

WASHINGTON LETTER

WASHINGTON, August 7.—If today was not the proudest day Speaker Crisp ever saw his looks belied him, and he must differ from the average man. His first election to be Speaker of the House—an office only second in authority and dignity to that of President—was the end of one of the bitterest contests ever waged within party lines and now, after being unanimously nominated for the position by the party caucus he is for the second time elevated to the honorable position. It was a personal triumph of which any man might well be proud, and which few men have attained. The following officials were also elected by the House: Clerk, James Kerr, of Pennsylvania (re-elected); Sergeant-at-Arms, Herman C. Snow, (ex-Congressman) of Illinois; Door-keeper, A. B. Hurt, of Tennessee; Postmaster, Lycurgus Dalton, of Indiana, (re-elected); Chaplain, Rev. S. W. Haddaway, of the District of Columbia.

Vice President Stevenson presided over the opening session of the Senate, which was a short one, as President Cleveland's message will not go in until tomorrow.

There were several good reasons why a large attendance was not expected at the opening of the extra session. There was no contest over the Speakership and many members of the House took no interest in those over the other officials; still, the percentage of members present was about the average for the first day of a session. All the members have been heard from and they will all be in their seats before the House is ready to get down to real business, which it cannot do until Speaker Crisp has completed and announced the committee assignments, for the very simple reason that none of the bills introduced can be acted upon until then.

Speaker Crisp is losing no time and just as soon as he can get the committee assignments completed he will announce them, but there is not much probability that it will be earlier than next week. The proposition has been made that Mr. Crisp follows the example set by President Cleveland, in announcing the members of his cabinet as fast as they were selected, and announce the committees as fast as they are made up, so that they may get to work on the bills as fast as they are introduced; but the suggestion is hardly practicable. There is so much dove-tailing necessary in assigning the members to committees that the committees are all practically made up at about the same time.

Some one has proposed and the proposal meets with favor from many members, that an entirely new committee, to be called the committee on Coinage and Currency, be added to those existing in the House, and that to it be referred all bills relating to coinage and currency. The reason for this proposal is the constant clashing between the committee on Coinage, Weights and Measures and that on Banking and Currency, as to the reference of bills. Should the proposal be adopted those two committees would be less important, as the first would deal only with comparatively insignificant bills relating to Weights and Measures and the latter only with bills relating to Banking. The new committee, if formed, would rank with the Ways and Means and Appropriation committees in importance.

President Cleveland returned to Washington Saturday afternoon and spent Sunday quietly at his suburban residence. He says he never felt better, and he certainly looks to be in the most robust health. He is very confident that the legislation of the extra session will be satisfactory.

Treasury officials say the scarcity of small bills which is now prevailing is no fault of theirs, as they have plenty of small notes and gladly furnish them to banks which apply for them in exchange for notes of larger denomination. A Congressman speaking of this, said: "There seems to be a screw loose somewhere, when business men of New York pay a premium to get small notes when by sending to Washington, only six hours away, they could get all they needed without paying anything. This matter ought to be looked into."

The administration proposes to do its part in helping the National banks to increase their circulation, and the bureau of Engraving and Printing is now working extra time printing small notes to supply the demand expected to be made by the banks.

THE METALS MUST PART

Cleveland Urges Repeal of the Sherman Act.

MAIN POINTS OF THE MESSAGE.

The Present Condition of the Country.

Foreign Nations Profiting by Our Mistakes—Lack of Confidence a Serious Menace—Not a Party Matter—Immediate Action Necessary—Tariff Reform Can Wait Until the Financial Problem is Settled.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9.—The following are the main points of President Cleveland's message to Congress, read in both Houses at noon yesterday:

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

The existence of an alarming and extraordinary business situation, involving the welfare and prosperity of all our people, has constrained me to call together in extra session the people's representatives in Congress to the end that through a wise and patriotic exercise of the legislative duty with which they are solely charged, present evils may be mitigated and dangers threatening the future may be averted.

Our unfortunate financial plight is not the result of untoward events nor of conditions related to our natural resources; nor is it traceable to any of the afflictions which frequently check national growth and prosperity. With plentiful crops, with abundant promise of remunerative production and manufacture, with unusual invitation to safe investment and with satisfactory assurance to business enterprise, suddenly financial distrust and fear have sprung upon every side.

I believe these things are principally chargeable to Congressional legislation touching the purchase and coinage of silver by the general government.

This law provides that in payment for the four million and five hundred thousand ounces of silver bullion which the Secretary of the Treasury is commanded to purchase monthly there shall be issued Treasury notes redeemable on demand in gold or silver both at the discretion of the Secretary of the Treasury and the said notes may be reissued. It is, however, declared in the act to be "the established policy of the United States to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other upon the present legal ratio or such ratio as may be provided by law." This declaration so controls the action of the Secretary of the Treasury as to prevent his exercising the discretion nominally vested in him.

If by such action the parity between gold and silver may be disturbed, manifestly a refusal by the Secretary to pay these Treasury notes in gold, if demanded, would necessarily result in their discredit and depreciation as obligations payable only in silver and would destroy the parity between the two metals by establishing a discrimination in favor of gold.

Up to the fifteenth day of July, 1893, these notes had been issued in payment of silver bullion purchases, to the amount of more than one hundred and forty-seven millions of dollars. While all but a very small quantity of this bullion remains uncoined and without usefulness in the Treasury, many of the notes given in its purchase have been paid in gold.

The policy necessarily adopted of paying these notes in gold has not spared the gold reserve of one hundred millions of dollars long ago set aside by the government for the redemption of other notes, for this fund has already been subjected to the payment of new obligations amounting to about one hundred and fifty millions of dollars on account of silver purchases, and as a consequence for the first time since its creation has been encroached upon.

We have thus made the depletion of our gold easy, and have tempted other and more appreciative nations to add to their stock. That the opportunity we have offered has not been neglected is shown by the large amounts of gold which have been recently drawn from our Treasury and exported to increase the financial strength of foreign nations. The excess of exports of gold over its imports for the year ending June 30, 1893, amounted to more than eighty-seven and a half millions of dollars.

At this stage gold and silver must part company and the government must fall in its established policy to maintain the two metals on a parity with each other. Given over to the exclusive use of a currency greatly depreciated according to the standard of the commercial world we could no longer claim a place among nations of the first class, nor could our government claim a performance of its obligations so far as such an obligation has been imposed upon it, to provide for the use of the people the best and safest money.

It does not meet the situation to say that apprehension in regard to the future of our finances is groundless and that there is no reason for lack of confidence in the purposes or power of the Government in the premises. The very existence of this apprehension and lack of confidence, however caused, is a menace which ought not for a moment to be disregarded.

The people of the United States are entitled to a sound and stable currency and to money recognized as such on every exchange and in every market of the world. Their government has no right to injure them by financial experiments opposed to the policy and practice of other civilized states, nor is it justified in permitting an exaggerated and unreasonable reliance on our national strength and ability to jeopardize the soundness of the people's money.

This matter rises above the plane of party politics. It vitally concerns every business and calling and enters every household in the land.

It is of the utmost importance that such relief that Congress can afford in the existing situation be afforded at once.

It was my purpose to summon Congress in special session early in the coming September that we might enter promptly upon the work of tariff reform, which the true interests of the country clearly demand, which so large a majority of the people, as shown by their suffrages, desire and expect, and to the accomplishment of which every officer of the present administration has pledged. But while tariff reform has lost nothing of its immediate and permanent importance and must in the near future engage the attention of Congress, it has seemed to me that the financial condition of the country should at once and before all other subjects, be considered by your honorable body.

I earnestly recommend the prompt repeal of the provisions of the act passed July 14th, 1890, authorizing the purchase of silver bullion, and that other legislative action may put beyond all doubt or mistake the intention and the ability of the government to fulfill its pecuniary obligations in money universally recognized by all civilized countries.

GROVER CLEVELAND.

Table of Votes Cast at Democratic Delegate Election Saturday August 5th 1893.

TOWNSHIPS and DISTRICTS.	County Treasurer.										County Commissioners.											
	Proth. G. M. Quick	Reg. and Rec. J. B. Casey	A. B. Coon	J. P. DeWitt	J. R. Fowler	L. J. Hess	C. Kettnerman	W. G. Girtton	J. N. Gordon	M. Hamlin	G. M. Keeler	C. Reichart	J. G. Swank	C. H. Moore	T. B. Hanly	County Surveyor						
Beaver	109	3	23	96	3	21	49	2	28	1	24	3	10	19	1	114	3	60	14	121	121	
Benton	220	4	104	2	117	2	22	155	3	40	1	1	3	10	1	187	4	80	1	124	220	
Berwick, N. E.	64	2	3	62	2	29	1	2	1	22	1	1	1	6	1	33	2	2	1	59	62	
Berwick, S. E.	42	2	4	39	2	31	2	5	1	7	1	1	1	4	1	39	2	2	1	44	44	
Berwick, N. W.	38	2	1	40	2	7	3	22	2	8	1	1	1	1	1	40	2	2	1	40	41	
Berwick, S. W.	34	2	4	29	2	16	1	8	1	10	1	1	1	1	1	29	2	2	1	32	34	
Bloomsburg, 1st Dist.	90	2	47	1	47	1	55	2	23	13	3	3	3	15	43	1	3	1	50	1	9	
Bloomsburg, 2nd Dist.	100	2	32	1	68	2	24	39	1	29	1	8	25	50	1	4	32	1	5	64	103	
Bloomsburg, 3rd Dist.	172	3	79	1	98	2	44	1	42	1	13	6	58	109	2	21	64	1	19	74	174	
Bloomsburg, 4th Dist.	176	3	60	1	112	2	55	1	28	64	2	29	5	53	1	97	2	19	45	1	75	
Briar Creek	103	3	34	1	67	2	74	3	5	17	4	1	7	36	1	2	60	2	2	90	104	
Catawissa Borough	135	2	31	1	103	2	10	32	37	1	49	1	6	8	3	111	2	83	2	7	9	
Catawissa Township	37	2	13	1	20	1	10	16	1	6	6	1	5	25	2	20	2	9	4	7	37	
Centralia, 1st Ward	134	2	125	2	12	109	2	5	15	5	115	2	3	7	3	110	2	1	20	134		
Centralia, 2d Ward	110	2	99	2	11	50	1	1	59	1	1	99	2	2	7	74	2	2	36	101		
Centre	111	3	26	1	83	3	4	1	1	104	3	8	6	2	2	41	1	3	97	112		
Cleveland	82	2	4	77	2	25	1	10	46	1	2	63	2	6	23	17	46	13	4	5	81	
Conyngam, North	214	3	70	1	134	2	53	1	9	150	2	2	43	3	15	5	177	3	10	148	214	
Conyngam, West	47	2	12	40	2	10	1	39	2	5	11	1	1	1	1	39	2	2	36	25		
Conyngam, South	64	2	15	49	2	13	1	51	2	1	13	1	13	2	78	2	64	2	51	2	64	
Conyngam, South E.	85	2	74	2	7	4	1	81	2	1	78	2	1	1	1	84	2	2	8	5	85	
Fishing Creek	147	4	50	1	96	3	30	1	71	2	32	1	17	1	4	109	4	65	2	75	145	
Franklin	49	2	25	1	20	1	24	1	17	1	5	1	10	21	1	23	1	2	15	1	48	
Greenwood, East	92	2	45	1	46	1	5	75	2	7	1	1	10	35	1	46	1	8	72	2	92	
Greenwood, West	58	2	28	1	32	1	5	11	43	2	1	1	1	6	2	50	2	5	49	2	61	
Hemlock	136	3	34	1	101	2	36	1	76	2	18	2	4	69	2	5	52	1	15	98	136	
Jackson	113	2	45	1	69	1	5	59	1	46	1	2	9	2	10	1	89	2	1	98	111	
Locust	113	2	31	81	2	76	2	16	11	12	107	2	4	61	1	2	45	1	3	15	114	
Madison	144	3	79	2	65	1	25	52	1	60	2	2	1	11	46	1	4	90	2	19	104	
Main	104	2	46	1	66	1	9	12	51	1	37	1	2	14	44	1	18	40	1	70	2	
Millville	42	2	20	1	22	1	5	8	29	2	1	1	1	4	18	1	38	2	2	33	41	
Mifflin	137	3	38	1	94	2	22	31	1	28	1	48	1	3	13	34	1	4	69	2	119	
Montour	83	2	40	1	43	1	9	31	1	30	1	14	7	5	56	2	7	25	9	59	83	
Mt. Pleasant	93	2	25	64	2	8	42	1	31	1	10	4	1	2	7	74	2	9	64	2	90	
Orange	87	2	27	60	2	5	41	1	13	27	1	2	6	38	1	4	42	1	20	52	88	
Pine	84	2	62	2	29	1	7	78	2	1	2	2	2	1	4	83	2	18	66	2	90	
Roaring Creek	58	2	18	41	2	26	1	25	1	2	4	36	2	4	32	1	3	20	1	10	6	
Scott, East	122	2	7	112	2	7	1	33	81	2	2	1	80	2	17	7	36	14	87	2	123	
Scott, West	88	2	4	67	2	5	36	1	3	24	1	1	11	17	2	44	2	30	1	35	1	
Sugarloaf, North	128	2	62	1	61	1	8	37	78	2	1	1	1	3	6	115	2	2	114	2	129	
Sugarloaf, South	65	2	17	45	2	12	26	1	25	1	3	3	6	1	1	59	2	2	57	2	65	
Total	4110	95	1563	29	2525	66	989	23	1097	24	1423	36	584	12	641	12	398	4	1062	23	322	6

T. B. Hanly, candidate for District Attorney, and C. H. Moore, candidate for County Surveyor, each received 95 convention votes; the entire number of delegates.

Lochren Lays Down Rules.

The General Defends the Pension Bureau's Working Under the Change of Plan.

THE LAWS TO BE ENFORCED FAIRLY.

Commissioner Lochren has addressed the following letter to the editor of the National Tribune:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF PENSIONS, WASHINGTON, Aug. 1, 1893.—Sir: I have not complied with your repeated request that I should cause a test to be made to show the number of fraudulent pensions, by having 1,000 cases drawn from the admitted files and examined. I have not done this for several reasons:

First. Fraudulent cases, if any exist, cannot be discovered in that way. A fraudulent pension must ordinarily have been obtained upon false or forged testimony. On the face of the papers such a case would probably appear to be well established and incontestable.

Second. No one whose opinion is entitled to consideration has, I think, had the hardihood to claim that the great mass of adjudicated pension cases is permeated with fraud, open and plain on the papers, so that the examination of 1,000 cases would disclose an instance. And I certainly have far too high an opinion of my old comrades to believe that any large number of them are scoundrels, who have sought and obtained pensions dishonestly. Especially I believe that the pensions granted to soldiers who did actual service in the field, on account of disabilities of service origin, are usually honest and well deserved.

IN DEFENSE OF PENSION ATTORNEYS.

No doubt rests on this class of cases and no examinations of them are being made, except where evidence is received tending to show that some particular case is fraudulent or has been improperly decided. Even among the twelve Apostles there was only one who was unworthy and among the brave and true soldiers of the Union army it cannot be denied that there were a few bounty jumpers, and men who were of no credit to us and of little deserving, and who have been perhaps among the most eager for a place on the pension roll at a high rating. The investigation as to the work of dishonest pension attorneys at Norfolk, New Mexico and Iowa show local frauds of large extent. But it would be far from fair to conclude from such cases that pension attorneys are generally unscrupulous or dishonest.

I think, on the contrary, they are ordinarily as honest, painstaking and careful as other business men. A case of alleged fraud is brought to the notice of the bureau by information from some source. If the information is indefinite or appears to be prompted by malice, it is disregarded. If it seems to be trustworthy the case is investigated, the pension being suspended during the investigation, according to the uniform practice of the bureau from the beginning. If the pension is improper, it should not be paid; if not shown to be improper, the suspended pension is all paid, and the suspension enlists the active co-operation of the pensioner in furnishing

evidence and reaching a speedy result.