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## Ready for a Conference.

### The Benson Faction Is Now Divided

#### SOME WANT TO COMPROMISE.

#### Only Eighteen Who Want to Quit Friday.

#### THERE ARE MORE THAN FORTY

#### Who Will Stay and Enact Needed Legislation.

Hurray! There are over forty members of this legislature who consider the interests of the people greater than those of any one man or set of men. They will stay and organize to enact needed legislation. They have said so on two records made in the Benson house.

**THE BENSON HOUSE.**  
The Benson house met at 11 a. m. today.

Crawford offered a resolution for a committee on conference with the opposition, as follows:

That a committee of three be appointed by the hold-out members, as to whether it is possible to compromise present difficulties, and to ascertain the reasons which influence the opposition to refuse to qualify and take the oath of office.

Crawford, Jennings and Huntington spoke for the conference. Veness, Chapman, Brown, Thomas and Gratke spoke against. The resolution was lost.

Crawford made a gallant fight for a compromise. He seems to be the most conservative of the Mitchell men, but he was overwhelmed by the votes of the Benson combination.

Thomas of Multnomah then sent up a resolution to adjourn as follows:  
**RESOLVE TO ADJOURN.**

Resolved, by the house, the senate concurring, that the nineteenth biennial session of the legislature of the state of Oregon adjourn without a day on Friday, the 19th day of February, 1897, at 12 o'clock midnight of said day.

It was adopted, a motion to table being lost by 5 to 18. The five were: Conn, Crawford, Merrill, Chapman and Huntington.

The Benson hours then adjourned to 11 a. m., Thursday.

**THE JOINT CONVENTION.**

Eleven senators and twenty-three representatives responded to roll call.

Vaughn, Hudson, Wagner and Mitchell were excused for illness. Those present were:

**JOINT ROLL CALL.**  
Benson, Bridges, Brown, Brownell, Chapman, Conn, Crawford, David, Driver, Dufur, Gratke, Gowan, Gurdane, Harmon, Hogue, Hughes, Hope, Johnson, Jennings, Langell, Marsh, Merrill, Nowler, Patterson, Price, Palm, Rigby, Smith, Somers, Stanley, Thompson, Thomas, Taylor, Veness, —34.

Thomas of Multnomah arose and stated that members had informed him that if they could get a chance to ballot they would come into this convention. He moved that those present proceed to ballot for senator with the understanding that no election be reached unless 46 be present and voting.

Reed moved to amend that a ballot be taken tomorrow at 12 o'clock.

The President ruled that no motion but to adjourn from day to day was in order.

Adjourned to 12 o'clock Thursday. Brownell announced a conference of those present in room 3, state house this evening.

The air is chill with political death, desperation and damnation at Salem. The closing hours of the worst farce of a legislature that ever sat in Oregon hang over the city like a funeral pall. Men walk up and down the hotel lobbies with their hands folded behind their backs and an athen gray

determination painted on faces illumined by black-encircled eyes.

**AT MITCHELL'S ROOMS**  
A calm of deathlike stillness had settled on everything—even the furniture. The push was still in evidence and conspicuous were Sol Hirsch, Senator Brownell, Judge Carey, Judge Denny, Cols. McGinnis and Belcher and John Minto. This entire motley crew of Republicans supported Penoyer at the June election and now Penoyer and his lieutenants are with them to the finish of this remarkable fight.

The Mitchell managers all declare they go home Friday night, never, never, NEVER to come back. This is said so earnestly and so unanimously that it raises a doubt in the mind of the interrogator. He offers to bet one of the Mitchellites a good hat. It is declined. They are coming back.

There can be no legal adjournment of this legislature without a concurrent resolution being passed to show that both houses were organized and both adjourned together. Not a dollar of salary, mileage or clerkhire can be drawn unless that is done. There is not now a particle of evidence on the records that there has been a legislature in session.

**AT BOURNE'S "HAREM,"**  
as the anti-Mitchell headquarters are facetiously called, the best of good humor prevailed. There were cigars to be had. The members who clubbed together to room there were all about. Those bad boys Bourne, Barkley, Craig, Guild, Davis, Burke, and their friends sat chatting around a stove.

Hon. John Young, the Bryan state chairman, was there. He is a man who has not been seen on the senatorial tapet very much. He has not had his name or his picture in the newspapers. He is about as silent as old man Grant who used to live at Washington, D. C.

One of the anti-Mitchell boys had been telling about a starving bulldog he had picked up and fed. He was pure white with a golden brindle halo about his eyes. He wanted to name him Mitchell, but his wife objected as she admires the senator personally, if not political. Young broke the silence that followed by saying he believed in a mascot. He had one he had carried for six months, but would not tell what it was. Jonathon Bourne declared he had picked up a horse shoe, over two years ago, and would not take \$55,000 for it. The mascot proposition has a strong hold on the opposition. What Mitchell needs is a mascot. He has lots of hoodoos.

**SENATE—TUESDAY AFTERNOON.**  
Senator Mitchell by unanimous consent presented S. R. 24, resolving that the president of the senate shall appoint a committee of four, two senators and two chief clerks, at \$10 per day, to examine and correct the journals of the senate, with not over twenty days in which to do the same.

Patterson, of Marion, opposed the resolution, as both houses are not yet fully organized. Driver opposed on grounds of economy. Carter also opposed on good economic grounds. Patterson stated that at the last session the two senators serving on such committee served for nothing. Reed opposed it as a matter of economy, stating that in fact he would rather see it "buried out of sight" than to have the records revised. Upon motion of Johnson the resolution was laid on the table by a vote of 23 to 3.

The committee on military affairs reported favorably upon S. B. 213.

The committee on education reported favorably upon S. B. 139 and 120, with amendments; also unfavorably upon S. B. 76 and 141. Adjourned.

**SENATE WEDNESDAY FORENOON.**  
Senators Hazeltine and Selling presented anti-cigarette petitions, which were duly referred.

S. R. 25, Reed, asking that a committee of three senators be appointed to revise the senate journals, without pay, to be done by two days after adjournment. Senator Driver said he could not see how a committee could revise the journals, as nothing had been done. Selling moved to amend

by striking out preamble, which was accepted by Reed. Adopted 23 ayes; 2 noes; After the vote Senator Reed in a most comical way stated why he had offered the resolution, by relating he had had a dream. In this he pictures the farmer and his work, in all making a strong plea for economy.

The following committee was appointed on Reed's motion; Reed, Mitchell and Gesner.

The committee on revision of laws reported favorably upon senate bill 136.

Adjourned.

**SENATE—WEDNESDAY P. M.**  
Senator Reed moved that inasmuch as his committee on revising the journals had much work to do, that the senate adjourn. Carried.

**JOURNAL "X" RAYS.**

**Directed Upon the Oregon Legislature and Lobby.**

It is said Boss Iky Patterson does nothing these days but fill Senator Al Reed up with the horrors of Populism.

For a man who gets the jimjams at the mere thought of Populism, Al Reed made quite a populist harangue to the senate this morning. He talked horse sense just the same.

If Al Reed makes another speech like he did this morning he will be called a Populist sure. A man who laments the condition of the farmer as Reed did is not a good Republican.

It is reported that Hon. Lark Bilyeu is to speak, Thursday, on the resolution of Crawford, for a conference with the Davis house. Mr. Bilyeu generally talks to a full house.

THE JOURNAL legislative reports have given Senator Patterson of Marion full credit for his efforts for reform at this session. It does not agree with him so fully on his politics.

When Boss Iky Patterson is filling Al Reed up with his enthusiasm for the grand old party, of course, he tells him how he kept certain Democrats in fat places at the expense of loyal Republicans whose shoes he is unworthy to lace.

The fact that every one of the Mitchell combine at Salem supported Penoyer in June ought to open any man's eyes who hears them cry out against the Populists. The Populists don't want anything better to help them carry Oregon than to see Mitchell elected.

When Boss Iky Patterson appeals to men as Republicans to vote for Mitchell in the interest of the grand, dear, beloved old party, of course, he never fails to tell them how for years he labored to retain certain Democrats in Republican positions in this state, when deserving Republicans stood around without jobs. Iky never tells it all.

A prominent church member of Pendleton has headed a subscription list with \$5 for the relief of Jim Hensworth, the Rossland miner who saved the lives of his two companions by thrusting his arm into the cogs of a rapidly turning windlass and in that prevented a heavy bucket of ore from falling on the head of his companions in the shaft below.

For the purpose of killing a large number of rabbits that have collected on the Ryegrass flat, seven miles northwest of Prineville, a grand rabbit drive will take place February 21. The intention of the citizens living in this vicinity is to make complete arrangements for corralling 5000. There is a corral already constructed, and the citizens of that place are building wings to it, and will extend them as far as they can by the time of the drive.

**NOTICE.**—The Bi-metallic Union meeting at the Odd Fellows hall in Turner Block at 7:30 Thursday night. "Our Public Indebtedness, Foreign and Domestic" is the subject for discussion which will be ably discussed by good speakers. Good music by the ladies of the club.

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## SILVER,

### Honest Men Will Rally.

#### To Abandon the Fight Would Be Criminal Folly.

**OLYMPIA, Wash., Feb. 17.**—Governor Rogers has received a letter from J. A. Edgerton of Lincoln, Neb., secretary of the People's party national executive committee, asking for an expression of his views relative to the retirement of the silver issue at this time. In reply Governor Rogers has written this letter:

**THE GOVERNOR'S LETTER.**

State of Washington, Executive Department, Olympia, Feb. 12, 1897.—J. A. Edgerton, Lincoln, Neb.—My Dear Sir: Yours of the 7th inst. is at hand. You are right. The money question

in its entirety is the principal issue before the American people. The fortress which the people must assault and capture is the entrenched position occupied by the plutocracy. The outwork which at this time commands the entrance is the recently constructed gold standard. The people are sufficiently educated to comprehend this fact. For the assault upon the gold standard we can command a majority of the people and shall infallibly be successful on the next attempt. To abandon the attack upon the enemy's most vulnerable position, upon which, too, we can concentrate our greatest force, would be an example of criminal folly without equal in modern political warfare. For the honest and misguided people who urge it I have sympathy and compassion. For the shrewd and designing traitors who are willing thus to imperil the cause of human liberty I have nothing but opposition and hate.

Not that silver is all for which we fight. It is not. It is but an outer gate. But if multitudes are ready to assist us in opening that gate, if thousands upon thousands stand ready and avow themselves an anxious to go with us part of the way toward the attainment of a better financial system, why should we rudely repulse them as unworthy co-workers? And who can say that, having taken that first step, those whom we now may be disposed to consider as laggards in the fight may not, when once fully enlisted, become more valiant soldiers than any of us who in the past have borne the heat and burden of the day? Was ever popular government afloat upon the open sea of public approval, necessitating for success a nearly unanimous confidence in measures proposed? Is not public opinion in our day the power behind the throne greater than the throne itself? Can any abuse long continue to stand against the combined thought of a large majority of our people? Is not this true of all intelligent peoples? Was not even the despotic German emperor, in full possession of imperial powers, obliged to call a halt when it was seen that the German people, or a majority of them, opposed his will in the matter of socialist repression? And when it is prevailed by the enemy that our next assault made upon the same lines as the one recently and barely repulsed must surely succeed, who that has the cause at heart can sit idly by when crazy egotists and black-hearted traitors are endeavoring to divide our forces and dissipate our energies by leading us to abandon the line of attack which insures future success?

**CALM VIEW OF THE MATTER.**  
To look at the matter philosophically, is it not true that the forces harmful to man in a political way are obliged from the nature of the case to oppose their whole power to the slightest inroad made or attempted to be made upon their position? To illustrate: When the Republican party in 1860 carried the country upon a platform which declared on the slav-

ery question simply and only for non-extension of slavery, it did not propose to take away any right which the slave propagandists had exercised to any extent. It not only did not attack slavery where it existed, but tacitly agreed to protect and maintain it in the slave states. But the slave power saw clearly and intuitively that if the slightest step was taken in the line of limiting their privileges, their institution in its entirety was at stake. They then said among themselves, (and I was then in the south and often heard this from their speakers): "We are stronger now to oppose this first step against us than we ever can be again if we allow this movement to be successful." For this reason, and not because they expected immediate harm to come to them, they resolved to fight. And they were right in their judgment of the situation. The whole fight must inevitably have been fought at that time or a tame surrender made.

**MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POSITION.**

The situation today bears many points of resemblance to that of 1860. Our "middle-of-the-roads" are in precisely the same attitude with regard to the Bryan forces with that occupied by abolitionists in their relation to the then newly Republican party. The abolitionists were very much dissatisfied with the Republicans and regarded them as little better than traitors. They had begun the agitation for the immediate abolition of slavery. The Republicans had gradually given up this, and in the eyes of the abolitionists were guilty of trading away the reform which they had championed for 30 years. The slave was not long to be liberated, he was to remain a slave; and even Lincoln had pronounced against abolitionists. In short, nobody then seemed to see the South was to be obliged to fight for the life of peculiar institution upon a field where its case was weakest, and that of the North set forth in the strongest possible light. The issue was really, and at the bottom, the slavery question, but to the North it was made to appear as a fight for national life. In no other guise could the war have been sustained or successfully prosecuted.

Today the real question before the people of this country is the demand of a favored few to control the volume of money, and by means of this little-understood, but enormous power to acquire a more than imperial mastery over all exchange and all production.

The people at large do not comprehend this question and its overmastering and supreme importance. They can not be made to understand it in its fullness before it will be too late. But their eyes are open to the importance of a restoration of silver. They can be marshaled and led to victory upon the silver line; upon any other I have little hope of success. For silver we can all be united in overwhelming phalanx. Here the enemy if weakest; and yet following the line of necessity, plutocracy will be obliged on this field to contest the whole matter between special privilege on the one hand and the rights of man upon the other.

Brethren, let us fight it out on this line if it takes a good many summers. Very truly yours,  
**JOHN R. ROGERS.**

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