

PURELY PERSONAL

Bert Woodard was an over Sunday visitor at Osceola. H. D. DeKalb, of DeKalb, was a visitor in Leon Monday. Roy Fox of Pleasanton, was a visitor in Leon Tuesday. Ned Miller of Terre Haute, was a visitor in Leon Tuesday. Joe Simpson, of Tuskegee, was a visitor in this city Monday. Robert Chaney, of Decatur, was a visitor in this city Monday. O. G. Woodard, of near Pleasanton, was a business visitor in Leon last Saturday. Mrs. Latta Hagan, of Davis City, was a Leon visitor Saturday. Miss Marie Offield, of Decatur, was a visitor in Leon Monday. Mrs. Belle Turner, of Davis City, was a visitor in Leon Saturday. Ivan Crew, of Kellerton, was a business visitor in Leon Friday. Frank Sutherland, of Davis City, was a visitor in Leon Saturday. G. W. Folland, of Davis City, was a visitor in Leon Saturday. Harry Carlson, of Decatur, was visiting in Leon last Thursday. B. D. Fleet, of Lamoni, was a business visitor in Leon Tuesday. George Ellars, of Lamoni, was a business visitor in Leon Tuesday. Fred Smith, of near DeKalb, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. W. T. Bailey, of Davis City, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. J. N. Eason, of Lamoni, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. O. Ventling, of Davis City, was a visitor in this city last Saturday. J. H. Newman was a business visitor at Pleasanton last Thursday. Miss Ella Kalkofin left last Friday for a few days visit with friends at Burlington. Mrs. Inez Flora, of Davis City, was a visitor in this city Tuesday. W. H. Lloyd, of Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Tuesday. Miss Nellie Edwards, of Lamoni, was a visitor in this city Monday. Miss Margery Brittan, of Decatur, was visiting in Leon last Saturday. Dr. F. G. Hume had professional business at Pleasanton last Friday. I. Ingram, of Mt. Airy, was a business visitor in Leon Saturday. E. Vall, of Garden Grove, was a business visitor in Leon Friday. Charles Stanley, of Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. W. M. Tenney, of Lamoni, was a business visitor in Leon Saturday. C. E. Mills, of near Lamoni, was a business visitor in Leon Tuesday. John Teale, of Lamoni, was a business visitor in this city Tuesday. C. R. Percy, of near Lamoni, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. James Jackson went to Garden Grove Monday for a few days visit. Newton Willis, of Saline, Mo., was a business visitor in Leon Saturday. Rev. and Mrs. Groves, of Lamoni, were over Sunday visitors at Osceola. Fred Zika, of near Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. Attorney S. A. Gates had business with him to Bethany, Mo. Monday. M. J. Porter, of near Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Saturday. O. P. Reynolds went to Garden Grove Saturday for a few days visit. Roy Biddison was a business visitor at Garden Grove last Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Craig, of Davis City, were visitors in Leon Saturday. S. E. Briner, of Grand River, was a business visitor in Leon last Friday. A. J. Yarrington, of Lamoni, was a business visitor in this city Saturday. Herman Deck, of Decatur, was a visitor in this city last Saturday. C. McClintock, of Van Wert, was a business visitor in Leon Friday. Roy Hoadley, of Garden Grove, was a visitor in Leon last Friday. J. S. Brown, of Garden Grove, was a business visitor in Leon last Friday. C. Norman, of near Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Monday. Frank Bone, of Grand River, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. Joe Hullinger, of Davis City, was a business visitor in this city Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Hall, of Chariton, were visitors in Leon last Thursday. W. Barlean, of near Koyie, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. L. W. Snowden, of Garden Grove, was a business visitor in Leon Thursday. J. Crees, of Grand River, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. B. W. Robbins, of Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. Parker, of near Koyie, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. F. S. Robbins, of near Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Tuesday. L. P. Stanford, of Garden Grove, was a business visitor in Leon Tuesday. Lent. Ralph Rumley went to Des Moines Tuesday for a few days visit. J. C. Maher went to Grand Grove Saturday for an over Sunday visit. E. Frost went to Decatur Saturday to spend a few days with relatives. H. L. Cartwright, of near Woodard, was a visitor in Leon last Saturday. Harold Warrington, of near Garden Grove, was a Leon visitor Saturday. Fred Woodard, of near Decatur, was a business visitor in Leon Saturday. Silas Manchester, of near Blockley, was a business visitor in Leon Friday. Mr. and Mrs. W. Robbins, of Decatur, were visiting with Leon friends last Friday. Thomas Butcher, of near Davis City, was a business visitor in Leon Friday. A. H. Tenke, of Kellerton, was transacting business in this city Monday. Mrs. L. A. Blackman, of Blockley, was visiting with friends in Leon Monday. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Judson, of Garden Grove, were visitors in Leon Monday. Miss Clara Caster returned Tuesday from a visit with relatives at Decatur. Miss Jennie Parbour, of Garden Grove, was a visitor in this city Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Murchison, of Garden Grove, were visitors in Leon Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Harrison Boyer, of Lamoni, were visitors in this city Tuesday. W. W. Wiley, of Davis City, was transacting business in this city Tuesday. Miss Myrtle Marble, of Davis City, was a visitor in Leon Tuesday afternoon.

O. G. Hutchinson, of near Pleasanton, was a visitor in this city last Saturday. O. M. Turner, of Humeston, was visiting with relatives in this city Saturday. Eldredge Craig, of Davis City, was visiting his mother in this city Saturday. Albert Ramsey, of near Van Wert, was transacting business in Leon Saturday. L. C. Thompson, of near Delray, was a business visitor in Leon last Saturday. T. A. Sutherland, of near Davis City, was a business visitor in Leon Saturday. C. C. Cowles, of near Blockley, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. M. C. Woodard, of near Davis City, was a business visitor in Leon last Thursday. Miss Vera Myers, of Decatur, was visiting with friends in Leon last Thursday. A. C. Lovett, of Pleasanton, was transacting business in this city last Thursday. G. E. Turner, the Kellerton banker, was a business visitor in this city last Friday. Charles Hedges, of Garden Grove, was a business visitor in Leon last Friday. Mrs. Maud Burrell, of Davis City, was visiting with relatives in Leon last Friday. Rev. J. C. Maher went to Chariton Thursday and visited a couple of days with friends. Constable George Myers was called to Lamoni Monday evening on official business. J. C. Morris, Downey and Miss Pearl Wiley, of Davis City, were visitors in Leon Monday. E. L. and F. F. Fitzhalter, of Davis City, were visitors in this city last Thursday. Miss Elza Kalkofin left last Friday for a few days visit with friends at Burlington. Hugh Walton, of Eden township, went to Des Moines Tuesday for a few days visit. Mrs. J. R. Canfield, who had been here visiting her sister, Mrs. L. E. Brigham, departed Monday for her home at Aurora, Iowa. Mrs. O. H. Mitchell returned to her home at Pleasanton Thursday after a few days visit in Leon, the guests of the Brigaman Sisters. James Crichton is taking a two weeks vacation from the store, and went to Bancroft, Iowa, last week for a visit with relatives. Mrs. Fred Teale and sister, Miss Cleora Sankey, went to Garden Grove Tuesday for a short visit at the C. E. Stuber home. Miss Opal Phipps, of Des Moines, was visiting relatives in Leon, went to Garden Grove Tuesday for a few days visit. Jerome Traupel, of Van Wert, was in Leon Tuesday, being on his way to Garden Grove for a few days visit with relatives. H. H. Flannagan, of Des Moines, was in Leon Monday on his way to Garden Grove for a few days visit with relatives and friends. Mrs. C. C. Lawhead, of Mt. Airy, was in Leon Monday on her way to Garden Grove for a few days visit with relatives at Cainesville, Mo. E. J. Blair, of Van Wert, came Thursday to assume his duties as a member of the board of supervisors for the coming year. Mrs. W. Martin and daughter Lucy departed Monday for a few days visit at the home of her father, John Newlin, at Joplin, Mo. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Pierce, of Van Wert, came Monday for a few days visit at the home of their daughter, Miss Floyd Pierce, near Leon. Misses Ethel and Gertrude Lovell, who are working in this city, went to their home at Davis City Tuesday evening for a few days visit. Mrs. C. E. Thaddeus, of Eden township, came to Davis City, Tuesday evening to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. McCalla. Leo Keller, who is a student in the Leon High School, went to his home near Pleasanton Saturday evening and visited over Sunday. Miss Mildred McClaran, who attends the Leon High School, went to her home at Davis City Saturday evening for an over Sunday visit. Mrs. Bert Chew returned to her home at Pleasanton Thursday after a visit at the home of her mother, Mrs. J. M. Harmon, in this city. Mrs. Jas. G. Springer returned from Decatur Saturday evening where she had been visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Earl Gardner and baby returned to their home near Decatur Saturday after a few days visit with relatives in this city. Miss Myrtle Phipps returned from Des Moines Monday evening where she had been sitting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. S. Phipps. C. H. Holliday, who is spending the winter at the home of his son at Newton, Iowa, came Tuesday evening for a few days visit at the home of Mrs. Burrell returned to her home at Davis City Saturday evening after a few days visit with her sister Mrs. C. B. Simpson, in this city. Miss Lola West returned to her home at Van Wert Friday after a few days visit at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Rosa Haag, in this city. Miss Vera Leonard, of Burlington Junction, who was visiting with friends in this city, went to Davis City Tuesday for a few days visit. Mr. and Mrs. G. Benefiel and Mrs. Anna Benefiel went to Grand River Saturday to attend the funeral of their nephew Fred Haulsteen. W. L. Muse, who was called here by the illness and death of his mother, Mrs. John Muse, returned to his home at Des Moines Thursday. W. M. Robison and family, of St. Joe, Mo., who were in Leon Tuesday on their way to Pleasanton for a city, were in Leon Saturday, being on her way to Davis City for a visit at the home of her father, T. H. Kelley. J. F. Hickman returned to his home near Humeston Saturday after a visit at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kim Hickman, in this city. Mrs. C. M. Piper and daughter Miss Margery returned to their home at Centerville Saturday after a few days visit with relatives in this city. Mrs. L. C. Hunt, who enjoyed a holiday visit at the home of her father, J. H. Merrill, in this city, returned Thursday to her home at Villisca. Mrs. W. H. Wait departed Tuesday afternoon for Bozeman, Montana, being called there by the serious illness of her brother, George Arnett. Mrs. M. C. Lundy, of Garden Grove, and her son, W. L. Selby, of Clio, who had been visiting with relatives in Leon, departed Saturday for Clio. Mrs. George Leahy and son Benjamin, of Eden township, went to Ellston Monday for a few days visit at the home of her father, B. F. Robison. Deputy clerk of the supreme court J. V. Arney, of Des Moines, spent Thursday in this city visiting with his father attending to some business matters.

John F. Hacker returned from Van Wert Saturday evening where he had been looking after some business affairs. Miss Maud Ogilvie, who is teaching at Grand River, came Friday evening and visited over Sunday at her home in this city. E. E. Allen, of Sabetha, Kas., who was visiting with relatives at Decatur, went to Lamoni Friday for a few days visit. Mrs. Lilly Davenport and son Arlo left Tuesday for a visit of several weeks with relatives at Bethany and Eagleville, Mo. Miss Eva Allen of the county agent's office, went to her home at Lamoni Saturday evening and visited over Sunday. Mrs. I. N. Edwards, of Van Wert, came Thursday to visit a few days with her mother, Mrs. Caroline Kobbins in this city. Mrs. Jennie Kalkofin departed Tuesday for Burlington, where the family will probably make their home for a time. E. J. Blair, the new member of the board of supervisors, went to his home at Van Wert Saturday and visited over Sunday. Miss Maud Weidon, of Grand River, came Saturday evening to visit a few days with her friend, Miss Eva Folland, in this city. B. R. Wilcox, of Princeton, Mo., returned home Saturday evening, having been here for a few days on telephone business. Mrs. J. T. Thompson, of Van Wert, came Thursday for a few days visit with her brothers, S. E. and U. G. Becher, in this city. Roe Reed, who is a student in the Leon High School, went to his home at Davis City Saturday evening and visited over Sunday. Ralph Meese, who spent his furlough with his folks at Van Wert, returned last Friday to his duties at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Mrs. Emmett LaFollett, of Pleasanton, came Tuesday to visit a few days at the home of her father, John Gray, in this city. Mrs. J. R. Canfield, who had been here visiting her sister, Mrs. L. E. Brigham, departed Monday for her home at Aurora, Iowa. Mrs. O. H. Mitchell returned to her home at Pleasanton Thursday after a few days visit in Leon, the guests of the Brigaman Sisters. 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Mr. and Mrs. J. Birchard, of Taber, Iowa, came Tuesday evening for an extended visit at the home of their daughter, Mrs. T. W. Colby in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Whiteley, of Alton, returned home Monday after a few days visit at the home of his sister, Mrs. John A. Fulton, in this city. Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Branham, of St. Joe, Mo., came Sunday and visited a couple of days at the home of his mother, Mrs. S. J. Koger, in this city. John M. Barrett, who had been visiting at the home of his niece, Mrs. Horton, in this city, returned Monday to his home at Lucas, Iowa. Michael McGraw, of Creston, who had been visiting with relatives and old friends in this vicinity, went to Mt. Airy Monday evening for a few days visit. Mrs. W. C. Lovett and son Maurice, of Davis City, were in Leon Monday enroute home from a visit with her mother Mrs. J. W. Carrington, at Saline, Mo. L. Leason, of Kellerton, was in Leon Friday returning from a few days visit with Mr. Leason who is operating a poultry house at Pleasanton. B. Burkheimer of this city, and his father, Isaac Burkheimer, of Peru, Iowa, who is here visiting, made a business trip to Garden Grove Monday. D. A. Hayes, who accompanied the Mrs. Miss Wilma Dyer here from St. James, Mo., for burial, returned Monday to his duties at Camp Funston, Kansas. W. H. Colter, who was here attending to his duties as a member of the board of supervisors, went to his home at Decatur Saturday for an over Sunday visit. Miss Nina Olsen, who spent the holidays at the home of her parents in this city, returned to Des Moines Thursday where she is taking advanced college work. Mrs. Jane Johnson and daughter Stella, of Leon, and her niece, Mrs. O. A. Heaton, of Greenfield, went to Saline, Mo., Tuesday for a few days visit with relatives. Mrs. G. E. Turner and little daughter returned to their home at Kellerton Saturday evening after a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Kim Hickman in this city. Miss Sarah Trust and niece, Miss Opal, returned to their home at Blockley Saturday evening, having spent a few days visiting with relatives in this city. Mrs. Tinele Shelton, the Decatur nurse, came Friday to assist in caring for Mrs. W. H. Jenkins, who has been critically ill for many weeks, and does not improve. D. Earl Combs, of the Southern Iowa Theatres Co., of Chariton, who owns both the Idle Hour and New York, were here last Thursday on business. Miss Barbara Peniwell returned to Des Moines Thursday to resume her studies at Drake University after spending the holidays at the home of her parents in this city. Mrs. R. Hewlett and daughter-in-law, Mrs. E. L. Hewlett, were in Leon Saturday, enroute to their homes at Eagleville, Mo., after a visit with relatives at Decatur. Mrs. W. H. Hanson, Colorado, who was visiting at the home of his sister, Mrs. Rolla Chastain, of east of Leon, went to Grand River Friday to visit a few days. Mrs. J. N. Duvall and Mrs. T. A. Colfield, who spent the holidays at the home of their father, J. H. Merrill, in this city, returned Thursday to their homes in Des Moines. Herman Harmon and D. A. Hayes, the latter a soldier at Camp Funston, went to Pleasanton Friday for a short visit at the home of Mr. Harmon's sister, Mrs. Bert Chew. Misses Blanche Newton and Zula Hamilton, who are students in the Leon High School, went to their homes at Davis City Saturday evening and visited over Sunday. Miss Margaret Meek, who is teaching at Nashua, Iowa, returned to that place Saturday after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Meek, in this city. Mrs. G. A. Meek, who is independently handicapped, and Mrs. C. C. Merritt returned to their home at Davis City Thursday after visiting a few days in this city at the home of S. G. and J. L. Mitchell and auditor Geo. A. Meek. Miss Esther Henry came in from Chicago Monday for a few days visit at the home of her sister, Mrs. Wm. Langreder, in this city, coming to meet her brother, Thomas Henry, of Utah. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Neeley returned to their home at St. Joe, Mo., after a short visit at the holidays at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jasper Baker, of northwest of Leon. Mrs. Madge Bradley returned to Des Moines Saturday after a holiday visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wasson, of northeast of Leon, and her sister, Mrs. Francis Varga, in Leon. A. E. Phelps, of Morgan township, who was recently mustered out of service in the army, returned Saturday evening and commenced his duties as teacher of a school near Lamoni Monday. Miss Virginia Mansfield, of Osceola, who had been visiting at the home of her parents near Pleasanton, stopped off in this city last Thursday for a visit with her aunt, Mrs. Jas. W. Hurst. Mrs. R. Malone and daughter, Miss Nellie, returned to their home at Lincoln, Neb., Saturday, having been called here to attend the funeral of her brother, Richard Owens, of Woodland. George E. Waigh and sister, Mrs. George Farmer, of Mt. Airy, who have been sitting at the home of their relatives in Leon, returned home Monday evening. Miss Zula Middleton, of Lamoni, came Monday to take a position in the Lamoni Steam Laundry at their plant in Leon, and will operate some of the new machinery being installed in their Leon plant. W. A. Smith, of Sharpsburg, Maryland, who came to Leon after burying his wife at Leon, returned to Grand River Friday to visit his niece, Mrs. Rose Landis. Mrs. L. G. Reick, of Des Moines, who had been here visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. W. T. Cartwright, went to Davis City, Friday for a visit with her sisters, Mrs. Will Leese and Mrs. Clarence Frazier. George Stephens, of Davis City, was in Leon Saturday consulting a physician. A short time ago he injured the thumb on his left hand and it became infected and has been causing a great deal of suffering. Mrs. Harley Webb returned from Creston Thursday, the funeral of Mr. Webb being held at Creston on the previous Sunday. She was accompanied to Leon by her mother, Mrs. H. H. McClure, of Carl, Iowa. Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Bisplinghoff and baby left Saturday for Bismarck, Mo., where they expect to make their home for a time. It is believed that Mr. Bisplinghoff's health will improve with a change of climate.

A LEGISLATURE LETTER
The Reporter's Special Legislative Representative Starts Session to Cover News of Session.
The Reporter has secured the services of ex-Senator G. L. Caswell, of Des Moines, Iowa, to write a legislative letter covering the coming session of the legislature which convenes on Monday, January 13th. Senator Caswell served in the last two sessions, and is one of the best editorial writers in Iowa. It is a feature which Reporter readers will appreciate, for it will give real news of what is being done by our legislature.
(By Ex-Senator G. L. Caswell.)
Des Moines, Iowa,
January 4, 1919.
Now comes the law makers. Not only the state of Iowa, but half the states of the union are to become blessed, or possessed, with gatherings of statesmen elected by the sovereign people of this free and self-governed land to represent them in considering, selecting, developing, bettering or passing laws to govern and direct the rest of us. It is going to be the writer's duty and responsibility to observe all the sessions of the Iowa law makers at this session, sift and winnow the most important real news of the occasion and bring to the readers of this paper in an interesting and satisfying manner as possible what they most want to know concerning the session.
The second Monday in January is the date set for the opening of the general assembly, and on Monday, January 13th, the Thirty-eighth general assembly will convene at the state house, as we believe, facing the most momentous problems in the reconstruction period after the war that any assembly has faced since the old fellows of 1865 tried to foresee what we of this day would find to be their wise and careful judgment.
What Difference About Speaker?
The press each day now teems with gossip and more or less political "dope" that is neither warranted nor loaded with consequences of vital importance to the people. For instance, what difference is it going to make to the people of Iowa, or to the speaker of the House of Representatives when this legislature convenes? Yet all you see now is that so-and-so has the forces of the house all lined up to put him across, and that other fellow who has been critically ill for many weeks, and does not improve.
A speaker of the house presides at the meetings of that body, ostensibly, but his duties as such president are to require him to be fair and to be guided by rules laid down by those whose hair is now whitened by many years of action, or who have long ago gone to report to the Master Mind of the Universe. Should he be elected speaker, the rules would be torn as by a pack of wolves or banished to shame even as the Kaiser who recently sought to rule the world.
The speaker is, however, a powerful man in relation to the machinery of the house committees. He appoints them. He doesn't always select them. Some times he has it handed out to him on a cold shove, just whom he shall appoint to head certain important committees, else he will not be elected speaker. Instance a recent session of the house wherein outsiders—men who never were and never could be members—were said to have nominated and directed certain committees appointed by the speaker. The speaker, the outlook is far more honorable in the present contest for speaker.
If Arch W. McFarlane of Waterloo is chosen to preside in the house; or if F. S. Finley of Mt. Pleasant, Henry county, gets the place; or if the throw of the political dice should elevate Representative T. P. Harrington of Algona or John A. Wormley of Plymouth county to the speakership, in either case we believe the house would be independently handicapped to some extent. But the question of certain obligations not at all dishonorable, would have its committee chairmanships arranged with a view to ability and experience, and not because certain men stand or willing to hand out certain state jobs.
Shall we prognosticate in this introductory letter? Very well, leave it to you, dear reader. McFarlane, able and experienced as a presiding officer in the last session, is said to claim 47 Republican votes pledged to his election as speaker. If he goes into the Republican caucus next Saturday with that many votes, they control the caucus. There are 105 members of the house, 92 of whom are Republicans. Forty-seven is over half of 92—McFarlane is chosen! But—suppose Finley and Harrington and Wormley happen to have 54 votes altogether on the opening day of the caucus? They think they will have that many, sure. The question then is where those votes will go on the break. It's a wise man who keeps his pledges and stands hitched, but there are men who will stand hitched to any old post.
But, as stated above, what's the difference to the state at large, just so it is a man with brains and ability and a desire to do right, who is chosen speaker. The members of the house really control, and they are the ones collectively who must be blamed for the success or failure of the session they represent.
New Phase in Road Question.
Ever hear of that road question? Sounds familiar, we say, to hear it featured in every conversation as people read the papers. But here it comes up this time greatly changed from anything considered or thought of two sessions ago. Legislation proposed then as progressive would seem very conservative and almost reactionary now. But the hope is that not all the actions and deliberations of the house will hinge on the road question this year. Two years ago when a bill came up, say, to aid the orphans' home, or other imaginary example, 54 members of the house listened to the voice of the clerk as he droned the last reading of the bill, heard the speaker's order regarding it, then noted the remarks of their leader on the road question, and voted with their leader. Other 54 members did likewise and the orphans were either put to sleep hungry or were arrayed in soggery according to which side could prevent the one odd vote that occasionally strayed away from the "organization."
War Measures to Consider.
Our view of the outlook for the session now is that after the clans gather next Tuesday, Wednesday and the rest of next week and fumigate the hotel lobbies with tobacco smoke, shake hands, wear out their tomholes in dark corners, adjust the political checkers to suit each other so far as possible, and then finally hear the governor's message and get down to business, there will be some war measures proposed in both houses that will almost frighten the obtuse crown prince on his lonely isle. There will be language regulations, citizenship propositions, property control bills, school and educational bills, all intended to stop hun propaganda in this state, even if it goes on freely in others. There will be army and national guard bills, soldiers' benefits and soldiers' aid bills (political aid), there will be bills for exemptions, and bills for claims on account of the war—in all a hundred such bills for acts such as profound statesmanship and legal ability can suggest.
To Control Flood of Bills.
Representative W. D. Miller of Oregon, Boone county, after two sessions in which valuable experience was gained, has started a movement to get the members of the house to order that a special committee of five or seven persons, members or other-otherwise, be named to consider bills presented. He would have the matter regulated in both houses if possible—but in the house, anyway. His plan would have all bills drawn to be offered for action first submitted to this special committee, who shall consider their composition, their relation to existing legislation, the effect and constitutionality, and either have the bills perfected by the author or this committee before final presentation. Mr. Miller believes this plan would cut down the number of bills one-half, as it would most certainly fill the archives of the committee and the general assembly with dead material, worthless except for fertilizer. Mr. Miller is right—there is too much ill-considered legislation proposed, too much carelessness in presenting bills and too much asked of the members if they keep posted and follow every bill to its final conclusion. But the danger and injury done in all legislation is more to be found in the amendments offered to bills on the floor of the house and senate than in the original bills. This phase of legislative procedure we hope to discuss more thoroughly later when it is wrangling like a live wire dangling in a pool of water.
Don't Condemn Everything.
This legislature and this senate will be, possibly, just like many others gone before, and both will get severe condemnation and ridicule for actions of lowly and accomplished. But of us say to the public now, as one who has had first-hand experience—don't condemn all legislators or all legislation because some freaks get in and some grotesque actions are proposed. Half you read of legislators entering into combinations to see that he does not become speaker.
A speaker of the house presides at the meetings of that body, ostensibly, but his duties as such president are to require him to be fair and to be guided by rules laid down by those whose hair is now whitened by many years of action, or who have long ago gone to report to the Master Mind of the Universe. Should he be elected speaker, the rules would be torn as by a pack of wolves or banished to shame even as the Kaiser who recently sought to rule the world.
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Representative W. D. Miller of Oregon, Boone county, after two sessions in which valuable experience was gained, has started a movement to get the members of the house to order that a special committee of five or seven persons, members or other-otherwise, be named to consider bills presented. He would have the matter regulated in both houses if possible—but in the house, anyway. His plan would have all bills drawn to be offered for action first submitted to this special committee, who shall consider their composition, their relation to existing legislation, the effect and constitutionality, and either have the bills perfected by the author or this committee before final presentation. Mr. Miller believes this plan would cut down the number of bills one-half, as it would most certainly fill the archives of the committee and the general assembly with dead material, worthless except for fertilizer. Mr. Miller is right—there is too much ill-considered legislation proposed, too much carelessness in presenting bills and too much asked of the members if they keep posted and follow every bill to its final conclusion. But the danger and injury done in all legislation is more to be found in the amendments offered to bills on the floor of the house and senate than in the original bills. This phase of legislative procedure we hope to discuss more thoroughly later when it is wrangling like a live wire dangling in a pool of water.
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War Measures to Consider.
Our view of the outlook for the session now is that after the clans gather next Tuesday, Wednesday and the rest of next week and fumigate the hotel lobbies with tobacco smoke, shake hands, wear out their tomholes in dark corners, adjust the political checkers to suit each other so far as possible, and then finally hear the governor's message and get down to business, there will be some war measures proposed in both houses that will almost frighten the obtuse crown prince on his lonely isle. There will be language regulations, citizenship propositions, property control bills, school and educational bills, all intended to stop hun propaganda in this state, even if it goes on freely in others. There will be army and national guard bills, soldiers' benefits and soldiers' aid bills (political aid), there will be bills for exemptions, and bills for claims on account of the war—in all a hundred such bills for acts such as profound statesmanship and legal ability can suggest.
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