

THE SIXTIETH CONGRESS

Many Spectators at Capitol to Witness the Opening.

On Tuesday President's Message Was Read in Both House and Senate.

Washington.—The meeting of the Sixtieth congress Tuesday resembled a social function rather than the gathering for the transaction of important business of the country. The galleries were crowded with beautifully gowned women who had come early in the expectation of witnessing some exciting scenes. The diplomatic gallery was made conspicuous by the presence of Senator Mayor Des Planches, dean of the corps, in full state uniform; Ambassador James Bryce of Great Britain, in conventional dress, who attracted more than ordinary attention; Mrs. Nicholas Longworth, daughter of the president and wife of the member from the Cincinnati district, and the new Persian minister in his variegated uniform.

The striking scenes of the day were in the house of representatives, where the formal selection of Joseph G. Cannon again to be speaker of that body and the designation by the democrats of Mr. John Sharp Williams as their leader, were occasions for ovations for those gentlemen.

President's Message.

Washington.—The annual message of President Roosevelt was read Tuesday in both houses of congress, and practically no business was attempted by either body beyond listening to the message. The galleries of both the senate and house were crowded at the beginning of the session of each body, but as the reading progressed, the attendance diminished somewhat. In the main, however, it was well maintained until the last sentences of the document had fallen from the lips of the official readers. Senators and members were supplied with printed copies of the message, and many of them followed the reading clerks with scrupulous care. The reading consumed about two and a quarter hours in each of the houses.

For Control of Corporations.

Washington.—Senator McCumber Wednesday introduced a bill which embodies his ideas concerning the control of corporations doing an inter-state business. This bill provides that any co-operation doing an inter-state business may take out a national incorporation but does not make such action mandatory. In this way he expects, he says, to separate the sheep from the goats, and "to gradually have the most substantial of corporations acting under a national charter."

Williams Controls Committees.

Washington.—By a vote of 124 to 4 the house democratic caucus Wednesday night voted down the proposition of Representative Jones of Virginia to take the designation of minority members of the committees out of the hands of the minority Leader Williams and by the same vote adopted a resolution affirmatively placing the power in Mr. Williams' hands.

Culberson the Senate Leader.

Washington.—The democratic senators held a conference after the adjournment of the senate Tuesday and elected Senator C. A. Culberson of Texas chairman of the democratic caucus. This position carries the nominal leadership of the minority on the floor of the senate.

Campbell Asks Building for Kansas.
Washington.—Representative Campbell of Kansas introduced bills Tuesday appropriating \$100,000 for the erection of federal buildings in Parsons, Coffeyville and Independence.

Confirmed Senator Blackburn.

Washington.—The senate Tuesday confirmed the nomination of Former Senator Blackburn of Kentucky to be a member of the Isthmian canal commission.

Little Effect On Business.

Kansas City.—"We will be surprised at the comparatively small effect that this failure will have on Kansas City and the Southwest," a banker said Friday. "A month ago it would have been said that such a failure would be a calamity to the city and the Southwest. That was the view held here and elsewhere. But after a month of partial liquidation, with thousands of Commerce's customers prepared, the city can stand the suspension with comparatively little effect on its business."

The President Has Not Said It.

Washington.—Although several interviews have been published with recent White house callers to the effect that the president has declared anew that he will decline another nomination it is said the president has made no such declaration.

A Washburn College Fire.

Topeka, Kan.—Rice Hall, at Washburn college, was destroyed by fire Friday involving a loss of \$100,000. The origin of the fire was a defective flue.

MR. AOKI SUMMONED HOME.

His Resignation Has Been Rumored at Tokio and His Return is in Doubt.

Washington.—Ambassador Aoki has been summoned to Japan by his government to explain personally and in detail the precise situation in this country in regard to the Japanese immigration problem.

Tokio.—The probable resignation of Viscount Aoki, Japanese ambassador to the United States, has been rumored for some weeks, but the rumor has been persistently denied. It is admitted now, however, that Ambassador Aoki may return to Japan at an early day. The foreign office declines to say if this means the resignation of the ambassador. In the event that Ambassador Aoki decides not to return to Washington there is a strong probability that he will be succeeded by Baron Kaneko, a former special envoy to the United States, or Baron Chinda, vice minister at the foreign office. Baron Chinda is well known in America, where he was educated. He is extremely active, and very sincere in endeavoring to overcome the immigration difficulty. He is also extremely friendly with Americans, and thoroughly conversant with the world.

Oklahoma Bank Raided.

Carney, Ok.—Five men, at an early hour Thursday morning, succeeded, after firing five nitro-glycerine shots, in breaking into the coin safe of the Carney bank and securing \$4,000. The burglary was the most desperate on record in the new state. The men are known to have calmly walked into the town, robbed the bank and without rush or hurry, firing coolly at those who showed themselves, and then walked out.

Call for Dry Farming Congress.

Salt Lake City, Utah.—The official call for the second annual session of the Trans-Missouri Farming congress, which is to convene in this city January 23, was issued Wednesday by President Fisher Harris. Nearly 1,000 delegates, representing the states of the trans-Missouri country, are expected to attend. Reclamation of arid lands is the avowed purpose of the organization.

Launched a Boom for Knox.

Washington.—The boom of Senator Philander C. Knox, of Pennsylvania, for the presidency, was formally launched at a notable banquet in this city Wednesday night when the Pennsylvania Republican congressional delegation placed itself squarely on record in favor of the Pennsylvania senator as President Roosevelt's successor.

Only Half the Bonds Sold.

Washington.—The secretary of the treasury has accepted bids for the Panama canal bonds to the amount of \$25,000,000. The average price of all the bids accepted is \$103. Under the terms of the law and the secretary's acceptance of these bids, the allotments of bonds to individuals and institutions will be confined to the small subscriptions from \$10,000 down to \$20.

Troops Sent to Goldfield.

San Francisco, Cal.—Five companies of the 22nd infantry, stationed at Fort McDowell, in this city, and four companies of the same regiment at Monterey, were dispatched to Goldfield, Nev., Friday by Brig. Gen. Fred Funston, commanding the Department of California, in compliance with orders received from the war department late Thursday night.

Makes Japanese Rejoice.

Tokio.—Viscount Kaneko has cabled President Roosevelt as follows: "The whole empire is rejoicing at your strong recommendation that America should participate in our exposition and I thank you on behalf of and with the authority of the people of Japan." This dispatch is significant as viscount Kaneko is a member of the privy council.

Threw Away 4,800 Quarts of Beer.

Salina, Kan.—The sheriff of Salina county poured the beer from 4,800 quart bottles at the county jail Wednesday. The empty bottles were put back into the cases and returned to Kansas City, whence they were sent.

Pettibone Jury Secured.

Boise, Ida.—The jury which will try the case of George A. Pettibone for complicity in the murder of former Governor Frank Steunenberg, was completed and sworn in Friday afternoon.

Price of Oil Reduced.

Independence, Kan.—The Gulf Pipe Line company to Port Arthur has cut the price of Gleen pool oil from 41 cents to 35 cents a barrel.

Topeka Banks Are Sound.

Topeka, Kan.—The statements of the nine Topeka banks, published Thursday, show them in a healthy condition and more than the required legal amount of currency on hand.

BACK TO SCHOOL!



ENTOMBED IN THE HILLS

Explosion Imprisons 380 Men in West Virginia Mine.

But Little Hope of Rescue is Entertained—Five Escaped Alive—America's Greatest Disaster.

Monongah, W. Va.—Six charred bodies lying in the improvised morgue, five badly injured men and 380 men imprisoned by tons of coal, rock and mine debris in the depths of the hills surrounding this mining town, with the chances all against a single one of them being alive was the most accurate summary obtainable Friday night of the results of a mine explosion which in all probability was attended by greater loss of life than any former disaster in the history of the bituminous coal mining industry of America.

The explosion occurred shortly after 10 o'clock Friday after the full force of 500 men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are numbers 6 and 8 of the Consolidated Coal company, located on opposite sides of the West Fork of the river, at this place, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and on the surface by a great steel tippel and bridge.

The finding of the six bodies and the five dying men is the only reward for strenuous and uninterrupted work on the part of large rescuing forces that immediately set to work at every possible point.

At 11 o'clock Friday the list of employees of mines Nos. 6 and 8, at Monongah, had been checked off, showing that 380 were in the two mines when the explosion occurred. Of these, six have been brought to the surface dead and five escaped through air shafts. The latter five are in the miners' hospital here, with serious injuries and in a precarious condition.

Neither entry has been opened to the real workings and the indications are that a majority, if not all, caught in the mine are dead.

Harvester Trust Found Guilty.

Topeka, Kan.—After being out an hour the jury in the case of the state against the International Harvester company Thursday afternoon returned a verdict against the company on 42 counts. This decision practically charges the company with being a trust and entering into an unlawful combination to control the price of harvesting machinery and to force dealers to handle its products exclusively. The maximum penalty which may be imposed is \$1,000 on each count, making a total of \$42,000.

The "Lid" Goes On New York.

New York.—At a special meeting of the Theatrical Managers' association Thursday it was decided that all theaters would remain closed on Sunday and that no test case of Justice O'Gorman's construction of the Sabbath entertainment law was to be made. Earlier in the day Police Commissioner Bingham announced that not in regard to play houses alone, but in every other respect next Sunday would be the tightest in New York's history.

Troops Sent to Goldfield.

Washington.—President Roosevelt Thursday night instructed General Funston to dispatch a sufficient force of regulars to Goldfield, Nev., to control the situation there.

A KANSAS CITY FAILURE.

National Bank of Commerce Closed Its Doors—Could Not Realize Upon Assets Soon Enough.

Kansas City, Mo.—Overwhelmed by a wave of distrust that has been steadily wearing away its resources for nearly two months, the National Bank of Commerce, the largest bank between St. Louis and San Francisco, suspended business Thursday morning and is in charge of the office of the comptroller of currency.

At 8:30 o'clock Thursday morning James T. Bradley, national bank examiner, brought to the bank this notice which a clerk posted on a window:

"This bank has been closed by resolution of its board of directors, and is now in charge of James T. Bradley, national bank examiner, by order of the comptroller of currency."

In about six weeks the bank has paid off \$19,000,000 of its deposits, reduced its loans \$3,500,000, cut down its cash resources \$11,750,000, and sold \$2,000,000 of high grade bonds, all in the effort to meet the demands upon it. But there has been a continued drain, culminating Wednesday with a clearing house debit balance of nearly \$400,000, which the bank was forced to meet. Fearing that Thursday's exactions would be beyond its power to pay the directors decided to give up the fight and let the bank be liquidated.

Of approximately \$16,000,000 in deposits tied up in the suspension, about \$5,000,000 belong to Kansas City people. The remaining \$11,000,000 belongs to out-of-town banks.

Dinner for Bear Hunters.

Washington.—President Roosevelt entertained at dinner Friday night a number of bear hunters from the Louisiana canebrakes. The dinner guests included Clive and Harley Metcalf, of Greenville, Miss., famous bear hunters; John and "Tom" Osborn, John M. Parker, Major Amacker, Mr. Vasey, Surgeon General Rixey, Postmaster General Meyer, Assistant Secretary Bacon, Secretary Loeb, Gifford Pinchot, Representative Ransdell of Louisiana, J. M. Dickinson, Colonel Cecil Lyon and Captain Fitzhugh Lee. Bear meat was served.

They Are Going Back.

New York.—Four liners sailing Thursday took in the aggregate 8,000 aliens, mostly Italians, the President Grant of the Hamburg-American line alone having 3,600. La Provence, the Grosser Kurfurst and the Cedric took the remainder—among them being Russians, Poles, Scandinavians and Hungarians. It is believed by steamship authorities that the height of the east-bound rush will be reached this week, and that the number of aliens to depart will have reached 500,000.

Secretary Taft in Berlin.

Berlin.—Secretary of War Taft and the members of his party arrived Friday evening from Russia, and late Friday night after attending a reception in his honor, the secretary and his son departed for Hamburg and Cuxhaven, where Saturday they will embark on the steamer President Grant for New York.

Taft Visits Nicholas.

St. Petersburg.—Secretary Taft was received in audience Wednesday by Emperor Nicholas at Tsarskoe-Selo and received from his majesty the frankest expression of Russia's sentiments of sympathy and regard for the United States. The emperor requested Mr. Taft to convey his greetings to President Roosevelt.

THE BOY SAMUEL

Sunday School Lesson for Dec. 15, 1907
Specially Arranged for This Paper

LESSON TEXT.—1 Samuel 3:1-21. Memory Verses, 8-10.

GOLDEN TEXT.—"Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth."—1 Samuel 3:9.

TIME.—Samuel was born B. C. 1146, according to the common chronology; not far from the time of Ruth and Samson in our last lessons.

PLACE.—Samuel was born at Ramath (hill), called also Ramathaim (the double hill), four miles northwest of Jerusalem and 13 miles south of Shiloh.

The house of worship was at Shiloh, the religious capital of Israel, 17 miles north of Jerusalem, and halfway between Bethel and Shechem, nine or ten miles from each.

SAMUEL.—Twenty years old. ELI.—About 78 years old, high priest and judge.

JESSE, the grandson of Ruth and father of King David, was born during the boyhood of Samuel.

Comment and Suggestive Thought.

Samuel's Inheritance.—Samuel was the son of Elkanah and Hannah of the tribe of Levi, the religious and educational custodians of Israel. His parents were religious people, attending the great religious festivals. He was the child of many prayers. Hannah's song in 1 Samuel 2 gives us a good impression of her talent and spiritual power. He belonged to a religious home, which, like the quality of mercy "is twice blessed; it bleaseth him that gives, and him that takes."

His Consecration.—He was dedicated to God from his birth, and he knew it. He lived under the Nazirite's vow (Num. 6:1-12; 1 Sam. 1:11). The power of devoting our children in their earliest years to the service of God is well illustrated by the story told by Melville, in his "History of Rome," of the famous Carthaginian general, Hannibal. When he was nine years of age, his father, Hamilcar, proposed to take him on one of his military expeditions, which offer the young Hannibal eagerly accepted. His father then bade him devote himself once for all to the service of his country—Carthage—and with his hand upon the altar to swear eternal enmity to Rome. This dedication in youth determined the course of his whole life.

His Temple Work.—"Samuel ministered unto the Lord before Eli." "To minister" means to serve; a minister is a servant. Samuel performed various services in the house of worship, such as lighting the lamps (v. 3), opening the doors (v. 15), running of errands, and other duties required for the sacrifices and worship. He was also the personal attendant and aid to the aged and dim-sighted Eli, as implied in his sleeping near him and his readiness to respond to his call. So the young Mark and Timothy ministered unto Paul.

The Call of God Awakening His Higher Nature.—According to Josephus, Samuel was 12 years old, the same age as Jesus when he first went to the temple at Jerusalem.

V. 10. "And the Lord came and stood." The Hebrew is emphatic, "presented himself." In a vision, or in personal presence as the angel of the Lord (compare Gen. 18:17, 20, 21, 33; Judg. 6:11-14; Rev. 1:1; 22:16).

God Calling the Young.—God is calling every child as he called Samuel. It is an individual call, by name, for "he calleth his own sheep by name." God calls (1) by his word; (2) by his own loving, attractive character; (3) by what he has done for us in Jesus Christ; (4) by the influences of the holy spirit; (5) by various providences; (6) by conscience; (7) by Sabbath and religious services; (8) by the invitations and influence of friends; (9) by the living water which satisfies every thirst of the soul; (10) by the attractions of goodness and of heaven; (11) by warning and the fruit of a life of sin.

Early Piety.—Like Samuel, we should answer God's call by "Here am I." (1) It is easier to be a Christian in youth. (2) Then it gives us a much longer time in which to serve God. (3) We may not live to be old, and thus by putting off our duty we may fall altogether. (4) We escape many evils and dangers. No one can sow wild oats in youth and not reap a harvest of evil. There are some spiritual blessings which can come only to those who have grown up in the Christian life. It is universally recognized by students of the child that most men decide their future characters very early in life.

Samuel's Hard Duty.—A very heavy burden was laid upon Samuel, the first of many yet to come. It was both a test and a training for his life work.

V. 15. "Samuel feared to shew Eli the vision." It was a very hard thing for Samuel to make known to the aged Eli the message God had delivered to him. He was so young to seem to reprove one so old. He would have to give great pain to one who loved him and had done much for him. But Eli pressed and even adjured Samuel to tell him all, and Samuel "told him every whit."