

INDEPENDENT.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 9, 1897.

# OVERCOAT SAMPLES.

We show one hundred and twelve distinct styles of Overcoats ranging in price from four dollars and a quarter to nineteen dollars and a half. The significance of this statement is this—we buy more Overcoats and sell more Overcoats five times over than any one store in the great West. This will account for the fact that our prices are always twenty and in many cases thirty per cent lower than any other house. Our order for one line of Overcoats for this season necessitated seven thousand yards of material and it took the mill five weeks to fill that one order alone. We only show two samples of Overcoat goods in our Catalogue 16, but we issue a special card of Overcoat samples which is sent on request to those wishing to get a better idea of our line. Ask for Supplementary Card No. 6 if you want to buy an Overcoat at the right price

## Nebraska Clothing Co

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### THE SPEAKER'S HOUSE

Congressman W. D. Vincent Reviews the Work of the Extra Session.

### IGNORED THE CONSTITUTION

Session From Beginning to End Was a Huge and Comical Farce.

### Prospects for the Present Session.

The present session of congress promises to accomplish little more than the last extraordinary session accomplished. The house will obey the will of speaker Reed. Appropriation bills will be passed and the usual amount of patronage will be distributed. We may expect the same routine for the present session that existed during the last, which is described by Congressman W. D. Vincent in an article in the New Time. He says: "The first session of the fifty-fifth congress was indeed an extraordinary session. Perhaps never before in the history of legislative bodies was so much time wasted and so little good accomplished in a given time. The house of representatives was almost entirely responsible for this do-nothing policy, the senate apparently being willing at all times to perform the duties devolving upon it. A late number of a leading magazine contains a very ably written paper by the speaker of the house, entitled: "How the House Does Business." A due appreciation of the "eternal fitness of things" and a disposition to enlighten the public would have prompted him to write upon the subject: "How the house does not do business."

Two days after President McKinley took the oath of office he issued his proclamation calling for the extraordinary session. Congress met in pursuance thereof at noon on March 15. Three days after the session opened the tariff bill was reported to the house by the ways and means committee, and thirteen days later, after ten days' discussion, it passed the house. From March 31 until July 24, the senate continued to do business in the regular way, which is always tardy enough, to be sure, but it met almost daily and apparently enacted the usual amount of legislation. During the four months following the passage of the "Dingley bill" the house was nominally in session, but in reality it did nothing but meet and adjourn. Early in the session a resolution was passed, which practically became a standing rule, that the house should meet only on Mondays and on Thursdays. The United States constitution, which theoretically governs the actions of congress as well as all other legislative bodies in this country, says:

"Neither house, during the session of congress, shall, without the consent of the other, adjourn for more than three days," etc.

Had it not been for this provision the house would probably have met once a month instead of twice a week, and so far as results are concerned it would have made no difference. The work of the house during the four months after the passage of the tariff bill could easily have been done in four days, for when it did meet, the most laborious part of the extremely ridiculous proceedings was the chaplain's prayer and the vote upon a motion to adjourn.

The constitution also declares that when no quorum is present an adjournment may be had from day to day. No quorum being present, the house can do no business and can only adjourn for one day. In the face of this plain con-

stitutional provision, by the adoption of this back-action, self-operating resolution, adjournment was taken repeatedly by less than a quorum. If one man had been left in charge of the house and all other members had gone home to stay for the remainder of the session, the proceeding would have been only a little more ludicrous and scarcely more in violation of the constitution and the sworn obligations of its members. As a matter of fact, one man did practically do all that was done by the house. It is a humiliating fact that this power was delegated at different times, directly and indirectly, to the speaker by vote of a majority of the members. The speaker was the house and the house was the speaker. What power was not given him under the rules he assumed and no other member of his party dared to oppose him. Many of them would admit in private conversation that his rulings were unjust, even going so far as to denounce him as a "Czar" and his rulings as tyrannical with as much vehemence and indignation as he was condemned by every self-respecting member of the minority parties; but when the gavel fell and they met his gaze they were almost ready to run over each other in their eagerness to do his bidding. Brave and defiant in the cloakroom, they were cowed on the floor of the house. The influence of the party under control of such a director was far more powerful than their patriotism and independence. The possible punishment for breaking party traces and incurring the disfavor of the speaker was too much for those who belong to their party. The favors at the disposal of the speaker and the punishment he stands ever ready to mete out are not to be despised by men who make politics a business. He is the anointed of the house who directs every movement and smother private bills or puts them on passage by a mere nod of the head. He recognizes one member to move a bill and refuses to recognize another equally entitled to the floor, but who has not gained his favor. As an excuse to ignore members of the minority parties, who were demanding to be heard, it was not uncommon during the late session for the speaker to recognize members of his own party who were in their seats and not asking for recognition at all. Those who were opposed to the policy of doing nothing were generally declared out of order when they attempted to make a motion or speak in favor of any attempt to proceed with legislation; while any one of the little coterie of statesmen who had been trained to do the speaker's bidding could always get a hearing by asking for it. Members were even denied the privilege of asking unanimous consent for the consideration of important resolutions, such, for instance, as a resolution requesting the speaker to appoint the committee on invalid pensions. Before any member who did not stand next to the throne could get a hearing it was necessary for him to go in person to the speaker and ask for it, and if the measure did not meet with the directors' endorsement the member was told that he would not be recognized for its introduction, and after that he might shout, "Mr. Speaker," until he was black in the face and the response would be the same as he might expect from a wooden Indian. This shameful treatment was not confined absolutely to members of the minority parties, but the same disrespect was shown those of the majority who were indiscreet enough to desire to do something for their constituents which was not in accord with the great autocrat's pre-conceived notions. The speaker is full of resources—no one has ever said he was a fool—and when there was no smoother way to shut off the efforts of refractory members he would give the wink to a trusted lieutenant who was immediately recognized for a motion to adjourn. Such a motion being always in order, with the majority nearly always ready to vote as a unit, "business" was suspended for the next three days. Some of the members may have imagined that they were representing their districts and doing the work they were employed by their constituents

to do. If so, it only shows how easy it is to impose upon statesmen, was doing it, what little there was done. Aside from possibly twenty men whom it was necessary to take into the inner circle they had about as little influence upon doings of congress as a gas jet would have upon the temperature of Alaska, and were manipulated like truant boys at a country school, or the figures in Mrs. Jarley's wax works. It is indeed a great honor to "represent" the dear people in congress under such circumstances! Up to the present time the speaker has been considerate enough to permit members to retain the title of "Honorable" and draw their salary, mileage and clerk hire with commendable regularity; for all of which their constituents will no doubt continue to feel duly grateful! In all matters of real legislation they were eiphers, to be moved about or left to monotonous inactivity, like the figures on a checker board.

Notwithstanding the four months' time which was spent by the speaker's house in a successful attempt to do nothing, the senate continued to pass bills and send them to the house for concurrence, only to be ignored. Numbers of meritorious bills were waiting the action of the speaker. Instead of receiving consideration, they were stored away in little boxes, where they still sleep. At the next session some of them will be passed without due consideration, while others will not be considered at all, because there will not be sufficient time. Good bills are ignored and bad ones rushed through at every session of congress for the want of time. But then it should not be forgotten that the nation enjoys the blessings of a "business administration!" The proprietors of the administration evidently thought it was business to have congress play four months to the neglect of needed legislation. Even in the discussion of the new tariff law the minority was largely denied the right to criticism, and no time given for debate on the more important schedules. Time was too precious. When the bill came back from the conference committee it passed the house after a few hours' debate. When the minority asked for more time the chairman of the committee on ways and means objected, saying that talk was expensive and was costing the Treasury \$100,000 a day. Strange that he was not overcome by this steak of economy during the four months when the house was doing nothing! If it cost \$100,000 a day to discuss the tariff bill it cost the same each day during that four months, but not one of the speaker's assistants complained of the expense until the minority desired to criticize the sugar trust measure known as the Dingley bill.

The rules of the House expressly state that "Unless otherwise specially ordered by the House, the Speaker shall appoint, at the commencement of each Congress, the following standing committees." (Rule 10.)

Then follows a list of fifty-seven committees. On the first day of the session the Speaker appointed three of these committees—the Committee on Rules, on Mileage and on Ways and Means—and positively refused to appoint the other fifty-four until the afternoon of the last day of the session. He tried to justify himself and throw the responsibility upon the House by claiming that a majority of its members endorsed his course because they had the power to compel him to appoint the committees, but refused to exercise that power. This was true, but it was no less a violation of the rules; it was only another mortifying exhibition of the Speaker's arbitrary power. The majority party controlled the House, the caucus controlled the party, but the Speaker and his dozen lieutenants controlled the caucus. While in reality it was the Speaker's indorsement of himself, the members of his party were not the less reprehensible. Thus it was that one man was enabled to dominate over the House and dictate legislation for seventy millions of people. In the appointment of committees the Speaker necessarily surrenders some of his power. Committees and members of committees are entitled to certain privileges where individual members would be powerless. To make these appointments, involved the possibility of the House taking the reins in its own hands and proceeding with the performance of its duties by considering a few of the numerous bills already introduced. There were other reasons why rule 10 was defiantly ignored. Each member is anxious to be placed on good committees, and there is always an energetic struggle by members of the majority party for chairmanships. Members who were known to despise the Speaker's methods and privately threatened a revolt would smile sweetly upon him and outwardly indorse every movement he made, hoping thereby to be preferred. Nobody understood this better than the Speaker, hence his resolute determination to put off these appointments until the last day of the session.

The crowning act of absurdity was the adoption by the House, two hours before final adjournment, of what is known as the "Currency Commission Resolution," providing for the appointment by the President of eleven commissioners to "investigate and report what changes, if any, are necessary and expedient in our present banking and currency laws," etc. It carried with it an appropriation of \$100,000, and was a clear attempt to indirectly delegate the power over financial legislation to a few men who would be responsible to no one but the President and the bankers. It was an admission on the part of those who voted for it that they were either incapable of legislating upon the subject or were anxious

to have certain changes inaugurated without assuming the responsibility. The President's message recommending this resolution was laid before the House only a few hours before adjournment, and after the hour for adjournment had been fixed. Of course it was not expected that the resolution would receive the sanction of both houses, the senate wisely refusing to take up the subject at that late hour. The President's message was a preposterous exhibition of weakness, and the forcing of the resolution through the House at that late hour was a burlesque upon legislation.

The session from beginning to end was a huge farce, which would have been comical had it not been for the unfortunate condition of the country and the crying need of wholesome legislation.

### LITTLE IN THE MESSAGE.

In an interview recently published, concerning the president's message, senator Allen said: "The construction of the message commands the greatest admiration and is most beautiful. The language is chaste and flowing. But it is all words. The populist party cannot agree with any recommendation he has attempted to make. The recommendation concerning the greenbacks is a virtual repeal of the law authorizing their issue. The Cuban portion of the message was long and wearisome to Senators who are friends of the patriots in that island. It could not have presented the cause of Spain in a better manner had Minister Sagasta himself written it. We expected something else, thinking the President would have the courage to live up to the platform on which he was elected. I cannot agree with what he says about the annexation of Hawaii. That is another point on which we differ. In fact, I can see little in the message which will force favorable recognition from my party."

Trans-Mississippi Educational Exhibit, To ALL NEBRASKA EDUCATORS:—Having been appointed by the members of the Nebraska Commissioners of the Trans-Mississippi & International Exposition as superintendent of the state educational division, which appointment carries with it the supervision of the general educational exhibits for this state, and which is in perfect harmony with the plans of the Board of Lady Managers for the Trans-Mississippi territory, I earnestly solicit the cooperation of school officers and of all others who are interested in the educational affairs of our state.

The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition which will be held at Omaha, Nebraska, from June 1 to November 1, 1898, will doubtless be one of the greatest Expositions held on the American continent, and second only to the great World's Fair held in Chicago in 1893.

# A Partial List of What We . . . . Have for Christmas

When You Are Preparing For Christmas Please Remember We Can Please You Whether You Want To Invest One Cent Or One Hundred Dollars.

- Ladies' Silk Umbrellas—75c, \$1, 1.25, 1.50, 2, 2.25, 3, 3.50, 4, 4.50, 5, 6, and 6.50 each.
- Gentlemen's Silk Umbrella—\$2.25, 3, 3.25, 4, 4.50, 5, and 5.50 each.
- Ladies' Fancy Hose—50c, \$1 and 1.25 a pair.
- Ladies' Embroidered Handkerchiefs—8%e, 12%e, 15, 25, 35, 40, 50, 75, and \$1 each.
- Duchess Lace Handkerchiefs—\$1, 1.50, 1.75, 2, 2.25, 2.50, 2.75, 3, and 5 each.
- Ladies' H. S. Handkerchiefs—12%e, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40 and 50c.
- Ladies' Initial Handkerchiefs—12% and 25c each.
- Gentlemen's Initial Handkerchiefs—12%e, 15, 20, 25, 35 and 50c each.
- Gentlemen's H. S. Handkerchiefs—12%e, 15, 20, 25, 35 and 50c each.
- Ladies' Leather Purse—25c, 50, 75, \$1, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2, 2.25, 2.50, 3, 3.50, 4, and 5 each.
- Ladies' Chatelain Bags—25c, 35, 50, 65, 75c, \$1, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2, 2.25, and 2.50 each.
- Ladies' Boston Bags—75c, 90, \$1, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 4.50, 5, and 5.50.
- Ladies' Jeweled Top Bags—\$1.50, 2, 2.50, 3, 4, and 5 each.
- Ladies' Metal Girdles—\$1.50, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 5.00, 6.00 and 10.00 each.
- Ladies' Metal Chatelains—\$1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75 and 2.00 each.
- Ladies' Kid Gloves—\$1.00, 1.50, 1.75, and 1.90 pair.
- Ladies' Driving Gloves—50c, \$1.00 and 1.50 pair.
- Ladies' Lined Kid Gloves—\$1.25 and 1.50 pair.
- Ladies' Kid Mittens—75c, \$1.00 and 1.25 pair.
- Ladies' Mocha Mittens—\$1.00, 1.50 and 1.75 pair.
- Gentlemen's Kid Gloves—60c, \$1.00 and 1.50 pair.
- Gent's Lined Kid Gloves—50c, 75c, \$1.00 and 1.50 pair.
- Gentlemen's Mocha Gloves—\$1.00 and 1.25 pair.
- Gentlemen's Kid Mittens—75c and \$1.00 pair.
- Gentlemen's Mocha Mittens—\$1.00, 1.25 and 1.50 pair.
- Children's Kid Gloves—\$1.00 pair.
- Children's Kid Mittens—35c, 50c, 75c and \$1.00 pair.
- Ladies' Wool Mittens—12%e, 15c, 20c, 25c, 40c and 50c pair.
- Children's Wool Mittens—10c, 15c, 20c, 25c and 35c pair.
- Linen Table Damasks—35c, 50c, 60c, 75c, 90c, \$1.25 and 1.50 yd.
- Linen Damask Cloths—\$2.00, 2.25, 2.75, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00 and 9.00 each.
- Linen Table Napkins—50c, 75c, \$1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00, 2.25, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 6.00, 7.00 and 8.00 dozen.
- Linen Towels—5c, 6%e, 8 1/2c, 10c, 12%e, 15c, 25c, 35c, 40c, 50c, 60c, 75c, 85c, \$1.00, 1.25 and 1.50 each.
- Fancy Silks for Waists—65c to \$1.50 yd.
- Black Dress Silks—75c to \$1.75 yd.
- Black Dress Goods—35c to \$1.75 yd.
- Black Dress Satins—75c to \$1.65 yd.
- Black Brocade Silks—75c to \$1.60 yd.
- Printed French Organdies—40c yd.
- Printed French Challies—75c yd.
- Printed French Organdies—90c yd.
- Ladies' Silk Waists—\$3.50, 4.50, 5.50 and 6.00 each.
- Ladies' Wool Waists—\$1.75, 2.00, 3.00 and 4.50 each.
- Ostrich Feather Bows—\$3.00, 3.50, 5.00, 6.50, 7.50, 8.50, 10.00 and 12.00 each.
- Gent's Silk Smoking Jackets—\$5.75 and 6.50 each.
- Infants' Crocheted Afghans—\$2.00, 2.50 and 3.00 each.
- Fancy Pillow Tops—15c, 20c, 25c, 40c, 50c, 60c, 75c, \$1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00 and 2.25 each.
- Laundry Bags—50c, 75c, \$1.00, 1.25 and 1.50 each.
- Hem Stitched Lunch Cloths—50c, 75c, \$1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00 and 3.50 each.
- Mexican Drawn Work—35c to \$5.00 each.
- Battenberg Linens—25c to \$6.00 each.
- Lace Curtains—50c to \$12.80 pair.
- Tapestry Curtains—\$2.00 to 10.00 pair.
- Tapestry Couch Covers—60c to \$8.00 each.

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  - 4 lbs " " peaches 50
  - 4 lbs choice Raisins..... 50
  - 4 lbs choice Cal. Prunes... 50
  - 2 lbs best Baking Pwdr.... 50
  - 1 lb Pure Pepper..... 25
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- \$5.00
- All the above delivered to any R. R. station in Neb. for \$5.
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  - Brush Sets.....
  - Handsome Toilet Sets, Etc.
  - Carron Boards \$2 50
  - Crokinole Boards..... \$2 49
- "Roy's" 10th and P Sts.

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The Nebraska State Commission, at