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DISCHARGED.

All Senate Clerks Must Go.

Hot Debate by the Senators on Economy.

Senator Reed introduced S. R. No. 22, stating that, whereas, the legislature was not fully organized, that all clerks be dispensed with. Gowan opposed the resolution, and stated that if he was obliged to get along without clerks there would be a great funeral of bills. Patterson favored the resolution. Dufur favored the resolution, as there are only eight more days of the session. He opposed staying beyond 40 days on account of a minority hold-up. He stated that he did not believe there would be any legitimate legislation at this session. He said he might, at no distant day, move for the senate to adjourn sine die.

Selling stated that he took a second place to no senator in the matter of economy, and stated plainly that he believed the threat to adjourn was simply a threat to the members who declined to enter the so-called joint convention. He said he was willing to remain in Salem six months if necessary to have legislation. He admitted that there were too many clerks, and said he would dispense with his clerks from today. He then showed how the men who were advocating this resolution as an economy measure, had introduced some of the most extravagant measures. He moved to amend by reducing the clerks to thirty. Reed retorted with good effect. Dr. Driver then gave a good discourse against vindictiveness, and also spoke against the extravagant clerk hire. He has been here in the partisan interest of no man. He had promised to do a certain thing for one time and no more, and that he would be willing to remain six months if necessary to do that, and if he thought it would not become possible he would go home forthwith.

Michell opposed oratorical economy and supported the amendment, and spoke in favor of reducing salaries of of county officials. He stated that he believed the legislature was held up by one man, John H. Mitchell. He was willing to remain here forever before he would be whipped into line for any one man.

Driver resented the imputation and said he believed that it was the duty of the legislature to organize first and then vote, and not vote before organizing.

Michell: If the Benson house is a legal body why does it not proceed to business?

Brownell stated that he had always favored the employment of clerks, but that he now favored the resolution. He spoke of Senator Selling as being a man of wealth, but that he is a poor man, and could not afford to stay here over the legal forty days. He then stated that this legislature is being held up by three men, Harvey Scott, Jonathan Bourne and the president of this senate. When those three men will open the doors and let work proceed, he said the legislature would at once go to work. He said he was not here for John H. Mitchell or any other man for senator. Senator Brownell then said that he had clerks on his committees which had not been obliged to do a particle of work.

Mulkey then arraigned the senator from Clackamas for having lobbied among the senators to get an assistant door keeper. He then told how he had been told that a senator would be elected tomorrow, and that without his (Mulkey's) vote, hence he thought they would need at least thirty clerks.

Selling responded that when he had inquired of the senator from Clackamas before the session as to the number of clerks employed by the senate two years ago, he was informed by him that about 160 had been employed, but that in reality it was less than sixty. This Brownell explained.

Senator Reed then stated when he came here he had supposed he knew something about politics, but he now gave it up. Some more sharp retorts followed among the senators who had previously offered economic measures.

Harmon offered an amendment to the amendment by reducing the number of clerks to ten, one on the judiciary, four on the enrolling and five on the engrossing committee.

Patterson of Marion stated that he was willing to remain here in the interest of the people until there is a legal organization. He opposed the retaining of four clerks on the enrollment committee, in fact, all clerks. Gowan said he would not stay here over 40 days unless the law required him to.

Holt stated that he also had learned something about politics. He came here supposing that such questions as this were to be considered by the entire senate, but he had learned that these matters are all taken care of by a caucus. Therefore he feared that he might, as a Populist, be out of order.

After the two amendments were lost McClung spoke in favor of the original Reed resolution, and made a very plain statement of his position on the question of economy. He stated that in 1874, when he was a member the house, most of the committees had no clerks.

Carter spoke of his experience in the legislature in 1878-82, stating that there were very few clerks. But two years ago he said that he had been urged to have a clerk, and inasmuch as a fine young widow was recommended for his committee, he finally hired her, but dismissed her after a few days. Much applause.

All senators having voted aye on the resolution, President Simon facetiously voted no.

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