# The Sun.

VOL. XLI.—NO. 110. NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 7, 1874. PRICE TWO CENTS.


## THE LEGISLATURE AT WORK

*THE MEMBERS SWORN IN AND REGULAR BUSINESS BEGUN.*

**The Republicans Claiming Mr. Alvord—Speaker Husted Uses Nobly—A Raid on the Department of Docks—An Army of Sinecures to be Ousted—Other Topics.**

ALBANY, Jan. 6.—Both branches of the Legislature organized this morning by carrying out the programme agreed upon in caucus. In the Senate there was a slight breeze over the selection of a janitor, the Republicans having thrown overboard their janitor of last year, Col. Johnson, a colored soldier, and taken in his place Gen. Hannibal C. Nelson, also a colored soldier. The Democrats nominated Col. Johnson, and Senators Johnson, Lord, and others appealed to the Republicans, so many of whom had themselves been reelected, not to desert the man who had stood by them so faithfully for two years. But the caucus slate was carried out, and Gen. Nelson was elected.

In the Assembly the formal ceremony of swearing in the members occupied nearly two hours' time. When the name of Thomas G. Alvord was called in the ballot for Speaker, Old Salt, who had entered early and taken his old seat in the centre of the chamber, arose, and in a loud voice voted for James W. Husted. This was hailed with cheers and clapping of hands by the Republican members, and one shouted, "Bully for you, Old S. t! We'll take you back." It was the general belief of the Republicans that the Omnibus giant had surrendered, and they were glad to take him into camp. But Mr. Alvord subsequently declared that he voted for Mr. Husted from purely personal friendship for the gentleman, in which he stood by him in 1872, and that he should have done so had Husted been the candidate of the Democrats or the Grangers. He refused to vote for Mr. O'Donnell, the Republican caucus nominee for Clerk.

THE OTHER GRANGER.

When C. L. Wagstaff, the other Grange candidate for Speaker, was called, he voted for Smith G. Woods, at which the Democrats shouted lustily. But Mr. Wagstaff denies that he has deserted the cause, and it is intimated that for the present at least the Grangers is to be neither one party nor the other.

A thing had established to listen to Speaker Husted's inaugural, but it was favorably received. It deprecated special legislation in the interest of monopolies, and his references to cheap transportation were manifestations of a different character. While there was none of that anti-shoddy reform which was nearly the entire burden of the inaugurals of his two immediate predecessors, yet it was so pointed in that direction and business like that the impression is that there will be more real reform about the Legislature this winter than there has been for a number of years.

QUICK WORK.

It was manifested as soon as the Speaker had been duly sworn in and his inaugural read, which it was found it fell with him, was settled. Having witnessed the installation of several of Gen. Husted's predecessors, I had the curiosity to compare what little work we had to do to-day with theirs. Two years ago it took the Hon. Thomas Kiernan (Democrat) from Manhattan, the oldest member of the Assembly, an hour and a half to do the same thing that Mr. Husted and Mr. A. B. Cornell went up and down after in expressing in performing this duty. Mr. Husted did it to-day in seven minutes.

Two Canals of New York this morning put in appearance with their officers and filled the Senate and Assembly halls from New York with no regard to party, looking to the relief of workingmen and mechanics; but Mr. Alvord desiring to discuss it, and its immediate consideration requiring unanimous consent, it was laid over.

In the Senate bills to repeal the Usury law and to exempt homes and mortgages from taxation were introduced by Senator King, and a communication was received from Mayor Havemeyer asking for immediate legislation to enable the City of New York to borrow its bonds due on the 15th inst. and on the 1st of February.

THE COMMITTEES.

There is the usual anxiety and rumors about the committees. Mr. Husted has not named the committees of a single one, and it is not probable that they will be announced before next Tuesday. It is intended, however, that Mr. Prince will be Chairman of Ways and Means if he so desires, but there are those who think that he would prefer to be reelected at the head of the Judiciary Committee. For the chairmanship of the Committee on Cities the names of Col. Chas. S. Spencer and Mayor Eastman of Poughkeepsie are prominently mentioned.

At 6 o'clock the Assembly met to draw seats. The Hon. Thomas G. Alvord was, by resolution, allowed to take his old seat. Half a dozen deaf men were also allowed to take seats in the front row.

Assemblyman Coughlin of New York will introduce early a bill abolishing the Department of Docks in the city, and transferring the work done by it to some other department. It is said that the department, as it is run, is all "ring," that no janitors, teamsters, engineers and collectors, all drawing

LARGE SALARIES;

that they occupy offices for which the city pays $2,000 rent, and that President Westervelt is interested in them, that he waited on him with the consent of Senators and Assemblymen relative to their employment, that the department was employing men in Tompkins Market, and Mr. Coughlin's notion is that much of the money spent by this department in salaries to engineers and for expensive offices could be better spent in building docks and in giving work to the laboring men, and that such a result can be reached by abolishing the work of dredging in the hands of a bad gang, under a practical engineer. He thinks that if the Department of Public Works, which spends millions of money and employs thousands of men, can do it by contract, it can do it now. It is known that the Board of Docks should require three Commissioners to manage less than three hundred laborers.

THE MEN.

It is conceded that the present Senate and Assembly in point of ability is equal to any that has assembled for years. In the Senate the Democrats have the best debaters, if not the most of them. The changes in the delegates from New York are generally regarded as improvements, Mr. Jacobs being probably the best partisan debater and off-hand speaker in either House, and the Hon. Henry C. Murphy, the veteran of all, has occupied the long vacant seat of Mr. Low, and though he can never be a ready speaker, as his deafness is a great drawback, he will add a good deal of the headwork to the Democratic side. Mr. Booth, who succeeds Mr. Lapham, promises to be one of the ablest members of the Senate.

Mr. Lewis, who occupies the seat of the resigned James O'Brien, the original Tammany Ring member, was also heard from. Mr. Gross, who succeeds Mr. Wadsworth in Livingston, is well called a chip of the old block, making in the hands of a bad man