

**THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

The president's message is lengthy. It deals first with the Behring sea troubles, ending up with the statement that an agreement has been arrived at between the United States and Great Britain by which the whole matter is to be arbitrated, and that nothing remains to be done but to select the arbitrators.

Attention is called to the boundary dispute between Great Britain and Venezuela touching the western frontier of British Guiana. He says the efforts of the United States to assist in a friendly way to settle the dispute has been unsuccessful and says our government will always view with concern any encroachment on territories of the western continent, but those who read the message will observe that the president, in speaking of differences with Great Britain has much less of the spirit of bravado than when speaking of Chili. The president tells us that it is gratifying to be allowed to say that Germany, Denmark, Italy, Austria and France have opened their ports to our inspected pork. It will be remembered that republicans all over the country have been expatiating elaborately upon the beauties of reciprocity in thus opening these foreign markets to American pork, but the president himself upsets this very beautiful theory by saying: "The removal of these restrictions in every instance was asked for and given solely upon the ground that we had now provided a meat inspection that should be accepted as adequate to the complete removal of dangers real or fancied which had been previously urged." So from the president's own words it appears there was no reciprocity in it. The president thinks that in case like the killing of the Italians in New Orleans it would be competent for congress to give the federal courts jurisdiction of such crimes. Very few men will agree with him. He talks right to the point about the cruel treatment meted out to American seamen at Valparaiso by the Chileans. Every patriotic man will endorse the president's words. Attention is called to the prosecution of the Jews in Russia and the friendly interposition of our government to prevent it. Speaking of the McKinley tariff law the president says:

Rarely, if ever before in the history of the country, has there been a time when the proceeds of one day's labor or the product of one farm crop could purchase such a large amount of things that enter into the living of the masses of the people. I believe that a full test will develop the fact that the tariff act of the Fifty-first congress is very favorable in its average effect upon the prices of articles flowing into common use.

It would have been impossible for the president to have made a more absurd statement. To attribute the good prices of wheat, corn and other farm products to the passage of the McKinley bill is trifling with the good sense of men merely of ordinary intelligence. These prices come as the result of short crops in Europe, and the president gains no credit in this bungling attempt to mislead the people. They cannot be deceived in that way. He opposes the free coinage of silver and stands by the present law. The message is very lengthy and will on many points provoke the strongest kind of criticism, especially that part of the message which treats of the new method of appointing presidential electors in Michigan. We shall have occasion to say something of that part of the message at another time.

**WASHINGTON.**

(From our regular correspondent.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7, 1891.

The speaker of the House, as he was escorted to the speaker's chair after having been elected by the unanimous vote of the democratic representatives today, was greeted by salvo after salvo of applause from the floor and from the galleries, and from the earnest manner in which he was applauded by every democrat in the chamber, it was apparent that the long and hotly contested fight in the caucus—the longest for many years—had left no bad blood among the friends of the defeated candidates. Another noticeable and commendable thing is that the friends of the victorious candidate have shown no disposition to crow over the friends of those who were defeated. The democrats of the House are today a united and compact body, and there is every prospect of their remaining such, notwithstanding the herculean efforts of the republicans to create discord, and falling in that, to create the public impression that there is discord.

The speaker's desk was literally covered with flowers, sent by admiring friends, a few minutes after he took his seat. The first business after the election of the speaker was the election of the other House officers. The retiring republican officials were all given the complimentary nomination of their party, although it is known that some of the republicans were opposed to so honoring Mr Reed.

Never was the circus, which is always a part of the drawing by lottery for seats in the House on the first day of a new congress, more enjoyed by the members and spectators than it was today, and the ring-leaders in the fun were mostly the men whose nerves had been racked to their utmost tension during the long uncertain period of the speakership contest in the caucus. The gaiety of the members to day was therefore but the natural reaction of nature. The spectators in the galleries also took part in the sport. When the members were all huddled up in the open spaces behind the seats and the blind-folded boy made his appearance to begin drawing the numbered marbles out of the box such remarks as: "You'll get pulled for running a lottery," "where's the caps," and "Wanamaker will be after you," might

have been heard in all parts of the galleries, and even upon the floor of the House. Never before were there so many new faces in a single congress, and in consequence there has been an unusual run on the first edition of the Congressional Directory. Everybody wants to find out something about the unknown men. The occupations of the representatives, as given in the Directory, show that the lawyers are still in the majority, there being 313 who are owners of legal "sheepskins." Farmers came with 65, school teachers 42, merchants 24, manufacturers 20, bankers and capitalists 19, journalists 10, printers 9, physicians 5, sailors 3, clergymen 2, 1 miner, 1 machinist, 1 blacksmith, 1 book-binder, 1 carpenter, 1 tanner, 1 car-finisher and 1 harness maker. The total of occupations given is greater than the membership, but that is because some of the members have followed more than one occupation. 9 of the members were born in Ireland, 3 in Germany, 3 in Canada, 2 in Norway, 1 in Sweden, 1 in Greece, 1 in England, and 1 in Scotland. It would be difficult to get a more representative body together.

The fellow who thinks he knows what the House is going to do, is as numerous as usual, but the man who really knows what the House will do does not exist. It will take some little time for the members to confer and arrive at some conclusion. Nothing will be done hastily, and nothing will be done before it has been approved with practical unanimity by the democratic members. Every member with whom your correspondent has talked appears to fully realize that upon the action or nonaction of the House may depend the election of a democratic president next year.

The senate also has an influx of new members, there being 15 of them, including the three alliance senators, Irby, Peffer and Kyle, the first of whom will vote with the democrats, the second with the republicans, and the last as he happens to feel at the time, upon all political questions.

Mr Harrison announced today that, as the House would take considerable time to organize, he would not send in his message until tomorrow. There is reason for believing that the change of program was made not because of the organization of the House, but because of a change which Mr Harrison was persuaded by Mr Blaine to make in that portion of his message relating to foreign affairs.

The deadlock in the democratic caucus from Saturday until today, gave many of the new members an entirely new view of congressional politics.

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