

WHO WILL BE SENATOR?

From reports and newspaper discussion it seems that the senatorial issue is a perplexing one with the members of the legislature. While Corbett's following is pretending a "walkover" it seems there are others who claim that on next Tuesday, when the ballot begins, the old man, who has outlived by almost ten the allotted years of life, will be consigned to oblivion, and a man equal to the requirements of a senatorial term will be chosen.

A DECIDED IMPROVEMENT.

In justice to George Thornton, the city marshal, after making a careful survey of the town, we feel safe in saying that the city of Heppner is in a decidedly better condition from not only a sanitary point of view but from a condition of cleanliness than heretofore known in its history. The streets have all been raked, rubbish, lumber piles, wood, etc., have been removed, besides all conspicuous lots, barnyards, and neglected nooks thoroughly cleaned, which leads enchantment to the view.

THE Times-Mountaineer warmly advocates the improvement of the entrance to the Cascade locks, in the Columbia, where two steamboats have been hopelessly wrecked within the last few months, and suggests that Congressman-Elect Moody should have little trouble in securing an appropriation for that purpose when he takes his seat in congress. The suggestion is a good one, but it don't go far enough. Mr. Moody should not only use his influence for the improvement of that part of the river that is already open to navigation but he should also put forth his very best efforts to secure an appropriation for the improvement of the river above The Dalles.

OUR Washington correspondent says: Hon. Binger Hermann thinks the republican gains in the extreme West, this fall, will surprise those who accept the apathy in Maine and Vermont, which resulted in a large stay-at-home vote, and a consequent reduction of republican majorities; as representing the general condition of the republican party. Mr. Hermann made an extensive trip through the West, and his knowledge of the people and conditions in that section, make his judgment trustworthy. He said: "This country has fought, with brilliant success, a great war since President McKinley's election. The West, fired with enthusiasm over our territorial acquisitions in the Pacific, and enjoying an era of great crops and a plentiful money supply, will be heard from emphatically in November. I think the casting up of votes there will be a surprise to nearly everybody."

The speech of Father Abraham in the last number of Poor Richard's Almanac, published by Benjamin Franklin in 1757, "contains the wisdom of many ages and nations assembled and formed into one connected discourse." When first published it attracted world wide attention and was copied in all of the newspapers in America and England and translated into many foreign languages. Would you not like to read it? Get a copy free of charge at Greaser & Wren's drug store.

LETTER FROM MITCHELL.

Senator John H. Mitchell Gives an Inlet Into the Corbett "Push" Methods.

The following letter sets at rest the misrepresentation of Mitchell's attitude relative to the senatorial question, which the voters of Oregon will appreciate:

PORTLAND, Oregon, Sept. 24, 1898. To the Editor Herald-Democrat, Albany, Oregon.

By Dear Sir: In your issue of yesterday I notice in your special correspondence from Salem of the 17th inst., under the caption of "Gossip About the Special Session," your anonymous correspondent, among other things, says:

"Candidates for the United States senate are plentiful. Mr. Corbett and Mr. Mitchell are both candidates. Then Mr. Geer, Governor Lord, Binger Herman, C. W. Fulton, Phil Motehan, Claud Gatch, M. C. George, Cyrus Dolph, Joseph Simon, Judge Bean, Judge Burnett and Judge Hewitt, of Albany, are spoken of. There is plenty of senatorial timber to select from."

Speaking for myself only, I desire to say that neither your correspondent, nor any other person, either in Oregon or out of it, has ever had any authority whatever from me, or from any one who has had the right to represent me, to announce that I would be a candidate for re-election to the United States senate either at the coming special or regular sessions; while on the contrary to every one who has spoken to me, or written to me on the subject, since the extraordinary session was called, I have stated in the frankest and most emphatic manner that I was not a candidate, and would not be, at any stage of the contest for the election of my successor. And I desire to say to you and all others, in this connection, I am not a candidate for election to the senate, nor will I be at any stage of the contest, nor will my name be used with my consent by any one, either friend or foe, in that connection.

I was a candidate for re-election as my own successor, as all know, at the regular session of the legislature convened in January, 1897. On the morning of that legislature a call was issued for a republican caucus to meet January 14, 1897, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the United States senate. This call was signed by 48 republican senators and representatives, or two more than a majority of all the members constituting the legislature. This call, with the names of the members signing it, was as follows:

"We, the undersigned, republicans and republican members of the legislature of the state of Oregon, believing, as we do, in maintaining and perpetuating the organization of the republican party, and also believing as enumerated in its platform as adopted at the late republican convention at St. Louis, and believing furthermore that in the selection of a candidate for United States senator such organization and principles will be best promoted by adhering to the will of the majority, as openly and fairly expressed in party caucus, do hereby agree, a sufficient number to elect consenting thereto, that we will meet in party caucus on Thursday, the 14th day of January, 1897, in the hall of the house of representatives, in Salem, Oregon, at 7 o'clock p. m., and after organization by the selection of a presiding officer and two secretaries, will, by a viva voce vote, as our names are called, express our preference for a candidate for United States senator; and we hereby agree to support for United States senator by our vote in the legislature the person who shall at such caucus receive a majority of all the votes cast therein."

- Benson, Bridges, Brown, Brownell, Calbreath, Carter, Chapman, Conn, Craig, Crawford, David, Dawson, Giddie, Geeser, Hartline, Gurdane, Hays, Hays, Harmon, Hulson, Hughes, Jennings, Hope, Lake, Langell, Marsb, Johnson, Merrill, Mitchell, Mulkey, McLaugh, Patterson, I. L. Fries, Noller, Higby, Smith, J. N. Somers, Reed, Taylor, Thomas, Thompson, Stanley, Vaughan, Veness, Wagner.

This caucus was held at the time and place specified in the call. There were personally present at such caucus 44 of the persons whose names are attached to the call. The four who signed the call and were not present at the caucus were Senators Carter, of Benton county, Mulkey, of Polk, and Geeser, of Marion, and Representative Giddie, of Douglas. Senator Carter, however, sent the chairman and members of the caucus a letter, of which the following is a copy:

"Salem, Oregon, Jan. 14, 1897. To the chairman and members of the republican caucus to be held by the republican members of the present session of the Oregon legislature, for the purpose of nominating a candidate for the United States senate. I regret to state that I have been called home, and will be unable to be present at the caucus to be held this evening. I wish to say, however, that if present I should vote for Senator J. H. Mitchell; but if the caucus shall nominate some other gentleman I will support him, it being my intention, I assure you, to abide by the will of the majority, and to support the nominee of your caucus. Very respectfully yours, Tolbert Carter."

Senator Mulkey, the evening of the caucus, sent me a telegram from his home at Dallas, of which the following is a copy:

"Dallas, Oregon, Jan. 14, 1897. Hon. John H. Mitchell, Salem, Oregon. I have just arrived in response to a telegram announcing the sickness of my daughter. Find her very ill. Whatever caucus decides on tonight I will abide by. B. F. Mulkey"

All this caucus, as held as above, I had on roll call and open viva voce vote, the distinguished honor conferred on me of receiving every one of the votes present at the caucus of the party, and was by the chairman of the caucus, the late Senator Hughes, of Washington county, declared to be the unanimous nominee of the party for United States senator. There were, therefore, it will be seen, 46 republicans, a clear majority of the whole legislature, including Mulkey, who voted with their signatures in my favor as the candidate and nominee of the party. Notwithstanding these facts, four of the names mentioned by your Salem correspondent as being at present candidates for election to the United States senate, namely, H. W. Corbett, Governor William F. Lord, Cyrus Dolph and Joseph Simon, and others mentioned by them, combined and confederated together and with certain members of the legislature, some of them elected as republicans, others elected as democrats, and still others as independents, and other disreputable means, established in their honorable caucus scheme by the Oregonian, had up the legislature, and during the whole session presented not only a vote being taken for United States senator but also the means of any appropriation bill or other legislation whatever, thus depriving the state for two years of its proper quota of representation in the United States senate, and imposing upon the taxpayers the burdensome tax of the extraordinary session of the legislature now convened, and what is instructive was that this bringing our people and state into contempt in the eyes of every right-minded person outside of the state.

Notwithstanding I was then the nominee of the party, and finding it was impossible to have a vote taken on February 13, 1897, addressed a letter to Hon. Samuel Hughes, state senator from Washington county and chairman of the republican conference, in which I set forth the facts relating to the caucus, and referred to the article of those then holding up the legislature, and which letter concluded as follows: "The history of politics since the beginning of the government fails to furnish a parallel in any state to the situation then presented. The spectacle presented is that of a minority, controlling their lack of power to dictate and control the actions of a speaker of the house of representatives, and in the showing of a United

States senator, deliberately refusing to qualify and take their seats in the house, thereby intending to prevent the presence of a quorum, and absolutely blocking the election of both speaker and senator, and legislation as well. Such a proceeding, whatever may be the motives of those promoting it, tends strongly and inevitably toward anarchy. It is a most dangerous menace, not only to the integrity of the organization of the republican party, but to the very existence of our government, both state and national. It is a proceeding that should receive the unqualified condemnation of every law-abiding citizen of all political parties. Those who give it their countenance or support, either directly or inferentially, of whatever party affiliation, deserve to be classed with the enemies of law and order. To permit it to be established as a precedent would be to set in motion an element of discord and disintegration that will eventually sap the very foundation of our political institutions.

"In view, however, of the present status of the United States senate, as it will be after the 4th of March next, it is of the utmost importance that Oregon should at this time elect a senator. This fact must be appreciated by every true republican.

"The republican party is infinitely greater than any one man. It is a party, not an individual. It is your duty to elect a republican senator, if in your power; and, while, as your nominee, I personally am ready and willing, as you all know, to stand by you and with you for the integrity of party organization and the maintenance and perpetuity of the republican party, in this public manner, that while I believe that the majority should not be permitted to dictate to the minority, and that there is now a principle involved in this contest which is infinitely greater than the interests of any one individual, yet as I have repeatedly stated to each of you individually during the last 30 days, I do not claim to control your judgment or assume any right to direct your forces. Therefore whenever you can see your way clear to choose a republican senator other than myself, then you must choose one other than myself. The fact of my nomination or candidacy stands in the way. In other words, I am in your hands; you have made me your nominee, do with me as you please, and I will be content. Do your whole duty to the republican party, the state of Oregon, and the nation. You know full well the character of the nomination against you and the influence through which it found its origin and by which it has been maintained. Exercise your best judgment, keeping steadily in view the best interests not only of the republican party, but of the state and nation.

"Thanking you and expressing my most cordial appreciation for the unflinching support you have given me, I am, with great respect, your obedient servant, JOHN H. MITCHELL."

And again, four days later, on February 22, 1897, I addressed another letter to Chairman Hughes, chairman of the republican conference, of which the following is a copy:

"Salem, Oregon, Feb. 22, 1897. Hon. Samuel Hughes, Chairman Republican Conference, Salem, Oregon.

"My Dear Sir: I understand there is a strong disposition on the part of the majority of the republicans to adjourn the legislature sine die without further effort to secure the election of a senator. I regret to learn that the state only party represented in the senate of the United States, the effect of which, in all probability, would be to place the control of the senate in the hands of those opposed to the republican party, in which event the defeat of tariff legislation at the coming extraordinary session of congress would be assured. It seems to me, therefore, that it is a paramount duty resting upon you to make one more determined effort before final adjournment to secure the election of a senator. There are many prominent republicans located in different sections of the state, eminently qualified for the position, men who would do credit to the party, the state and nation. I will co-operate with you and all other republicans in the legislature in endeavoring to bring about the election of such republican as the republican conference, to whom this letter is addressed, will agree upon. Yours very sincerely, JOHN H. MITCHELL."

Fearing, however, that if a vote were permitted I might still be elected, these conspirators and their associates, aiders and abettors, resorted to the end in preventing a vote.

Notwithstanding the facts just recited, there are many republicans in Oregon today who make claim to, and who desire to be classed as truthful, honorable men, who, either through ignorance of the facts, or for the reason that they are wilfully perverse, persist in re-iterating, year after year, in season and out of season, the miserable falsehood of the Oregonian and its satellites, that "Mitchell and his supporters held up the legislature."

No more wicked or grossly unjust misrepresentation was ever invented or resorted to by any unscrupulous set of politicians for the purpose of diverting attention from their own inexcusable and reprehensible conduct.

Notwithstanding the further fact that I cordially and earnestly aided to the extent of my power in the election of McKinley and Hobart, as did all my friends generally throughout the state, and have since and look forward to the administration in power, this calumny, lead by the editor of the Oregonian, while continually attacking the administration, the president and his cabinet, persist in denouncing not only myself, but every prominent republican in Oregon, who in the past supported me politically, as factious, etc., as not good republicans, as not faithful supporters of the principles of the party, and of all whom it is insisted should be read out of the party.

Now, these same men come forward and name themselves as the only true republicans of the state, and Mr. Corbett and Mr. Simon, the leaders of this legislative hold-up, insist that they are the proper and logical candidates for senator and that one of the other should be elected.

I submit to you, Mr. Editor, and to all concerned, as I did to the legislature when I was willing to waive my candidacy, although the nominee of the party as stated, there are many prominent republicans residing in different portions of the state, (exclusive not only of myself but also of those who were prominent in this legislative hold-up and who promoted and engineered it, and the names of some of the more prominent of whom I have mentioned), and republicans who have not been prominent in any of the factional fights in Oregon, who would, if elected, be a credit to the party, the state and nation, and who would be promoted and engineered by, and the names of some of the more prominent of whom I have mentioned), and republicans who have not been prominent in any of the factional fights in Oregon, who would, if elected, be a credit to the party, the state and nation, and who would be promoted and engineered by, and the names of some of the more prominent of whom I have mentioned), and 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