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Unlike European monarchs, who usually have a private chaplain and a special place of worship as a part of the "state church," the President of the United States selects his own place of worship in Washington, much as would any other person who went there to live, and attends its services without ostentation of any sort. Since regular public receptions at the White House have been discontinued, the President's church is generally overruled with sabbathers. Mr. Roosevelt attends Grace Reformed Church. His new edifice, completed since he became President, seats about five hundred persons; before that he worshipped with the society in a chapel less than half as commodious. Presidents Grant, Hayes and McKinley attended Methodist churches; General Garfield, during his long Congressional career, as well as after his elevation to the presidency, was identified with the "Disciples" or "Christians." Their present church, one of the strongest in the city, is called the "Garfield Memorial." President Arthur was an Episcopalian, and attended St. John's, just across Lafayette Park, which is but a few steps from the White House. Benjamin Harrison, as a prominent Presbyterian, found his religious home at the Church of the Covenant.

The Fifty-eighth Congress will expire amid the excitement of the inauguration ceremonies at noon of March 4. The short session of an expiring Congress is usually full of accomplishment. Things move more rapidly than in the longer session of the preceding year. Young members have now all had a winter's experience. The House of Representatives passes its appropriation bills more speedily in a second year, since the questions in dispute are naturally "fought out" the first time they come before its members. Legislative measures which have made progress, but have not reached enactment will be taken up where they were left last spring. Committees which had been directed to make special inquiries will report on the opening day of the session. All bills which are not passed by March 4 will be lost, and must be introduced again in the next Congress. A treaty does not expire at the end of a Congress, since it is for the Senate alone to consider. It may be taken up where it was left the year before, regardless of whether there is a new Congress that has come in, or merely another session of an old one.

An important opinion, which will set a precedent of great interest to all Federal officials who are appointed by the President, has been rendered by the comptroller of the treasury. The decision establishes the title of officials to draw pay until their successors qualify. The point was raised by Melvin Grigsby, of South Dakota, who was district attorney for the Nome, Alaska, district. Mr. Grigsby resigned and his resignation, to take effect June 30 last, was accepted. His successor was appointed, but he failed to qualify until July 29. Mr. Grigsby, who had been occupying the district attorney's office between the time of his resignation and the qualification of his successor, contended that he was entitled to twenty-nine days' pay, although his resignation had been accepted and he was considered out of office. The comptroller decides that Mr. Grigsby's claim is proper.

It is said that immediately upon the inauguration of President Roosevelt on March 4 there will be a shake-up that will overshadow that made by Mr. McKinley when the Republicans gained power after the Cleveland administration. Very few of the old McKinley appointees are to be retained in office. Mr. Roosevelt wants his own personal selection. The official shuffling is to be begun in the cabinet, and will extend down to consular positions of comparatively minor importance. It will include hundreds of postmasters, internal revenue collectors, customs collectors, commissioners of immigration, consuls, diplomatic agents, and in fact official positions in every branch of the government service.

Governor Cummins of Iowa, Governor Van Sant of Minnesota, and Governor La Follette of Wisconsin have formed a triumvirate to force a revision of freight rates in the West, and for that purpose held a conference with President Roosevelt. Governor Cummins has gathered a large amount of data, which he presented to the President, showing that the present freight tariff is inequitable. The triumvirate urge more equitable rates for both communities and individuals; also that the Interstate Commerce Commission be given more authority in this direction.

When the President attends church he is allowed to leave the building at the close of the service, before the rest of the congregation leave their pews. The ushers see that this rule is respected. Considering the country's unfortunate experience with assassins, it is a very simple precaution. Two secret service men are also in attendance. President Roosevelt almost invariably walks to his church, which is less than a mile from the White House.

In the next House the Republicans will have a majority almost as large as the entire Democratic membership. According to unofficial returns, the clerk of the House figures out that the Republicans will have 252 members and the Democrats 184, a Republican majority of 118. Estimates of appropriations for the Department of Commerce and Labor for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1905, were made public in Washington and agreed \$14,350,000 being \$534,425 less than the present year.

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