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SENATORSHIP AND ORGANIZATION QUESTION

Of the Nineteenth General Assembly

IS HANGING IN THE AIR.

Bensonites Declare 27 Seats Are Vacant.

WANT TO RUN MITCHELL IN

By Annihilation of All Their Many Opponents.

THEIR GAME WILL NOT WIN.

Candidates for Senatorial Toga Looming Up.

What will become of the legislature? Will a senator be elected? Will there be an organization? What will be done?

THE JOURNAL will from day to day revolve its vitascope and turn its X Rays on the scene and publish what it learns.

State Treasurer Metschan's name is being dropped cautiously as a possible lodestone to draw both sides into a harmonious whole and foot John H. Mitchell's expense bill.

One rumor is that at the last moment Senator Calbreath will jump into the breach for Mitchell, in the name of the flag, the G. O. P. and an appropriation.

Sol Hirsch has been at Salem a week with his lightning rod up and his good boy Iky Patterson is said to be ready to make a flying leap to uncle Sol's bejeweled bosom. As in the Dolph fight, the Marion senator is said to be ready to bolt to the winner with a "didn't I told you so." If he don't it is because Mitchell has given him a plum as big as a balloon.

Presentiments and predictions are filling the air today. The determination of the double-rump joint convention to give Mitchell a rump certificate is clearly in evidence and may be set down as a fact. Mitchell don't like the prospect of facing the United States senate with spurious credentials since that body has become anti-Republican.

The crisis in the affairs of the Benson house will be reached Friday night at midnight. According to their theory of constitutional law their forty days as a legislative body will have expired and they will have to quit and go home or adopt a new theory. The only course left for them to pursue is to adjourn as a rump or join the Davis house.

The Bensonites will seek to take a ballot Friday night, and give Mr. Mitchell color of title with possibly 32 votes before they adjourn. The conservative members of the Republican party are beginning to realize what the theory of the Rump organization is going to cost them and will hesitate before plunging over the brink of party chaos and disorder.

JOINT CONVENTION.
Eleven senators and twenty-four representatives answered to rollcall as follows:

JOINT ROLL CALL.
Benson, Bridges, Brown, Brownell, Chapman, Conn, Crawford, David, Driver, Dufur, Gratzke, Gowen, Gurdane, Harmon, Hogan, Hughes, Hope, Johnson, Jennings, Langell, Marsh, Merrill, Nesler, Patterson, Price, Palm, Rigby, Smith, Somers, Stanley, Thompson, Thomas, Taylor, Veness, Reed—35.

Brownell announced a Republican conference at 4 p. m., at room No. 3, state house.

Reed objected to the violation of the orders of the joint convention that none but reporters, ladies and members be admitted within the bar. The order will be enforced tomorrow.

Adjourned to 12 o'clock, Friday.
BENSON HOUSE THURSDAY.
Opened with prayer by Rev. Bowersox.

Met at 11 a. m. Crawford offered an extended preamble and resolution, reciting the necessity for remedial legislation, and concluding by calling on the governor to declare the seats vacant. He stated that the claim that the hold-ups were staying out because they were opposed to Mitchell was not consistent, because they could come in help organize yet stay out of the joint convention.

Somers spoke in favor of letting the resolution go over to the afternoon session.

This was ordered done and the Benson house adjourned to 2:30.

CRAWFORD'S RESOLUTION recites that following members were elected, have refused to qualify and take the oath and enter upon the duties of office:

Barkley, Bourne, Bayer, Buckman, Craig, E. J. Davis, Jas. N. Davis, Dustin, Emery, Gill, Guild, Hill, Howser, Jones, Kruse, Maxwell, McAllister, Munkers, Ogle, Povey, Riddle, Schmidtlein, Smith, Svindseth, U'Ren, Whitaker, Youkum—27.

(The names of Lee and Bilyeu were in the original draft but were erased. These Democrats were sworn in but have only been present from time to time.)

The resolution recites that whereas, the refusal of these persons to attend renders it impossible to enact remedial legislation demanded by the people, to-wit:

A registration law.
A primary law.
Repeal of useless commissions.
Placing state and county officials on a reasonable salary.
Needed reforms in assessment laws: and

Whereas, the action of the above persons tends to obstruct the prompt election of a senator, and

Whereas, failure to pass a reasonable appropriation bill will largely increase the expenses of the state, and

Whereas, Sec. 2551 Hill's code says: "Every office shall become vacant on the occurring of either of the following events before the expiration of the term of such office:

"6. Refusal or neglect to take the oath of office within the time prescribed by law."
That therefore their offices be declared vacant.

The document further recites that a copy of the resolution be served upon the governor.

Thomas of Multnomah asked if the resolution intended to commit this house to re-enactment of the mortgage tax law. If it did he could not support it.

It is not believed the governor will recognize any resolution coming from the Benson organization, and they do not expect him to do so. The resolutions were prepared at the Mitchell headquarters and the intention is to force an election of a senator with a rump joint convention, after having declared these seats vacant, when it is too late to fill them by an election if they were vacant as a matter of fact.

The Benson house met at 2:30 and took up the resolution for discussion.

SENATE—THURSDAY FORENOON.
Opened with prayer by Rev. Muellhaupt.

Senator Brownell presented by request a petition for midwifery from Mrs. Anna Wallace.

The committee on assessment and taxation reported upon senate bill 27 with a substitute.

The committee on judiciary reported favorably upon senate bill 2, and 110, also upon senate bill 29 and 55 with amendments.

Chairman Daly of the special committee to whom was referred senate bill 202, reported a substitute for same. Adopted.

The committee on commerce and navigation reported upon senate bill 44, providing for the portage railway, submitted a constitution, reducing the appropriation \$65,000. Adopted. Selling and Reed moved reference to the committee on railroads. Carried.

Johnson moved that the committee be instructed to report the mileage and per diem of senators. Carried. Adjourned.

SENATE THURSDAY P. M.
The committee on irrigation reported favorably upon senate bill 224, with amendment. Adjourned.

Crawford resolution was postponed until Friday.
Somers, Jennings and Gratzke appointed committee on mileage and per diem.
Adjournment to Friday at 10 o'clock.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Immigration Bill Passed.

Serious Opposition to the Monetary Conference Bill.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The immigration bill now goes to the president this legislative step having been taken by an agreement to the conference report on the bill. Strong opposition has been made to the report, but on the final vote friends of the measure rallied a small majority, the vote being years 34, nays 31.

The bill, as passed, extends immigration restrictions against "all persons physically capable and over 16 years of age, who can read and write the English language or some other language, but the person not so able to read and write, who is over 50 years of age, and is the parent or grandparent of a qualified immigrant over 20 years of age and capable of supporting such parents or grandparent, may accompany such immigrant, or such parents or grandparent may be sent for and come to join the family of a child or grand child over 21 years of age, similarly qualified and capable, and wife or minor child not so able to read and write may accompany or be sent for and come to join husband or parent similarly qualified and capable.

For the purpose of testing an immigrant's illiteracy it is compelled to read and write from twenty to twenty-five words of the United States constitution. Aside from these extensions of the present law the bill inaugurates a new system of restricting immigration from border countries, and designed to apply principally to immigration from Canada.

OPPOSITION DEVELOPS.
WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—The international monetary conference bill, which has been passed by the senate, has developed into a more important issue than was expected. When the house committee on coinage took charge of the bill, there was thought to be no doubt that it would be reported favorably, but opposition to the bill has been growing steadily until it seems probable that if so reported the action will be taken against the wishes of the majority of the Republican members of the committee.

All the Republicans, who have spoken on the measure before the committee, have argued that it would be an embarrassing thing to the coming administration. On the other hand the Republicans say that Carter, of Montana, who has had an interview with the president-elect, quotes Mr. McKinley as expressing the wish that the bill should pass. Further hearing on the bill has been postponed until Friday, and it is now doubtful whether a vote, on reporting it, will be taken Saturday, as the committee had intended. In the meantime many communications, protesting against any further steps toward an international conference on the ground that it would tend to disturb business, are being received from business men.

Wrestling Match.
PARKERSBURG, W. Va., Feb. 18.—Peter Schumacher, the Cleveland wrestler, last Thursday published a notice to wrestle any one at any weight. McInerney, the New York champion, who is wintering here, has accepted. The match is to be for \$500 a side. The article will soon be signed.

Westcott & Irwin lead as caterers, because their meals and service are the best at Strong's restaurant. If

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PRIMARY ELECTIONS.

Copies of THE JOURNAL today will go to daily papers in every state of the Union, to arouse discussion of primary election reform.

There is legislation pending in many states to abolish the present delegate system, that fosters corruption, bossism and machine politics.

Exchanges receiving this issue are requested to send THE JOURNAL marked copies of newspapers containing any article discussing primary reform.

Fell on the House.

VICTORIA, B. C., Feb. 18.—A very serious accident occurred during Monday night's gale at the cottage of R. Zelle, living just north of Nanaimo. About 2 o'clock a high wind blowing brought to the ground a tree about 20 inches in diameter at its base. In falling the tree struck the roof of Zelle's house, cutting it in two and seriously injuring the inmates. Just before the accident Zelle had left the house and was on the wharf when he saw the tree falling. Mrs. Zelle was working a sewing machine, and there were a number of children playing in the house.

The tree fell with terrific force, throwing Mrs. Zelle violently to the floor. Some of the children were also hurt, Herbert Zelle being so badly injured that he died within an hour. Mrs. Zelle received very serious internal and spinal injuries, and is in a bad condition. The 5 year-old daughter of Mrs. Wm. Taylor, of Departure Bay, who was visiting with Mrs. Zelle, was also very dangerously hurt in the accident.

May Go to Crete.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.—Miss Clara Barton and George H. Pullman, of the Red Cross Society, came to New York from Washington. They are at the Waldorf and will remain several days. The object of their visit is to confer with officers and friends of the society on private matters pertaining to the organization.

Miss Barton has been very busy of late since returning from the scene of the outrages in the East, and it is possible that the present disturbance in Crete will call for an active field of work by the Red Cross agents, in which case Miss Barton may make a second trip abroad.

The Pastor Resigned.

TACOMA, Feb. 18.—The Presbyterian conference investigating the cause of the resignation of Rev. A. N. Thompson, pastor of the First Presbyterian church, this city, has caused much comment by holding a secret session this morning. The pastor has resigned, but the congregation voted not to accept the resignation. The real trouble has not yet been made public.

General Pleasanton Dead.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—General Alfred Pleasanton, a distinguished cavalry commander in the late war, died General Pleasanton for several years lived almost a hermit's life in Washington, not moving out of his apartments. He felt he had not been well treated by the government after his distinguished services in the war.

Tram Was Ditched.

BUTTE, Mont., Feb. 18.—Othbert M. Hoggset, engineer, and E. E. Parker, brakeman, of a Great Northern freight train, were injured east of Butte by the ditching of their train. Both men were badly injured, and their injuries may prove fatal.

Emperor to Prince.

BERLIN, Feb. 18.—Emperor William has written a letter to Prince Hohenzoln, the imperial chancellor, on the occasion of the latter's golden jubilee, and has sent him a medal commemorative of his golden wedding.

To Visit Missouri.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 18.—William Jennings Bryan will be in Jefferson City Saturday morning. Mr. Bryan will address the legislature Saturday morning and then leave for the West. He will be the guest of Governor Stephens while in the city.

CRIMINAL.

He Was Shot at His Own Door.

William Roberts, a Policeman, Seriously Wounded.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Feb. 18.—Assemblyman R. Lincoln Roberts, a well-known politician of the third ward, who has taken an active part in the campaign, while standing on the steps of his home shortly after midnight, watching a parade of the victorious faction in yesterday's election, was shot in the thigh and dangerously wounded. William Reed, a political enemy of Roberts, was arrested on suspicion.

The paraders were very noisy and when they neared Roberts, residence a crowd gathered on the doorstep. Suddenly there was a revolver shot, followed by several others. Roberts fell fainting on the marble steps. He is in a serious condition from loss of blood, but probably will recover.

Brought Back His Man.

PRESCOTT, Ariz., Feb. 18.—Sheriff Ruffner, of this county, arrived from Mojave county, having in charge Jim Parker, the highwayman who held up the overland train at Peach Springs one week ago. Ruffner was tendered an ovation as he stepped from the platform with his prisoner, the greater portion of the population being on hand at the depot. Parker refused to say anything, being worn out and ugly in disposition.

Kelley Is a Murderer.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18.—Patrick Dolan, the saloon-keeper, who was shot yesterday by Barney Kenney, died. Kenney was arraigned in the police court for murder this morning. His brother asked for a continuance, saying he desires to secure counsel and prepare a defence and that the murderer is insane. The prisoner says that his only regret is that he did not kill Pat Meehan, who, with the dead man, he accuses of having tried to poison him several years ago.

A Chinaman Murdered.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Feb. 18.—Word has been received of a mysterious murder case near Lilloet. A Chinaman was found dead with his throat cut. The provincial police are investigating the matter.

Murderer Hanged.

SAN QUENTIN PRISON, Cal., Feb. 18.—Chun Sing was hanged here at 10:35 this morning. Death ensued in 12 minutes.

The crime for which Chung was hanged was triple murder at Lundy, Mono county, 18 months ago. He had quarreled with other Chinese and decided to exterminate his enemies with an ax, killing two women and one man and attempting to kill another.

At Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 18.—The Earl of Aberdeen, governor-general of Canada, the Countess of Aberdeen and party arrived in Nashville, yesterday, in their private car, to attend the marriage, tomorrow evening, of Miss Myrtle Brown, of this city, and Hon. Archibald Majoribanks, brother to the Countess of Aberdeen.

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