

# THE OPENING OF CONGRESS.

THE short session of the Fifty-sixth congress, beginning Dec. 2, 1900, and ending March 4, 1901, will be a most busy session and one of great interest if the matters now pressing should receive attention. Neither the administration nor the managers of the dominant party want an extra session of the Fifty-seventh congress. A special session of the senate will be necessary to inaugurate President McKinley for a second term and to also inaugurate Vice President Roosevelt, as well as to confirm such appointments as the president may make at the beginning of his administration. But an extra session of both houses will be avoided unless extreme necessity compels it.

Senators and representatives look forward to a long vacation of nine

months between congresses, and they never willingly do anything to force a session during that time. But owing to the number of important measures pending congress will have to put on a great deal of steam and crowd through the business. Already work in that direction is being done. The appropriations committee of the house is preparing its bills so that they may be presented at an early day and be passed and signed before adjournment. And, notwithstanding the work thus early begun, there will be some all night sittings just previous to March 4 to get these to the president. In addition to the regular appropriation bills, there is an urgent necessity for a river and harbor bill, which takes time and often means a protracted fight. We are likely to again see a long skirmish over the armor plate provision in the naval bill and a renewed fight for a government armor plate factory.



Photo by Parker, Washington.

SENATOR FRYE.

[President pro tem. United States senate.]

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Already the ways and means committee is at work upon a bill to amend and reduce the war revenue act passed in 1898. There have been many complaints about continuing the taxes imposed by this measure, and many different business interests insisted upon action even at the last session of congress. But it

was well known that the law as a whole could not be repealed, and, because every interest affected by it insisted that the burdens which it bore should be lifted, the powers that were deemed it unwise to try to amend the law upon the threshold of a presidential election. Some of the money raised by this act will be needed so long as there is an army of considerable size in the Philippines. It is the intention to get the bill through and out of the way at an early day. It is possible that it will provoke something of a contest, owing to pressure of all interests affected, to have the taxes either repealed or reduced. The stamp taxes and the taxes on druggists' supplies, the extra tax on beer and several other features will no doubt bring many people to Washington during the session. It is possible that some partisanship may be engendered, and, if so, it will mean a rehearsal of the late campaign and the passing of compliments across the party aisle.

Although our policy in the Philippines was discussed from every point of view in the last session and has been talked of from every stump during the campaign, we are going to have still more of it this session, and probably the greatest party contest of the session will ensue over this subject when army legislation is considered. Something must be done about the army, for without legislation all the volunteers and about half of the regulars will be discharged on July 1, 1901. As long as there are disturbed conditions in the Philippines the administration will want at least 100,000 men, and perhaps more. Probably a proposition will be presented to increase the regular army establishment to 50,000 men, with provisions for expanding the army to 100,000 by increasing the number of enlisted men in each regiment. By this means the regular force of 27,000 is now expanded to 65,000. But the fact that such an army is necessary, and the further fact that an increase of the regular establishment to 50,000 is proposed, will precipitate a red-hot partisan fight. It may involve such a contest as to force an extra session, but my experience is that the senate minority will finally yield, knowing that a more radical measure could no doubt be passed in the extra session. But "imperialism" expansion and the position of both parties on the Philippine question will be thoroughly aired.

## The Philippines Again.

The Nicaragua canal bill passed the house at the last session and has been made a special order for Dec. 19 in the senate. Discussion of the measure will mean long speeches by Morgan of Alabama, whose heart is set on passing it, at the coming session. The opposition to the bill has always been able to defeat it by some method, and there are expedients in plenty to defeat it again. The isthmian commission is still grinding away at its report. It may or may not report before the holidays. The opposition will demand the latest information gathered by the commission. When the delayed report is finally put in time will be asked to study the great volumes and digest the mass of matter which will be presented. Then, the canal bill may interfere with the shipping subsidy bill. It has been hinted that these measures will clash. The subsidy bill has been reported in both houses. As usual, it will be an easy matter to put it through the house, but unlimited debate in the senate could defeat it. There is grave doubt whether the subsidy bill could displace the Nicaragua measure, but it could be skillfully handled so as to

make it quite impossible to pass one unless there was an agreement on the other. Standing in the way of the Nicaragua canal bill is the Hay-Pauncefote treaty. Many senators will refuse to vote for the canal while that treaty remains unratified, and it is certain that it cannot be ratified at this session of congress.

## The New Apportionment.

The new census makes a reapportionment of the number of representatives necessary. While this is not compulsory in the coming session, there are many reasons urged in its favor. Nearly all the

they could elect such representatives at large for the whole state, but if the representation of any state is reduced there would be disagreeable results in the election of members of congress unless legislatures were called together to reapportion the states. There is a sentiment in favor of such a reduction to avoid the increase to unwieldy proportions. Even upon a basis of 200,000 people to each representative, there will be 377 members, an increase of 20 over the present number.

Another much talked of feature in the new apportionment is that proposing to cut down the southern representation on the ground that colored men do not vote. This would raise a storm. Probably no other measure since the federal election law of the Fifty-first congress would cause so much partisan and sectional opposition and debate. The southern men would object to any such reduction unless they could couple it with some distinct avowal from the Republicans that the colored men should not be allowed to vote. It is difficult to see how such a scheme could

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might effort to prevent any such legislation. Any apportionment bill not having partisanship tendencies will pass easily.

There may be another star in the flag before the session ends. The census shows a population of nearly 400,000 people for Oklahoma, and there can scarcely be any reason assigned why she should not be admitted to the Union. She is larger than Delaware, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Utah or Nevada, all of which have participated in the last two presidential elections. Of course, Arizona and New Mexico will seek admission at

the same time. These territories tried to get in when some of the western states were admitted, but were denied for reasons which may still be valid.

There is other territorial legislation which will occupy some time. Our big goldfield, Alaska, finds that the laws passed heretofore need some amendment. Hawaii, a territory now, also wants equal shipping privileges, and something may be necessary for Porto Rico. There is some doubt whether any legislation for the Philippines and Cuba will be necessary, but the general impression prevails that none will be enacted.

Although each senator and representative can make himself an important cog in the wheel of the government, it is a well established fact that business to a great extent is controlled by the leaders, men of long service and ability. In the house, of course, Speaker Henderson is all powerful. Without his consent no legislation can pass, but even he is sometimes compelled to yield to the pressure of a great majority, as he did in the case of the Nicaragua canal bill. On the Republican side the speaker will be supported

by Payne, chairman of the ways and means committee; Duffell of the rules committee; Cannon of appropriations; Hull, chairman of military affairs; Hitt of foreign affairs; Hopkins of census, which will have charge of the apportionment bill; Sherman of Indian affairs; Foss of naval affairs; Hepburn of interstate commerce; Ray of judiciary; Grover of merchant marine and fisheries, which will have charge of the shipping bill; Loud of postoffice and postroads; Burton of rivers and harbors, besides others who have no important chairmanships. Duffell, the orator, has been promoted to the senate, and his voice will probably not be heard this session. Opposed to these Republicans are Richardson, leader of

the minority; Bailey, who will take a seat in the senate at the end of the session; Underwood, who will no doubt succeed Bailey on the rules committee; Swanson, who aspires to be governor of Virginia; Livingston, Catchings, Allen, Sulzer, Lentz and some others who will take an active part in the proceedings.

In the senate President pro tem. Frye will not take a prominent part in the proceedings save perhaps with the shipping bill, but well known men like Allison, Aldrich, both Platts, Sewell, Hanna, Foraker, Ellkins, Lodge, Carter, Chandler and Spooner, supporting Republican policies, will meet Cockrell, Tillman, Bacon and Daniel, Democrats, and Pettigrew, Teller and Wellington, former Republicans, when party issues arise. It will be interesting to note the attitude of senators like Hoar, Hale and Mason, who oppose the Republican Philippine policy, but did not desert their party during the campaign. Unlike the house, the senate has a plethora of leaders, each individual having a right to talk as often and as long as he chooses. Still, the leaders generally shape the policies and make the agreements as to what legislation shall be brought forward and passed.

ARTHUR W. DUNN, Washington.

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