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OREGON'S BIG SIDESHOW.
Or in Other Words the State Legislature.

Nine days have passed since the Oregon legislature convened and the house is still unorganized, with no more prospects of organization now than on the day the house first assembled. It seems to now have developed into a contest of endurance, and both sides express themselves as determined to hold out till the other surrenders. When the end will come no man will now attempt to predict. One thing seems to be certain, however, Bourne is complete master of the situation and it does not seem possible that the house will be able to organize without electing him speaker.

There are 28 republicans who sit in their seats and answer to roll call; there are four democrats that are present part of the time, and some of the populists are at times present. Bilyeu, of Lane, in speaking for the four democrats, states that whenever the republicans will bring in thirty-six of their members, that the four democrats will be promptly on hands to help organize the house, thus making a quorum of forty. Until they do this, the only thing the democrats can do is to prevent as far as possible, either faction from taking an unlawful or unconstitutional course of action.

The populists have issued an address and outlined their attitude in the fight. They, in substance, say that when that republican majority will guarantee certain remedial legislation, such as the abolition of useless commissions, cutting down needless expenses, and other reforms, that they will come in and help to organize the house. They say that the republicans who are now trying to organize, will not attempt any of the reforms promised last June.

The twenty-eight republicans who want to organize claim that their only desire is to organize and get to work, and that they stand ready to redeem the pledges made the people last spring.

Of course the senatorial fight lies at the bottom of the whole affair, and it is assisted by the commissions who would hold over should no organization of the house be made. Senator Mitchell has received the caucus nomination of forty-seven republicans, this being one more than enough to elect him. This is a very narrow margin, particularly when it is called to mind that no less than fifteen republicans refused to go into caucus at all. Should he lose two of the caucus votes he would fail of re-election. Considering the fate of the Dolph caucus two years ago,

it is not at all certain that the forty-seven will obey the caucus obligation. Should the house organize this week, or on Monday of next week, the vote for senator would occur on Tuesday, February 2nd, but should it not organize until after next Monday the vote would not occur until the 9th.

One thing that the house seems to have entirely forgotten, and that is that the people have any rights whatever, which they are bound to respect. Some day the people will make a reckoning.

What a miserable shame it is that those four democratic members of the lower house of the legislature don't go in and help those forty-seven republican members make up a quorum of forty, so that they can organize the house.

The state of Oregon and the whole Pacific coast is vitally interested in the passage of the Nicaragua canal bill. The matter is up in the United States senate and the struggle is a hard one—and Senator Mitchell 3,000 miles away.

The Union fishermen of Astoria will put up a large and complete cannery plant at that place to compete with the canneries controlled by the Cannerymen's union. The plant will be a modern one, and will have the effect of settling the price of fish on the Columbia river.

This is the way that the Salem Independent gets after some of the candidates for positions around the legislature: "It is a pitiable sight to see members of former legislatures now seeking for clerkships and menial positions around the legislature. A former senator is now seeking to be made doorkeeper in the senate gallery. Shame upon such a contemptible practice. The man who will descend to this is mean enough to pasture a goat on the grave of his grandmother. In some states, if a man were found mean enough to do this, the members of the third house would rise up and lash the merciless fellow to his den."

To the democrats and populists who have "sat up nights," as it were, to heap anathemas upon the head of Harvey Scott and the Oregonian, there is a certain amount of satisfaction in observing the vim and vigor with which a certain class of republicans are taking the job out of their hands. One good republican of many years' standing, of this place, made the solemn statement the other morning that he had actually detected the Oregonian in a lie. And he was so earnest about it that none of his hearers attempted to contradict him.

Mr. Lake, of Benton and Lincoln, will introduce a bill having for its object the protection of the Eastern oysters introduced into the waters of Yaquina bay. He has also a bill which seeks to make the experiment of employing the state's convicts on the construction of public highways. This bill constitutes the governor and superintendent of the state prison a board to serve without pay in designating the manner of the employment of the convict labor and superintending the work. The idea is to construct a road from the north limits of Salem to Portland, following the most direct routes. The measure contemplates a full report of the experiment by the board to the next legislature, as a basis for further legislature along similar lines. Mr. Lake will also stand sponsor for a bill providing for the payment of all road taxes in money.—Statesman.

Notice.
My wife, Mrs. Emma Pament, has left my bed and board without just cause or provocation, and I will not be responsible for any debts which she may contract from this date.
H. H. PAMENT.
Nashville, Or., Jan. 18, 1897.

50 lbs. of Coal
A day would keep your rooms warm in winter. But that small stove will burn only twenty-five. Hence, discomfort and misery.
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