

Baltimore Sunday Herald
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Solons Plan a Coup D'Etat

They Hope to Override the Mayor's Veto

Need Eighteen Votes

Say That They Will Be Able to Obtain Them

Spring Election is Near

Solons Preparing for the Contest—The Hayes Factor a Disturbing Element

“Extended operations have come to an end and for the present, at least, the refractory solons will content themselves with guerrilla tactics. Under the leadership of the Councilmanic De Wet, Mr. Morgan, they have retired to their fastnesses, and, except for an occasional raid, are entirely inactive.”

This is the latest news item received from the war correspondent with the Mayor's forces. It is reassuring, certainly, to His Honor's well-wishers, but many of them, with the South African object lesson before them, are inclined to take it with a large grain of salt. And in so doing they are supported by the intelligence imparted by the runners who have penetrated the Councilmanic lines.

Councilmen Hopeful

On the last day of the 19th century the Second Branch passed the \$1.95 levy ordinance over the Mayor's veto by a vote of seven to one, with one absentee, who would have voted “yea” had he been present. Tomorrow the veto will be the order of the day in the First Branch, and there are those of the solons who claim that the 18 votes needed to override it will be forthcoming.

In the past, the Mayor's opponents have been able to summon up but 16 votes. Mr. Megenhardt, one of their number, has been sick in bed, and His Honor's friends—Messrs. Sudler, L. Miller, Lamm, Reinhart, Donnelly, Watty and Galvin—have stood steadfast. But now it is rumored that Mr. Megenhardt will be able to attend the Council meeting tomorrow and that one of the seven is on the verge of deserting the Mayor. The rumors has not been supported by very good evidence and is given merely for what it is worth. But if it is true the belligerent solons will number 18 tomorrow evening, and the Mayor's veto will be overthrown.

What will follow such an event may not be predicted.

What will follow a possible failure of the attempt to beat His Honor is also a matter of speculation.

In any case, the courts will be called upon to take a hand.

“When Comes the Spring”

With all of the uncertainties of war before them and the mines of the Law Department in their path, the solons are now finding fresh trouble in the ante-election wire pulling. In May the 24 members of the First Branch and Messrs. Hubert, Moylan, Frank and Lithicum, of the Second Branch, will come to the ends of their terms. A good many of them are already at work upon their fences, and not one, perhaps, would decline a renomination if it were offered him.

But to all but a few the fight will be an uphill one. The insurgents, in battling with the Mayor, have antagonized all of his friends, and despite the oracular utterances of the false prophets, Mr Hayes still has a legion of admirers in Baltimore. His economical methods and warfare upon “cinches” have caused him to be respected by the thinking classes, if not by the workers, and, rightly or wrongly, the present lamentable muddle is ascribed to the solons’ sins and not to his. Thus it happens that the Councilmen who seek re-election will be burdened by the very weights in which they endeavored to place upon the shoulders of the Mayor.

Jobs Have Been Scarce

In addition, the recalcitrant solons will have the horde of the disappointed to contend with. Jobs have been neither as plentiful or as “easy” since Mr. Hayes’ inauguration as they were before. This condition of affairs has been brought about by the Mayor, but those of the faithful who are now shivering in the cold will certainly vent a little of their spleen upon their unfortunate representatives. The Mayor’s friends in the council recently have been well taken care of. Places for their adherents have been found in the various departments and at the jail. But the insurgents have gone empty handed, unheeded and ignored.

Mr. Gephart’s Fight

President Gephart, of the First Branch, is one of the solons who will make a hot fight for re-election. A month ago he announced his candidacy upon a strictly anti-Hayes platform, and ever since he has been free in his predictions that he will be successful in the primaries and at the polls. But in his ward, which is also the Mayor’s, there is said to be much smoldering dissatisfaction with his recent course in the Council. His constituents, who are, in the main, of the better class of the population, are understood to be doing some tall thinking lately.

Bright for Mr. Ford

One of the few anti-Hayes Councilmen who has little opposition in his ward is Mr. Ford, of the Seventeenth. City Register Numsen, Fire Commissioner Sirich and other leaders who were once lukewarm in his support, are now out for him in the open, and there seems to be little doubt that the nomination will go to him.

Mr. Ford is a man of much popularity, and in the Council has consistently followed the course which seemed to him to be the right one. As an experienced man of business and affairs

his advice has been often sought by his colleagues. At all times it has been sensible and sound. In the present muddle he has leaned toward the side of calm consideration, and at no time has he been guilty of the hasty acts which have characterized some of the other solons.