

FIGHT FOR SPEAKER

Payne of New York a Logical Successor to the Coveted Position.

LITTLE CHANCE FOR HIM TO REACH IT

Unpopular with His Fellow Members as Account of Coldness.

SHERMAN WOULD BE OPPOSED BY PLAT

Littlefield Has Given Offense by His Independent Course.

PENSION COMMISSIONER SEES TROUBLE

Efforts to Save a Few Millions Will Bring the Pension Agents' Wrath Down Upon Him.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—(Special.)—The months immediately following the congressional elections promise to be very lively for members-elect of the Fifty-eighth congress. The removal of General Henderson as a factor in the coming speakership contest leaves the field open, with a large number of ambitious candidates already in the field. Mr. Littlefield of Maine has announced himself, formally. Under most circumstances he would prove a powerful candidate. He has the ability and physique to make an ideal speaker. He is well versed in parliamentary law and he comes from a state which has sent to congress at least two of the best speakers the house of representatives ever had—Blaine and Reed. But unfortunately for his chances, Littlefield antagonized his party associates by assuming the position which he did upon the Philippine bill. On several occasions the man from Maine has antagonized the majority of the house by refusing to be guided by the action of the republican caucus, and he has always assumed an independent position. This course may be very well for Mr. Littlefield's constituents, but it does not suit the party to which he is allied. His ability and strength of character are admitted on all sides, but he has not yet succeeded in demonstrating that he is a voiceleader certainly not in the republican caucus.

New York state has not furnished a speaker in a generation. There are able men and always have been in the state delegation, and the Fifty-eighth congress will be no exception to this rule. As chairman of the National railway committee, Sherman E. Payne is the floor leader of the republicans. With Henderson out of the way it might be a natural inference that Payne would appear as a strong candidate for the speakership. Mr. Payne is a good parliamentarian and a very consistent party man. In fact, on more than one occasion he has abandoned his convictions for the party good, notably in the matter of oleomargarine legislation. But Mr. Payne lacks every element of popularity. He has for the last few years held aloof from the caucus and has less than half a dozen friends in the house, and it is not stretching the truth to assert that it would be difficult to find a single man in his own delegation who would be willing to take off his coat and hustle for votes for Sherman E. Payne for the speakership, even though he may be the state's candidate.

Sherman More Popular.

On the other hand, James S. Sherman, the chairman of the committee on Indian Affairs, and one of the foremost members of the committee on commerce, stands as the most popular member from New York state. He has friends in every delegation, because he is always willing to put himself out to favor a fellow member. As a parliamentarian he occupies a place in the front rank. He has presided on many occasions as chairman of the committee of the whole and as speaker pro tem. On these occasions he has shown ability as a presiding officer and a willingness to rule impartially, which has won him the praise of his political opponents as well as his associates. He was at one time regarded as the logical successor to Speaker Reed, when that gentleman retired, but the antagonism of Mr. Platt prevented him from state, and consequently his candidacy was abandoned. The same antagonism may and probably will work to his detriment this time, but there is no question that the western members almost unanimously would prefer Sherman to any other eastern man.

Storms in Sicily Keep Up

Estimates Place the Number of People Drowned at Two Hundred.

SYRACUSE, Sicily, Sept. 28.—A fresh storm burst over the district of Santa Maria today and many houses were destroyed. The stormy weather continues generally throughout Sicily. It is now believed that 200 persons perished at Modica during the tornado. In one instance a family of nine persons, who were in the village of Sortino has been practically destroyed and forty-three persons were drowned. The water rose in the church to a height of twelve feet. Many children perished. There have been some slight degrees of pillage from the ruins and from the bodies which show the necessity of more troops to keep order. The total damage as the result of the tornado is expected to amount to over \$2,500,000.

LIPTON MAY TRY BALLOONING

Report Starts in London that He Will Go Up with Hon. C. S. Rolls.

LONDON, Sept. 28.—A news agency today makes the following announcement: Sir Thomas Lipton, who was recently appointed a member of the Aero club, contemplates a trip across the channel with Hon. C. S. Rolls, and in the event of the voyage being made in a balloon Sir Thomas will be accompanied by his steam yacht Erla.

Inquiry was made tonight at the home of Sir Thomas regarding the foregoing announcement. A personal friend of Sir Thomas, in the latter's absence, said to a representative of the Associated Press: "Mr. Rolls is the youngest son of Baron Liangtack, and an enthusiastic and experienced aviator. He believes he proposed to accompany a member of the Aero club, even for a man of Mr. Thomas's vast wealth, while to give up the newspaper project at this stage would not conform to Mr. Lipton's wishes."

WAR MAY STRIP UP A ROW.

Pension Commissioner Ware has announced that he has a plan whereby \$10,000,000 may be saved annually from the pension expenditures. Mr. Ware may be able to save pension money without reducing the number or amounts of pensions paid. But if he has such plans he is unique among men. H. C. Evans tried hard to save a few millions and he ran up against a snag from the outset. It was not the pensioners; the men who fought and who were provided for who antagonized the late commissioner, but the pension agents, who were after fees. They worked up a sentiment against Evans which finally led to his retirement. Mr. Ware sees that the munificence of congress towards the old soldier is abused. Thousands of men who never smelt powder and whose military service consisted in carrying a musket for ninety days; men who never left the county in which they lived have applied for pension. They are no more entitled to consideration than are boys who in 1871 willingly responded to the demand for military aid to protect railroad property from the depredation of the mobs, which, in the name of strikers threatened to destroy millions of dollars worth of property.

Mr. Ware may be able to save \$10,000,000 annually, but the hint that he can do so has already started up a horde of antagonists. The publication of his plan will be certain to lead to an onslaught upon him (Continued on Third Page.)

TURN TO ISTHMIAN SITUATION

French Editors See Many Results to Follow United States Intervention There.

WILL THOMPSON ACCEPT?

His Decision as to Taking Brazilian Post Awaited with Interest.

WHY HE IS OBSERVED SO CLOSELY NOW

Three Senatorial Fights Involved in the Present Proposition—Recounts Some Unwritten History.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

LINCOLN, Sept. 28.—(Special.)—The appointment of E. Thompson to represent the United States as minister plenipotentiary and envoy to Brazil is naturally the chief topic of discussion in political circles here at the state capital. Mr. Thompson has pursued in this reticence characteristic of all his public and private life, and so far as anyone can learn is still "thinking it over," undecided whether he will accept the proffered position. Among his friends here the feeling is one of apprehension that he will accept, while among those who have always been unfriendly toward him the hope has bogged the conviction that he will not.

Every one recognizes that an appointment to a first-class mission, second only to that of ambassador, and with a salary of \$12,000 per year, which is more than twice that of a United States senator and greater than that of the cabinet officers and United States supreme court, carries distinction greater than has been enjoyed by any Nebraska appointee except possibly J. Sterling Morton when he was made a member of President Cleveland's official household. To refuse to accept after the appointment has been made is a reflection on the immediate prestige for a possibility of future promotion. It would, moreover, place our Nebraska senators and others, who have been urging the appointment, in a decidedly embarrassing position, although it might relieve the further recognition of the obligation they admit they owe to Mr. Thompson. It is known that both the senators have been urging Mr. Thompson to signify his acceptance, and would much prefer to have him accept, even though a declination might lead them in better position to secure political favors for other political friends.

ENEMIES LOUDEST URGING TO ACCEPT.

The strange part of Mr. Thompson's predicament, for such it may be called, is brought out by the talk of an old politician last night, who has been on the inside of state politics for several years past. "The very people who have fought Mr. Thompson hardest," he said, "are beginning to urge his political aspirations, and one who would be most pleased to have him betake himself into political exile in Brazil," says this old timer. "Just look back at the succession of events since the campaign of 1898, in which Mr. Thompson made his debut as a candidate for United States senator. When it was found that the legislature of 1899 had gone republican and Mr. Thompson announced himself in the race, all the machinery of the Union Pacific-Elkhor combination, under direction of R. B. Schneider, was brought to play to head him off and make good the agreement to send Judge Hayward to the senate as a reward for making the race for governor. When Brad Slaughter ventured to write letters on behalf of Thompson on the National railway committee, he was called down and practically deposed. His position of vice chairman on the plea that the state committee and its officers must keep aloof from the senatorial contest. No sooner had Slaughter been deposed, however, than Schneider, although chairman of the committee, turned by negotiating a campaign manager and turned the whole committee into a Hayward campaign organization.

TIDAL WAVE WORKS HAVOC

Sweeps Away Big Crane and Partly Completed Harbor Works.

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 28.—Pacific reports from Salina Cruz, the latter terminus of the Tehuantepec National railway, confirm the earthquake Tuesday, confirm first reports. There were seventy shocks that afternoon and in the meantime a furious gale and storm sprang up. Persons there in charge of the port works immediately began to take measures to protect the harbor works and the plan of the Titan crane, which was out on one of the breakwaters, was quickly encircled with a defense of random blocks, and at 5 o'clock in the afternoon was reported to be organized. At 10 o'clock at night the storm had increased to a severity never experienced within the memory of the oldest inhabitants. A huge tidal wave leaped forward from the sea, lifting thirty and fifty-ton blocks like cockshells and sweeping the Titan crane over into the sea. The wave invaded part of the town, destroying some of its houses, and it is thought that damage must also have been done to the completed portion of the port works. The case was one absolutely impossible to foresee and provide against, its occurrence being one that scarcely happens in a generation. The loss from the breaking down of the new sea wall and the sweeping away of the huge crane will be \$500,000.

HALF YEAR ON THE WATER

Standard Oil Company Boat Anchors at Last with Its Crew Blind and Diseased.

NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—The British four-masted bark Kenmore, owned by the Standard Oil company of this city, arrived in port after a tedious voyage lasting 198 days. The vessel sailed from Yokohama December 10, via Hongkong, March 15. The vessel, an experienced light trade vessel, and very moderate weather, which, together with the bottom being unusually foul and covered with sea growth, caused a very long passage.

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NEW YORK, Sept. 28.—An autopsy was performed today on the decapitated body of James Craft, who was murdered early Tuesday morning in an Empire city. In Twenty-ninth street. The coroner's physician who performed the autopsy refused to say what it showed.

FRAM IS AT CHRISTIANIA

Sverdrup's Arctic Expedition Enters the Norwegian Harbor to Be Received Right Royally.

CHRISTIANIA, Norway, Sept. 28.—Escorted by warships and numerous pleasure steamers, Captain Sverdrup's Arctic expedition on Fram entered Christiania harbor today. The ship was saluted by the fort when it entered the harbor, where flags were flying from every mast. Sir Clements Robert Markham, president of the Royal Geographical society of Great Britain, who is now here, regards Captain Sverdrup's expedition as the most important since the Franklin expedition.

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SOLDIERS HAVE DAY TO REST

Strenuous Week Commences, However, Bright and Early Monday.

REOPEN ROOSEVELT'S WOUND

Doctors Establish More Thorough Drainage for the Leg Bone.

BONE FOUND TO BE SLIGHTLY AFFECTED

Incision is Made Only Into Small Cavities and Physicians Do Not Anticipate that Patient's Recovery Will Be Interrupted.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Sept. 28.—Secretary Cortelyou at 3:30 o'clock this afternoon issued the following statement: Dr. Newton M. Shafer of New York joined the president's physicians in consultation this morning at 10 o'clock. The increase in local symptoms of the rise in temperature rendered it necessary to make an incision into the small cavity, exposing the bone. Thorough drainage is now established and the physicians feel confident that recovery will be uninterrupted. The operation was performed by Surgeon General Rixey, assisted by Dr. Shafer and Dr. Cortelyou, with Surgeon O'Neil and Doctor Shafer, Urie and Stitt.

DIES FROM BEING CHOKED

Mrs. Dickson of Mobile Killed by Intruder Who Climbs In Through a Window.

MOBILE, Ala., Sept. 28.—Mrs. Helen Dickson was choked to death and her niece, Miss Rose Robertson, was assaulted at their home by an unknown man early today.

WOULD OUTWIT ELECTRICITY

Englishmen Come Over on a Hunt for Something Better Than Lightning Rods.

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NOT THE TIME TO BE TALKING

One of Alleged St. Louis Bombers May Have Something to Say Later.

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 28.—Robert M. Snyder, whose trial on the charge of bribery in connection with the Central traction bill comes up tomorrow, arrived here from Kansas City today accompanied by his wife. He firmly declined to discuss his case. "My presence here," said he, "shows that I am ready to testify. I cannot at the present time say any more. At a later time, perhaps, when I am free to talk, I may do so. I am in the hands of my counsel now. I know that much has been publicly said about me, but it would not be proper for me to deny or affirm at this stage."

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CONDITION OF THE WEATHER

Forecast for Nebraska—Fair and Cooler Monday, Tuesday Fair and Warmer in West Portion.

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