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CONVENING

The Legislatures Everywhere

Democrats and Populists in the Lead in Organization.

LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 6.—The 25th Nebraska legislature met at noon. Organization was quickly effected, the Populists taking control of the house and the Democrats and free-silver Republicans of the senate.

California.

SACRAMENTO, Jan. 6.—George C. Perkins was declared the nominee of the joint Republican caucus; twenty-three senators and thirty-six assembly men went into the caucus and Perkins received fifty-nine votes and the proxy of Sims, making a vote of sixty. Perkins needs but one vote to elect and that is said to be sure.

Colorado.

DENVER, Col., Jan. 6.—The Populists claim to have captured the organization of both houses of the legislature by agreements with the national silver and McKinley Republican members. In the house an agreement was signed by twenty-five Populists, nine National Silver and three McKinley Republicans in the senate a similar agreement was reached.

Idaho.

BOISE, Idaho, Jan. 6.—There have been no developments yet in the senatorial situation. Dubois is thought to stand a chance, but the matter is in the control of the Democrats and Populists. The Democrats promised to give the Populists the senatorship and Dubois must get seven from the combination to elect him.

Minnesota.

ST. PAUL, Jan. 6.—Both houses of the legislature organized. J. D. Jones being speaker, and M. J. Dowling chief clerk, while S. A. Langum was re-elected secretary of the senate. The governor will present his message tomorrow noon. The state officers have no set time of being sworn in, filing their oaths of office with the secretary of state at any time after receipt of their certificates of election.

North Dakota.

BISMARCK, N. D., Jan. 6.—Frank A. Briggs took the oath of office as governor today. While the oath of office was being administered, the

governor received a telegram announcing the death of his eldest daughter, Stella, at Minneapolis. The fifth legislative assembly convened at noon and organized, T. A. Burleigh being chosen speaker of the house.

South Dakota.

PIERRE, S. D., Jan. 6.—On account of the house not being ready to organize, the inaugural ceremonies consisted of swearing in the new state officers. The house members present were sworn in, and, on account of the large number of absentees, who were storm-bound, those present adjourned. The senate members were sworn in, and at once proceeded to organize. Populist Senator Palmer presented a new set of rules, which takes the organization out of the hands of the lieutenant-governor (a Republican) and places it in the hands of the Populist majority. The inaugural ball was a brilliant affair.

Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 6.—The Republicans, in the joint caucus tonight, nominated A. Boies Penrose for United States senator to succeed Cameron, on the first ballot. The vote was: Penrose, 133; Wanamaker, 75; Cameron, 1; Congressman J. B. Robinson, 1; Judge Charles E. Rice, 1; absent or not voting, 4.

Delaware.

DOVER, Jan. 5.—The Democrats organized both houses. In the senate they seated Samuel R. Meredith, of Kent county. Only five of the nine members participated, the Republicans withdrawing. In the house Kent county Republicans were ignored though they protested and remained standing on the floor for an hour. They then organized a second house, Geo. Fisher Pearce and John M. C. Moore, Republican senators, refused to participate in the organization of the rump senate.

A Brief Will.

MILWAUKEE, Jan. 9.—The will of Mrs. Elizabeth Pfister has been filed in the probate court. The will is brief, disposing of an estate reported to be valued at more than \$1,500,000. Three special requests are made to Rosa, Bertha, and John Christman, nieces and nephew of deceased and the residue is to be equally divided between Charles F. Pfister and Louisa Vogel, her adopted children.

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## CONGRESSIONAL.

Important Business Enacted

Various Resolutions and Addresses by Members.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—The senate passed the house bill abolishing the death penalty in a large number of cases. The present laws, which have come down from colonial times, have a sanguinary aspect and prescribed death for offences of various characters.

The bill passed reduces the offences to five, viz: treason, rape, murder and two offences applicable to the army and navy. In all other offences hard labor for life is substituted as the maximum. As punishment for treason and in cases of murder and rape, hard labor may be substituted if the jury states in its verdict "without capital punishment."

As the bill passed the house after a long crusade by Representative Curtis of New York, and is amended but slightly by the senate, it is likely to go to the president, when the minor disagreements are arranged in conference.

Among the bills introduced was one by Peffer, of Kansas, "to improve the banking business," and one by Shoup, of Idaho, as to alien ownership of lands in territories.

The first reference to Cuba was in two resolutions offered by Call, of Florida. The first requests the president to send the senate in secret or open session, as he may deem best, all reports relating to the condemnation to life imprisonment in chains by the Spanish authorities at Havana, of Sangulilly, the American citizen.

The second recites the circumstance of the Sangulilly trial and condemnation and directs the secretary of state to demand his immediate release.

The resolution went over, Call stating that he would speak on them.

Pettigrew, of South Dakota, offered a resolution, which was agreed to, asking the secretary of the treasury for information as to the Behring sea seal fisheries, particularly as to why only \$1000 was yielded the government in 1896 for the privilege of taking 630,000 sealskins.

Peffer then addressed the senate on his resolution for a commission of five senators to investigate the entire monetary and report within a year. Peffer's speech dealt largely with the heterogeneous character of our various kinds of money and the uncertainties of the present financial system.

HOUSE.

The following resolution was adopted on action of Brederick of Kansas:

"Whereas, There are large and valuable tracts of land in Kansas embraced in the grant to the Union Pacific Railway Company to which patents have not yet been issued.

"Whereas, Most of these lands have been sold by said company to said purchasers who are in possession, and who have made lasting and valuable improvements thereon.

"Resolved, That the secretary of the interior be directed to report to the house the cause of the omission to issue patents to said lands and the authority under which the land officers pretend to act in permitting these entries to be made.

Then, under a special order adopted before the recess, the house went into a committee of the whole for consideration of the Loud bill to amend laws relating to second-class mail matter. The bill amends the present law in several particulars, the principal ones of which deny newspapers the "sample copy privileges," and deny to books sent through the mails as serials at newspaper pound rates. Under order the debate will close tomorrow. It was arranged that Loud, of California, and Quigg, of New York, should control time for and against the measure.

Loud having already made his opening argument, Quigg took the floor to

reply. He characterized the bill as revolutionary and reactionary. He said it proposed to deny to the people privileges they had enjoyed for half a century.

Jumped a Trestle.

OMAHA, Jan. 6.—A Carson, Ia., special to the Bee says: A passenger train on the Burlington jumped a trestle while entering this city this morning. Five people were injured, one fatally. The injured are: John Surles, conductor; Robert Adkins, of Henderson, Ia., fatally; S. W. Lamb, an expressman; Miss May Paul, of Henderson; Curtis Curdian, a brakeman.

## CRIMINAL.

Roumanian Count in Trouble.

Two Murders Hanged and Counterfeiters Sentenced.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—"Count" Guilemo J. de Gester, alias Dr. Juster, alias Dr. F. S. Rhodes, said to be a Roumanian of excellent family, and who professes to be studying dentistry in America has been arrested in this city. He is said to be wanted for several offences in Buffalo, N. Y., New York city, Brooklyn, Leadville and Denver.

Wife abandonment, embezzlement, forgery, swindling, bigamy and obtaining money under false pretenses are some of the charges for which he is wanted in various parts of the country, and it is believed he has obtained in all about \$100,000 by his alleged illegal methods since he came to America three years ago.

He is a young man dressed in the height of fashion and stopped at the best hotels in the American cities he has visited. In Brooklyn he married the daughter of a prominent jeweler and deserted her August 21 last and went West. At Leadville he is charged with swindling a citizen out of a house and lot. He is also charged with forgery. Going from there to Denver he continued his fraudulent methods.

Soon after his departure for this city Chief of Police Russell, of Denver, learned of the former swindles he had perpetrated and sent his description to the police of this city.

Here, while in dire distress, after having been ejected from two big hotels for non-payment of bills, he met Belle Cutts, who, the police say, is an adventuress, and marriage with her soon followed.

Two Murders Hanged.

NORFOLK, Va., Jan. 6.—William Downing and Charles Williams were hanged this morning in the jail yard. They fell together at one pull of the rope, and died without a struggle. Williams, last April, in a drunken quarrel, aboard a schooner in the harbor, split open the head of his friend, Charles Bess. Downing shot at a man, but missed the mark and fatally shot Emma Lane, colored.

Sentenced.

TRENTON, N. J., Jan. 6.—George Sands, alias Dr. Clark, and Mrs. Mary Knapp, recently convicted of passing counterfeit silver dollars at Hoboken, were sentenced, the former to seven years in the New Jersey state prison, and the latter to Essex county penitentiary for four years.

Hung Himself.

PITTSBURG, Jan. 6.—Chris Schauers, Jr., treasurer of the National Bank for Savings, committed suicide. His body was discovered this morning dangling from the rafters in a closet of the Allegheny gymnasium. The president of the bank says Schauers' accounts are straight. Schauers has not been in good health and was very morose.

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## CUBA.

Cargo Successfully Landed.

Steamer Three Friends Returns From an Unsuccessful Trip.

MADRID, Jan. 6.—The correspondent at Havana of the Imparcial, of this city, cables that he has had an interview with Captain-General Weyler in which the general expresses surprise at the newspaper campaign in Spain against him. General Weyler did not deny the existence of abuses, but said that his conscience was clear, and that at the proper time he would show what he had done.

General Weyler also expressed the greatest satisfaction at the progress of the campaign in Pinar del Rio province, which he asserted was so far pacified that he would withdraw the greater part of the troops from that part of the island for use in the immediate operations.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 6.—A dispatch from Key West states that the Dauntless successfully landed its expedition to Cuba. The expedition, it is said, is the one the Three Friends attempted to land when pursued by the Spanish gunboat and left at No Name Key, from which place it was taken last Friday by the Dauntless.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Jan. 6.—The steamer Three Friends returned from a fruitless search for the survivors of the wrecked filibuster Commodore. It was thought that seven men, left on a raft, might still be floating, but a diligent search reveals no evidence of them. The cruiser Newark accompanied the Three Friends and kept its searchlights almost constantly on the little steamer, for fear that it might escape. As soon as the Three Friends returned to port this morning it was libeled for the third time within a year, charged with having been engaged in a filibustering expedition.

Saved His Bacon.

HAVANA, Jan. 6.—General Lee, the United States consul-general, having notified the editor of La Lucha, Senor Arrostegui, that Senator-elect H. D. Money, of Mississippi, who was missing for some time from his headquarters here, the Hotel Inglaterra, harrowing adverse newspapers comment, desired to make a statement of the subject, Mr. Money informed Senor Arros tegui that he had no connection with the Cuban junta in New York, and that he has no acquaintance with any member of that body. He added that his voyage was undertaken solely as a vacation while congress was not in session, and in order to enjoy the mild climate of Cuba, while personally inquiring, so far as the law of the country permitted, into the true situation existing here, in order that when necessary he may be able to express himself clearly on the subject in the United States senate.

Mr. Money added that while talking at the United States consulate with a friend, the latter insisted that he go with him to Los Gatos, in this province, and he complied. They took an omnibus which was going there, and returned yesterday, after having greatly enjoyed the trip and beautiful scenery.

Mr. Money also asserted that he did not leave San Jose los Gatos while away from this city, and says he did not see any insurgents on the road, but only noticed many Spanish soldiers.

Mr. Money leaves Havana tomorrow for Washington.

Crossed the Trocha.

MADRID, Jan. 6.—A private telegram from Havana says Maximo Gomez, the insurgent leader, has crossed the military line to Principe.

Will Not Visit Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—There is no truth in the report that Senator Sherman, chairman of the foreign relations committee, intends to visit Cuba.

Were Routed

MADRID, Jan. 6.—A dispatch from Manila, Philippine islands, says 4000 insurgents were surprised and routed by Spanish troops at Agouy and Olmanas.

Conference With McKinley.

CLEVELAND, Jan. 6.—It developed that Senor Pierra, of the Cuban junta had a conference with President-elect McKinley at the home of M. A. Hanna on Sunday, at which the entire Cuban situation was thoroughly canvassed. Major McKinley did not indicate what use he would make of the information nor what stand he would make when his time should come. It is understood, however, that he will treat the Cuban difficulties at some length in his message to the extra session of congress. Major Mc Kinley, when seen concerning the matter, said:

"Yes Senor Pierra called upon me here and we had a very pleasant chat. He explained at some length the friendly claims of the insurgents, in regard to the war there. No, there is nothing further I can say regarding the crisis."

Stage Robber Captured.

AUBURN, Cal., Jan. 6.—The man who held up the Georgetown stage two days in succession about two weeks ago and created such consternation among travelers from Auburn to Georgetown, is now supposed to be behind prison bars.

Sheriff Conroy and Deputy George Mitchell captured him early this morning near Bernie hill, Eldorado county. It was in the mountains, and the highwayman was chopping wood when the officers came upon him. He made a start for his coat, which hung on a tree near him. Sheriff Conroy stopped him, and on searching the coat, Deputy Mitchell found a bowie-knife and a loaded six-shooter. At the man's cabin a Winchester rifle was found, also loaded.

The officers are certain he is the man they tracked in the rain shortly after the hold-up. He gave his name as John Hoyan. He is a young man six feet tall, large and muscular.

Doom of Theatre Hats.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—The city council has passed an ordinance which prohibits the wearing of any hat or headgear in theaters during the performance. This will compel all ladies to lay aside their bonnets while at the theaters or other place of amusement. The ordinance was passed by the council without a dissenting vote. Managers or proprietors of amusement places who violate the ordinance are subject to fines for each offense. The mayor said he would sign the ordinance.

(Last night, at C'y Perkins theatre the ladies of this city, pursuant to the above order from Chicago took off their hats to the agreeable surprise of all, and to say the least it was highly appreciated by all present. The appearance of the ladies was very fine and it is to be hoped the precedent will become general.)

Disaster.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Jan. 6.—The steamer Miowena, which arrived from Australia this morning, brings word of a terrible colliery disaster at the Stockton mine, Newcastle, N.S.W. at the beginning of December. Two men were suffocated by foul air, and on the very day on which their funeral was to take place the foreman of the mine and eight men entered the same shaft. As they did not reappear, a rescue party was sent down and the bodies soon recovered, though not before one of the rescue party nearly succumbed.

Important Papers Missing.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—According to the communications sent the senate by Secretary Olney today, some papers in the account showing the amount due the Pacific roads sinking fund, on account of subsidies paid the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, have apparently been lost. The senate adopted a resolution on the 10th ultimo calling for them. Acting Secretary Curtis replies today that they cannot be found.

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## MESSAGE

Of Mayor J. A. Richardson

Review the Departments of Our City Government.

Gentleman of the Common Council of the City of Salem.

In obedience to a long established custom the mayor is required, at the beginning of each municipal year, to submit to the council such recommendations and suggestions as in his judgment may be for the best interests and good government of the city.

In the discharge of this duty I avail myself of the privilege of saying that I have no doubt, that in the discharge of your duties as councilmen you will exercise the same care, prudence and rigid economy, which you bestow on your own private affairs; for in this way only can you do justice to the people you represent and honor to the offices you fill.

For three years past the nation, state and city have suffered from financial panics, industrial disturbances and depressions such as our people have never before experienced. Adding to this our cereal crop in Oregon, owing to an unfavorable season, was much less than usual, and our great fruit crop, in which we take a just pride, was a total failure.

With all these misfortunes weighing upon our people, it is at this time especially important that you conduct the affairs of the city in such a manner as to reduce the burden of taxation as low as possible; and in connection with this thought, I desire to call your attention to the last annual reports of the city recorder and treasurer, from which you will learn the true financial condition of the city, which, I regret to say, is in a deplorable condition.

The preceding council, actuated by all honest desire to reduce taxation and curtail expenses, attempted the doubtful expedient of running the city on an eight-mill tax, and from which it realized \$10,442. The city's revenue from all other sources during the year was \$6,928, making a total revenue of \$25,171. During the same period the running expenses of the city were \$18,724. Add to this the interest on our bonded indebtedness, which amounts to \$8,050, and you have an expense of \$25,774, or a deficit of \$4,593, and this does not include the interest on our floating indebtedness, most of which is bearing interest at 8 per cent and amounts to \$2,890 per annum making a total deficit for the year of 1896 of \$6,413. This is a very unsatisfactory state of affairs and raises for your consideration a very important question which admits of three solutions. Shall we continue, as in the past, yearly increasing our

[Continued on second page.]

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