

ELECTION MACHINERY TO BE OVERHAULED IN CONGRESS ERE LONG

Present Session May Not Get to Problem, But Next Session Undoubtedly Will.

STRUGGLE IS EXPECTED

Existing Manner of Choosing a President and Vice-President Admittedly Cumbersome and Out of Date.

Washington, Dec. 8.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL).—Reform of presidential election machinery, with a direct vote by the people for president and vice-president as the goal, will likely be undertaken as one of the tasks of the congress which comes into power next March.

This is the opinion of Senator Pomeroy of Ohio, who, in the natural course of events, will be chairman of the senate committee on privileges and elections in the next senate. He is now the third member on the majority side, but Senator Kern, the chairman, and Senator Lea, who ranks second, will retire at the end of the present session. "This will promote the Ohio to the chairmanship."

"Too many matters are pressing now to take up the question at this session," says Senator Pomeroy. "The people of the fact that Senator Shafter has introduced such a measure in the upper house. It would lead to long debate and could not be properly considered. In the next congress, however, this will undoubtedly be given consideration."

Present System Faulty.
The November election has emphasized the faults of the present system and for a time, at least, has centered attention on the cumbersome machinery provided for electing a president. All the reasons that led to its adoption at the time the constitution was adopted have gone, but the system remains.

At the outset the questions arising will be whether the state system of election shall be preserved, or a direct nation-wide vote be provided. It now appears that the plan of allowing each state a certain number of electoral votes, based upon its representation in congress, will be retained, as this will avoid the controversies arising over the different qualifications for voters prescribed by the states.

Oregon Senators Oppose Embargo.
The Oregon senators do not look with favor on the plan of placing an embargo on foodstuffs. They believe that combinations are playing a large part in the increase of the cost of living.

The farmer is entitled to some consideration, says Senator Chamberlain. "For a long time the country has been too little for the farmer, and now that he is enjoying prosperity, it would not be in his favor to destroy his markets."

"Combinations and corners" have had much to do with the price of food, and action to reach unlawful acts in holding farm produce and producing artificial prices will have my support."

Senator Lane says that when in Oregon last summer he did not find that farmers were receiving exorbitant prices, and he thinks that the middlemen are not so much to blame as the speculators further up, who have attained great skill in boosting prices after the products come into their hands.

Might Defeat Its Own Purpose.
Conditions may come when it will be necessary to restrict exportations, he says, but he does not believe in cutting off food supplies for people abroad so long as there is a supply that can be shipped.

Senator Thomas, of Colorado, discussing the suggested embargo, says he is in favor of doing anything that will reduce the cost of living, "even to a lynch law," but he does not think the time for embargo has arrived.

Representative Smith, of Idaho, contends that an embargo would defeat its own purpose, as it would discourage production. He believes in legislation for greater reclamation and irrigation development, to bring new lands into cultivation and so increase production to the greatest possible extent.

Mt. McKinley Park Recommended.
Secretary Lane, of the interior department, in his annual report this year, recommends the passage of the bill establishing Mt. McKinley national park in Alaska, and also making the

Grand Canyon of the Colorado into a national park. He has not renewed his recommendation of one year ago for the creation of Mt. Hood national park in Oregon, the only one at that time specifically mentioned. This is easily accounted for by the fact that Oregon was apparently unable to agree as to what was desirable in the way of bounding the park, and the inability of the secretary to recommend the plan of forming a park out of several detached areas, as provided in the bill introduced by Senator Chamberlain.

The secretary naturally leans strongly upon the advice of his assistant and park specialist, Stephen T. Mather, who has recently reiterated his disapproval of the detached park idea as unsuited to the general scheme of development of the national parks.

Scope of Newlands Investigation.
Investigation of the railroad situation by the Newlands committee has no relation to the program of legislation supplementary to the Adamson law which President Wilson has outlined to congress for action at the present session.

The Newlands investigation is a drag-net affair, which fishes around into capitalization, valuation, federal incorporation, government ownership, state ownership, and the various necessary earnings, and the various turns that lead everywhere.

The president's recommendations deal principally with three things: increase of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and the adoption of some additional avenues of conciliation before a general strike may be declared.

More Time Will Be Asked.
It is generally believed that the Newlands committee will ask for another year's time in which to make its report. Originally, a final report was contemplated in January, 1917. It is evident that the inquiry will be only a preliminary one, and that the committee will be asked to continue its work for two weeks were consumed in the preliminary statement and cross-examination of one witness for the railroads.

The waiting life of the committee is large, and the sessions of congress will necessarily interfere with the speed of the committee. Probably it will secure a final report in the next congress, so that additional follow-up testimony may be taken next summer and fall.

The president's message indicates that, if the railroad problem in the particulars dealt with are handled by congress at the present session, in addition to the appropriation bills, the president will be well satisfied. These measures he specifically mentions are not likely to consume much time.

FAILURE EXPECTED BY CHAIRMAN OF WOMAN SUFFRAGE COMMITTEE

Washington, Dec. 9.—Senator Thomas, chairman of the woman suffrage committee of the senate, will do what he can to advance the Susan B. Anthony amendment at the present session of congress. He does not expect to reserve supplies might be found there.

"The measure is on the calendar and it may be that it can be taken up and voted on by unanimous consent, without debate," says Senator Thomas. "Of course, without the unanimous consent it cannot be considered."

"I have made no recent canvass of the senate, but my opinion is that the amendment will receive less support than it did in the previous congress. I do not believe that the course pursued by the Congressional Union has won additional friends for the cause of suffrage."

Senator Thomas is to govern his action on the suffrage amendment at this session in accordance with the wishes of the National Suffrage association, through Carrie Chapman Catt, its president. He will have a conference soon with a committee of that association to discuss what is best to be done.

If requested by the national suffrage leaders to go ahead, Mr. Thomas will try to secure an agreement for a vote on the amendment. It is reported that the Congressional Union will do considerable agitation this winter, but the senate leaders, and Senator Thomas in particular, will pay no attention to any request the congressional union may make, unless that request also comes from the National Suffrage association.

E. C. Von Klein Is Married Man Again

Former inmate of Oregon Penitentiary said to have wedded daughter of prominent Canadian Judge.

That merry marrier and winner of women's wealth, Edmund E. C. von Klein, is married again.

Reports from Jeffersonville, Ind., are that Von Klein and Mrs. Cora Emily Crowley, daughter of a prominent Canadian judge, were married there, the feature of the wedding being the display of real diamonds.

The bride, who was married and sent to the Oregon penitentiary following the disappearance from the Portland hotel with the diamonds of Miss Ethel Newman, who has been married with a fake ceremony at San Francisco the week before, he had a wife living in Minneapolis at the time.

After serving slightly over a year at the penitentiary he was released and returned to Minneapolis, where he was given work with a jewelry firm.

Italy Calls Class of 1898 to the Colors

Parliament Also Votes Confidence in Government; Intention to Proceed Vigorously With War Program.

Rome, Dec. 9.—(U. P.).—Following a vote of confidence in the government and the declaration of the war by parliament today, it was announced that a call to the colors has been issued for the class of 1898, bringing this group into the war one year in advance of the time they would normally be available.

The two developments indicate Italy's intention to proceed with her war program with all possible vigor and force.

States' Rights to Fix Rates to Be Tested

Federal Court to Hear Suit to Enjoin Illinois Commission From Interfering With I. C. C. Order Raising Rates.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—(U. P.).—The right of states to fix railroad rates will be tested in the federal courts here by the Illinois Commission on Monday. Arguments will be presented for and against granting an injunction to restrain the Illinois public utilities commission from interfering with the recent interstate commerce commission order increasing the rates from 3 cents a mile to 3.5 cents a mile. The two cent rate was fixed by statute in 1907.

MAYOR CALLS UPON PORTLAND DWELLERS TO ASSIST CHARITIES

Next Saturday and Sunday Set Aside for Contributions to General Local Cause.

STATEMENT IS ISSUED

Numerous Cases of Need Found to Exist Despite Fact That Poverty Is Comparatively Light.

In a public statement issued yesterday Mayor Alder calls upon the people of Portland to assist in charity work by contributing to the various charitable organizations next Saturday and Sunday. The statement follows:

"To the People of Portland: Saturday and Sunday, December 14 and 15, are set aside for the purpose of sympathetic giving for the unfortunate of this city exclusively."

"Originally, a final report was contemplated in January, 1917. It is evident that the inquiry will be only a preliminary one, and that the committee will be asked to continue its work for two weeks were consumed in the preliminary statement and cross-examination of one witness for the railroads."

The waiting life of the committee is large, and the sessions of congress will necessarily interfere with the speed of the committee. Probably it will secure a final report in the next congress, so that additional follow-up testimony may be taken next summer and fall."

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Mt. Hood Region Discussed in Reports On Six of the Projected National Parks

Fact That Proposed Plan Involves Eight Non-Contiguous Tracts Militates Against Its Receipt of Official Favor.

Washington, Dec. 9.—(WASHINGTON BUREAU OF THE JOURNAL).—Although Secretary Lane of the interior department this year recommends to congress the creation of only two new national parks, the Grand Canyon in Arizona and Mount McKinley in Alaska, Superintendent R. B. Marshall of the new national park service comments on six new projected parks and includes in his report cuts illustrating each of the six.

In this way Mount Hood, in Oregon, for the first time "breaks into" government literature on the national parks. The fact that Mount Hood is one of the six projected parks which is mentioned and illustrated, shows that it is still in the mind of the park service officials as an ultimate part of the national parks chain.

Status of Mount Hood Matter.
The cut used is a half-page, half-tone of Mount Hood in the mass. On the same page is a similar cut of Mount McKinley, while on pages just preceding are other pictures showing scenery in the proposed national parks of Grand Canyon, Ariz., Mount Baker, Wash., Sawtooth, or Idaho, in Idaho, and in the proposed national parks of the Sierra Nevada divide, the highest mountain in continental United States. This bill, it is believed, will become a law. The department is earnestly supporting it, the Grand Canyon and the Mt. McKinley projects.

A bill was also introduced to enlarge the Sequoia park in California so as to include the Kings and Kern River canyons as well as Mt. Whitney, on the Sierra Nevada divide, the highest mountain in continental United States. This bill, it is believed, will become a law. The department is earnestly supporting it, the Grand Canyon and the Mt. McKinley projects.

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CONFESSES TO CRIMES TO SAVE WIFE'S BODY FROM POTTER'S FIELD

Man's Story, if True, Clears Up Murder in Salt Lake Three Months Ago.

DENIES HE KILLED WOMAN
Edward H. de Wese Tells Chicago Police of Elopement With New York Haberdasher's Wife and Theft.

Chicago, Dec. 9.—(U. P.).—A strange tale of burglaries, elopement and murder was told Chicago police tonight by Edward H. de Wese, who confessed to burglaries and elopement, but disclaimed the murder. Strange as the tale was, the police verified it in part and are inclined to believe the rest.

De Wese's story, if true, cleared up the mystery of a murder in Salt Lake City three months ago. A woman, once the wife of Harry Fisher, haberdasher of New York, was the victim. Her body was buried there, unidentified.

In November, 1915, De Wese says, he eloped with Mrs. Fisher and married her in Denver, under the name of Charles D. Robbins. They divorced and married again. Their second honeymoon ended three months ago in Salt Lake City, when her mutilated body was found by him in their apartment.

Fearing he would be accused of her murder, De Wese fled, after obliterating every means of identification. He was found by the police in the city of Chicago, where he was arrested.

De Wese is 29 years old, is well dressed, and claims to be a college graduate. Fisher, the man says, resides at 1410 South Avenue, New York, and has one son, Max Fisher, 10 years old, and other children by the woman with whom he claims to have eloped.

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