

\$50 CUSPIDORS GRACE CAPITOL OF WASHINGTON

Political Flareup Shows Gross Expenditures

By BERTRAM D. WOLFE

SEATTLE, Wash., (By mail)—With cuspidors costing \$47.75 each it will be a pleasure to expectorate within the limits of the state capitol building at Olympia after the new furniture now being contracted for by the state capitol committee, and the northwest which is so proud of having the "biggest" and the "greatest" and the "best" in everything will be able to boast of the most luxurious receptacles for saliva and tobacco juice of any public building in the United States.

\$96 for Waste Baskets

Waste baskets will make even the shabbiest trash feel genteel, for the new waste baskets are being bought at \$96 each. Umbrella stands will be too good to put any but dry umbrellas into them and wet ones will have to be parked outside when the new \$222 umbrella holders adorn the halls of the \$7,000,000 building that houses the dignity of the state government.

Only the best quality hats should be permitted to hang on the hat racks that cost \$168 each. \$534,000 was spent by the State last Thursday on just a few of the necessities for the proper carrying on of the government's activities.

Novel Buying Method.

Instead of calling for bids for the necessary furnishing on a competitive basis the state officials adopted the novel procedure of (to quote the Governor) "asking these firms how much they would give us for \$568,900 . . ." In many cases the unhappy bidders had to enormously pad the prices in order to reach the required sum.

For example, if the state asks: How many cuspidors will you give us for \$5,000? it would be insulting to offer 1,667 cuspidors at \$3.00 each since it would imply an inordinate amount of spitting on the part of those who rule the destinies of the evergreen state. Consequently, the the discreet company that won the contract for cuspidors sold three-dollars cuspidors (that's what the governor estimates them to be worth) for \$47.50 each which would make only 101 cuspidors for \$5,000.

Hartley Loses Control.

Of course Governor Hartley would have not been so unmannerly as to point these facts out—there is usually honor among those who award public contracts and those who get them — were it not for the fact that there is a bitter faction fight in the republican party here and Governor Hartley has just lost control of the State machine to the anti-Hartleyites, and is trying to get his revenge.

Hartley is one of the lumber barons of this state where lumber is king. Back of the squabble appears to be a scramble for the richly timbered state lands in which Hartley got the short end of the deal. He attacked the land commissioner Clark V. Savidge alleging that he had disposed of public lands too cheaply.

He attacked "extravagant expenditures" on the State University and recalled two of the regents appointing others. With that the battle was on. From the standpoint of issues raised, Hartley seems to have gotten the better of the argument. But all of the Seattle papers have attacked him as an enemy of education and the republican machine has just been captured by his rivals.

Plan Democratic Combine

There are rumours that his bunch may combine with the democrats to elect the speaker of the lower house of the State legislature. Be that as it may, the democrats are profiting by the confusion in republican ranks. Martin Flyzic of the United Mine Workers supported Hartley, while William B. Short of the State Federation of Labor supported his opponents. The general reaction of the workers and farmers here, particularly the latter, is one of disgust at the whole spectacle and will probably result in the strengthening of the Farmer-Labor Party here, which was considerably weakened in the La-Follette election.

Especially among the farmers the farmer-labor party is making rapid progress. It has the support of the Washington Progressive Farmers under the leadership of William Bouck.

J. F. Freeman, a dirt-farmer of Tonasket, Okanagan County, is the party's nominee for Senator against Wesley Jones, republican running for re-election and Scott Bullitt, democrat.