Mr. Ezra Meeker of Puyallup, Wash., recently stated in an interview that it was his opinion that sugar beets cannot be successfully grown for sugar purposes west of the Cascades. His opinion was based upon the supposition that a second growth would set in early in the fall, thereby injuring the beets. It is an ascertained fact, demonstrated by many experiments, that such a second growth would certainly lower the sugar content of the beets, but it is not by any means so sure that this second growth will begin early enough in the season to materially injure the beets. In fact there is positive evidence both in Oregon and Washington to prove the contrary.

While it is my opinion that the Willamette valley is not as well adapted to the manufacture of sugar as either Southern or Eastern Oregon, yet I have examined beets from various parts of the Willamette valley which show as follows: Lane county 16 per cent sugar, 80 per cent purity; Washington county, 14.40 per cent sugar, 88.85 per cent purity; Douglas county, 19.60 per cent sugar, 84.32 per cent purity. These beets were pulled between the middle of October and the first of November, and in each case they would be considered excellent beets by the manufacturer. During the season just passed I received some beets from Washington county that represent more nearly what may be expected from sugar beets when grown under the best conditions. These beets were grown by Mr. B. Kuhne, who for three years was an expert grower for the Oxnard factory in Nebraska, and for many years previous to that was a grower for sugar purposes in Germany. These beets analyzed as follows: 17 per cent sugar in the juice, 91.4 per cent purity; 16.6 per cent sugar, 89.2 per cent purity; 17.8 per cent sugar, 88.6 per cent purity. These beets had already received the first rains. After the second rains the same beets were sampled again and while giving uniformly lower results yet in each instance was the sugar content above 12 per cent, and the purity 80 or over.

The Washington showing is equally good, ranging from 16 to 18 per cent sugar, and the purity between 85 and 92 per cent.

I am confident that success would attend the manufacture of sugar in the Northwest—even west of the Cascades. Provided the enterprise has sufficient capital back of it, and is well managed.—G. W. SHAW, Chemist, Oregon Experiment Station.

Dr. R. W. Benjamin, late of the dental college at Atlanta Ga., has fitted up dental rooms in the Marsters block, where he is prepared to do all first class work in all the latest improvements, Crown and bridge work, gold and porcelain crowns, fillings and extraction of teeth at hard-time prices and all work guaranteed. Remember, room 1, Marsters block.

THE SECRETARY EXPLAINS.

Mr. Olney Advises the Committee on Arbitration Treaty.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20.—The senate committee on foreign relations today had under consideration the general arbitration convention between the United States and Great Britain. Secretary Olney explained to the committee the provisions of the treaty.

Secretary Olney remained with the committee until it adjourned. There was a general discussion of the provisions of the treaty, nearly every member questioning its probable effect. Nothing was brought out showing any definite plan of the committee, though questions put to the secretary indicated there would be opposition to many provisions of the treaty.

Secretary Olney supported his assertion that the treaty was in no sense in derogation or subversion of the Monroe doctrine, pointing out that article 7 expressly provided that if in the course of the arbitration of a claim it was found a decision involved a disputed question or principle of grave general importance affecting the national rights of each party, as distinguished from the private rights of which it was a representative, the jurisdiction of the simple arbitration, composed of two arbitrators and an umpire, shall cease, and that it shall be dealt with the more complex arbitration set down for settlement of territorial claims and composed of judges of the United States and British supreme courts.

The secretary pointed out that in this case a question arising under the Monroe doctrine would certainly be regarded as excepted from the scope of the scope of the simple original arbitration. Then, if it should come before the second tribunal, an adverse decision against the United States, and consequently against the doctrine, could be had only in the case of five of the six arbitrators so decide, an entirely improbable contingency, in view of the fact that this would involve casting two of the votes of the United States representatives against their own country. Then, to quiet apprehension that the United States might suffer from the selection as an umpire of King Oscar, who would naturally sympathize with the European side, the secretary pointed out that, after all, the only harm that could result to the United States would be a small financial loss, for the king is to name the umpire only in cases involving the pecuniary claims and other matters not involving any important principle, and in such cases either power could insist upon a substitute for King Oscar in any particular case.

Olney declared the treaty had been negotiated with great care for the protection of American interests and expressed the opinion that if ratified it would be found a satisfactory safeguard. He contended for its approval as an advance in diplomacy in accordance with the tendency of the times.

Olney was made to understand that the committee wanted the fullest possible information, and, having this, would be disposed to act upon the treaty on its merits.

The third topic discussed by Mr. Olney and members of the commission was the possible effect of the treaty on the Nicaragua canal. Mr. Olney admitted that any dispute over the canal would be subject to arbitration under the terms of the agreement, but he contended that the advantages secured were more than sufficient to counteract this defect.

Again referring to the designation of King Oscar as umpire, Mr. Olney said he was in rowing wedded to the selection, but that it had appeared better to provide an umpire than to leave the work of agreement on disputed points to the arbitrators, and that the Swedish sovereign had been accepted as a fairly disposed man.

The committee expressed a determination, after Mr. Olney left, to take up the subject at its next meeting, with a view to disposing of it as early a date as possible. It is considered probable that final action can be reached at one more sitting, but the members of the committee assert that there is now no disposition to postpone the report until the next session of congress, as for a time seemed to be the case.

It is generally agreed that the document will be amended in some particulars, and this will necessitate more or less delay. While Mr. Olney was before the committee he was asked whether the Venezuela commission had ever made a report to the state department, and replied that it had not.

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