

FIFTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

SCENES ATTENDING THE ASSEMBLING YESTERDAY.

All the Republican Caucus Nominees Elected in the House Except Chaplain, Which is Given to the Blind Orator Siburn.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—SIBURN.—There was no excitement attending the Fifty-first Congress at the opening of the Capitol. Public curiosity seemed to be transferred largely to the house side. It was noticeable that while the senate galleries were pretty closely packed with spectators, ladies were not in the majority as they usually are. They had prepared to witness the scenes in the house on such occasions.

Several of the foreign delegates to the maritime and Pan-American conferences, and a number of ladies occupied seats in the diplomatic gallery. Sir Julian Pauncefote, the British minister, and Admiral Korzenkoff, of the Russian navy, were among those present. The usual friendly greetings were interchanged on the floor between the members and the officers of the senate, and outside the sun was shining warm and bright in a clear, cloudless sky.

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 at 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 nearer the center of the room. Senator Pierce, of North Dakota, has an end seat in the fourth row, but he was not present today. On the democratic side, the seats so far unassigned. They will be occupied by the senators from Montana when they shall have been chosen.

Flowers adorned the desks of several members. Senator Mitchell's desk was covered by a large mound, on the face of which was his name set in immortelles and surrounded by roses. Other offerings were more modest, being merely bunches of roses, except in the case of Senator Blackburn, who received a floral horseshoe. Senators Squire, Davies, Hunt, Bennett, Hill, Stewart, Payne, Hancock and Chandler were also remembered by admiring friends; and the desk of Vice-President Morton was likewise handsomely decorated.

At noon Vice-President Morton entered the chamber, and Chaplain Rev. J. G. Butler opened the proceedings with an invocation for divine blessing, closing with the Lord's Prayer, in which Senator Edmunds joined audibly.

The oath of office was then administered by the Vice-President to Senator Chandler, of New Hampshire, for his new term. The credentials of Senator Dixon, senator-elect from the State of Rhode Island, were presented and read and the oath of office administered to him. The credentials of Messrs. Woody and Pettigrew, senators-elect from the new State of North Dakota, were presented by Senators Platt and Spooner, and those of Messrs. Allen and Squire, of Washington, were presented by the Vice-President. The several credentials having been read, Mr. Platt moved that the oath of office be administered to the four new senators. The motion was agreed to, and the four new senators, each escorted by a senator, proceeded to the clerk's desk, and took the oath of office.

Mr. Hoar offered a resolution providing a mode for assigning the senators from the States of North Dakota, South Dakota and Washington to their respective classes, in relation to the period at which their terms will expire, and moved its reference to the committee on privileges and elections. He said that it had been the custom of the senate ever since the organization of the government to assign new senators to their respective classes as soon as they had taken the oath; but that now for the first time senators from three States entered substantially at the same time. His resolution, he said, proceeded on the theory that the senators from the three States mentioned stood on an entire equality with reference to their opportunity to be assigned to shorter or longer terms. The three States were all admitted under the same act of congress. They were all admitted by virtue of the proceedings that took place in the same session. The fact that the proclamations evidencing the admission of the two Dakotas preceded that of Washington by two days was due to the accident of the greater distance of the latter so that the precedence of proceedings did not result in the partition of State at the same time gave to the two Dakotas no just title to priority.

Mr. Vest inquired whether there was anything in the resolution in reference to Montana.

Mr. Hoar—Nothing. I do not understand that the senators from Montana are here or are likely to be here very soon.

Mr. Vest—That is very true. Yet I would suggest that provision be made for an event which is very sure to happen and which we know must happen in reference to a State that is already a member of the union by the President's proclamation. But, of course, that matter can be considered by the committee on privileges and elections.

Mr. Hoar—The senators from the State of Montana will lose nothing by not being included in the resolution.

The resolution was then referred to the committee on privileges and elections.

Resolutions were offered and agreed to fixing the daily hour of meeting at noon, for the appointment of a committee of two to join a like committee on the part of the house to wait on the President and to inform him that congress is ready to receive any communication he may choose to make, (Messrs. Edmunds and Harris being appointed), and for a continuance of the select committee on transportation and sale of meat products.

Mr. Aldrich offered a resolution, which was laid over, declaring the committee on rules in the senate and house a joint select committee to prepare and report a code of joint rules for conducting business on the part of the two houses.

Mr. Aldrich also offered a resolution, which was also laid over, for the appointment of a select committee of nine senators to be called the quo-tronto-committee, to which shall be referred all matters connected with the proposed celebration of the four hundredth anniversary of the discovery of America.

The senate then, at 12.35, adjourned till to-morrow.

HOUSE.—As the hour of noon approached the noise and confusion increased upon the floor. The visitors who were unable to secure entrance into the galleries came upon the floor beseeching the members to give them orders to the various door keepers to accomplish the

impossible task of obtaining them accommodations.

Magnificent floral designs were carried here and there by pages, and the odor of roses filled the air. A handsome, but unobtrusive basket grooved the speaker's desk. Two women were necessary to support the immense floral horse shoe and floral chair, each bearing the inscription "Our Little Giant," sent to McCarthy, of New York, by his admirers.

How, of Tennessee, was the recipient of a superb floral ship of State. Before the hour of noon, the executive and diplomatic galleries were filled. As the hands of the clock pointed to the hour of 12 o'clock, the clerk called the house to order and proceeded to read the roll of the members elect. The roll called showed the presence of 327 members, 2 absentees being, O'Neal, of Indiana, Randall, of Pennsylvania, and Whittier, of Tennessee. The clerk stated that he had not received the certificates of the election from the Sixth, Ninth and Twenty-seventh districts of New York. More recently a quorum having been disclosed nominations were in order, and Mr. Reed was placed in nomination by Henderson, of Indiana. The mention of Reed's name was the signal for applause on the republican side which was returned with interest by the democrats when Mr. Carlin, of Ke tucky, nominated Carlin for the honorable position. Cannon, of Illinois; Mills, of Texas; Henderson, of Iowa, and Felix Campbell, were appointed tellers and the clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The vote resulted, Mr. Reed 166, Mr. Carlin 154, Mr. Cummings, of New York, 1—Mr. Cowles, of North Carolina, 1—Mr. Reed, having been declared elected the speaker, was escorted to the chair by Mr. McKinley and Mr. Carlin amid applause, and the oath of office was administered by Mr. Kelley, of Pennsylvania. The names of Mr. Turner, Mr. Cummings and Mr. Payne, from the Sixth, Ninth and Twenty-seventh districts of New York were not called, their credentials not having been received.

During the roll call Mr. O'Neal, of Pennsylvania, and his colleague, Mr. Randall, were paired with Wilber, of New York, and Mr. McMillin, of Tennessee, stated that his colleague, Mr. Whittier, was detained at home by illness.

Mr. Cummings received a round of applause for his vote and had to endure good natured bantering of his friends. On assuming the chair, Speaker Reed said:

"Gentlemen of the House of Representatives, I thank you for the high office which you have bestowed upon me. It would be impossible not to be moved by its dignities and honors. Yet you may well imagine that I am at this moment more impressed by its responsibilities and duties. Under our system of government as it has been developed by the fathers and statesmen are both political and parliamentary. So far as duties are practical, I sincerely hope that they may be performed with a proper sense of what is due to all the people of the whole country. So far as they are parliamentary, I hope with equal sincerity that they may be performed with proper sense of what is due to both sides of the chamber. [Applause.]

To the end that I may be successful in carrying out your wishes, I invoke the considerate judgment and confidence of all the members of this house." [Long and continued applause.]

The next step in the organization of the house was the swearing in of the members elect, and as they ranged themselves in squads of twenty at a time in the space in front of the clerk's desk, the oath was administered by the speaker. The first having been performed, Mr. Carlin presented a paper which he said was the certificate of the county court of New York, stating the number of votes cast in the Ninth New York district, and for whom they were cast. Although the official had not been received, Mr. Carlin asked that Mr. Cummings, the member elect from that district be allowed to qualify.

Mr. Sherman, of New York, made a similar request in behalf of Mr. Payne, member elect from the Twenty-seventh district. Both requests were acceded to, and the gentlemen took the oath of office.

Mr. Henderson, of Illinois, offered a resolution for the election of Edward McPherson as clerk, A. L. Holmes, sergeant at arms; C. A. Adams, doorkeeper; James L. Wilson, postmaster; and Rev. Chas. B. Ramsell, chaplain of the house.

Mr. Cheadle, of Indiana, offered an amendment striking out the name of Chas. B. Ramsell, and inserting that of Wm. H. Milburn.

Mr. Carlin offered an amendment, substituting the names of present electives officers of the house (with the exception of chaplain) for the names contained in Mr. Henderson's resolution.

The yeas and nays were demanded on Mr. Cheadle's amendment, but were refused. On a standing vote the amendment was rejected, 129 yeas to 134, but on a vote by tellers, this result was adopted, 161 to 154.

The republicans then attempted to secure a reconsideration of the vote by which yeas and nays were refused, but met with a defeat. 151 yeas to 158, so the amendment was adopted. Mr. Carlin's amendment having been defeated on a viva voce vote, Mr. Lodge, of Massachusetts, demanded a division on Henderson's resolution as amended. That portion of the resolution for the election of clerk, sergeant at arms, doorkeeper, and postmaster, was adopted by a viva voce vote, the vote then recurring on that portion of the resolution which, amended, provides for the election of Rev. W. H. Milburn as chaplain, the yeas and nays were ordered. This portion of the resolution was likewise adopted, yeas 160; nays 155. Messrs. Cheadle, Leihbach, and Moore, of New Hampshire, voting in the affirmative with the democrats.

The newly elected clerk, doorkeeper, postmaster and chaplain then appeared at the bar of the House and were qualified.

A resolution was adopted directing the clerk to inform the Senate that the house had organized and was ready to proceed to business.

Messrs. McKinley, Cannon and Carlin, were appointed a committee to inform the President to the same effect.

The drawing for seats by lot was the next business in order, and a resolution was adopted, the effect of which was to permit Messrs. Banks, Randall and Carlin, and Kelley, of Pennsylvania, to select their seats. The drawing having been concluded, the sergeant at arms appeared at the bar of the House and was qualified.

Mr. Boyne, of Pennsylvania, offered a resolution directing the speaker to appoint committees on rules, accounts, enrolled bills and mileage, each to consist of the same number of members as is provided for by the rules of the Fifty-first Congress to be committee on rules, adopted. The House then at 4.30 adjourned.

DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

A Ringing Resolution of the Democratic Members of Congress.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—The house democratic caucus met at ten o'clock this morning and remained in session half an hour. All the old officers were re-nominated except a chaplain. No nomination was made for that office. The holding of the democratic caucus this morning necessitated the clearing of the floor of the house and galleries against the general public who surged through the lower corridors until the pressure became so great that, in order to relieve it, ingress was permitted to the halls on the upper floor; and in a short time each closed gallery door was besieged by a crowd of expectant spectators. In the meantime the caucus was proceeding in a perfunctory manner to make nominations for the various elective offices. All the old officers were re-elected with the exception of chaplain, no nomination being made for that office, although all democrats will vote for Mr. Milburn, the blind chaplain of the last house. On motion of Mr. Wike, of Illinois, the following resolution was adopted without division:

Resolved, That we, the democratic members of the house of representatives of the Fifty-first Congress, at the beginning of the first session hereby send greetings to the people of the country with the assurance of our continued confidence in, and devotion to, the principles of tariff reform as embraced in President Cleveland's message to the last congress upon that subject, and in the platform of principles adopted by the last democratic national convention at St. Louis; and that we hail with delight the emphatic approval of these principles by the people as expressed at the polls in the recent elections. And we pledge them to renew and continue in congress the contest for the reduction of the war taxes so ably begun and prosecuted in former congresses by our representatives and senators.

The subjects next broached, were the election of permanent caucus officers, and the attitude of the party towards any proposed modification of the house rules; but it was deemed advisable in order to accommodate the public by opening the galleries to postpone the determination of those questions; and accordingly, after having been in session for half an hour, the caucus adjourned until to-morrow night.

As the gallery doors swung outward on their hinges, there was a wild rush for seats, and in a few moments there was standing room only in the wide portals. The executive gallery was alone entirely empty; and the gallery reserved for the diplomatic corps had a few occupants. The picture, for which the galleries had been reserved, was of the greatest interest. On the floor, members mingled together chatting and laughing. Personal animosities seemed forgotten, and political differences buried, while politeness and good humor were the order of the day. But the greatest interest was for the general face of Cox, the good natured presence of Townsend, the manly figure of Laird, and the studious composure of Nutting. The places which had known them so long, would know them no more, forever.

COST OF THE POSTAL SERVICE.

A Deficiency of \$7,600,000 for the Year—Estimates for 1890-'91.

WASHINGTON, November 29.—Third Assistant Postmaster-General Hazel has submitted his report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889. The statement of the financial operations of the postal service shows that the total amount of revenue collected during the year was \$56,148,014. The total of actual and estimated expenditures out of the appropriations is \$62,498,198. In addition to the amounts payable out of appropriations there was certified to the Secretary of the Treasury for transportation of mails on the Pacific railroads the sum of \$1,253,673. This amount is credited on the books of the Treasury in account with the companies for Government aid in the construction of their lines. The addition of this item would make the total cost of the service for the year \$67,401,871, or \$7,603,856 in excess of the revenue. The revenue of the year exceeded that of the previous year in the sum of \$3,452,306, or 6.6 per cent. The increase of expenditures and liabilities was \$5,892,465, or 10.4 per cent, over those of the previous year.

For the year ending June 30, 1890, the revenue is estimated at \$60,618,830. The appropriations for the year amounted to \$66,605,344. It is estimated that there will be a deficiency of \$179,117 in the appropriations for pay of postmasters, of \$923,430 for railroad transportation, and of \$20,000 for steamboat service. These items added to the appropriations make a total of \$67,727,891. Allowing for the expenditure of this entire amount would make the deficiency of revenue to be supplied from the general treasury \$7,109,061.

For the year ending June 30, 1891, the estimated amount of revenue is placed at \$65,414,337. The expenditures are estimated at \$72,434,699, leaving a deficiency to be supplied from the general treasury of \$7,020,361.

The statistics of the special delivery system for 1889 show that 1,605,200 letters were delivered by special delivery messengers. This was an increase of nearly 12 per cent. over the number delivered during the previous year. The amount paid for messenger service was \$121,387. The amount fees realized for the service amounted to \$160,520, leaving a surplus to the government of \$38,532.

The number of postage stamps, envelopes, letter-sheet envelopes, and postal cards issued during the year was 2,818,565,321, representing a total value of \$52,921,784. The amount of postage collected on second-class matter was \$1,616,351, representing nearly 81,000 tons of such.

Major J. D. Rogers Dead.

LEXINGTON, Va., December 2.—Major John D. Rogers, solicitor general of the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad, son of General Asa Rogers, ex-auditor of Virginia, a relative of General R. E. Lee, chief quartermaster of General D. H. Hill's division of the army of Northern Virginia, C. S. A., died Sunday from injuries received in a railroad collision at Scottsville, on the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad in August last. He was buried in the Lee Memorial Episcopal church to-day.

Burning of a Ferry Boat.

BALTIMORE, December 2.—The new transfer ferry boat "Caton," recently purchased by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company was burned at sea Saturday night, while off Chincoteague light while being towed to this port. Loss \$40,000, fully insured. Tugs rescued everybody on board.

SCENES OF HORROR.

THE FIRE IN MINNEAPOLIS SATURDAY NIGHT.

Appeals of the Unfortunate Men—Cut off the severely injured by the Building From Any Means of Escape—The Dead.

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., December 1.—Four smoke-blackened and crumbling walls, towering up above a steaming, smoking, snoring mass of machinery, brick and building debris, is all that remains of the eight-story brick building at the corner of First avenue, South and Fourth streets, in which, until to-day, had been printed three daily and one weekly newspapers, and which was located the Minneapolis Tribune, besides numerous other offices.

All day to-day a constantly changing and ever increasing crowd of sightseers thronged the streets, watching the efforts of the firemen to subdue entirely the flames which had brought under control at about two o'clock this morning. The fire was a fierce one while it lasted, and it was due to the effective work of the department that the flames were kept from spreading to wooden buildings on adjacent lots.

The plan of the building was such as to make it well nigh impossible for any one who delayed after the alarm had been given to make his escape from the building. As there were no less than one hundred men at work on the upper stories at the time the fire broke out, and the warning was late, as well as the means of escape scanty, several times there have been small fires in the building, but they were quickly extinguished, so that, although it realized the combustible nature of the building, the warning was less likely to be heeded. The building has been considered dangerous for some time, its construction permitting heavy machinery to jar the whole building. There was but one fire escape, and it was at the end of the building where the fire raged furthest. The single stairway was spiral, narrow and dark, and wound around the stairs. No danger of serious results were thought of when the men started out, and many of them jokingly speaking of it as a safe escape.

For some time the Union League club room, where the fire started, had not been used, and the fire's origin is a mystery. This room is close to the elevator shaft, and in the attempts to put out the flames a window was broken open, bringing in a draft of fresh air. The flames shot across the hall and up the elevator shaft in a moment and cut off the escape of those who had been delayed. A few broke through the stifling smoke and scorching flames, but others sought escape elsewhere. Being at the south end of the building, while the only fire escape was at the north end, the printers found their way to the stairs, as well as down them, cut off. A number of them climbed out of the windows and clung to the window ledges, waiting for help, which in several cases came too late. Their cries for help were the loudest heard by them, and a number were saved. Others fell off their narrow resting place, or dropped from the telegraph and telephone wires, over which they had tried to escape, to their deaths on the frozen ground below. The sight of the sufferings of the burning, struggling men, brought tears to the eyes of the bravest, and women prayed and strong men breathlessly watched Associated Press Operator Igo's brave attempt to escape. He had got clear of the building and was gradually working his way down the building, while the silent, yet fearful crowd below anxiously and helplessly watched his brave attempt to save his wife and four little ones his breadwinner, and the wren cut his hands, and his strength failed, and a groan went up from the martyred man far below when he was seen to slip from his slight support and fall to the roof of the boiler house. Men lifted him gently and started with him to a drugstore, but on the way, after a last word of loving care for his family, he breathed his last.

Several of the injured men were witnessed but no light for help could have been plucked than this, and its fatal termination was a matter of universal regret. Seven bodies were found around the building last night, all of which have been identified. They were: Milton Tucker, assistant city editor of the Pioneer Press; James F. Igo, Associated Press night operator; Walter E. Miles, night agent and day operator of Associated Press; Edward Olsen, president of the University of South Dakota, at Vermilion, W. H. Milburn, commercial editor of the Tribune; Jerry Jenkins and Robert McCutchen.

Beautiful and Fragrant.

Mr. and Mrs. Drake have sent us a rose "The Sunset" from their "Idlewild" greenhouse, No. 344 Charlotte street, that is certainly one of the finest specimens of a rose that we have ever seen. Its color as its name indicates is that of a glorious autumnal sunset and its fragrance is only surpassed by its gorgeous color.

Superior Court.

The December term of Buncombe superior court, for civil causes, began yesterday, Judge Spier Whitaker presiding. Judge W. countess postponed the opening of his court, until the proceedings of the criminal court, Judge Moore, had been brought to a close. These are noted elsewhere.

Scottish Patriotic Society.

There will be a meeting of this association at the house of Mr. James Frank on Friday evening at half past 7 o'clock. All Scotchmen are cordially invited to attend.

THE NATIONAL DEBT.

The Woman's Guild, of Trinity Parish, will meet at the residence of Mr. Leicester Chapman, on Haywood street, on Wednesday at 3.30 o'clock.

ODDS AND ENDS.

Revenue receipts at the Asheville office for the month of November amounted to \$7,176.76. We understand this is nearly double the sum received during the same month last year.

Officer Hampton, a very active and energetic member of our police force, received a telegram from Andersonville to-day, stating that a sorrel mare had been stolen from a party there. The mare was five years old and had a white spot on her neck.

A small fire had started in the office of Battery Park yesterday and might have become serious had it not become spiced at once by Mr. Loomis, the energetic and active clerk there. He displayed great coolness and won the admiration of all by the promptness with which he put the fire out by means of a fire extinguisher. The fire probably originated from a match which had been thrown carelessly away by some guest after having lighted his cigar.

The Weather To-Day.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—Indications for North Carolina.—Fair; warmer; southerly winds.

JOHN ASTON DEAD.

This Well Known Young Man Quietly Passes Away.

Surprise, mingled with sincere sorrow, passed through the city yesterday morning when it was whispered about that John Aston was dead. Who? John Aston? John Aston, whom everybody knew, and whom all who knew him loved? Everybody knew that John was somewhat feeble, but one who, with his high spirits and his lively cheerfulness, death might not claim for a long time to come. Yet it was true. Consumption in one of its most secret deceptive forms had laid hands upon him, and made its most unexpected claim to its victim.

The community, the every day friends and associates of John Aston, had their griefs. But who shall measure the unutterable agony of the parents who have thus thrice received in their hearts the shafts aimed at their children, and one after the other they have seen all their sons laid low. To offer human sympathy were mockery of grief. To one Comforter alone may they look.

John Gilliland Aston was born on September 25, 1853, in this city. He was educated at Col. Stephen Lee's school in this vicinity, and when attending to manual devoted himself to civil engineering. He was city engineer, and the surveyor of the large Vanderbilt property. He had fine literary tastes, and wrote with ease, force and sprightliness, a man of great brightness of mind and gentleness of temper, qualities that endeared him largely to his universal popularity, and the strong attachment of his friends.

He died on Monday morning, December 2nd, and will be buried to-day, from the residence of his parents at 3 o'clock.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Mr. P. S. Boones, who represents the Fayetteville Manufacturing Company, is at the Grand Central.

Mr. Chas. A. Weller, of Knoxville, Tenn., hotel purveyor for the Southern States, is at the Battery Park.

Judge Whitaker, of Raleigh, N. C., who is presiding over the superior court now in session here, is among the guests at the Battery Park.

Mr. G. D. Ray, a well known merchant, of Burnsville, and M. C. Byrd are at the Grand Central. They came here to attend the railroad meeting.

Among the recent arrivals at the Grand Central is Mr. J. F. Kimball, of Meclamsburg, Ohio. He has a very large stock farm at that place, and "is nothing but fine imported stock."

CRIMINAL COURT.

Verdict Against William Fore Set Aside—A New Trial Granted.

In pursuance of its adjournment on Saturday night, the court was convened at 9 o'clock yesterday, and the consideration of affidavits published in our Sunday's issue was taken up.

The defense introduced a further affidavit of E. L. Lee to the effect that D. S. Shook had said to him "I have beaten out Melvin Carter," referring to certain facts which had been taken on the jury.

Two of the jurors, Messrs. Coffee and Shook were introduced by the State, and each asserted that he had not been questioned as to his opinions of the prisoner's guilt, but had the question been asked he would have replied that he had formed and expressed such an opinion. The counsel for the defendant insisted that the usual question had not been asked because of the assurance given them in private by D. L. Shook, and the court held that there was reason to doubt that the defendant had received a fair and impartial trial, and therefore the verdict should be set aside.

Many witnesses were introduced to establish the character of the two jurors, and the evidence was thoroughly satisfactory to them both. We have also heard many comments of approval of young Mr. Launsford, the son of the slain man, who naturally assisted the solicitor in the prosecution; his demeanor was entirely free of all that vindictive feeling which is so often seen in like cases, his deportment was quiet and dignified, and his evident wish was only to secure a fair trial for the State, and to vindicate his father's character.

Thanks From Citizens of Fayetteville for Courtiers.

WASHINGTON, December 2.—No opinions of general interest were rendered in the supreme court of the United States to-day.

The debt statement issued to-day shows a decrease in the debt during November of \$4,809,672.52, decrease since June 30, \$29,565,675.73; total interest bearing debt, \$851,304,060.54; total debt of all kinds, \$1,617,372,410.35; debt less available credits, \$10,560,081,004.72; cash in treasury, \$617,224,505.23; legal tender notes outstanding, \$246,681,016; certificates of deposit outstanding, \$10,140,000; gold certificates outstanding, \$123,483,119; silver certificates outstanding, \$276,794,280; fractional currency, \$691,413,247.

Secretary Tracy has received the following letter from Major F. X. Ray and other citizens of Fayetteville, N. C.:

"With profound appreciation of courtesies extended by the national government to our State in her centennial celebration of the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of November at Fayetteville, we especially desire to thank you sir for the elegant occasion as well as the pleasure afforded our guests by the United States Marine Band. Glorious as was our anniversary in all its appointments, there would have been an incompleteness of inspiration without the soul-stirring strains of our national band. It instilled our patriotism, elevated our thoughts, and united us as one people, proud of our great country with its 'Star Spangled Banner,' and proud of its navy with its incomparable band."

H. C. FAIG, Captain.

RAILROAD MEETING.

Mass Meeting Called for Tuesday, December 9th.

It was somewhat discouraging to see the small number of our townspeople who were willing to leave their several occupations for one hour yesterday to show their interest in the railroad project of which so much has been said and written. But this was probably, because every man in Asheville is already fully convinced of the importance of the movement, and of the feasibility of the suggestions of Capt. Atkinson and others. However this may be, hospitality should have induced a better turnout in order to welcome the large and intelligent delegation from Leicester and Sandy Muski, who had ridden so far to prove that they wished to keep informed of what was proposed to be done.

The court room was about half filled at 1 o'clock and the meeting organized by calling Mr. B. G. Gulger to the chair, and the representatives of the press as secretaries.

Capt. Nat Atkinson being called for gave one of the best railroad speeches we ever heard, even from him, and no higher praise can be awarded it; and at its close presented the following preamble and resolutions:

Whereas, There exists great inconvenience, expense and loss to the farmers of those sections of Buncombe county, not supplied with the advantages of railroads, and

Whereas, Opportunities are now offered of having these sections provided for in this respect, and

Resolved, That the chairman of this meeting issue a call for a mass meeting of the people of this county to assemble at Asheville, on Tuesday, the 10th day of December, for the purpose of taking such action in regard to this matter, as its importance demands, and

Resolved, further, That the commissioners of this county be requested to have a called meeting of their board on Wednesday, December 11, in order that the wishes of the people may be carried out in the way of a submission of the proposition passed by said mass meeting to the people of the county for their endorsement at the ballot-box.

These resolutions were enthusiastically seconded and adopted, and the call of the chairman for the mass meeting will be published hereafter.

Mr. G. D. Ray, of Burnsville, then said a few words, assuring the meeting of the intense interest left in his county; and Col. Long, also, declared himself a life-long railroad man, and the meeting adjourned.

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