

## TO RULE THE HOUSE

Contest for Speaker Getting Warmer Each Day.

### FOUR CONFIDENT CANDIDATES.

Springer's Sudden Boom Causes Many to Believe He is the Man.

The Democratic Caucus Will be Held Saturday Night—Estimated Strength of the Leaders, Crisp and Mills—McMillin's Friends Jolted Over His Chances—Uncertainty as to the Number of Votes There Will be in the Caucus.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The Speakership candidates and other leading Democrats have begun to discuss the subject of what is the best hour for convening the Speakership caucus. Generally the conference is held on the Saturday night preceding the Monday upon which Congress meets. It has been thought best this year to hold the caucus in the afternoon, as it is always done when there is a prospect of a protracted fight.

Mr. Mills, of Texas, however, predicts his nomination on the first ballot, and is therefore in favor of having the caucus in the evening, as usual.

With striking unanimity both old and new members, except those coming from States having candidates in the field, when spoken to as to their choice for the Speakership intimated that they had not yet made up their minds, and at any pledges ascribed to them are without foundation, including Colonel Hatch's Missouri delegation, which arrived in full force last night and have taken up quarters at Willard's, there are not, by actual count, 80 Democratic members in the city of the Electors elected.

Breckenridge of Kentucky, Tracy of New York, and other prominent men have sent word to hold their mail as they will be here in a day or so, but the contingent at present in the capital is not sufficient to base any reliable estimates upon as to the strength of any candidates. No word has yet been received from Judge Holman, chairman of the Democratic caucus, as to when it will be convened. Judge Holman's mail is still being forwarded to him out in Indiana.

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It is claimed for Mr. Springer that he has almost the entire Northwest at his back, and he claims to be gaining ground steadily.

It is generally believed that the people interested in the World's Fair would be very likely to receive a liberal appropriation from Congress. Shrewd observers who are unprejudiced admit that the Illinois man will make a much better showing on the first ballot than even his friends had expected. Judging from the way he is conducting his canvass, it would not be surprising if he did not receive the solid support of the Northwest, for the Democrats, like the Republicans of that section, are very distrustful of Mr. Springer in posing as the candidate of a doubtful State, and insist the Illinois man can be carried by the Democrats next year.

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Mr. McMillin is as sanguine as any of the candidates. Very logically he reasons that the fight between Mills and Crisp may become so bitter that he may be taken up as a compromise. Mr. McMillin has been disappointed about the support he expected from New York. He is likely to have the votes of three of the Western New York Congressmen, and will certainly have that of Congressman Covert, the senior member of the delegation.

It has developed that Mr. Mills failed to turn over the Indiana delegation to Mr. Mills when he retired. Only four of the eleven votes can be definitely counted on by Mr. Mills. Springer and Crisp will divide the other seven.

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M'Millin interesting themselves in the Speakership contest as much as if they belonged to the lower House. Senator Pugh of Alabama is particularly interested in Crisp's behalf.

Senator Vest spends considerable time about Mr. Mills' headquarters, and strongly favors the election of the Texan, as he believes that Tariff Reform should be the only issue in the next campaign, and that there is plenty

of time to settle the silver question after the next Presidential election. Senator Vest's influence may mean a great deal for Missouri has 14 votes, and Missouri Democrats believe in having the voice of their Senator.

If the silver question becomes thus prominent, it is generally believed that Mills must gain considerable strength in the Eastern and New England States where Judge Crisp was considered particularly strong.

One thing that makes it difficult to even guess the result of the contest, is that no one knows just how many votes will be in the caucus. The Farmers' Alliance members intend holding a caucus of their own, and even Jerry Simpson does not know how many will be in it.

The most conservative of the Democratic leaders say that the Democratic caucus will contain about 225 members.

### HAD EVERYONE'S CONFIDENCE.

Benjamin Berenson and the Manner in Which He Got Away With \$15,000.

BOSTON, Dec. 1.—Benjamin Berenson, a dry goods jobber of Salem, and one of the best known and most trusted members of the Jewish colony here, who disappeared Saturday, taking with him between \$10,000 and \$15,000 in cash and valuables, obtained from his Hebrew brethren of all conditions and occupations, has carried on his jobbing business prosperously for six years, and all his obligations have been promptly met.

For some time past he has been exchanging his checks for cash among his acquaintances, and as every check was honored at the bank at which it was drawn, there was no question as to his credit. It is stated that this system of raising money was adopted for the purpose of enabling Berenson to secure as great amount of funds as possible when the time came for his alleged premeditated departure.

Berenson left behind him a wife and child. Mrs. Berenson thinks her husband has deserted her for a former domestic of the family.

A warrant for his arrest has been sworn out and placed in the hands of the police.

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