

# ADVANCE GUARD OF THE SIXTIETH

Congressmen from All Parts of  
The Country Gathering  
At Washington.

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS NOV. 30.

Speaker Cannon Will be Re-Elected—  
Other Officers of House Presi-  
dent's Message.

Special Correspondence.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 25.—The advance guard of legislators, members of the Sixth Congress, is already in Washington, while daily accessions are being made to the rapidly growing family of Uncle Sam's statesmen. Many of the members of the Congress, which will convene for the long session on the 2d of December, are new to national legislation. Some have served in state legislatures, while others have held state positions, but the great majority of the new members come without any legislative experience whatsoever, but all believing that they have a serious mission to perform.

The call for the Republican caucus of the house will be issued within a few days, and the election of speaker and other officers of the house will probably take place Saturday evening, Nov. 30, in the hall of the house of representatives. There is no fight whatsoever on any of the present officers, the caucus being held for the purpose of ratifying a foregone conclusion. Speaker Cannon will be re-elected speaker of the house on Monday, Dec. 2, immediately after Clerk McDowell calls that body to order and a question is ascertained to be present on the call of states. After it has been ascertained that a quorum of the house is present, nominations for speaker will be made and Joseph G. Cannon will be chosen in nomination by the Republicans and John Sharp Williams by the Democrats. As the Republicans have a large majority in the house Mr. Cannon will be elected as will the officers of the lower branch of Congress, namely, Jonathan McDowell of Pennsylvania, clerk; F. B. Lyon of New York, doorkeeper; Henry Casson, Wisconsin, sergeant-at-arms; and in all probability James H. Cassidy of Ohio, postmaster. During the recess Joseph C. McElroy of Ohio, the former postmaster died, thus creating a vacancy. Immediately after his death a number of candidates for the position became active representing state delegations, but the Ohio delegation claiming that the place of right belonged to the Boston state held a caucus some three weeks ago and Representative Burton, late candidate for mayor of Cleveland, suggested the name of James Cassidy, clerk of the river and harbors committee of the house, for the position of postmaster, and he was made the unanimous nominee of the Ohio delegation, which will undoubtedly support his election. Rev. Henry N. Conwell, the blind chaplain of the house, will be re-elected to that position.

The Democrats of the house will caucuse on Saturday afternoon and probably will nominate candidates for the positions above mentioned headed by John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, for speaker. Mr. Williams will thus become the minority leader of his party, but as the Democrats have a large majority in the Sixth Congress than they had in the Fifty-ninth it is expected that a much more aggressive policy will be pursued by the minority than was pursued in the Congress which, by operation of law, ceased to exist on the 4th of March. "McDowell" will again begin early in the session in view of the approaching presidential campaign and it is confidently expected that very shortly after the holidays things will be doing hereabouts.

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

It is confidently believed that President Roosevelt will in his message to Congress, which will not be made public until Tuesday, Dec. 3, will come out flat-footed in favor of the soldiers in the pay of the army and sailors in the navy, and may recommend an increase for the officers of both the army and navy. With skeleton regiments and skeleton companies the rule, rather than the exception, the army is in bad way numerically. Just why the older men who are still serving in the army for life, and who have given their services for 20 and more years should be leaving the colors and going into private life is a question receiving the consideration not only of the heads of departments but of the general staff as well as the president. It is also a question whether the non-commissioned officers, the first and second sergeants, and the corporals do not receive money enough to warrant their continuing in the army and they are quitting in larger numbers than ever before, when the enlistment comes up.

Adj.-Gen. Fred C. Almaworth, who is today an authority upon the conduct of the army unequivocally says that the non-commissioned officer is the life of the army, and that with him the men go to the front and the spirit of the unit reaches the highest possible ebb. Every one who has made a study of army regulations and army affairs knows the power and influence for good the first sergeant exerts over his company. He is with the men, his department and the intermediary between the men and the commanding officer. It is the first sergeant who interests for men who have fallen from grace and where he leads the men will go. It is notorious that in many posts in the west and the south the first sergeant, who is

usually married, is unable to give his children the education they are entitled to, because of his inability to pay the tuition required to keep him in school districts. There is no school for the children of the enlisted men at garrisons and as in many cases in the west a per capita charge is exacted by school authorities in certain sections of the country from non-residents of the garrison, which is a great hardship to the enlisted men, who have no means and with little or no credit to their parents. It would therefore seem absolutely necessary to increase the pay of non-commissioned officers in order that their services might be retained by the army, for the contractors, the better, is the company. Then again with the abolishment of the canteen and the social life of the garrison being constantly diminished, and with forced marches and increased duty, Tom Atkins has been thoroughly disillusioned and he is leaving Uncle Sam's fighting force by desertion, resignation and purchase until the authorities in Washington have become seriously concerned over the future of the army.

AMERICAN TEA.

Tabloid food has been tried and found wanting, but tabloid tea is a new departure introduced from the tea farm in Summerville, S. C. The government of the United States, through the department of agriculture, has been experimenting for years with the cultivation of the tea plant. Seeds and cuttings from Ceylon, India, China and Japan have been tried with varied success. It was found that the climate of the Palmetto state was apparently an ideal one for tea cultivation and year after year Congress appropriated a sum of money to continue the effort towards making tea culture commercially successful in this country. It is now something over two years since the first attempt to grow this crop was made under the auspices of the then commissioner of agriculture. From the first it was readily seen that the tea plant would thrive in America, but not until a year or two ago was American tea placed on the market. Today there are over a dozen or more varieties that are offered to the tea drinker and the quality is excellent. But it is the "tabloid" tea which is the novelty. The Summerville farm is sending out small tin boxes of tea compound made into tablets, each of which is sufficient to make one cup of tea, strong however. The box itself is in the form of a cube about two inches on each surface and contains enough tea to furnish an ordinary family for a month. The department of agriculture has distributed a great many sample boxes, and it is believed that this new form of compressed tea will be widely used as soon as its merits become known.

In the meantime tea culture is being developed in Texas and Florida, and the prospects are that the United States, will, before many years have passed, become independent of the countries of the orient for the "component part of chief value" for afternoon gatherings in the drawing rooms of the socially elect.

PRICES ON THE Isthmus.

The Isthmian canal commission publishes a weekly newspaper at Atonou, Canal zone. For the purpose of making public all sorts of interesting information concerning life on the Isthmus and the progress of the work on the canal. There is something more than a column devoted each week to a price list showing the wages and compensation furnished to the employees on the Isthmus. It would appear from this price list in the latest issue of the paper to reach Washington that the employee located on the Isthmus is more fortunate than his fellow in Washington in the matter of market supplies. For instance, in the Canal zone the housekeeper can get a quarter of a pound of coffee for 10 cents a pound. He would have hard work in finding a market in Washington where he could get it for less than 18. Five quarters of lamb are 11 cents on the Isthmus and 20 cents in Washington. A second cut rib roast can be had in Panama or Colon at 15 cents while the price

#### WHERE TALKING MACHINES ARE MANUFACTURED.

Some Interesting Facts About an Industry That Furnishes Entertainment to the Entire Civilized World.

Six years ago several Philadelphians organized a company to engage in the manufacture of an article that may be regarded as one of education and usefulness as well as the greatest musical instrument ever known.

Within this brief period of six years since the company was organized its trade has extended to the uttermost parts of the world. In its shipping department may be seen huge cases consigned to Bangkok, in far-off Siam; to the provinces in equally distant Siberia; Johannesburg, in South Africa; Rio Janeiro, Brazil; Honolulu, Hawaii, and other foreign countries.

This article is the Victor Talking Machine, and wherever men live in a state of civilization there comes an incessant and apparently insatiable demand for it, and over \$10,000,000 is added yearly to the wealth of Philadelphia on account of it.

While the Victor plant and offices, which cover nearly four entire blocks, are located at Camden, N. J., very nearly all of the more than 2,200 employees live in Philadelphia, right across the Delaware river.

The vast plant includes eight great buildings in Camden, running front to rear, eight stories in height, and a ninth building is located in Philadelphia. But even these are inadequate to enable the company to keep up with the demand, and work upon several additional huge buildings is progressing now as rapidly as possible.

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CARUSO,  
The Greatest Tenor of Modern Times.  
Who Sings Exclusively for the Victor.

OPERA STARS WELL PAID.

It costs a small fortune to get Melba, Caruso, Eames, Semper, Scotti, Schumann-Helck and all the greater songbirds of the world to sing for Victor records. At the end of last season Melba postponed her departure from America for a week in order to make a new series of records, for which she was paid in advance royalty rising any amount which she might earn in the future.

But all these artists give value received. In the contracts made with them it is fully understood before they sign it that their singing must be perfect. The records are merciless and know no favorites. The singers seem to enter into the spirit of the thing, and sing with all their heart, especially for one audience, which has come quite as much to see themselves as to hear the singers. They know that they are singing not only for millions now, but countless millions in the future.

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