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The Times-Herald

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PROBABLE SPECIAL SESSION

GEORGE E. CHAMBERLAIN IN FAVOR OF SUCH MOVE.

He Favors Flat Salaries and a Special Session Could Enact a Law Before New Officers Were Seated.

The proposal to call a special session of the legislature for the purpose of enacting a law placing all state officers on flat salaries has created a stir in political circles here. Members of the legislature from this county are pretty generally opposed to a special session but all are in favor of a flat-salary law. Politicians who figure in the larger events of political activity are wondering what all is at the bottom of the new move.

The consensus of opinion among those who were heard to discuss the matter yesterday seems to be that all state officers except state printer should be placed upon reasonable flat salaries; that the people have demanded this; that the candidates have pledged themselves to abide by such law, and that both the candidates and the people contemplated the passage of such a law at the regular session. Those who have studied the matter agree that it is impossible to place the state printer upon a salary, flat or otherwise, for the constitution plainly provides that his compensation shall depend upon the amount of work he does. It is generally agreed that the state printer gets too large a profit, and that his fees should be reduced, but manifestly his pay must depend upon the quantity of printing done. Section 1 of article XII of the constitution says:

"There shall be elected by the qualified electors of the state, at the times and places of choosing of the legislative assembly, a state printer, who shall hold his office for a term of four years. He shall perform all the public printing for the state which may be required by law. The rates to be paid to him for such printing shall be fixed by law, and shall neither be increased nor diminished during the term for which he shall have been elected. He shall give such securities for the performance of his other duties as the legislative assembly may provide."

As to the other officers, their compensation is supposed to be fixed by the constitution, though there are some who contend that the salaries named in the constitution are minimum amounts. Section 1 of article XIII provides:

The governor shall receive an annual salary of \$1500. The State Treasurer shall receive an annual salary of \$800. The Judges of the Supreme Court shall each receive an annual salary of \$2000. They shall receive no fees or perquisites whatever for the performance of any duties connected with their offices, and the compensation of officers, if not fixed by this constitution, shall be fixed by law."

As is well known, the compensation of the various officers has been increased beyond the amount stated in the constitution by means of salaries paid for services on boards and commissions. The constitution does not require the governor specifically to act as a member of the board of trustees of the asylum, and upon the ground that board are additional duties he is given additional salary. The platform of both parties in the recent campaign called for the enactment of a law placing all state officers on reasonable flat salaries. The pledge was not that all salaries or any particular compensation should be lower than at present, but rather that the fee system should be abolished. From the manner in which the campaign was conducted by the democrats, it has been evident that the attack is being made particularly upon the compensation received by the secretary of state and the state printer.

George E. Chamberlain, governor-elect, said: "I am in favor of flat salaries for state officers, and have advocated them during the campaign, I am also in favor of the

special session for the purpose of enacting the salary law before the new officers begin their administrations. A special session would be necessary in order to make the law effective, for the salaries cannot be changed after a man has begun his term of office. Yes, I am in favor of putting the state printer on a flat salary also and let him get the public printing done as I get mine done—at the usual union price."

GEER TO BE NEXT U. S. SENATOR.

Governor Geer is an avowed candidate for the United States Senate to succeed Joseph Simon, says the Portland Journal. The Governor came down from Salem today, and in an interview he said:

"As to the senatorship I will only say that the flatteringly large vote given me by the people will give me the office without question, unless the Legislature sees proper to ignore the popular will which is not at all likely."

"While I have apparently carried every county in the state, Mr. Wood has in every case, so far as I have seen, polled his entire party vote. In almost every county my majority is far in excess of the newly elected members, and since no man voted for me who favored some other man for United States senator, it is difficult to suppose that such members will have any disposition to disregard the instruction received on this question."

"A presidential elector would have the same right to ignore the popular vote as would a member of the legislature under these circumstances. This vote should settle the Senatorship."

The Governor was asked about the report that he would call an extra session of the legislature to take action upon the flat salaries, and he replied:

"I knew nothing whatever about any petitions being circulated asked for a special session until yesterday but certainly if the declaration of the people in favor of specific salaries for state officers is to amount to anything, legislation to that effect must be had before the new officers are inaugurated. I shall be guided in the matter largely by the public sentiment that may appear in its favor."

Items of Interest.

British railroad travelers cannot recover damages if they have their fingers in the carriage door when the porters suddenly close it. "A railroad company," says the judge. "cannot act as dry nurse to every passenger."

Investigation by the state veterinarian showed that high death rate among horses in Maayland is due to cerebro spinal meningitis. The disease is the result of poor food, bad drainage and generally unsanitary environments.

A piece of virgin gold weighing 82 1/2 ounces troy was put in the melting pot of the United States assay office at Helena, Mont., negotiations for its preservation in nugget form having failed because of the impossibility of an exact assay.

The revolver with which President McKinley was shot was a 32 caliber, and since that time dealers have noticed an increase in the number of calls for weapons of that caliber and, it is said, of the particular make used by the assassin.

In Hayti a new species of tobacco has been produced by cross fertilization which grows from five to seven feet in height, bearing a leaf twenty-five inches long by fifteen in width. Three or even four cuttings can be made from one plant between November and March.

A self supporting community of consumptives is established near Denver, backed by Denver business men and twenty local physicians. The members of this community live in tents and engage in light remunerative occupation, which keeps the enterprise going and provides healthful employment for the afflicted.

Garden Seeds in great variety at Voegtly & Kenyon's.

METHOD OF CATTLE RAISING

ALTERED CONDITIONS IN THE WEST NOT REPOSIBLE.

The Stockmen do Not Profit From Big Prices Paid by Consumers—Are at Mercy of the Packing Houses.

A bronzed faced man with wide-rimmed white hat sat in the lobby of the New Willard, in Washington city, a few days ago reading the text of the petition filed by the United States officials against the beef trust. The reader was emphatic in his approval of the eleven specifications against the big packing companies. "If the government had only hauled these fellows into court a dozen years ago, we cattlemen of the west would have been making some money all these years and the meat-eaters of the east would have saved enough money on their meat bills to have made them all rich."

Then he confided to a reporter of the Washington Post that his name was John Battersbee and that he had been ranching with varied success for the past twenty years in Wyoming. Asked to explain in what matter the meat trust has been prejudicial to the interests of the cattlemen of the west, Mr. Battersbee said:

"Well it is just about a quarter of a century since it was first practically demonstrated that the grasses of the then virgin west would cure while standing and furnish abundant winterfeed for cattle. It was soon after the war that adventurous settlers began to pour into the western range country, extending from the British possessions on the north to Texas on the south, and embraced between the Missouri river and the crest of the range of the Rocky mountains. Many followed the advancing line of the Union Pacific railroad and others concerned themselves with prospecting for precious minerals. The line of railway was the base of supplies for the scattering settlers throughout the country and the means of transportation from the railroad to the settlers' camps and the military posts was by bull teams."

"When the character of the country became more generally known, cattle raisers followed as a matter of course. The grasses were peculiarly succulent and stood knee deep. The rolling character of the windswept plain assured plenty of bare spots no matter how great the snow fall, while the bluff along the creek or in the foothills assured protection to stock from the cold winds."

"The beginning of the stock business was very modest, but as the demand increased and the market extended, new sources were sought out to replenish the supply. These were readily found in Texas, where the cost of raising cattle was slight, and soon the Texas trail was open over which thousands of head were driven to the vast ranges of the Rocky mountain regions."

OLD DAYS ON THE RANGE.
"In the earlier days of the cattle business the stockmen lived at their ranches, varying the monotony of life by an occasional visit to town, which they usually painted a rich, red hue; but they looked very sharply after their business, lived and rode with their men, shared their hardships, eating precisely the same fare on the roundups and personally overseeing the business in all its details. They owned little, if any, land, and their "squatters' rights" were protected by their neighbors who enjoyed precisely the same privileges."

"The first sharp advance in the price of cattle came in 1869 and between that year and 1872 they doubled in value, and men who had been leading the hard, rough and ready life of a frontier stockman found themselves suddenly rich. Then began an era of speculation. English and eastern capital began to flow into the western country. In addition to the big prices and abundance of feed, the winters about this time were exceedingly

mild and favorable. Millions of dollars of foreign capital were invested in the cattle business, and scores of big herds were sold to English and foreign investors on "book account" that is, they paid for what the owners showed should be on the range, regardless of actual recounting. One Englishman did insist on an actual tallying. This was Morton Frewen, the financial writer, but the cowboys outwitted him. They drove many hundreds of the cattle he was purchasing past him three or four times and, like his compatriots, who bought on book account, he paid for nearly twice as many cattle as he actually bought."

(Continued on second page.)

Ninety Head of Horses Stolen.

A special from Vale to the Boise Capital News says:

Ninety head of saddle horses were stolen last Monday from Morton Bros. on the Owyhee river, about twenty miles from Vale, by five masked men. The buckaroos had left early in the morning, leaving Joe Edwards in charge of the herd. About noon, five masked men rode up and took possession of the band and started for the Nevada line. A posse was organized and after a long chase overtook the gang, who retreated only after a pitched battle, in which many shots were exchanged. Sheriff Lawrence was notified and is in hot pursuit with an armed posse.

Congressman Moody's Bill.

Washington, June 6.—(Special to The Telegram)—Representative Moody, of Oregon, has submitted a favorable report to a bill which is now on the house calendar that has for its purpose the repayment of a portion of the purchase price paid by settlers for lands included within the limits of railroad grants, but through which the grantees never constructed their roads. It states that the government by statute fixed the price for its public lands at \$1 25 per acre, and at that price public lands could be purchased under the limitations of the preemption and commutation laws. This price has always been considered a fair and reasonable value for the public lands. To aid in the construction of certain proposed railway lines, grants of the alternate sections, within certain limits on each side of the proposed lines of construction were made to different railroad companies. The price of the land in the reserved sections within these limits was raised to the "double minimum," or \$2 50 an acre. It was by this means that the reserved sections became just as valuable to the government as the whole of the lands before any grant was made, and thus the government experienced no loss by reason of such grants.

In some cases the roads were never built and the grants were forfeited, and the sections reserved for the benefit of the railroad were subject to entry and sale at the single minimum price of \$1 25 an acre. The settlers who went on the land in good faith and in the belief that they would be near a railroad were never benefited to the extent they had reason to believe they would, and the government still retains the extra \$1 25 an acre. Mr. Moody says that they acted in good faith and that the failure of the companies to construct the roads reduced the lands taken by them to the value of others around them. Mr. Moody argues from this that these settlers are entitled to be reimbursed to the extent of half the purchase money, and urges the passage of the bill.

The bill will benefit all settlers who went on railroad grants between March 3 1875, and February 28, 1885. It includes grants in Oregon, Washington and states further east.

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