

# OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE.

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**CONGRESS OPENS**  
A Brilliant Affair, President's Message Read.  
SENATOR JOSEPH SIMON SEATED  
Oregon Volunteers Will Likely be Ordered Home Soon—Treaty to be Signed Soon.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—When the senate convened today to begin the closing session of the 55th congress, the chamber presented a notable 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 of the senate the display of flowers was unusually beautiful even for the opening day of a session of congress. The odor of flowers filled the chambers. The memorable scenes enacted in the chamber during the last session, and the momentous events that have occurred since congress last adjourned created a feeling of intense expectancy on the part of the spectators and the members of the senate. This was made manifest by the long lines of people in the corridors anxious to gain admission to the galleries and by the early arrival of the senators on the floor. 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 senate 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, and Mr. Ye Pim Chin, the Korean minister. All were interested spectators of the opening scenes of the session, and attentive listeners to the reading of the president's message.  
Promptly at 12 o'clock Hobart rapped for order. Mr. Milburn, the venerable blind chaplain, in a profoundly impressive manner, returned "devout and reverent thanks for God's goodness to us as a nation and for his care for us since last gathered in the chamber."  
The call of the senate developed the presence of 67 members. The usual resolutions were offered and adopted. Cullom of Illinois offered one to appoint a committee to inform the house that the senate was ready to transact business: Hale of Maine one fixing the hour of daily meetings at 12 o'clock noon, and Morrill of Vermont one to appoint a committee to notify the president that the senate was awaiting any communication he might desire to make. Morrill of Vermont and Cockrell of Missouri were named by the vice-president to join a like committee of the house to call on the president.  
McBride of Oregon presented the credentials of his newly elected colleague, Simon, to whom the vice president administered the oath of office. Pending the receipt of the president's message, the senate took a recess of 30 minutes.  
At 1:25 the committee appointed to wait upon the president reported the performance of its duties and announced that the president would communicate with the senate in writing. Scarcely had the report been made when Pruden entered the chamber and presented the message. Hobart laid it before the senate and the reading began at once.  
During the 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 message occupied two hours and 18 minutes. Many persons remained in the galleries throughout the reading, but, as is usual, little attention was given to the presentation of the message, either in the galleries or on the floor, after the first few pages.  
Many of the senators who had been provided with printed copies of the message retired either to the cloakrooms or to the committee-rooms to read the document at leisure. Not the slightest demonstration occurred during the reading of the message. When the clerk had concluded the reading, Mason of Illinois presented a telegram from Pritchard of North Carolina, announcing that illness prevented his attendance at the opening of the session.  
At 3:45, on motion of Platt of Connecticut, the senate adjourned.

**IN THE HOUSE.**  
Opening Session Was Spectacular With Much Good Feeling Shown.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—The opening session of congress today was a spectacular occasion, animated and brilliant. There were more than the usual number of distinguished personages in the thronged galleries, including many representatives of foreign governments, high officials, and ladies and gentlemen conspicuous in social and political life. 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. Mr. W. A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, McMillin, of Tennessee, and Mr. Sayers, of Texas, who have been elected governors of their respective states since congress adjourned, were also overwhelmed with congratulations.  
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. With rapt attention they followed the president's recital of the war and listened eagerly to every suggestion or recommendation he had to offer. No expressions of approval or disapproval interrupted the reading.  
The president's review of the causes leading up to the war, the manner in which the preparations for hostilities were made and the succession of victories on land and sea were listened to with rapt attention. The other provisions of the message were followed with almost as much interest. There was no expression of approval or disapproval throughout the reading. As soon as the reading was concluded, on motion of Mr. Dingley, the message was ordered printed, and then at 3:50 p. m. the house was adjourned.

**Bills Introduced.**  
Representative Cousins, of Iowa, has the honor of introducing the first bill in the house at this session. It is entitled "a bill declaring a standard of value in the United States" and provides that the standard of value in the United States is hereby declared to be and is the standard gold dollar of 23.8 grains of standard gold, 900 fine.  
Sulzer, of New York, the ranking democrat of the house committee on military affairs, introduced a resolution "authorizing and directing the committee on military affairs to investigate the war department and the conduct of the Spanish war." The resolution was referred to the committee on military affairs.  
Meyer, of Louisiana, today introduced in the house a bill appropriating \$12,000,000 for the construction of a wide, deep channel from deep water of the Mississippi river to deep water of the Gulf of Mexico.

**SIMON IS SEATED.**  
Is Not in the Front Row Yet, but Will Move up Later.  
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—After Senator Simon was sworn in today he was surrounded by a large number of senators who were introduced to him, and devoted what time was available during the leisure hours of the senate becoming acquainted with those who will be his colleagues for four years. Mr. Simon will sit on the republican side at the extreme right of the o-side row, which is usually the place where new senators first secure seats. On the changes that will be made after March 4, he will get a better seat. Senator Simon is accompanied to Washington by Graham Glass, secretary of the republican committee, who will remain in Washington during the winter and act as Senator Simon's clerk. In the biography of Senator Simon, published in the congressional history today, nothing is stated but the plain facts of his career without any embellishments.  
Congressman Tongue was not present at the opening session today, but is expected in a day or two. Neither of the defeated Washington congressmen was in the house.

**COMMISSIONERS AT PARIS.**  
The Peace Treaty is Practically an Accomplished Fact.  
PARIS, Dec. 6.—The peace treaty of Paris is practically an accomplished fact. Today's session disposed of the essential features of the treaty, which will be embodied in the following eight articles:  
First—The customary preface of treaties, in the nature of an expression of amity and hope for perpetual peace.  
Second—The relinquishment by Spain of her sovereignty over Cuba.  
Third—The withdrawal of the Spanish troops.  
Fourth—The relinquishment by Spain of her sovereignty over Porto Rico.  
Fifth—Spain's cession of the Philippines.  
Sixth—The withdrawal of the Spanish troops there.  
Seventh—Payment by the United States of \$20,000,000 for the Philippines.  
Eighth—The provision for the "open door" commercial policy in the Philippines.

The rough draft of the treaty, which may be considerably changed, covers the proposals. It makes a long document, which Senator Davis, of the United States peace commission, says will be found to be one of the most interesting papers of its character ever written. So completely are the details of the evacuation of the Philippines stipulated that a commission, such as arranged for the Spanish withdrawal from the West Indies, will be unnecessary.  
Among the questions not yet settled, however, are the coaling station and religious freedom of the Carolines, the Spanish commission not having replied to the American offer. The Americans have agreed to transport the Spanish prisoners home, including the garrison and sailors at Manila captured by Admiral Dewey and General Merritt, as well as the soldiers and civilians held by the Filipinos, whose return the Americans have guaranteed. As compensation, Spain promises to liberate all Cuban, Porto Rican and Philippine political prisoners. Spanish soldiers electing to remain in the colonies may do so, but it is more a matter of economy for the Americans to return the others, as they must be fed as long as they are kept and Spain is unable to bear the expense of the repatriation. Also, the Americans have rejected Spain's request for shipping concessions for 10 years in Cuban and Porto Rican waters, they having given the Spanish commissioners such poor consolation as the latter may derive from permission to re-apply, when diplomatic relations have been renewed, for shipping concessions under the reciprocity scheme of the Dingley law, for which Senor Dupuy de Lume was negotiating in Washington when the war broke out.  
There are still under discussion eight secondary subjects which the Spanish commissioners broached last week, including the status of patents and copyrights. The American commissioners today handed to Senor Monero Rios a written reply covering these questions. There will probably be no joint session tomorrow, as the Spaniards desire time to consider this document.  
It was at yesterday's session that the Americans uncompromisingly rejected Spain's request that for a term of years the ships of that country and its products be admitted to Cuban and Porto Rican ports under the same regulations and customs tariffs as American ships and products. The Spanish commissioners for some days had been playing for this. The Americans were anxious for a decision on the question of a coaling station in the Caroline islands, religious tolerance in the Carolines and release of political prisoners. The Spaniards were unwilling to answer these points until they heard what the Americans proposed to do for their industries, which had been built up by the Cuban and Porto Rican trade. This is why Spain contended that the articles of the treaty should be disposed of in their order, while the Americans wanted first to settle their pressing needs. The session of yesterday was practically a fight on the order of procedure. Finally the Americans yielded, and then the Spaniards proposed the shipping and commercial contention which the Americans rejected in its entirety. The session then adjourned, with neither side in an especially amiable frame of mind.  
It is learned that there were differences of opinion among the Americans on the shipping question, and numerous telegrams were exchanged with Washington. Finally the American commission was instructed to refuse, the principal reason being that Porto Rico is about to be declared within the coast line of the United States, while, as regards Cuba, authorities at Washington would make no promises, as the American occupation there is not fixed and the future Cuban government will make its own treaties. Exactly what Spain requested was that her ships and products should be accorded the same privileges in Cuba and Porto Rico for a period of 10 years as had been conceded to Spain in the Philippines.  
When the commissioners emerged

Paris, Dec. 6.—The peace treaty of

(Concluded from page two.)