

COURT MAY HAVE TO PASS ON ALL RITNER PARDONS

Maybe Jesse Webb and his several other fellow convicts now enjoying freedom by virtue of pardons signed by Roy Ritner hold valid releases, after all. And, maybe, Senator Ritner has the authority, up to New Year's day, to act in the place and stead of Governor Olcott during his absence from the state. But the constitution seems pretty badly tangled and you can find lawyers, and good ones, to argue either way. The concentration of legal opinion seems to be that, should the question be raised, the supreme court would face the necessity of including in some very clear and patent judicial legislation to prevent the state government from finding itself in the unpleasant position of being without a duly qualified and authorized executive head.

Section 4 of article 4 of the constitution says that "the senators shall be elected for a term of four years . . . from the day next after their general election." That is an old provision of the constitution that has stood without amendment from the initial adoption of the fundamental law.

FIND ANOTHER SECTION
Section 1 of article 15 says that "all officers, except members of the legislative assembly, shall hold their offices until their successors are elected and qualified." This section seems "to nail down" the terms and conditions of the previously quoted section.

Senator Ritner, president of the senate during the 1921 session, is carrying on the duties of the chief executive under an amendment to section 8 of article 5 of the constitution, which provides that in the event of the inability of the governor, by death, resignation, removal from office or absence from the state "the president of the senate shall become governor until the disability be removed or until the vacancy be filled at the next general biennial election."

Lawyers have now dug up still another section of the constitution—section 14 of article 2, adopted in 1908—which provides that "all officers, except the governor, elected at any regular biennial election . . . shall assume the duties of their respective offices on the first Monday in January following such election."

AUTHORITIES CONFLICT
In the face of this amendment, more recent than the other sections, it is contended that the court could hold, without stretching their logic overmuch, that the president of the senate would hold office until the first Monday in January, thus cutting down the possibility of a headless state government to an eight-day period, since the new legislature convenes on the second Monday of January, and elects a new president.

There are some who insist that since the constitution says that "the president of the senate shall become governor until the disability be removed or until the vacancy be filled at the next general biennial election," Senator Ritner is now governor in law as well as in fact and would continue to be until the inauguration of Governor-elect Pierce should Olcott not return to the state prior to that time. These lawyers argue that when Ritner went to Salem "to become governor" he, under the constitution, shuffled off his senatorial toga, put on the executive mantle and that it has become attached to him so long as Olcott stays outside of Oregon, up to the inauguration of Pierce.

It would not be surprising to see the next session of the legislature frame an amendment to the constitution to clarify the situation and leave no doubtful construction possible in the event of some future contingency where the validity of any executive act might be of very serious moment.

Seattle Will Send Help to Astoria

Seattle, Dec. 22.—(U. S. S.)—A resolution appropriating \$10,000 for the relief of stricken Astoria was introduced in the city council this afternoon and will be passed Tuesday. It is confidently expected. The funds will be sent on that day as Seattle's Christmas present to the burned city.

Wasco 1923 Budget Increased to Limit

The Dalles, Dec. 22.—The city council budget committee and the public met here Friday night to discuss the city budget for 1923. A tentative budget of \$67,580 has been prepared, as compared with \$65,317.50 established for 1922 expenditures by the city. The estimate this year is up to the 6 per cent limitation. Miss Celia Gavin, city attorney, stated.

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Centralia Man Says "Big Bottom" Valley Has Roseate Future

Portland business men are losing an important opportunity by not paying more attention to "Big Bottom," otherwise the valley of the Upper Cowlitz river in Washington, according to E. F. Van Schoick, secretary of the Centralia Chamber of Commerce. Van Schoick was in Portland, Friday, loading up with Christmas presents. He said Portland is the best "Christmas gift town" in the Northwest.

"Big Bottom is a valley about 25 miles long, ranging from one to five miles in width," explained Van Schoick. "It is a valley much like that of Hood River and even more fertile. It contains the towns of Morton, Lewis, Randall and Mosby Rock, ranging in size from 200 to 1000 people. The soil produces everything from tobacco to pumpkins, that, without particular care, grow to a weight of 110 pounds apiece. At the present time the valley has no railroad except a line touching part of it over the hills from Tacoma. There ought to be a railroad up the valley by water grade connecting with Portland."

"The business to be developed through bringing in a larger number of people, especially on the land, would well warrant railroad construction. A delegation from Portland ought to visit Morton, Mosby Rock, Randall and Lewis. The people there often wonder at the seeming indifference of Portland business men."

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Railroad Official Announces Big Cut In Freight Rates

Some of the freight rate reductions authorized by the transcontinental rail lines at the recent Chicago conference in Chicago range more than 30 per cent on important commodities in westbound movement, according to announcement made Friday by H. E. Lounsbury, general freight agent for the Union Pacific railway system.

From Chicago, the 40,000 rate on canned goods will be reduced from \$1.72 to \$1.30; tin or terne plate will be reduced from \$1.20 to 75 cents; structural steel and iron will be reduced from \$1.35 to \$1.20 on 90,000 pounds capacity, and bolts, nails and other iron and steel construction material will be reduced from \$1.35 to \$1. Similar reductions will be made on more than 50 other commodities.

"Please Forward" on Yule Card to Clara

Los Angeles, Dec. 23.—(U. P.)—Police today took steps to learn the identity and whereabouts of Lee Armstrong and Vincent O'Donnell, following the receipt at the jail today of a Christmas card addressed to "Clara Phillips, convicted hammer murderer. The card bore the words: "Please forward." It was mailed in Omaha.

PARDONED BY HARDING

Washington, Dec. 23.—(U. P.)—President Harding today granted a last minute Christmas pardon to one political prisoner, John Panzer of Detroit.

UPSHAW 'CALLED' TO VERIFY HIS LIQUOR CHARGES

Washington, Dec. 23.—Representative Uphshaw's challenge that anybody call his hand on drinking in officialdom was accepted by Representative Hill of Maryland, wet leader today.

Representative Hill issued a statement declaring that the Georgia dry champion had made in the house what constituted a definite charge of law violations and he purposed at the first opportunity to ask on the floor of the house that the evidence substantiating this charge be produced.

Representative Hill's statement follows: "I have a copy of the newspaper release of Representative Uphshaw's speech in which he referred to those governors who were present at the recent conference called by the president and in which he also refers to the president, vice president, members of the cabinet and members of the senate and house."

"With the exception of two or three, every one of the governors at the conference is an avowed and enthusiastic prohibitionist. As a former United States district attorney, to me the words of Representative Uphshaw's charge mean nothing unless they specify definite personal violations of a Volstead act by these prohibition governors."

"Representative Uphshaw said: 'Let these governors, led by the president and vice president and all members of the cabinet, sacredly declare that they will never again build up a bootleggers' barbarous business by drinking any form or any amount of illicit liquor.'"

"This constitutes a definite charge that these governors have built up a bootleggers' barbarous business.' If they have not, it would not be necessary for them to swear never to do so again."

"He also charges the building up of such business by drinking any form or any amount of illicit liquor."

"If Mr. Uphshaw's charges are true, I am confirmed in my statement repeatedly made in the house that enforcement of the Volstead act even in so-called prohibition states is a joke. If his statements are not true, he should retract his charges of criminality against public officials."

"At the earliest possible opportunity I purpose to bring up the matter on the floor of the house in order that Representative Uphshaw may be given an opportunity to furnish prohibition Commissioner Haynes with the evidence on which he made his serious charges."

Representative Uphshaw was out of the city today, having been called away on account of illness in his family. Representative Hill said his intention is to await the Georgian's return before bringing up the subject.

S. O. S. Call Saves Vessel Adrift Ten Days in Atlantic

(By Universal Service)
Washington, Dec. 23.—Adrift 10 days in the North Atlantic for lack of fuel, the West Hardaway of the shipping board fleet was saved by radio, according to a wireless message received today by J. B. Smull, president of the emergency fleet corporation.

The West Hardaway's distress call was picked up by the West Haven, also a shipping board fleet vessel, which went to her assistance and today was towing her to Halifax.

The West Hardaway was disabled en route from English ports, 500 miles east of Halifax. Details are not available, but it is assumed the ship used up her fuel battling against heavy head winds.

Hourly Traffic Now Maintained on Road

Roseburg, Dec. 23.—Traffic is now being routed through Canyon Creek canyon on the Pacific highway every hour, instead of three times a day as heretofore. Flagmen are maintained at both ends of the canyon and south-bound cars are sent through on the odd hours, and cars coming north on even hours. The paving has been completed, but will not be opened up entirely for 30 days.

FISHER MAY HEAD TAX COMMISSION

Salem, Dec. 23.—E. L. Fisher, secretary to the state tax commission, is being prominently mentioned as the successor to Frank A. Lovell, whose resignation as tax commissioner is now in the hands of the commission.

Fisher has been secretary to the commission for the last three years, succeeding Lovell in that position when he became tax commissioner upon the resignation of C. V. Galloway. Prior to coming to Salem, Fisher served two terms as county assessor of Linn county, and was for 10 years prior to that a deputy in the assessor's office.

Fisher's name has been recommended for the commission and it is known that the commission has him under consideration. Lovell's resignation has been in the hands of the commission since December 1 and he is only awaiting its acceptance to leave for California. It is possible that even though Lovell's resignation should be accepted at once no appointment would be made until after the new administration becomes effective, although both State Treasurer Hoff and Secretary of State Koser will remain as members of the tax commission and constitute a majority of that body.

Many People Have a Mistaken Idea

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Nearly 90 per cent of the people are time payment purchasers in one way or another. The man in the street, the man in the skyscraper, the woman on the farm, your next door neighbor—all buy on a basis of so-much-down and so-much-a-month. This is especially true where there is no premium to pay on the purchase.

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These shares have paid three regular dividends and the fourth is payable January 1, 1923.

Shares are \$98.00 each, par value \$100.00.

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- Heaters, \$8.00 to \$40.00.
- Irons, \$3.85 to \$8.75.
- Percolators, \$10 to \$25
- Waffle Irons, \$12.50 to \$18.
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What the Scales Revealed	
CLOTHES	JEWELS
Slippers 2 oz.	Diamond Chain 4 oz.
Dress 2 1/2 oz.	Pearl Necklace 2 oz.
Combination 1 oz.	Rings 1 1/2 oz.
Garters 3/4 oz.	Bracelets 3 1/2 oz.
Stockings 5/8 oz.	Earrings 1 oz.
Chemise 3/4 oz.	Bar-pin 3/4 oz.
Total 9 1/2 oz.	Total 12 1/2 oz.