WASHINGTON LETTER.

Democrats and republicans alike were delighted with the message of President Taft, and at the conclusion of its reading, which took hardly five minutes, the democrats in the house joined in the loud and prolonged applause. Just twelve years ago President McKinley sent to Congress a message three times as long when he called Congress in extra session on March 15, 1897, to pass a new tariff bill.

It is estimated that there will be fifty-six car loads of government exhibits taken to Seattle for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific exhibition, including the mint and life-saving service outfit, and the work of loading these exhibits has already begun. The official of the Treasury department, in charge of the shipment, said yesterday that he expected to have all the government exhibits in place by the time the exhibition opens, June 1st next.

The democratic members of the full committee on ways and means made every effort, during the hearings which preceded the deliberations of the republican members, to bring to light every important fact regarding the articles named in the tariff which are produced in the South, though the Southern states are not represented on the subcommittee which framed the tariff bill. In fact the securing of protection for the industries in the southland formed one of the features of the hearings, and sugar, peanuts, lumber, mica, clays, rice, Sea Island cotton, southern fruits, were all subjects for interesting discussion and all seek protection at the hands of the government.

The bureau of Engaving and Printing is unusually active these days and color is given to the belief that the new tariff bill will contain clauses reenacting the stamp taxes, levied during the Spanish-American war period, by the fact that machines are being installed for the printing of stamps, and the entire printing force is working overtime. Millions of stamps for future sale have been printed within the last ten days, and the belief obtains that the bureau officials have received an intimation from the Treasury department that the task to produce adhesive stamps for use on proprietary medicines, perfumery, chewing gum, on checks, notes and other commercial paper, will fall on the bureau.

In view of the fact that the War Department is simply deluged with applications for headstones for graves of soldiers, the quartermaster general of the army has made an effort to obtain from the commissioner of pensions information as to the death rate of civil war soldiers and others whose graves are entitled to be marked at government expense. In many instances, of course, the headstones furnished by the government are never applied for, but some idea of the demands upon department may be obtained from the fact that there are destined to be somewhere in the near neighborhood of 23,000 applications for headstones during the present fiscal year, about 7,000 more than can be purchased out of the funds available for such purpose. In view of the increasing demands for headstones, about $75,000 will be required to meet them during the next fiscal year.

Tentative plans for the two new battleships authorized by the last Congress have been completed and the department is making every effort to complete the plans and specifications with the least possible delay, that contracts may be placed within the next three months. It is believed that if bids are called for soon enough there will be sharp competition, with better prices, as there is great slackness of work in the private shipyards at present. Bids will be called not only for the two battleships, but also for the five torpedo destroyers and the collier, authorized by the new law. Wyoming and Arkansas have been selected for the names of the two battleships, and this leaves only two states, Nevada and Oklahoma, for which battleships or armored cruisers have not been named.

Representatives Champ Clark, the minority leader, has made his long looked for speech on the Payne tariff bill and some parts of his arraignment made the Republicans squirm. He pointed out, that except for a few commodities which have been put on the free list the rates were one and a half per cent higher in the Payne bill than in the Dingley bill. He urged that the tax on tea be removed, asserting that it was a tax on "the poor man's breakfast table" and one which many could ill afford to pay, while there had been no increase whatever of the tax on beer which could easily stand an additional 50 cents a barrel, which was a luxury which no man needed and many were better off without. He showed the subterfuge by which the Standard Oil Company is protected, petroleum being placed on the free list but a differential provided for in the case of any other country placing an export tax on oil which results in saving the Standard Company from all competition. His speech was vigorously applauded by the Democrats but the Republicans looked very much unhappy as he proceeded.

Order To Show Cause.

State of Nebraska, } In The County Court
Webster County. }

At a County Court held at the County Court room in and for said county Tuesday March 30th A. D., 1909.

In the matter of the estate of Agnes E. McCall, Deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Hugh McCall praying that the instrument filed on the 5th day of March, 1909 and purporting to be the last Will and Testament of the said deceased may be proved, approved, probated, allowed and recorded as the last Will and Testament of the said Agnes E. McCall deceased, and that the execution of the instrument may be committed, and the administration of said estate may be granted to the petitioner, Hugh McCall, as Executor.

ORDERED, that Tuesday the 27th day of April A. D., 1909 at one o'clock p. m., is assigned for hearing said petition, when all persons interested in said matter may appear at a County Court to be held in and for said County and show cause why the prayer of petition should not be granted; and that notice of the pendency of said petition and the hearing thereof be given to all persons interested in said matter, by publishing a copy of this order in the Red Cloud Chief, a weekly newspaper printed in said county, for three successive weeks prior to said day of hearing.

I. W. Edson,
(SEAL) County Judge.