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PHILADELPHIA

Gets a Severe Scorching

Thirty Blocks in the Business Centre Burned.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27.—The most disastrous conflagration that has ever visited this city in recent years broke out shortly after 7 yesterday morning in the basement of the big grocery store of Hanscomb Bros., at 1317 Market street. Property to the value of \$2,500,000 or more was destroyed.

The flames were first discovered by John Wagner, reserve policeman. Before the engines reached the scene the entire rear portion of Hanscomb's store and Bennett's restaurant were ablaze. A second alarm was sent in, and a few moments later a general alarm.

Immediately adjoining Hanscomb Bros., on the west was a five-story building occupied by Blum Bros., manufacturers of ladies' cloaks. This was soon a mass of flames. The water seemed almost to freeze before touching the building.

The next building on the west to be eaten up was that occupied by Geo. Marshall as a restaurant, then came the hat factory of G. E. Wells and the rear of the wholesale grocery of Showell & Fryer, at 1325 Market street.

While the flames were sweeping west on Market street the umbrella manufacturer of Hirsch Bros., the largest in the world, which adjoins the restaurant, caught fire. The inflammable nature of the immense stock of light silks added to the flames and in half an hour the building was a mass of flames.

On the east of the Hirsch building, between 1309 and 1301 Market street, were the following tenants: Melpach restaurant, Sterner & Bail cigar factory, A. Nickolaky, confectionery, and the big drug store of H. Hillman, the upper story of which was occupied by Potter Bros., a photograph gallery.

North of Hirsch Bros., immediately across Silver street, stood the new seven-story building of Dunlap Bros. This building extended from 1306 to 1310 Filbert street, and was 100 feet deep. The first floors were occupied by the Collins Carriage Company. The flames swept through this structure, gutting it completely.

The small buildings on Silver street, which runs west from Thirteenth to Juniper, were all gutted. The shop of Contractor Lewis Havens caught fire from the rear of Blum Bros., and three firemen were caught by a falling wall. Frank Piper, of engine company No. 30, was the only man seriously injured.

At 8:15 a. m., fire was discovered in the tower of John Wanamaker's big dry goods store. A stream of water from one of the water towers was run up to the burning structure, but the supply of water was either too small or the stream did not reach the flames. The tower contained a handsome clock and chimed. At 9 o'clock the entire tower collapsed, the clock falling through the first floor. Two lines of hose were then gotten on top of the gigantic structure, and the flames which threatened to destroy Philadelphia's most famous store were soon under control.

Wanamaker said to an Associated Press reporter at 9:30 that in three hours after the firemen are out of the store seven-eighths of the store will be ready for business. Wanamaker was the great crowd. Meanwhile the firemen were having their hands full confining the flames to the original block.

Up to this time the flames had been confined to the block bounded by Filbert street on the north, Thirteenth on the east, Market on the south, and Juniper on the west. The wind was blowing from the west, and carried the flames right into the rear of the buildings on Thirteenth street. The first building there to catch fire was that of Jacob Miller's gents' furnishings. Fifteen other shops and stores on North Thirteenth were gutted.

The flames ate their way almost directly northwest from the rear of Blum Bros.' building, gutting the rear of part of 2 to 25 North Juniper street, Showell & Frier's big grocery. The rear, used as law offices and private residences, was completely burned out.

While the fire was at its height flames were discovered on the window sashes of the big city hall. The city hall fire department ran a line to the roof and a few minutes had the structure free from all danger. The wall of Hirsch Bros.' factory collapsed soon after 8 o'clock. The other walls left standing resemble huge icebergs.

Between 3 and 4 a. m. fire broke out in the fifth story of the building occupied by C. H. Bunell, wholesale stationer, on Chestnut street. The loss is \$10,000. Shortly before 6 o'clock fire started in the big carpet store of John & James Dobson, on Chestnut street. By hard work the flames were confined to the sixth story, but water soaked through to the basement. The loss is \$100,000.

COLLAPSED.

Mitchell's House of Cards.

Attempt to Force a Senate Republican Caucus.

The Mitchell-Fulton-Driver combination have struck a snag. The senatorial house of cards has fallen to pieces, and Senator Mitchell's candidacy may be said to have completely collapsed.

Today it began to leak out that an ineffective attempt was made last eve to get a majority of the Republican senators to agree, in a secret caucus, to sit with the Benson house and elect Mitchell senator. The senate and Benson house in joint convention would number 61 members, a majority would be 32 and that number Mitchell could get.

Senator Mitchell's man Fulton labored all day to get the senators to attend the caucus at the parlor "A" of Hotel Willamette at 8 p. m. but the following twelve members were absent: Calbreath, McClung, Driver, Hazelton, Gowan, Patterson, Marion, Harmon, Reed, Hobson, Price, Johnson, Taylor.

Senator Mitchell and Charles W. Fulton laid the whole plan as above outlined, and Senator Driver championed the Benson organization as the only legal house. He read a long extract from Reed's rules of order. Senator Reed of Douglas showed that there was no analogy between Reed's counting a quorum and the Benson house. Reed's congress was a constitutionally organized body, about the legality of which there was no question. His rule to count a quorum was for the purpose of compelling members sitting and present to participate in the transaction of business already pending and before the house of which they were a part.

THE LITTLE JOKER was now produced by Senator Patterson of Marion, no less than an agreement in writing to sit with the Benson house and elect a senator next Tuesday. This was immediately resisted by several senators who declared that they had voted against recognizing the Benson house, or had expressed doubts as to its legality, and could not sign an agreement to sit with that illegal organization to elect a Senator. Patterson pocketed his agreement to give Mitchell a certificate of election from a rump organization that would seat him in the senate. A cold chill fell on all present and they separated and the subject of electing a senator by such a combination has been dropped as a topic of enjoyable conversation.

A number of the senators who participated were seen today and do not deny the main features of the attempted caucus as above narrated. OUT OF THE RACE. It is becoming more and more clear that even Mitchell's supporters, or at least some of them, concede he is out of the race and that he must now withdraw his name as his candidacy is now merely an obstruction to the organization of the legislature. Senator Mitchell cannot be re-elected. The mismanagement of his affairs by his champions in the house and his lobby outside of the house has been fatal and continuous. His first error was in forcing a joint caucus and disclosing his weakness by dragging in men who had asked to be released, or who had conscientious objections to going into a caucus, and disclosing a bare majority, counting votes of proxies, by letter and telegram. This colossal error was followed by his attempt to force an organization of the lower house unknown to the constitution.

The absolute collapse and failure of Senator Mitchell's candidacy is so apparent that his retirement from the field is an imperative necessity, prerequisite to any organization of the legislature.

The senatorial struggle has wrought harm enough to Oregon interests. It has prevented any relief to the people and it should now be eliminated and the representatives of the people be allowed to go ahead with the business for which they were sent here.

The question for each representative now to decide, is shall he assist in holding up any faction for or against any senatorial candidate, or shall he demand that about half a dozen relief and repeal bills pass and the appropriation bill. There is still time and opportunity for the members of this legislature to redeem themselves and prove a blessing to the people instead of a curse. After they have attended to their duties to the public, if there is time and disposition to elect a senator that can also be done.

Schilling's Best baking powder is only a little better than two or three others; but Schilling's Best tea is twice as good as usual tea. In either case, your grocer returns your money in full if you'd rather have some other.

For sale by Harritt & Lawrence.

BENSON HOUSE TUESDAY AFTERNOON.

- At 2 p. m. the Benson house resumed first reading of bills. 3. Chapman, to regulate primaries. 4. Conn, To amend sections of code relating to assessment. 5. Crawford, to repeal railroad commissioners law. 6. Grake, relating to state taxes. Sec. 2613. 7. Gurdane, to create lein on crops for harvesting same. 8. Hogue, for certifying to record of deed or patent and recording same. 9. Hope. Withdrawn temporarily. 10. Hudson, to regulate rate of interest of private loans. 11. Huntington, to amend sec. 313, to make earnings of judgment debtor exempt. 12. Jennings, to redistrict judicial districts. 13. Lake, to protect eastern oysters or their progeny planted in Yaquina bay. 14. Langell, to incorporate town of Gold Hill. 15. Marsh, to prevent and regulate the sale or production of any adulterated or unwholesome foods or drinks. When cows are confined they shall have not less than 800 cubic feet of air, and shall not be confined facing each other. Penalty \$200. 16. Mitchell, to regulate registration of voters, nomination of officers and to regulate elections. 17. Nusler, to establish free public libraries and reading room. 18. Palm, to amend sec. 2608, relating to school districts. 19. Rigby, amend charter of Athena. 20. Smith of Marion, to repeal railroad commission. 21. Somers, relating to supreme court. 22. Stanley, to protect food fishes. 23. Thomas, to provide for registration of voters and holding elections. 24. Veness, provide a board of canal commissioners for the canal and locks at Willamette Falls. 25. Wagner, to amend law relating to holding primary elections. Benson house adjourned to Wednesday at 10 a. m.

BENSON HOUSE—WEDNESDAY FORENOON.

- Called to order at 10 a. m. Prayer by Rev. Kantner. Journal read. PETITIONS. By David, against sale of cigarettes. By Hudson, for repeal of Railroad, Domestic Animal, Pure Food, Horticultural commissions, and opposed to appropriations for all purposes, and reduction of all salaries, etc. PERSONAL PRIVILEGE. Brown of Morrow, asked the right to correct his admission that he had been in error the day before on a point of order.

RESOLUTIONS.

- By Crawford, reciting that in case of any office becoming vacant, by neglect of failure to qualify and attend to the duties of their office, their places be filled by election, and that the opposition members who had not yet qualified be cited to appear Thursday at noon and be qualified. A copy was to be served on each of the following members by the sergeant-at-arms: Bardley, Bayer, Blyeu, Bourne, Buckman, Craig, Davis, (Umatilla) Davis, (Multnomah) Dustin, Emery, Gill, Guild, Hill, Howser, Jones, Kruse, Lee, Maxwell, McAllister Munkers, Ogie, Riddle, Povey, Schindler, Smith, (Linn) Swindseth, Ulen, Whitaker, Yonkum. Crawford contended that this step was deemed necessary to get out of the great muddle which this legislature had got into. Adopted by vote of 27 ayes, 1 nay, three absent. Huntington of Wasco voted nay and asked if such an order could be issued by less than a constitutional majority? The speaker did not reply. The three absent members were Hope, Lake, Misener. 25. Benson, to amend sec. 535 code relating to civil actions. 27. Crawford, to regulate the transportation of freight by a maximum rate law. 28. David, to amend game law. 29. Grake, to exempt active firemen of Astoria. 30. Hogue, to amend secs. 1047, 1048, relating to removal and suspension of attorneys. 31. Hope, for assessment of non-resident sheep. 32. Hudson, by request, providing for election of road supervisors in each election precinct. 33. Jennings, to regulate fees for collections for private parties by county officials. 34. Langell, to amend state normal school act, providing for converting Ashland college into the Southern Oregon Normal school. 35. Marsh, to amend section 4,151 relating to county surveyors. Benson house adjourned to 2 p. m.

BENSON HOUSE—WEDNESDAY.

- The Benson house continued first reading of bills. Only 29 were present: 36. Merrill, to repeal as follows: domestic animal commission, state board of horticulture, district horticultural and agricultural societies, state food and dairy commission, fish and game warden, Astoria boatmen, pilot commissioners, Oregon militia, state university tax, and railroad commission, contagious diseases, and all other special legislation and provisions beyond the bare skeleton of a government presented in the constitution. Benson house adjourned to 11:30, Thursday.

SEDATE—WEDNESDAY A. M.

Opened with prayer by Rev. Bowersox. Reading of Journal dispensed with. Senate Resolution 16 Dufur, ordering that the chief clerk have prepared a daily calendar. Senator Selling in the interest of "economy" spoke against the resolution. Dufur and Driver spoke for it. Mulkey loved an amendment that senators be provided with sufficient copies to send to newspapers and interested parties. Amendment accepted. McClung spoke against resolution. Gesner asked to

have the number limited to 240. Holt asked for ayes and noes. Taylor of the ways and means committee spoke against; the resolution. Carter also opposed in emphatic terms. Mulkey spoke for the measure. Johnson opposed more than enough for the senate, and moved reference to committees on printing with instructions to report cost. Lost. The resolution as an amendment was lost by 8 ayes and 20 noes.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

- 172. King, to provide for organization of irrigation districts. 173. Gesner, to amend sec of code, fixing price of board for county prisoners. 174. Wade, amending laws, fixing fees and salaries of assessors in the various counties and other officers. 175. Daly, by request, to amend sec. 291 code. 176. Smith, to amend code relating to election contests. 177. Reed, by request, to provide for working of state convicts upon the public roads. 178. Patterson of Marion, to amend incorporation laws of city of Woodburn. 179. Carter, by request, to authorize a free ferry at Corvallis. Joint resolution, No. 4. Daly, proposing amendment to constitution requiring 60 days residence in precinct to make voter eligible, also providing for registration law. Dufur and Harmon offered anti-cigarette petitions. 90. Harmon, to divide Coos county, and create county of Bay, Counties. 91. Smith, to amend salmon fishing laws. Fishing industries. 92. Dufur, to provide and regulate proceedings in justice courts. Judiciary. 93. Bates, authorizing the appointment of official court reporters. Judiciary. 94. Reed, to authorize construction of flood gate on Hudson slough in Douglas county. Fishing industries. 95. King, to amend code, relating to sale of lands by foreign guardians. Judiciary. 96. Driver, to provide for placing U. S. flags upon school houses, and court houses from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily, except during stormy weather. Education. 97. Dawson, to amend law relating to redemption of county orders. Counties. 98. Hughes, assessment and taxation. 99. Daly, to amend law regulating practice of pharmacy and sale of poison. Medicine and pharmacy. 100. Mulkey, to prevent corrupt practices at elections. Elections. 101. Johnson, by request, to amend charter of Brownsville. To select committee senators of Linn county. 102. Smith, abolishing use of fish traps or fixed appliances after January 1, 1899. Fishing industry. 103. Patterson, of Washington, to further enlarge charter of Hillsboro, Senators from Washington county. 104. Hobson, to amend laws relating to sale of property under execution. Judiciary. 105. Patterson of Marion, to provide for transportation of convicts to the penitentiary. Penal institutions. 106. Haseltine, to create non-partisan board of trustees for insane asylum. Public institutions. Adjournd.

SENATE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON.

- SECOND READING. 107. Patterson of Marion, regulating witness fees in Marion county. Senators from Marion. 108. Selling, to enlarge powers and duties of assignors and creditors. Judiciary. 109. King, to repeal the railroad commission. Railroads. 110. Daly, to exempt homesteads. Judiciary. 111. Driver, to force legislatures to organize. Tabled. 112. McClung, requiring publication of semi-annual statements of county officers. Revision of laws. 113. Gowan, to prevent stock being moved over private lands. Counties. 114. Gowan, by request to amend law providing for election of prosecuting attorneys. Judiciary. 115. Gowan, to compel county clerks to administer pension oaths free of charge. Revision of laws. 116. Smith, to amend law regulating executions and transfers by sheriffs. Judiciary. 117. Smith, limiting compensation of secretary of state and fixing salary of clerk of the supreme court. Adjournd.

JOURNAL "X" RAYS.

Directed Upon the Oregon Legislature and Lobby. "I'll teach bimetallicism, round or flat."—John H. Mitchell. Burlingame attends Father Driver even in his moments of retirement. "We can treat any man respectfully who will pay us to do so."—Salem Statesman.

"We can treat any man respectfully who will pay us to do so."

The people generally admire the pluck of a man like Smith of Linn. He is the tool of no man. Gratke seems to think the Eastern Oregon canneries could be run with a liberal supply of cayuse carcasses. "Give me eighteen years more and I'll agree to do something for the Indian war veterans. See if I don't."—John H. Mitchell.

The bill forbidding exposure in the open market of calves slaughtered under three weeks of age does not refer to the Benson house.

Speaker Benson hasn't thought of such thing as naming his committees, but, of course, his house is regularly organized.

That joint representative from Grant and Harney, Mr. Dustin, has the courage of his own convictions and the plaudits of his constituents.

A man who can deceive the people both ways at once in four different directions is smart enough to elect himself senator of Oregon if he can only get the opportunity.

THE JOURNAL has not paid much attention to bills proposed at this "session," as there has not been no session and all bills prepared so far have been prepared for the waste basket.

Salem would have a "regin of terror" if the good Christian Doctor Driver could hang all the twenty-nine as he asserts should be done. That's what Christ would have done under similar circumstances (?)

It is the declared purpose of the Multnomah members of the house to not participate in the organization until Senator Mitchell lets up the pressure he is now exerting to compel an illegal organization.

If Gratke, of Astoria, jumped at the conclusion that he could get fish wheel legislation in return for helping organize the Benson house, he reckoned without his host. The canneries, on the upper Columbia, can't be run on suckers.

If John H. Mitchell had supported free silver last November, he would now have the respect of every fair thinking person in Oregon, whether said person was a goldite or not. Consistency is what the American people amite.—Eugene Guard.

Even the street cars are subsidized in the interests of the Mitchell-Benson force scheme. When a motor-man gets 50 cents for a fast run from the state house to the Willamette hotel, in addition to regular fares, times are not so bad.

THE JOURNAL and Uncle John Gill of Tillamook-Yambill will give John H. Mitchell a certificate of election to the United States senate that will be just as good and answer all purposes just as well as the certificate from the "rump" Benson house he is trying so hard to get.

Veness offered the usual resolution to "investigate" the treasury of Oregon. To the credit of the Benson faction it was tabled by vote of 21 to 9. This picnic for from four to six \$5 to \$10 a day clerks costs biennially \$6000 to \$12000, and reveals nothing of interest to the people.

No one pays a heavier penalty for

such greatness as may be his than does Max Pracht, of Oregon. One of the state papers, in speaking of his desire to govern Alaska, says: "The Yukon now has two mouths, one of which is 60 miles wide; but if Pracht gets up there, both of them will get out of business."

Not satisfied with being on both sides of the money question Senator Mitchell in his death struggle for reelection is working both the American Protective Association, through high joint commissioner Burlingame of Eugene, and the Catholic wires through Col. Hiram Mitchell of Portland.

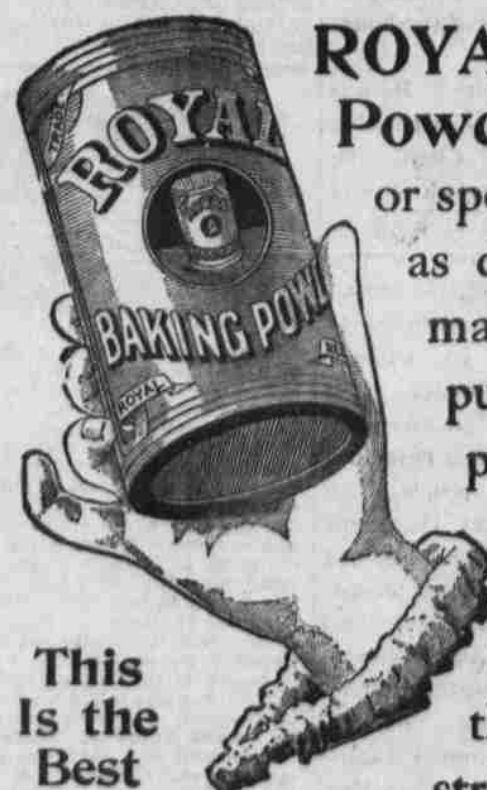
Greenbacks and bank notes are more in demand in Salem these times than gold, notwithstanding all this clamor for the gold standard. You see greenbacks don't rattle or jingle and they can be easily handed from hand to hand and put in a large envelope and carried on the inside pocket. And by the way one of the legislators (even) was seen to have one of these large envelopes full of green money.

No one questions dear old Doctor Driver's loyalty to Senator Mitchell. Although Driver is a heart and soul silver man and will redeem his pledge to vote for Mitchell if he gets a chance, it would seem unnecessary for that man Burlingame to shadow the old preacher all the time. Burlingame claims to represent the A. P. A. and to hold a proprietary interest in Driver.

Mr. Misener has pursued a consistent course; he has done more than he was required to do in helping the Mitchell men to make an effort at organizing. As a Democrat he has shown a willingness to help Republicans out of a tight place. But he has shown himself independent of the faction and served notice on them that he considers their action illegal.

The Statesman refers to Senator Carter "as one of the ilk known as Simon Republicans." There are no such Republicans. In the spring there were "Mitchell Republicans," known as such on the official ballots. They represented Senator Mitchell's professed devotion and advocacy of a well known principle in our public affairs which the senator has abandoned.

Those ten special deputy policemen are said to have been also deputy sergeants-at-arms. Now some of those ten men are known to have carried concealed weapons upon their persons while doing duty at the state house upon that memorable morning. What they needed with large pistols strapped to them no one knows but they had them just the same and the question arises (if they were not special policemen) had they the right to carry a concealed pistol? Does a deputy sergeant-at-arms have license to carry a concealed weapon?



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