

# THE HILLSBORO ARGUS.

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VOL. III.

## A NEW ADMINISTRATION

### President McKinley Takes Up the Reins of Our Government.

#### THE INAUGURATION CEREMONY

Countless Thousands Viewed The Great Civic and Military Parade—Beautiful Decorations and Magnificent Illuminations—Inaugural Ball a Success.

Thursday, March 4, for the fourth time, a native-born citizen of Ohio, in the presence of untold thousands of his countrymen, took the oath which bound him for four years to guard the welfare of the American people. It was an impressive yet beautifully simple ceremony that marked the accession of William McKinley, soldier, lawyer, representative, governor, to the high office of president.

The popular demonstration of the day was unique and a shining success in every particular. In beauty, in taste, in novelty the decorations were incomparably superior to anything ever seen in Washington. The magnificent body of regular United States troops was more numerous than any gathered since Grant's great display at the close of the war. Seventeen sovereign states had citizens in the parade, and over sixty civic organizations helped to swell its magnificent proportions.

Along the broad avenue on every open space were erected grandstands that were not only comfortably covered and of pretty architectural design, but appropriately decorated. The citizens had spent money liberally to beautify their houses, and, with the aid of thousands of flags of every kind, loaned by the national government, Pennsylvania, the great artery avenue of the city, was turned into a rainbow of bright color, in which "Old Glory" predominated.

Decorations in the City. A stiff breeze flaunted flags, banners and bunting in the air, aiding picturesque to the broad avenue, from the treasury to the capitol, packed with people.

The center of the interest of the decorations of the city was Pennsylvania avenue, stretching, an unbroken sheet of asphalt 150 feet broad and a mile long, from the capitol to the foot of the treasury, and thence, after a short break at Fifteenth street, for another mile and a half past the north front of the treasury, past the White House and the state, war and navy departments to Washington Heights.

The great trough of buildings from the capitol to the treasury was a wealth of bunting. There were flags of all nations waving from the windows.

#### Beginning of the Ceremonies.

The presidential family party arrived at the capitol at 11:40, and entered the east reserved gallery. Mrs. McKinley and her sister, Mrs. Barber, took front seats. Mrs. McKinley, sr., was two seats from Mrs. McKinley, jr., and the two bent forward frequently for an exchange of happiness.

The diplomatic corps entered the chamber at 11:45, followed a moment later by the chief justice and associate justices of the United States supreme court. Members of the house of representatives then entered. There was a stir when the senate officials announced Vice-President-elect Mr. Hobart, who stepped to a seat near the presiding officer's desk.

#### Presidential Party Arrives.

At 12:20 President Cleveland and President-elect McKinley entered the main doors. Attention was riveted at once on these two central figures. McKinley and Cleveland were seated immediately in front of the presiding officer, facing the senate and crowd.

Members of the house of representatives filled the entire body of the hall on the right side, and on the opposite area sat senators and senators-elect.

#### The Vice-President Sworn In.

As the presidential party took seats, Vice-President Stevenson arose and invited his successor to step forward and take the oath of office. Hobart advanced to the desk, raised his right hand, and took the oath in accordance with the constitution.

Stevenson then delivered his valedictory address. He thanked the members with whom he had been associated for their many kindnesses, and wished them God speed in their future deliberations.

Vice-President Hobart, speaking in a strong, well-modulated tone, then delivered his introductory address. He began by saying:

"Senators: To have been elected to preside over the senate of the United States is a distinction which any citizen would prize, and the manifestation of confidence which it implies is an honor which I sincerely appreciate. My gratitude and loyalty to the people of the country to whom I owe this honor, and my duty to you as well, demands such a conservative, equitable and conscientious construction and enforcement of your rules as shall promote the well-being and prosperity of the people, and at the same time conserve the time-honored precedents and established traditions which have contributed to make this tribunal the most distinguished of the legislative bodies of the world."

#### Senators Sworn In.

The proclamation of the outgoing president, calling an extra session of

the senate having been read, Vice-President Hobart requested the new senators to advance and take the oath of office. At the presiding officer's suggestion, Mr. Morrill, the patriarch of the senate, was complimented with being the first sworn in. No exact order was observed, the oath being given to four senators at one time. With the fifteen new men were twelve of the old senators who were sworn in for new terms.

While oaths were being administered, Cleveland and McKinley sat talking in a low tone. It was clearly a most agreeable change, for the old and new presidents smiled now and then, as they nodded acquaintance to each other.

It was 1:05 P. M., when the last oath had been administered, and the formal exit began, the supreme justices going first, Mr. Cleveland, President McKinley and other officials following. Just before the official party withdrew, Mrs. McKinley and the mother of the president were escorted from the gallery to the east front of the capitol, where the oath of office was to be taken by the new president. The occupants of the public gallery were held in their places for some time in order not to block the procession of officials. Gradually the chamber was deserted.

The Procession Appears. The crowd had waited patiently in front of the stand erected at the east wing for the procession from the senate chamber to appear.

When the retiring and incoming presidents stepped on the platform arm in arm their appearance was greeted with a thunderous roar. Cleveland now

with lights, the streets were crowded with people, and the clamoring multitudes still battled at the doors of hotels and restaurants demanding food and drink, thousands surged to and fro in front of the monument grounds, whence arose the chromatic fireworks which illuminated the city in fitful gleams, but it was at the pension building that the politicians paid their respects to society. There distinguished guests of the occasion paid homage to President McKinley and the new mistress of the White House, and later threaded the mazes of the dance.

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Our financial system needs some revision; our money is all good now, but its value must not further be threatened. It should all be put upon an enduring basis, not subject to easy attack, nor its stability to doubt or dispute. Our currency should continue under the supervision of the government. The several forms of our paper money offer, in my judgment, a constant and to a safe balance in the treasury. Therefore, I deem it necessary to devise a system, without diminishing the circulating medium or offering a premium for its contraction, which will present a remedy for those arrangements which, temporary in their nature, might well, in times of our prosperity, have been displaced by wiser provisions. With adequate revenue insured, but not until then, can we enter upon such changes in our financial system as will, while insuring safety and volume to our money, no

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The question of international bimetallism will have early and earnest attention. It will be my constant endeavor to secure it by co-operation with the other great commercial powers of the world. Until that condition is realized the relative value of silver alloyed and that which may hereafter be coined must be constantly kept at par with gold by every resource at our command.

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With the night came the crowning glory of the inauguration. The residences and public buildings were aflame

with lights, the streets were crowded with people, and the clamoring multitudes still battled at the doors of hotels and restaurants demanding food and drink, thousands surged to and fro in front of the monument grounds, whence arose the chromatic fireworks which illuminated the city in fitful gleams, but it was at the pension building that the politicians paid their respects to society. There distinguished guests of the occasion paid homage to President McKinley and the new mistress of the White House, and later threaded the mazes of the dance.

The ball was the climax of the day. The pension building is admirably suited for this spectacular display. It lends itself to the most artistic decoration, and it was never so beautifully decorated and festooned and lighted as on this night. The graceful arches trembled with flowers and greenery, the colossal columns seemed to grow out of banks of flowers, and supported the iron roof, which was a royal canopy of white and gold. Hundreds of canaries in gold cages tucked away in the greenery sang merrily. The thousands of electric lights flashed amid the flowers and drapery. The artistic effect of the lights was probably never equalled, certainly not surpassed, in this country.

It was like the portals of fairyland, with its vision of beautiful women, its myriads of gleaming lights, its gorgeous massing of colors, its wealth of blossoms, its pulsations of music and the heavy odor of thousands of perfumes.

The enormous floor space—300 feet long and half as wide—was so large

that it was divided into squares, each under a corps of assistants to the general floor managers. Here the dancers enjoyed themselves to their hearts content.

Business conditions are not the most promising. It will take time to restore the prosperity of former years. If we cannot promptly attain it, we can resolutely turn our faces in that direction, and aid its return by friendly legislation. However troublesome the situation may appear, congress will not, I am sure, be found lacking in disposition or ability to relieve as far as legislation can do so. The restoration of confidence and the revival of business which men of all parties so much desire, depends more largely upon the prompt, energetic and intelligent action of congress than upon any other single agency that affects the situation.

It is inspiring, too, to remember that no great emergency in the 180 years of our eventful national life has ever arisen that has not been met with wisdom and courage by the American people, with fidelity to their best interests and highest destiny, and to the honor of the American name. These years of glorious history have exalted mankind throughout the world, and immeasurably strengthened the precious free institutions which we enjoy. The people love and will sustain these institutions. The greatest aid to our happiness and prosperity is that we adhere to principles upon which the government was established, and insist upon their faithful observance. The equality of rights must prevail and our laws be always and everywhere respected and obeyed.

Trusts and Monopolies. The declaration of the party now restored to power has been in the past opposed to all combinations of capital, organized in trusts or otherwise, to control arbitrarily the conditions of trade among our citizens, and it has supported such legislation, as well, as to prevent the execution of all schemes to oppress the people by undue charges on their supplies or by unjust rates for the transportation of their products to market. This purpose will steadily be pursued, both by the enforcement of the law now in existence, and of such new statutes as may be necessary to carry it into effect.

Immigration Laws. Our naturalization and immigration laws should be further improved to the constant promotion of a safer, a better and higher citizenship. A grave peril to the republic would be a citizenship too ignorant to understand or too vicious to appreciate the great value and benefit of our legislation and laws, and against all who come here to make war upon them, our gates must be promptly and tightly closed. Nor must we be unmindful of the need of improvement among our own citizens, but with the zeal of our forefathers encourage the spread of knowledge and free education. Illiteracy must be banished from the land if we shall attain that high destiny as the foremost of the enlightened nations of the world, which, under providence, we ought to achieve.

Extra Session of Congress. It has been the uniform practice of each president to avoid as far as possible the convening of congress in extra session. It is an example which ordinary circumstances and in the absence of public necessity, is not to be commended, but a failure to convene the representatives of the people in extra session when it involves a neglect of public duty places the responsibility of such neglect upon the executive.

The condition of the public treasury, as has been indicated, demands the immediate consideration of congress. It alone has the power to provide revenue for the government.

It is evident therefore, that to postpone action in the presence of so great a necessity would be unwise on the part of the present executive, because unjust to the interests of the people. Our action now will be freer from mere partisan consideration than if the question of tariff revision was postponed until the regular session of congress. We are nearly two years from a congressional election, and politics cannot so greatly distract us as if such a contest was immediately pending.