

LEGISLATORS PRICK UP EARS AT ELEVENTH

Curiosity Aroused When District Organizes For Home Interests.

MOVE FOR SPEAKER SEEN

Members of the 1921 Legislature from twelve districts of the State are wondering what the Republican organization, which has been organized in the Eleventh district, will do for the district. The Eleventh district representatives held a meeting last Friday night at Wabash, called by District Chairman John A. Jones, of Marion, and perfected an organization for "the furtherance of legislation for the interest of the district."

Alfred B. Hogston of Marion, State Senator from Grant County, was named president of the organization, and D. M. Coppock, Representative from Miami County, was made secretary and treasurer. Senator Hogston is the avowed enemy of the Public Service Commission, and during the special session introduced a bill for the abolishment of the board.

THOSE WHO ATTENDED.

Those who attended the organization meeting were:

Senators—Alfred B. Hogston, Marion; Oliver Kline, Huntington; C. Leroy Leonard, Wabash; Walter J. Boehmer, Logansport.

Representatives—Wayne S. Tucker and Albert Shugart, Marion; E. E. Youse, Marklet; D. M. Coppock, Peru; Charles E. Richardson, Logansport.

County Chairmen—John A. Jones, Marion; Claude Cline, Huntington; Walter Closson, Logansport; Ed Purviance, Wabash.

Ed M. Wasmuth, State chairman, also was present. John A. Jones is serving as county chairman of Grant County and chairman of the Eleventh district.

Another meeting is scheduled for the holidays or just previous to the opening of the seventy-second session of the General Assembly.

Several motives have been rumored as the cause for the organization. E. E. Youse, re-elected Representative from Huntington County, has aspirations for the speakership of the House. It is known that he has been making a quiet but active canvass for this place, and it

is said he has the support of the Eleventh district delegation in the Assembly in his candidacy.

It is considered likely that the Eleventh district will split over the speakership. John F. McClure, who is said to be the favored candidate of Governor-elect Warren T. McCray for the job as Speaker of the House, probably will not be able to line up the Eleventh district representation to support him.

In the primary campaign the lines were drawn tight in Grant and surrounding counties in the gubernatorial contest. Senator Hogston, who has a large following in the county, was a strong Fessler supporter, and openly was against the nomination of McCray for Governor.

This is given as an indication that he would not favor the naming of McClure as Speaker of the House and since he was influential in the naming of Wayne S. Tucker to succeed Robert McGibben as candidate for Representative, when Mr. McGibben was declared ineligible for the place, it is almost certain he will exert enough influence over Tucker to have him work for Youse, if the delegation decides to stand by the Huntington County man.

KNOWN TO HAVE FAVORED MCCRAY.

Jones, however, who is a farmer and a smooth politician, was known to be favorable to the nomination of McCray. It is said the organization meeting may have been held to wipe out any discordant notes that may have been left over after the 1920 campaign.

Hogston feels, it is said, that his constituents would support him again in any action against the Public Service Commission. Feeling in Marion and Grant County, and to a large degree in other counties of the Eleventh district, is strongly against the commission. It is known that when Hogston's bill was presented in the special session that many letters were received by him from prominent men in the community commending him for his action, and pledging their support.

Another reason for the forming of the organization is that in past sessions of the Legislature no concerted action among members of the Eleventh district delegation has been noticeable. No harmonious action, such as is evidenced among delegations from other districts has been in evidence among the Eleventh district group.

With a compact organization of the Senators and Representatives and with the two delegations working together harmoniously, it is said, the Eleventh district would present a formidable appearance in the State capital when the Legislature convenes. If the delegation

would stick together, it is pointed out that it could be successful in presenting almost any demand in either branch of the assembly.

Jones, it is said, would not be averse to being named State chairman of the Republican party two years hence. He has an organization now in Grant county and in the Eleventh district that is the pride of the district and is one of the best in the State.

His name has been mentioned several times for the State chairmanship. If Jones is able to handle the Eleventh district delegation in the Legislature, the chances are more than favorable that he can put over legislation that would place him in a position where he could hardly be denied any favor he might wish of the party in two or four years.

This, it is said, may be another one of the reasons why the organization of the district was perfected.

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