

REGULAR SESSION OPENED

President Roosevelt Sends to Congress Annual Review of Conditions at Home and Abroad.

CANAL TREATY IS READY

Recommends Creation of Commissions for Study of Changes in Existing Land Laws.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The house convened today in regular session and listened to the reading of the president's annual message to congress. The special session of the house was organized four weeks ago, the ceremony of the opening day comprised merely the roll call to develop the presence of a quorum and the customary notifications to the president and to the senate.

No reference was made to the special session.

More than an hour and a half were consumed in the reading of the president's message, at the conclusion of which there was general applause on the republican side of the chamber. A considerable amount of routine matters necessary to facilitate the work of the committees was transacted prior to the reception of the message. The house adjourned at 3:30 o'clock out of respect to Henry Burk (Pa.), a member who died Saturday.

Washington, Dec. 7.—The senate today closed the extraordinary session and entered on the duties of the regular session, but the transition was so natural as to be scarcely noticeable. The unusual features were the close of the called session by an announcement from the chair, and the offering of two prayers in the senate within a half hour of each other. The business transacted consisted of the reading of the president's message and the beginning of the discussion on the Cuban reciprocity bill.

The following is a resume of the president's message:

Much has been accomplished in the past year in the direction of exercising supervision over great corporations. Publicity has been provided for, suits for the enforcement of the anti-trust law have been expedited, and equal treatment of all producers in the transportation of their goods has been secured by law. The preliminary work of the bureau of corporations has shown the wisdom of its creation. The functions of the new department of commerce are briefly summarized in the message.

Hearty recognition has been given to the far-reaching, beneficial work done by both corporations and unions, and the line as between different corporations, as between different unions, is drawn as it is between different individuals; that is, it is drawn on conduct, the effort being to treat both organized capital and organized labor alike; asking nothing save that the interest of each shall be brought into harmony with the interest of the general public, and that the conduct of each shall conform to the fundamental rules of obedience to law, of individual freedom, and of justice and fair dealing toward all.

The surplus of the fiscal year was \$54,297,667.

Continuation of the commission to devise a plan for fixing a rate of exchange is advised.

Appointment of a commission to investigate conditions in our ocean-carrying trade and to report to congress is suggested.

Some system for excluding undesirable immigrants, and for distributing desirable immigrants properly throughout the country is necessary. "At present some districts which need immigrants have none; and in others, where the population is already congested, immigrants come in such numbers as to depress the conditions of life for those already there."

Evidence unheeded of naturalization frauds reveals a condition calling for the immediate attention of congress. "It should mean something to become a citizen of the United States, and in the process no loophole whatever should be left open for fraud."

Extension of the anti-trust laws should be extended so it will be available also for enforcement of other laws, including the land laws and those governing the postal department. "Bribery should be made an extraditable offense."

Proceedings in the Alaskan boundary matter and the growth of Alaska are referred to.

The cause of international arbitration has materially advanced.

Private property at sea should be exempt from destruction by belligerents.

Our relations with Turkey remain friendly. "The signing of the new commercial treaty with China is a cause for satisfaction. * * * Cost of our consular service has been very greatly reduced."

Rural free delivery is being rapidly extended. It emphasizes further the need of good roads. Congress should continue to help the Louisiana and Lewis and Clarke expeditions.

The Philippines "should be knit closer to us by tariff arrangements. * * * The condition of the islands is in material things far better than ever before, while their government, intellectual and moral advance has kept pace with their material advance. No one people ever benefited another people more than we have benefited the Filipinos by taking possession of the islands."

The public land laws must be revised. The home builder must be protected and the lands held for him especially. * * * "The work of re-

clamation of the arid lands of the west is progressing steadily and satisfactorily under the terms of the law setting aside the proceeds from the disposal of public lands."

Forest preservation is necessary as a natural corollary to our irrigation policy.

Reciprocity ought to be extended to foreigners in patents.

Indian agents should be free from partisan political considerations.

The "safety appliance" law is working well.

The pension department has done excellent work in expediting the disposing of pension claims.

The civil service principle is being extended and enforced.

The effects of the laws providing for the general staff and for the more effective use of the National Guard has been excellent.

The navy should also have a general staff.

The isthmian canal situation is fully reviewed. * * * Colombia repudiated her treaty. * * * Undisturbed control of the isthmus is important to us. * * * Now there is a good prospect of the construction of the canal under conditions favorable to the United States.

STILL UNSETTLED.

Strike Conference Between Governor and Labor Leader Futile.

Denver, Colo., Dec. 6.—President John Mitchell and Governor Peabody had a conference lasting three-quarters of an hour today and tonight the settlement of the strike is as far distant as ever. Mr. Mitchell informed the governor that the strike would continue to the bitter end and the governor just as positively informed the strike leader that he would tolerate no violence, but would order troops at the first provocation.

While the conference came to naught, both the governor and President Mitchell expressed themselves as pleased with the interview, each saying he had secured a better conception of the position of the other. Mr. Mitchell refused to discuss the conference other than to say his talk was very pleasant. After the conference he left for Chicago to attend a conference there in the interest of the Illinois miners. As to his return to Colorado he is undecided. Speaking of his talk with Mr. Mitchell, Governor Peabody said tonight:

"The conference was very pleasant although productive of no results. At its conclusion, President Mitchell stated that so far as he could see there was no immediate probability of a settlement of the strike."

The governor added that when he asked President Mitchell if he had any suggestion to make, the latter said he believed if a committee of miners could meet with the operators and talk with them a settlement might be effected.

DEFINES RESISTANCE.

Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 6.—Adjutant General Bell, who has arrived here, has issued a statement defining martial law as it will be enforced. He said that he would not tolerate insurrection and treason. "Of the latter, he says: 'Armed or unarmed resistance by citizens of the United States against lawful movements of militia is treason for which the punishment is death.'"

BLOW TO ARMY MEN.

Adjournment of Congress Effects Status of a Large Number.

Washington, Dec. 5.—By the manner of adjourning the house today, the extra session of congress will expire by constitutional limitation at noon on Monday, when the regular session begins. Such appointments as have not been confirmed by the senate during the extra session, must be renewed as new nominations, which are, in effect, but mere recommendations and do not become effective until confirmed by the senate. In effect, this action will reduce General Wood from his present rank of major general to that of lieutenant colonel, and the senate has not confirmed to the rank of brigadier general. It will also reduce 160 army officers, who have been promoted to fill the vacancies caused by the promotion of General Wood.

The important civil appointments affected include W. W. Crane, as Collector of Customs at Charleston, S. C.; Charles P. McClelland, as Customs Supervisor at New York, both of whom are serving under recess appointments, the effect being to vacate those offices. Mr. Crane's confirmation is despaired of and the collectorship at Charleston will remain vacant until the expiration of the next session of congress, unless the president renews the nomination and it is confirmed by the senate. Several informal conferences have been held between leading republican senators and Speaker Cannon. In these conferences Speaker Cannon has stated that his house has no authority over nominations, and if the creation of a recess was necessary to take care of such matters, the senate should have taken official action, looking to adjournment of the special session by concurrent resolution. In the absence of such a movement, the speaker said, he would not interfere in any way in the expiration of the extra session by limitation.

All nominations, including army, navy and civil appointments, during the extra session and which have not been confirmed by the senate, will have to be renewed at the regular session. It is expected they will be retransmitted to the senate on Monday by the president.

There is a disposition to take the point of view that, between the expiration of the present session and the beginning of the regular session, there will necessarily be an appreciable, but practically infinitely small, period of time when there is no session, and consequently the congress is technically in recess and it will be within the power of the president, at any time after noon, to make recess appointments, to continue during the next session unless rejected by the senate.

The appointments at the war department, to fill the vacancies occurring, are being dated from the time the vacancy occurs. It seems probable the complex situation resulting may require a decision of the attorney general.

LEGISLATORS ARE WORKING

House on Saturday Puts Through Important Emergency Bills by a Very Large Majority.

MAY ADJOURN BY FRIDAY

Hilger Among the Few Who Still Vote With Heinze's Eighty Million Dollar Copper Company.

Helena, Dec. 5.—The two fair trial bills, the eight-hour bill and the appropriation bill were passed by the house yesterday afternoon. The Dugan bill, relating to the disqualification of judges, was the only one which was amended in committee of the whole. After being considered in the committee, all of the bills were recommended for passage. The Dugan bill passed the house by a vote of 52 to 13, the Self change of venue bill by a vote of 50 to 15, and the appropriation bill by a vote of 63 to 2. There was a unanimous vote on the eight-hour bill. After concluding its business the house adjourned until 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

It was plain to be seen when the house met yesterday morning that nearly every member was of one mind; each one desired the passage of the bills at the earliest possible moment. This sentiment prevailed during the entire day, notwithstanding that MacGinniss and his handful of followers, among whom was David Hilger, made every effort to delay the proceedings.

Helena, Dec. 7.—The senate had the capital all to itself today, the house having adjourned on Saturday to Tuesday, presumably for the purpose of giving the members an opportunity to hear the band brought over from Butte by Mr. Heinze. The senate's session was an afternoon one, and it took advantage of the occasion to pass the first bills it has put through during the present session. The Maddox bill will come out of the committee tomorrow, if the statements made today are made good.

At tomorrow's session of the house it is likely that the bill carrying an appropriation for the salary of a clerk in the office of the state superintendent of public instruction, which was reported Tuesday, is the only bill in the house that has not been acted on.

Both houses will meet tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock. There was a motion to have the senate meet at 11 o'clock but the later hour was named in order that the judiciary committee might have ample time to report the Maddox bill.

Today's session of the senate was longer than usual and there was more work than usual in the time used by the body. Two bills were put through the final process during the session, the first of them being the Hoffman bill No. 1, relating to the powers and duties of the supreme court on appeals, which was passed after an amendment by the judiciary committee. The other was the measure providing for the submission of a constitutional amendment regarding child labor and the eight-hour day.

BLAIR INDICTED.

Prominent St. Louisian Is Getting Deeper Into the Tolls.

St. Louis, Dec. 4.—James L. Blair, former general consul for the world's fair, was served with bench warrants late this afternoon as he lay in bed at the Mullany hospital. The October grand jury returned two indictments against Blair, each charging forgery in the first degree. Each indictment is based on the alleged forgery by Blair of a deed of trust to secure a loan from the estate of Peter Blow, of St. Louis, of which he was a trustee had charge.

One indictment alleges that on December 10th, 1896, Blair filed a forged deed for \$60,000 in favor of Elizabeth and John Dwyer and the St. Louis Trust company, their agent, to Otto L. Meyer for \$12,000. Seven notes and property near Fourteenth and Spruce streets were given as security.

The other indictment charges that on July 10th, 1896, Blair filed a forged deed for \$60,000 in favor of Elizabeth and John Dwyer and the St. Louis Trust company, their agent, to Otto L. Meyer for \$12,000. Seven notes and property near Fourth and Pine streets. The indictments also charge Blair with forgery of the seal of the St. Louis recorder of deeds.

The punishment in each case ranges from ten years to life imprisonment. In the printed accusations made against Blair some months ago by James T. Roberts, formerly Blair's confidential clerk, Roberts charged that in addition to forging deeds of trust and promissory notes for \$500,000 on loans made through the Dick Bros. of New York and Philadelphia, Blair forged several deeds of trust and embezzled \$60,000 from the Blow estate, of which Ed. S. Roberts was co-trustee.

When Roberts discovered Blair's shortage the alleged forgeries had been committed five years, and he presumed that the offense was barred by the statute of limitations, but forced Blair to make restitution by threatening exposure. Forgery in the first degree is not covered by the statute of limitations. Blair secured \$100,000 from each of six friends—wealthy men of St. Louis—and made good the amount of his defalcations.

The Dick Bros. having refused to come to St. Louis to testify against Blair, who is their kinsman by marriage, the grand jury concentrated its efforts on securing proof of the alleged forgeries in connection with the Blair estate, with the result that the indictment was returned today, charging Blair with having forged two separate deeds of trust.

The news of Blair's indictment came as a surprise, it having been

the general opinion that the grand jury would be unable to secure the necessary proof.

When deputies armed with capias arrived at Mullany hospital, where Blair has been confined since his second attempt to commit suicide on the day Roberts' exposure was published, he was found in bed. The capias were served, but no attempt to remove Blair from the sanitarium was made, the deputies remaining on guard until Blair gave bond in the sum of \$10,000.

Blair became greatly excited when the fact that he had been indicted was made known to him, and his physician, Dr. George Homan, said he feared serious results. It has been persistently rumored since Blair went to the hospital that his mind is not strong, while it was stated yesterday on the authority of a close personal friend of Blair that he had recovered his physical and mental vigor; this statement was denied today by Dr. Homan, who declared the patient to be far from out of danger.

Mrs. Blair, who has been constantly by her husband's bedside since his first collapse on the day he went to the Four Courts, October 20th, to ask for a warrant against a St. Louis editor, charging criminal libel, refused herself to all callers at the hospital, as did her son, Percy Blair.

RANGE SUPPLY SHORT.

Texas Ranges Have Been Drained of Their Cattle This Year.

There is no doubt but that the big rush of cattle to market this fall and winter is causing too high an estimate to be placed on the actual number of cattle in the country. From the way the markets are daily being glutted it is evident that the number of cattle would readily infer the very words were full of 'em, but such is not the case by large odds. Conservative and well posted cattlemen freely express the opinion that the number of cattle now in the country is infinitely less than two years ago, and the real situation so far as it has been disclosed amply supports the contention.

Commenting on this feature of the situation, W. J. Morton, a prominent ranchman of Monroe county, Texas, says in the West Texas Stockman:

"The big cattle run from the southwest this fall on top of the bad market is causing everybody to overestimate the cattle supply of the range country. People all over the corn belt imagine that just because they see a big visible supply around the markets this fall the range country is likewise glutted with stock. Nothing could be further from the truth. I am to answer to you for the extreme southwest, but I do know the country pretty thoroughly around the Panhandle and I imagine that the conditions there will have a mighty big effect upon the country at large. For a radius of 150 to 200 miles around me one will find today hardly half as many cattle as there were two years ago and three. Taking the big outfits of Roberts, Hutchings, Moore, Hartley and adjacent counties in the Panhandle and you will find not one of them overstocked with cattle this fall."

The car shortage is still worrying shippers greatly, and is forcing them to trail long distances in the hope of getting out from points more favored by the roads than are the regular shipping stations. At Pampa I had to wait ten days for cars, and my order was in just two weeks ahead of my cattle. Others have waited as long as six weeks with no results."

SUGAR BEET IN UTAH.

A Golden Harvest Being Reaped by Members of That Industry.

Beet sugar making is certainly one of the money making enterprises of Utah at this time. The parent factory at Lehi has made and sacked nearly 6,000 tons of granulated sugar. This is estimated at about half the season's run. The total beet yield of the fields tributary to this plant is reckoned at 90,000 tons, and the beets are nearly all dug and waiting in the immense sheds to be cut up and made into sugar.

The prolonged fine season has been unusually favorable for the beet producers, as it has enabled the crop to be dug and hauled in much more completely than usual. The factory is in excellent trim, running with the utmost smoothness, and the new appliances turning out most satisfactory.

The beet sugar factory at Ogden and the one at Logan are also in fine condition and are turning out the sweet stuff by the thousands of tons. And the new factory at Garland is reported as beginning well, though the time was short for it to get in order.

Utah is a great sugar state, and the farmers are reaping a golden harvest out of the industry. Acres of beets is a source of ready cash that is only less satisfactory and sure than a good many acres; and the farmer who has a good many acres conveniently located is independent of the vicissitudes of life.—Salt Lake Tribune.

IT IS "CHOUTEAU."

Postoffice Department Changes Spelling of Teton County Town.

There is grief at the county seat of Teton county, for the postoffice department has ordered that the name of that town be changed from Chouteau to Chouteau. A resident of the place who arrives here yesterday is so disgusted that he registers at his hotel as from "Choto," and it is stated that the people of the town will petition the department to rescind its order and permit the old spelling to stand.

Soon after the legislature, last January, had changed the spelling of the name of the county from Choteau to Chouteau, to conform with the spelling of the name of the man for whom the county and town were named, the press of the state generally began to spell the names of both town and county in the same way. The change was desired by the people of the county, but those of the town protested, and protested vigorously, and the spelling was abandoned, so far as the name of the town was concerned. But someone has brought the matter to the attention of the postoffice department, and the spelling is henceforth to be Chouteau.—Tribune.

QUARREL OF BOYS FATAL

Godfrey McNeil Shot and Killed by Antone Contario in a Row at Meaderville.

CIGARETTE PAPER THE CAUSE

Youthful Murderer Makes His Escape.—The Victim Was But Fourteen Years of Age.

Butte, Dec. 5.—Godfrey McNeil, 14 years old, was shot and almost instantly killed this morning at 8 o'clock in a cabin at the foot of Noble street, Meaderville. County Physician Donnelly was summoned, but the boy was dead before the doctor arrived.

Antone Contario, an Italian boy, 19 years old, is alleged to have done the shooting. He made his escape and though the sheriff's deputies were on his trail a few minutes after the crime was committed he managed to elude them and get away.

According to the facts in possession of the officers, the murder was done in cold blood and for a most trivial reason. The two boys were quarreling and Contario wanted a cigarette paper, which the young fellow refused to give him. Finally, the Italian was heard to say that if he did not get the paper he would kill the other boy, and this was followed in a moment with the sound of a shot. Several who heard the shot made for the cabin and saw Contario hurrying away from the place towards the flat.

On entering, McNeil was seen lying across the head of the bed, where he had fallen, with the blood-covered bed clothing piled up on the mattress, and his life fast ebbing away.

The bullet had entered the skull just above the middle of the forehead and in making its exit had torn out a piece of the skull at the rear, four inches square. Through this hole the brains were oozing and though a few spasmodic twitches of the muscles could be detected, he was unconscious and nearly dead then.

About two months ago, the two boys ran away from home and for a month were working on a ranch. They returned to Butte on Wednesday or Thursday and it is believed were afraid to go to their homes on account of their escapade. They were together in the rear room of the cabin in which the tragedy occurred, and were unable to find him. Others in Meaderville believe the alleged murderer was making for some place where he would not be recognized.

UNION IN CONTEMPT.

Another Unique Ruling of Judge Holdom of the Windy City.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—Judge Holdom decided that the Franklin Union of Press Feeders was in contempt of court as an organization for appointing and permitting pickets to interfere with the rights of individuals who had taken the places of striking press feeders. The union and its officers will be cited to appear tomorrow before Judge Holdom, who, it is expected, will impose a fine.

This is the first time in the history of trades unionism in this country that a union has been found guilty of illegal acts as a corporate body. Judge Holdom in his decision charged the Franklin union as a corporation with having violated the court's injunction restraining it from interfering with the business of employees of ten printing firms. The court found that the union was responsible for the acts of its strike pickets; that it had countenanced and maintained a picket line which has been the cause of numerous assaults in Chicago's printing town; that the union had knowledge of assaults and intimidating perpetrations in violation of the injunction and that the union still maintained, in defiance of the restraining order, its siege of the printing houses.

HEINZE OFFERED TO SELL.

Thos. W. Lawson Says the Young Copper Magnate Wanted to Get Out.

Butte, Dec. 5.—In a message to-night Thos. W. Lawson, the Boston "Copper King," referring to an article in the Boston News Bureau that F. Augustus Heinze has refused to sell his Butte properties to the Amalgamated, says:

"The Heinzes not only offered to sell their properties, and holding for \$7,000,000, but agreed in writing to pay New York brokers \$100,000 for bringing about the negotiations, which negotiations were held in Young's hotel, Boston, 1903, of which I have the written proof in my possession, signed by Heinze. The outcome of these negotiations was not only the Heinzes agreeing to sell, but the perfecting of the plans by which the sale and purchases were to be carried out, and which fell through because of Heinze's inability to make

necessary arrangements with some of the New York holders of the United Copper company."

"THOMAS W. LAWSON."

UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

Business Paralyzed in Cripple Creek and Press Must Be Good. Cripple Creek, Colo., Dec. 5.—The declaration of martial law has paralyzed business in this city. Heavily armed pickets of the national guard are stationed on all street corners and many residents of the city do not venture upon the streets. Provost Marshal E. McClelland is occupying the mayor's office. He has caused arrests of several persons, but no important arrests have yet been made. Following the publication of an editorial in the Victor Record, Provost Marshal McClelland threatened to cut off Cripple Creek from the outside world by locking up the correspondents of the Denver papers and to censor all matter to be sent to Denver papers.

Mayor Naylor, in the absence of Colonel Verdecke, in command, stated that a censor would be appointed to supervise all news to be published in the future. The name of the censor has not been divulged.

GRIDIRON CLUB BANQUET.

Most Famous Club in the Country Hold Annual Blowout.

Washington, Dec. 5.—The Gridiron club entertained more than 160 guests at its December dinner at the Arlington hotel tonight. The evening was replete with unique features, which public events and the alleged ambitions and aspirations of statesmen were made the subjects of burlesque and good natured ridicule. The initiation of three new members afforded an opportunity to picture the inside of a newspaper office in which the staff discussed methods of interviewing many of the guests present. The republic of Panama suddenly appeared at the dinner, and it was recognized by a Republican elephant amidst the brays of the Democratic donkey. A Gridiron club flying machine was brought in and a number of prominent guests were given an opportunity to test it, the course being to the White House, but all met with mishap before reaching the goal. Moving pictures illustrated some recent events, political and social. A New York policeman appeared and hung a red light directly over the place where Leader Murphy of Tammany and Mayor-elect McClelland were sitting.

There were a number of brilliant and witty speeches and the evening was interspersed with topical songs. Amidst the festivities the lights were turned down and large pictures of William E. Annin and Hubert T. Smith, members who died during the past year, were shown on a screen and a short and impressive eulogy was delivered by Major John M. Carson, in which reference was made to the fact that Mr. Annin was once president of the club, and Mr. Smith one of its varied musical members. The pictures faded away and the club sang one of Hub Smith's songs, the lights again flashed and the mirth proceeded.

ROALSWICK WINS CASE.

Unsuccessful Attempt by the Tribune to Oust County Commissioner.

Great Falls, Dec. 6.—Judge Leslie yesterday, in the district court, handed down his decision in the case brought by the state of Montana against County Commissioner Lewis Roalswick, seeking to secure the removal of Roalswick from office. The court finds the accused commissioner guilty of having illegally collected money from the county and of having retained it, but says it is impossible, under the law, to remove him from office, because it could not be proved that he acted with criminal intent.

His illegal acts are excused because he is held to have acted upon the advice given to him by the then county attorney, A. C. Gormley; and the court says that Mr. Gormley's construction of the law was bad, yet it protected the commissioners.

CONDEMNNS SWEAT SHOPS.

Cardinal Gibbons Urges Hearers Not to Patronize Them.

Baltimore, Dec. 6.—Cardinal Gibbons, in the course of his regular monthly sermon at high mass at the cathedral today took occasion to condemn "sweat shops" and appealed to his hearers to discriminate in making purchases in favor of the employers who treat their employees with justice and charity, and recommend charitable work for the oppressed toilers conducted by the Consumers' league. The text of the sermon was "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" His eminence said in part:

"My purpose today, dear brethren, is not to commend to you indiscriminate charity, but my aim is to set before you a special class of persons in this city, that you may help to improve their condition, to redress their grievances, and enable them to earn by their industry and honesty a comfortable livelihood. To come to point, there is a class of persons in Baltimore, and in other large cities, who are employed by proprietors of large clothing establishments. Some of these workers are employed in stores, others make garments in their own homes and bring them to the establishments. Many of these workers, men and women, are compelled to toil in 'sweat shops,' of which there are eighteen in one section of this city, which are contracted in space, and poorly lighted and ventilated. They are over-worked and underpaid. After careful investigation I have discovered that after laboring for six days at 10 and 12 hours a day, their weekly compensation amounts to \$6 or \$8, and with this pittance they have to pay for house rent, food and clothing, and other expenses incident to family life. You can encourage and co-operate with that excellent society existing here and elsewhere, called the Consumers' league. It is composed of ladies zealous in works of charity, and has already accomplished a great deal in improving the condition of these oppressed toilers and of establishing a happier and just relations between them and their employers."

HEINZE PARTY IS LAUNCHED

Five Hundred Delegates, Mostly From Silver Bow Pay Roll, Attend Helena Meeting.

EX-GOV. SMITH IS CHIEF PUSH

Members Free to Act as They Please in National Politics—Vote for Heinze in State Questions.

Helena, Dec. 7.—The United Copper company, of New Jersey, capital \$80,000,000, scored a victory today against the Amalgamated Copper company, of New Jersey, capital \$155,000,000. The smaller corporation did so by making its convention a success insofar as numbers and interest are concerned. The meeting was not called to order until almost 10 o'clock, after the arrival of the special train from Butte, and when the delegates got in the hall, there were about 500 of them. The galleries were packed and all the space left on the lower floor by the delegates was occupied by spectators.

One notable feature of the meeting, despite its numbers, was the absence of men who are well known among the delegates. J. M. Kennedy, John MacGinniss, C. O. Gruwell, of Billings, W. B. George, of the same town, Gen. C. S. Warren, of Butte, and Peter Iversen, of Silver Bow, were known to the larger number, with the possible exception of former Governor Robert B. Smith. Men who have attended state conventions of different parties in Montana and who have an acquaintance with merchants and professional men throughout the state, found few they knew either personally or by reputation.

During the first two sessions the head of the United Copper company kept in the rear of the hall, but at the night session his generosity in providing the excursion and the band was so thoroughly appreciated that he responded to a call much to his asserted surprise and distaste, but it was noticed he was prepared with a few notes and a long list of figures about Deer Lodge assessments. As a wind-up to a talk of 40 minutes, the president of the United Copper company asked the people to stand by him and he promised he would stand by them.

The resolutions are calculated to catch them going and coming. It first invites men of all parties to get under the United Copper company banner and then vote nationally as they want, but to vote against the trusts in a state ticket. It declares for the initiative and referendum, direct primary law, for enlarging the powers of the state board of equalization, and for a state railway commission. The platform was adopted without debate.

All of the prominent speakers roasted the newspapers, but jollied the newspaper workers laying all the sins of the papers on their owners. Silver Bow had the largest delegation, and members filling almost one entire side of the hall. It took three sessions to wind up the business, and each was well attended and full of noise.

After the delegations had marched in and taken their seats, former Governor R. B. Smith called the meeting to order. He said the meeting was in response to a call which had been issued and he read it. After the reading Governor Smith said petitions presenting 1,000 signatures had been handed in and that they represented only about a sixth of the signers, whose number he estimated at 4,000. Governor Smith made a short talk, and in conclusion said:

"We propose to put nothing but anti-incorporation men on guard. The spectacle is being shown of the state of one corporation holding in one hand the machinery of one of the great parties and in the other that of the other great party. We must organize to rescue both parties. If we wait until next year it will be too late. We have, therefore, determined to organize now and put a check in the field whose motto shall be 'Freedom From Corporation Control.'"

ROB INSURANCE COMPANIES.

Several Fire Agents, Adjusters and Lawyers in the Deal.

New York, Dec. 6.—As the result of investigations by the fire marshal and his assistants, and members of District Attorney Jerome's staff, Deputy Assistant District Attorney Garvan said today that he expected during the week indictments would be found against several public fire adjusters, fire insurance adjusters, three lawyers at least, and some members of the fire patrol, on charges of grand larceny. This follows the announcement of District Attorney Jerome yesterday that the matter was under investigation.

Mr. Garvan is convinced from confessions in his hands that the fire insurance companies of this city have been swindled out of millions of dollars through the submission of false claims for fire losses. Mr. Garvan confirmed the affidavit of Samuel Silverstein, a clothing manufacturer of Canal street, confessing to have submitted false claims for