

# SCENES AND PERSONS SNAPPED AT OPENING OF CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The politicians of both parties are awaiting with much more than usual interest the developments of the closing session of the Fifty-Seventh congress. It is true that there is no one question now before the American people that may be called a burning issue, but there are a number of questions, separate in name, yet allied to each other in such manner that they really constitute an entity, and an entity that appeals both to the sentiment and the material interests of the citizen, in whatever class he may be placed. These allied questions are tariff revision, reciprocity with Cuba—and with other nations as well—the trusts and that of the

elements of the republican party have succeeded in confining their discussion to their own household while maintaining an unbroken front in the presence of the enemy. All the indications are that this attitude will be maintained.

Naturally, the message of the president to the congress has created much public comment. As to its effect in appreciable results there is difference of opinion. Hitherto President Roosevelt has not succeeded in affecting legislation in a measure commensurate with his apparent desires. Whether he will now succeed in converting his ideas into concrete action that will make his personality a real force, or whether he will

restive under this inaction and will demand a change. On the other hand the republicans assert that the democrats are themselves so divided on all the uppermost questions of the day that they are incapable of making effective opposition and will completely fail to convince the people of the country that its destinies would be more hopeful if committed to their hands. Of course, it is also admitted that happenings entirely apart from the doings of either party in the congress may occur to render party action on either side secondary to them.

There is also present in the minds of politicians the possibility of an extra session to be called on March 4, immedi-

ate books that in self-defense he will be forced to call the new congress into session before its appointed time.

Whether, if he does this, the Fifty-eighth congress will be more amenable to his wishes than its predecessors is another question that causes doubt to arise in the minds of those who give it consideration.

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Taylor—When shall you pay me that bill?

Smithkins—Upon my soul, old chap, you remind me of my little nephew.

Taylor—I do? Why?

Smithkins—Because you ask questions that for the life of me I can't answer.



THE SENATE

SPEAKER HENDERSON

REPRESENTATIVE J. G. CANNON

SENATOR W. P. FRYE

J. C. PRUDEN

THE OPENING OF THE HOUSE

ever present internecine war between labor and the capital it has created. In addition is the question of the isthmian canal, so important to the commerce of our Atlantic and Pacific coasts and to our trade with the far east.

If either the dominant republican or the opposition democratic party was united in its stand upon any one of these questions the country could await the outcome with greater complacency. It is evident, however, that in neither party is there complete unity. In the Democratic party the cleavage between the conservative and the radical elements is distinctly marked. In the republican party this cleavage is not so apparent on the surface, but that it exists no observer of the trend of the political movement can deny. Hitherto the opposing

be a spectacular but ineffective figurehead is also a question on which there is difference of opinion.

That the work of the present session, as presented by the representatives of both parties, will largely determine the result of the presidential election of 1904 and the complexion of the house then to be chosen is admitted by all. The democrats make no concealment of the fact that in this congressional session lie all their hopes of regaining control of the ship of state. They argue that the divisions existing within the ranks of the republicans, together with the strong antagonism of many of the most powerful leaders to the views of the president, will nullify all effort to accomplish anything beyond routine legislation. They believe that the country will become

ately on the expiration of the existence of the present congress. Friends of the president argue that he cannot well go to the country as a candidate for election to the office of chief executive if the record shows that during his present incumbency he has accomplished nothing; that he has failed to carry through to active reality any of the measures he has advocated; that while treated with outward respect by the leaders of his party he was practically ignored and regarded as an interesting and amusing nullity. This possibility of an extra session depends entirely upon the doings of the present one. There are many, however, who believe that this congress will fall so far short of accomplishment in the enactment of measures the president desires to see placed upon the stat-

George (reading)—"The women work hard, but the men are usually idle. When a man no longer pleases a woman she turns him out and gets another husband. The women show no love for the men; if they should be demonstrative the whole tribe would despise them."

Jack—What under the sun are you reading?

George—A book about Abyssinia.

Jack—Good Lord! I thought it was an essay on Society!

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"It is appalling to think of the temptations to which young men are exposed. We women should do what we can to lessen them."

"I do my share. For the last five years I have made it an inflexible rule never to flirt except with married men."