

ITS FINAL SESSION.

BEGINNING OF THE END FOR PRESENT CONGRESS.

Gay Feasts at the Capitol on the Opening Day—Outline of the Work It Is Intended to Accomplish Before 14th Congress Adjourns.

Washington correspondence: Congress reassembled Monday under circumstances of unusual public interest. The same congress six months ago declared war against Spain, and now, with the war fought and won, it came together again for the first legislative consideration of the questions developed by the eventful months just past.

As usual, all Washington turned its attention to the capitol for that gala event which marks the opening day of a session.

New Members Sworn In.

The opening was without ceremony beyond that which marks the usual beginning of a session. Outside of the President's message there was no reference to the glorious history of the past summer. Practically the entire work in both the Senate and the House consisted in giving the oath to new members and reading the President's message.

In the Senate Joseph Simon, of Oregon, took the oath, completing the membership of that body for the first time in several years. The members were not all present. But there are now somewhere ninety Senators of the United States, the full number authorized by the constitution.

In the House the oath was taken by Charles A. Dick, of Akron, Ohio, who represents the famous Nineteenth District, the district once represented by the lamented Garfield. Mr. Dick succeeds the late Stephen A. Northway. Two new Representatives from Mississippi also took the oath, F. A. McLane, of Gloster, for the Sixth District in place of the late Mr. Love, and Thomas Spight, of Ripley, for the Second District, in place of W. V. Sullivan, appointed Senator.

Distinguished Visitors in the Senate.

There were some notable spectators on the floor of the Senate. The Lord High Chancellor of England, the Premier of Canada, and other members of the joint high commission were given seats with the Senators as a mark of consideration. In the diplomatic gallery were Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British ambassador, and his daughter, the minister from Siam and his secretary, the minister from Corea and his wife and secretary, Wu Ting Fang, minister from China, and one of the attaches of the Chinese legation, besides several diplomats of lesser prominence. Nearly all of them went out when the reading of the President's message began, preferring to read the message at their own convenience.

Attendance in the House.

There were more than the usual number of distinguished personages in the thronged galleries of the House, including many representatives of foreign governments, high officials, and ladies and gentlemen conspicuous in social and political life. The greetings of the members were most cordial, and there was no outcropping of partisan rancor to mar the occasion. One of the most striking incidents was the cordial meeting between the floor leaders of the respective sides, Messrs. Dingley and Bailey.

Speaker Reed received a warm welcome from both sides of the House when he ascended the rostrum to call the House to order, but perhaps the greatest personal attraction to any member was that given to Major General Wheeler of Alabama, who has not been seen by many of his old colleagues since he went to the front at the head of the cavalry division of General Sherman's army.

Representative Cousins of Iowa has the honor of introducing the first bill in the House at this session of Congress. Legislation to be enacted. Though many questions may press for solution, the brief space covered by this session, which expires by limitation March 4, precludes the probability of much being accomplished beyond the passage of the regular money budgets, the legislation for the increase of the regular army, which the administration deems necessary to meet the obligations imposed upon the country by the result of the war, and probably the enactment of a law to give a permanent territorial government to the Hawaiian islands.

The important legislation which the Congressional leaders expect to see enacted at this session. It is almost the unanimous sentiment of the members that no attempt should be made to legislate concerning the possessions acquired by the war with Spain at this session.

There are earnest advocates of the Nicaraguan canal bill, who will strive to secure its passage now, and they may possibly be successful, but neither it nor the pooling bill nor anti-scalpers' bill, each of which has strong friends, will be allowed to interfere with the bills the passage of which is deemed absolutely necessary to prevent an extra session.

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The Secretary of the Navy has added to the ornaments of his office the figurehead of the cruiser Cristobal Colon, which was destroyed in the battle off Santiago.

A canvass of the Republican Senators discloses only two votes on that side against the ratification of the Paris treaty, those of Messrs. Hale and Morrill.

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Senator Mason announces that he intends to devote his entire energies at this session of Congress to the passage of the postal savings bank bill.

WORK OF CONGRESS.

THE WEEK'S DOINGS IN SENATE AND HOUSE.

A Comprehensive Digest of the Proceedings in the Legislative Chambers at Washington—Matters that Concern the People.

In the House on Tuesday Mr. Cannon, chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, reported the urgent deficiency bill for the army and navy. The President sent to the House the report of the Hawaiian commission, and Mr. Hitt, chairman of the committee, introduced a bill in connection with the consideration of it, the whole matter being referred to the Committee on Territories.

At 12:30 the House adjourned out to respect to the late T. J. Northway of Ohio and W. F. Love of Mississippi. In the Senate Mr. Hale offered a bill for the erection of a monument to the officers and sailors who lost their lives by the explosion of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor.

Resolutions from the Legislature of Vermont were read requesting that Rear Admiral Dewey be made admiral and that Captain Clark, commander of the Oregon, be given such rank as his merits demand.

Mr. Vest offered a resolution objecting to the proposed colonial system and reciting that the Government should acquire only coaling stations in the orient, unless it shall be the purpose of the United States to organize the far-off possessions into territories, and ultimately to be admitted as States.

The President sent a large number of nominations to the Senate, but they were all recess appointments with the exception of Powell Clayton of Arkansas, whose rank has been raised to ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Mexico.

Senator Romero having announced that his Government had conferred that distinction upon him, Mr. Culom introduced a bill to provide for the territory of Hawaii. A brief discussion of the navigation laws was precipitated by the consideration of a bill amending those laws by the addition of a provision that foreign built vessels wrecked in the United States and repaired to the extent of three-fourths of their value shall be subject to forfeiture if they engage subsequently in the coastwise trade of the United States.

It was made a special order for Monday. In the House on Wednesday the anti-scalping bill passed by a vote of 119 to 101. In the Senate no business was transacted in open session. A few minutes after the Senate convened it went into executive session. At 2:15 business in open session was resumed, the death of Representative Northway of Ohio and Love of Mississippi was announced and the Senate adjourned as a mark of respect to their memory.

On Thursday the Senate held a short session and adjourned until Monday, after making the Nicaragua Canal bill the unfinished business before that body. Mr. Morgan called up the measure, whereupon Mr. Pettigrew moved to adjourn. This motion failed—13 yeas to 42 nays—and the bill was brought forward. Adjournment was immediately taken. During the session Mr. Vest stated his opposition to the hurried manner of passing pension bills in the Senate, and gave notice that he would insist upon a quorum being present when pension bills were being acted upon.

At the other end of the capitol the general deficiency appropriation bill was passed, and the House adjourned until Monday.

WASHINGTON GOSSIP.

There are four Smiths in the present Congress, and there will be five in the next. Four of them are Republicans and three come from the State of Michigan. The only Democratic Smith is David Highbaugh Smith of Hodgenville, Larne County, Ky., who represents the district in which Abraham Lincoln was born.

Mrs. Dominis of Honolulu, formerly queen of the Hawaiian Islands, arrived in Washington from San Francisco. She comes to present a claim to Congress through the Secretary of State for the crown lands in the Hawaiian Islands, which are said to be valued at \$1,000,000 and to produce an annual revenue of \$160,000.

Gen. Garcia and his Cuban associates are pleased with the President's message, and declare that his references to Cuban independence are in effect, if not in words, a recognition of the republic. It is doubtful, however, whether the President intended that such a construction should be placed upon his words.

A communication received at the State Department from the consuls general at Berlin and Frankfurt places the total value of all exports from Germany to the United States for the quarter ending Sept. 30 at \$19,789,007, an increase over the same period of 1897 of \$5,110,003.

Bishop Hurst of the Methodist Church returns to Washington from a tour of the Pennsylvania cities, with assurances of contributions of \$1,000,000 from the rich Methodists of that State for the American university in this city.

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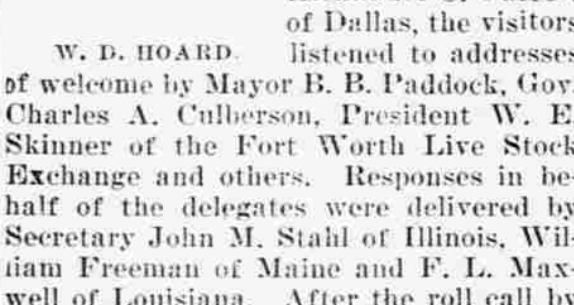
ONLY A FEW PIECES OF GOLD LEFT.



FARMERS IN SESSION.

National Congress Begins Deliberations at Fort Wayne.

The farmers' national congress of the United States of America assembled at Fort Worth, Texas, in its eighteenth annual session. Ex-Gov. William D. Hoard of Wisconsin presided, and among the delegates were representatives of all the States and territories of the Union and of several of the Canadian provinces.



W. D. HOARD.

After prayer by Rev. Alexander C. Garrett of Dallas, the visitors listened to addresses of welcome by Mayor B. P. Paddock, Gov. Charles A. Culberson, President W. E. Skinner of the Fort Worth Live Stock Exchange and others. Responses in behalf of the delegates were delivered by Secretary John M. Stahl of Illinois, William Freeman of Maine and F. L. Maxwell of Louisiana.

After the roll call by States President Hoard proceeded to deliver his annual address. A feature of the congress was the attendance from some of the States of large numbers of associates to re-enforce the delegates. Iowa had sixty-three persons, including the delegates, and Colorado had fifty-four. The annexation of the Philippines was one subject which engrossed the attention of the delegates.

The report of Prof. Henry of Wisconsin on the President's address was adopted. It recommended instruction in the principles of agriculture in rural public schools; that commercial representatives for American agricultural products in foreign markets be provided; that the best possible means for the operation of steamship lines direct to South America should be secured, and that laws against food adulteration be adopted. The report also urged farmers to uphold agricultural colleges and experiment stations and recommended strong taxation laws for securing equity in taxation.

PERILS AS TO CHINA.

England and Russia Unable to Reach an Agreement.

Right Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, British colonial secretary, made new disclosures the other night in a speech at Wakefield, Yorkshire. He virtually stated the British Government had found it impossible to reach an agreement with Russia touching China, and that France's plan of exasperation had prevented a settled policy as to Egypt.

It was made evident, however, that an entente has been reached with Germany that may make for peace and for extended trade; but the significant fact was brought out that unless an agreement is effected with Russia there are dangers of grave complications. He, however, left room to hope for a settlement.

Mr. Chamberlain again referred with feeling to the cordial Anglo-American relations. He quoted from the President's message to show that there is hope that England is not to stand alone for the "open door" in the East, and again declared that an alliance between the two nations would make them invincible.

HOBSON REFUSES \$50,000.

Merrimac Hero Declines an Offer to Lecture.

An offer of \$50,000 for a number of lectures has been refused by Naval Constructor Richmond P. Hobson. This offer was made by a New York lecture bureau, and the reason for his refusal was stated by Hobson to a friend.

"Before the sinking of the Merrimac," he said, "my lectures would probably have not been worth 50 cents. The sinking of the Merrimac is not to stand alone for the \$50,000. The work that so suddenly raised my stock in literary trade was done in simple execution of my duty as an American naval officer. I did not feel that I had a right to use the performance of that duty for my financial betterment. I therefore declined the offer of \$50,000."

Gold from Maria Teresa.

The safe of the Spanish cruiser Maria Teresa, which has lain for some time in the Norfolk navy yard, has been opened, and found to contain bags of Spanish and American gold and silver coin. It is estimated that the value of the treasure will reach \$75,000. The money will be turned over to the proper officials, and the safe will be sent to the National Museum at Washington.

Japan is preparing to drive the Russian troops from Corea, having landed large detachments of troops for that purpose.

JAPAN MAY BUY PHILIPPINES.

Offer of \$200,000,000 for Group Made to President McKinley.

Japan has offered this Government \$200,000,000 for the Philippines. This information came through a Washington correspondent from a high source and is asserted to be official. It was further stated that this overture of Japan was met by the reply from the President that no negotiations affecting the disposition or control of the Philippines could be entered into until after the conclusion of the treaty of peace at Paris.

In direct connection with this story it is known that an influential Senator recently had a long talk with the President, at which the disposition of the Philippines was the main topic of conversation. The argument of the Senator was that, while he was opposed to the holding of the Philippines, he had now become convinced it would be necessary to hold the island of Luzon. He told the President it would be to the advantage of the Government to dispose of all of the group except Luzon and that it would be the better plan to have several purchasers for the group. In other words, he would avoid all possible complications by letting Germany, England, France, Japan and Russia into the gigantic auction sale.

When the peace protocol was negotiated by Cambon and the President the administration's idea involved nothing more than the acquisition of Luzon. Since then the expansionist sentiment has grown rapidly in popular favor. The President may be only testing public opinion by giving certain gentlemen the impression that he favors the sale of all the islands except Luzon, or he may actually favor this disposition of the Philippine question. If seriously advocated the proposition will be hotly opposed by many Republicans and Democrats of influence.

UNCLE SAM AND JOHN BULL.

Demand for Joint Control of Nicaragua Canal Causes Irritation.

The Nicaraguan canal question promises to be one of the leading questions in Congress this winter. The anxiety of the British to get in on the ground floor, as expressed by the London press, causes some irritation in Washington, as England's friendship for this country during the recent war is shoved under our noses as an argument for joint control of the proposed canal.

England claims for a share in the canal based on the Bulwer-Clyton treaty, an agreement entered into before any one dreamed of a canal across that part of the isthmus. It is understood that Sir Julian Pauncefote has recently had a conference with Secretary of State Hay and has intimated that our exclusive control of the waterway violates the convention of 1850.

In administration circles the feeling is strong that no one shall interfere with this Government's declared intention to build the canal, and Secretary Hay probably told this to Sir Julian in a friendly but firm way. Later the United States may declare the canal neutral in war times, but the Government will do this in its own way and certainly not under pressure.

As to the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, which England threatens to drag forth, the United States has two strong defenses against it. First, the United States can immediately annul the treaty. Second, under the treaty the United States can do anything she proposes to do without violating any of its terms, although the treaty has been abrogated by Great Britain's own acts.

FOR MANILA VIA THE SUEZ.

Expedition of Three Regiments Will Soon Leave New York.

The next regiments to start for Manila will embark at New York about the end of this month, and will go through the Suez canal, unless present plans fail. This expedition will consist of three regiments of regular infantry, distributed between two of the largest converted transports owned by the Government, with perhaps a convoy of two warships.

The decision to use New York as the point of embarkation instead of San Francisco was reached after a careful review of a number of considerations, chief among which was the urgency for haste. At the present time the Government is wholly without available transports in the Pacific ocean to meet the emergency.

Albert Ham, a farmer of West Dresden, Me., has an apple tree in his orchard which measures 9 feet 10 inches in circumference, 1 foot from the ground, and at the height of 6 feet the trunk branches into four limbs almost as large. The tree is over a century old, and has borne well each year for the forty-seven it has been in Mr. Ham's possession.

Col. Hanna, at San Juan, Porto Rico, says that codfish is the principal food article imported into that island, and that Nova Scotia dealers in codfish consider Porto Rico their best market.

MONEY OF THE NATION ADDRESS TO FARMERS

ANNUAL REPORT OF SECRETARY GAGE.

Chief of the Treasury Department Discusses the Need of Banking Reform and the Necessity of Meeting New Conditions.

Secretary of the Treasury Gage has made public his report on the condition of the finances of the country and the work accomplished by his department during the year. It is an interesting document. Upon the subject of currency and banking reform he says:

The arguments against government issues of paper money as a medium for commercial exchanges have been fully made and need not be repeated in detail. The proposition to substitute bank issues for government notes is opposed with many honest prejudices and assailed by bitter denunciations. The first arise from a failure to comprehend the true philosophy of a paper currency and must be patiently considered. The latter obscure the question by reckless statements, charging that all propositions for currency reform are bank conspiracies.

If it be conceded that the legal-tender money issued by government does not possess the qualifications to make it a proper factor in the country's exchanges of products and manufactures, if the fact also be admitted that it is a degrading and disturbing factor in its relation to industry and commerce, then the time has come to substitute a currency which will adequately, economically and safely meet with the ever-growing needs of the country, rapidly developing, as it is, in the power of production, in the number of its people and the importance of its domestic and foreign trade.

In answer to the question whether a bank note currency can be established which will be economical, adequate and safe and serve the public needs in a better way than is now served, the Secretary points to the system in force in Canada.

The facts set forth by the Comptroller relating to the proposition that the notes of a failed bank shall be a paramount lien upon the assets for their full value before any rights accrue to other creditors. The issue of notes upon the general assets of national banks may be made perfectly secure without the requirement that the notes be a first lien upon their assets. It would only be necessary to award to the noteholder the same ratable proportion of the assets which went to other creditors, and to provide that the amount required to pay the difference be obtained by an assessment upon all the national banks, collected ratably in proportion to their share in the circulation of that character. The vital question is, What percentage of assessment upon this circulation would be required in order to cover the losses to noteholders in the case of failed banks? The experience of the national banking system demonstrates that the assessment would be insignificant.

The total circulation of failed banks outstanding at the time of failure up to Oct. 31, 1897, was \$20,893,827. The loss upon this amount, upon the average circulation of failed banks in the same degree as the security for other liabilities, would have been \$5,579,165, or an annual average of \$183,990. This loss would have been made good by a tax of about one-twelfth of 1 per cent. per year upon the circulation of the solvent banks. A tax of one-fifth of 1 per cent. upon the average circulation of the national banks since the foundation of the system would have paid such losses up to Oct. 31, 1897, and left a surplus of about \$9,000,000 in the treasury fund.

Urges Farmer Measures.

In my last report I ventured upon specific recommendations. These recommendations, if adopted and formulated into law, would in my opinion be curative of the evils herein pointed out. In house bills Nos. 10,281 and 10,333 are embodied a series of measures in some respects more meritorious. The measures herein proposed are the result of careful study by expert and experienced agriculturists. With some modifications—the reasonable fruit of full discussion—they would, I believe, meet the country's needs. I commend the subject to the early and earnest attention of Congress.

On the point of fractional silver the report contains this paragraph:

The amount of fractional silver coin held by the treasury July 1, 1897, was \$16,201,960; July 1, 1898, \$12,070,600. This stock has at present, Nov. 18, been reduced to \$7,225,000, much of which is so worn as to be unfit for circulation. The amount available, distributed among the several sub-treasuries, gives but small stock to each, and some discommodities are experienced. The Secretary of the Treasury should be authorized to recolon this uncurrent stock and any such coin which may hereafter accumulate in the treasury, the difference between its face value and the new coin it will make to be paid out of any moneys in the treasury not otherwise appropriated. Further provision should be made to add to the stock of fractional coin, and to that end it is suggested that the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to issue any silver bullion now in the treasury for the coinage of such denominations as may be required from time to time to meet the demand from the different sections of the country. With an ever-increasing population, which will be added to in the near future by the acquisition of additional territory, the demand for fractional silver coin will be such as to make it essentially necessary that the stock should be increased.

It is suggested that, at the proper time, action be taken by Congress to assimilate the currency of Porto Rico to that of the United States, so far and so rapidly as this can be done without unduly disturbing existing conditions and contract relations in Porto Rico. This, it is believed, can be accomplished by making customs dues in the island payable in American money, yet receiving the silver pesos and centavos at a fixed relation to our dollar.

The revenues of the Government from all sources for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1898, were \$494,233,933.75, while the expenditures for the same period were \$552,381,201.55, showing a deficit of \$58,147,267.69. As compared with the fiscal year of 1897, the receipts for 1898 increased \$63,946,785.86. There was an increase of \$77,594,423.23 in the ordinary expenditures. The revenues for the current fiscal year are estimated at \$577,874,647.37, while the expenditures for the same period are \$680,874,647.37, leaving a deficit of \$112,000,000. For the fiscal year 1900 the revenues are estimated at \$610,958,112 and the estimates of appropriations for the same period aggregate, exclusive of sinking fund, \$641,006,490.64, or an estimated deficit of \$30,048,382.52.

"The first proceeds of the popular loan of \$20,000,000," the report reads, "were received June 14, and from that date forward the inflow of money from this source has been rapid and constant. The total amount received up to Nov. 1 was \$195,444,187.62."

Mint Receipts and Deposits.

The receipts and deposits of bullion at mints and assay offices, including re-deposits, aggregated \$215,566,261.54, of which \$198,740,492.23 was gold and \$16,825,769.31 silver. The deposits of gold were greater than in any previous year of our history. Foreign coins to the amount of \$47,210,078 were deposited during the year. It was recommended that an appropriation of \$50,000 be made for the erection of a building for the assay office at Seattle.

Posterity—Our distant relations.

Wisconsin's Ex-Governor, in His Annual Address, Dwells on the Intellectual and Business Sides of Agriculture—Farm Education a Necessity.

Ex-Gov. Hoard of Wisconsin, president of the Farmers' National Congress, in his annual address to that body at Fort Worth, said:

Our agriculture is becoming nationalistic. This farmers' congress is the proof of this assertion. We are no longer a loosely joined band of States, "discordant, belligerent." "Thank God, we are coming to see each other 'face to face.'" We are becoming cemented by railroads, navigable rivers, interchangeable products, and a more general commingling of our people. National legislation is taking on thought of this kind in the establishing of experiment stations, the enactment of laws for the better protection of agricultural products against the dishonest greed of men who would adulterate and counterfeit.

We are just beginning to feel as a people that agriculture is an intellectual as well as a manual pursuit; that from the humblest tenant to the lordliest ranchman progress and profit depend on mental comprehension of the principles involved, and on energetic obedience to that knowledge. Comprehension means intellect, obedience means business. Some men are all intellect and no work; others all work and no intellect. The true farmer unites both. He is both a student and a "doer of his word."

Some of the questions for this farmers' congress to ask itself are: What can we do in an organized way to get the farmers of this continent to see the necessity of more intellect on the farm? In other words, what can we do to promote farm education? What can this congress do to promote wise legislation in the State and national legislatures to this end? What can this congress do as a great force to arrest the tendency of the American farmer to destroy the natural fertility of his farm? What can we do to arouse public opinion and the great educational forces of the country to the importance of teaching the elements of agriculture in the primary schools of the land?

Our present system of agricultural education is an image with a head and no body of iron and feet of clay. We are directing all our energies to the head and not the feet. Our common schools recruit the academy, the college and the university, and they, in turn, recruit every profession, but farming. Our young men leave the towns and cities because we have educated them to do so. Nearly every European country is putting forth strenuous efforts to stop this tendency by teaching the elements of scientific agriculture in the public schools. It can be done in our own schools, teaching of the elements of scientific arithmetic, or chemistry, or philosophy. A great host of farmers who were deprived of such teaching now find themselves barred from an understanding of much agricultural literature. As a consequence, the bulletin of the agricultural college, the bulletin of the experiment station and the farm paper, which is really worth everything to them, but farming. 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