

### OPENING THE SECOND SESSION

#### Short Sessions Held by Both Houses of Congress.

#### REUNION OF MEMBERS

#### Committees to Notify the President Appointed.

#### NO BUSINESS TRANSACTED

#### Resolutions of Inquiry Regarding the Dismissal of Colored Soldiers Introduced.

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The fact that both Houses of Congress were to meet today for the short session had the effect early in the day of giving the Capitol an appearance of activity such as it has not presented since adjournment last June. The first day of a session never develops much of interest to those used to attending the sessions of Congress, but no other day of a session seems to possess greater charm for the average citizen. Today was evidently not an exception to the rule, as the corridors were not without visitors even before senators and representatives had begun to arrive, and there was a marked increase as the day advanced. Most of the attendants were from out of the city, and there was the usual impromptu meeting of members. The day was, as usual, freely given, and for the time at least both congressman and constituent were happy.

Both visitors and members found the great building in excellent shape to receive them. Vast as is the structure, it has been thoroughly renovated, both inside and out, during the recess, and it looked as clean and inviting as any newer buildings. All of the committee rooms have received a thorough overhauling, the pictures have been rejuvenated and the two chambers completely cleaned up.

#### Early Arrivals.

Senators and representatives began to arrive early in the day, and there were many cordial greetings in the corridors and on the floors. The experience of the late campaign was a fruitful source of remark, but although many of the meetings were between republicans and democrats, there was no evidence of any but the best feeling. The new congressmen generally expressed the opinion that the session would witness little legislation beyond the passage of appropriation bills. "But if any one thing will be done, it will be something to talk about, he has another general said one of them, and there was general acquiescence.

#### Senator Allison Missed.

Practically all of the veterans of the Senate were on hand, most of them looking hale and hearty, as if their summer's rest, followed by a busy campaign, had agreed with them. One of the familiar faces of the Senate was that of Senator Allison, who had arranged to remain at his home at Dubuque, Iowa, until after the holiday recess, leaving the work of organization for the younger members. This is the first session in many years that he has not been present to take a hand in the organization. His friends were delighted to learn that he had recovered from his illness of the last session and will be here to take charge of his important work.

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### SCENES IN THE HOUSE

#### SHORT SESSION BUT MANY BILLS INTRODUCED.

#### Uncle Joe Cannon got the warmest kind of a reception when he entered the chamber of the House of Representatives today.

Uncle Joe Cannon got the warmest kind of a reception when he entered the chamber of the House of Representatives today. He was probably pleased to death, but it couldn't be told from his appearance, for he scowled as he mounted to the Speaker's chair, and a moment later, on the stroke of noon, brought his gavel down with a crack that nearly put the sounding board out of business.

Everybody's importance in the House, and good many that are not, was on hand at noon, when the two branches of the national legislature met for the second and short session of the Fifty-ninth Congress. The members of the carnation brigade sported the only flowers visible upon the floor, for the Speaker's order relating to the wearing of flowers in the chamber into a conservatory once every year still holds good.

There were fewer flowers brought to the doors of the Capitol, for the government clerk is gradually losing the idea that he has to spend the price of a pair of shoes in every December in order to hang on to his job, and the rural congressman with a vain streak in his system is happy because nowadays he does not have to send flowers to his constituents.

#### Through in Galleries.

But a typical opening-day throng in the galleries more than made up for the lack of color on the floor. In the reserved section the wives and daughters, uncles and aunts, relatives of all degrees, admirers and friends of members, sat to see the show; in the diplomatic section a few European dignitaries, including the British and American secretaries from one of the more active of the South American republics looked on with interest; in the executive galleries Mrs. Schwab, Long and Miss Egan, and the Honorable Nicholas got the glad hand from his colleagues, and in the public sections the folks that came early hung on to their seats and took stock of the "people's own."

Things were a trifle slow in getting started in the House after the adjournment of the previous session. It was not until 11 o'clock before the scene resembled a congressional "first night" performance. But from that time on it was the usual routine of the House, with the members of the House who got what was coming to them at the polls in November had something to say to those who didn't, and the road of the chamber was a busy one, particularly in the chamber south of the New York stock exchange under a bull market.

#### Scenes on the Floor.

Sereno Payne of New York, the floor leader of the House republicans, as large of girth and as placid of countenance as of yore, drifted into the House about 11 o'clock arm in arm with Gen. Grosvenor, who had entered from the station and "figures," who will say good-bye to the House this session, after a couple of decades of active service. It wasn't long before Payne and Grosvenor found some of the members of the House who were particularly anxious to see them, and they were soon surrounded by a group of about a hundred who were waiting to shake hands with them. And in every group somebody was explaining how it happened.

There will be quite a number of changes in the House after the adjournment of the session. One of those who are going to say good-bye, or perhaps just an revoir, was made by his colleagues to feel that it was a doggone shame that he should cost a dollar, particularly around the Capitol, where everybody has a supply, and some of the unfortunate ones were being up to the Capitol this morning, leaving a few dollars behind. And in every group somebody was explaining how it happened.

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### TAKEN UP BY COUNSEL

#### Arguments Begun in the Bassett Divorce Case.

#### ATTORNEY COLLADAY OPENS

#### Outline of the Evidence in Behalf of the Plaintiff.

#### CO-RESPONDENT HUNT PRESENT

#### Court Denies Motion for Reopening of Hearing for Introduction of New Evidence.

For the first time since the hearing began in the suit for absolute divorce, brought against his wife by Charles C. Bassett, in Equity Court No. 2, one of the principals was in the court room today. Rev. E. Lawrence Hunt of Brooklyn, N. Y., the co-respondent was in Washington a day or two ago and in conference with his attorney, Henry E. Davis, but he did not come to the court room to listen to the proceedings in which his name has been so freely mentioned in connection with that of Mrs. Bassett.

Attorneys Colladay and Fulton petitioned Justice Gould today to permit Mr. Bassett to go on the stand to refute statements made by Mrs. Bassett in her deposition taken in Omaha and Base, Neb., in the room ready to do so. Particular points were cited upon which it was wished to have Bassett testify, and it was declared that Mr. Bassett's statements would be largely corroborative of the deposition of former Representative Benjamin Fairchild of New York.

Justice Gould, however, decided that the case should not be reopened for the introduction of evidence, and Attorney Colladay immediately began his opening address for the plaintiff. He called attention to the fact that the plaintiff's case was based upon the sworn testimony of reference Mr. Colladay first dwelt upon the alleged facts of the case, and then proceeded to the complaint against the defendant, Mrs. Bassett, who he stated was a woman of high social position and of good family.

Mrs. Bassett's movements from the time her husband left Washington, May 11, 1904, to enter upon his present tour of the geological survey, were carefully traced, to show that Mr. Hunt was almost constantly with Mrs. Bassett from that time until July 6, 1905.

#### Continued His Visits.

"After Mrs. Bassett came from the Johns Hopkins Hospital, after the birth of the baby Lawrence, there was no earthly reason for Dr. Hunt to call upon this woman so frequently," declared Mr. Colladay. "She was out of all danger, yet her own witness has testified that Hunt called upon Mrs. Bassett so frequently that letters were not necessary."

"I think that the records of no church will show such an uninterrupted series of calls as that of Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Bassett," Mr. Colladay continued, and all these visits by Hunt to Mrs. Bassett after Christmas in 1903 were against the specific wishes of the husband in the family.

"Coming to the time when Mr. Bassett was about to return to his home in the fall of 1904, Mrs. Bassett was in such condition that she could not see her husband," Mr. Colladay said, "the evidence clearly shows the part the co-defendant, Hunt, played in concealing the wife's whereabouts from the husband. Letters written by Mrs. Bassett and evidence offered by the Washington post office officials indicate that Hunt was in the city at the time Mrs. Bassett was in the city, and that Mrs. Bassett would not testify to her whereabouts during the summer, fall, winter and spring of 1904-5, and Hunt was afraid to go on the stand so that we could ask him about his movements."

Attention was called by Mr. Colladay to the fact that Mrs. Bassett taught her son, Harold Chester Bassett, jr., to call Mrs. Hunt "uncle," although in her deposition she has admitted that Hunt is not her adopted brother, half-brother or any relation whatever.

"Their relationship was such that Mrs. Griffith, Mr. Gibson and other Atlantic City witnesses stated that they thought Hunt was the father of Mrs. Bassett's child," Mr. Colladay said, "and actions surely speak louder than words."

#### After Recess.

At 12:45 o'clock a recess was taken until 1:40.

When court reconvened Attorney Colladay resumed his argument, and again referred to the visit of Mr. Hunt and Mrs. Bassett to Atlantic City, and said that a number of persons, whose depositions appear in the case, knew the co-defendants, as they represented themselves to be, namely, brother and sister.

Speaking of the first charge of the illicit relations between Hunt and Mrs. Bassett, alleged by Mr. Bassett to have been May 22, 1904, the day after Bassett left the city, Mr. Colladay declared the evidence offered in rebuttal to have been flimsy and ill founded.

"As a matter of fact," he said, "the evidence offered in rebuttal to the charge that Mrs. Bassett had been present at an afternoon party and poured tea does not prove that the co-defendants were not alone in the city from 2 o'clock until nearly or about 5 o'clock."

"The medical testimony may fall to show conclusively that the child, Lawrence, is not the son of Hunt, but it also equally falls to show that it is the child of Bassett," Mr. Colladay continued. "If we take into consideration the fact that Mrs. Bassett had been present at an afternoon party and poured tea does not prove that the co-defendants were not alone in the city from 2 o'clock until nearly or about 5 o'clock."

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### DISCHARGE OF TROOPS

#### RESOLUTIONS OF INQUIRY INTRODUCED BY SENATORS.

#### Information Regarding the Dismissal of Colored Battalion of 25th Infantry Wanted.

The meeting of the Senate today was marked by the presence of an unusually large number of senators, including practically all of those who at the close of the last session went to their homes in unsatisfactory state of health. Senator Dewey, as buoyant as in his prime days, entered the chamber and renewed his acquaintance with friends, although many of them supposed a short time ago that the state of his health was so poor that he would not be again among them. Senator Pettus passed the time in his hearing and was placed upon the committee to inform the President that the Senate had assembled and was ready to receive the message from him. It has been customary to designate Senator Morgan for this duty, but by a mutual understanding the other Alabama senator was given the honor. Senators Bacon and Foraker were all on the list of those who were not well when the first session came to a close, but they were all in their places today in apparently perfect health.

Never before has the assembling of the Senate brought together a more brilliant group of men, and which filled the galleries at noon. Members of senators' families were present in such numbers that the galleries reserved for them were far from being empty.

#### Unusual Occurrence.

The unusual event of today was the introduction of a resolution in the Senate before the President's message had been received. It is customary for the Senate to do nothing except to adopt those formal resolutions which are necessary to send a committee to the White House, to inform the House of Representatives that the Senate is in session, and for the hour of meeting to be held in the Senate chamber. The resolutions of Senators Hale, Cullom and Pettus, being appointed to wait upon the President, when he should be in the city, to call upon him for a resolution calling upon the President, if not incompatible with the interests of the public service, to send to the Senate full information regarding the dismissal of the members of the three colored companies of the 25th Infantry. Senator Foraker was also up with a resolution directing the Secretary of War to send all such information to the Senate, together with a history of the 25th Regiment and various information bearing upon the dismissal of the colored troops. While Senator Foraker's resolution requested the information on this subject, that of Senator Foraker "directed" the Secretary of War to send it.

#### Resolutions Go Over.

Senator Spooner asked for a re-reading of the Penrose resolution and Senator Warren promptly asked that both resolutions go over to tomorrow, which is the usual procedure in such cases.

These resolutions were followed in the Senate by a resolution of Senator Hale, which was also referred to the committee on the subject of the 25th Infantry. Senator Foraker was also up with a resolution directing the Secretary of War to send all such information to the Senate, together with a history of the 25th Regiment and various information bearing upon the dismissal of the colored troops. While Senator Foraker's resolution requested the information on this subject, that of Senator Foraker "directed" the Secretary of War to send it.

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