

JOINT ASSEMBLY FAILED.

Necessary Forty-Six Votes Could Not Be Mustered.

The joint assembly of the Oregon legislature for the purpose of electing a United States senator at noon Wednesday came to naught. The Mitchell bill could only get forty members to support it. Seeing that it would be impossible to secure forty-six, the recess was taken until the evening, but the night session developed no change.

Senator Reed tried to get a statement from Chairman Brownell as to whether the house was participating in the assembly. Brownell would not say. Reed walked out of the room, leaving only thirty-nine present. Of the house members Lake was absent.

The session of the convention was adjourned. Senator Hasletine, who had been considered one of Mitchell's warm supporters, Hasletine was present. He did not vote for his name, and the chair called him if he wished to be recorded present. Hasletine said:

"Mr. President, there is no question in my mind as to the illegality of the proceedings, and I therefore decline to come in at present."

Huntington Withdraws.

Representative Huntington, of Washington, gave notice that he would withdraw from further participation. This is the first defection, and leaves but thirty-eight members willing to elect a United States senator by means of a joint assembly. After roll-call Huntington arose and said he desired to explain his position. He thought the Benson house was legally elected, and accordingly he had withdrawn last Tuesday for a United States senator. He considered it his duty to do so. The joint assembly had now met for the third time, the roll had been called and no announcement of the result had been made from the chair. He had voted for a senator on Tuesday, but his candidate was not that of the balance of the organization. This convention was being held in the interest of a single candidate.

In view of the situation he felt it his duty to withdraw. He did not approve the methods used in preventing the organization of the house or delaying the vote on senator.

Representative Lake has introduced in the house a bill to provide for the appointment by the governor of a state advisory board of five, who shall examine applicants for license in much the same manner as the medical board. Members of the board are given per diem, and necessary expenses.

Representative Somers has introduced a bill in the house amending the present law relative to the fencing of railroads. It is designed to make it more convenient for cattle to pass at crossings.

Initiative and Referendum.

The following is the text of Senator King's proposed amendment to the constitution—the initiative and referendum:

"Section 1. The right to approve, reject and repeal state laws, or to reject or approve proposed state laws, shall rest with a majority of the legal voters of the state.

"Sec. 2. The right to propose, reject or approve, as the case may be, laws of the state, shall, in addition to being exercised by the legislative assembly, rest with a number of the legal voters of the state equal to (and not less than) ten per cent of the votes cast at the last preceding general election, held for the election of the officers of the state and counties.

"Sec. 3. After the filing of such petition, the secretary of state shall designate a date for the holding of an election to vote thereon, which shall not be earlier than ten months after the adjournment of the last preceding session of the legislative assembly, nor later than one year thereafter; and no law, or proposed law, shall be voted upon at such election unless the petition therefor shall have been filed at least ninety days before the date fixed for such election. No election shall be held for such purposes oftener than once in every two years, at which time all bills shall be voted upon that have been petitioned for, and petition filed, within the time required herein.

"Sec. 4. No act passed by the legislative assembly shall become a law until six months after its approval by the governor, except in a case of emergency, in which event the facts constituting the emergency shall be stated in the act and the bill shall receive a two-thirds vote of the members elected by both branches of the legislative assembly; and within six months after its approval a petition shall have been filed, as required in sections 2 and 3 herein, an election shall be ordered as required in section 3 for the acceptance, rejection or approval of such law, or proposed law; and if at such election a majority of the legal votes be in favor of such law, the same shall then (and not before) become of full force and effect, but if less than a majority be in favor thereof, the same shall become void, provided, that if the petition against any law passed by the legislative assembly shall have been presented before the expiration of the six months after the approval of the act by the governor, in the manner herein required, such act shall not take effect before the date of such election.

THE HOLT ELECTION BILL.

Measure to Be Actively Urged by the Populists.

The Holt election bill is a measure of considerable importance that will be urged actively upon the attention of the legislature. It will be championed by the Populists, and they desire its passage more perhaps than any other bill. It has been endorsed by the Populist party throughout the state.

The proposed act relates to the appointment of judges by county courts. Its policy is to provide for representation by the three leading parties on election boards, and it is made obligatory upon the county judge to designate the person recommended by the chairman of the respective central committees. The clerks are to be appointed in similar manner from the two leading parties. The appointments shall be made on the first Saturday in May, instead of in January, as at present.

The important section of the act follows:

"Sec. 3. On the first Saturday in May preceding each regular general election, the county judge in each county in this state shall appoint in each precinct in this county three judges of election possessing the qualifications of electors. In every county the chairman and secretary of the county central committees of the three political parties, which cast the largest, the second largest, and the third largest number of votes, respectively, at the last general election in the state for justice of the supreme court shall each have the right and are hereby authorized to propose and recommend to the county judge of such county, in writing, the name of one qualified elector to serve as judge of election in each precinct in said county, and the county judge must and shall appoint the electors so recommended. In each county of this state the chairman of the two political parties casting the greatest number of votes for the justice of the supreme court, and the second greatest number, respectively, at the last preceding general election in this state, may also on the first Saturday in May preceding each regular general election propose and recommend to the county judge of such county, in writing, the name of one qualified elector to serve as clerk of the election board in each precinct in said county, and the county judges must and shall appoint the qualified electors so recommended. If any county chairman and secretary, as above provided, shall fail to file with the county judge, before the first Saturday in May immediately preceding each regular general election, the names of the qualified electors they recommend for judges and clerks of election in any precinct or precincts in any county in this state, the county judge of such county shall appoint said officers on his own motion.

The state senate on Tuesday, by a vote of 16 to 12, refused to proceed to the election of a United States senator. The Benson house, with thirty members present, took a ballot, and cast 29 votes for John H. Mitchell and 1 for George H. Williams, of Portland. The one vote came from Huntington, of Wasco.

Senator Carter has by request presented the following bill relating to the free ferry at Corvallis:

"That the county court of Benton county, Or., is hereby authorized and empowered to establish and maintain a free ferry across the Willamette river, at Corvallis, Or., and to accomplish that end shall have the power to buy, build or lease a ferry, grounds and equipments therefor, or may in the discretion of said court hire or employ other persons to furnish such ferry, grounds and equipments and run the same as a free ferry at all reasonable hours; provided, that in conducting said ferry it shall be lawful for said county court to prescribe rates of ferriage to be charged customers for crossing said ferry during the hours between 8 o'clock in the evening and 6 o'clock in the morning. Said county court is hereby authorized to do everything necessary to maintain said ferry as completely as a natural person could do."

Here is a bill by Senator Harmon that will be of interest to many:

"Section 1. Any person riding or driving any vehicle, whether such vehicle is drawn or propelled by animal or other power, using any of the public roads in the state of Oregon, when met by any other vehicle shall keep to the right, and, when overtaken by any other vehicle, he shall likewise keep to the right, allowing such rider or driver to pass him to the left, so as in both cases to permit such vehicles to pass free and uninterrupted.

"Sec. 2. Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of this act shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$50, or imprisonment in the county jail not more than twenty-five days."

OPPOSING THE CANAL.

Senator Vilas Puts in the Third Day of His Nicaragua Speech.

Washington, Feb. 5.—After a brief parliamentary struggle in the senate late this afternoon, the friends of the Nicaragua canal bill were unable to hold a quorum and sit out the obstruction to that measure.

The senate agreed to the house resolution fixing February 12 for the ceremony of counting the vote for president and vice-president before the two houses of congress. Although defeated for reelection, Senator Dubeis, of Idaho, was welcomed back to the senate today with marked cordiality, and with an abundance of floral tributes. His desk was literally overwhelmed with flowers, while tables, chairs and adjoining desks were brought into use to support the many unique devices into which the roses and violets had been wrought. A great cluster of violets was tied with a ribbon bearing in silver "1900." The main design, rising eight feet from the floor, was an arch, the pillars being white roses and the capstone of immortelles, bearing the word "Honor."

In the House.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The contested election case of Cornell vs. Swanson, from the fifth Virginia district, occupied the attention of the house today. Three Republicans and three Democrats on the election committee had reported in favor of Swanson, and three Republicans offered a minority report, recommending that the seat be made vacant on the ground that a fair election could not be held under the Virginia election laws. When the vote came to be taken the majority could not muster enough votes to call the ayes and noes, and Swanson's title to his seat was confirmed by an overwhelming viva voce vote.

To Sell Forfeited Opium.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The house committee on ways and means today considered the bill recommended by the commissioner of internal revenue to authorize the sale of forfeited opium to the highest bidders. The committee decided to report the bill. Great quantities of opium have been seized by revenue officials on the Pacific coast and there is no authority under existing laws by which it can be sold.

Morgan Accepts the Amendments.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Senator Morgan, in charge of the Nicaraguan canal bill, accepted the two amendments proposed by Teller, providing that a complete survey of the canal route shall be submitted to the president and approved before any bonds are guaranteed or work done; also that if the survey shows the cost will exceed \$150,000, nothing shall be done without authority of congress.

That New Cabinet Position.

Washington, Feb. 5.—A bill providing for the creation of a cabinet position to be filled by the secretary of labor was discussed today by the house committee on labor. The committee considered a suggestion that the department include commerce, labor and manufacture, but no action was taken.

Looks Squally for Scalpers.

Washington, Feb. 5.—The anti-scalper bill was under consideration in the senate committee on interstate commerce today, but action was deferred. The tenor of discussion indicated that a majority of the committee would be favorable to it with amendments.

For Improving Pearl Harbor.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Senator Frye today gave notice of an amendment which he proposes to offer to the sundry civil appropriation bill, appropriating \$100,000 for the improvement of Pearl Harbor, Hawaiian islands, in accordance with plans of Rear-Admiral Walker.

Brosius Defends His Bill.

Washington, Feb. 5.—Representative Brosius, of Pennsylvania, spoke before the committee on banking and currency today, favoring the adoption of his bill to facilitate international agreement to establish an international bank.

Editor Thorp Found Dead.

Cottage Grove, Or., Feb. 5.—This morning about 9 o'clock, E. P. Thorp, editor of the Cottage Grove Leader, was found lying dead, face down in a pool of water a quarter of a mile east of this place. A doctor who arrived at the place soon after said Thorp was stricken with a severe attack of apoplexy.

Thorp suffered considerably for some time, both physically and mentally. Last year he bonded about fifty acres of land, put it out in fruit trees, and was unable to meet his obligations, and the property reverted back to its original owner. He was a member of the Cumberland Presbyterian church, and belonged to the Masonic order, by which he will be buried tomorrow. Mr. Thorp was in the newspaper business about twenty-five years. He was about 55 years old. He left a daughter at Centralia, Ill.

California Crop Prospects.

San Francisco, Feb. 5.—With almost continuous rains for two weeks the crop prospects of California are considered excellent. This season's acreage of wheat has been largely increased over that of recent years, and conditions point to a bountiful cereal crop. Fruit also promises well, but it is too early to predict the yield.

TWO LIVELY DEBATES.

The Senate Takes Up Immigration and Canal Bills.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The feature of the senate today was a very spirited debate on the conference report on the immigration bill. Gibson of Maryland opposed the report, and Lodge defended it. After two hours' struggle the report went over, and the Nicaragua canal bill was taken up. Vilas continued his remarks. Teller also entered the debate in opposition to the measure. Early in the day Chandler introduced a resolution, the full text of which follows:

"That it is the sense of the senate that the United States should not permanently acquiesce in the single gold standard, and the efforts of the government in all its branches should be steadily directed to secure and maintain the use of silver as well as gold as standard money, with free coinage of both, under a system of bimetallicism, to be established through international agreement, with such safeguards to legislation as will insure a parity of value of the metals at a fixed ratio, to furnish a sufficient volume of metallic money and give immunity to the world of trade from violent fluctuations of exchange."

In the House.

Washington, Feb. 4.—The day in the house was very dull, the whole day being devoted to the debate on appropriation bills. The diplomatic and consular bill was passed and considerable progress made with the District of Columbia bill. The bill as passed carries \$1,673,708. Resolutions arranging for the formal canvassing of the electoral vote of the last presidential election were adopted.

THE TREATY SIGNED.

The Venezuela Boundary Dispute Is Soon to Be Settled.

Washington, Feb. 4.—As representatives of their governments, Sir Julian Pauncefote, British ambassador, and Senor Jose Andrade, the Venezuela minister to Washington, at 4:30 o'clock, at the state department, signed a treaty providing for the settlement by arbitration of the long-standing dispute over the boundary between Venezuela and British Guiana, which has not only ruptured the relations between the principals and kept them apart diplomatically for years, but has threatened to involve the two great English-speaking nations in hostilities.

The treaty was really complete several days ago, so far as all the details were concerned, except the insertion of one name, and there a blank was left to fill in with the name of a British jurist. Some difficulty had been experienced in finding the second member of the British supreme tribunal who was willing to assume the arduous task of arbitrator, and who also could be spared from the bench. It was not until this morning that word came over the cable that such a person had been found in Justice Collins, and that his appointment had been ratified by the British privy council, a necessary formality.

Outrages by Mohammedans.

London, Feb. 4.—A dispatch to the Daily News from Athens says that serious news has been received from Heraklion. It is stated that ten Christians were murdered Thursday while outside of the gates of the city, and that armed bands of Mussulmans leave the town daily for the purpose of plundering and burning villages of the Christians. The dispatch adds that these outrages are evidently in accordance with hints from Constantinople. The situation is so serious that foreign consuls have wired the governor-general of Canea for the introduction of immediate measures looking to the protection of the people. Foreign warships are now arriving at Heraklion, with a view of offering protection to the Christians there. The Christians in the districts in the vicinity of Heraklion are arming and occupying strategic places for the purpose of preventing an influx of Mohammedans to the towns, and a serious collision is feared in the near future.

Fire in a Mine.

Houghton, Mich., Feb. 4.—Four men are entombed in the burning North Tamarack mine, which caught fire today, and small hopes are entertained for their escape. It is thought probable they are already dead from breathing the confined gases.

Three Cheyenne Indians Frozen.

Deadwood, S. D., Feb. 4.—Word has just been received here showing the result of the severe weather on the Cheyenne agency during the recent cold snap. Three Indians froze to death in their tents, and a number of others will die from exposure. Thousands of head of cattle perished in the storm, and 300 were found in one place.

A Fire at Napa.

Napa, Cal., Feb. 4.—At 3 this morning fire broke out in the store of Abner Bros. A high wind was blowing and the fire department did good work in confining the fire to the store in which it originated. The loss to stock and building approximates \$2,500. Abner Bros. were insured for \$1,000.

Glass is blown by a new automatic machine.

BERTHOLDE, THE DWARF.

His Shrewd Answers at the Court of Alboin, King of the Lombards.

Mary Shears Roberts, in her series of "Historic Dwarfs," contributes an article on Bertholde to St. Nicholas. Bertholde was an Italian, and one day he made his way to the palace of Alboin, King of the Lombards, at Verona, and boldly seated himself in an empty chair next the throne.

The courtiers were as much surprised at his audacity as they were amazed at his grotesque appearance; but the Lombard chieftain smiled grimly upon the intruder and inquired of him "what he was, when he was born, and in what country?"

"I am a man," replied the dwarf, whereupon the attendants went off into fits of laughter. "I was born when I came into the world, and the world itself is my country."

King and courtiers now began to realize that they had a shrewd little imp before them, and they commenced to ply him with questions of all kinds. The asking of conundrums was a sort of trial of wit to which sovereigns were much given at this period of history.

"What thing is that which flies the swiftest?" asked one.

"Thought," replied Bertholde, promptly.

"What is the gulf that is never filled?"

"The avarice of the miser," was the ready answer of the quick-witted dwarf.

"What trait is the most hateful in young people?"

"Self-conceit, because it makes them unteachable."

"How will you catch a hare running?"

Inquired the King.

"I'll stay till I find her on the spit."

"How would you bring water in a sieve?"

"I'd wait till it was frozen," answered the dwarf, readily.

The king was delighted. "For so clever a rejoinder," he said, "you shall have from me anything you may desire."

"Oh, no!" cried Bertholde, with a mocking laugh. "I shall have nothing of the sort. You cannot give me what you do not possess. I am in search of happiness, of which you have not a particle. So how can you give me any?"

"How!" exclaimed the King. "Am I not happy on so elevated a throne?"

"Yes, you are, if the happiness of a man consists in the height of his seat."

Then Alboin referred to his kingly power and dignity, and the dwarf retorted with another mocking laugh; and when the King called attention to the nobles and courtiers about him, Bertholde, with a sneer, remarked: "Oh, yes, they cluster round your throne; so do hungry ants round a crab-apple, and with the same purpose—to devour it."

"Well said," spoke the King, keeping his temper; "but all this does not prevent me from shining among them, as the sun among the stars."

"True, but tell me, shining Sun, how many eclipses you are obliged to suffer in a year? For the continual flattering of these men must now and then darken your understanding."

"For this reason you would not be a courtier?" inquired his Majesty, whose fingers began to play upon his sword in a threatening manner.

"Miserable as I am, I should be sorry to be placed in the rank of slaves," replied the dwarf. "Besides, I have not the necessary qualities to succeed in this fine employment."

"What, then, do you seek at my court?" asked the King in an angry tone.

"Something I have not been able to find there," answered Bertholde. "I was told that a king was as much above common men as a tower is above common houses; I find, as I suspected, that sovereigns are honored more than they deserve."

This was a little too much. The King lost his patience, and commanded the dwarf jester to leave the palace immediately, or he would have him whipped out of court.

Portable Electric Light.

The German soldier already has a very complete, and, it must be said, complicated equipment; but it is proposed to add still more to the list of articles he carries. A portable electric light has been produced, the whole apparatus not weighing more than half a pound, and it is suggested that each soldier should carry one in his pocket. It is urged in favor of supplying soldiers with such a light that they would be of inestimable value to men in charge of powder magazines or artillery depots, as the danger of fire and explosions would then be reduced to a minimum. Moreover, they could be used in balloons, for signalling with colored glass at night, and they would also be very useful at trench digging, pontoon throwing, and so forth. The spectacle of a battalion working away with the spade by the light of an electric spark stuck in their helmets would, indeed, be both novel and picturesque.

Moral: Always Look Ahead.

The chances are that if you look behind you in life you will generally find somebody trying to make it unpleasant for you.—Milwaukee Journal.

It is officially declared by the Russian Government that cholera prevails in seven governments of South Russia.