

# ASPIRE TO CHAIR OF SPEAKER HENDERSON

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 25.—The recent dramatic declination of Speaker David B. Henderson, of Iowa, to accept renomination as a candidate for congress, has injected into the approaching congressional elections a new issue and a new interest. To republicans, to the country at large, the elections in the several districts assume an importance only second to that possessed by an election for the presidency itself. On the results rests the determination of the question of the speakership of the next house.

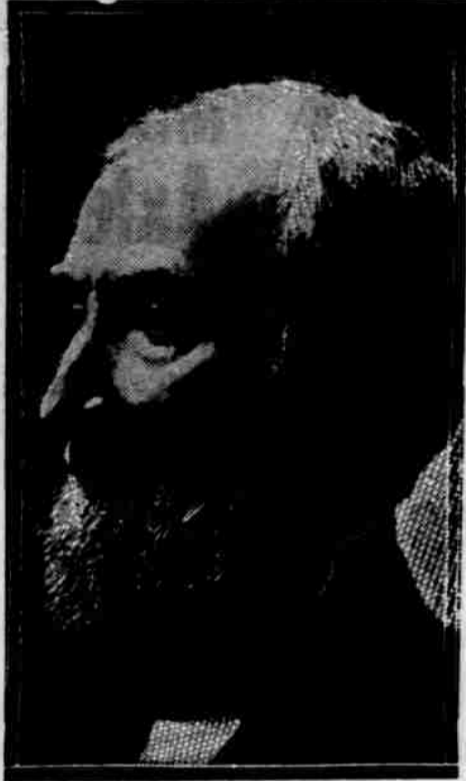
The speaker of the house of representatives has always been an important figure in national legislation, but in recent years his importance has grown

Schoolcraft Sherman, of Utica, who as a republican represents the Twenty-fifth district of New York, was mentioned some two years ago, at the time of the resignation of Speaker Reed, as the most likely successor to the latter. In fact, Mr. Sherman was strongly in the running against David B. Henderson at that time, and was understood to have withdrawn only in deference to the wishes of Senator Platt of New York. For a time he was regarded as a sure thing for the office, and it was generally believed that he was the personal choice of President McKinley. Mr. McKinley nominated him for general appraiser at New York, which, though

much distinction in his own state as a politician, having been state's attorney of Illinois from 1861 to 1869. His home is at Danville, but he was born at Gullford, N. C., in 1836. He was a close friend of President Harrison. He has always had a certain popularity in Washington. A man of plain manner and appearance, his Washington house is often a centre of social gaiety, but personally he has the reputation of being a man bent on business first and pleasure afterwards.

James A. Hemenway, of Indiana, another leading republican representative, who has been spoken of as a candidate for speakership, was first elected to the

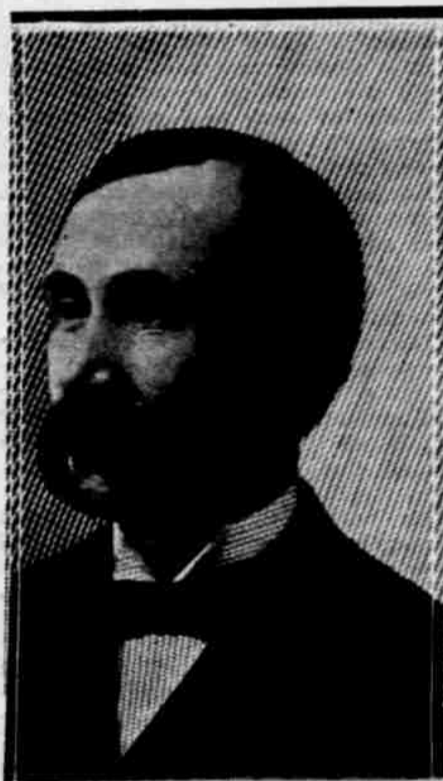
speeches in congress have won for him comparisons to Blaine and Reed. He had previously served in the Maine legislature and has been attorney-general of the state. At one time he was mentioned as a candidate for the United States senate against Eugene Hale. Last summer Mr. Littlefield was spoken of as a possible future speaker, and it was rumored that he would have the support of President Roosevelt, whose recent selection of the famous Maine congressman to father the anti-trust law seemed to back up that view. Congressman Littlefield is one of the tallest men in the house, spare and lean of figure, and with an immense capacity for work. The son of a New York county Baptist minister, he began his political career as a Maine assemblyman in 1885, being soon chosen as the speaker of the legislature. He was a delegate at large to the national republican convention in 1896. While a loyal republican, Mr. Littlefield openly opposed President McKinley's charge on the Porto Rico tariff issue. He voted also



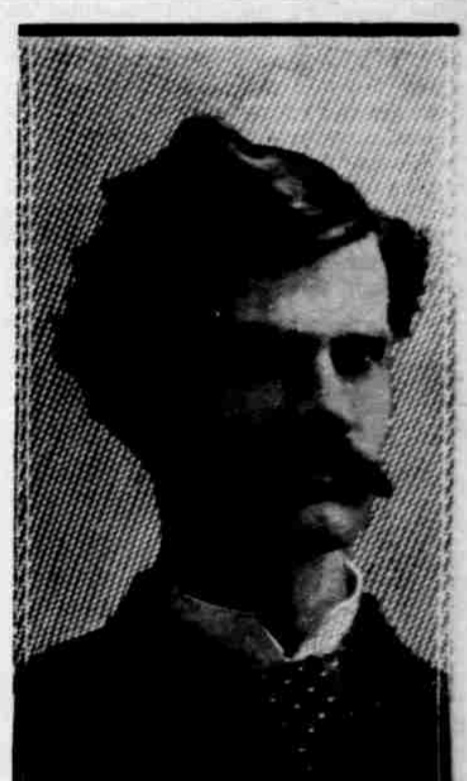
REP. G. CANNON.



REP. CUSHMAN.



REP. HEMENWAY.



REP. J. S. WILLIAMS.

to greatly increased dimensions. He is a figure only second in power to the president himself, and in some respects his power is greater. At this time, when there is divergence on vital issues in republican ranks, the elections are awaited to learn not merely the answer whether republicans or democrats shall dominate the house, but, in event of the success of the republicans, how the country regards the issues now before it for consideration. With republicans in the majority and the selection of a speaker becoming their first work the answer to be given at the polls will in all probability prove a determining factor in the choice they will make.

It here becomes interesting to glance at the leading members of the house who already present themselves to the minds of republican politicians as candidates for what is practically the second most important office in the country.

One of these, Representative James

practically a life office, he declined at the instigation, it is said, of his own constituents, who desired that he retain his seat in congress. In his speakership race against Henderson, Sherman had but one formidable opponent, Sereno Payne, of Auburn, N. Y., then chairman of the ways and means committee. When he retired from the speakership contest Sherman was believed to have secured eighty-three votes out of the ninety-two necessary to secure the caucus nomination. He has been six times elected to congress and defeated once.

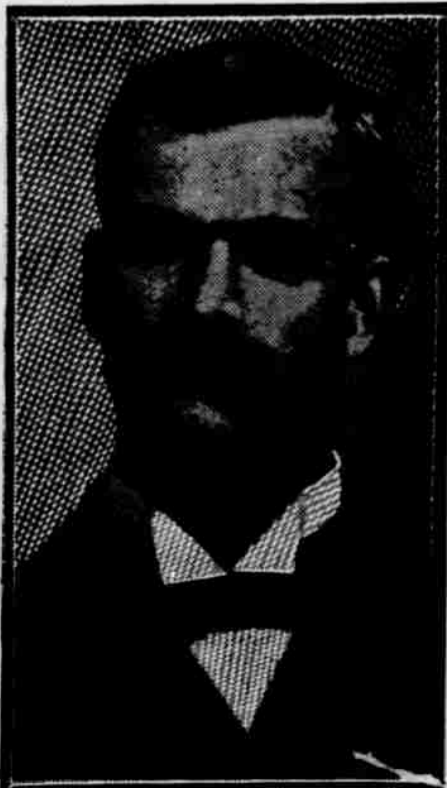
Congressman "Joe" Cannon, of Illinois, will doubtless be the strongest middlewest candidate for speaker. In November, 1889, he did come forward as republican candidate for the office. He has been a member of many house committees, including that on rules, and is an acknowledged authority on postal matter. Lawyer, farmer and banker, he entered the Forty-third congress after

Fifty-fourth congress in 1894. During his first term in the house he received an unprecedented honor for a representative of his standing, in being appointed by Speaker Reed a member of the committee of appropriations. He continued a member of that committee during his second congressional term. Born at Boonville in 1860, he is regarded as a self-made man, having begun life in a tannery and worked his way into law and politics. Like Mr. Cannon, he is a strong middlewest possibility for the speakership, and in the event of the former being made speaker. Mr. Hemenway would probably be taken care of by being given the chairmanship of the appropriation committee.

One of the most prominent republican representatives on the floor of the house, and a possible candidate for the speakership, is Charles E. Littlefield, of Rockland, Maine. He came to congress as the successor of Nelson Dingley. His

for Cuban reciprocity, and has declared himself as absolutely against the exercise of autocratic powers by the speaker. He was one of the signers of the minority report on the exclusion of Representative Roberts of Utah in 1900, saying that while he disapproved of polygamy he saw great danger in congress establishing precedents such as those involved in the disqualification of the Mormon representative. He is said to be even more radical than Roosevelt; is equally frank in his opinions and always ready for a fight. He is fond of horses and the drama, and one of his aphorisms is that "Congress must regulate the trusts."

Frank W. Cushman takes rank among republican congressmen who may possibly succeed to the speakership. By birth an Iowa man, he passed many years in Washington, the state from which he entered the Fifty-sixth con-



REP. LITTLEFIELD.



REP. UNDERWOOD.



REP. J. E. BURTON.



REP. D'ARMOND.