

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE.

ESTABLISHED JUNE 19, 1871.

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CONGRESS CONVENES

Opening of the Chambers Attended by Brilliant Scenes.

GALLERIES ARE CROWDED WITH VISITORS

Lawmakers Come Together Again Under Momentous Circumstances.

RARE FLORAL TRIBUTES FOR THE LEADERS

Both Houses Promptly Begin the Work of the Last Session of Fifty-Fifth Assembly.

DIPLOMATIC CORPS GRACE THE OCCASION

Chaplain Milburn, in Reading Thanks and Asking for Blessings on Deliberations, Remembers Queen Regent and Her Son.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Congress reassembled today 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 passed. The spirit of the occasion was not, however, of immediate expectancy, for the few months left to the existence of the Fifty-fifth congress gave promise of little more than a beginning of the momentous policies and problems growing out of the war.

As usual, all Washington turned its attention to the capital for that gala event which marks the opening day of the session. When the senators convened the chamber presented a notable and beautiful appearance. By 11 o'clock the public and private galleries were filled almost to their capacity with a distinguished assemblage, including many women in brilliant attire. On the floor of the senate the display of flowers was unusually beautiful. When for the opening day of a session of congress. The odor of the flowers filled the chambers.

Magnificent Floral Tributes. The senate chamber presented an animated scene. The galleries were filled early, many of the spectators being visitors to Washington, who had embraced the opportunity to witness a congressional session. On the senate floor the scene presented was unusually brilliant. The desks of the members were loaded with magnificent specimens of the florist's art. Nothing more beautiful or elaborate in floral displays has been seen in the senate chamber for many years. It was a veritable chrysanthemum show, with rare roses and cut flowers of every description mingled with the chrysanthemums in new and elaborate designs.

Mr. Morgan of Alabama was the first senator to enter the chamber, and, following him came the octogenarian Mr. Morrill of Vermont. One by one the members approached the chamber and the floor was soon filled with the senators. The speaker, Mr. Spooner, was seated at his desk, and the reading of the prayer by Mr. Milburn followed. The reading was in a most impressive manner. The prayer was in Latin and English, and was of a most beautiful character. The prayer was read in a most impressive manner. The prayer was read in a most impressive manner. The prayer was read in a most impressive manner.

A call of the senate developed the presence of sixty-seven members. The usual resolutions were offered and adopted. Mr. Cullom of Illinois offered one to appoint a committee to inquire into the conduct of the war. The senate was ready to transact business. Mr. Hale, Maine, proposed one fixing the hour of daily meeting at 12 o'clock, noon, and Mr. Morrill, one to appoint a committee to notify the president that the senate was ready to receive communication he might desire to make.

The reading of the president's message, which occupied two hours and eighteen minutes, was received with careful attention for an hour, but after that the senators drifted to the cloak rooms or to the committee rooms, where they could peruse the message at their leisure in the printed copies with which they had been furnished. Many persons remained in the galleries throughout the reading, but, as is usual, little attention was given to the presentation of the message, either in the galleries or on the floor, after the first few pages. Not the slightest demonstration occurred during the reading of the message.

Mr. Morrill of Vermont and Mr. Cockrell of Missouri were named by the vice president to join a like committee of the house of representatives to call upon the president.

Mr. McBride of Oregon presented the credentials of his newly elected colleague, Mr. Simon, to whom the vice president administered the oath of office.

At 3:45, on motion of Mr. Platt of Connecticut, the senate adjourned.

SPEAKER REED SUMMONS HOUSE.

Speakers Attend Reassembling of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Exactly at noon Speaker Reed's gavel came down with a sharp crack, the great ebony mace sustained with silver and surrounded by a silver eagle was lifted into place upon its marble pedestal, the spreading folds of American flags were loosened about the brilliant stained glass ceiling, and the house of representatives entered upon the closing session of the memorable war congress. The scene within the great hall was animated, brilliant and picturesque.

The members began arriving shortly before 11 o'clock, and the hall soon commenced to buzz as they exchanged greetings, congratulations or condolences. For those who had gone down at the November elections there were expressions of sympathy; for those who had been victorious, words of congratulation. Some of the members held regular levees as they appeared. This was markedly true of W. A. Stone of Pennsylvania, Mr. Sawyer of Texas and Mr. Millin of Tennessee, each of whom was chosen governor of his respective state at the recent election. Here and there throughout the throng was an officer in full uniform, an unobtrusive figure on the floor and a vivid reminder of the war.

The floral tributes which the scurrying pages bore into the hall and placed on the desks of those whom they were destined were much

more numerous than usual. Some of them were of gigantic size, completely concealing the recipients. There were huge baskets of roses, anchors, horse shoes and floral pieces of many designs.

As the hands of the clock pointed to noon the great doors of the speaker's chamber swung open, and the speaker, Mr. Reed, stepped from the rear of the hall and Mr. Reed ascended the rostrum. A wave of applause swept floor and galleries upon his appearance. A light smile played over his benign features, as he raised his gavel aloft. When he set it down he shook a hush fall upon the vast assemblage.

Heads were bowed reverently as the chaplain in eloquent words invoked the divine blessing, giving praise for the victory that had attended our arms and the peace which was effected with so little bloodshed. General Wheeler of Alabama came in and took his seat in the row immediately in front of the speaker's rostrum. He was instantly surrounded by half a hundred members and received the ovation of the day.

New Members Take the Oath. The roll call developed the presence of 267 members, 179 being a quorum. Three new members were sworn in. Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio presented Mr. Dick, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Northway, Mr. Allen of Mississippi, Mr. Thomas Spight, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Sullivan, who was elected to the senate. Mr. Grow of Pennsylvania, William H. Graham, elected to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. Stone, elected governor of Pennsylvania. With uplifted hands they took the oath. Mr. Dingley, the floor leader, offered the customary resolution for the appointment of a committee of three to join a similar committee of the senate to wait on the president and inform him that the house was ready to receive any communication he had to make. It was unanimously adopted, and the speaker appointed Mr. Dingley, Mr. Cannon and Mr. Bailey. A resolution was adopted to inform the clerk of the senate that the house was ready for business. The house then took a recess until 1:30 to await the arrival of the president's message.

When the house recovered after the recess the committee appointed to wait upon the president appeared and reported that it had discharged its mission, and that the president had said that he would communicate with congress immediately in writing.

The speaker, Mr. Reed, presented the report before Mr. Prudden, the president's executive clerk, appeared and announced the message of the president. The seal of the envelope in which the message was contained was broken by the speaker himself, and it was immediately read before the members on the floor and spectators in the galleries settled themselves in their seats and gave the reading their most earnest attention.

The president's view of the causes leading up to the war, the manner in which the preparations for hostilities were made and the successive victories on land and sea were listened to with rapt attention. The other provisions of the message were followed with almost as much interest. There were expressions of approval or disapproval throughout the reading. As soon as the reading was concluded, on motion of Mr. Dingley, the message was ordered printed and then, at 3:50 p. m., the house adjourned.

COMMENT ON THE MESSAGE

Territorial Expansion and Finances Chief Features Which Congressmen Approve or Disapprove Of.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Many senators excused themselves from expression of opinion on the message in the manner in which the ground that they had not been able to give careful attention to all the details. Republican senators were, however, willing to express themselves in a few general words of commendation. Senator Cullom regarded the message as one of the greatest and most accurate historical reviews.

Senator Platt of New York commended the expression of a determination to increase the standing army and to maintain order in Cuba until the Cubans can take care of themselves.

Senator Wolcott said: "It is an admirable document."

Senator Lodge said: "Able and excellent."

Senator Foraker: "A good presentation of the situation and of facts leading up to the war. The democrats were even more adverse than the republicans to discussing the paper."

Senator Jones of Arkansas was an exception. "Some of us do not favor the increase of the standing army," he said, "and the president has no right to assume that a majority stands with him in that proposition. There is no war in existence and none is imminent. The war requires one or the other condition and the threat of the president to hold the volunteers in the service until the standing army is increased beyond what the conscience of senators and members dictate looks to me like a menace and an effort to dictate which I consider an outrage and unpardonable."

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claiming, is in favor of intentional bimetallism, the president makes no reference to it."

What Representatives Say.

Following are some of the opinions expressed by members of the house upon the president's message.

Representative Walker, chairman of the house committee on foreign affairs, said: "The president's simple proposition to let the new possessions alone, under just and firm governments by the military arm which conquered them, gives us plenty of time for all discussion of the propositions of their permanent government."

Representative Walker, chairman of the committee on banking and currency: "I am asked what I think of the currency and banking features. I do not see that it has any such features. It does not seem to me to be one of the most important propositions for the currency, repeating that of a former message to change the United States legal tender notes into gold certificates, which would have no effect on the banking and currency situation, but to add to the burden of taxation."

Mr. Grosvenor of Ohio: "The message is not on a beaten path. It is not encumbered with platitudes and is written in a very attractive style. The contribution to history in the elaboration of the statement of the war is in good taste and devoid of boasting or vanity."

General Wheeler, democrat of Alabama: "It is a clear and comprehensive resume of the events which transpired during an eventful period of our country's history. It will be referred to as one of the most state papers."

Representative McMillan, democrat of Tennessee: "On the most important question confronting the nation—what shall we do with our newly acquired possessions—the president's message reminds me of the caption of the last chapter of Johnson's 'Rasael,'—'The conclusion in which nothing is concluded.'"

Silver Ignored. Representative Bland of Missouri said: "On the great leading issue, which is and will be the paramount question—the free coinage of silver—the message is ominously silent, but no proposition on the money question can be introduced at the same time considering this question."

Representative Cummings, democrat of New York: "It is a clear, concise statement of facts without speculation, suggestion or recommendation. I have an idea that the real message will be seen in hereafter."

Chairman Dingley of the way said means committee: "It is to be noted that the president states our revenue laws are working well with no suggestion of any needed modification."

Mr. Richardson, democrat of Kentucky: "The president makes a most interesting and satisfactory review of the Spanish war, but it is disappointing that he failed to tell us what we are to do with the new possessions."

Mr. Brigham of Pennsylvania: "A brave, clear and comprehensive message. Strong as the president is in the confidence and esteem of the people, his message will insure greater confidence."

AS VIEWED BY FOREIGNERS

Representative of European Newspaper on the Message of President McKinley.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Dec. 5.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Comment in political circles on the president's message is distinctly friendly, especially on the passage declaring America's active interest in the development of the far eastern question.

The only point on which there is a disposition to reserve judgment is in relation to the Nicaragua canal, feelings here finding expression that the construction should be jointly guaranteed by the United States and Great Britain.

LONDON, Dec. 5.—Much having been expected, there is a tone of disappointment in the morning papers on the president's message. Its noncommittal character is attributed to the fact that the negotiations of the peace commission at Paris are not yet finished. Considerable satisfaction is expressed at the references to Anglo-American relations and at the coldness displayed toward Russia.

The Daily News complains of the ambiguity of the message on "commercial and currency matters."

The Times says: "It is creditable to both the dignity and good sense of the American people that a message announcing the victory of the United States in the acquisition of territory and the initiation of the imperialistic policy is sober in tone and moderate in recommendation. Not since England recognized the United States government's power has an American president spoken of the United States in language so cordial as Mr. McKinley's."

The Daily Chronicle pays tribute to the "sober, sound common sense and straightforward language of the message," pointing out that President McKinley's reference to the military occupation of Cuba virtually outlines a policy "precisely the same as that of Great Britain in Egypt and likely to have the same effect."

The Standard says: "Few could have foretold that the war would go so rapid and drastic a change. How absolute the metamorphosis is may best be gathered from a comparison with previous messages. It is not rash to predict that the United States will advance in the path upon which their feet are now firmly set."

The Standard construes Mr. McKinley's references to China as a declaration that, had the open door been closed or obstructed, America would have interfered actively.

ANDREWS HOLDS THE FORT

Carries His Point in the Matter of Appointments and Peace Now Reigns Supreme.

CHICAGO, Dec. 5.—The report was current today that Superintendent Andrews of the public school system, who recently came here from Brown university, had offered his resignation, but tonight the story was denied. For some time there has been trouble between Superintendent Andrews and the Board of Education over the matter of appointments, each desiring to possess the power of making them. There seems to be no doubt that a letter of resignation was actually written by the superintendent, but that it was intercepted by friends before reaching the board officials and the matter amicably adjusted. Both sides have at least signed the protocol giving the coveted power to Superintendent Andrews and it is believed the formal treaty of peace will be made binding by tomorrow.

NEBRASKANS ESTABLISH OUTPOST. Battalion Pitches Camp Five Miles from Manilla.

MANILLA, Dec. 5.—The second battalion of the First Nebraska volunteers went into camp about five miles up the river today for the purpose of establishing an outpost. The rest of the regiment will probably follow.

SPAN GRASPS AT STRAWS

Castilian Commissioners Try to Save What They Can from the Wreck.

PROLONG THE AGONY AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE

Functionaries Devote Effort to All the Known Devices of Diplomatic Diplomacy in the Endeavor to Better Their Condition.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Co.) PARIS, Dec. 5.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The joint peace commission had a four-hour sitting today, when the first eight articles of the treaty were discussed and finally adopted. These deal with amity in commerce and navigation, but the arguments were mostly on the subject of taxation. The Spanish commissioners, to the surprise of the American commissioners, declined to budge from his previous propositions to separate protocol matters from the subsidiary ones. The Americans are at a loss to understand the meaning of this maneuver, but the arguments were mostly on the subject of taxation.

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Fair; Colder; Northwest Winds.

Yesterday's temperature at Omaha:

Hour.	Deg.	Hour.	Deg.
5 a. m.	10	1 p. m.	30
6 a. m.	12	2 p. m.	30
7 a. m.	14	3 p. m.	32
8 a. m.	16	4 p. m.	32
9 a. m.	18	5 p. m.	32
10 a. m.	20	6 p. m.	32
11 a. m.	24	7 p. m.	32
12 m.	27	8 p. m.	32
		9 p. m.	30

for his knees are rather weak, and his feet though each is over thirty-two inches in length—were barely large enough to preserve his equilibrium. After he had done his turn two men ran up a ladder and helped him into his overcoat. His bed, without which he never travels, is a curiosity. It takes eight men to carry it.

KNAK'S ABUSE OF WILHELM

Slighting Remarks About the Kaiser Get One Into Trouble in Berlin.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Dec. 5.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—"I had the Kaiser here I would tell him he is a schaffkopf," literally sheephead, but colloquially synonymous with donkey, is one of the offensive remarks for which Paul Knak, an American citizen, is confined in Moabit prison at Berlin on the charge of libel against the Kaiser.

Knak was in a restaurant with a girl named Loewe. In a loud voice he drew a contrast between the German and American governments, greatly to the advantage of the latter. When warned by his neighbors that slighting remarks about the Kaiser were dangerous he replied as stated above and continued: "For the old Kaiser I had every respect, but I would not have the Kaiser's ears just as I would any one else's. The Kaiser is a lehmann," a term of peculiar opprobrium in Berlin, meaning vulgar and low. Thereupon the police were called and Knak was taken to the station.

Mr. Schwintz, an able and painstaking lawyer says Knak is present in an absolute denial of all knowledge of the remarks ascribed to him, as he was drunk. His first consciousness of his position was when he found himself at the police station. On the testimony forthcoming his conviction is tolerably certain, but the plea of drunkenness may be held as an extenuation. He is liable to a punishment of from two months to five years. It is expected he will get six months and be banished on his release from prison.

SENATOR ALLEN IS ON DECK

Nebraska's Senior Representative in the Upper House Attends Opening of Congress.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(Special Telegram.)—With the exception of Congressmen Greene and every member of the Nebraska delegation in the amount estimated by the opening of the final session of the Fifty-fifth congress today, Senator Allen arrived in the senate chamber shortly after the prayer of the blind chaplain, coming directly from the train to the capitol to participate in the solemn ceremony. To a Bee correspondent he said he had formulated no general plans for session work. He was interested in one or two bills of local importance, which he would endeavor to have considered and would aim to be ready to step down and out on March 4. He attributes his defeat to the stay-at-home vote. Upon the political situation in Nebraska the senator significantly said: "A republican caucus where each member is to be bound by a majority vote will make Mr. Thompson senior. If the republicans do not all go into caucus some other gentleman than Mr. Thompson will be elected."

The following estimates of appropriations are made by Secretary Gage for the fiscal year ending 1900, affecting interests in Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota: Indian affairs, Nebraska, \$60,000; rapid survey general office, South Dakota, \$7,000; pay of Indian agents, Omaha and Winnebago reservation, \$1,600; Santee agency, \$1,200; Pine Ridge, \$1,800; Rosebud, \$1,400; Sisseton, \$1,200; superintendent Indian schools, Grandfork, S. D., \$45,500; Rapid City, \$2,400; Pierre, \$2,550; Chamberlain, \$18,900; improvements Missouri river from mouth to Sioux City, \$300,000; assay office, Deadwood, \$12,500; Sac and Fox reservation, Iowa, \$13,225; fulfilling treaties with Arapahoe and Shoshone Indians in Wyoming, \$20,000; survey of private land claims in Wyoming, \$15,000.

MEIKLEJOHN NOT CANDIDATE

Above All Things He Desires Republican Success in Nebraska—Senator for South Platte.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—Assistant Secretary Meiklejohn is not a candidate for the United States senate, as is shown by the following letter addressed in answer to a communication from Hon. W. T. Thompson, central city, Neb., representative in the Nebraska legislature, inquiring if he was a candidate for the senate:

"WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—My Dear Thompson: I have the honor to acknowledge your esteemed favor of recent date, inquiring if I am or will be a candidate for the United States senate, to which I answer no."

"The South Platte territory is entitled to a representative in the senate of the United States and the republicans should have no difficulty in making a choice from the many excellent candidates who have already announced themselves."

"Above all things I desire republican success in Nebraska."

"Personal ambition should always be subservient to party interest and a wise selection from this section of the state will redound to the advancement of the party and become a potent factor in our politics."

"With renewed assurances of high esteem and consideration, I am yours very sincerely, G. D. MEIKLEJOHN."

CARLIST MOVEMENT GROWING

Pope Leo Calls on the Jesuits to Maintain Peace and Concord in Spain.

(Copyright, 1898, by Press Publishing Co.) LONDON, Dec. 5.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—The Rome correspondent of the Mail telegraphs: "The Pope Leo has written to Father Martin, the general of the Jesuit order, whose power in Spain is enormous, warmly expressing the support of St. Ignatius to cooperate in maintaining peace and concord in Spain."

for his knees are rather weak, and his feet though each is over thirty-two inches in length—were barely large enough to preserve his equilibrium. After he had done his turn two men ran up a ladder and helped him into his overcoat. His bed, without which he never travels, is a curiosity. It takes eight men to carry it.

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