

CENTRAL POINT HERALD

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HOW LEGISLATURES ARE ORGANIZED.

The biennial contest over organization of the two houses of the State Legislature reminds one of the story of the jury that was called into court by the judge after they had been out twenty-four hours. In response to his inquiry whether they had agreed upon a verdict, one of them replied: "No, we haven't been able to elect a foreman yet." To the ordinary observer it appears that the members of the Legislature, particularly of the Senate, have spent most of their legislative energy thus far in trying to agree upon a presiding officer. The organization of the Legislature is an important matter, and yet it should be subordinate to legislation. Quite frequently in the past legislation was subordinated to the personal interests of aspirants for the presiding offices, and trades were made, not upon the merits of the proposed measures, but upon the extremities to which the candidate was pressed. Committees were appointed, not according to the fitness of the members, but according to the promises they were able to exact in return for their support in the organization fight. In carrying out promises so made, the successful aspirants appointed men upon committees who were unfitted and left off men who were fitted for the places. Because a man voted with the losing side in an organization contest he was assigned to unimportant committees, even though his experience and abilities would have made him a valuable member of important committees. Thus has legislation been hindered and impaired.

Yet there seems to be no practicable remedy for this unsatisfactory feature of legislative proceedings. The members like the organization contests and many of them go into the conflict with a determination to land something for themselves, if possible. The unsophisticated taxpayer voter pictures to himself a body of ninety men going to Salem with minds burdened with the responsibility of making laws for all the people of a great state. In the quiet seclusion of his humble fireside, on the eve of the meeting of the Legislature, he imagines a crowd of thoughtful men conferring upon the needs of the state. Far different is the reality as it appears to the view of a man who goes to Salem Sunday before the opening day of the Legislature and witnesses the gathering of saloons in the hotel lobby, where every resource of political ingenuity is exhausted in the effort to win the organization. The needs of the people and the character of laws to be enacted are lost sight of except so far as legislation can be made to serve the purposes of one candidate or another. Perhaps the fight does not end on the night before the day appointed by law for the convening of the Legislature, but is carried along for two or three days, during which time one house or the other remains unorganized. In such a situation the lawmakers are unable to make laws because they have "not yet been able to elect presiding officers." They have the difficulty of the far-famed jury duplicated in every particular. The fight in the Senate might

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be avoided by providing for election of a Lieutenant-Governor, whose duty it should be to preside over the State Senate, as the Vice-President presides over the United States Senate; yet this innovation would very likely prove to have more defects than merits. There is no relief at the ballot-box, for the same story of conflict is repeated at each session, regardless of the personnel of the Legislature. Demanding the referendum upon legislation enacted as a result of organization fight is but adding to the injury that has been sustained. At most we can but hope that some time and somehow the members of the Legislature may be induced to lose sight of self-interest and devote their energies exclusively to enactment of good laws.—Oregonian.

THE PACIFIC MONTHLY IN 1907

will be, more than ever, the great magazine of the West—our West, your West, God's country. With brush and pen its staff of contributors will depict the best of the West from Alaska to the Canal Zone; from the Missouri River to the Philippines. To do this the famous writers of the West, the artists of the West—its poets, will do their best work for The Pacific Monthly. Herman Whitaker, Jack London, James Hopper, Karl Edwin Harriman, William Winter, C. E. S. Wood, Fred Lockley, William L. Finley, W. Leon Dawson, Lute Pease, Adelaide Soule, Edna Kenton, Marguerite Stabier, Arthur H. Dutton, W. C. Estabrook, R. C. Pitzer, Porter Garnett, Charles B. Clark, Jr., Mary Lambert Wood, Millard F. Hudson, Curtis Hidden Page, L. W. Brownell, Edward Holtzheimer, John Fleming Wilson, Wex Jones and Frank G. Stephens are some of the writers whose work has been purchased. Sidney H. Riesenber, McM Pease, Xavier Martinez, Maynard Dixon, Lute Pease, Eloise J. Roorbach, Beverly Towles, Blanche Letcher and Frank Keane are among those whose brilliant and original work will be reproduced, both in black and white and in color. The most artistic of Western photography will be called into play for fit illustration of each issue. Among the most wonderful photographs ever taken are F. H. Kiser's pictures of mountain-climbing in the West. These will appear only in The Pacific Monthly. The best writers of the West have been called upon to describe faithfully and interestingly the various marvels of the West. In the January, February, March and April issues the Oregon trail, the Pueblos of the Southwest, the sheep ranges of Oregon, the great romance of Twin Falls, the undiscovered resources of Yaquina Bay, the unexplored coast of Washington will receive brilliant treatment. Western bird-life will be treated for the first time adequately and beautifully in every issue by William L. Finley, Herbert Bohman, W. Leon Dawson and L. W. Brownell. Nothing so exhaustive has ever before been attempted by a magazine. History by its makers will not be neglected. Millard F. Hudson, Edward Holtzheimer, Fred a Hunt ("Mossagate Bill") are among them. Essays, literary criticism and dramatic reviews by William Winter, C. E. S. Wood, Porter Garnett, Austin Lewis and many others will give our readers the best in these fields. Nothing so beautiful as The Pacific Monthly will be in 1907 will be found on the news stands. The best that paper-mill, inkgrinder, typefounder and engraver can produce will dress the magazine. These are some of the things which will go toward The Pacific Monthly, the magazine of the Western American—a magazine equal to the best anywhere.

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ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE.
The undersigned, having been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Isaac Simpkins, deceased, by order of the County Court for Jackson County, Oregon, sitting in probate and having qualified as such, notice is hereby given to all persons having claims against the estate of said Isaac Simpkins, deceased, to present said claims with proper vouchers attached to the undersigned at Woodville, Oregon, within six months from the date of the first publication of this notice.
Dated at Woodville, Oregon, October 1, 1906.
OSCAR SIMPKINS, Administrator of the estate of Isaac Simpkins, deceased.
Date of first publication Oct. 4, 1906.

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