

THE FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

The fifty-first Congress of the United States sat down in the halls of its fathers Monday.

The House was called to order at 12 o'clock by John B. Clark, the Clerk of the House in the Fiftieth Congress.

Nominations for Speaker were called for. Mr. Townsend, of Illinois, nominated Thomas B. Reed and Mr. McCreary, of Kentucky, nominated John G. Carlisle.

After Speaker Reed had taken the oath, the organization of the House was completed by the election of Edward McPherson as Clerk; A. J. Holmes, Sergeant-at-Arms; Chas. W. Adams, Doorkeeper; Rev. Wm. H. Millburn, Chaplain, Democrat, elected over the regular caucus nominee.

There was little or no excitement attending the opening of the Fifty-first Congress in the Senate side of the Capitol. The public curiosity seemed to be largely transferred to the House side.

Interest on the floor was devoted largely to the Senators from the new States. They had had seats assigned to them on the Republican side of the chamber. Senator Casey, of North Dakota, took his seat on the end of the second row against the north wall. Directly behind him sat the Washington Senators, Allen and Squire, while Pettigrew and Moody, of South Dakota, were in the fourth row near the center of the room.

The President's message was read in both Houses yesterday. It is quite lengthy, and the topics of the times are discussed in a statesmanlike manner. We will issue it to our readers in supplemental form as soon as the same can be gotten out.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

From our regular correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29, 1880. The President and Mrs. Harrison spent a very quiet Thanksgiving day at the White House. They entertained at dinner Major Ernst, who was recently appointed superintendent of public grounds and buildings in this city.

Commissioner Raum has issued a circular requesting that all applicants for pensions sign their full name to the application, instead of the initials only.

First Assistant Postmaster General Clarkson is reorganizing his office in order to keep up with the rapidly increasing business which comes before it.

The Industrial Congress of the United States, which was in session here this week, passed a resolution in favor of holding the Columbus Exposition of 1892 at Washington.

The Attorney General has given his opinion that men who were enlisted in what was known as the "quartermaster brigade" or "quartermaster's volunteers" during the late war are to be considered as being in the "military service of the United States," and honorably discharged, within the intent of Rule 10, of the Civil Service regulations. This is good news to many.

Commissioner Raum has issued an order to the officials in the Pension office cautioning them to use the greatest care in the rejection of applications for pensions and requiring all letters rejecting claims to be brought to the desk of the Commissioner for signature.

The Democratic members of the House held their caucus this evening and nominated Mr. Carlisle for Speaker, and all of the present minor officials of the House. The nominations are, of course merely complimentary.

Secretary Blaine gave a dinner to the members of the International Maritime conference Tuesday evening. Among the invited guests were the Vice President, Secretaries Noble and Rosk and the German and British ministers. The entertainment was marked by an innovation. There were no after dinner speeches.

Assistant Secretary Bussey, of the Interior department, in his annual report devotes considerable space to defending his decisions in pension cases, which he claims all tend to liberalize the practice of the department. Senator Farwell smiles in a peculiar way when asked if the rumor which says he will not be a candidate for re-election is true.

election is true. While the Senator does not say in so many words that he is a candidate for re-election he says enough to make the inference plain that he is.

Nothing more has been done in the cases of the five re-elected officials of the Pension office who were last week asked to resign, and refused to do so. There is a rumor that these men will not be dismissed, though that was Secretary Noble's first intention.

Secretary Proctor's annual report is a very interesting document. He makes a number of excellent recommendations. He believes the proper way to prevent the large number of desertions in the army is to lessen the distance between the commissioned officer and the private, and he shows how it can be done.

LYNN, the great shoe manufacturing town of Massachusetts, was visited by a most disastrous fire last week, destroying nearly the entire business portion of the city, and entailing a loss on the inhabitants from which they will not recover for many years.

Boston, also, suffered a terrible loss by fire last week, it being little behind the great conflagration in that city in 1872. The insurance companies of the country were hit hard.

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