

SIXTY-FIRST CONGRESS

FIRST DAY LARGE A SOCIAL AFFAIR.

PRES. TAFT WAITED UPON

Deaths of Representatives Lassiter of Virginia and DeArmond, of Missouri, Reported and House Adjourns Through Respect to the Dead.

Washington, Special.—The two houses of Congress convened Monday for the first regular session of the Sixty-first Congress, but the day's proceedings were in great part of a social nature and practically no business was transacted.

Brief as was the Senate's 13-minute session, it was enlivened by an unsuccessful effort on the part of Senator Bailey to defeat the passage of the usual resolution that the daily sessions begin at noon, suggesting that the Senate should convene instead at 2 o'clock. Mr. Bailey said he would like to see the Senate hold night sessions in order that Senators might devote the day to individual business. No objection was offered when a similar resolution was introduced in the House.

A joint committee was named by both houses to wait upon the President and to inform him that Congress was in session and ready for any business he might wish to lay before it. The President's response constituted his annual message, the reading of which will consume practically all of Tuesday's session of the two houses.

The House session continued forty minutes, during which W. W. McCredie, the new representative from the second Washington district, who succeeds the late Francis W. Cushman, was sworn in. The greater part of the session was taken up by the roll call.

Although only 341 members responded to their names, almost a full membership appeared on the House floor and there were few among them that did not have one or more bills to offer. These included one by Representative Garner of Pennsylvania for an investigation by Congress of the entire customs service particularly in regard to sugar frauds recently brought to light; one by Representative Hitchcock of Nebraska, for the establishment of postal savings banks; one by Representative Mann of Illinois for Federal regulation of the "white slave trade," and another by Mr. Mann for the free admission of wood pulp, and one by Representative Hamilton of Michigan to grant Statehood to New Mexico and Arizona.

The leaders of the majority and the minority were there and conversed amiably, all of the bitterness engendered by the tariff fight of last summer apparently having been forgotten for the time being at least.

Resolutions of respect for the memory of Senator Johnson of North Dakota and Representatives DeArmond and Lassiter who died during the recess, were adopted, and as a further mark of respect the two houses adjourned until noon Tuesday, the Senate at 12:13 and the House at 12:40 p. m.

A round of applause greeted the Speaker when he entered the chamber with his customary red carnation. For a moment he stood in his place nervously fingering the gavel. While the applause was subsiding the gavel descended with a resounding left-handed whack.

The blind chaplain of the House, the Rev. Henry N. Calhoun, then offered the prayer, in which he implored the divine blessing upon the members of Congress, especially the Speaker and for the President and his advisers. He prayed for the protection of the President and his Cabinet "from all personal violence and from the machinations of designing men." The chaplain in alluding to the tragic death of the late Representative DeArmond of Missouri, who was burned to death in his home, prayed for consolation for his colleagues, friends and especially the stricken wife and children.

For the next ten minutes or more the chamber was again filled with chatter, while the roll was being called. The Speaker announced that 354 members had responded to their names, a quorum was present and the House was ready for business.

Representatives Jones of Virginia informed the House of the death of his colleague, Francis R. Lassiter and

offered a suitable resolution, which was agreed to. A similar resolution, offered by Representative Clark of Missouri announced the death of David A. DeArmond. It was also agreed to.

W. W. McCredie, the new Representative from Washington, elected to succeed the late Francis W. Cushman, presented his credentials and was sworn in.

The House, as a further mark of respect to the two members who had died during the recess of Congress, at 12:40 p. m. adjourned until Tuesday.

Southern Congress Meets.

Washington, Special.—"A greater nation will come into being through a greater South." This is the slogan of the Southern Commercial Congress which convened here Monday for a three-days' session. The congress has announced that it has two objects—to hasten a clearer self-knowledge throughout the South and to compel the balance of the United States and of the world to set a correct valuation upon the South as a region of opportunity.

Prize for Phthisis Cure.

New Haven, Special.—The Yale Alumni Weekly Friday night made formal announcement that an anonymous alumnus of Yale has offered a prize of \$100,000 for the person who first discovers an adequate remedy for tuberculosis. A condition of the award of the prize is that the cure under consideration shall have been in use for at least five years and during that time have proved its actual and unquestionable efficiency as a cure for tuberculosis.

50,000 Armenians Starving.

Worcester, Mass., Special.—No less than 50,000 persons are starving in Armenia, according to advices received by Emily C. Wheeler, secretary of the National Armenian and India Relief Association, which has its headquarters in this city. The secretary states that in addition to this number there are 5,000 orphans who need aid, and that unless aid is sent speedily from America a large number of Armenians will perish.

Saved in the Nick of Time.

Norfolk, Va., Special.—The crew of the lost German steamer Brewster all landed Friday from the revenue cutter Onondaga. Nothing but the ships paper were saved. "One-half an hour later and the brave lifesavers who brought us to shore would have been unable to reach us. We would have all perished," declared one of them. "It was not the first time nor the last time that a ship has or will strike on that awful place under such circumstances," said another in defense of his captain.

Politics in Great Britain.

London, Special.—The whole of Great Britain is immersed in the political campaign which has been inaugurated by the refusal of the House of Lords to consent to the budget. The country is divided into two great camps, composed of those who support the Lords' action and those who contend that the House of Commons must have absolute control of the finances of the nation. There are, of course, many other issues, such as tariff reform versus free trade, but these are being pushed into the background by the conflict between the two houses. While the various local organizations are busy selecting candidates and preparing for the contests in their respective districts, the leaders of the great parties are carrying on a general campaign. The radicals, who had long foreseen the fate of their finance bill, are not allowing the grass to grow under their feet.

In London Saturday afternoon one of their organizations the National Democratic League, held a demonstration as a protest against the action of the Lords which was one of the most notable ever held in the metropolis. Fully 20,000 persons, mostly of the laboring and artisan classes, gathered in Trafalgar square and cheered the radical speakers, who condemned in unmeasured terms the members of the upper chamber.

Snow Ties Up Trains.

St. Paul, Minn., Special.—Cold and snow are now delaying freight traffic on the Northern Pacific and some parts of the Great Northern railroads more than the strike of switchmen, according to statements issued by the general managers of those roads Sunday night. According to General Manager Slade of the Northern Pacific, freight is more or less tied up all along the system on account of the snow and especially in northern Minnesota and North Dakota. Passenger trains are from one to four hours late in St. Paul Sunday night.

The 20th annual conference of the Southern Educational Conference will be held at Charlotte, 28th, 29th and 30th of this month.

Fewer people do not try to reach the ten thousand, including the Chicago News, they consider the bottom line.

INSURANCE CO. TROUBLES.

George P. Sheldon, the President, is Charged With Overdrawing His Salary, Unloading Doubtful Securities on the Company and Using the Company's Assets to Secure His Personal Speculative Accounts.

New York, Special.—The Phoenix Insurance Company of Brooklyn is under investigation for irregularities which it is believed have impaired its surplus at least \$1,000,000 and to have resulted in conditions which Superintendent Hotchkiss of the State insurance department, laid before the district attorney Monday for possible criminal action. It is charged that the president has overdrawn his salary, that he has unloaded doubtful securities on the company and that he has used the company's assets as collateral to secure his own personal speculative accounts.

In a formal statement issued Monday night Mr. Hotchkiss admits that the present investigation is still uncompleted.

George P. Sheldon, a member of many clubs, and, as chairman of the national board of fire underwriters, is one of the best known insurance men in the country, has been president of the Phoenix since 1887, and it is charged that under his administration the annual reports of the company made to the insurance department during at least the last ten years, and probably longer, are false in more than one particular.

The insurance department alleges that it finds that questionable securities originally sold to the company by Mr. Sheldon have, year after year, passed through "wash sales" and by this method have been concealed in the annual report.

Speculative accounts have been maintained by President Sheldon, according to Mr. Hotchkiss, in at least one brokerage house, and the assets of the Phoenix have been put up as collateral to cover his operations. It is charged also that for several years the president's salary account has been overdrawn and now is paid up in full to October 1, 1910.

NATIONAL EXPENSES OUT.

Grand Total of Estimates For 1911 is \$103,370,303 Less Than the Appropriations For the Current Fiscal Year—New Work Authorized Only Where Regarded as Absolutely Necessary—Salisbury Will Get \$50,000 For Public Building.

Washington, Special.—That there has been a careful scrutiny of the estimates of appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1911, is shown by the figures submitted to the House of Representatives Monday by Secretary of the Treasury McVeagh. The grand total of estimates for 1911 is \$732,323,075, which is \$103,370,303 less than the appropriations for the current fiscal year, and \$121,066,493 under the estimates submitted a year ago for 1910. A general cut has been made wherever possible, the new work authorized only where regarded as absolutely necessary.

Large reductions in the estimates as compared with the appropriations for the current year are in the Treasury Department a decrease of \$12,000,000 for public works, in the War Department about \$6,000,000 in the military establishment, made up of decreases in the estimates for regular supplies, construction works for the army, mounted equipment, transportation, ordnance and manufacture of arms, and \$2,500,000 for public works, exclusive of the Panama canal; in the Navy Department \$26,000,000, due partly to the fact that Secretary Meyer has not asked for any money for new ships and that only \$1,000,000 is required for armor and armament as against an appropriation of \$12,452,000 for this year; in the Postoffice Department a reduction of \$5,000,000 in the estimated deficiency in the postal revenues, and in the Department of Commerce and Labor a decrease from \$10,000,000 to \$2,000,000 on account of the thirteenth census.

Gale Over British Isles.

London, By Cable.—In a terrific gale that raged over the British Isles, the steamer Thistleport went to her doom off Appledram, in Barnstable Bay. It is believed that her entire crew of thirty men perished. Four bodies from the steamer already have been washed ashore. The Thistleport was in command of Captain Yeo and was bound from Liverpool for an American port.

Canal Work Suspended.

Baltimore, Special.—Mr. Frank A. Furst, of the Furst-Clark Dredging Company, which has the contract for the Cape Cod Canal, said Saturday that all work on the water end of this undertaking will be suspended until spring. This decision was reached after the fearful experience of the dredge General McKenzie, which was caught in a gale blowing 72 miles an hour and which narrowly escaped total loss. As the dredge is valued at more than \$200,000, Mr. Furst said he was unwilling to take any further risks on this bleak coast during the winter storms.

KNOX PLAN APPROVED.

Board of Examiners Will Pass Upon the Fitness of All Applicants For Position of Secretary and the Records of Efficiency Will Be Preserved.

Washington, Special.—To improve the personnel and efficiency of the diplomatic service and to encourage and commercial foreign relations of promotion to the rank of ministers, President Taft has approved a plan suggested by Secretary of State Knox, and published it as an Executive order.

The new prospect provides for a board of examiners to pass upon all applicants for appointments as secretaries and prescribes the standard plan to the President, points out the remarkable growth of the political and commercial foreign relations of the United States and the increasing difficulty of the problems to be dealt with.

Records of efficiency of all the under secretaries will be preserved in the State Department and appointment from outside the service to secretaryship will be made only to the class of third secretary of embassy; or, in case of higher vacancies, of second secretary of legation, or of secretary of legation at posts which have been assigned to them only one secretary.

Vacancies in secretaryships of the higher class will in the future be filled by promotion from the lower grades, and efficiency and ability demonstrated in the service will be the tests of advancement.

All the secretaryships in the future will be graded according to the importance or difficulty or other aspects of the work done at each mission, and these classifications will be made known to the service so that every man may know just where he stands.

The examining board will determine the fitness of candidates designated by the President for examination.

The examinations will be held at Washington and will be both oral and written. A physical examination will be supplemental.

Candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 50 years. The department will aim to apportion representation fairly among the States and Territories.

COTTON MEN WRONGED.

Commissioner of Corporations Denounces the Practices of Dealing in Futures.

Washington, Special.—Both the producers of cotton and the dealers in that commodity are the victims of the system of trading in vogue on the cotton exchange of the country.

This is the burden of part 4 and 5 of the report of Commissioner of Corporations Herbert Knox Smith on the conduct of such exchanges. The practice of dealing in futures, as it is carried on at present, is condemned, carried on at present, is condemned, the existence of the exchange.

"The brief discussion of general speculation in this report," says Mr. Smith, "recognizes the possibilities for good inherent in a great central market like a cotton exchange, and the need that this good be developed and evils eliminated by regulations in line with economic law."

The report is especially condemnatory of the dealings in futures, branding this form of speculation as pure gambling and highly injurious to legitimate trade. In quotations for "future" deliveries of cotton, the market is so uncertain and so many elements of change enter into the transaction that all bids are made at a much lower figure than those offered for cotton actually in existence.

The effect of these fictitious quotations, the report points out, tends to mislead the cotton planter as to the true value of his crop, honestly grown. In addition it leads brokers to "play" both sides of the market to protect themselves against loss in such trades, with the result that the producer is forced to pay in the end, while the farmer loses likewise.

The report, while recognizing that the exchanges in New Orleans and New York are necessary, does not mince words in criticizing the New York exchange. After declaring that the New Orleans methods of conducting the transactions in cotton followed natural lines, the report draws attention to the fact that it has been proven that the abnormal depressions in the future price in New York "were almost wholly due to improper artificial conditions now maintained by the New York cotton exchange. By maintaining them the New York exchange is responsible for a very real injury to the producer and merchant."

King of Sweden Mingles With the People.

Stockholm, By Cable.—King Gustave on Saturday inaugurated a new departure for sovereigns. Disguised as a stevedore he spent most of the day carrying sacks of coal from a lighter. In an interview, after it was all over, the King said that this was only the beginning. He intended to mix with all classes of laborers, so that he might ascertain their opinions and wishes. Already he added, he had obtained many valuable hints from the men with whom he worked.

WASHINGTON NOTES

The Civil Service Commission has summoned Public Printer Donnelly to appear before it on December 15 to show cause why he placed a charge of insubordination against John W. Rodgers an employee of the Government Printing Office, who, although told by his foreman that he could not be spared, took leave with pay which was due him, he alleges, and absented himself from his work for three days in November to go home and vote.

Announcement is made by Secretary Mitchell Carroll, of the Archaeological Institute of America, that David G. Hogarth, M. A., curator of the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, will be the first foreign lecturer under the Charles Eliot Norton Memorial Foundation, recently endowed by James Loeb, of New York. Mr. Hogarth began his lecture tour under the society's engagement at Halifax, N. S., and will address half a dozen societies of the institute in Canada before coming to the United States. Afterward he will lecture for the institute at Buffalo, Washington, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The institute's officers are gratified at securing Mr. Hogarth for the first foreign lecturer. He is an eminent archaeological explorer, geographer and author, having explored Asia Minor on four expeditions, excavated the site of the Temple of Diana at Ephesus for the British Museum and conducted many other important excavations and explorations in Egypt, Crete and Asia Minor.

President Taft is developing into a twentieth century Haroun Al Raschid. He is acquiring a habit of prowling around the streets and parks of the capitol at all hours of the evening. When the conference on the proposed changes to be made in the interstate commerce law ended at 6 o'clock Monday, Secretary Dickinson and Attorney General Wickersham were coming out of the executive office when they were hailed. "Hold on there a minute," called the President. A moment later he appeared, struggling with the refractory buttons of his light overcoat.

"How about a walk," he said. "Let's strike out." Both chorused that a stroll in the dark was exactly the thing they had been pining for. The stroll took them over the wind swept reaches of the Potomac river bottom. The trio walked briskly back to the White House, where the President waived a farewell and disappeared.

Following a lengthy conference at the White House it was announced Monday night that the administration will exert its influence towards securing a comprehensive revision of the interstate commerce law by the incoming Congress. A rough draft of the proposed amendments to the law was submitted by Attorney-General Wickersham, and while this was considered in all its details, no decision with respect to it was reached.

All of the 2,500 national banks in the United States, which now hold board meetings at irregular and infrequent intervals, must have monthly meetings of their boards of directors, must appoint examining and discount committees and all the loans and discounts of each bank must be approved by the directors' board at the monthly meeting, such approval to be recorded in permanent form. This was the pronouncement of Comptroller of the Currency Murphy Monday.

The court of appeals of the District of Columbia has granted the petition of Samuel Gompers, John Mitchell and Frank Morrison of the American Federation of Labor in the contempt case against them for a stay of execution of the mandate of the court sending them to jail. The mandate is stayed indefinitely, pending appeal to the United States supreme court.

The personnel of Uncle Sam's establishment is increasing by leaps and bounds, the grand total of all Federal employees at present being approximately 370,065, as against 306,142 in 1907, an increase in the two years of about 64,000 persons, or about 20 per cent. These and other interesting facts are brought out in the official register, or Government's "blue book," for 1909, which shortly will be issued.

Announcement of the engagement of Miss Alice Bleach, social secretary to Mrs. Taft, and Lieut. Richard Wainwright, Jr., of the navy, has opened up competition among social secretaries here and other young women not already established as such, for succession to Miss Bleach's position. Mrs. Taft is a seasoned hostess, and the long service of Mrs. Taft in various positions here has given Mrs. Taft probably a wider acquaintance among members of the social colony and a greater knowledge of the official social code than any other President's wife.

THE ZELAYA SCHEME

Two Emmissaries Sent to Washington.

HE WOULD OVERREACH KNOX

Hopes to Catch Congressmen Enough to Neutralize the Ultimatum.

Washington, Special.—President Zelaya has not only refused to take official cognizance of Secretary Knox's note which was practically an ultimatum, but is declared to have dispatched special agents to Washington to endeavor to have the State Department's ultimatum set aside, first by appeals to that department and secondly by direct appeals to members of Congress. The State Department is entirely aware of the presence and identity of these emissaries. These special agents are being watched in a general way.

It was reported Friday that any attempt Zelaya might make to escape from the country would receive the direct and vigorous attention of the American warships now lying off the coasts of Nicaragua. Secretary Knox's note intimated in the plainest language that the State Department looks upon Zelaya as the man responsible for the torture and death of the two Americans, Groce and Cannon.

The plan to deflect the United States government's program with reference to Nicaragua came to light Friday night when Senator Fernando Sanchez and Dr. V. M. Roman arrived here. Neither Senator Sanchez nor Dr. Roman would talk. They gave their address as New York.

During the afternoon and early evening more than a score of telegrams were dispatched from Senator Sanchez's rooms. Almost an equally large number were received. This telegraphic activity, the Central Americans insist, is aimed at members of Congress, with a view of winning over enough of them to render the administration's present program inoperative in the event it is presented by Congress.

Dr. Salvador Castrillo, the diplomatic agent of the provisional government of Nicaragua and representative of the revolutionists here, Friday made formal request to Secretary Knox that he be received on equal terms with the agents of the Zelaya government. It is generally believed that Dr. Castrillo's request will be granted.

While making all preparations for action, this government has resumed the calm that preceded the issue of Secretary Knox's note. There were no developments in the State Department Friday.

A New Orleans special says that the bodies of Leroy Cannon and Leonard Groce, the two Americans executed by order of President Zelaya of Nicaragua, were burned, declared passengers arriving here Friday from Nicaraguan ports on the steamer Dictator. It was reported that incineration was resorted to to conceal the means of identification. Afterwards, it was said, Zelaya found it was impossible to conceal the fact that the Americans had been killed and was forced to make a report to this effect to the State Department at Washington.

Hard to Secure a Jury.

Union City, Tenn., Special.—"The court is up against a wall and does not know which way to turn to secure a jury," remarked trial Judge J. E. Jones at the close of Friday's session of the trial of Garret Johnson and Arthur Clear, alleged leaders of the Reelfoot night riders charged with the murder of Capt. Quentin Rankin. Two jurors were secured, but as one secured earlier in the trial was excused on account of illness, the panel still lacks one man. Over 1,500 veniremen have been examined since the present trial started. Judge Jones ordered another panel brought into court Monday afternoon.

Zelaya's Troops Desert.

Bluefields, Nicaragua, Special.—Col. Guadamouse, an officer of the Nicaraguan government army, has deserted President Zelaya and with 100 men joined the rebel force of General Estrada at Rama. Guadamouse states that Zelaya's troops in the vicinity of Rama number 1,400 of whom 200 are sick. They are existing on pilot bread and native cheese which is doled out scantily.

Syrian Declared a White Man.

Atlanta, Special.—By the decision of Judge W. T. Newman of the United States district court Friday, Costa George Najour, a Syrian by birth, is declared a white man and eligible to the privilege of citizenship in the United States. A strong fight has been made by the immigration bureau against the granting of naturalization papers to Najour on the ground that he is a mongolian. It is probable the case will be taken to the United States court of appeals.