

THE O'NEIL FRONTIER

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O'NEILL, NEBRASKA

Marte de Rabutin Chantal, known to the world as Mme. Sevigne, is supposed to have been born in Burgundy, at the chateau of Bouilly, in 1626, though both date and place are somewhat obscure. In 1644 she married the Marquis de Sevigne. Her unhappy marriage was terminated by the death of the marquis seven years afterward in a duel. The young widow then devoted herself entirely to her children. When her daughter was married to the Marquis de Grignan, the consequent separation caused the correspondence, which although not intended for publication, made her name celebrated for she associated with the principal actors in the civil war of the Fronde.

Gascony, the old province of France, is a favorite locality to evolve heroes of fiction. It is in the southwestern part and derived its name from the Vascones, a Spanish tribe, which crossed the Pyrenees about 580. It is that area of land between the Pyrenees, the Garonne and the Atlantic. In 1152, when Eleanor married Henry Plantagenet, it became an English possession and remained so until 1453, when the French reconquered it. Its inhabitants were noted for their slowness, courage and passion for boasting.

Aluminum, one of the most abundant and widely distributed of all the metals, was little more than a laboratory curiosity until, in 1836, Charles Martin Hall, then a young man of 22, discovered a cheap way to reduce it. When he made his experiments aluminum cost as much as silver. Few people ever heard of Dr. Hall, yet his achievement is one of the most notable in American scientific history.

Augusta, Me., has registered its first Chinese voter, Chin Hong, became properly recorded in time for the recent election. He was born in Seattle 23 years ago and is married, his wife being at present in China. Previous to going to Augusta he lived for some time in Boston and was at that time a voter.

The art of conversation was not always possessed by literary men. Coleridge and Macaulay were said to absorb so much time on an interesting subject that they were generally regarded as bored, whereas Robert Browning, with all his cumbersome poetry, was fascinating in his talk.

Denver, Colo., has, it is believed, the largest American flag in the world. It is 137 feet long and 63 feet wide. When it is necessary to wash the immense flag it is hung on the side of the municipal auditorium and a fire hose turned on it. It takes two hours to wash the flag.

Vehicles resembling light automobiles, but without motors, are used in some Swiss mountain resorts for a sport resembling tobogganing in snowless seasons.

So sensitive is electrical apparatus invented by a French scientist that it will detect the presence of one part of bicromate of potash in 200,000 parts of water.

A submarine tender built for the Brazilian navy can admit an underwater boat into its hull and carry it or subject it to extreme water pressure to test it.

Realizing that bass feel the hot weather, Hibard Raymond placed a cake of ice in a rocky cove in Lake Keuka, N. Y., and soon caught eight fine fish.

Sanitary advantages, as well as safety for their contents, are asserted for new steel poultry shipping crates, which are to be folded flat when empty.

A French aviator has placed a pneumatic buffer in front of the seat of his aeroplane, to lessen the shock should he strike the ground heavily.

To keep a sleeping child covered a woman has invented a combination garment and blanket, the former being buttoned about the body of its user.

An Englishman has invented a device to enable aviators in flight to pick up messages from the ground by dropping a grapple at the end of a line.

For stringing beads quickly an ingenious German has patented a crank operating machine which feeds them on the point of a threaded needle.

A new cafe and observation car has large windows at the tables so that diners may get a broad view of the passing landscape while dining.

The chief American article sold in China is kerosene. The value of this simple product exceeds all other American imports combined.

The Philippines assembly has put up a substantial prize for a means of destroying a tobacco insect pest without injuring the tobacco.

During the last year 72,817,735 short tons of sand and gravel, having a value of \$22,846,939, were dug out in the United States.

Argentina needs sugar. The government has just authorized the admission, duty free, of 35,000,000 pounds of refined sugar.

A new spring snap for harness and other purposes is made from a single piece of wire, twisted and suitably shaped.

Japan is rapidly increasing the production of its zinc and the development of the zinc refining industry.

China has sent government agents abroad to study the manufacture of telegraph and telephone equipment.

In Wales the hedge garrle, or, as it is more commonly called, "Jack-by-the-hedge," is often fried with bacon.

Woman car conductors abroad have proved themselves much more adept in detecting bad coins than men.

A gold nugget, weighing 14 pounds, was found recently in the Chuquaguillo mines, near La Paz, Bolivia.

France is taking official notice of the American farm tractor in what is called the "mechanical culture."

A patented rubber substitute is made by mixing gelatine with glycerine and a solution of camphor in acetone and treating the mass with sulphur.

A slate strap with a pad for the toe of the foot to relieve the pressure has been patented.

Alaska has forbidden the employment of boys under 14 underground in mines.

Japanese make a waterproof leather with many uses from the hides of sea lions.

DRUGGISTS SEEK TO SELL ALCOHOL ONLY

"Dry" Federation to Amend Draft of Statute For Their Benefit.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 8.—Under pressure from the druggists of the state, the "dry" federation has decided to amend its draft of the prohibition statute and provide only for the sale of alcohol by the drug stores of the state after May 1. The druggists were represented by officers of their state association. They were stated, however, that many drug stores in the state were justifying the law had been changed restricting druggists to the sale of alcohol that had been denatured so as to be used externally only, half the stores in the state could be bought for a few dollars, thrown in from the other "dry" committee that is to frame a law that will permit importation of liquor for personal use will meet next week. Its members say that a "bone dry" law would be a breach of faith with voters who were led to believe the saloon was the object of attack.

TROOPERS, INCENSED AT ORDER, BURN UNIFORMS

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 8.—Incensed at what was said to be orders from the war department that guardsmen's uniforms should be returned to the state when the militiamen are mustered out of the federal service, several companies of the Fourth regiment, Nebraska national guard, now at Fort Crook, Omaha, destroyed their uniforms. Guardsmen who turned their clothing in to the state guard officers were issued uniforms unfit for wear, some of them being so tight, the guardsmen said it was necessary to telegraph home or to friends for other clothing or money with which to buy it. Guardsmen asserted the uniforms had been purchased by them and did not belong to the state.

Adj. Gen. Phil Hall told the guardsmen it was a "shame, but orders," according to several privates, and announced all the uniforms would be taken by the state.

Some of the guardsmen cut or ripped their uniforms until they were useless, and others burned them.

The guardsmen returned a week ago from duty on the Mexican border.

FULLER PLEADS GUILTY; GIVEN LIFE SENTENCE

Omaha, Neb., Jan. 8.—Floyd Fuller, of Lexington, Neb., who on December 21 shot and killed his sweetheart, Dorothy Rader-Carberry, when she met him by appointment on a crowded street in Omaha, pleaded guilty to second degree murder and was sentenced to life imprisonment. A. F. Perrier, of Julesburg, Colo., deputy district attorney and assistant county attorney of Sedgewick county, grandfather of the girl, assisted the prosecution. He stated in his closing argument that "his dead granddaughter got justice."

For the first time Fuller broke the silence he has kept since the murder. He said to the judge:

"I tried for weeks to stave it off. I prayed to God to strike her dead if she was not true to me."

The judge cut short his remarks and asked him to plead guilty or not guilty. Fuller claimed the girl once had been his wife.

"DROWNED" OMAHA BOY IS FOUND AT LINCOLN

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 8.—While the parents of Carl Merker, a 5-year-old Omaha lad, were mourning him as drowned, a victim of the Missouri river, the youth was enjoying himself as a temporary guest of the city of Lincoln. The lad was picked up at the station the other day. He said that he had taken some money from his papa and he guessed he would rather not go home. He was in search of a former boarder. He was put in the detention home while the boarder was being searched for.

Friday morning, a policeman who had handles the case saw in an Omaha paper that Carl Merker had disappeared from home and that a companion had said he saw him slip on the bank of the river and fall into it. The boy's father was communicated with at the family grief turned into joy. The father took him home.

STATE WIDE OBSERVANCE BY NEBRASKA PLANNED

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 8.—Nebraska will celebrate the semicentennial of its entrance to the union this year and plans for a statewide observance of the event are being made.

The first program will be held on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, in every school district in the state. All churches and Sunday schools in the state have been asked to give special programs commemorating Nebraska's statehood.

The final program will be held in every county seat in the state on March 1. Nebraska was admitted to statehood on March 1, 1867, after several attempts had been made in congress to secure the passage of the necessary enabling act.

DR. WILD CHANGES REPORT; FILES IT SECOND TIME

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 8.—Dr. William F. Wild, who is in charge of the state board of health laboratory, has filed a second report of his activities during the year. The board of health is a duly chartered concern, with an inspector, who reports to the same body as does the bacteriologist. In his first report, Dr. Wild declared that he had been unable to get any assistance from "the individual" who occupies the position of health inspector, meaning Dr. Case.

He also made statements to indicate his firmly held belief that the board of secretaries, all doctors, were useless appendages. He referred to one secretary, Dr. Carr, as having supported the board in its office, the occupant of which chooses the secretary. Carr kicked, Case kicked, and so did a member of the state board of health. Case is said to have threatened trouble. Anyway, the doctor has torn off the offending page and refilled his report.

NEBRASKA TOWNS LOSE SUIT AGAINST ROADS

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—The Interstate Commerce commission has dismissed a complaint of the Grand Island Commercial club and the Commercial club of Hastings, against the New York Central and various railroads.

Allegations that rates on various commodities from central and eastern territories, as far as the south to Grand Island and Hastings were unfair as compared with rates in Missouri river crossings were not upheld.

TAKE UNTIL TUESDAY TO NAME COMMITTEES

in the Meantime, Both Nebraska Houses Take Vacation.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6.—Immediately following the inaugural ceremonies Thursday afternoon, both houses of the legislature put in the matters and adjourned until Tuesday afternoon. The first week was marked by a legislative organization of the house, but as it is always a task to parcel out the committee chairmanships and members, it was necessary to take four or more days for the job. This will now be completed until Monday or Tuesday. Until there are committees to whom bills may be referred, it is not considered regular to introduce any bills; and, there being nothing more to do, most of the members left town Tuesday was chosen as the day for meeting again because members like to stay over Sunday at home, and when they do that they can't reach Lincoln until Tuesday morning.

School Lands Fight.

Several measures aside from prohibition bid fair to occupy time and attention. A big fight is scheduled over the renewal of the attempt to give western Nebraska to secure the sale of school lands. The land commissioners have fought this effort successfully in the past, asserting the state ought to keep them and take the unearned land over to herself, while the westward land owners want to buy the land now and get the rise in values for themselves. Another fight scheduled is over the matter of telephone tolls. Lieutenant Governor Howard thinks a maximum charge should be fixed for long distance calls. The phone companies say that if toll charges are reduced, exchange station rentals must be increased, as both are taken into consideration by the railroad commission when fixing exchange rates.

Insurance Agents Have Bill.

The insurance agents' association will be present with a bill to give the state insurance commissioner power to fix rates on life insurance. They are not so keen about this now as at previous sessions, because the big eastern companies that dominate the rate situation have used their combined influence to stifle competition between their local agents.

Tells Curious Story ABOUT COURT PROCEDURE

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6.—John P. Price told a curious story in district court today, where he was seeking his liberty through the well worn habeas corpus route. Price says that O. B. Clark, a justice of the peace, is attorney for him in a divorce proceeding. She secured a decree while he was absent from the city and he called upon her to protest. She had him arrested in Justice Clark's court on a charge of assaulting her. Clark refused to send for him, and he was held in jail for 30 days. He asked the jailer to be allowed to see an attorney, but was told the justice had given orders that he was not to see any one. He says he is all a conspiracy to keep him where he can't make a fight to have the decree set aside.

NEBRASKA HAS OVER \$11,000,000 ON HAND

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6.—State Treasurer Platt, today announced that his successor has received \$11,878,334 in cash and \$9,903,648.33 in bonds, which represents the actual wealth of the commonwealth of Nebraska at this date. The cash actually on hand is \$223.58, the remainder being in state deposits that pay 3 per cent interest for the year. The \$11,000,000 of bonds is owned by the state department of the state, and the interest thereon is distributed twice a year to the various schools for their support.

CLAYBURN, ELECTED CUSTODIAN THURSDAY, RESIGNS TODAY

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6.—Henry Clayburn, 67 years ago a member of the lower house of the state legislature, but defeated this year, was also defeated in the election for sergeant at arms, but was given the office of custodian of the gallery. This Clayburn announces his resignation. Mr. Clayburn is very English and drops his "hs," the committee of employees is made up of three Germans.

DAIRY INSPECTOR THOUGHT HE WOULD BE SECRETARY

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6.—The selection of Lee Metcalfe as private secretary to the new governor has caused one case of bitter feeling that is in the breast of V. E. Stahl, of Seward, one of the food and dairy inspectors. Governor Neville asked him how he would like to be private secretary and he said it would suit him fine. He took this to be a proffer and told his friends of his coming home. But he lost out.

TWO NORFOLK BOYS KILLED BY TRAIN

Norfolk, Neb., Jan. 6.—Ronald Shoemaker, 7 years old, only son of Mrs. Sadie Shoemaker, a widow, and Walter Apfel, 14 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Apfel, were run over and fatally injured by a Northwestern switch engine here yesterday afternoon. The two boys were riding together on a sled and reached the railroad crossing about the same time as the engine. Both boys were terribly mangled.

WEST POINT—The death of William Peta, octogenarian, occurred at the family home northeast of this city. Mr. Peta was one of the first homesteaders here, locating in the late '60s and had accumulated a large estate. His immediate descendants are among the most influential people in the county. He was a native of Germany and leaves a large family of grown children. The funeral was held under the auspices of the German Lutheran church.

WEST POINT—Col. J. C. Elliott, county attorney elect, former postmaster and promoter of the West Point Road, has been appointed a member of the city council to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Councilman Romig of the second ward.

WEST POINT—The terms of district court for the year 1917 for the Ninth judicial district have been set by Judges A. A. Welch and William V. Allen, as follows: Madison county, January 28 and September 10; Stanton county, March 5 and September 12; Pierce county, March 12 and September 19; Antelope county, April 2 and October 1; Cheyenne county, April 9 and October 22; Wayne county, April 16 and October 29. Equity cases have been assigned for the first week in each term and jury cases on the second week. The Grand Jurors for Judge Allen is E. M. Powers, of Norfolk, and for Judge Welch W. R. Ellis, of Wayne.

RETIRING GOVERNOR URGES SHORT BALLOT

Morehead, in Address to Legislature, Suggests Many Changes.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 6.—In his message to the legislature, delivered to the state session this afternoon, Governor Morehead took strong grounds in favor of the adoption of the short ballot. He declared that his experience of four years as the executive head of the government convinced him that greater efficiency and economy would be possible if only the more important officers were elected and the power of appointing all others delegated to those. He said that all close observers of politics were of the opinion that voters concentrated attention only on the more important officers, and he thought the governor or some board ought to do the governing and appointing.

Need New Capital.

Governor Morehead gave as his opinion that the present capitol building is not in keeping with the present development of the state, and that any money expended should be for permanent results. If a wing is decided upon then it should be built with the future erection of a complete capitol in view. He recommends the creation of a building committee of public spirited citizens to superintend the expenditure of the money. If it is determined that a new building is necessary he suggests a small levy to create a fund that will bring in the needed money in time.

The governor is also convinced that in order to safeguard the guaranty deposit fund, the state banking board should be given power to absolutely limit the number of banks. He is also in favor of a four-year term for state officers and making them ineligible for re-election.

The governor thinks the primary law should be amended so as to attract higher grade men into office, and suggests a committee to consider the improvement of the law.

Separate Schools From Politics.

Mr. Morehead is also convinced that the schools should be taken out of politics and favors nonpartisan nomination and election of superintendents. He urges that associate justices of the supreme court be elected by districts. The water power situation, he thinks, calls for attention. Other recommendations are:

Legislation that will unify the health department and give the state better sanitary laws; ample appropriations for the state institutions; the inauguration of a system of good permanent roads; consolidation of the hotel department with the food, dairy and oil inspection, or at least the use of the latter's inspection force; placing dairy inspectors under state farm dairy department; placing additional men around the printing commissioner, particularly the purchase of all stationery and office equipment.

His only pronouncement upon prohibition legislation is:

"At the last election the people of this state registered their will on the liquor question. By many able lawyers it is held that the constitutional amendment is self acting, and that further legislation is not required. I do not take issue with this view; nevertheless, I feel that some legislation is necessary in order to get the desired result. This amendment, and I urge such action as in your wisdom may seem best to carry out the will of the people."

TREE GREW AROUND BLADE OF KNIFE

Hartington, Neb., Jan. 6.—J. D. Clair Smith, the county surveyor, has presented to the library a piece of scrub oak about 5 1/2 inches, which has grown completely around the blade of an old pocket knife. It is thought that the knife was stuck into the tree when it was a sapling, and as only the handle now protrudes from the tree. Mr. Smith discovered the curiosity while prospecting for the broken water-tom ditch and cut out the section in which the knife was imbedded. Judging by the number of rings in the wood the knife must have been there about 50 years.

LINCOLN—A telegram from Pickrell, a small town in Gage county, tells of great excitement in that section because of mysterious rappings and knockings which have been occurring at the home of Peter Schank, one in the country. It began Sunday evening and has continued at intervals both afternoon and evening. Its source can not be traced, and the credulous of the neighborhood are quite sure it is the work of spirits and portends something awful. Mr. Schank's mother resides in Germany and he thinks that she is in trouble and is trying to communicate with him. Hundreds of people have visited the home and testify to hearing the rappings on the windows.

THURSTON—Fire which started from the chimney of Fuller & Co.'s general merchandise store at about midnight Tuesday, destroyed that store, the Thurston postoffice and the store of the Thurston Mercantile company. Lack of water supply made efforts to restrain the flames wholly useless. Apparatus was sent by rail from Emerson, but it arrived too late to be of any use. The loss, which was estimated at \$22,000, was protected by insurance to the extent of \$0 per cent.

McNAMARA BALKY, PUNISHED.

San Quentin, Cal., Jan. 4.—James B. McNamara, serving life sentence in the state prison here for dynamiting the Los Angeles Times building in 1910, when 26 lives were lost, has been ordered into the disciplinary dungeon for failing to work in the jail mill. According to the prison officials, McNamara had been doing unsatisfactory work in the laundry, where he had been employed for three and a half years. When McNamara persisted in his refusal to do the jail mill, Warden J. A. Johnston sent him to the dungeon for three days.

HURLEY QUILTS TRADE BOARD FOR BUSINESS

Washington, Jan. 4.—Edward N. Hurley, of Chicago, chairman of the federal trade commission, unexpectedly resigned today, to resume business in Chicago. He had a personal conference with President Wilson and his resignation was accepted.

PARIS REPORTS QUIET NIGHT.

Paris, Jan. 4.—The night was calm over the whole front," says today's official statement.

NEBRASKA SENATE LEADER "WET," SAY

Mattes, Nebraska City Brewer, Championed Liquor Cause Last Session, Claim.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 5.—Prohibition leaders look upon the action of the state senate yesterday in selecting Senator John Mattes, of Nebraska City, as notice to them that they have a fight on their hands to get through that body the kind of a statute they desire to back up the amendment.

Mattes was the leader of the liquor forces in the senate of two years ago. He has been engaged for years in the brewing business. Last year he spent a part of his time organizing branches of the German-American alliance, an organization that in the last campaign fought prohibition and President Wilson at the polls.

Senator Beall, who led the unavailing fight against his selection, declared on the floor that the democratic party was challenging the wet good faith in the matter of prohibition when it selected as its floor leader a man with a liquor record such as Mattes possesses. He was supported by Senator Howell, of Douglas, and Senators Sawyer and Oberly, of Lancaster. The other "dry" democrats who voted for Mattes had prepared written explanations in which they insisted the liquor issue was dead and that the people had settled it. Lahnners, a "wet" republican, voted for Mattes.

Mattes Liquor an Issue.

The Mattes supporters charged the opposition with dragging the liquor issue into the fight, but to this it was retorted that the "wet" issue had been injected by the candidacy of Mattes, which was a direct challenge to the "drys."

The republicans declined to take part in the fight. But six of them voted against Mattes, the others not voting. Mattes served notice of his intention to bring the liquor issue before the balloting that if the fight was continued against him it would result in an alignment that would last the session through.

GOVERNOR NEVILLE KEEPS SECRETARY'S NAME SECRET

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 5.—Governor Neville has disappointed a number of ardent democrats by staying away from the state capital while the legislature is being organized. He is expected to arrive some time during the day in preparation for the inauguration tomorrow. He will bring his private secretary with him. The man's identity is, not known. He has been selected, but the governor has kept silent about his choice. There are a few other places to fill, and these the governor is expected to act upon at once.

G. F. Cooper, of Omaha, has been named by State Land Commissioner Shumway as his deputy. June H. Lindmark, of Scott's Bluff will be chief clerk; E. B. Zimmerman, of Lincoln, bookkeeper; Joseph C. Pinker, of West Point, recorder, and Genevieve Christenson, of Valentine, stenographer.

BOTH NEBRASKA HOUSES ARE FORMALLY ORGANIZED

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 5.—With the formal organization of the Nebraska legislature by the selection of George Jackson, of Nuckolls county, as speaker of the house and John Mattes, of Otoe county, as president pro tem of the senate, both houses have started the active work of the session by the appointment of committees to make selections of the standing committees of house and senate.

Interest in coming legislation centered in the effort of an influential body of friends of the recently adopted prohibition amendment to press down the bill drafted last Saturday by the Nebraska "dry" federation. It is claimed this bill is too drastic in its provisions, and if adopted will serve to make enforcement of the prohibition law difficult.

LINCOLN—The authorities have been unable to find trace of the relatives of Jack Stearns, the cook who shot and killed Mrs. Nora Nelson because she would not agree to marry him, and then committed suicide. Stearns has lived in Lincoln for a number of years. In his possession were found several hundred letters from the woman, the woman signed, "your loving wife." Mrs. Nelson came here from Edgemont, S. D.

TEKAMAH—Levi D. Phipps, a prominent resident of Tekamah, died at his home of cancer. Mr. Phipps served Burt county as sheriff several terms. At the time of his death he was deputy grand custodian of the Masonic lodge of Nebraska and was well known over the state. He leaves a wife and two children—Lawrence D. Phipps, of Herman, and Miss Goldie Phipps, at home.

RANDOLPH—Much excitement was caused in one of the stores when Howard Reppart, who lives in Pierce county, met his wife and gave her a severe beating. Reppart came to the county a short time ago and married a 15-year-old girl.

ALLEN—Miss Mabel Krause, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Krause, prominent farmers residing two miles west of town, was married in Sioux City, Ia., today, to Lester Smith.

GERMANS CAPTURE TWO TOWNS IN DOBRUDJA

Berlin, Jan. 3. (by wireless to Sayville).—The towers of Matchin and Jilist, in northern Dobrudja, have been captured, it is announced officially.

NAMES HIS SECRETARY.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 3.—Governor Neville this afternoon named Lee Metcalfe, son of R. L. Metcalfe, of Omaha, as his private secretary.

The house passed a resolution ordering the railroad commission to get busy and end the car shortage. Both houses met in the joint session this afternoon to canvass the vote.

MANY WAR REFUGEES ARRIVE.

New York, Jan. 3.—Nine hundred and sixty-five refugees from Belgium and Russian Poland arrived here last night from Rotterdam on the steamship Nieuw Amsterdam, of the Holland-American line. The Belgians, numbering 221, were brought here by the Belgian Relief society, of Chicago.

With the Belgians were 74 Russian Poles, in charge of Henry E. Zare. They had been sent over with the aid of various Polish societies. Many of the children among the refugees were inadequately clothed.

'WETS' URGE VOTE ON PROHIBITION IN U. S. CAPITAL

An Unusual Situation Develops When Senate Forces Appear Almost Evenly Divided on Sheppard Bill.

"DRYS" FEAR VOTE FRAUDS

Sheppard Predicts Passage of Bill, Which Iowa Delegation Supports, and Defeat of Referendum, Tuesday.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 8.—Whether the District of Columbia is to be "wet" or "dry" will, in large part, be settled next Tuesday, when the Senate is under agreement to vote on the Sheppard bill for prohibition in the national capital.

On that day, the bill and all amendments will be voted on, including the Underwood proposition for a referendum of prohibition to the people of the district.

"Wets" Favor "Dry" Vote.

Opponents of the Sheppard bill are lined up for the referendum on the theory that on a vote the district will go against prohibition. "Dry" senators are fighting the referendum, alleging that without any regular election machinery in the District of Columbia, it will be impossible to hold an election without fraud.

Whether the referendum will prevail is likely to be decided in the Senate by a vote of two. In committee of the whole, the referendum was beaten by a tie, but there will be another test in the Senate proper. The Senate is so closely divided that no positive prediction can be made how it will go on the referendum. That the Sheppard bill will pass the Senate either with or without the referendum is considered certain.

House Will Follow Senate.

Senator Sheppard predicts passage of his bill and defeat of the referendum. The bill has not yet passed the House, but its advocates say if the Senate passes it it will be driven through the House.

The "dry" members of congress and the "dry" forces pressing the district bill say that a good deal more is involved than the local question whether the district be "wet" or "dry." In their opinion, a great impetus will be given national prohibition if congress makes the seat of government "dry" territory.

It is for the moment, however, probably, even more than for the local results, that the passage of the bill is being urged. That explains why both "wets" and "drys" the country over have their eyes fastened on the Sheppard measure. If the bill becomes law the "drys" will be much encouraged to press a prohibition amendment to the constitution to a vote. While this requires a two-thirds vote and probably cannot prevail this winter, the "drys" say passage of the district bill will tend to reinforce the national amendment.

Iowa Delegation For It.

The entire Iowa delegation in congress will line up for the Sheppard bill when given the opportunity and, likewise, it is expected to oppose the referendum. Senators Cummins and Kenyon will vote for the bill and against the referendum, and the House members will likewise. Representative Steele has declared he will vote for the prohibition national amendment because he believes the country should be allowed to settle whether it wants it and he is also expected to vote for the district bill if the matter is laid before the House. Representative Steele has declared he will vote for the Sheppard bill on the republican side of the Senate.

PITT WINS IN CLOSE CONTEST FOR SPEAKER

Harrison County Representative Gets 48 Out of 94 Votes— Ramsey Chief Clerk.

Des Moines, Ia., Jan. 6.—M. E. Pitt, of Harrison county, won the speakership contest on the first ballot, with 48 out of 94 votes. Elwood, of Howard, received 28; Shorters, of Tama, 15, and Neff, of Pottawattamie, 5. Mr. Farlow, of Bachman, was elected speaker pro tem on the second informal ballot. W. B. Ramsay, of Belmont, was unanimously chosen chief clerk of the house.

A spirited contest developed over the fight for speaker pro tem, and two ballots were necessary before Mr. Farlow won out with 50 votes. A. W. Slaughter, of Ottumwa, was second with 40 votes, and Roy W. Murray, of Buena Vista, third with 2. Representative Griffin, of Woodbury, presided.

After the caucus, Pitt, speaker to be, asserted that he is for a short session and a business one. He declared that he will go home over Sunday, but will stay here and work on his committee, so they can be announced early in the week, instead of waiting until after inaugural recess, as usual. "The sooner the committees are named, the sooner the house can get to work, and that is what we are here for," he said.

ASKS PAY FOR KEEPING MRS. LESLIE "IN GOOD"

New York, Jan. 6.—Papers have been filed in the surrogate court here by the Baroness de la Motte de Salazar, demanding \$9,700 from the estate of the late Mrs. Frank Leslie, widow of the publisher