

HARRISBURG LETTER.

The Contest For United States Senator Already Begun.

SENATOR QUAY ON THE SCENE.

In the struggle for the speakership John R. Farr of Scranton, seems to be in the lead—The New Capitol Building So Far as Completed.

(Special Correspondence.)

Harrisburg, Jan. 2.—The general assembly will open its biennial session at 12 o'clock tomorrow noon in the new capitol building. After the senate and house have organized Governor Hastings will send in his biennial message. A recess will probably be taken after the organization for several days to allow the president pro tem, and speaker to prepare the lists of standing committees. Neither of these lists will hardly be ready to announce before the inauguration of Governor-elect Stone, on Jan. 17, so that the legislature will not get down to work in earnest before February. There is a strong sentiment among the legislators in favor of a short session, and a resolution may be introduced tomorrow fixing the date of final adjournment. The last legislature closed July 1, and the incoming body will hardly complete its labors before the middle of May, at the earliest. Both Democrats and Republicans will caucus this evening for the organization of the two houses. The Republicans have a majority of 74 on joint ballot, and naturally expect to control both bodies. There are 37 Democrats and 12 Republicans in the senate and 127 Republicans and 71 Democrats and six fusionists in the house.

There are many Democrats anxious to fuse of the speakership with the independent Republicans, and this matter will be discussed at their caucus. Charles B. Spatz, of Berks, is the only avowed candidate on the ground for the Democratic nomination for speaker. General W. H. Kooztz, of Somerset, an independent Republican, is the choice of the fusionists for speaker. To be elected on this issue he would have to poll the votes of 71 Democrats, six fusionists and 27 independent Republicans.

Farr in the Lead For Speaker. John R. Farr, of Scranton, is the most formidable aspirant for the Republican nomination for speaker. He has been endorsed by the Philadelphia delegation, or a large part of it, and claims to have a large following in other localities. George M. Hosack, of Pittsburg, is the choice of a majority of the Allegheny members. Ward R. Bliss, of Delaware, is the most aggressive candidate, and claims to have the pledges of 50 members, nearly all of whom come from county districts.

William T. Marshall, of Allegheny, so far has no opposition for chairman of the house Republican caucus. This is a most important position, as the chairman joins with the chairman of the senate Republican caucus in fixing the date for the caucus for the nomination of a candidate for United States senator to succeed Senator M. S. Quay. The house chairman also appoints the slate committee which makes up the list of officers and employees of that body.

Senator John C. Grady, of Philadelphia, will probably be chairman of the senate Republican caucus, by which a candidate for president pro tem, will be chosen. The officers and employees of the senate will be chosen by a slate committee appointed at the close of the '97 session. Senator William P. Snyder, of Chester, is the only Republican aspirant for president pro tem, and his nomination and election is assured. William T. Creasy, of Columbia, expects to be chairman of the house Democratic caucus, and Senator J. Henry Cochran, of Williamsport, will probably preside over the senate Democratic caucus.

Senator Quay's friends have fixed tomorrow evening for the senatorial caucus, and the only question now is whether 128 Republicans will go into the meeting. If they do everybody admits that Quay will control a majority and that he will be nominated. His opponents are making an effort to keep enough members out of the conference to prevent a nomination. If they can do this they expect to defeat the senator's re-election. Congressman John Dalzell, of Pittsburg, and Charles C. Tubbs, of Tioga, are the other avowed aspirants for the senatorial nomination. Dalzell is considered weak in that he lacks home endorsement, and Tubbs went into the contest solely to prevent Quay's friends from instructing the two members from Tioga. Tubbs is here, but he is making no effort to secure votes. Quay's friends have established headquarters at the Lochiel hotel, in charge of Chairman Elkin, of the state Republican committee. They have appointed committees on reception to meet the legislators on their arrival, and this evening they will hold a street demonstration in the senator's honor.

Senator Quay on Hand. Senator Quay reached here at midnight from Washington to take personal direction of his campaign. He will be the guest of County Chairman Weiss during his visit. The senator will remain in Harrisburg until after the senatorial caucus. The fight against Quay is being directed by E. A. Van Valkenberg, the leading spirit of the Business Men's League. His headquarters are at the Commonwealth, where Dalzell will also hold forth. Ex-Postmaster General John Wanamaker, of Philadelphia, and other active anti-Quay leaders, arrived today to aid Mr. Van Valkenberg. Senator-elect David Martin, of Philadelphia, who will retire as secretary of the commonwealth with Governor Hastings, reached the city last evening. He was accompanied by Mrs. Martin and Receiver of Taxes and Mrs. William J. Honey, of Philadelphia. The party are the guests of Governor and Mrs. Hastings at the executive mansion. Senator Chris L. Magee, of Pittsburg, the leader in western Pennsylvania, arrived this morning. Chairman M. Garman, of the state Democratic committee, arrived yesterday to look after the party's interests. Colonel James M. Guffey, of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania's representative on the national Democratic committee, is kept away by illness. Republican workers are being brought here from all over the state to take a hand in the fight for United States senator.

The hotels are crowded with legislators, politicians and office seekers in the assembly, and by tonight they will be filled to overflowing. The Quay managers are on the aggressive, and are leaving nothing undone to make votes for their leader. The anti-Quayites are just as active, but there are not near so many of them.

The New Capitol. The new capitol, although unfinished, presents a very creditable appearance inside, and the legislators will be comfortably housed. The senate and house chambers are large and well ventilated and appointed for the use of the legislators. The floors are covered with new carpets of modest designs and the furniture has been utilized that was used at Grace church by the last legislature. Thirty large committee rooms have been furnished for the use of the assembly, and there are rooms for newspaper correspondents, telegraph and telephone offices, postoffices and lavatories.

There is an abundance of room for the legislature in the completed part of the building. The structure does not present a very fine appearance on the outside, but it is substantial and well built. The exterior walls are of ordinary red brick and are so constructed that they may be faced at any time with marble or granite. A temporary stairway has been built leading to the senate and house chambers and the spectators' galleries. The stairways and rotunda will eventually be covered with marble.

The walls of the assembly chambers are covered with red and white burlap, decorated in gilt, and the ceilings are festooned with shields and small flags, making a very pretty effect. The capitol building commission estimates that it will require an appropriation of \$5,000,000 to complete the building and erect departmental wings according to the original plans of the architect. The question of an additional appropriation is one of the most important that will come before the next legislature. A low dome in rough finish, is 82 feet in diameter, and 160 feet lower than the ultimate altitude of 250 feet intended. It is now 90 feet above the foot of the main stairway, which, though with wooden steps and railing at present, is imposing, and at the top winds gracefully on each side to the chambers. Great possibilities of impressive finish suggest themselves in the magnitude of the already symmetrical rotunda, with its circle of 16 great iron columns surrounding, on the first floor, a corridor 20 feet wide, and on the second, a main lobby, of grand proportions.

Spacious Corridors. The extreme length of the present building is 315 feet, to which the prospective north and south wings will add an aggregate of about 150 feet, each projecting 60 feet from the main front. From front to rear of the existing structure the distance is 260 feet. Spacious corridors branch north, south and east from the rotunda. The rear wing is 90 feet wide. The front cornice is 80 feet above the ground. The work already done on the building cost about \$500,000, the remaining \$500,000 of the last legislature's appropriation having gone for the famous litigation, architect expenses, etc.

It is claimed that over 90 per cent of the visitors here, and other people who have expressed themselves on the subject, while anxious to guard against waste or corruption in the proposed building, declare in favor of having a capitol of which the commonwealth will be proud, and against limiting the cost to the views of the last legislature. The entire floors in the east wing are not yet partitioned. The floor on a level with the senate and house is ready on one side with rooms for the officers of the former, and on the other for the house officials. Postoffice, telegraph and telephone facilities are on a floor not formerly approached, and for the first time each legislator's office will have his own locker for clothing, etc. A restaurant is still in prospective. For the toilet rooms, though but of temporary finish, are claimed the best sanitary provisions. The plumbing, conduits, wiring, steam pipes, venting system, etc., are pronounced all for all time.

The Lighting Facilities. The night lighting in the halls of both houses is entirely from above the ceilings, through ground glass diffusers in form of skylights, there being 72 "incandescent arc" lights above the house and 48 over the senate, shedding a mellow glow without glare. The heating is by both direct and indirect radiation, there being steam radiators under all the windows and in the corridors, while for both houses a blower system in the cellar supplies fresh air through tempering coils. This air is drawn down and out of the chambers, so that it is said to be completely changed every ten minutes. Eventually under every chair will be an air "exhaust." The direct heat is kept at a uniform degree as wanted, by thermostats. Two of the proposed four electric elevators are ready for use.

Rough brick walls like those of a great factory present an uninviting aspect to the state legislators. The best is not on the outside, however, for even in the unfinished state of things, the members, when in their respective chambers, will be thoroughly comfortable and enjoy more pleasing surroundings than the men longest in the state's service as lawmakers ever had in the old capitol or Grace church. Even what is already erected is much larger every way than the old capitol. Their difference is best illustrated by the fact that the hall of each house is 20 feet longer and wider than the former, while the ceiling is 43 feet high, and the back building of six stories runs 40 feet further eastward, toward Fourth street, than the old two-story rear structure. Bigness is the first suggestion to newcomers, and the critics find no fault with material or workmanship. Acoustic tests by visitors in both halls indicated that speakers would be satisfied.

Nearly a year's delay was caused by the litigation which Attorney General McCormick started to confine the cost of a complete building to the original appropriation. The commission, which will shortly include William A. Stone in addition to Auditor General McCauley, State Treasurer Beacom and the two permanent members, Henry K. Boyer and S. J. M. McCauley, claim a majority of them at least, that the present preparation for the legislature is in accordance with the supreme court's interpretation adverse to Mr. McCormick's view.

WASHINGTON.

From our Regular Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 20, 1899.

The administration is not so cocksure as it was that its bill for the increase and re-organization of the regular army, which, if it becomes a law, will increase our military expenditures, including pensions, to an amount largely exceeding that paid by any European government to maintain a great army on a war footing, and which is masquerading in the House as the Hull bill, can be put through the Senate. Consequently it is becoming more than a suspicion that the carrying out of the recent decision to muster out 50,000 of the volunteers is to be postponed and manipulated so as to get votes in the Senate for the army bill; and no large number of volunteers are likely to be mustered out until Senatorial pledges enough have been secured to make the passage of the bill certain, and it may be impossible to obtain those pledges, as strong endorsement of the Democratic opposition to the bill is coming from every direction. Of course, this sort of thing is hard on the volunteers, but the administration isn't worrying about that.

The Vanderbilt interests are not satisfied with owning one seat in the Senate—that promised by Boss Platt for Chauncey Depew; they are out for another seat. The body of Senator Morrill, of Vermont, who died in Washington last week, and whose funeral will be held in the Senate chamber to-morrow, was hardly cold before the wires were being pulled to get Dr. Seward Webb, who married one of the Vanderbilt girls, and who acquired a residence in Vermont several years ago for the purpose of awaiting Senator Morrill's death, appointed to succeed him. This scheme will be watched with much interest, particularly as it has been a boast of Vermonters that the state has never had a rich Senator. Perhaps the Vanderbilt who owns "Biltmore," in North Carolina, also has an eye on the Senate.

It strikes the average man, who has no prejudice in the matter, that the protection editors, whose papers are among the 157 dailies which comprise the American newspaper Publishers' Association, were very illogical when they signed an argument, to be presented to the Anglo-American Joint High Commission, asking that newspaper, which now has a duty of \$6.00 a ton, and that mechanically ground wood pulp, which now has a duty of \$1.67 a ton, be admitted from Canada free of duty. The argument goes on to say that the duty on paper and wood pulp acts solely for the benefit of the paper trust, which is unquestionably true, just as the duty on many other things acts for the benefit of other trusts, the most of which could not possibly exist under free trade. For a protection paper to ask for free trade for the paper it buys and a high tariff on things which others buy, is equivalent to a man saying, "tread on everybody else as much as you please, as long as my toes are spared." These gentlemen should bear in mind that the average man can see through their selfishness, and that if free trade in paper and pulp is a good thing, it must be equally good in everything else. It has been the favoring of particular interests that has disgusted so many with every protective tariff we have had. The theory that every man should be allowed to buy where he can buy the cheapest is thoroughly good, but it isn't carried out by allowing one man that privilege and denying it to another. Equality before the law—the only real equality possible in any country—is the corner-stone of free government. Every man that lessens it weakens free government.

It seems from the reports of Gen. Otis that Aguinaldo will be unable to hold his government together long enough to be officially asked to step down and out by Gen. Otis. His Cabinet has resigned and he has not been able to form another, but that is no reason why a good enough government for the Philippines would not be formed from the educated and well-to-do natives, if this government chose to lend a hand in doing so. Aguinaldo is an adventurer, who was a priest's servant only a few years ago, and who has been seeking only his own gain, not the welfare of the Islands. He and several others of a kind sold out the Philippine insurgents for a sum in Spanish gold and then Aguinaldo stole the money from his fellow traitors.

Senator Perkins, of California, says he intends voting against the ratification of the treaty of peace, unless instructed by the legislature of his state to vote for it. He said further: "I have very strong convictions on this subject, and am not endeavoring to draw an unnecessarily dark picture when I say that a general reaction against expansion is now going on all over the country, and before a great while we will be brought face to face with a realization of the fact that we have more momentous problems to solve right here at home, without going to the far-off Philippines in search of material with which to establish a colonial policy. I am quite sure that other Republican Senators are as much opposed to the policy of expansion, as announced by the President, as I am. I am convinced that the more our practical business men ponder the subject, the more they will be impressed with the belief that we do not desire, nor do we need, the Spanish colonies of the Pacific or the West Indies."

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