



THE NEXT CONGRESS.

SOON TO CONVENE; MUCH TO DO.

The Cuban and the Hawaiian Questions Likely to Be the First and Most Important to Come Up for Consideration—Republicans Control the House but Not the Senate.

(Washington Letter.)

In about a fortnight the Fifty-sixth congress of the United States will be in session with a Republican working majority in the lower house, but with a minority in the senate. It is unfortunate that the party in control of the executive branch of the government is not in a majority in the senate as well as in the house, as questions of great importance are to be considered and the responsibility for action or inaction will be laid upon the shoulders of the Republicans, even though they may be powerless to fully carry their points in the upper branch of congress.

Matters of great interest and concern will undoubtedly be presented and discussed at an early date after convening of congress. They will affect this country's relations with Spain and Japan, and are national and international in character, rather than partisan in any sense, so that their adjustment will be closely watched by foreign nations.

The most difficult question to be dealt with is that relating to Cuba. It has been intimated from time to time that congress, when convened, would not stand the indefinite and procrastinating policy pursued by Spain in connection with this government's inquiries relative to Cuba, and even that Spain's attitude toward the United States in the matter has not been satisfactory to the President. It is generally thought that one of the first questions to come up after congress convenes will be Cuba, and the state department correspondence, which has been accumulating to a certain extent, will be published and the whole situation placed before the country, as well as congress. Then it remains to see what action will be taken as to the recognition of belligerent rights in that island. It is known that the President is strongly in favor of a peaceful solution of the problem if that be possible, but that it is not the desire of the administration that Cuba shall be devastated and destroyed by the continuance of Weylerism. There is no question but that the people of the United States are, by a large majority, in sympathy with the Cubans and desire to see, in some way, the freedom of the island accomplished.

Then there is the almost as important question of the annexation of Hawaii. It is safe to say also that the people of the United States, by as great a majority, favor the annexation of the islands in a territorial form of government. The annexation treaty was proclaimed by the President comparatively early in the administration and has been ratified by the Hawaiian congress. Our own senate will undoubtedly take reasonably prompt action upon it after action upon the Cuban matter.

Neither of these questions are party questions, and neither will divide congress on party lines, but nevertheless it is unfortunate that the Republicans have not a majority in the senate. The foreign policy of the Republicans has always been clear and vigorous, the Democrats being the conservatives and the liberals, and, as above stated, the Republicans, although not in a majority in the senate, will have to bear the burden of responsibility for whatever action is taken, so that to secure their best results they should have no obstructive opposition. In any case action of some sort is probable very early in the session on these two questions.

The Democrats who have been trying to make capital against the new tariff law by pointing to the monthly treasury deficit will soon be obliged to turn their attention to other fields. While the receipts from customs under the new law have heretofore been less than the expenditures, or even than the receipts of the Wilson law during the corresponding period of last year, for very good reasons, they have been

steadily gaining week by week, and now, according to the treasury figures, they are larger than they were a year ago. The prediction that the new year will see a wiping out of monthly deficits seems likely to be fulfilled. "It is simply a question of time, greater or less, which cannot be told exactly," said a treasury official, "when the new law will get into normal working order and will produce a surplus instead of a deficit. It is doing remarkably well considering the way it was handicapped by excessive importations, many of which are still in the country."

According to Attorney-General McKenna, the Government will be as fully protected in the matter of the Kansas Pacific Railroad as was the case in the Union Pacific transaction. The ownership of the Kansas Pacific is part of the scheme of the reorganization committee. The committee holds certain liens on the road which it is bound to protect. It can only protect them by getting possession of the road, and this can only come through its making bids which will clear the road of all indebtedness to the Government. The Government is master of the situation and everybody who knows anything about the facts knows this, none better than the reorganization committee. The same vigilance and intelligence will be displayed in the management of the branch road as was shown in the sale of the main road, which everybody now concedes redounded to the credit of the officials managing the sale.

GEORGE H. WILLIAMS.

Uncle Sam's Turn Will Come.



John Bull laughs now, but Uncle Sam's turn will come when Congress passes a law for the protection of American shipping.

No Prosperity for Him.

"The long and short of this business is that we are no nearer prosperity than we were two years ago. The only benefits which have come to our people since the election of McKinley were the result of the disasters to wheat crops in foreign lands by what the law calls a "visitation of God."

Thus the Cincinnati Enquirer, whose anxiety just now is centered upon the political-complexion of the new Ohio legislature. Everything depends upon that. There can be no real, simon-pure, copper-bottomed, all-wool, yard-wide, sure enough prosperity visible in the Enquirer office until John McLean succeeds in breaking into the United States Senate. Pending that consummation, civilization is a failure and progress is played out!

It Unsettles Many Theories.

"As a matter of fact," says the Lancashire Courier, "certain industries have been carried in America to a decidedly more advanced stage of development than that which they have as yet attained in the old country." Precisely so; and these American industries are increasing so rapidly in number and importance as to attract the attention of the civilized world to the results of protection in the United States. No country more than England feels the effect of America's marvelous industrial strides. It is a shock in more ways than one, this triumph of protection, for it not only tends to unsettle English faith in free trade theories, but it is hurting English trade all over the world.

REPUBLICAN OPINION.

The Democracy is rapidly losing its grip on the South. Look at the senate of the United States. Maryland is now to have two Republican senators; West Virginia has one and is likely to have another; Kentucky has one Republican and one other who refuses to co-operate with the Democrats on the currency question; Louisiana has one Democrat refusing to join with his party on the tariff; South Carolina has one and Georgia two who kicked over the traces on the tariff; North Carolina has no Democratic representative, one of her Senators being a Republican and the other a Populist; one Texan Democratic senator refuses to support free silver. In fact, the number of Southern senators who follow time-honored Democratic doctrines is becoming extremely small.

Now that Mr. Bryan has finished his attempt to "bury Mark Hanna," he can go to Mexico and congratulate the people of that country on the fact that their dollar has fallen 20 per cent in value in the past year.

The balance in favor of the United States in its trade with England was greater last year than at any time previous during the last fifteen years, if not than any previous year.

Mr. Bryan declared that he didn't see any evidence of prosperity while in Ohio. Probably the smoke of reopened factories injured his eyesight while in the state.

With two Republican senators and a Republican delegation in the house, the old state of Maryland will not be able to recognize herself in the political mirror.

Railroad earnings are at a high figure, and the bank clearances of the country were 22.2 per cent higher last week than in the corresponding week of last year.

The farmers of Ohio, Iowa, Maryland, Kansas and South Dakota showed by their votes in the recent election that free silver has no more charms for them.

People who really want to pay their debts in depreciated dollars should remove to Mexico. The silver dollars of that country have fallen 20 per cent in value in the past year, and the man who owed \$1,000 a year ago can pay it with \$800 worth of silver now. This is a condition that would delight the people who last year were insisting upon an opportunity to pay debts in depreciated dollars.

Mr. Bryan did not call on ex-Gov. Boies during his recent trip through Iowa.

The twelve counties of Ohio in which Mr. Bryan made speeches in the campaign just ended gave 97 more Republican majority than they did in 1896. Considering that Mr. Bryan ostentatiously announced that he "came to bury Hanna, not to praise him," this result is rather amusing—to everybody except Mr. Bryan.

"In spite of less active trade during October in most sections of the country, and the virtual stoppage of business at the South as a result of the yellow-fever scares and quarantines, the aggregate total for that month exceeded even September's immense total, and marks the heaviest month's total since January, 1893. This result was accomplished, too, with the same number of business days in the month as in September."—Bradstreet's.

With Arthur Poe Gorman beaten, Mark Hanna as good as re-elected, Republican gains in Kansas, free silver again repudiated in Ohio, Iowa, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, the Democrat who can extract comfort from the result of this year's elections must be a veritable political Mark Tapley.

What has become of that trio of silver advocates who went to Japan to find evidence that the "gold powers" had forced the Yankees of the Orient into action recently taken in favor of the gold standard? They have been gone nearly four months and not a sound has been heard from them.

The talk of co-operation of a few Ohio Republicans with the McLean Democrats of that state in the approaching senatorial election is pronounced by Ohio men of both parties the merest "moonshine." It would be political suicide for any man who would undertake it or attempt to profit by it.

With ex-Governor Altgeld organizing a paper-money party, ex-Governor Bois denouncing the 6-to-1 proposition, Senator Stewart telling the people that they may as well fall in with prosperity and drop the silver issue, it looks as though the white metal would have few friends left by 1900.

The circulation of the country is, in round numbers, \$80,000,000 greater than it was one year ago. Yet the country didn't get free coinage, and Bryan said that the only way to increase the circulating medium of the country was by the adoption of free silver. An error in judgment.

The 55th Congress had a larger number of Republicans from the South than was ever before elected to any Congress from that section. And now the 56th Congress is to have an addition to the Southern Republican strength by another Republican senator from Maryland.

The conclusions are that it was an "off year" for Hanna in Ohio.

TURN ON THE RECORD

POPULISTS TAKE BACK TRACK ON SCHOOL FUNDS.

They Amend Their Original Protests—What Was Black Two Years Ago Now Appears Very White—Buying State Warrants to Help Themselves and the Brokers.

Schemes of the Pops.

Lincoln Correspondence Omaha Bee: The populist state officials who constitute the state board of educational lands and funds have a great scheme for keeping their hands upon the money belonging to the permanent school fund. Before the populists came into power they were loud in their denunciations of Bartley and his associates for refusing to invest these trust funds in bonds as contemplated by the law. Governor Holcomb, it will be remembered, made great capital out of the fact that he had exerted himself repeatedly but in vain to have the idle school funds converted into interest bearing securities. But no sooner was the republican board supplanted by a populist board than the populists turned their backs completely upon their former professions and they are now engaged in using this money in a gigantic warrant scheme.

Just after the last election returns were announced showing that the bonds voted by Douglas county for refunding purposes and in aid of the exposition were carried the state house officials sent out through their organs the statement that the board had met and agreed to bid for \$100,000 of the bonds, but that they had no expectation of having their bid accepted for the reason that they would not bid more than par for them, in the face of the certainty that other bidders would offer a good premium. "The state board is handicapped," said this semi-official proclamation, "in its competition against outside bidders for the Douglas county bonds, in that there is no means by which they can bid more than the par value for them. The bonds are regarded as an excellent investment and if the board could properly use the school money in paying premiums on them it is more than likely it would do so. The matter of the purchase of the bonds has been under consideration for some time by members of the board, and the conclusion to enter the lists as a bidder met with the unanimous approval of all the members."

This has been followed up more recently by another announcement emanating from the same source, lauding Treasurer Meserve for his great work in finding investments for the permanent school fund and telling of the noble sacrifices undergone by the state house employes in selling to him nearly \$3,500 of salary warrants at par when if they hawked them about the markets they might possibly have secured a small fraction of 1 per cent premium on them, amounting to \$17 on the whole sum. In order to pave the way for a treasury statement, showing the large amount of school money uninvested in the treasurer's hands the public is informed that the treasurer is now at a great disadvantage in the investment of the school funds in warrants because he has to compete with warrant brokers who are willing to buy them up at one-half of 1 per cent premium. "If the treasurer," it continues, "was driven out of the market as an investor of the school fund and compelled to make arrangements to put the school funds in other securities, the warrant broker would have just that much better chance of successfully bearing the market."

This is very plainly part and parcel of a grand scheme to head off the investment of the state school fund in county bonds and keep the money in the hands of Treasurer Meserve, ostensibly for the purpose of investing in state warrants. With the return of better times and the prompt payment of taxes, the outstanding warrant indebtedness of the state is being gradually reduced, and the populist officials see clearly that within a short time the supply will be so curtailed that the treasurer will not be able to invest the money in warrants unless he pays the same premium which rules the market. As these warrants are all going to populist employes and appointees, the premium will be gathered in along with their monthly salaries and be equivalent to an increase of so much per cent upon their earnings. If the money on the other hand is thrown back into the hands of the treasurer, he will be able to follow the footsteps of Bartley by farming it out among favorite banks. Just now he may perhaps have a smaller amount of money in the permanent school fund than his predecessor, but should the suit on the Bartley bonds prove successful and the school funds embezzled by Bartley be returned to the state he would have over \$500,000 at his disposal for this purpose.

As a matter of fact there is nothing whatever in the law to prevent the state board from buying the proposed issue of Douglas county bonds at a premium, or of making a bid equal to or greater than the best bid which any private individual may make. On the contrary, the practice has been common for the state board to buy county bonds at a premium. It has invested in bonds on a basis as low as 4 per cent interest, paying the difference between the rate and the rate on face either in a lump sum or by detaching interest coupons from the bonds. The trust funds, for example, hold nearly \$350,000 worth of Lancaster county bonds upon which the people are receiving interest at the rate of 4 per cent. There is also a block of \$77,000 of Otoe county bonds which are drawing only 4 per cent and the \$19,000 of state relief bonds, which recently became payable, bear only 4 per cent interest. There is no reason, therefore, whatever, why the state board should not take up the entire bond issue of Douglas county at a rate equal to 4 per cent, and if it made such a bid it would be reasonably certain to secure them.

Governor Holcomb is a member of the state board of educational lands and funds, and if he has acquiesced in

the new policy of the board he has suffered a most remarkable change of heart. It is hardly a year and a half ago that the governor was out in a long open letter to the public replying to charges which had been made against him by Churchill and Russell that he had tried to obstruct the investment of the school fund, in which he took positive ground that it was not only the right but the duty of the state board to purchase all the bonds of solvent counties that might be offered on terms equal to or better than the best that could be secured on the open market. In pursuance of this policy Governor Holcomb prescribed resolutions for the investment of the school fund in United States bonds, which were then quoted in the neighborhood of 113, and insisted that there was no difficulty whatever in paying the premiums required to secure them. That part of the governor's letter which relates to this subject in the light of the new turn taken by the state board presents some very interesting reading. It was dated June, 1896, and is as follows:

"I have always been of the opinion that the board should purchase all Nebraska county bonds issued, until this entire fund has been invested; that there was a mutuality of interests between the counties issuing the bonds and the state, as the interests earned by these investments would all return to the different counties for the benefit of the common schools. It has always expressed the belief that the board should purchase these bonds bearing as low rate of interest as they could be sold for in the markets at par, or, in other words, that the board should pay as much or a shade more than other intending purchasers. This is the position I have invariably assumed in the investment of these funds and I believe it to be the only logical conclusion to reach. It is the duty of the board to purchase these bonds yielding as fair rate of interest as can be obtained for the benefit of the temporary school fund, but I contend that such investments must be made solely with reference to their fair market value and that the board should be ready so long as the fund remains uninvested to duplicate any bona fide offer that may be made. Good Nebraska county bonds, as every well informed person knows, can be floated in the market at par when drawing 4 to 5 per cent interest, and if the board obtain any of them it will have to take them bearing such rates of interest. The statement that such purchases has a tendency to reduce the earning capacity of the school fund so invested is entirely unsupported, either by reason or experience.

"As to the statements made and reiterated in these several articles that a premium cannot be legally paid out of the permanent school fund for this class of securities, I desire to say that this is, perhaps, a covert intimation that when the test comes, if we should ever be able to reach that point, a majority of the board will be of the opinion that it is illegal to pay a premium out of the permanent school fund, the logical conclusion of which would be that it is likewise illegal to purchase at a discount, and that we would be restricted to the purchase of bonds at par or obtain them from brokers or others who might be willing to detach coupons, as has been done in the past, in payment of such premiums.

"This construction given to the law is entirely unwarranted. It is contrary to the opinion of the supreme court as found in 15 Neb., page 685, where it is held that premiums may legitimately be paid out of the permanent school fund; that the true question to be determined is whether the investment of whatever sum may be agreed upon is a proper one, and that question is left entirely to the judgment of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds; nor is there anything in the constitution or the law prohibiting the payment of a premium wherever it may be required in order that this fund may be profitably invested. There has also been established by the action of this board heretofore, a well defined precedent for the investment of this fund in this manner. An examination of the records of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds disclose that heretofore in many instances premiums have been paid out of the permanent fund and the bonds purchased upon an agreed rate of interest lower than that denominated in the bond. To illustrate: February 8, 1894, the records show that the board purchased \$150,000 Douglas county 4 1/2 per cent bonds upon a basis of 4 per cent, paying therefor \$160,893.75 from the permanent school fund, or \$10,893.75 more than the face of the bonds. Further, on June 5, 1894, the board authorized the purchase of \$17,000 Nance county bonds for \$18,565.31, to be paid out of the permanent school fund. These bonds drew interest at 5 per cent and were purchased on a 4 per cent basis, a premium of \$1,565.31 being paid therefor.

"Excepting a small issue of \$6,500 Valley county 4 1/2 per cent bonds which lay in the treasury vaults for many months patiently awaiting the action of the board finally taken, as shown by the records, the third of the month, all bonds which have already been purchased or which there appear to be any immediate prospect of securing, unless different methods have been already mentioned. It is proper to remark here that the \$100,000 Saunders county bonds, the purchase of which has been so vociferously announced, are not to be issued during the present year, and at the rate this fund is increasing they should accumulate in the state treasury before the first of the year an amount sufficient to purchase them without regard to the fund now on hand. There was also a motion adopted at one of the meetings of the board to purchase about \$30,000 of the outstanding state relief bonds, provided they draw 4 per cent interest, but whether the party holding these bonds will part with them at this is, so far as I am informed, problematical and very uncertain. Likewise a motion instructing the treasurer to purchase \$35,000 Boyd county bonds, adopted April 18, 1896, does not insure the early employment of that amount of the state's idle school fund, as far as I am informed, no further steps have been taken in the matter

Professor Holmes.

Prof. George Frederick Holmes of the university of Virginia, who has just died at the age of seventy-seven years, was a native of England. "He was a brilliant man," says the Baltimore American. "He was the second oldest member of the faculty, and was noted for his remarkable promptness in attending his classes, missing not more than five lectures during his forty years' term of office. He was retired from work at the beginning of this session, being unable to go with his lectures longer on account of failing sight and bodily strength. His ability as a writer and critic was marked, he having written innumerable essays on political questions and numerous school books, particularly for use in southern school and colleges."

Abraham Lincoln.

Austin Gollaher, the old boyhood friend of Abraham Lincoln, said recently: "Abe always remained at the head of his class, and I never knew him to be turned down. His studious habits made him a favorite with the teacher, which caused a great deal of jealousy among his classmates toward him, and, not being generally liked anyhow, it made him very unpopular."

Whittier's Modesty.

Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer tells a story illustrating the almost boyish modesty of the poet Whittier. A little woman forced her way into the penetralia of a Boston mansion, when Whittier was visiting there, and, clasping both the poet's hands in her own, exclaimed: "Mr. Whittier, this is the supreme moment of my life!" Whittier stood first on one foot and then on the other, withdrew his hands and clasped them behind his back, and replied prosaically, "Is it?"

Lupton, Ill., Nov. 6, 1897.

French Chemical Company, 856 Dearborn St., Chicago.

Gentlemen:—Enclosed please find one dollar for which send me a bottle of your Anti-Neuralgic. You sent a bottle to my mother last week and it acted like a charm. She has been a great sufferer of neuralgia of the head and stomach and around the heart and never took any remedy that relieved her so quickly as this wonderful medicine did.

I thank God for giving you the power to make such a wonderful remedy and I hope you may prosper.

Send as soon as possible to, Mary E. Perkins, Lupton P. O., Illinois.

Clarence Cook will contribute to the December Century an article on Mr. Clement C. Moore, who wrote the famous poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas." The verses were written in 1822 as a Christmas present for Dr. Moore's children. A young lady visiting the family copied them from into her album and sent it, unknown to the author, to the editor of the Troy "Sentinel," who printed it without the author's name in the issue of that journal for December 23, 1823.

Reputations Made in a Day

Are precious scarce. Time tries the worth of a man or medicine. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is a forty-five years' growth, and like those hardy lichens that garnish the crevices of Alaska's rocks, it flourishes perennially, and its reputation has as firm a base as the rocks themselves. No medicine is more highly regarded as a remedy for fever and ague, bilious remittent, constipation, liver and kidney disorders, nervousness and rheumatism.

It is better to say a little worse than you mean than to mean a little worse than you say.

We wish to call attention to the advertisement in this issue of the National Correspondence Institute of Washington, D. C. This institution is thoroughly reliable and we cheerfully recommend them to our readers. A college education at home shows wonderful advancement in educational matters.

The average weekly loss of vessels on the seas throughout the world is twelve.

Holiday Excursions.

On December 7 and 21 the Big Four Route and Chesapeake and Ohio Ry. will sell excursion tickets from points northwest, both one way and round trip, at greatly reduced rates to points in Virginia, North and South Carolina and other southern states. Round trip tickets will be good twenty-one days returning. Write for particulars and pamphlet descriptive of climate and Virginia farm lands. U. L. Trutt, Northwestern Passenger Agent, 284 Clark St. Chicago.

What the superior man seeks is in himself; what the small seeks is in others.

Beauty is Blood Deep.

Clean blood means a clean skin. No beauty without it. Cascarets, Candy Cathartic cleans your blood and keeps it clean, by stirring up the lazy liver and driving all impurities from the body. Begin to-day to banish pimples, boils, blotches, blackheads, and that sickly bilious complexion by taking Cascarets,—beauty for ten cents. All druggists, satisfaction guaranteed, 10c, 25c, 50c.

Before submitting to the inevitable it is wise to be sure it is the inevitable.

Pico's Cure for Consumption is our only medicine for coughs and colds.—Mrs. C. Betz, 489 8th Ave., Denver, Col., Nov. 8, '95.

According to an eminent doctor, the excessive use of salt tends to paralyze the sense of taste.

WHAT SHALL I GIVE FOR CHRISTMAS?

You can easily settle this question by sending for the grand new Illustrated Catalogue, showing 3,000 of the most beautiful things in Jewelry and Silverware of the Mermord & Jaccard Jewelry Co., Broadway, Cor. Loonst, St. Louis, who will also, if you will enclose \$5 cts., send you a Solid Silver Handled Nail File.

Employees of the Hartford Street Railway company have been ordered not to chew tobacco while on duty.

TO CURE A GOLD IN ONE DAY. Take Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets. All Druggists refund the money if it fails to cure. 25c

Military Compliment.—Lieutenant—Good evening, miss! You look like a regiment of rose-buds tonight.—Fleegende Blatter.

Since the establishment of a cremation society in France 20,000 bodies have been cremated in Paris.

In giving thanks for your blessings don't forget the criticisms you have received.

Train the growing tree so that only dead and injured limbs will need removing later on.