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CONGRESS.

The 55th Congress Meets.

Reed Is Re-Elected Speaker—The Message.

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The 55th congress met in extra session yesterday, pursuant to the recent call of President McKinley.

Reed was re-elected speaker of the house, the vote standing: Reed, 199; Bailey, Democrat, of Texas, 114; Bell, Populist, of Colorado, 21; Newlands, Silverite, of Nevada, 1.

After Reed's election the members were sworn in and organization completed by the election of the Republican slate as follows: Clerk of the house, Alexander McDowell, of Pennsylvania; sergeant-at-arms, Benjamin F. Russell, of Missouri; door-keeper, William J. Glean, of New York; postmaster, J. C. McElroy, of Ohio; chaplain, Henry M. Conden.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE.

Speaker Reed yesterday appointed the following ways and means committee of the house: Republicans—Dingley, of Maine; Payne, of New York; Daizell, of Pennsylvania; Hopkins, of Illinois; Grosvenor, of Ohio; Russell, of Connecticut; Dolliver, of Iowa; Steele, of Indiana; Johnson, of North Dakota; Evans, of Kentucky; Towney, of Minnesota. Democrats—Bailey, of Texas; McMillan, of Tennessee; Wheeler, of Alabama; McLaurin, of South Carolina; Robertson, of Louisiana; Swanson, of Virginia.

The house adjourned until Thursday.

Interest in the assembling of the 55th congress in extra session, under President McKinley's call, centered in organization of the new house. The crowds were attracted to the galleries hours before noon, but the general public had small opportunity to view the proceedings. All the galleries but one were reserved for ticket-holders.

The most striking feature of the scene on the floor was the number of new faces. Familiar figures conspicuous in the shock of many parliamentary battles had disappeared, and in the lists were new and untried knights. The change of personnel was very great. By 11 o'clock the reserved galleries, except those for the diplomatic corps and executive were well filled.

At 12 o'clock, Major McDowell, the clerk, rapped the house to order. Rev. Conden, the blind chaplain, delivered an invocation appealing for God's blessing on the work of the new congress and the new administration. The clerk read the president's proclamation convening congress, after which the roll was called.

SENATE.

There was an abundance of flowers on the desks of the senators today when at 12 o'clock Mr. Hobart called the senate to order. The galleries were filled. The chaplain's prayer invoked divine grace and blessing on the senators and members now about to take up the work of the extraordinary session, and on the president and vice-president. The roll-call disclosed the presence of 68 senators. The senator from Kansas, W. A. Harris, took the oath of office.

Hoar of Massachusetts, and Cockrell of Missouri, were named a committee to wait on the president and inform him that congress was ready to receive any communications from him. The senate at 12:30 took a recess until 2.

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THE MESSAGE READ.

The president's message was, contrary to expectations, sent to congress, and was read late in the afternoon, after the preliminary business incident to organization had been completed. It reads in substance as follows:

"Regretting the necessity which has required me to call you together, I feel your assembling in extraordinary session is indispensable because of the condition in which we find the revenues of the government. It is conceded that its current expenditures are greater than its receipts, and that such condition has existed now more than three years. With unlimited means at our command we are presenting the remarkable spectacle of increasing our public debts by borrowing money to meet the ordinary outlays incident upon even an economical and prudent administration of government. An examination of the subject discloses this fact in every detail, and leads inevitably to the conclusions that a condition of the revenue which allows it is unjustifiable and should be corrected.

The president shows that the total deficit in the treasury for three years and eight months, up to March 1, is \$186,000,000. Continuing the president says:

"Not only are we without a surplus in the treasury, but with an increase of the public debt there has been a corresponding increase of the annual interest charge, from \$22,895,888, in 1892, the lowest of any year since 1892, to \$34,587,297, in 1896, or an increase of \$11,490,414.

"Congress should promptly correct existing conditions, ample revenues must be supplied, not only for the ordinary expenses of the government, but for the prompt payment of liberal pensions, and the liquidation of the principal and interest of the public debt. In raising revenues duties should be so levied upon foreign products as to preserve the home market as far as possible to our producers, to revive and increase manufactures, to relieve and encourage agriculture, to increase our domestic and foreign commerce, to aid and develop mining and building and to render labor in every field of useful occupation, liberal wages and adequate rewards, to which skill and industry are justly entitled. The necessity of the passage of a tariff law, which shall provide ample revenue, need not be further urged. The imperative demand of the hour is a prompt enactment of such a measure, and to this object I earnestly recommend that congress shall make every endeavor, and before other business is transacted let us first provide sufficient revenue to faithfully administer the government without contracting a further debt or a continued disturbance of our finances."

Following is a synopsis of the New Dingley tariff bill:

"The bill has two purposes, namely, to raise additional revenue and to encourage the industries of the United States. On the basis of importations for the last fiscal year, the bill would increase the revenue about \$112,000,000 dividing among the several schedules roughly as follows:

- "A—Chemicals, \$3,500,000.
- "B—Crockery and glassware, \$4,000,000.
- "C—Metals, \$400,000.
- "D—Wood, \$1,700,000.
- "E—Sugar, \$21,750,000.
- "F—Tobacco, \$7,000,000.
- "G—Agricultural, \$9,300,000.
- "H—Liquors, \$1,800,000.
- "I—Cottons, \$1,700,000.
- "J—Jute, linen and hemp, \$7,800,000.
- "K—Wools, \$17,500,000; manufactures of wools, \$27,000,000.
- "L—Silks, \$1,500,000.
- "M—Pulp and paper, \$59,000.
- "N—Sundries, \$6,200,000.

Dingley, continuing, said:

"The increase of revenue is secured by the raising of wool, lumber, crude opium, painting, statuary, straw ornaments, straw matting, burlap and various other articles from the free list of the present law to the dutiable list, by increasing the duties on wools to compensate the latter for the duty placed on wool; by raising the duty on sugar 3-4 of a

cent per pound, in order to encourage the production of sugar in this country, which, it is believed, can be done, and thus give the farmers a new crop which we now import mainly from abroad; by increasing the duty on agricultural products affected by Canadian competition, and of fine cotton goods, some advance in manufacturers of iron and steel, jute, flax and hemp, in order to encourage these and other industries here, and especially by increasing the duties on such luxuries as liquor, tobacco, silks, etc.

"As a rule, the rates of duties proposed are between the rates of the tariff of 1890 and the tariff of 1894.

"The iron and steel schedule is changed very little from the schedule in the tariff of 1894, the changes being entirely in more advanced articles. The same is true of the cotton schedule. In the agricultural, wool, glass and earthenware schedule alone are the duties of the act of 1890 fully restored as a rule, and, in a few cases, increased with a view of amply protecting and encouraging our farming interest by every possible point.

"While duty on clothing and wool is larger in proportion to the foreign value than on manufactured articles, it is thought desirable for public interest, and for agriculture, that we should produce this prime necessity for ourselves. The duty upon carpet wools as well as many other articles is imposed mainly for revenue. The irritation caused by a few wools heretofore classed as carpet wools being used for clothing purposes, has been remedied by transferring such to the clothing wool classes, but the duty on clothing wool has been restored to the rate of the act of 1890.

"The reciprocity provisions of the act of 1890 have not only been fully restored, but the policy has been extended by adding to it sugar, tea, coffee, hides and other articles."

Fatally Wounded.

VALLEY, Wash., March 16.—C. D. Moody was shot and fatally wounded by Gail Latta this morning. Moody is shot through the body, and cannot speak. He went to Latta's place for a load of hay, and it is supposed that they revived a long-standing quarrel. Latta had Moody arrested about a month ago for assaulting him with an ax. Moody is a brother of H. D. Moody, a prominent capitalist of Spokane.

Coaldealers Assign.

NEW YORK, March 16.—Crook & Perham, wholesale coaldealers, have assigned to Elsin B. Frost, without preferences. The amount involved is said to be over \$100,000.

Receiver Appointed.

HUNTINGTON, W. Va., March 16.—Judge Goff has appointed Z. T. Vinsen receiver of U. B. Buskirk, merchant and timberman, of Logan.

War in the Rubber Trust.

BOSTON, March 16.—Jobbers have been notified of a reduction of from 12 to 15 per cent on different grades of goods manufactured by the Boston Rubber Shoe Company.

Socialists Elected.

PARIS, March 16.—In four legislative elections, which took place yesterday, all socialist candidates were elected.

EVANGELISTIC MEETING.—There will be Evangelistic meetings at the Central Congregational church corner Nineteenth and Perry streets, beginning this evening at 7:30 p. m. to be continued each evening throughout the week, each service to be preceded by a song service, afternoon meetings at 2:45 to 3:44 "Come let us reason together." 16-2t

RETURN OF PROSPERITY.—"Oh yes its coming" but then in the meantime call at George Bros. lunch counter where you get the most substantial and best prepared meal that is served in the city for only 15 cents.

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Snow and Water Do Damage

The Mississippi on a Bender—Highest in Many Years.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 16.—Railroads have never before, in their history in the Northwest, had so much to contend with because of drifting snow. It is stated that there are 200 cars of freight, at initial points and elsewhere, destined for towns off the main lines in Dakota and Minnesota, that cannot reach their destination until the branch lines are opened. It is stated that there is suffering in south Dakota by reason of the branch lines being closed.

Floods on Lower Mississippi

MEMPHIS, Tenn., March 16.—Rain began falling here shortly after 7 o'clock, and is coming down in torrents, adding to the misery and suffering already caused by the overflowing of streams. A citizens' relief committee has been organized. Hundreds of head of stock and many men, women, and children have been rescued from house and treetops in the overflowed districts and brought to this city by harbor towboats with barges attached.

The gauge reads 393 feet, a raise of one foot in 24 hours, and indications point toward a further rise. News comes today of the partial breaking of the St. Francis levee, 60 miles above Memphis. Steamer captains say great additional suffering and loss of property will result.

The break in the St. Francis levee at Nodena, Ark., was more serious than first reported. The water has risen 25 feet, and rushed upon the people in the lowlands, behind the levee, in almost a solid wall. It is expected many lives will be lost. The steamer City of Osceola saved many people who were washed out of their homes by the water, which went through every crevice.

At Nashville.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 16.—The Cumberland river reached 42 feet on the gauge here. Forty is the danger line. The lowlands about the city are submerged, and many cellars of the business houses filled with water. Families in the threatened districts are moving out. Merchants are taking their goods to the second floors. The river will certainly reach 45, possibly 47 feet.

Must Hang.

CINCINNATI, March 16.—A Times-Star special from Frankfort says Alonzo Waffling will hang with Scott Jackson, March 20, all published stories to the contrary notwithstanding. The governor finished a long study of the case yesterday at noon and last night wrote "Refused" across the back of the petitions.

Guarded the Office.

TACOMA, March 16.—The sheriff's officers guarded the civil service office in the city hall from Saturday till this morning. The new commission was appointed Saturday, but a restraining order from the court prevented their entering upon their duties. The old board feared that forcible possession of the office might be taken on Sunday. The matter will be settled in court tomorrow. It was from the civil service room that the city hall vault was entered several months ago, and the city election ballot stolen. The robbers have never been detected.

Sensation in Roseburg.

ROSEBURG, Or., March 16.—A small sensation was created Monday morning by the burning in front of the jail a new five-cent fire-lucifer fastened to the trunk of a tree. The other end of the rope hung over a line and had coiled in a carefully tied bag man's rope. There is a rumor that a party organized to lynch Frank Hoyt, the brutal assailant of Station Agent Hoopengartner, at Myrtle Creek, in January, but their intentions becoming known, they gave it up.

GREECE.

Powers Order a Blockade.

The Ultimatum Will Be Sent to Greece.

ST. PETERSBURG, March 16.—All the admirals, except the French and Italian commanders have been ordered to immediately blockade the principal Greek ports, especially the Piraeus (port of Athens), Syra and Volos. An ultimatum will forthwith be addressed to Greece by the admiral of the foreign fleet.

Cretan Ports First.

ROME, March 16.—It is semi-officially stated here that all the foreign admirals have received orders to blockade Crete. It is added that a blockade of Greece will only occur if the Cretan blockade should prove inadequate. The Greek fleet is expected to leave Crete, otherwise it will be escorted outside Cretan waters.

Preparing for the Worst.

ATHENS, March 16.—The receipt of the news from Paris has caused a pessimistic feeling here, and the government is determined to maintain its position and await the blockade. It is generally believed the enforcement of the blockade will be a signal for conflict on the frontier.

A dispatch from Heracleon, Crete, says that, owing to the excesses of the Mussulmans, the consuls have asked the admirals to land a detachment of marines there.

News in Rome.

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France and Italy Decline.

VIENNA, March 16.—The proposal of the powers that France and Italy occupy Crete with a mixed force of 25,000 men has been declined by the government of those two countries on the score of expense. The occupation of Crete, therefore, will be undertaken by the forces of the six powers, although Germany and Austria will only nominally take part to show that they are agreeable to the measure. The powers are discussing the details of an autonomous government, and the choice of a governor, who will, it is said, be a Frenchman.

Gun Burst.

LONDON, March 16.—The correspondent of the Times says that while the guns of the Russian ironclad Cassio Veliki were practicing yesterday, a gun burst, blowing the top off a turret. Fourteen men and one officer were killed, and 16 were wounded, five fatally.

CALTA, March 16.—It is believed the bursting of the gun on the Russian warship was due to an ill-closed hatch. The occupants of the turret were killed, while the flying debris of the turret structure killed and wounded others.



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