

County Races Getting Warm

Circuit Judgeship Holds Limelight; Aspirants All Working Hard

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democratic nomination from Curtis Coleman who went into the primary fight when Burk had it in mind that he could save his money and his time for the fall election.

Circuit Judge Job Has Most Interest
The contest which most interests the voters is that for circuit judge in Marion and Linn counties. Here's a post paying \$6000 a year compared to \$1800 which is the average rate of pay for the other county jobs. And it's held by the colorful Judge McMahan, who has been knee-deep in Marion county politics for decades. The judge says he is taking no interest in the campaign whatever and will let Walter Keyes and William H. Trindle, his opponents, have the fun of speaking to granges and distributing cards. Nevertheless the judge is getting out some publicity on his parole record and can be counted on to contact the "old-timers" throughout the district who are supposed to be his first-line of defense in a political fracas. Walter Keyes is in the field daily. Mr. Trindle has been held up by court work, but he's out nights making speeches and contacts and hopes that the church forces which supported him in previous campaigns will again line up when he asks the judgeship. Neither of McMahan's opponents expect to win a majority vote and thus the election. Each expects that McMahan and himself will be the two men when the May 15 ballots are counted and that the anti-McMahan forces are sufficient next November to unseat the incumbent.

Herman A. Lafky is waging the most aggressive campaign for district attorney of any of the five aspirants for that office. Lafky seeks the republican nomination along with Lyle J. Page, who has served two district attorneys as deputy, and with C. S. "Pat" Egan, a young attorney at the bar with a large amount of energy and a wide acquaintanceship. On the basis of experience Page should win. Lafky is depending on his grange connections, his continued help for farmers who have had economic reverses, and his personal perseverance as a campaigner, to bring him the nomination. Max Page, brother of Lyle, is handling the latter's campaign; the past fortnight has found young Page in the field steadily with Max Page dividing his time between managing the state campaign for Senator McNary and his brother's own fight in this county.

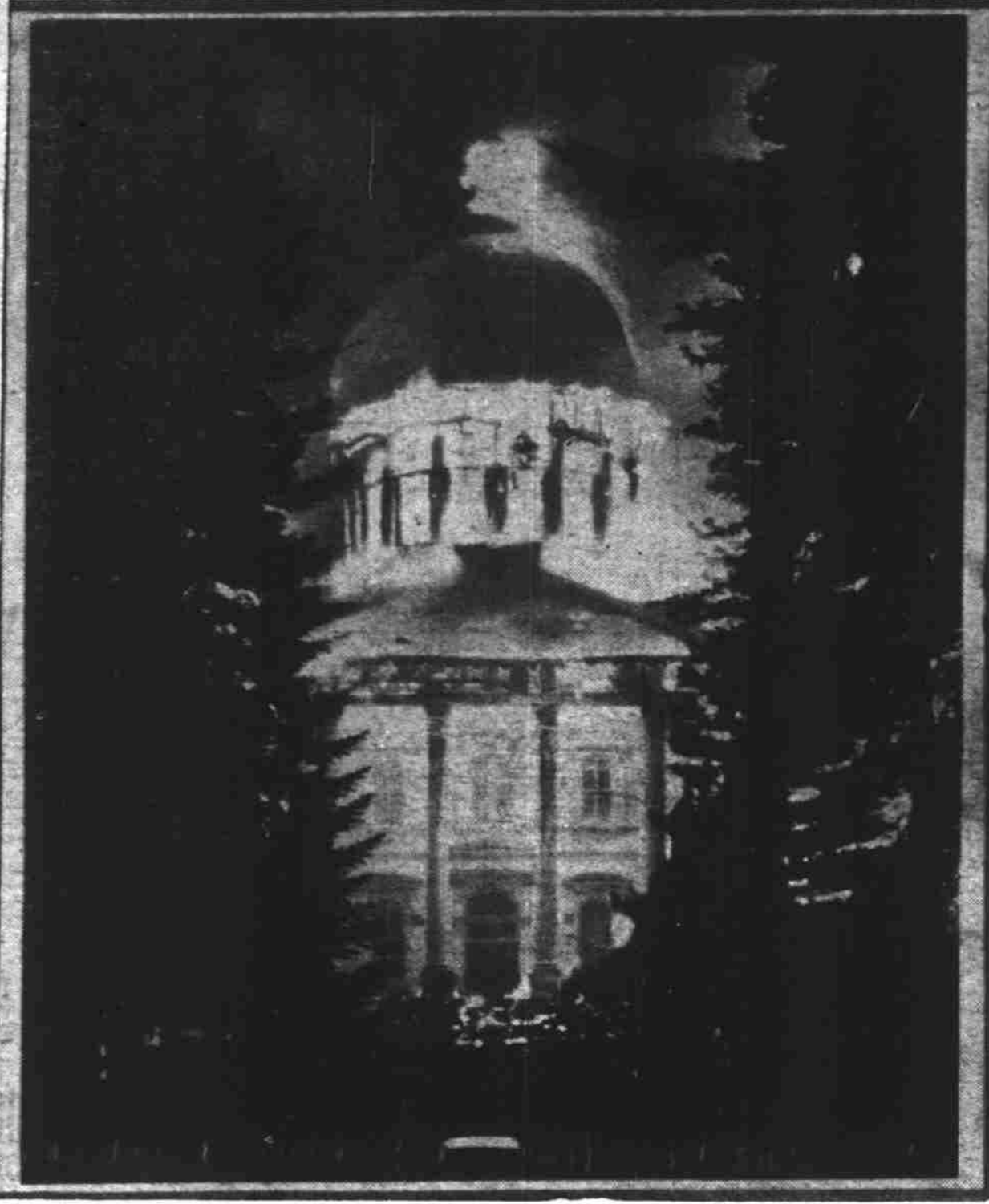
Theodore G. Nelson of Salem is too smart politically to think he can defeat Charles L. McNary for the republican nomination for state senator but Nelson is doing a good job in weakening Sam Brown's campaign. Old heads in the political game insist that Nelson's in the race for only that purpose. Nelson has all the equipment of a full-fledged campaigner; he's established offices in the Senator hotel, the past week he got out a well-printed and well-edited broadside with the usual pictures for a campaign: "Nelson at home," "Nelson milking the cow," "Nelson with his children" all designed to show the Townsend group and other disaffected blocs that Nelson was one of them. Nelson's refusal to withdraw as a candidate infuriates Sam Brown. The Gervais farmer believes that otherwise he could get the Townsend votes, the left-wing votes, a portion of the farmer vote and thus give McNary a race.

McNary's supporters cannot seriously believe that Brown and Nelson are formidable competition to Oregon's senior senator, the leader of the republican party in the upper house. But they are realists and the incumbent in disturbed times can never afford to be sanguine. The senator's friends are starting a campaign in his behalf with the state to be organized and some McNary literature generously distributed. The senator has been so busy in Washington in late years, so tired when he came home, that he has not been about the state as much as is customary for the candidate for reelection. His friends for the last week have been going about the state finding out where any "sore spots" exist and seeking to heal them before the May 15 vote.

Mahoney Apparently Ahead of Jeffrey
Wills Mahoney appears to be leading Judge Jeffrey for the democratic nomination for United States senator. Jeffrey got the off-again-on-again Townsend endorsement but Mahoney has the barny and the bombast which is delivered lavishly about the state as he shuttles here and there making campaign speeches. Right-wing democrats will walk out on Mahoney if he is nominated and go down the line for Senator McNary. Mahoney's selection by the state to succeed the present senator would be unthinkable albeit political crookedness, who fear the Townsend group and the power of popular prejudice which Mahoney invokes say he would be a nominee to contend with. Mahoney's strength in the primaries may be overemphasized. His reputation as a political carpetbagger is becoming more generally known; the Townsend clubs didn't like the Mahoney antics in jumping into the Townsend movement only when it became popular and then doctoring the age of his letter of endorsement.

Ben F. Dorris is putting on a hard fight for the republican selection as national committeeman. Dorris, Eugene fruit grower and prominent veteran, is depending on contacts made in 10 years of intensive American Legion work; Ralph Williams, incumbent, has placed his political fortunes in the hands of Stewart Weiss and a group of young re-

Scene That Saddened Salem Just Year Ago



The state capitol fire at its height, on the night of April 25, 1935. Recollection of that disastrous but exciting occurrence was general on the anniversary yesterday.

publicans while Williams himself attends to the preparation details for the Cleveland convention. Williams has had 28 years consecutive experience as committeeman from Oregon, 12 of which he has spent as vice-chairman of the national organization. Old-timers in the republican organization think it would be a calamity for the organization to drop a man with the alleged "connections" which Williams has. New blood in the party want a change and while they have it against Dorris for at one time being a democrat, they point to him as an aggressive, capable politician, one who would get out and work for the party in Oregon.

Williams has always been aloof from the rank and file of the republican party in the state; he has spent much of his time in the east and he has been charged with holding the committeeman's post more for the honor and the prestige it gave him rather than to use the post for the benefit of his party in Oregon. Dorris' friends are particularly irked because Williams said he would not seek reelection, then reversed his position, presumably on the strength of a petition from his friends urging him to run. Williams last week took the credit for Senator Steiwer's selection as convention keynoter.

An even more strenuous fight is on in the democrat ranks for the national committeeman's position. Howard Latourette, speaker of the house, believes he can come out of Multnomah county with such a plurality that none of his three opponents can defeat him. Dr. Joseph F. Wood of Multnomah county may surprise him; he is favorably considered by many of the democrats in the metropolis. A. M. Dalrymple of this county declares his long service to the party will be rewarded by the election as national committeeman. Dalrymple is handicapped by being tied to his job at the sheriff's office and is depending on a campaign of letter writing to win him votes.

Claude McColloch of Klamath Falls, an able attorney, son of Judge McColloch of Baker, brother of Utilities Commissioner McColloch, is geographically handicapped in his quest for the committeeman's post. Never before have as many aspirants sought the democrat party job as this spring; party leaders expect Roosevelt to be reelected and the

men who seek the committeeman's job want to have the power which goes with four years of handing out the plums. William S. "Buck" Wharton, newly named executive secretary to the governor—his post is that of budget director—is doing an excellent job. For the first time since the budget department was created real control over expenditures of the state bureaus and departments is being imposed. Wharton is using as the key to his control, monthly reports of estimated expenditures in each department of state government. He learned at the outset that each state institution and many state departments had a different type of bookkeeping. Hence it was impossible to synchronize properly the reports from the departments; one bureau was accustomed to group its expenditures under a classification varying from that of its neighbor. Comparative basis of bookkeeping is being worked out for each bureau with the view of making budget control efficient and much more simple than it is under existing bookkeeping arrangements.

Until September, Wharton will concentrate on watching the expenditures of state departments under the 1935-1936 appropriation bills. This fall he will begin preparation of the 1937-1938 budget, using the information obtained as supervisor of expenditures to produce a statement of proposed outlays for the next two years free from hidden excesses of cost. Wharton is already hopeful that savings in maintenance costs of state departments will permit a restoration of part or all of the salary slashes first imposed in 1932 and continued almost in entirety by the 1935 legislature.

Steiwer Eyed as Possible Nominee
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tatives in convention at St. Louis Monday. On Tuesday comes the Massachusetts and Pennsylvania primaries and the democratic state convention in Kansas. Florida republicans convene at Orlando Wednesday. Both parties in Illinois fill out their delegations by convention Friday. Republicans meet in Arkansas and Utah and the democrats in Arizona on Saturday.

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(Continued from page 13)
lem; Moore, Salem; Giddings, McMinnville. Distance 192 feet. High jump—Won by Grabenhorst, Salem; Moore, McMinnville; Blenkinsop, McMinnville. Height 5 feet 1 inch. Broad jump—Won by Davis, Salem; Jenner, McMinnville; Osland, Salem. Distance 8 feet, 4 inches. Pole vault—Won by Chapman, Salem; Johnson, Salem; Kerr, McMinnville. Height 9 feet. Relay—Won by Salem (Davis, Hasbrook, Smith and Ellis). Time, 1:39.7.

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Judge Ponders Claim of Fehl

Prisoner Is Denied Bond as Habeas Corpus Case Under Advisement

(Continued from page 1)

when the maximum sentence had been served. Rhoten cited federal law to add to his contention that release from prison was a matter of right, not of grace when a prisoner had completed his maximum less good behavior credits. Fehl had shown good conduct, industry and evidence of reformation while in prison, Rhoten asserted. Counsel for Fehl contended an attorney-general's opinion of 1923 justified state prison officials in releasing offenders without parole when their maximum sentences had been served.

Moody took direct issue with Rhoten's position in opening the argument for the state. He declared no man in prison for an offense subject to parole, could be released short of his full sentence period, except by parole from the governor. Moody declared repeatedly that good behavior credits, under Oregon law, only accelerated the time when a parole can be granted. Release of a prisoner before his full term is served as a matter of grace, not of right, Moody emphasized.

He declared that federal rulings in paroleable offenses had no effect in Oregon since the statute of this state spoke for itself. He went at length into opinions of former attorney-generals and held that they were entirely consistent with the opinion of Attorney-General Van Winkle which held that Fehl could not be released, prior to serving his full four years, except by parole from the governor.

Fehl was offered a parole a week ago by Governor Martin provided he would not return to Jackson county for the next 16 months. Fehl refused the parole and hired lawyers to seek a habeas corpus release for him. Jackson county fears his return, officials there alleging he may again take part in political activity which will disquiet the county as his statements and actions did four years ago.

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