

FIFTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

Attendance at Both Senate and House Is Notably Large.

SENATE A FLORAL BOWER

Bouquets Showered on Members of the House.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In Both Branches of Congress the Reading of the Document Is Listened to with Close Attention and Is Greeted with Applause in the House--The Galleries Are Crowded with Gaily Attired Women and Brilliant Costumes of Fair Spectators Add to the Brightness of the Scene--Speaker Reed Wields a Gavel Made of Historic Timber--Seventy-Seven Senators and Three Hundred and One Representatives Respond to the Roll Call.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The attendance in the session of the senate today both on the floor and in the galleries was notably large despite the well understood fact that little business beyond the presentation of the president's message and the proceedings incident thereto would be transacted.

At 10 o'clock the members of the senate gathered on the floor and in the galleries and the president's message was read. The galleries were crowded with women and children, many of whom were gaily attired.

At 10:30 o'clock the roll call was taken and the attendance was as follows: Present, 77; absent, 10; excused, 10; not voting, 10.

The president's message was then read and was listened to with close attention. It was greeted with applause in the house.

The speaker then delivered his opening address, in which he referred to the president's message and the state of the country.

The session then adjourned until tomorrow morning.

A SCENE OF BEAUTY.

The chamber was literally a floral bower, the desks of the Republican members being especially burdened with fragrant offerings.

After blind chaplain Milburn had delivered the invocation, in which he touching referred to the illness of the president's mother, several senators responded to the roll call.

The house was formally notified that the senate was in session, and senators Johnson and Gorman (Maryland) were appointed a committee to inform the president that congress was in session and ready to receive any communication from him.

Meanwhile, a resolution from Mr. Cullom (Illinois) was adopted, fixing the time of daily meetings of the senate at noon, and a recess was taken until 1 o'clock.

At 1:30 senators Allison and Gorman reported that the president would immediately communicate with congress, and soon afterwards Mr. Prudden, the president's assistant secretary, introduced the message. The message was listened to with much interest, and at the conclusion of the reading was ordered to be printed.

The death of Senator James Z. George, of Mississippi, was announced. The usual resolution of condolence was adopted, and as a further mark of respect the senate adjourned until tomorrow.

OPENING DAY IN THE HOUSE.

Speaker Reed Uses a Gavel Made of Historic Wood--Bill Introduced.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The opening day of the regular session in the house passed without unusual incident of any character. The formalities attending the inauguration of the session were dry, and except as a spectacle hardly repaid the crowds which thronged the public and private galleries. Yet with few exceptions the visitors sat through the whole proceedings, Mr. Dingley, the floor leader of the majority; Mr. Bailey, the recognized leader of the minority; and Mr. Grosvenor, of Ohio, enjoyed the distinguished honor of being appointed to wait on the president, who delivered his message, of course, the event of the day. Its reading was long and tedious, but it was followed with close attention by the members and spectators. There was no demonstration until the reading was concluded, when the Republicans joined in a hearty expression of approval. Immediately after the reading of the message the house adjourned out of respect to the memories of Senator George, of Mississippi, and Representative Wright, of Massachusetts, who had died during the recess.

The floral tributes were no less profuse than in the senate. Among those thus remembered were General Wheeler, of Alabama; Mr. Hooker, of New York; Mr. Dovener, of West Virginia; Mr. McAleer and Mr. Dalzell and Mr. Harmer, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Henderson,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Currency and Cuba Are Chief Among the Topics.

FAVORS SPANISH REFORM

The Country Should Be Given a Fair Trial.

The Present Costly System of Indefinite Gold Redemption of Greenbacks a Menace--Plan of Reissue Only for Gold Recommended When Revenues Meet Expenses.

The Test of the Present Revenue Laws Not Complete--Suspension of Aggression as to Cuba Expedient. Postponement for a Fair Trial of the Sagast Administration Reasonable--Its Innovations Honestly and Well Begun.

Washington, Dec. 6.—President McKinley sent his annual message to congress today. It is as follows:

IT GIVES ME pleasure to extend greeting to the fifty-sixth congress assembled in regular session at the seat of government, with many of whose members and friends I have been associated in the executive service. Their meeting occurs under favorable conditions, justifying sincere congratulatory wishes for our great acknowledgment to beneficent Providence, which has so signally blessed and prospered us as a nation. Peace and good will reign in the nations of the earth, and the clouds of the past are cleared away.

A matter of satisfaction is the growing feeling of fraternal regard and uniform civility of all our country, the income of the treasury is increasing, and the realization of the highest blessings of the Union. The spirit of patriotism is universal and is ever increasing in fervor. The great question of the day is the redemption of the greenback, and the work of putting us on a sound financial basis, difficult as it may seem, will appear easier when we recall the financial operations of the government in the past. On the first day of July, 1897, the aggregate of our interest-bearing obligations, the figures are even more striking, on July 1, 1897, the principal of the interest-bearing obligations was \$1,747,293,108. The aggregate of our interest-bearing obligations on the first day of December, 1897, was \$1,747,293,108. The government money now outstanding (Dec. 6), consists of \$436,831,000 of treasury notes issued by authority of law, \$1,310,462,108 of silver certificates, \$62,259,567 of standard silver dollars, and \$1,000,000,000 of gold.

The Morning Post, after paying a tribute to the president's "Spainward" policy, in the face of domestic trouble, in sending the message at the unannounced hour," says: "The message advances a scheme of legislative effort less short sighted and less calculated to set class against class than the misguided policy of the last session. On the Cuban question, the president is vague and diffuse, but studiously correct. Cuban matters, however, are unimportant as compared with the grave issues of domestic affairs. The big battle of the session will be fought on the ground of home politics and finance. The editorial especially praised President McKinley's treatment of the currency question.

The Times says: "It is one of patronizing tolerance will make the message so wholly agreeable to Spain. Probably the president calculated that if he can satisfy the jingoists for a time with elegant denunciations and warnings, he will find it easier to pursue a moderate policy."

Regarding his currency proposals it seems too probable that Mr. McKinley still clings to the notion that something may be done for silver. So long as he follows that will of the wisp he can hardly be expected to attempt any thorough going reform of the currency.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS.

A Scheme by Which Money Order Offices May Be Made Savings Institutions--Other Proposed Changes.

Washington, Dec. 6.—The establishment and regulation of a postal savings bank system is provided for in a bill introduced by Representative Lamer (Ill.). Under his scheme, money order offices selected by the postmaster general are to be made branch postal savings banks with an office in the department to be called the central bank. Any person may become a depositor under this act, including married women and minors above twelve years. Depositors are limited to a dollar and its multiples and not exceeding \$50, and deposits accumulating to \$100 will not draw interest. Postal savings stamps and cards of the denomination of five and ten cents are to be sold. Interest is to be at the rate of two per cent. a year, to be added to the principal on June 30 of each year. Base books are to be forwarded annually for examination.

The secretary of the treasury under this bill is required to invest in interest-bearing bonds of the United States, or in state bonds and bonds of municipalities and counties under stated restrictions. Deposits will not be liable to seizure or detention under any legal process. All statutes defining crimes in the postal service are to be applied to the postal savings system, and the act is to take effect within six months of its passage.

Radical changes in the postal system are called for in a bill introduced today by Mr. Adamson, of Georgia. He proposes making every postoffice a money order office; keeping every railway station open at all times for receiving and paying money orders; a post office shall be established at any point on a public road outside the limit of an incorporated community whenever applied for by twenty-five citizens, vesting discretion in the postoffice department if the proposed office is within two miles of an existing office. For the appointment of postmasters, the bill requires recommendation of both senators of the state, except where divided, when the appointment is left to the representatives of the district.

Large Hotel Burned.

Cleatfield, Pa., Dec. 6.—The Kenmore hotel, Cleatfield, burned to the ground this morning. The hotel was one of the largest and finest in the county, containing sixty rooms. The loss amounts to \$200,000, partly covered by insurance. The heaviest loss is the owner, Miss Wrayley, but the lessee and landlord, John R. Cromer, loses his furniture and fixtures.

Killed by Moonshiners.

Little Rock, Ark., Dec. 6.—Albert Giles, a prominent farmer living in the west end of Van Buren county, was assassinated this morning. The hotel was one of the largest and finest in the county, containing sixty rooms. The loss amounts to \$200,000, partly covered by insurance. The heaviest loss is the owner, Miss Wrayley, but the lessee and landlord, John R. Cromer, loses his furniture and fixtures.

Hindu Wives to Refuse.

Rome, Dec. 6.—King Humbert has entrusted to the Marquis di Rudini the task of constructing a new cabinet and the marquis asks time to reflect.

President Returns to Canton.

Mr. McKinley's Party in a Pullman Attached to the Western Express.

Washington, Dec. 6.—President McKinley left Washington at 1:30 tonight to return to the bedside of his mother at Canton. With him were Mrs. McKinley, Miss Mabel McKinley, Miss Barber, A. J. Duncan, two maids and the steward of the White House. The party occupied the special Pullman, Newport, which was attached to the rear of the regular Western express.

According to schedule the train is due in Canton at 10 tomorrow morning, but upon the receipt of unfavorable news from Canton it may be rushed through on special time from any point beyond Baltimore.

TRAPPED BY A BOGUS BABY.

A Southern Mulatto Lives in Clover in Gotham.

New York, Dec. 6.—A handsome, swarthy-complexioned young woman, calling herself Florence Montez, appeared in the Tottenham district a year ago, she claimed to have escaped from a convent, near Charleston, S. C., and said that she was going on the stage if she could find a backer. She advertised and found a protector, who installed her in a handsome apartment and gave her a colored servant. He was always referred to as "Mr. Dunham."

Down in Charleston all this time the police are wondering what has become of Florens Kerr, a mulatto, who was the lover of the shady side of life on the Charleston Balto. They would not have recognized Florens in the stylish Miss Montez, who, claiming to be of Spanish birth, was the focus of opera glasses at the New York theatres and the observed of observers at Delmonico's supper.

Three months ago she induced her protector to send her to Charleston. She was about to become a mother, she said, and wanted to be under the care of her old colored "mammy." She received remittances regularly, and sent a friend to New York, who purchased for \$20 and took back to her a two-weeks-old baby. The Charleston police got wind of the conspiracy and have arrested the woman who purchased the baby for her.

The Charleston physician who gave a bogus certificate of birth will be arrested shortly. The New York police are looking for "Mr. Dunham," and expect to find him in "a day or two."

FIFTEEN RIDERS LEAVE THE RACE

Scenes of the Six-Day Bicycle Contest at Madison Square--The Score of the Riders.

New York, Dec. 6.—Forty men started in the six-day bicycle race at 12:15 o'clock this morning, but at 9:15 o'clock tonight only twenty-six men were riding. Fifteen riders had dropped out of the race, owing to the illness, accident or inability to keep up the pace.

Waller was in great form tonight and did not look like a quitter. At 9:15 o'clock five of the riders had passed the 400 mile mark, Waller leading by 45 miles and 7 laps. Miller was second, nine miles behind the lead. Stephane had traveled 411 miles, 2 laps, Hale, who had left the track several times on account of a lame knee and a headache, had made 369 miles and there were thirteen other men who had passed the 200-mile mark.

The wheel work of Hale and Rending tonight was not good, but their friends claim that they are saving themselves and that they will take a prominent part at least in the contest before it is over. The race is now in its seventh day and the riders are showing signs of wear.

The secretary of the treasury has outlined a plan in great detail for the purpose of removing the threatened recurrence of the present financial crisis. He has invited the attention of congress to the fact that the present financial system is a source of embarrassment to our present currency, but the danger still exists and will be ever present, so long as the existing system continues, and besides, it is in times of adequate revenues and business management of prompt solution of the problem.

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Our Duty to Spain and Cuba.

THE most important problem with which the government is now confronted is the duty to Spain and Cuba. The government has a duty toward Spain and Cuba. The government has a duty toward Spain and Cuba.

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EXCITEMENT AT HAITI

An Ultimatum Is Presented by Two German Cruisers.

TIME FOR CONSIDERATION

Haiti Must Decide Within Eight Hours.

Demands of Germany Regarding an Indemnity to Herr Lueders May Cause War--The German Inhabitants of Port-au-Prince Seek Refuge on the Steamers--Von Bulow's Warlike Talk in the Reichstag.

Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Dec. 6.—The trouble between Germany and Haiti, as a result of the arrest and imprisonment of Herr Lueders, an alleged German subject, reached a crisis today. Two German cruisers entered this port during the morning and an ultimatum from the German government was delivered to the Haitian government, giving the latter eight hours in which to grant the demands of Germany for an indemnity to Herr Lueders. The members of the diplomatic corps here believe the government of the republic has decided to accept the conditions of Germany.

In anticipation of trouble, the citizens of German nationality sought refuge yesterday on board two steamers which were at this port and the French steamer Ville de Marsaille has been requisitioned by the French minister in order to serve as a place of refuge for French citizens. The Ville de Marsaille has arrived here direct from Porto Rico.

The population of this place is in a state of great excitement, but the Haitian government has strong forces of troops at its disposal and is resolved to maintain order.

HAVE THE WILL AND POWER.

Berlin, Dec. 6.—Baron von Bulow, the minister for foreign affairs, referring to Haiti, said in the Reichstag today:

"We are not satisfied with the mere release of Herr Lueders, and have demanded satisfaction and compensation for his illegal incarceration, which was contrary to the laws of the United States. We have the will and power to enforce it."

Washington, Dec. 6.—Mr. Leger, the minister of Haiti to the United States, when asked today concerning the Frankfort Zeitung statement that Haiti had agreed to pay the indemnity asked in the case of Lueders, said that he had received no advice of any change in the position taken by his government, namely, that it stood ready to pay the indemnity demanded. He said that the opportunity to demonstrate whether this indemnity was properly collectable.

The minister said that he had received no advice from Haiti since Friday, when the reported approval of the indemnity by the Haitian schoolships caused rumors that they were men of war coming to blockade the island. It was predicted then by the minister that great excitement would follow the approach of the German vessel, but he has no reason to fear that the stability of the government is endangered.

HAITI WILL ACCEPT.

6 p. m.—The population of the city late this afternoon, when this cablegram was received, appears calm, and the present indications seem to confirm the supposition, called earlier today, that the government will accept the conditions imposed by Germany so far as money indemnity is concerned, and that it is also probable that, yielding to superior force, and in order to avoid internal troubles, the government will accept the other conditions.

The exact nature of Germany's demands on Haiti is not yet somewhat in doubt, but it is understood that the German government asks:

First—An indemnity of \$50,000 (American dollars) to Herr Lueders.

Second—The promise that Herr Lueders may return to Haiti and there enjoy without danger of any kind.

Third—A letter to the German government in which Haiti will express apology for the proceedings toward the German steamer in the whole transaction.

Fourth—That the president of Haiti shall graciously receive the German charge d'affaires at Port-au-Prince.

It is this fourth demand to which the most serious exception has been taken by the Haitian government, as affecting Haiti's honor and involving a deep humiliation, for it was Count Schulerin, the German charge d'affaires at Port-au-Prince, who went before President Simon Sen and rudely submitted the demand for indemnity and apology.

Died While Playing Santa Claus.

Trenton, N. J., Dec. 6.—Joseph Ward, a cousin of Colonel A. R. Kiser, died tonight from a heart ailment while playing Santa Claus. Miss Ward was enveloped herself in a cloak which was cotton. This caught fire, and despite the efforts of her friends, she was fatally burned.

The Herald's Weather Forecast.

New York, Dec. 7.—In the north-east and New England, today, partly cloudy, a cloudy weather and fresh to brisk easterly and southerly winds will prevail, with slight to lower temperature followed by snow (mostly light or moderate) in the northern district and as far south as the Delaware valley. On Wednesday, in both of these sections, partly cloudy to fair weather will prevail, preceded by snow in New England, with slight temperature changes and fresh to brisk southerly to westerly winds.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

- Weather Indications Today: Fair, Southerly Winds.
- 1 General-Fifty-Sixth Congress.
 - 2 The President's Message.
 - 3 Two Cruisers to Enforce Germany's Demands on Haiti.
 - 4 State-Tyranny Floods at Work in Hagibon.
 - 5 Local-Van Buren Case in Jury's Court.
 - 6 Abate Wants to Plead Guilty to Second Degree Murder.
 - 7 Editorial.
 - 8 Comment of the Press.
 - 9 The President's Message (Continued).
 - 10 Local-Pave Assessment Question in Woman Badly Burned.
 - 11 Local-Roy Burglars Admitted to Bail, Bank's Electric Burglar Alarm.
 - 12 Local-West Side and Suburban.
 - 13 Lockawanna County Happenings.
 - 14 Neighboring County News.
 - 15 The Markets.

(Continued on Page 5.)