

CONGRESS MEETS.

Sessions in Both Houses Devoted to Reading of President's Message.

GENERAL WHEELER IN HIS SEAT

He is the Most Popular Man on the Floor—Many Distinguished Persons Witness the Opening of the Session—Resolution for Investigation of the War Department—Miss Gould to Have the Thanks of Congress and a Gold Medal—Estimates for River and Harbor Improvements for the Next Fiscal Year.

SENATE.

Washington, December 5.—Congress reassembled today under circumstances of unusual public interest. The same congress, six months ago, declared war against Spain, and now, with the war fought and won, it came together again for the first legislative consideration of questions developed by the eventful months just passed. The spirit of the occasion was not, however, one of immediate expectancy, for the few months left of the existence of the Fifty-fifth congress gave promise of little more than a beginning of the momentous policies and problems growing out of the war.

As usual all Washington turned its attention to the capitol for that gala event which marks the opening day of a session. The weather imposed no barriers, for the hurricane of yesterday had given away to clearing skies and balmy air. Long before the noon hour, when the senate and house began their work, centering in the rotunda and statutory hall and pushing towards the private galleries. No evidence remained of the explosion and fire which recently ravaged the building.

When the senate convened the chamber presented a noble and beautiful appearance. By 11 o'clock the public and private galleries were filled almost to their capacity with a distinguished assemblage, including many ladies in brilliant attire.

On the floor the display of flowers was unusually beautiful for the opening day of a session of congress. The odor of the flowers filled the chamber.

Through the courtesy of the vice president the members of the joint high commission were admitted to the floor of the senate and were the recipients of much attention.

Just before the session was called to order, several well known members of the diplomatic corps appeared in the diplomatic gallery. Among them were Sir Julian Pauncefote, ambassador of Great Britain to the United States and dean of the corps, with a party from the British embassy; Mr. Wu Ting Fang, the Chinese minister and party. Mr. Ve Pum Chin, the Korean minister was also present.

All were interested spectators of the opening scenes of the session and at attentive listeners to the reading of the president's message.

During a recess of three quarters of an hour, while the senate was awaiting the presentation of the message from the president the members of the joint high commission, held an informal levee, greeting personally nearly all of the members of the American senate.

The reading of the president's message, which occupied two hours and eighteen minutes, was received with very careful attention for an hour, but after that the senators drifted to the cloak rooms or to the committee rooms where they could peruse the message at their leisure in the printed copies which had been furnished them.

When the clerk had concluded the reading, Senator Mason, of Illinois, presented a telegram from Senator Pritchard, of North Carolina, announcing that illness prevented his attendance at the opening of the session.

At 3:45 the senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

In the house, the greetings of the members were most cordial and there was no outcropping of partisan rancor to mar the occasion. One of the most striking incidents was the cordial meeting between the floor leaders of

the respective sides, Messrs. Dingley and Bailey.

In view of the gossip about the possibility of Mr. Bailey being deposed as the minority leader it is significant that the speaker named Mr. Bailey as the minority member of the committee to wait upon the president, an honor always bestowed upon the recognized leader of the minority.

Speaker Reed received a warm welcome from both sides of the house when he ascended the rostrum to call the house to order, but perhaps the greatest personal ovation to any member was that given Major General Wheeler of Alabama who has not been seen by many of his old colleagues since he went to the front at the head of the cavalry division of General Shafter's army.

The floral tributes today were unusually numerous and made the hall a veritable bower of beautiful flowers. The proceedings themselves were dull all interest centering in the reading of the president's message. For over two hours the clerk droned through the long document, but the interest of members and spectators never flagged. No expressions of approval or disapproval interrupted the reading.

At 3:50 o'clock the house adjourned until tomorrow.

TO INVESTIGATE THE WAR DEPARTMENT.

Washington, December 5.—Representative Sulzer, of New York, ranking democratic member of the house committee on military affairs, has introduced a resolution, authorizing and directing the committee on military affairs to investigate the war department and the conduct of the Spanish-American war. The resolution is as follows:

Resolved, That the committee on military affairs be and the same hereby is authorized and directed to investigate the war department and the conduct of the recent war between Spain and the United States, report all of said proceedings with its findings, conclusions and recommendations to the house of representatives with all convenient speed.

That said committee is hereby authorized and empowered to send for books, documents, papers and persons, examine persons under oath, sit in any part of the United States, employ a stenographer and that the sergeant-at-arms is hereby directed to attend said committee and carry out its directions.

That the necessary expenses of the investigation be paid out of the contingent fund of the house.

The resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs.

ESTIMATES FOR NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

In conformity with the requirements of law, the secretary of the treasury today transmitted to congress the estimates of appropriations required for the service of the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, as furnished by the several executive departments. These estimates, including permanent annual appropriations, aggregate \$593,048,378, as against \$602,875,513, the amount of the appropriations, including deficiencies and miscellaneous, for the fiscal year 1899, and \$468,678,875 the amount of the estimates for 1899. The estimate for military establishment amounts to \$145,119,431; for the naval establishments \$39,134,652; for the naval magazine at Norfolk, Va., \$27,500. Following are some of the important items submitted by the light house service: Light vessels for Cape Lookout Shoals, N. C., \$30,000; light station, Cape Fear, N. C., \$35,000; light depot at Charleston, S. C., \$35,000; for improvements at Norfolk, (Va.), navy yard, including concrete and granite dry dock \$2,000,000; improvements at naval station, Port Royal, S. C., \$145,000; at naval station at Key West, including purchase of additional land \$112,520. The total amount asked for continuing or completing improvements of rivers and harbor is \$28,523,778, the larger items being as follows: Harbor at Winyah Bay, S. C., \$400,000; harbor at Savannah, Ga., \$200,000; Cumberland sound, Ga., and Florida, \$490,000; improving James river, Virginia \$150,000; Cape Fear river, near Wilmington, N. C., \$150,000; Coosa river, Georgia, \$350,000; St. John's river, Florida, \$200,000; entrance to harbor at Key West, Fla., \$100,000. The estimates for army and navy pensions is \$114,000,000; cost of pension service \$1,233,830.

A GOLD MEDAL FOR MISS GOULD.

General Wheeler, of Alabama, today introduced in the house, through Representative Stalling, a resolution providing that in recognition of the patriotic devotion and bounteous benevolence of Miss Helen Miller Gould to

the soldiers of the army of the United States during the war with Spain the thanks of congress are hereby tendered her and congress hereby authorizes and directs that a gold medal with appropriate designs be prepared by the director of the mint and that said medal be presented to her by the president of the United States at such time and in such manner as he may determine.

GENERAL WHEELER'S POPULARITY.

Major General Wheeler was a center of attraction and congratulation when he appeared in the house of representatives today to resume his congressional duties. He arrived last night from the camp in Alabama where his troops are stationed. General Wheeler said he probably would resign from the army, but his plans were not yet definitely fixed. He expects to confer with the president and secretary of war and then will determine on his course. "If there is to be any more fighting I want to stay in the army," said the general, "but if the fighting is over, I prefer to return to civil life."

MANY GROSS ERRORS

Found in the Election Returns—The Votes for Judges—Verified Votes for Congressmen—Pearson's Contest—Sampson Populists Elected a Treasurer, but there is no such office.

Message Bureau

Raleigh, N. C., December 5.

The vote for judges of superior court, as canvassed, shows the following:

First district—George H. Brown, Jr., democrat, 144,616; George H. Brown, 28,728, Augustus M. Moore, republican, 159,146, Augustus Moore 53. Second district—Henry R. Bryan, democrat, 173,949; Henry Bryan 2,236; Charles A. Cook, republican, 155,936, Thomas A. Cook, 1,174. Fifth district—Thomas J. Shaw, democrat, 174,774, W. P. Bynum, Jr., republican, 120,166, William J. Bynum 584, William P. Bynum 26,662. Sixth district—O. H. Allen, democrat, 176,802; A. Loftin, populist, 159,829; Thomas A. McNeill 437. Seventh district—Thomas A. McNeill, democrat, 170,322; H. F. Seawell, populist, 153,371; Thomas McNeill 606. Thomas J. McNeill 3,143. Eleventh district—W. A. Hoke, democrat, 177,449, Robert S. Eaves, republican, 159,511. Twelfth district—Frederick Moore, democrat, 173,346; J. A. Hendricks, republican, 155,959; George Fred Moore 809. Thos. A. Hendricks 2,438.

There were never before known so many errors. Some were made by the election officers and some by the county clerks of court.

The vote for congressmen as finally verified, is as follows:

First district—Small, democrat, 19,732; Skinner, populist, 18,263, Whedbe, independent republican, 970. Second district—White, colored, republican, 17,561; Fountain, independent populist voted for by democrats, 14,947; James B. Lloyd, populist, 2,447. Third district—C. R. Thomas, democrat, 16,000; Fowler, populist 15,819. Fourth district—Atwater, independent populist, voted for by democrats, 19,419; Jenkins, populist, 18,581. Fifth district—Kitchin, democrat, 20,869. Adams, republican, 18,607. Sixth district—Bellamy, democrat, 23,168. Dockery, republican, 17,329. Seventh district—Kluttz, democrat, 20,763; Caldwell, populist, 14,661. Eighth district—Linney, republican, 17,414; Lovell, democrat, 16,137. Brower, independent republican, 158. Ninth district—Crawford, democrat, 19,606. Pearson, republican 19,368. Boggs, populist 93.

Pearson is his contest will claim that there were irregularities in nine of the sixteen counties in the Ninth; but the democrats will literally knock him out of the box. They have plenty of evidence of republican frauds or attempts at fraud.

The new democratic county officials took charge today in the various counties of the state. A pretty clean sweep of republicans was made.

The weather bureau yesterday, with the temperature 68 predicted a cold wave. In five hours the temperature fell to 42.

A great deal of rain has fallen. The sowing of wheat was nearly completed, but it has checked it.

The populists in Sampson county elected a treasurer, when there is no such office, it having been abolished six years ago. They want to revive the office, but the attorney general says that this is something the legislature alone can do.

The attorney general decides that tax collectors in counties can only collect taxes on property, and not license or privilege taxes.

Pains in the chest when a person has a cold, indicates a tendency toward pneumonia. A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound on to the chest over the seat of pain will promptly relieve the pain and prevent the threatened attack of pneumonia. This same treatment will cure a lame back in a few hours. Sold by R. R. Bellamy.

More Troops For Cuba

Savannah, Ga., December 5.—The Two Hundred and Second New York Regiment and General George Davis and staff boarded the transport Minnesota today and the vessel is anchored in the stream ready to go to sea tomorrow. She is destined for Marianao, a small port west of Havana in the province of Pinar del Rio. General Davis is to be military governor.

ANNUAL MESSAGE

Of the President to the Congress on the State of the Union.

FEW RECOMMENDATIONS MADE.

A Summary of Events Leading up to the Spanish War—Salient Points of that Conflict Rehearsed—No Hint as to the Future Governments of Porto Rico and the Philippines—Increase of the Army and Navy Advocated—Treasury Notes Taken in Payment for Gold to be Paid Out Again Only for Gold.

Washington, December 5.—The president sent the following message to congress today:

"To the Senate and House of Representatives:—

"Notwithstanding the added burdens rendered necessary by the war, our people receive in a very satisfactory and steady increasing degree of prosperity, as evidenced by the largest volume of business ever recorded. Manufacture has been productive, agricultural pursuits have yielded abundant returns; labor in all fields of industry is better rewarded; revenue legislation passed by the present congress has increased the treasury's receipts to the amount estimated by its author; the finances of the government have been successfully administered and its credit advanced to the first rank which its currency has been maintained at the world's highest standard. Military service under a common flag and for a righteous cause has strengthened the national spirit and served to cement more closely than ever the fraternal bonds between every section of the country.

"A review of the relations of the United States to other powers always appropriate, in this year of primary importance in view of the momentous issues which have arisen, demanding in one instance the ultimate determination by arms and involving far-reaching consequences which will require the earnest attention of the congress.

REVIEW OF CUBAN AFFAIRS.

"In my last annual message very full consideration was given to the question of the duty of the government of the United States toward Spain and the Cuban insurrection as being by the most important problem with which we were called upon to deal.

"The considerations then advanced, and the exposition of the views thereon expressed, disclosed my sense of the extreme gravity of the situation, setting aside, as logically unfounded or practically inadmissible, the recognition of the Cuban insurgents as belligerents, the recognition of the independence of Cuba, neutral intervention to end the war by imposing a rational compromise between contestants, intervention in favor of one or the other party and forcible annexation of the island. I concluded it was honestly due to our friendly relations with Spain that she should be given a reasonable chance to realize her expectations of reform to which she had become irrevocably committed. Within a few weeks previously she had announced comprehensive plans, which it was confidently asserted would be efficacious to remedy the evils so deeply affecting our own country, so injurious to the true interests of the mother country, as well as to those of Cuba, and so repugnant to the universal sentiment of humanity.

SPAIN'S INABILITY TO BETTER THE SITUATION.

"The closing month brought little sign of progress toward the pacification of Cuba. The autonomous administration set up in the capital and some of the principal cities appeared not to favor the interests of the inhabitants, nor to be able to extend their influence to the large extent of territory held by the insurgents, while the military arm, obviously unable to cope with the still active rebellion, continued many of the most objectionable and offensive policies of the government that had preceded it. No tangible relief was afforded to the vast numbers of unhappy reconcentrados despite the reiterated professions made in that regard and the amount appropriated by Spain to that end. The proffered expedient of zones of cultivation proved illusory; indeed, no less practical or more delusive promises of success could well have been tendered to the exhausted and destitute people, stripped of all that made life and home dear and herded in a strange region among unsympathetic strangers hardly less necessitous than themselves.

AMERICAN RELIEF FOR THE STARVING.

"By the end of December, the mortality among them had frightfully increased. Conservative estimates from Spanish sources placed the deaths among these distressed people at over 40 per cent from the time General Weyler's decree of reconcentrados was adopted. With the acquiescence of the Spanish authorities a scheme was entered upon for relief by charitable contributions raised in this country, and distributed under the direction of

the consul general and the special consuls, by noble and earnest individual effort through the organized agencies of the American Red Cross. Thousands of lives were thus saved, but many thousands more were inaccessible to such forms of aid.

"The war continued on the old footing without comprehensive plan, developing only the same spasmodic encounters, barren of strategic result, that had marked the course of the earlier ten years' rebellion as well as the present insurrection from its start. No alternative save physical exhaustion by either combatant and therefore the practical ruin of the island, lay in sight, but how far distant no one could venture to conjecture.

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE MAINE.

"At this juncture, on the 15th of February last, occurred the destruction of the battleship Maine, while rightfully lying in the harbor of Havana on a mission of international courtesy and good will—a catastrophe the suspicious nature and horror of which stirred the nation's heart profoundly. It is a striking evidence of the poise and sturdy good sense distinguishing our national character that this shocking blow, falling upon a generous people, already deeply touched by preceding events in Cuba, did not move them to an instant, desperate resolve to tolerate no longer the existence of a condition of danger and disorder at our doors, the possibility of such a deed, by whomsoever wrought. Yet the instinct of justice prevailed and the nation anxiously awaited the result of the searching investigation at once set on foot. The finding of the naval board of inquiry established that the origin of the explosion was external by a submarine mine and only halted through lack of positive testimony, to fix the responsibility of its authorship.

HASTY PREPARATION FOR WAR.

"All these things carried conviction to the most thoughtful, even before the finding of the naval court, that a crisis in our relations with Spain and towards Cuba was at hand. So strong was this belief that it needed but a brief executive suggestion to the congress to receive immediate answer to the duty of making instant provision for the possible and perhaps speedy probable emergency of war, and the remarkable, almost unique, spectacle was presented of a unanimous vote of both houses on March 9th, appropriating \$50,000,000 for the national defense.

"For each and every purpose connected therewith, to be expended at the discretion of the president. That this act of provision came none too soon, was disclosed when the application of the fund was undertaken. Our coasts were practically undefended. Our navy needed large provision for increased ammunition and supplies, and even numbers to cope with any sudden attack from the navy of Spain, which comprised modern vessels of the highest type of continental perfection. Our army also required enlargement of men and ammunition. The details of the hurried preparation for the war, for each and every purpose connected therewith, to be expended at the discretion of the president. That this act of provision came none too soon, was disclosed when the application of the fund was undertaken. Our coasts were practically undefended. 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