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JEROME KEEPS UPPER HAND LOCAL OPTION LAW SUPREME RAILROAD COMMISSION GOES HOUSE DOWNS THE SHIPPERS BUT SENATE SUSTAINS THEM

STEAMER COLLIDES AND SINKS

Few Saved out of a Hundred

Vessels Go Down in the Night With Great Loss of Life

Salem, R. I., Feb. 12.—The Joy steamer Larchmont collided last night with the schooner Block Island with the result that both sank. Larchmont's passengers and crew were saved, but the schooner crew escaped in a life boat. It is reported that 18 bodies were washed ashore on Block Island.

were about 100 passengers on the Larchmont, and only six or seven are reported saved. The schooner sunk in 20 feet of water, but the steamer disappeared within 15 minutes. The schooner is safe ashore at Watch Hill. Two boats of passengers from the Larchmont reached here, all but seven of the occupants being dead. They were probably frozen to death. A gale was blowing at the time of the collision, and the storm is supposed to have caused the wreck. The wife of Captain McLeah, commanding the Larchmont, received a telegram announcing his safety, saying nothing of loss of life. Local agent says 150 were aboard, the crew numbering 30. There was no passenger list. The chief engineer was Robert Gray, of Bridgeport, Conn. It is estimated 130 perished.

Block Island, R. I., Feb. 12.—News of the Larchmont's loss was first known when a boat came ashore containing eight living men and 14 frozen corpses. Survivors say the Larchmont went to the bottom in a few minutes after the collision, which occurred at 9 o'clock last night.

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RAILROAD COMMISSION DEBATE

Davey Leads Fight Against Governor Appointing

House Decides By Bare Majority Against the Governor

Linguistic pyrotechnics with embellishments galore were the order of things in the house Monday afternoon for nearly two hours and a half when the members, in uncomfortably close division, lined up to fight it out over the question of whether or not the Republican legislature should bow to the will of a Democratic governor, on the one side and, whether the appointment of the railroad commission as provided for in the Chapin bill, should be delegated to the state board of three members, on the other.

How the Fight Spread.

The question, which has been the bone of contention before the joint committee on railroads for the past fortnight and finally spread to the membership of both branches of the legislature, came up on its merits over the submission of two reports from the house committee, the majority of three Jones, of Polk and Lincoln, Holt, of Linn and King of Harney and Malheur, favoring the appointment of the commission by the state board, and the minority, Chairman Coffey, of Multnomah and Edwards, favoring gubernatorial appointment. After an exceedingly interesting and heated debate the motion to substitute the minority report for that of the majority was put to an aye and nay vote and was lost by the uncomfortable margin of one vote, the result standing twenty-nine ayes, thirty nays and one, Vawter, of Douglas and Jackson, being absent. In the excitement of the occasion Jewell, of Josephine, voted aye upon the motion but when he came to himself, before the result was announced, he changed to "no" and won the day for the supporters of the majority report.

A Battle of Giants.

This is the first real battle of giants in the political field that has transpired since the session convened and the effect of its approach was almost electrical for the gallery, which has been all but deserted upon previous occasions was packed to standing room only upon this one and the sentiment of the spectators swayed back and forth as the weight of the argument of the different debaters struck a responsive chord in their emotional sensibilities. Powerful and convincing arguments were produced upon both sides, with Speaker Davey taking the lead for the majority report and Chairman Coffey, of the committee, and others on the opposite, and, as the result of the ballot indicates, it was a toss-up as to which would win. Charges and intimations of Democratic influence, selling out to the railroads, and narrow-minded partisanship were handed around in thick profusion, and, although, nearly every speaker emphasized the assertion that there "were no politics in it" still the whole trend of their remarks was in direct contradiction of it. In fact they did not talk of anything else to speak of.

There Will Be One More Vote.

It was one of the strongest line-ups that has ever occurred on the floor of the house, and it was a most important fight since the result of the vote in the senate this morning and the ultimate fate of the Chapin bill were weighing in the balance. Had Vawter, of Douglas and Jackson been present he would have voted for the substitution of the minority report which would have made a tie vote but the result would have been the same; the motion would have been lost. It is also contended that the

fight will recur when the consideration of the bill comes up before the house in committee of the whole and the question of the adoption of the first section is raised but it is known that the majority have gained two more votes since the decision of the political question, who voted against their convictions yesterday to best subvert their own interests, and the majority is almost certain of winning out in any event.

The Bill Will Have 36 or 37 Votes.

The house then took the bull by the horns in the evening and passed the bill unanimously with the majority house committee amendments to section one and the minority house committee report to the balance of the bill and passed the whole thing up to the senate which had the bill under consideration, under special order, at 11 o'clock this morning. It was stated by the supporters of the majority report last evening that fourteen votes had already been promised to the amendments adopted to section one of the bill and they expressed perfect confidence of the bill being passed as it went through the house.

There was a short session of parliamentary sparring over preliminaries to the real event when the majority report was read, followed by the report of the minority of the house committee backed up by the solid senate committee, when Mr. Coffey moved the adoption of the minority report. Speaker Davey, from the floor raised the point of order that the majority report look precedence and the chair having so ruled the motion was made that the majority report be adopted. Mr. Coffey then moved the substitution of the minority report and the battle was on in earnest, Speaker Davey taking the initiative.

Speaker Davey Defends.

"I believe the business sense of this house will dictate the adoption of the majority report upon this bill so far as section one is concerned," said Mr. Davey, in a voice that could be heard in the uttermost corners of the spacious corridors of the building. "There is a certain democratic contingent of this state that is opposed to the measure and the presiding officer of this house has even been charged with opposition to the Chapin bill. At first I was impelled to make a caustic statement in reply to this charge, but, upon cool and deliberate consideration I decided to deal with the matter charitably.

"I am opposed to the placing of the appointing power in the hands of the governor as I have an abiding faith in the good sense and judgment of the people and believe the people are perfectly competent to choose the personnel of this commission. I am a Republican. For thirty-three years I have fought for the party and its principles and never yet have I had occasion to apologize for any well-considered act of the Republican party. The people sent us to the legislature and asked us to pass a bill for the regulation of railroads and we are responsible to them for the action we take this afternoon.

"I have been charged by a democratic paper with having been fixed

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LEASE WANTED A DEED

Chicago, Feb. 12.—Returning to Washington, Ill., for a visit after an absence of nearly fifty years, Geo. M. Lease, of Salem, Oregon, the other day strolled into the recorder's office and asked for a deed he had left there "a few years ago." "How long ago was it left here?" asked Clerk George Hutchinson. "Well, I believe it was in 1863," said the stranger with a smile.

The clerk nearly had a fit to be asked so nonchalantly for a paper filed forty-four years ago, and the record writers who had overheard the remarks looked at the visitor in amazement as some Rip Van Winkle. The records were looked over, and the paper found, much to Mr. Lease's satisfaction.

COOS COUNTY CASE

Local Option Sustained By Supreme Court

Subdivisions That Go Dry Are Dry Even Though County Goes West

Holding that cities whose charters are amended under section 2, article 11, of the constitution are not authorized to amend their charters so as to avoid the prohibition of the county court authorized by the local option law, the supreme court in an opinion by Justice Eakin today affirmed the judgment of Judge Burnett, circuit court of Coos county, in the case of George E. Baxter, appellant, vs. State of Oregon, respondent.

There were several questions raised in this suit of general interest, as pertains to the operation of the local option law, in all of which the provisions of the prohibition measure are upheld, the substance of the ruling being:

That the vote in each precinct, even on a vote cast for the whole county, shall stand as an independent vote for the precinct for prohibition, as well as a part of the county vote on prohibition in the county as a whole.

That the local option law is a uniform law throughout the state, and that a violation of its provisions is a crime within the meaning of the constitution and the operation of municipal charters are grounded accordingly, and that city charters should be amended so as to conform to the prohibitory provisions of the local option law.

An effort is being made to have a bill introduced in the legislature to amend this section of the local option law, thus far unsuccessful.

HERMANN TRIAL ON AT LAST

After Many Delays Oregon Congressman Is Given Hearing

Washington, Feb. 12.—The trial of Representative Binger Hermann, of Oregon, charged with violating section 3408 of the United States statutes, in that he destroyed 33 letter-press copy-books, while commissioner of the general land office, began today before Justice Stafford, district judge of the supreme court Milton J. Purdy is conducting the prosecution. A number of witnesses from the Northwest were subpoenaed and are present.

To Prevent Personal Violence.

E. Aufrance, a farmer living east of town, was this morning arrested upon the complaint of Martin Hohl for threats of the defendant to do personal injury to the said plaintiff. The case has been set to be heard before Justice Webster Monday, February 18th.

THAW DEFENSE FAILING

Jerome Proves Master of the Situation

No Proof so Far Admitted That Murderer Was Insane

New York, Feb. 12.—That million-dollar defense of Thaw has a screw loose somewhere. Thaw is worried, his attorneys are worried and his friends have all joined in the worry club. After a week of hard work Thaw's defense has gotten nowhere, has not even showed that it is on the way. Delmas and his aides, on entering the court this morning, showed the strain they are under. There were no morning pleasantries. Their looks indicate that certain radical action is to come, and all are on the qui vive, except Jerome, who is daily proving himself the real article in frapped humanity. There is no telling from his countenance what is the state of his mind. To date the one telling point of the defense is Evelyn's story. Upon this alone the public thinks likely the jury will disagree or acquit, upon grounds of justification. But the defense must prove something acceptable under the laws, which is has not done so far, or even created a reasonable doubt of Thaw's sanity.

Dr. Evans, the alienist, was the first witness called this morning.

Evans an Expert.

Evans delivered a number of lectures on the "Exaggerated Ego" and "Explosive Tendencies" he observed in Thaw. He announced how pompously Thaw refused to accede to his argument, but stuck to the opinion he had before the doctor examined him. He declared Thaw so insane as to try to tell the doctor how to conduct the examination Thaw couldn't restrain laughter at this testimony, but grabbed a law book and buried his face in it. The attorneys got into a squabble lasting an hour.

The climax of the day's testimony was when Evans this afternoon stated that, in his opinion, based on his first three visits to Thaw, the defendant was insane when he shot White. Jerome's efforts to force the witness to admit that Thaw is insane now failed.

It is evident that Jerome is laying plans to force Thaw's incarceration in an asylum, if he is acquitted on a plea of insanity.

Time hangs heavily on the hands of the court officials, spectators and participants, while Evans reads Thaw's crazy letters.

Thaw Was Unnatural.

Jerome objected to Delmas' first question, and the court sustained him. Evans was then asked to state his observations, made on his visit to Thaw in August. He said he noticed a peculiar facial expression, the glare of his eyes was unnatural and he had a suspicion of every one about. Witness said Thaw had an exaggerated idea of his own importance; believed himself the victim of persecution that placed him in the role of a martyr.

King Edward Thanks.

London, Feb. 12.—At the opening of parliament this morning, King Edward said: "I recognize with gratitude the sympathy shown by the people of the United States and the assistance which their naval authorities extended to Jamaica."

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- Ladies' 18c Fast Black Hose, 10c. Better ones at sale prices.
- Best sans Silk, ball 2c.
- 8c White Pearl Buttons, doz. 4c
- Best spool Silk, spool 3c.
- Thread Lace, 4-in wide, yd. 5c.
- Fine Linen Lace, yd. 2 1/2c.
- 8 1-3c Linen Lace, yd. 3 1/2c.
- Remnants of Embroideries cheap.
- Remnants of Laces at any price.
- 35c Fancy collars, price 15c.
- 15c Fancy Collars, price 9c.
- 25c Silk Taffeta Ribbon, 4-in wide yard 12 1/2c.
- 7c Silk Taffeta Hair Ribbon, yd., 3 1/2c.
- Children's Underwear 10c, 15c and 19c.
- \$1.50 Black Petticoats, price 98c
- 500 New Plaid Silk Waists, price \$3.25.
- 85c White Lawn Waists, only 49c
- \$1.50 White Lawn Waists, only 89c.
- Men's 75c Dress Shirts, soiled, price 35c.
- Men's Underwear, half price.
- Men's 85c Heavy Work Shirts, price 49c.
- Men's Overalls, all prices.
- Ladies' Coats and Suits, half price
- \$7.90 Silk Petticoats, price \$4.50
- Ladies' \$2.25 Dress Shoes, \$1.45
- Lace Curtains, pair, 29c, 49c, 75c, \$1.00 and up.
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