MANY SIDED FIGHT

IS THAT NOW BEING WAGED FOR THE SPEAKERSHIP OF THE HOUSE.

J. D. JONES OF TODD COUNTY

SEEMS TO LEAD AT PRESENT ALTHOUGH THERE IS LITTLE ADVANTAGE

APPARENT, AS YET, FOR ANY ONE.

Jacobson, Feig, Staples and a Number of Others Are Working Tooth and Nail.

The contest for the speakership of the house of representatives bids fair to be one of the prettiest fights ever put up in the organization of a Minnesota legislature. There are fully a dozen men who are candiates in a more or less active sense, and some of them of such prominence and standing as to render their candidacy a formidable matter to the others. The house being very strongly Republican in complexion it is of course to be assumed that the contest will be closed in caucus, and the Democrats and Populists can only view it as mere idle spectators. Of course there is always the possibility of a caucus deadlock. In the event of which the wayfarers from the other camp may have a voice in the matter, but this is such a remote contingency that it is scarcely worth considering in a discussion of the probable outcome.

Of all the candidates prominently mentioned the man who would go into the caucus with the strongest natural following is the one who is least likely to be chosen. That man is J. F. Jacobson, the "father of the house," who hails from the county of Lac Qui Parle, and who has been the leader on the floor of the house in the past two seasons, so far as the leadership can be claimed by a man outside of St. Paul. Mr. Jacobson is a very positive character, a man of a great deal of force and a good deal of ability. He was prominently mentioned as a candidate for lieutenant governor, was chairman of the subcommittee on appropriations in the last house, and can claim as much credit as any other one man for the fact that the tax levy was kept down as low as it was.

Immediately after the election, as soon as candiates were put under discussion, the name of Jacobson was presented by a number of country members for the speakership, and, just as he did when he was first mentioned for lieutenant governor, he said that he would take it if it came his way, but that he would not go out of the way to look for it.

Those who are acquainted with the situation say that Jacobson will not be speaker of the house, and for a very odd reason. His friends believe that he can do better work on the floor than he can in the chair, and those who are not particularly his friends don't want him in the chair for the reason that, if it rested with him, he would work the members the same number of hours that he would laborers on a farm, and members of the legislature are not looking for that sort of a speaker.

Jacobson is one of the most unique characters who has ever taken a part, and it has been no mean one, in the politics and legislation of this state. He lacks a great deal of being a good speaker in the commonly accepted definition of that term, but that he is a forcible and effective debater on the floor of the house there is no question. He is not wholly in sympathy with his party this year on the money question, as he is a pronounced friend of silver, but no one can say just what the position of his party will be on that question two years from now, and he may by that time be in line, for it is a sure thing that he will not change, whatever the party may do.

Jacobson has been prominently identified with some of the most important laws that have been passed by the Minnesota legislature, notably the Anderson railroad taxation bill, the Jacobson "Y" bill and many others affecting the agricultural interests of the state. In his work on the floor of the house he is more aggressive than agreeable, and during the last session, especially, provoked many hostilities by his obstinate support or opposition in cases where he thought he was right and others thought he was wrong.

The name of Jacobson naturally suggests to any one who has been familiar with the legislative sessions for the past six years the name of Chas. F. Staples, of Dakota county. These two men have been in close sympathy in legislative work, and were on the celebrated pine land investigating committee appointed by the legislature of 1893. Mr. Staples was the leading spirit of this investigation, and deserves whatever of credit may be attached to the work of that committee. None of the members of that committee had ever had any experience in the timber business to guide them in the course of the investigation, and they were severely handicapped in their efforts, but the work they did was productive of good results, and the law now in force regulating the sale and disposal of the state timber was drawn by Mr. Staples on lines recommended by that committee. The state land commissioner at that time was a Democrat, one of the few of that faith who ever found himself in a state office as a principal in this state, and he was necessarily guided to a greater or less extent by the precedents established by his Republican predecessors. When the committee made its report it censured the Democratic official only because he allowed himself to be guided by these precedents, and took particular pains to exonerate him from any charge of personal or official dishonesty.

In pursuing this course, Mr. Staples did not make himself as popular with his party as he might have done by a different policy, but he made a great many friends at large, and made for himself the record of being a fair-minded and honest servant of the people. He is a more active candidate for the speakership than is his friend, Jacobson, as he is known to really want the position, and he also has the advantage of being more in harmony with his party on the money question just now. He is a sound money man of a very pronounced character, and is known to be persona grata with the powers that be. He is a thorough parliamentarian, and would undoubtedly make an excellent presiding officer, but then he, too, would want to work the members on long hours, and that will not make him as many votes as some other things that might be mentioned.

W. B. Douglas, of Moorhead, is another strong man of the people who has been honored by a very general mention as a candidate for the house gavel. He is one of the most prominent attorneys in the northern part of the state, was a distinguished and successful member of the last house, and came within hailing distance of the Republican nomination for attorney general at the Republican state convention. He was prominently identified with the Red River drainage bill, the Ives impeachment case and a number of other measures of greater or less importance to the people of the state, and particularly his part of it. He was decidedly more conservative in his course than was either of the gentlemen whose names have already been mentioned, but was always to be located for or against every measure that was presented, and when he took ground on a measure he was always found on the same side of it while it was pending. He is, it goes without saying, a first-class parliamentarian, and would fill the chair with honor to himself and to his district if he is chosen to the place. But it is not believed that he is so much a candidate for the place as he is for the nomination for atorney general two years hence.

Judge Samuel T. Littleton is another prominent and successful Republican who has been suggested as good material for a speaker. He, also, is a lawyer of much ability and a legislator with a good record, though his work in the last session was of more general character than that of some of the other members who had special interests in their keeping. He was prominent and effective in the debates on the floor when the more important bills were being considered, and was one of the best orators in the house. He comes from Dodge county, one of the best localities in the state, and is understood to be a candidate without any strings attached to him.

J. D. Jones, of Todd county, seems to be the man upon whom the slate-makers have agreed as the one most likely to pluck the coveted honor, not that he has been slated by any particular faction or section of the party, but he is a man who has no entangling alliances that would be likely to embarrass him. He has many friends and a few enemies, and he is the man upon whom the other candidates would be most likely to agree when their turn comes to lay down and deliver their support to the next man. Mr. Jones is certainly well equipped by natural qualification and acquirements to make a successful speaker. He is a lawyer of much ability and learning, he has had a great deal of experience as a legislator, and he has served a term as clerk of the supreme court. And here is one of the reasons why he will stand in line for the support of the strong party men. He was only given one term as clerk of the supreme court, when precedent and the theory that one good term deserves a second, should have given him two. The Republicans are inclined to admit that Jones has something coming, and it would seem to be the speakership, unless all signs fail—which they sometimes do in politics.

Henry Feig, of Kandiyohi county—where the state capitol doesn't go—is another rural politician who is supposed to stand a good chance of being stricken by the speakership lightning. Mr. Feig distinguished himself four years ago by running within 72 votes of the Populist candidate for congress in the Seventh district, since which time he has been a pretty prominent figure in Republican politics. He was a member of the house in 1891, skipped the term of 1893 to make the race for congress, and was again returned in 1894. At the election last November he defeated the Populist sachem, Dr. Christian Johnson. He is one of the best parliamentarians in either branch of the legislature, is a forcible speaker and a good debater. He has a strong following from the Northern and some of the other counties of the state, and is, on the whole, a formidable candidate.

Joseph B. Underleak, chairman of the house judiciary committee in 1895, and a member of the house the previous session, one of the leading attorneys of Southern Minnesota, is a candidate for the speakership, and will come to the contest with a strong following from the First congressional district. He is one of the veterans of the house, is an able debater, a finished parliamentarian, a good disciplinarian and in every way qualified to make a good presiding officer of the house if the cards should come his way.

While the Scandinavian Republicans of St. Paul, Minneapolis and Duluth were blowing red hot cinders among the hirsute appendages of Gov. Clough and doing all kinds of things for that excellent gentleman, the voters of the same nationality and the same party in Goodhue county were voting the Republican ticket early, often and straight, and when the old Republican stronghold of Hennepin county turned up with about 3,000 to the good for John Lind, Goodhue became the banner county; and thereby hangs the candidacy of Jens K. Grondahl for speaker. Mr. Grondahl was a member of the last house, and the first thing he did was to return the railroad pass which was sent him by a local company as a matter of course and courtesy. From that time on he was a marked man. He is a newspaper man, too. He is connected with the Red Wing Printing company, which prints the Daily Republican, a weekly paper and a Scandinavian paper. In fact the presses of the company are getting out papers all times of night and day, and they are all good Republican papers, at that.

Mr. Grondahl served very acceptably in the last house, was renominated without opposition and elected without any one knowing that another candidate was in the field. He is the business, political and personal friend of that very astute and popular statesman, Tams Bixby, which, of itself, is not half a bad card. He is undoubtedly fully qualified for the speakership, and stranger things have happened than his election to the speakership would be.

Hon. Henry G. Hicks, the veteran and venerable Judge Hicks, of Minneapolis, has not turned up missing when the gossips have spoken in whispers the names of those who might properly aspire to the speakership. He has been a prominent figure in Minnesota politics for a length of time when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary, and it is but natural that his name would occur as one likely to be submitted as a candidate for speaker. But he is understood to be a candidate of the receptive, rather than the active, order. The natural modesty of a Minneapolis man, the instinctive shrinking from a responsibility which is common to all Minneapolis politicians, is present in Judge Hicks to a marked degree, and if he is a candidate at the final show-down it will be only because his friends force him into it. Notwithstanding the disadvantage of location he would be a formidable candidate if he chose to make a set fight for the place, and some of the younger men might learn a lesson or two in practical politics if he entered the arena in earnest.

E. E. Smith, of Minneapolis, S. B. Lovejoy, of the same afflicted city, C. A. Parker, of Washington county, and several other members of the last and previous houses have also been mentioned as probable or possible candidates, but if the name of the next speaker is not found in the above list then there is no longer truth in politicians or common sense in the legislature.

If pools were to be opened on the event it is likely that J. D. Jones would have the best odds, closely followed by Grondahl and Feig, the others being bunched near by. It is a good fight, no matter how it may come out, and it is possible that the next Republican state ticket may be sprouted in this contest.

HENRY G. HICKS.

HENRY FEIG.

S. T. LITTLETON.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN WINS

The Banner for Accessions to Christian Endeavor Membership.

The banner for the largest new membership since the last rally in May was awarded at the rally of the Junior Christian Endeavor society of the city, in Central Presbyterian church yesterday afternoon to the society of First Presbyterian church, which has added 38 names to its membership roll. The society second in the contest was that of the Church of Christ, which had gained 35 new members. The latter society is the banner society of the city having a membership of 68 members. The society next in size is that of the Dayton Avenue church, of which Mrs. H. N. Ware is the superintendent. The superintendent of the society winning the banner yesterday is Miss Frances Woodruff and the society has in all a membership of 48 young people. The rally yesterday was an enthusiastic one and was attended by juniors from nearly every society in the city, 27 in all. Mrs. U. G. Moore, the earnest young superintendent presided and presented an entertaining programme. The meeting was opened with a 15 minute song service followed by prayer by the superintendent of the Hebron Baptist church, Mrs. C. H. Towner. The object of the rally was then presented by the superintendent, who also gave a number of new methods of working. A junior from the Park Congregational church gave a Bible reading, followed by a prettily rendered song, "The Sweet Story of Old," by the society from Westminster church. Union meetings were spoken of in a paper by a junior from the First M. E. church; and a junior from Bethany church read a paper on "Installation Service." There was a solo by Helen Cooper, "The New Kingdom," from First Presbyterian society, followed by another paper on "Ways of Raising Money," by a junior from Church of Christ. This was followed by a general discussion. "Christmas Lines of Work" were presented by Janie McKay, from the Bethel; and the meeting closed with a pretty scripture and song service. The next rally takes place in May. New Year's day the juniors will hold a large reception in some centrally located place down town.

PLEASANT SURPRISE PARTY

Tendered Mr. and Mrs. Eisman at Assembly Hall.

Mr. and Mrs. Eisman, of Charles street, were pleasantly surprised by a number of friends, who tendered them a large dancing party at Assembly hall. An extended circle of friends, having been apprised of the entertainment, met at the hall early in the evening, and when Mr. and Mrs. Eisman were escorted into the presence of the company and informed that the gathering was in their honor, their surprise was as complete as could have been desired. Appreciating the expression of friendship conveyed by the party the host and hostess divested themselves of wraps and mingled with the guests in the pleasant intercourse of an excellent dance programme furnished by Tobin's orchestra. A tastefully arranged supper was served during the evening. Mr. F. Manke, Miss Jessie Schiler and Miss Anna Gurnell, who planned the surprise party, were congratulated upon the manner in which it had been carried out.

COMO'S ICE SHEET

Will Be Visited by a Host This Afternoon.

Lake Como will today, doubtless, attract thousands to its glassy surface, there to enjoy the exhilarating pleasures of gliding over as smooth a sheet of ice as ever covered the pretty lake. It was intended to open the skating season Thanksgiving day and the ice was then in excellent condition, but the warm weather and rain spoiled the anticipated pleasure of many. The disappointment, however, was only in the nature of hope deferred, as the disagreeable conditions which prevailed last week served only to make the lake ideal for skating purposes. The rain fell upon an already thick covering of ice, sufficiently so to prevent danger of accident, and has now frozen over again into a natural looking glass, with a surface like the highest polished marble. The entire lake is at the disposal of the skaters and warming rooms have been prepared for those who become chilled in spite of the healthful exercise, while the city railway company has arranged a special car service for the accommodation of those who desire to avail themselves of the splendid opportunity for an afternoon's enjoyment.

Mrs. Spencer O. Merrill is visiting in Chicago.

BERT BERG'S BOOM

SECRETARY OF STATE IS CHERISHING ALREADY A GUBERNATORIAL AMBITION.

ALREADY FIXING FENCES.

THE CELEBRATED BARITONE IS RAMBLING ABOUT THE STATE HE LOVES,

BUT HIS DREAMS ARE ANNOYED

By the Specters of Dunn and Bixby, Couchant, in the Underbrush.

Albert Berg, the secretary of state, is not in his office much these days, in spite of the fact that the office is overcrowded with the work incident to the publication of the biennial blue book, the preparations for the canvass of the votes and the thousand and one duties which are incident to the gathering together of an august legislative assemblage.

Mr. Berg is busy elsewhere. He has not, so far as known, traversed the political deserts between here and the Ohio Mecca, possibly on the theory that Mahomet McKinley ought to come to the mountain. He has not even been in his office long enough to file the certificate of expense which the law requires him to file before he can issue a certificate of election to himself.

The reason for the severe pressure on Mr. Berg's time is not in official business, nor in pilgrimages to foreign shrines. He is paying his devotions about the totem poles of Bemidji, under the sighing willows of the Minnesota bottoms, or in the still silent shafts of the Missabe mines. The Angelus has rung in his ears from the belfry of Mennonite chapels on the distant prairie. He has heard the splendid choruses of the metropolis.

But everywhere, throughout all the cadences of the rhythmic religions, he could hear but one refrain:

"Berg-for-gov-er-nor.
Berg-for-gov-er-nor.
Berg-of-Chisago, run-ning for governor."

Albert's sleep is mingled with dreams of the frescoed ceiling in the new state house. He figures that he will be in the executive chair from Jan. 1, 1899 until Jan. 1, 1903, and he can already see the kodak fiends taking snap-shots of him as he stands on the portico of Mt. Aurova's massive pile, singing a basso profundo welcome to a constituency of 2,000,000 people, the then population of the government which has been so blessed under his beneficent rule.

He foresees, too, how Minnesota's proud majority of 50,000 in 1896, eclipsed by that for Berg and the national ticket in 1900, will make the governor of Minnesota no unimportant factor in the political presidential computations of 1900.

So far, so good. But Mr. Berg's dreams are sometimes vexed by a hideous nightmare. Some times he wakes, the cold sweat oozing from his forehead whence the reeking knife has just been drawn. And as the grim ogre vanishes in the darkness, Mr. Berg cannot distinguish whether the weapon was a paltry pen knife in Bob Dunn's fingers or the sausage-machine-like grinder of Tams Bixby's machine.

JOSEPH UNDERLEAK.

W. B. DOUGLAS.

ZIMMERMAN STILL ON.

Escapes With a Reprimand, Not a Discharge.

Patrolman Moses Zimmerman, of the West side, was up before Mayor Doran yesterday afternoon, a complaint having been made against him by a resident of the West side known as "Wiener" Wynach. Wynach accuses Officer Zimmerman of calling him "Hot Pepper," and claims that the cognomen bears no peculiar significance to himself and whereas it is distasteful and irritating, asks the mayor to pour oil on his wounded feelings by removing the officer from the force.

Officer Zimmerman denied the charge. Mayor Doran reprimanded him and told him that in the future he should arrest Wynach when the occasion required and not call him "Hot Pepper."

The charge is said to be the result of Representative McDonald's enmity to Officer Zimmerman, the former having been hot upon Zimmerman's heels for some time. McDonald is particularly desirous of having the West side officer removed from the force, but up to the present time his efforts have been unsuccessful.

The Wynach's are very bitter against Officer Zimmerman, as "Wiener's" brother was arrested some time ago by the officer named, for stealing a wagon seat, or something of a like character from Zimmerman.

Mayor Doran assured Wynach that hereafter he would not be dubbed "Hot Pepper" and Officer Zimmerman escaped with a lecture.

HELD UP IN MINNEAPOLIS.

A St. Paul Switchman Has a Lively Adventure

B. O. Thompson, in the employ of the Omaha road, at St. Paul, residing at 1523 Western avenue, Minneapolis, was held up and robbed by a lone highwayman Friday evening at Logan and Western avenues. Just as he reached Logan avenue a man with a cap pulled down so as to conceal his features, jumped from the shadow of a building and thrusting a revolver close to Thompson's face, commanded in a gruff tone of voice: "Throw up your hands!" Then, on second thought, the robber said: "Take off your gloves and drop them on the snow. Thompson was only too willing to comply with instructions, and when the burglar coolly demanded: "Now give me every cent you've got," his victim promptly handed him $3.85, all the money he had on his person.

The robber made no attempt to search him, but after securing the money stepped quickly behind him and told him to get out of sight as quick as possible. Thompson went straight on.

J. A. ROGERS PRESIDENT.

Is Honored by the Irish-American Club.

The Irish-American club held its annual meteing at the club rooms in the Endicott building last evening, and elected Joseph A. Rogers president, and Terrence Kenny vice president, for the ensuing year. It was the original intention to complete the roster of new officers last evening, but owing to a misunderstanding in sending out the announcements, only a small proportion of the members were present and it was decided to postpone the election of secretary, treasurer and an executive committee of five members until next Saturday. A healthy enthusiasm is manifested in the enrollment of new members in the club, eighteen of whom were initiated at a business meeting last Tuesday evening. The total membership of the organization is now over 250, with other applications under consideration.

FOR THE CARNIVAL.

Call for Meeting of Several Skating Clubs.

Headquarters for the carnival skating clubs has been established at the skating rink, Eighth and Wacouta streets. There will be a formal meeting of the Carnival Skating club this afternoon for the purpose of reorganization and mapping out of a programme of winter sports. The Standard Skating club desires all its members to meet Monday at the same place for the purpose of electing officers and addopting a new uniform. Wednesday the Wacouta Skating and Polo club will meet at the same place for the purpose of reorganization, and playing its initial game of polo.

MIGHT CAUSE WRECKS.

Stealing of Packing From Car Journals.

The eight boys arrested for stealing packing from the journals of freight cars on the Great Northern road, had a trial in the police court yesterday. The detectives of the road explained to the court that while the pecuniary loss by reason of the theft did not amount to much, there was danger that accidents might occur from the removal of the packing which would involve loss of life and destruction of valuable property. The boys took the waste from the journals and kept a fire in a small shack which they had erected near Rice street. They were much scared over their position and at the suggestion of their parents, were reprimanded and discharged.

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