

A Precedent Cited.

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Less than a decade of years ago while the Republicans had control of the Senate, but when their majority was small and dwindling, one of their number died. There remained just one year of his term. It happened that the Governor of the State was a Democrat, and he appointed a Democrat to fill the vacancy in the Senate caused by the death of the Republican. The Democratic appointee was entitled to hold the seat about a year until a successor should have been elected by the legislature in regular session, and he would have so held the seat but for an alleged breach of faith by certain parties to an agreement, under which, as the story goes, this same Democratic Governor called an extraordinary session of the legislature to be held in the middle of the year. The agreement was that same this special session the legislature would not elect a United States Senator, but would confine itself to the transaction of certain other business matters specifically named. Upon the strength of this alleged agreement the Governor called the legislature to meet in extraordinary session more than five months in advance of the time for the regular session. In this special session a United States Senator, Republican in politics, was elected, and the Republican Senate seated in place of the Democratic appointee of the Democratic Governor.

Here is the precedent which it was thought would serve the Democrats at the present time. It seemed to warrant a call, by the Governor of North Carolina, of a special session of the existing legislature of the Old North State, which is strongly Democratic, to elect a United States Senator to succeed Mr. Vance, deceased, in the term which continues until March 4, 1897. This would save to the Democrats one of the two North Carolina Senators.

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Post.

AFTER MARCH 4 NEXT

Democrats Planning to Hold Control of the Senate.

THE TWO NORTH CAROLINA SEATS

A Special Session of the Old Legislature May Be Immediately Called to Choose a Democrat to Fill Senator Vance's Seat for the Unexpired Term—A Precedent for Such Action—Monday's Conference at the Capital—Saving a Seat Until '97.

Something in the nature of a sensation was created yesterday by gossip about occurrences which it was believed might have important bearing upon the political complexion of the next Senate of the United States. A long-drawn-out secret meeting of several prominent Democrats was held Monday afternoon in Senator Gorman's committee-room in the Senate wing of the Capitol, at which were Senators Gorman and Ransom. Their conference was of the most confidential character, and what was said and done was kept a close secret.

Inquiries about the purpose of the conference were parried by evasive replies from the gentlemen present, all indicating that there was no political significance to the meeting. Nevertheless, the gossip was that the prospective loss of the Senate by the Democrats was the subject uppermost in the minds of all of the conferees, and that the talk among the Senators related to the possibilities of saving the Senate to their party during the next two years. A way to save at least one seat had been suggested. And, as to it, there was a precedent, made only a few years ago by a Republican Senator.

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Saving a Seat Until '97.

Unless this expedient is resorted to the successor to Mr. Vance will be elected by the Republican-Populist fusion Legislature, which was chosen last week, and, in addition, the new Legislature will also elect the successor to Mr. Ransom for the full term of six years, beginning the 4th of next March, thus wiping out the Democratic representation from North Carolina in the Senate and in the same vote contributing one vote—probably two votes—toward making a Republican majority in the Senate.

The possession of this two-year term is of vital importance. It would probably determine the political complexion of the Senate during the two years from next March.

The saving of this vote to the Democrats—or rather the taking of it from the other side—would prevent the Republicans from reorganizing the Senate next year, and the effect would be to continue the present Democratic organization of the Senate until 1897, at least leaving the control of the Senate offices with the Democrats.

One of the difficulties about this scheme was found in a doubt expressed as to whether the old (existing) Legislature could be brought into special session at this late day by call of the Governor after a new Legislature has been elected. But this point is answered by the fact that, under the law, the terms of the legislators, both Senators and Representatives, are two years, and those of the present Legislature continue until next January, when the terms of the newly elected members begin.

The present appointee, Mr. Jarvis, is entitled to hold his seat in the Senate during the session of the Legislature, unless the Legislature should fill the vacancy by election of a Senator, and the Senate be officially informed thereof. The Governor's appointment runs only to the time of the adjournment of the next session of the Legislature. If the Legislature at its next session should fail to elect a successor the seat in the Senate will be vacated, the "right of representation under appointment" by the Governor having expired, and vacancy in the Senate would continue until a Senator subsequently elected by the Legislature should be admitted by the Senate.

It is assumed that Mr. Jarvis is not averse to allowing his term to be thus shortened by a few weeks, although it is also suggested that, if the plan is carried out, Mr. Ransom would resign his present seat, in order to allow his own name to go before the Legislature for election to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Vance.

Only seven weeks from to-day remain before the new Legislature of North Carolina comes into existence, the law requiring it to meet on the Wednesday after the first Monday in January, 1896.

McCann Declared Elected.

Chicago, Nov. 13.—The official count in the third Congressional district in this State has been completed this

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