

THE demands of all sections of the country were greater than President Cleveland was willing to take the responsibility of opposing, and in obedience to them he has called an extra session of Congress to assemble on Monday, the 7th of August. The plain facts appear to be that the disturbances of values arising from the uncertainties of the business situation grew so alarming that Mr. Cleveland at last was constrained to believe that the "unexpected contingencies necessitating an earlier meeting of Congress," which he spoke of in his celebrated interview of June 5, had arrived. The action of the British government in India brought matters to a crisis. Previous to that startling event Mr. Cleveland had manifested a firm determination to adhere to his original plan of calling Congress in September. After the suspension of silver coinage in India the President resolutely declined to speak further about his intentions until he should be prepared to act, and each of his cabinet officers maintained similar silence. When, however, he found telegrams, letters, and petitions on his table, not only from the Eastern and Middle States, but also from the South and even from some of the Northwest, urging that Congress be called together at the earliest day possible to end the uncertainty, he determined to delay no longer, and the call was issued.

Of course it is generally recognized that it was this demand from every section of the country for Congressional action to relieve the depressed condition of finances that finally actuated the President. It is generally felt also that Mr. Cleveland's message to Congress will emphasize the fact that the financial situation demands first attention, and that no other legislation should be considered until that problem is settled. There is a general belief that the purchase clause of the Sherman silver law will be repealed, but what compromise will be arranged to bring that about is altogether problematical. In all discussions of the matter there is almost entire unanimity among men of all parties that the President's act in a once convened Congress was wise and the only thing to do under the circumstances.

One of the results of Mr. Cleveland's call for an extra session was his immediate departure from the city on the short vacation he will now allow himself. On the same afternoon his proclamation was issued he left for Buzzard's Bay, Mass., to join Mrs. Cleveland, and he will probably remain there the balance of this month. It is announced that he will transact only the most important and pressing public business while absent from the Capital, and it is assumed that he will also prepare his message to Congress. The cabinet officers are also getting away from Washington as rapidly as possible for a brief rest, as they will have no opportunity in that direction after Congress convenes.

INVESTIGATION has brought out the fact that many men who are drawing disability pensions are

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living in Soldiers Homes without cost to themselves and are earning regular wages for the performance of manual labor. Further investigation shows that, except in the cases of those who draw pensions under the act of 1890, nothing can be done to prevent a continuance of this practice without new legislation. "It is evident that the whole system of pension laws," remarked a congressman who was himself a Union soldier, "are faulty and in need of a thorough revision, but I have serious doubts as to the courage of Congress to make that revision. Pensions have been used as capital so long by demagogues that the people at large will have to be educated on the subject before the pressure upon Congress becomes strong enough to compel action. The preliminary steps in this educational work are being taken by the administration in its endeavors to clear the roll of illegal pensioners. Later, the revision of the laws will come in answer to a public demand in which thousands of old soldiers will join, indeed, many of them have already done so. As soon as pensions are entirely divorced from partisan politics justice will be done, alike to the taxpayer and the old soldiers."

President Cleveland was asked by the committee in charges of the preparations for the celebration of the centennial of the laying of the corner stone of the U. S. Capitol building to deliver the principal oration upon that occasion, but the President expects to have his hands full about the date of the celebration—September 18—he had the committee that he could not comply with their request, but would gladly make a short speech introducing the man they had selected to deliver the oration.

AMONG the fraudulent pensioners whose dropping from the roll was officially approved this week were eleven men shown by the records of the War Department to have been deserters and who are still deserters at large, one man who never was in the army at all, several women who continued to draw widow's pensions after they had married again, and one notorious prostitute. Surely such as these have no business on "a roll of honor."

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