## **RETURNOF SPEAKER KIEFER**

## WAS CZAR OF THE HOUSE WHEN PRESENT SPEAKER "JOE" CANNON WAS MEMBER

## One of the Three National Years.

The return of General J. Warren Kiefer to Congress after an absence canized in 1881. It was "a famous longress and Kiefer's pathway was lot one of roses. He became involred in a controversy with H. V. Boynton, then dean of the Washing-on correspondents, and the bitter at-acks of Boynton had much to do with Klefer's retirement from public life although he was but 48 when he tary life.

# NO INSURANCE LEGISLATION.

## Congressmen Will Talk, But Won't Pass Bill.

ance law during this session of Con- ure embodying their exact views will gress. Statesmen of all sorts and conditions will talk much about it. There Speakers Who Have Been Returned will be a great deal of discussion on to Congress After a Long Laspe of the floors of both houses. Senators and Representatives alike will vie with each other in denunciation of the methods of the insurance magnates as exposed in the legislative investigation of 22 years is of more than passing which occurred in New York. Already nterest for the reason that he was divers and sundry lawmakers at both speaker of the House which was or- ends of the Capitol have submitted remarks that have stirred their constituents to increased admiration of the eloquence and alertness of the men whom they have had the wisdom and foresight to send to Congress. But in the end nothing will be done-that is, nothing except a heap of talk.

## No Constitutional Provision.

The reason of this is that the Judianished his fourth term in the House. clary Committees, both of the Senate Since then he has not been idle but and House, thus early have about conhas been prominent in civil and mili- cluded that the Constitution of the He returns to Congress as United States does not provide for the did Nathaniel P. Banks and Galusha kind of legislation which is recom-A. Grow. They had been Speakers mended in the President's message,

#### Meanwhile, a great deal of wire-pull-CHARACTER OF AARON BURR.

ing is going on in favor of the general proposition. It cannot be asserted that any one of the numerous bills thus Defender of His Fame Was Willing far presented has the approval either, but Didn't Know Tricks of Oratory. Legislative experts at Washington do of President Roosevelt or Senator Dry-The first secret society with which

not look for the passage of an insur- den, though it is presumed that a meas- I was ever affiliated was called the be submitted within the next few "Omega," which was two-thirds liferweeks. It is known that so anxious are ary and one-third social, said an old the insurance people for some form of college man, who has since won dislegislation taking away from the tinction as a national orator and cam-States the supervision of insurance companies that they are prepared to paign speaker. In our rival society, spend unlimited money in the work of the "Alpha Rho," this order of things education, but thus far they have not was reversed and we prided ourselves been able to make much headway. greatly on the fact that our "feast of Like all campaigns of education to reason" outranked the "flow of soul." which Washington has become accus- Ours was a good deal of a debating tomed, it is expected that the usual society, and though I early gained amount of speculation as to the out some reputation as a speaker, I was come will be indulged, but this will either too bashful or too ignorant to not effect the judgment or the conduct take part in any of the debates. of those members of Congress who have One of my intimate chums was the final decision of the question named Grant, who excelled in that

ary Committees.

through their influence with the Judici- line and although much younger than the average member, never hesitated States Insist on Rights.

to cross swords with the older ones and was not infrequently the victor. He was very anxious that I should

A factor of no inconsiderable weight in the matter is the insistence of near- learn to debate, and frequently urged ly all the State governments upon their me to at least make a commencement, rights in the premises, and as Congress arguing that after I had gotten over does not seem to care to lend further ald at this juncture to the centraliza-tion movement which is rapidly becom-ing an acute issue in State politics, it is regarded as altogether likely that the Sadarditation of the unsue with the time in which

had read quite extensively about him,

both in history and fiction, and said to me that this would be an excellent opportunity for me to make my de-

Grant himself was to answer one of

corner of his porch he placed a wind-lass, with a small steel cable extending the important part I was to play in the down to the box-post on the main road, coming drama, and there seemed to me around a deeply-grooved wheel on the no reason why I should not score a post, and back to the porch. As complete success. But as the hour of shown, the box is connected in this the meeting drew nearer the success cable, forming the link for the broken seemed to grow more problematical ends. The box is fitted with top and by the time the debate opened, my wheels, which run on a fixed cable, thoughts were completely topsy-turvy Burr was an Italian or a Chinaman.

the situation demand. When the mail carrier reaches the The man who opened the debate Senator Dryden, who studied law in box-post (which is visible from the showed plainly that my hero was evpeakership. He clings to the garb of Yale, but who has not practiced much porch), he puts in the mail and raises erything that was vile and wicked and the old time statesman and wears at in the courts, is of the opinion that a signal. Some one at the house takes should have been tried and convicted all times an old fashioned swallow there is nothing in the Constitution, the handle of the windlass and turns as a traitor, and I found myself wontailed coat cut much like the dress either expressed or implied, which Con- it rapidly, and the box, with its burden dering how Grant could possibly ancoats of to-day. General Kiefer gress should regard as an inhibition in of mail, comes sailing up the wire, swer all these terrible charges. But perved four terms in Congress, com- this matter. But other members of the The mail is then removed and the box his defense was spiendid. He spoke in



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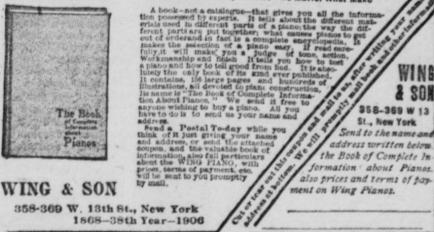
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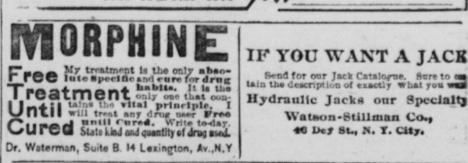


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#### J. WARREN KIEFER AT 48 AND AT 70.

Hes white hair and beard which were the situation demand. tawny brown in the days of his Senator Dryden, who ng to Washington first for the special Senate who have practiced law for sion of 1877. peaker of the 47th Congress, Dec. sey statesman is in error. It is asth, 1881, serving but the one term. sumed that, generally speaking, the Last year he was nominated for picked lawyers of both branches of Congress and had no very hard time in getting the honor. The district is Judiciary in each house, and it can be strongly republican and his majority positively stated that as the case now was the largest ever given any candl-

many years before and their return and is being advocated by Senator was notable. Each, like Keifer, lived Dryden, of New Jersey, president of for years without prominence in poll- one of the big life insurance companies, but both were older when they as well as by other financial magnates came back. General Kiefer is now who, like Senator Dryden, are directly interested in insurance and are pre-He was always a conspicuous man sumed, therefore, to know better than stretched tight from the porch to the and I could hardly remember whether and is the more so now because of his anybody else what the exigencies of post.

> He was chosen years declare that in this the New Jer-Congress compose the Committee on stands the majority of the members of

both committees are opposed to the

Federalization of insurance will at he lived, good or bad?" Grant knew least be held in abeyance for some that I was quite an admirer of Burr, time yet.

Aerial Mail Box. .

In Delaware, Ohio, an ingenious citisen by the name of Taggart lives on a the oldest and best debaters and I high hill some little distance off the could answer the one who followed main road. The hill is of loose gravel him. He coached me very thoroughly, and at its foot is a small creek, inno-cent looking and easily forded in opponents urged against Burr, to cite ordinary weather, but swelling rapidly my proofs, showing he was neither a with heavy rains. The rural carrier, drunkard nor a libertine, as they would whose route extended to Mr. Taggart's residence, found the frequent high wa-ter and the rough, hilly road such a source of defay and inconvenience that the Department ordered the route changed and Mr. Taggart was directed must not allow myself to become flur-thanged and Mr. Taggart was directed to place his box on the main road. Mr. ried or excited, that I could occasion-Taggart protested, declaring that he ally refer to my notes and in fact talk would not walk that distance. Then and act just as if I were simply arguhis inventive brain conceived the trol- ing with one or two of my schoolley or aerial mail box. At a convenient mates.

ends.

General Klefer has a great war ecord. As a fighter and leader he and few equals in the Union army. He was practicing law when the first mlarm of war was sounded in 1861 and he at once volunteered as a priv-Before going to the front be was ate. commissioned major and was pro-moted very rapidly, rearing in 1865 as brevet major-general and as a briga- House insisting that the great Chief dier in active service. At the battle Justice Marshall blazed the way for of the wilderness in 1864 he was everely wounded but would not give famous decision defining in effect interrendered. A born soldier he could not resist the call to arms when the war with Spain came on, and was made a major-general of volunteers. States, to say nothing of the applica-bility to this case of another all-em-bracing decision of his concerning the implied powers of the Constitution. He commanded a brigade under Sherdan in the Virginia battles that led up to Appomattox. At the battle of dnes of the enemy he found himself judiciary. suddenly surrounded by a large body As usua onfederates. They could not disinguish his Federal uniform in the House. At the opening of the session fark and he was equal to the occas- Senator Culberson, of Texas, introduced

souncils of the nation. As an ex-speaker he has been given a chairman-thip and was also allowed the privilege nto the lottery scramble. Speaker Dannon was in Congress during gen-

The members of this sub-committee, hey were warm friends. Generai istricts in Ohl- containing big man-fracturing establishments. He has 'ound few of his old colleagues in the House. Many are dead and many more long ago retired to private life. Cannon and Bingham, Hitt rad Payne, also Ketcham of New York, are about all who are now in the are about all who are now in the House who were with Kiefer in the stirring days of his speakership.

Very Trying.

A man who usually grumbled at everything and on every occasion, was attacked by rheumatism. He was carefully nursed by his wife, who was very devoted to him, in spite of his fault-finding disposition. Sometimes the sight of his suffering caused her to burst into tears as she sat at his bedside

One day a friend of the invalid came in, and asked him sympathetically how he was getting on.

"Badly, badly!" he exclaimed; "and it's all my wife's fault."

Yes. The doctor told me that damp places were bad for me; and there my wife sits and cries just to make the air in the room moist."

The highest mountain in Africa is in Uganda. On this mountain there are one hundred square miles of snow and ice directly under the equator.

osition. It is, of course, possible that a bill may be framed bringing the subject within the united powers of the Constitution, but none of the measures thus far presented meets the objections of most of the experts in Congress who have been consulted on the matter There is a considerable element in the He stayed at it until Lee sur. state commerce as intercourse between

## Not-Satisfactory to Lawyers.

But broad as these doctrines are Sailor's Creek, General Kiefer had an experience out of the ordinary. Going alone at dusk to observe the members of the two committees on the

As usual, the Senate has gone more directly at the subject than has the Mark and he was equal to the occasion. Wheeling his horse about he bried out in tones of command "Attention, men, right about face, march."
Thinking it was one of their own prices the confederates followed him into the Union camp where to their lisgust they found themselves prisoning.
He returns to congress vigorous and the returns the returns the congress vigorous and the returns the retu ager for active participation in the gress adjourned for the holiday recess the Senate committee briefly considered the proposition presented by Mr. Culberson, and referred his resoluof choosing his old seat without going tion to a sub-committee with instructions to report in extenso as soon as practicable after the holiday recess.

### THE INGENIOUS MAIL BOX.

a good sprinter can cover the distance. Multiplying gears in the windlass in-crease the speed. So far as is known, Mr. Taggart is the first to apply this idea to a rural mail-box.

## Would Spoil flis Pleasure.

of me, Mary I" cried Pat, springing to his of me, Maryl' cried Fat, springing feet in desperation. Mary, however, was determined on this point, and Pat finally violated to her "last rayquist." "I'll lave her ride be me side," he promised, weeping bitterly, "but mark ye, Mary, dar-lint, 'twill shpoil the day for me entoire-

coasts back to its post. The distance | his usual flery manner and all my forof one hundred yards is covered in mer admiration for Burr returned and about ten seconds, which is as fast as I became eager to help defend him. The debater who I was to answer was a slow, earnest speaking fellow; not very bright, but accustomed to ar-gument and fond of statistics, and even before he had finished I had again veered around and found I was losing

my faith in my side of the question.

# When my name was called, I rose as if in a dream, and for about, I pre-

sumed, ten minutes, talked the veriest lot of nonsense that was ever heard in a debating club. If I looked at my notes I found that I had said every-thing about the subject that I could think of, and if I tried to extemporize, I repeated the former things over and over. The ordeal was finally passed and as I took my seat there was a little perfunctory applause, and then the president promptly decided the case against Burr.

Grant was sitting quietly and look-ing straight ahead into vacancy and I noticed he had made no demonstration



Photos by Burr Meli SUNSHINE AND SHOWERS." Characteristic poses of the Quaint Comed an, Marshall P. Wilder, who styles himself "The Prince of Entertainers and the Entertainer or Princes."

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