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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 1909

**CHANGES WROUGHT BY AMENDMENTS.**

After 1910 the February Election  
Will Be a Thing of the Past.

According to the ballot in the recent election the voters of the state were called upon to vote for ten amendments and a schedule which provided for the carrying into effect of the amendments. Summed up, the various amendments revised certain portions of the State Constitution, and had for their purpose the abolition of the February elections, and provided that the general or State elections shall be held in November in the even numbered years and the municipal elections in the odd numbered years. Amendment seven provided that election officers shall be elected biennially but gave to the Legislature the right to determine whether the election officers should be appointed.

Virtually all of the amendments are based upon the same thing, and as outlined by the political leaders mean nothing more than the abolition of the February election and the arrangement of the election of officers to conform with that proposition.

By the provisions of amendment one it is stipulated that where a vacancy occurs in office two months or more before the November election—in offices which may be filled by appointment of the Governor—the vacancy shall be filled at that election.

Amendment No. 2 provides that the State Treasurer-elect and the Auditor General-elect shall serve three years and that hereafter those elected to these offices shall serve four years.

The third amendment provides for fixing the term of office of Justices of the Peace and Aldermen at six instead of five years, and the fourth amendment, which relates to Philadelphia alone, gives the Magistrates a term of six instead of five years.

The fifth amendment simply fixes that the general, or what is commonly termed the State election, shall be held biennially in the even numbered years on the Tuesday next following the first Monday in November instead of annually, and amendment No. 6 abolishes the February election and provides that it be held in the odd-numbered years.

Then follows the 7th amendment relating to the election officers, whether the Legislature be empowered to decree that they shall be appointed, which was defeated, and after that is the 8th amendment which provides that all State offices shall be elected at the November election in even numbered years

and that local officers shall be elected on the election day in the odd-numbered years.

Amendments Nos. 9 and 10 fix the term of office of all county officers at four instead of three years, and the schedule to which the voters of the State gave their approval decided that in carrying into effect these amendments the terms of office of State officials now fixed at an odd number of years shall be extended one year so as to come in an even numbered year.

The term of election officers will be two years, that of assessors, constables, school directors, councilmen, supervisors and of all city and county officers will be four years, and that of justices of the peace, aldermen, and magistrates will be six years.

County officers elected in 1907 and 1909 will each serve four years, but those elected in 1908 will serve only three years.

The February (municipal) election will be held in 1910, as heretofore, but all election officers chosen at that election will serve until the first Monday in December, 1911.

All officers chosen at the February election, 1910, to offices the term of which is now four years or the term of which is made four years by the proposed amendments, shall serve until the first Monday in December, 1913.

All justices of the peace, aldermen and magistrates elected in February, 1910, shall serve until the first Monday in December, 1915, and thereafter the terms of all city, ward, borough, and township election officers shall begin on the first Monday of December in odd-numbered years.

All city, ward, borough and township officers holding office when the proposed amendments are adopted and whose terms end in 1911 shall continue in office until the first Monday in December, 1912. State officers, Congressmen and members of the General Assembly will be elected at the general election in November of the even-numbered years, and all other officers will be elected at the municipal election in November of the odd-numbered years. This provision, however, has no reference to elections of Judges of the courts, who may be elected in any year, nor to special elections to fill vacancies.

At the general election in 1910 the ballot will be headed by candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Secretary of Internal Affairs; in 1912 by the presidential electors, the State Treasurer and the Auditor General. All other officers—county, city, borough, ward and township—will be elected in the odd-numbered years.

Odd-numbered senatorial districts will elect Senators in the years of the presidential elections, and even-numbered senatorial districts will elect Senators in the years of the gubernatorial elections.

Two suffragettes got into a squabble while one of their comrades was haranguing a crowd in City Hall Park, New York, last Friday. They mused each others pompadours, and ruined their perfectly good hats, and were finally pried apart by a cop.

That's all right, girls. It's a great thing to be a "militant suffragette," and if you keep on pulling each others hair and shouting "Votes for Women" nobody will be any the worse for it, and you'll all have a fine time.

**WASHINGTON**

From our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15, 1909

After a long absence from the White House, the President has made a brief visit to Washington and again departed. Mrs. Taft has been a resident of the historic mansion for nearly a fortnight. Many improvements have been made during the summer. The new White House offices connected by a long gallery with the main building and to be used for the first time by President Taft have been enlarged to twice the size as used by ex-President Roosevelt. The contractors have worked on these offices day and night with three shifts of workmen in order that they might be completed and ready on Mr. Taft's return. The offices extend entirely over the lawn tennis grounds made famous by the late athletic President and his kitchen cabinet, a name given by journalism to his companions in tennis including Gifford Pinchot, James Garfield, Judge Cooley, the French Ambassador and one or two others. President Taft was received on his arrival by his Cabinet and a delegation from the Chamber of Commerce of Washington. He is probably the only President who has ever been in the White House who is not bored by the ceremonial.

The Chamber of Commerce is a fifth wheel in Washington. It is an organization quite equal to launching an automobile flower parade or a Committee to get in the way of the President and impede his resistless rush home to see his wife. Mr. Taft is a patient and amiable man. They would not have dared to get in the way of his predecessor. Speaking of his predecessor the demand for his return is undoubtedly growing. The Pinchot Ballinger Glavis incident is calling for Roosevelt. The Cannon, Aldrich, LaFollette, Dooliver, Beveridge, Cummins and Middle West are calling for Roosevelt. The hunter of Lions, Hippopotami and Elephants will find bigger game here two years hence. There is but little doubt that if Roosevelt had been President the Aldrich Cannon tariff bill would not have been whitewashed, and that other half way measures and policies would have failed to receive the approving smile and caressing pat. It was said of President Roosevelt that the members of his Cabinet were mere clerks, that he used them merely as intermediaries for the accomplishment of his administration policies, though with reference to one Cabinet officer at least this was far from the truth, for, on one occasion, after trying in vain to get Secretary Root to the phone knowing that he was at his desk barely four hundred feet distant the President sent a messenger for him asking an interview, only to receive the answer that the Secretary of State was busy and could not see him. President Taft's relation to his Cabinet has not been fully developed. It has been generally believed that having chosen a Cabinet of lawyers, himself a lawyer, his administration will be statute-bookish. That he is disposed to stand by his Cabinet, may be inferred from his conspicuous endorsement of Ballinger in his controversy with Glavis and Pinchot.

Now that the installation of the Executive and his Cabinet is complete soon to be followed by the beginning of the Congressional session Washington will once more attract the attention of the country as the arena of the greatest political activity, or, at least the most important in this hemisphere. During the last ten years great changes have taken place in the setting of the locals of Government. No longer is the visitor disembarked from the trains at the old Sixth Street Pennsylvania station or the New Jersey Avenue Baltimore and Ohio station. A new railway union station unexcelled in grandeur and convenience by any in the world has been completed and is in use. Those approaching the Capitol by the main entrance are impressed with the appearance of two new immense marble palaces near the Senate and the House wings of the Capitol. These are the office buildings for Senators and Representatives in Congress and are connected with the Senate and House by underground galleries traversed by automobiles. For elegance, luxury and solid splendor the congress of the United States are unequalled by any legislative body in the world. A heating plant costing a million and a half of dollars situated nearly a half a mile from the Capitol furnishes warmth, light and purified atmosphere to these office palaces and to the Congressional Library. In the last year as it will be remembered the salaries of members have been increased from \$5,000 to \$7,000 and they may now, by an adroit use of their new luxurious offices and an economical use of sandwiches save some money.

There are restaurants in the base-

ment under the Senate and lower House and it has been the custom to let to cafe managers outside of the capitol the concessions for supplying our law makers with the meals they desire to take in the Capitol. It has just been announced after a number of failures in this business that the last restaurant manager in charge of the Senate cafe has declined to accept the concession again and it is said that hereafter the Government itself will look after the menus and the supplying and preparation of the food. That is to say that an appropriation will be made by Congress for that purpose and among the spoils of office will be the appointment of managers, cooks, waiters and other attaches of this post. No one said whether or not the appointments will fall under the civil service and whether a man to properly cater to a dyspeptic Senate must know the Binomial Theorem and quadratics but at any rate Congress is going to look after it in one way or another. The trouble all along has been the exceeding simplicity of the appetites of most of the Senators. While it was necessary to maintain a menu a foot long in order to satisfy the eye of the legislators, their appetites are as a rule satisfied with a glass of milk and a piece of pie and the restaurant, therefore, is a business failure.

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**FISH BASKET LAW.**

Chief Warden Crisswell Will Recommend Abolition of Permits Because of Abuse.

The eradication of all fish baskets by a repeal of the fish basket law will be recommended by Chief Warden Crisswell, of the Department of Fisheries, in his annual report to the Board of Fish Commissioners when it meets in December.

Crisswell does not intend to simply work for the curtailment of the privileges of the fish basket operator or to recommend a drastic revision of the law, but it is his intention to try and make the destruction of the fish basket complete in every form.

In outlining his reasons for this action the warden says a repeal of the law would be most humane.

Fishermen, he adds, are being detected and fined for flagrant disregard for the law all over the State.

**WORKS AGAINST THE POOR.**

They are as a rule so poor that they cannot afford to pay the fines imposed upon them and when they do the blow falls heavier upon their families than it does upon them. More suffering has been entailed among the women and children of these defendants than one would care to admit without a careful study of the conditions.

A majority of the fishermen operating fish baskets, the warden said, are either too illiterate to comprehend the full meaning of the law or else violate the law deliberately, relying upon a number of plausible excuses to aid them in evading the usual fine.

**EXTERMINATES THE EEL.**

The fish baskets at the present are so constructed that they are certain to clear the waters of the State of all migratory species of eels. The present law permits slats in the bottom of fish baskets to be three-eighths of an inch apart, which leaves such a narrow space that the baskets retain almost everything that flows into them down to the size of an angle worm.

General reports from all over the State show that the eels that are being caught are extremely small this season, being known among the fishermen as the noodle or whipcracker. They are so small that it requires from ten to sixteen of them to weigh a pound after having been dressed.

**OPERATE IN TROUT STREAMS.**

Crisswell also says the majority of fishermen are scarcely content to place their baskets in the larger rivers inhabited by trout, but persist in installing them in small trout streams and then claim there are no trout in the immediate vicinity of the fish baskets.

It was thought by the warden at first that the law requiring fish baskets to be provided with reasonable openings in the wing walls in addition to prohibiting their use in smaller trout streams would prove satisfactory, but it has been found that less attention has been paid to the provisions than ever. The best way to get rid of the evils resulting from the use of fish baskets, said Crisswell, is simply to repeal the law which has made them legal.

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