

CONGRESS.

THE LAST SESSION OF THE FORTY-NINTH CONGRESS.

A Few New Members Take the Oath. The Old Line of Business Will be Taken Up Where the Last Session Left Off—A Probable Programme.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—At 12 o'clock to-day the second and last session of the Forty-ninth congress convened. The senate was called to order by Mr. Sherman, president pro tem., and the house by Speaker Carlisle. The first work was the administering of the oath to the two new senators and the new member, Mr. Williams, who succeeds Mr. Hearst, of California, and Mr. Cheney, the successor of the late Mr. Pike, of New Hampshire, in the senate, and Mr. S. C. Cook, of New York, successor to Mr. Pulitzer, in the house.

The reading of the message will occupy most of the afternoon, and at its conclusion the senate intends to adjourn over until Tuesday, out of respect to the memory of Mr. Pike, deceased, while the house will adjourn for the day in respect to the late Messrs. Arnold and Beach, of New York.

A condition of business exists in both houses, which, under ordinary circumstances, would be conducive to disorder and a general scramble for precedence. Neither of the presiding officers nor any of the leaders in either branch had any definite idea as to the real order of business during the week, while a number of gentlemen are determined to secure consideration of various measures if possible.

When congress adjourned on Aug. 5 last, Mr. Hisecock, of New York, had the floor in the house for the purpose of moving the suspension of the rules to pass a bill. As that was the first Monday of the month it was suspension day for private individuals. Mr. Hisecock says that he would insist, if the opportunity existed, upon continuing his motion and occupying the floor, but he recognizes that his motion will have to go over until the first Monday in January. The measure which he desires to pass provides that all leaf tobacco imported in bales, etc., shall pay a duty of \$1 per pound if stemmed, and seventy-five cents per pound if unstemmed, and is known as the Sumatra tobacco bill. When the house meets on Tuesday the special order on the calendar will come up, unless motions to suspend the rules prevail. There are a number of special orders which are liable to be pushed to the front, among them the free ship bill, the electoral count, the Oklahoma, Thurman's railroad bill, the increase of the army, etc.

There are also specially assigned some measures relating to labor, and as these are subjected to the least antagonism, a motion to suspend the rules and consider them may prevail. It is generally believed that the week will be occupied by the house in the consideration of special orders. One or two of the appropriation bills will be reported by Saturday, the sundry bill being promised by Friday.

In the senate Mr. Platt intends to make an effort on Tuesday to secure consideration of his resolution providing for open sessions for the consideration of executive nominations. There has been a great deal of discussion on this subject during the recess, and the impression prevails that it has gained strength. If this is true, Mr. Platt, if persistent, will likely succeed in securing consideration. Should he fail, however, a mass of business on the calendar will be referred to. The unfinished business will, of course, come first. This is an act granting a pension to John S. Williams, voted by the president, and reported back from the committee with recommendation for passage. Other matters on the calendar likely to receive early consideration are measures affecting land grants and prohibiting members of congress from acting as attorneys for corporations which have received governmental aid.

The senate will have a number of executive sessions during the next few days for the purpose of referring presidential nominations to committees, and there will be no action taken upon them for some time and until they have been matured in committee and reported to the executive calendar.

Seventy-six working days will elapse from the time this congress convenes until the term expires. After deducting two weeks, which are usually taken for the holidays, sixty-two working days will remain. There are fourteen regular appropriations bills to be passed before March 4, and as it is not likely that more than one or two, if any, will go to the senate before the second week in January, it can be seen that little other legislation is likely to be enacted, since any one of the four or five of the appropriation bills may provoke debate lasting from a week to ten days. It is the purpose of the conferees on the part of both houses on the subject of inter-state commerce to get up for consideration the result of their labors before the holidays. A cheerful view is taken of the outlook for legislation, in the face of the fact that the elections are over, political speeches all made and a general desire exists for actual work.

LINCOLN HALL BURNED.

Aid a Discharged Watchman Suspected of Causing It.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—Herzog's Opera House, better known as Lincoln hall, on the corner of Ninth and D streets, was entirely destroyed by fire, at an early hour on Sunday morning. An alarm of fire was sent in and several engines responded promptly, and a general alarm which soon brought the entire force to the spot was sounded. The fire, however, with the light and inflammable part of the stage for food, and a high wind to fan the flames, soon burned up everything but the iron walls of the building. The loss on building and property is estimated at about \$100,000, with insurance probably amounting to three-quarters of that sum. A watchman named Parker, who was dismissed by the opera house manager Saturday, is suspected of having set fire to the building.

A Postoffice Sold.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 6.—The old postoffice building on Chestnut street was sold at public sale by order of the assistant secretary of the treasury. The first figure at which the building started was \$300,000, and for a time it was quite popular, the bids being from \$1,000 to \$10,000 at a time. Finally the lot with its appurtenances was knocked down to Elias D. Williams, for Mr. A. J. Drake, for \$435,000, or \$135,000 in excess of the limit. Real estate men consider the figure as being remarkable, showing a wonderful increase in the value of Chestnut street property. It was said that the price, \$7,130.29 per foot, exceeds any previous sale of real estate in Philadelphia.

No More American Opera.

CHICAGO, Dec. 6.—A special to The Herald from St. Louis says: The American Opera company will cease to exist to-day, and will hereafter be known as the National Opera company. Mr. Theodore Thomas, president of the former, becoming vice-president of the latter. This information was obtained by your correspondent from a reliable and trustworthy source. Just what brought about this result or what it is expected will be accomplished by a change of name is not known. All the members of the opera company have left for Chicago.

WHO SWINDLED THE GREASERS!

A Shrewd and Bold Enterprise of a Bogus Agent.

New York, Dec. 6.—Henry E. Abbey and John Schoeffle, the managers of Adeline Patti, were in constant communication with the Mexican authorities yesterday in reference to the unknown man who had collected \$40,000 in the City of Mexico by representing himself to be Mr. Abbey's agent and then selling tickets for Patti's appearance in that city. Mr. Zinn, who has charge of Mr. Abbey's office in this city, was also busy telegraphing to Mr. Abbey, who is in Baltimore, and Mr. Schoeffle, who is in Boston.

It is said that Mr. Abbey has an idea as to who the swindler was, but owing to the absence of his superior, Mr. Zinn refused to give the name of the man who is suspected, but said he was one of the many persons who went down to the Laura M. Starin to meet Mr. Abbey and Patti on their arrival here on the Umbria Nov. 15. E. Orrin, who has charge of the Astor fair at the Cosmopolitan theatre, in this city, and whose brother is manager of the opera house in the City of Mexico, refused to say who the suspected swindler was, but intimated that he was located and would be placed under arrest within twenty-four hours. In fact, all of the people connected with the Abbey management seem to be positive as to the identity of the man, but refuse to make public their suspicions.

WANTS ANOTHER ATTORNEY.

The Plaintiff in a Buffalo Sensational Divorce Case.

BUFFALO, Dec. 6.—The divorce proceedings instituted by Frances M. Sears against Charles C. Sears have come before the Buffalo courts in a new phase. Affidavits were filed by Mrs. Sears and her attorney, J. Treadwell Richards, of New York, showing that there has been a falling out. Mrs. Sears desires the court to substitute Day and Romer as her attorneys and to compel Mr. Richards to give up the papers in the case. She says his bill is too high and that he refuses to transfer the papers until he is paid. She asks that a reference be ordered, that the amount to be paid by her may be determined. In his affidavit Mr. Richards says he has for some time desired to get out of the case, not because he has doubts about the merits of the prosecution, but because the case has become burdensome and annoying.

He asks that a New York referee be appointed, because he could not get justice under the Buffalo scale of fees. For instance, he pays \$2,500 office rent and his clerk hire is as much more. Besides, his clerks and books will have to be used in trying the case, and he wants pay for that. He presents a list of men with whose appointment as referee he would be satisfied.

Preparing for a General Strike.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 6.—At a joint meeting of the Cabinetmakers and Carpenters' unions Henry Emmerich, of New York, general secretary of the International Cabinetmakers' union, delivered an address. He said that on Jan. 1 a demand will be made throughout the United States for the adoption of nine hours as the length of a day's work. Employers will be given two months to decide, and the system will go into operation April 1. If it does not the organization should be strong so that a general strike could be resorted to. Mr. Emmerich said all other trades unions are expected to follow in the demand.

To Have a Democratic Postmaster.

BUFFALO, Dec. 6.—A dispatch from Washington says that Postmaster Bedford is likely to be suspended. There are several candidates for the office, among them G. C. Grimard, cashier of the water department, to whom Mr. Cleveland is said to have promised the office when he was running for governor. Grimard has not said anything about the promise, which was made in a joking manner, but his friends say that there is reason to believe that he will get the place. He has resigned his present office.

Mail Bags Refused.

LONDON, Dec. 6.—Mail bags containing letters for New York, bearing the mark "per steamer Umbria," were taken alongside that vessel at Liverpool on Saturday, but the ship's officers refused to receive them, and the bags were sent to Queenstown, via Holyhead, to be forwarded to New York by the Alaska. The Cunard company will probably be prosecuted for the refusal of its officers to receive the mails on board the Umbria. The penalty for such refusal is \$1,000 for each bag. Three bags were refused.

An Authority on Jack Fishing.

Upon one occasion an illiterate relative of Mr. Jefferson, who had long refrained from thrusting his rusticity upon his celebrated kinsman, though all the while extremely eager to see him, was prevailed upon to visit Monticello. Unshowered into the drawing room, he was introduced by the host to the assembled company, and during this performance he slipped several times on the well waxed floor, his awkwardness being, of course, overlooked. Then seating himself in a stiff, embarrassed attitude, he kept perfectly silent. After chatting with several persons Mr. Jefferson took a seat beside him and endeavored to make himself very entertaining. He touched upon a variety of topics, as was his wont, or until he got a theme suited to the tastes or abilities of his interlocutor; but all in vain, for the embarrassed relative remained as dumb as an oyster.

At length, in despair of drawing a word from him, Mr. Jefferson happened to ask him if he was fond of jack fishing. The countryman's eyes snapped, and he immediately poured forth a garrulous budget in regard to his favorite sport, to all of which Mr. Jefferson, amused as were the others present, listened attentively. When he had ended Mr. Jefferson opened up eloquently on the same subject, and displayed such an intimate knowledge of jack fish that the countryman was held spellbound, and as soon as the great singer stopped he rushed for his hat and bolted from the house, despite the most persuasive entreaties for his re-entry in the "octagonal" room.—Baltimore Sun.

The Lawyers Great Procrastinators.

If I was called upon to select the greatest procrastinators in the world, I would select the lawyers. They wait until the last moment, and then come rushing in to do something when they know they are too late. They then storm around because they are not allowed to do something that they know they have no right to do under the rules of the court and the laws of the state. I believe if the courts were kept open until midnight nine months in the year, you would find some of these lawyers rushing in at 12 o'clock to file a paper that should have been filed two weeks before. Many of them wait until the last day and the last hour of the term with their stipulations and motions, when they appear and confuse the records and upset all previous calculations.—Circuit Clerk in Globe-Democrat.

In the Pillars of the Elevated.

In New York the iron pillars which support the elevated roads have been pre-empted by the English sparrows, and there, in the midst of an almost constant din, thousands of little sparrows have been hatched.

A grose that has been in the La Clair family for forty-one years died in western New York the other day.

OUR CHRISTMAS GREETING:

—TO— Fathers, Mothers, Sister, Brotherers and All.

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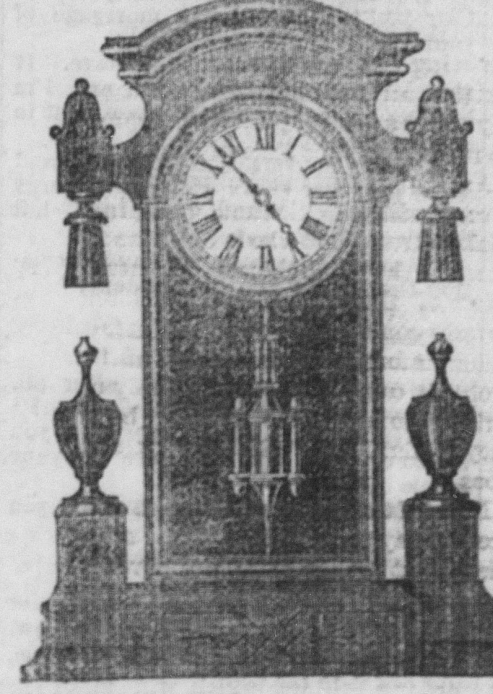
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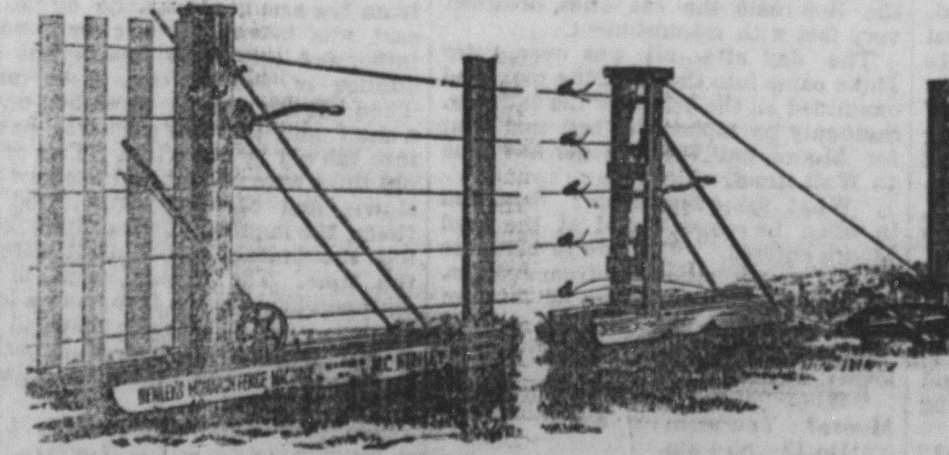
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11 Because by weaving past the post, and fastening the wire strands to the posts with staples, and not nailing the ends to posts, this keeping the wood parts from coming in contact with each other, it will not hold the moisture of rot. This is a very important matter, as all boards in board fences soon rot off at post, and occasion continued expense for repair.
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