

## SHORT SESSION THIS WINTER

Winding Up the Career of the Fifty-Sixth Congress—Army Reorganization Bill the Uppermost Theme—Ship Subsidy Measure to Be Taken Up—Other Topics to Be Considered.

Washington, Nov. 26.—The short session of the Fifty-sixth Congress begins next Monday, and the nation's senators are already gathered at the capitol for the discharge of their duties. It is hoped that they will be able to finish up the important business committed to them before the term of the Congress expires by limitation on the 3rd of next March at midnight, so that there will be no necessity of convening the Fifty-seventh Congress in extraordinary session. To do this, however, the senators and representatives will be kept pretty busy, as there are only about thirty working days, counting out the usual Christmas recess, before "time" will be called on this Congress and it must step down and out. Without having on its hands all that it can reasonably attend to. The regular appropriation bills, the consideration of which will have to be disposed of, and, in addition, there comes from the recent session a vast volume of business which should receive final consideration. The last session was perhaps the most prolific in the history of Congress so far as initiative legislation is concerned. Nearly 5,000 bills originated in the Senate and more than 12,000 in the House. Of this great number only a few hundred were enacted into law, the multitudinous residue remaining technically unfinished business, awaiting action at the coming session. It may be said, however, that the greater part of this unfinished business can remain unfinished until the crack of doom without detriment to the public interests. But there are a number of important pending measures which ought to be disposed of, and, as far as possible, the calendar should be cleared up and left unincumbered for the next Congress.

One of the matters likely to receive early consideration is the proposition for the reorganization of the army, and various plans are under consideration. The war department has made two suggestions which are being entertained by the committee on military affairs of both houses. If it shall be decided to recommend a standing army of 60,000, the army officials urge that all that will be necessary in the way of legislation will be simply the repeal of that clause of the existing law which discharges the additional regular soldiers on the 1st day of next July. These men are all enlisted for three years, and if the law which discharges them on July 1, 1901, is repealed they will continue in service. This plan finds considerable favor because of its simplicity, although it does not allow any elasticity in the strength of the army. Another plan suggested is modeled very closely on the full bill of the last session and is more likely to be the one adopted. This plan proposes enough companies of 60 men each to make an army of 60,000 men, this being the minimum strength. The law is to be so framed, however, that the companies can be increased to 120 men each which would bring the total number up to 100,000 men. As at present contemplated there are to be no additional officers, the increase being entirely of enlisted men. In view of the fact that under the existing law the President, as commander in chief of the army of the United States, will be in command of only 27,000 men, the party of the administration will unquestionably take early and vigorous steps toward the enactment of an army reorganization bill which will meet the approval of the chief executive. Doubtless there will be a spirited fight over the proposition.

An increase in the navy as well as the army is likely to be the subject of some legislation by this Congress, though it will probably come in connection with the regular naval appropriation bill. According to the report of Rear Admiral Crowninshield on the conditions and needs of the navy, there should be something like 1,000 more officers and 5,000 more men to bring it up to a state of efficiency. While we are building new warships we are not, the naval men contend, providing sufficiently for manning them. In this connection it is also probable that there will be considered a plan for maintaining a naval reserve force.

The president, in his message at the opening of this session of Congress, will undoubtedly discuss at length the Philippine question, though it is hardly probable that any legislation will be reached this winter touching the matter of the status or future government of the Philippines. The Senate has a Philippines committee, of which Henry Cabot Lodge of Massachusetts is chairman, while in the House matters relating to this subject would come before the insular committee, of which Henry A. Cooper of Wisconsin is chairman. It seems highly improbable, however, that affairs in the Philippines will reach such a stage within the life of this Congress as to require special consideration from these committees.

The isthmian canal bill is on the calendar of the Senate, having passed the House at the last session, and there is a general feeling that it ought to pass at this session. Senator John T. Morgan, who, by the way, was the other day accorded the unusual honor of being unanimously re-elected to the Senate for the fifth consecutive term, is chairman of the isthmian canal committee, which has in charge the legislation providing for an isthmian waterway. Senator Morgan has been especially devoted to this project and will continue to vigorously urge it until the enterprise is consummated. While the canal bill will be taken from the calendar and discussed, final action will doubtless be deferred until the report of the canal commission is received, and it is doubtful if that will be presented before the close of the coming session. It is intimated that the commission will soon make a preliminary report, but that its complete report will not be made until next spring, so that the authorization of this great enterprise is likely to go over until after the opening of the next Congress, thus entailing the loss of a year's time unless an extra session should be called. Except on the part of those directly interested in transcontinental railway traffic, there is no considerable element either in Congress or out of it opposed to the building and control by the United States of a waterway to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, however much of difference of opinion there may be as to route and detail, and there is a very general feeling that its beginning should mark the opening of the twentieth century.

The Pacific cable scheme is another matter which is fully ripe for Congressional action and is likely to receive favorable consideration at the coming session. The need of such a line of communication, particularly between San Francisco and Honolulu, is admitted on all sides. There is practically no opposition to the government building and operating a Pacific cable, though any proposition to subsidize a private corporation to build and operate such a line would be strenuously opposed. Doubtless the warmest fight of the coming session will be over the ship subsidy bill, the avowed purpose of which is the rehabilitation of our merchant marine.

The question of the reapportionment of Congress under the twelfth census, if taken up at the short session, will furnish material for a pretty hot bipartisan fight, but there is a sentiment that pending measures on the calendar should receive attention before taking up the matter of reapportionment, which, many believe, can just as well wait until the next Congress.

Propositions looking to the reduction of the war revenue tax will unquestionably be presented at this session, though it is yet too early to indicate what form they will take. If the conditions continue to require the maintenance of a large army in the Philippines and a considerable force in China, it is not probable that the party of the administration will favor any large reduction in the government's income from this source.

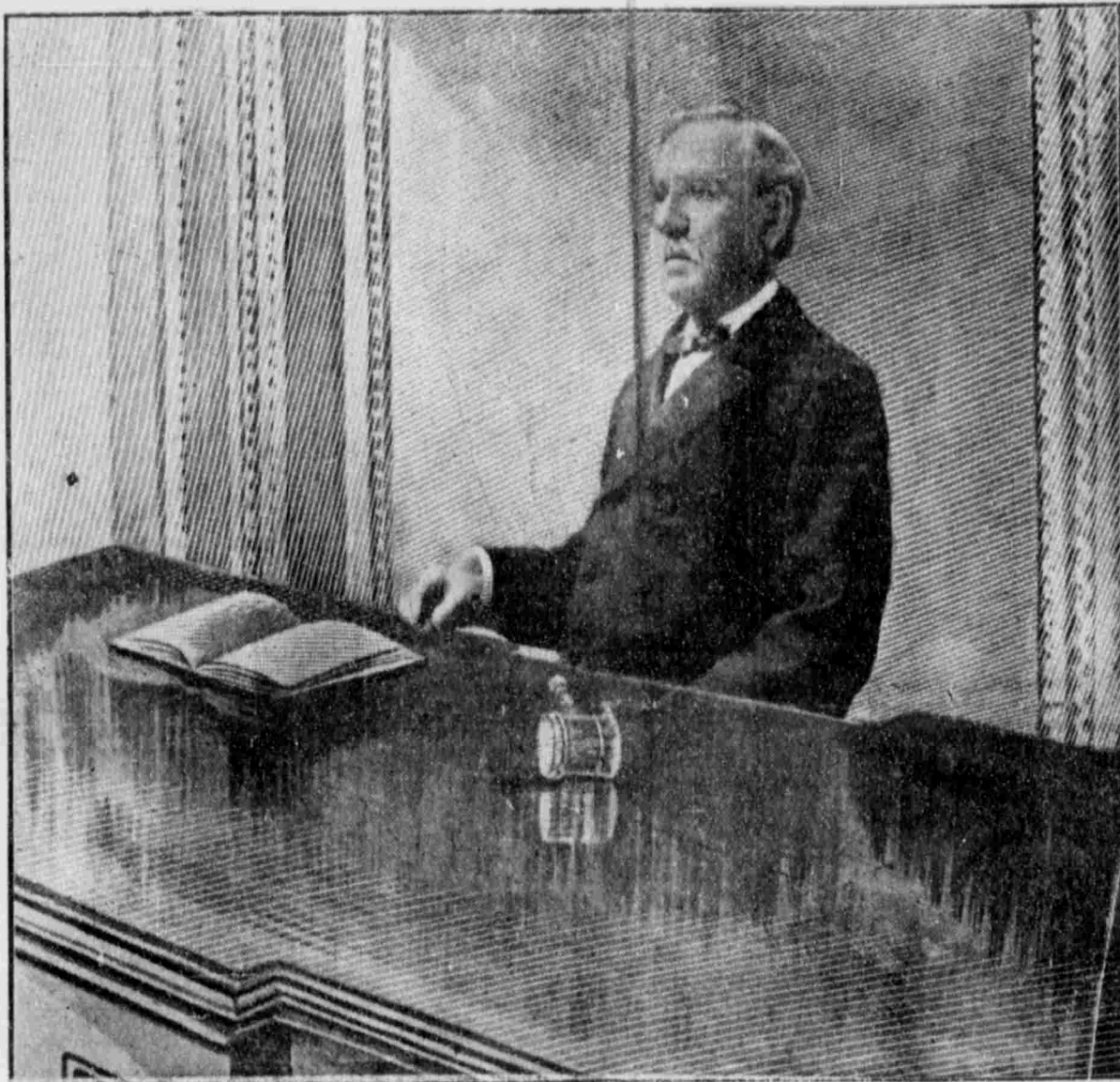
A matter in which the public has for some time taken much interest and which, it is believed, will be taken up at this session is the parcel post system. Postmaster General Smith, as well as most of his predecessors for more than a dozen years, favors such an adjunct to the postoffice department, and about the only opposition there appears to be developed against it is on the part of the express carrying corporations. This matter, as well as provision for further extension of the

## IMPOSING HOME OF OUR LEGISLATORS.



Visitors from every country on the globe express universal admiration of the magnificent National Capitol at Washington, which shelters both branches of Congress, now assembled for the closing session of the Nineteenth century. This is the latest photograph of the stately building.

## PRESIDENT FRYE OPENING THE SENATE.



Hon. William P. Frye, United States senator from Maine, is president of the Senate pro tempore and will be until Vice President-elect Roosevelt takes office. This is a splendid snapshot of the northeastern statesman calling the Senate to order at the opening of Congress.

popular rural free delivery service, will come up in connection with the postal appropriation bill. The plan for postal savings banks may be considered, but definite action is not likely to be reached.

Altogether, the closing session of the Fifty-sixth Congress is likely to be a pretty busy one.

## THEY ARE CAUTIOUS AND CONSERVATIVE

Chief Characteristics of Members of the Next U. S. Congress.

Special Correspondence.  
Washington, Nov. 16.—Caution and conservatism are the most marked features of the utterances of the senators and representatives who will shape the legislation of the coming session of Congress. There is, of course, some talk about extreme political legislation, but it doesn't emanate from the men who have the necessary influence to get their ideas carried out. These men, and it is believed they have the sympathy of the President, know that there is an enormous amount of work that ought to be done at the coming session, and that the best way to get it done is to have as little partisan friction as possible.

Senator Thurston, of Nebraska, expresses the opinion that an army reorganization bill will be passed at the coming session of Congress; also that the Nicaraguan Canal bill will get through in some shape, probably differing considerably from the bill passed by the House at the last session, but thinks that the opposition to the ship subsidy bill makes its chances doubtful.

**PACIFIC CABLE.**  
It is expected that Congress will pass a bill authorizing the laying of the much-needed Pacific cable. It would be certain were it not for the big interests which oppose government ownership of the cable. In the interest of private money-making, Admiral Bradford, chief of the naval bureau of equipment, pays in his annual report of the survey of a route for this cable by the U. S. S. Nero: "A satisfactory route for an all-American cable for the purpose of connecting the Pacific coast with the outlying colonial possessions of the United States in the Pacific and with China and Japan has been discovered, thoroughly explored, surveyed

Hon. David B. Henderson, of Iowa, speaker of the House of Representatives, impresses all beholders with his lionlike head and carriage. Straight and sturdy as the forest monarchs of his native State, he stands forth as a leader of men.

and mapped." That passes the question on to Congress for an answer.

## CONGRESSIONAL REAPPORTIONMENT.

One of the important matters to be determined by Congress at the coming session is that of congressional reapportionment under the new census. From the start, when there was one representative to each 30,000 inhabitants, the ratio has been increased every ten years, and since the census of 1890 has been one representative for each 17,500 persons. The present census shows an increase of population of more than 13,000,000, and there must, of course, be a proportionate increase in the ratio of representatives to population. How to provide for that increase in an equitable manner is no easy problem. The House, with its 365 members, is already at times a very unwieldy body, and yet if the new ratio is to reduce the representation of no State, there will have to be a very large increase in membership. The ratio that seems most favored, except by those from the four States—Arkansas, Kansas, Maine and Virginia—which would under it each have one less representative than at present, is that of one representative to each 20,000 persons. That would add 18 to the present membership of the House.

## CLAIMS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

Congress must deal with a number of claims arising from our occupation of the Philippines. One is that of the Eastern Extension company, a British corporation, which claims a monopoly of the cable business to and from the Philippines under a Spanish charter. It also claims damages for American interruption of its business. Really it should pay a bounty for the largely increased cable business made by the Americans. The only railroad in the Philippines also wants damages and the continuance of a Spanish subsidy of about \$22,000 a year. Another rather unique lot of claims that will be presented to Congress are those of Japanese citizens who were isolated and detained on account of the bubonic plague scare in San Francisco.

## CARELESS LETTER WRITERS.

That we are not as a nation growing more careful is apparent from a glance at the annual report of the superintendent of the dead letter office, which shows an increase of nearly a million pieces of mail matter—the total number of pieces received being 7,556,125, of which 35,000 were letters with no address at all. Money to the amount of \$44,140 and checks, notes, money orders, etc., to the face value of \$1,136,445 were enclosed in letters received by the office during the year.

**ASPHALT DEPOSITS.**  
Mr. George D. Moulton, of Indian Territory, who is now in Washington, says of his discovery of extensive deposits of asphalt on the grounds of the Choctaw Indians: "This pure asphalt has not been discovered heretofore in this country and there is no scientific name for it. The chief supply for asphalt has been the lake on the island of Trinidad and the Gilsolite mines in Utah. In the Indian Territory there are mines of asphalt where bituminous sand and bituminous limestone are mixed in such proportion that the product is fit, without other preparation than grinding and heating, to be laid as street paving. The asphalt mine which I found is about 96 per cent pure."

**WASHINGTON CELEBRATION.**  
Arrangements for the celebration of the establishment of the capital at Washington, December 12, are practically complete. The President will hold a reception to the governors of States and Territories, after which they will be escorted to the capitol, where a joint congressional commemorative meeting will be held in the House, by a military, naval, and civic parade, of which Gen. Nelson A. Miles will be chief marshal, and in the evening a grand reception will be held in the beautiful Corcoran gallery of art. Addresses will be delivered at the capitol by Senators Hoar, Daniel and McCarson and Representatives Payne and Richardson.

## FROM ADMIRAL REMEY.

Gives List of Those Who Were Drowned Off Guam.

Washington, Nov. 30.—The navy department has received the following cablegram from Admiral Remy:  
Cavite, Nov. 29, 1900.—Official report from Guam just received. Following men drowned 13th: Joseph Anderson, coal passer; Jacob Leroy Mohaffey, apprentice, first class; George Aubel, seaman; Wm. Frederick Davis, fireman, first class; Frank Swanson, coxswain. "Two bodies recovered were unrecognizable. Governor reports danger of starvation. Asks 55,000 pounds of flour, 20,000 biscuits, 1,000 sugar, 2,000 salt pork, 20,000 rice; all for destitute natives. Shall I send by our cruiser. Brutus took ample stores for the present. Newark Guam.  
(Signed.) REMEY."

## POSTOFFICE FOR ENOCH IRON CO.

(SPECIAL TO THE NEWS.)  
Washington, D. C., Nov. 29.—A postoffice has been established at Enoch, Iron County, with Samuel C. Bell as postmaster.

## FRESH BEEF.

The quantity of fresh beef carried on one trip by an Atlantic liner of 3,000 tons would keep a family of five for eighteen years.

## BIRTH OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

It Will Come to This Earth in the Pacific Ocean—At Salt Lake the Time Will be 8:05 a. m. Dec. 31, 1900.

Of course everybody knows that the twentieth century will begin on Tuesday, Jan. 1, 1901, says Chas. E. George, in the Pioneer Press. Some thoughtful individuals observed this by-hasty expressions of opinion, but then the sound, common sense of the world came to think that we begin to count with 1 and not with 0, and that 100 is not completed until the two epochs are obliterated. The last moments of 1900 and the nineteenth century will be in a region almost devoid of human life.

There is a good deal of sentimental interest attaching to the opening of a new century. Which land will see it finish, and whose eye will be the first to note its advent? Whose ball will be the first to usher in its earlier moments? Like so many phenomena, such as an eclipse, transit of the planets, the incoming of the twentieth century will be in a region almost devoid of human life.

The first second of Jan. 1, 1901, will occur in the midst of the Pacific ocean, along a line conforming in general to the meridian of 130 degrees east and west longitude from Greenwich. There is no land of consequence to salute the new century, no human eye save perhaps that of some sailor will be there to welcome its entrance.

The Friendly Islanders will be the first people to live in the new century. The date line, as it may be called, lies in the Pacific, just to the east of their group. It will be Tuesday to them, but all the rest of the world will be living in Monday and enjoying some phase of the closing hours of the nineteenth century. At Melbourne the people will be just going to bed, for it will be about 10 o'clock there. At Manila the clocks will point to two hours earlier in the evening, while at Calcutta the residents will be enjoying their afternoon dinner. And in London the house of commons clock will be striking the noon hour. Boston and New York will be eating breakfast, while residents of Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul will be hardly conscious of the dawn. Salt Lake and San Francisco will be sleeping in the sleep of a Sunday night's rest, and half the great Pacific will be wrapped in the darkness preceding dawn. [In Salt Lake City, the hour will be 8:05 a. m. Dec. 31, 1900, standard time, when the new century strikes the Pacific.]

The actual date line varies from the theoretical one in a number of cases. Starting at the North Pole it follows the meridian of 180 degrees to near 70 degrees north latitude, where it curves to the east 10 degrees so as to pass through Bering strait and includes all of Siberia in the Russian day. Then it takes a reverse curve to 170 degrees east longitude to include the Aleutian islands in our American day. At about 2 degrees south latitude, after crossing the equator it curves once more to the east 10 degrees so as to give the Friendly Islanders the Australian day. It then remains the meridian of 180 degrees just south of the Christmas islands and follows this line to the South Pole.

The meridian of 180 degrees east and west of Greenwich traverses the Pacific ocean from north to south. On the extreme north it runs across Wrangel Land in the Arctic ocean, for 134 miles it stretches across the continent of Asia, passing from Cape North to Cape Trinity, eastern Siberia. From Asia the meridian crosses Bering sea to the Aleutian islands, then for over 1,500 miles to the south there is nothing but open sea. At about 28 degrees north latitude will be found Midway island and then for a distance of nearly 34 degrees there is open ocean uninterrupted by any land. Eight degrees south of the equator the line runs through the Ellice islands, 16 degrees further south to the Fiji group. For 500 miles of ocean the line passes south without sight of land until the Ker-madec islands are crossed, then no land until the Southern continent is touched at Victoria land 10 degrees south of the equator.

This is the strict theoretical position of the date line along which the day begins. It would be the actual line save for exceptions which man has made. These have crept in in answer to the demands of business, or the manner of colonization. When Spain held possession in America, the Spaniards in going west carried their day to the Philippine islands. The Dutch sailing east took their day with them to the islands of Borneo and Java. There was, then, the difference of a day between Manila and its neighbors. About the middle of the present century, in order to conform to a uniform day, the authorities arranged for a unification of dates, and a day was skipped by the Philippines in our day being Dec. 31, 1844. They went to bed on the evening of Dec. 30, 1844, and awoke the next morning on Jan. 1, 1845.

The Russians, who possessed Alaska, brought westward the day of St. Petersburg, and maintained it on this continent until Alaska became a part of the United States. We then set the date line to the west 10 degrees past the meridian of 180 degrees so as to include in our day our outermost island, Attu, which, being in east longitude 170 degrees, is the latest place on earth to retain any certain day.

## PRES. MCKINLEY'S TAB SYSTEM

There have been quite a number of Republican statesmen in New York during the week, and Ohio and Indiana particularly have been well represented. Consequently many incidents of the recent presidential campaign have been related. One told without doubt, by prove of interest to politicians throughout the country. It appears that at Canton President McKinley much dreaded the visiting statesmen, and when notified by wire from any part of the country that one had his mind bent upon calling to see him would at once telegraph back requesting the use of the long-distance telephone. Now it may prove advantageous to those Republican politicians of prominence all over the country who had recourse to the telephone in talking with McKinley—and most of them had—to know that every word they uttered to McKinley and every expression of his in reply was taken down in shorthand by a stenographer. When called to the telephone President McKinley always saw to it that Mr. Corbrey or some other stenographer was at his desk, and with his ear to a receiver connected with the one through which he (McKinley) listened to the voice of the patriot at the other end. From the first to the last word spoken in that conversation was carefully jotted down by the stenographer and afterward reproduced in a typewritten statement. This was sent all through the campaign while McKinley was in Canton. The same course was adopted during the little time throughout the campaign that the President was in Washington. All these conversations so as to include away, nicely indexed, to confront any designing statesman who reaches Washington prepared to say, "But, Mr. President, didn't you say that—" There and thus the gods will be produced in black letters on white paper.

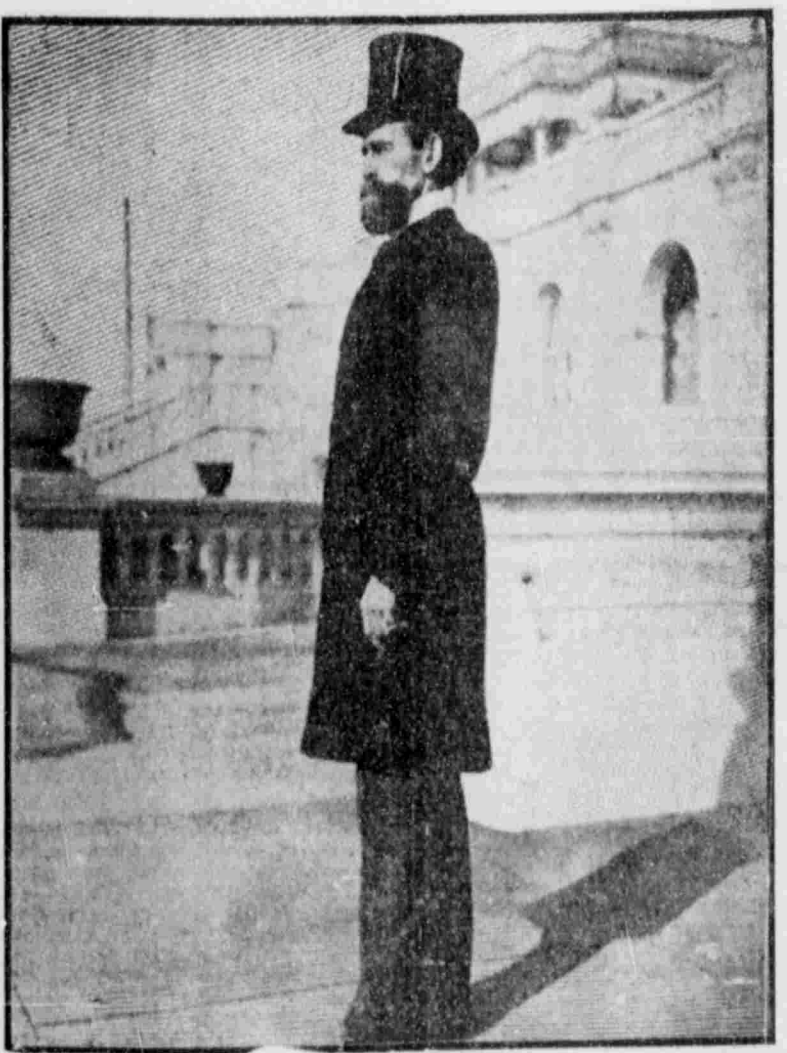
## SPIKED HIS GUNS.

A North Memphis gentleman has been trying lately to induce his wife to adopt the habit of drinking glass of wine at frequent intervals during the day. She is inclined to be delicate in health, though not a decided invalid, and her well-meaning husband fancied the spirits would strengthen her. She is opposed with all a woman's obstinateness his suggestions. Perhaps she recalled times when her lord and master had come home feeling like a ship whose cargo has shifted after this manner:

"You are unreasonable, my dear, not to drink wine."

Her reply came sharp and pointed: "Perhaps, but I've noticed that you are unreasonable when you drink it."

## CLARK SURE TO ENTER THE SENATE.



Hon. William A. Clark, the Montana man who has just concluded a costly campaign for the United States Senate, probably will appear before that august body with credentials so unimpeachable as to assure his membership therein. The next legislature of his State will be composed of 22 Clark Democrats, 22 Republicans, 18 independents and 1 Populist.