

Oregon Legislature Opens 28th Session

State Capitol, Salem—Ben Selling, of Portland, was elected speaker of the house of representative at the opening of the 28th legislative assembly Monday by a vote of 37 to 22 for Allen Eaton, of Eugene.

The Selling forces remained intact and voted solidly for their man on the first ballot. Likewise the Eaton strength was undisturbed by the efforts of the opposition.

Selling had 37 votes on the first ballot. Cardwell, of Douglas, one of his supporters, was absent. Eaton had the remaining 22 votes.

The four Democrats, including Miss Towne, the only woman member, voted for Eaton.

Selling had the support of the Multnomah delegation with the exception of Gill. On the other hand, Selling gained the vote of Stewart, of Wheeler, who previously had been counted with the Eaton forces.

Upon Eaton's own motion the election of Selling was made unanimous

State Capitol, Salem—Disposing of preliminaries with celerity, the state senate early Monday afternoon perfected its permanent organization, and the announcement of committees made it ready for active work.

W. Lair Thompson, of Lakeview, was elected president without serious opposition, although Senators Dimick, of Clackamas, and Kellaher, of Multnomah, voted for Senator Wood, of Washington county. Mr. Thompson also voted for Senator Wood. The vote was, Thompson 26, Wood 3. As was predicted, I. N. Day, of Multnomah, was elected temporary president and John P. Hunt, of Marion, temporary secretary.

So far along did the senate get with its work resolutions were introduced by several members and three messages were received from Governor West. The only exciting race was that between Glenn O. Holman, Theodore Rowland and James Church for calendar clerk. Eight ballots were



Ben Selling, of Multnomah County, Speaker of House.



W. Lair Thompson, of Crook, Klamath and Lake Counties, President of Senate.

and Selling was escorted to the chair by Eaton himself, and Hinkle, of Umatilla.

Chief Justice Moore administered the oath and the new speaker lost no time with speechmaking. He immediately proceeded with the organization.

The following named attaches were elected by the house: Chief clerk, W. F. Drager, Salem; journal clerk, Harold A. Wilkins, Portland; reading clerk, Dudley, R. Clark, Portland; calendar clerk, Charles Erskine, Bend; sergeant-at-arms, H. T. Bruce, Portland; doorkeeper, George Miller, Baker; mailing clerk, W. S. McAdams, Independence.

The speaker appointed Joseph F. Singer, of Portland, assistant sergeant-at-arms. The committee on rules also

taken without any candidate having a majority. Then a recess was declared and when the session was resumed Mr. Holman's name was withdrawn. On the next ballot Mr. Church was elected by a large majority.

The senate was called to order at 10:20 o'clock by W. D. Wood, dean of the upper house. I. S. Smith, of Marshfield, nominated I. N. Day, for temporary president; Dan Kellaher, moved that the nominations be closed, and Mr. Day was elected by a unanimous vote.

W. Lair Thompson, of Lakeview, nominated John P. Hunt, of Marion, for temporary secretary, and there being no other nominations, Mr. Hunt was declared elected.



W. F. Drager, Salem, Chief Clerk of House.



John W. Cochran, Multnomah County, Chief Clerk of Senate.

was named. The committee is composed of Forbes, Jeffries, Eaton, Lewis and Hinkle. The committee on resolutions is formed of Handley, Irvin, Ritter, Davey and Hare.

The house reconvened at 2:30 in the afternoon and immediately went into committee of the whole for the election of clerks and other officers. Davey, of Malheur, was chairman of the committee and Olson, of Multnomah, secretary.

Before reporting back to the house the committee voted to destroy its records and pledged its members to keep secret the vote and other proceedings of the committee. It was not until then that someone noticed that the newspaper reporters had been present all the time and had taken notes on all the proceedings. Whereupon the reporters agreed not to use the information with the understanding that they be admitted to future so-called secret meetings.

The committee of the whole reported back to the house the result of its deliberations. The speaker then appointed his committees on rules and of resolutions and named Gerald Kneves, Edward Heenan and Farrell Olds as pages.

Crawford Files Report.
Salem—Former Attorney General Crawford has filed with Attorney General Brown a special report in which he recommends an appropriation of \$8000 to defray the expenses of litigation now pending which includes the Hyde-Benson and Pacific Livestock cases, in which the recovery of title to lands alleged to have been secured by fraud is sought. At the time the attorney general made his report, the case against the Pacific Livestock company was held up by a demurrer. This demurrer has now been overruled.

West Portrait to Be Hung.
State Capitol, Salem—It is probable that the legislature will provide funds for a painting of Ex-Governor West, to be hung on the north wall of the house chamber, west of the main entrance. Representative Gill is planning to introduce a resolution to that effect. This will be in accordance with the customs of the past. There are now in the senate and house chambers painted portraits of all the governors that have served the state. The proposed Gill resolution will carry an appropriation of \$600.

Revival of U. S. Industries Shows Great Improvement

Chicago—Material progress of industrial activity in the United States was emphasized last week by carrying out of many plans of expanded operations.

Railroads placed orders for rolling stock, steel rails and track supplies aggregating \$6,870,000. Inquiry for more than \$10,000,000 more of these necessities are pending among the larger systems.

Reports from day to day indicate that railroad shops, the steel and kindred lines and a large number of miscellaneous industries throughout the country have re-employed upward of 40,000 men since the new year began.

The United States Steel corporation's increase of 512,051 tons in unfilled orders in December, the first monthly gain in business since last August, shows the favorable effect of the Eastern freight-rate decision. Orders placed since January 1 constitute additional tonnage, so it is fair to assume that the increasing volume of steel demand will lead to steady enlargement of mill operations.

New projects aggregating between \$5,000,000 and \$6,000,000, involving plant additions at some of the Eastern steel mills, new steamships and the resumption of enterprises retarded by the war, were announced last week.

Far more than a straw of financial encouragement is found in the announcement that the Pennsylvania Railroad company has arranged to bring out a \$100,000,000 bond issue in March. While a large part of the issue will be used for refunding purposes, much of the proceeds will be utilized in meeting physical requirements of the system. The St. Paul railroad offering of \$29,141,300 bonds reflects a substantial program of new construction.

Pittsburg Steel found no difficulty in selling \$5,000,000 bonds, which is another indication of easier finances and the quick sale of the Argentine nation's \$15,000,000 notes is a strong indication of the receptive character of the investment market.

These tangible developments of industrial activity and financial confidence are of greater importance than they have been at any time since the change in business for the better became evident the latter part of November.

Lumber and cotton, the two industries which suffered severely during the depression, also have shown marked improvement. Sales of lumber for export amounting to more than \$2,000,000 are reported in Kansas City. Exports of cotton are increasing, and the fact that the \$100,000,000 loan fund has been called on to do duty only the utmost insignificant proportions is indicative that the South is rapidly solving its own financial problems.

German Strategy Fails and Causes Heavy Loss

Petrograd—The following official communication was issued Tuesday from general headquarters:

"On the left bank of the Vistula, both day and night, January 10, the Germans attempted, without success, to attack our line at several points, but were repulsed everywhere by our fire.

"In an attack in the region of the village of Samice, east of Skierniewice, the Germans reached our barbed wire entanglements and began to shout: 'Do not fire; we are yours!'

"However, as similar strategy had been employed before, therefore the vigilance of our troops was not deceived by this maneuver of the Germans and we directed against them a destructive fire and delivered a counter attack, repulsing the enemy and inflicting heavy losses upon them.

"In Galicia the cannon and rifle fire has been kept going and we remain in contact with the enemy."

Pope to Act if War Gains

Rome—Information was obtained here that in case of Italy's intervention in the war, the Pope has agreed to recommend that diplomatic representatives of enemy countries accredited to the Holy See leave Rome, while the Italian government, on its part, undertakes to guarantee a continuance of the Pope's telegraphic and epistolary correspondence with the entire world. The agreement is the result of negotiations between the Vatican and the government, in which Agliardi, bishop of Albano, acted as intermediary.

State Sues Santa Claus

North Yakima, Wash.—Lucia A. Crangle, of Olympia, assistant state labor commissioner, has filed a complaint charging Mrs. Henshaw, proprietor of the Michigan Cafe, with violating the eight-hour law for women, in connection with the serving of a Christmas dinner to poor children Christmas Day. A patron of the hotel paid for the dinner.

Mother-Teacher Victor

Albany, N. Y.—A teacher may not be dismissed because she absents herself from the public schools to bear a child, Commissioner John H. Finley, of the state department of education, has decided. The decision definitely determines the status of mother-teachers in the state, as under existing laws there is no appeal.

German Fleet Is Ready

Copenhagen—The entire German high seas fleet is massed at Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven, ready to sail forth to meet the British dreadnaughts. The port of Kiel has not a single first-class ship, only a few obsolete vessels remaining.

ENGLISH CITY BOMBARDED BY THE GERMANS



View of Scarborough, on the east coast of England, which, together with Whitby and Hartlepool, was bombarded by the German raiding squadrons of cruisers.

THOUSANDS DEAD IN EARTHQUAKE

Italian Villages Destroyed; Big Buildings Damaged.

Statuary at Rome Cracked, Street-car Line Quit—King Goes to Scene of Catastrophe.

London—Reports early Thursday morning are that 15,000 persons are buried in the ruins of Avezzano alone. King Victor Emmanuel has gone to the afflicted district, and troops are being rushed to do relief work.

Rome—Italy again has been visited by an earthquake of wide extent, which, according to the late advices, has resulted in the death of 12,000 persons and injury to possibly 20,000 more in towns and villages destroyed. The shock was the strongest Rome has felt in more than a hundred years. The town of Avezzano, in the Abruzzi department, 63 miles east of Rome, has been leveled to the ground. Here 8000 persons are reported to have been killed.

In many small towns surrounding Rome buildings were partially wrecked, while at Naples a panic occurred and houses fell at Caserta, a short distance to the east.

From below Naples in the south to Ferrara in the north, a distance of more than 300 miles, and across almost the width of the country, the undulatory movement contained for a considerable period.

In Rome it was thought at first that two shocks had occurred, but the seismographic instruments in the observatories showed there was only one, which beginning at 7:55 o'clock in the morning, lasted from 22 to 30 seconds.

In the capital itself, so far as is known, there was no loss of life, but a great deal of damage was done, churches and statues suffering most.

For a time the people were stricken with fear and there was a veritable panic in the hospitals, monasteries and convents. The buildings on both sides of the Porta del Popolo, the north entrance to Rome, threatened to fall, and the eagle decorating the gate crashed to the ground.

The obelisk in St. Peter's square was shaken and badly damaged, while the statue of St. John Lateran and the statues of the apostles surmounting the Basilica are in danger of collapse.

The famous colonnade decorating the dome of the church of St. Charles Cattinari was cracked. A large piece of the cornice of the Jesuit church of St. Agnatus broke and fell with a crash which added to the fright of persons in the neighborhood.

Ceilings in many of the houses fell, several persons being injured in that manner.

Several streetcar lines suspended operations because of the damage caused by the earthquake.

At Torre Cajetani, about 37 miles east of Rome, almost the entire village was destroyed, while at Arnara the municipal building collapsed.

Tide Swelled by Gale.

Boston—Features of the storm which lashed Southeastern New England Thursday were the unusually high tide that swept into Massachusetts Bay in the forenoon and the damage to telegraph and telephone wires in Bristol county, in Rhode Island and in Eastern Connecticut. The tidal rise in this city came within 1.22 feet of the record established in the famous gale of 1851, when Minot's Ledge light-house was destroyed, and was the fifth big tide in the last 15 years. Summer residences were badly battered.

All on Scharnhorst Lost.

Amsterdam—Information received at Berlin is to the effect that none of the officers or crew were saved from the German cruiser Scharnhorst, sunk off the Falkland Islands by the British squadron. Seven officers and 171 men were saved from the Gneisenau, seven from the Nürnberg and four officers and 15 men from the Leipzig.

Senators Approve Army Coast Defense Measures

Washington, D. C.—War department bills to strengthen the army and create a reserve corps were taken up Wednesday by the senate military committee in open session with Secretary Garrison and his aides present to explain the various projects. Members of the committee indicated by their questions their general approval of the measures.

Senator Dupont, however, objected to the bill providing for the addition of 1000 officers to the mobile army, contending that it would create nearly a thousand vacancies in the grade of second lieutenant and provide for a disproportion of colonels and lieutenant colonels.

Secretary Garrison said the bills had been prepared in the war college by his direction and that he had directed that efficiency of the army should be the end sought. He said statements of the reason of the apportionment selected would be drafted at once for the committee.

Discussing the bill providing for the creation of a reserve corps by granting power to the secretary to discharge competent men from the regular army into the reserve at the end of one year of service, Mr. Garrison said the present reserve system, which had produced a force of only 16 men in two years, was a "vacuum." His plan, he believed, would bring to the army a class of recruits not now available.

The secretary strongly urged the enactment of the bill providing for the officers' reserve corps.

Even with the other bills enacted, he said, the department would be faced, in time of war, with the problem of providing officers for a force of 350,000 men, and it now had no list of graduates of military schools or other civilians competent to take these positions.

The secretary said the enactment of the coast artillery bill would bring that arm of the service up to 50 per cent of the strength it would have in war. He said he had considered this the most urgent matter, because the isolated position of the United States made its coast defenses of most importance. A single shot from a big gun, he said, would sink a \$15,000,000 battleship, but no foe would take a chance against the coast defenses in order to drop a few random shells into cities.

General Weaver, chief of the coast artillery, told the committee that the United States had expended \$175,000,000 on its coast defenses since 1888, and that, in material, they were the best in the world.

400,000 to Meet Serbs.

London—The Petrograd correspondent reports it is the general belief in Russia that the projected new invasion of Serbia is due to the urgent demands of Hungarian statesmen that something should be done to defend their country, otherwise they threaten that Hungary will look after herself. It is said that an expedition of 400,000 men is being made ready under the nominal command of Archduke Eugene of Austria, to which will be attached a German general as the real leader.

Albanians Plan Attack.

Athens—The Albanian insurgents, according to information which has reached here, have occupied the heights of Ritspol. They have placed the German cruiser Scharnhorst in position for use against Durazzo, the Albanian port recently shelled by Italian forces, and where Essad Pasha and his troops, representing the provisional government, are stationed.

Starving Chinese Sell Wives to Buy Food

Pekin—The ordinary suffering in China has been so intensified by loss of trade with Europe that in some provinces the sale of wives and children is being carried on extensively.

The Manchus of Shansi province have resorted to this practice so generally that President Yun Shi Kai has issued a mandate in which he speaks of the conditions as "heartrending."

"In former days," according to the mandate, "the banner men (followers of the Manchu banners) of Shansi were supported by the Ta-ying granary. But since the revolution they have been dealt with in accordance with the common rule, namely, all support has been withdrawn. The factories of the banner men have also been suspended on account of lack of funds. Therefore means of livelihood have been greatly reduced. The winter will set in very soon, and it is expected that the prices of foodstuffs will rise. The aged and the young will be starved to death, while the stronger ones will wander from their homes.

"Therefore we are very anxious about them, and it is hereby ordered that 2000 shih (a shih is 100 litres) of rice from the Ta-ying granary of the Shansi province be delivered over to the major of the garrison, to be distributed to the genuine sufferers."

Czar Sends 1,000,000 New Men Against Prussians

London—That Russia has started a new army of from 800,000 to 1,000,000 men toward West Prussia to co-operate with the army invading East Prussia and the forces on the Vistula, is indicated, think military authorities, by dispatches from Petrograd which say the Russians have reached a point 40 miles east of the German fortress of Thorn, after defeating a cavalry detachment.

It is believed that the plan is to crush the German forces in the region of Mlaw, between the Russian army in East Prussia and the one advancing on West Prussia, and also to operate against the lines of communication of the Germans operating before Warsaw.

Allies Report Heavy Loss In Aisne Valley Fighting

London—The German official report issued at Berlin Saturday, says that the entire north bank of the Aisne has been cleared of French troops and that the retreat of the allies was accomplished only under the fire of German heavy guns. A further announcement from the main headquarters of the German army says that as a net result of the three days' fighting northeast of Soissons about 5200 prisoners, 14 guns, six machine guns and some revolver guns were captured.

The further statement is made that the French suffered heavy losses, from 4000 to 5000 dead French soldiers being found on the battlefield.

British Gain One Mile.

Paris—The Havas Agency has received a dispatch from Stomer, dated January 10, which relates a British victory and an advance near La Basse of one mile. The message follows: "The British, by an impetuous attack, stormed the strongly entrenched German position near La Basse after a vigorous shelling. This is an important strategic point and its occupation represents an advance of one mile. The British losses were slight, but the Germans lost heavily. Many Germans were taken prisoners."

Silver Fox Found Dead.

Portland's silver fox is no more. The little animal was found dead in his cage at Washington Park zoo, a victim of old age. He had been in the zoo for many years and was one of the principal attractions for children. For some time he had showed signs of failing. Silver foxes are so rare that a good specimen is said to be worth about \$1000.