

Partly cloudy, slight changes in temperature, variable winds.

CONGRESS READY FOR WORK

Hears the Message Read and Adjourns to Digest It.

TOOK NEARLY TWO HOURS

It Was a Very Dreary Task and Every One Was Glad When It Was Completed—Senators Whose Absence Caused Remark—Gen. Curtis the Victim of Pickpockets.

All the flags at the Capitol were floating yesterday, the first time since last June. Both branches of Congress convened and the active work of the short session will begin today.

Nothing was done in the senate yesterday except to listen to the reading of the President's message. Mr. Call tried to introduce a resolution, reported to be the asking for an investigation into the alleged interference of corporate influences in the Florida election.

A DREARY TASK. The reading of the message commenced at 1:45 o'clock. Secretary Cox read the first paragraph. Two and then it was turned over to the reading clerk.

At first the various Senators settled themselves down to listen with a great show of interest to what was being read. It was very noticeable from the start that more Republican Senators were in their seats than Democrats.

It required only a few minutes before the attention of Senators began to lag. After one they dropped out into the cloak room, taking with them printed copies of the message, which they intended to glance at leisure.

When the reading of the message was finished there were not more than a score of Senators in their seats and twelve to fifteen of those were Republicans.

It required only a minute to pass the resolution to lay the message on the table and then the adjournment motion of Mr. Hale was rushed through. It is fair to imagine that the document will remain on the table and never be referred to except by some member of the House.

DIPLOMATS OUT IN FORCE. The attendance in the diplomatic gallery was unusually large, but every one left after the Cuban and Venezuelan questions had been disposed of.

The galleries were very well filled up to the time of adjournment. The new opera chairs have made a decided improvement in the chamber. In the bulk the temperature was kept at a most pleasant height.

The absence of several Senators was very marked yesterday. Mr. Allison is sick at his home, and could not be here. Many inquiries concerning his condition were made.

Senator Teller was another whose seat was empty. He has been detained, and will not reach here for a week yet. Senator George, of Mississippi, is sick, and his colleague, Mr. Walcott, asked for him.

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THE TIMES MORNING



WHAT THE PRESS AND THE PEOPLE SAY OF THE MESSAGE

Congressmen Discuss Cleveland's Cuban Policy. Party Dictates Opinion. Some Are Disappointed at His Stand While Others Praise His Caution.

BATTLED WITH THE WAVES

French Line Steamer La Champagne Had a Rough Voyage. Huge Wave Broke Over Her Decks, Twisting Things About Generally. Passengers Terror Stricken.

New York, Dec. 7.—Seldom has the stanch steamer La Champagne had so rough a voyage as she experienced the past week. The big vessel came to her port at 9 o'clock this morning bearing the marks of a decidedly rough and tumble voyage.

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EX-CONGRESSMAN HOAR IMPROVING

Plainfield, N. J., Dec. 7.—Dr. Hodges, the attending physician of ex-Congressman Russell G. Hoar, who has been seriously ill with an acute attack of bronchitis for the last few days, says that Mr. Hoar's condition is much improved tonight, though he is not yet out of danger.

HANGING LAMP EXPLODED

Nashville, Tenn., Dec. 7.—The factory of the Withington Russell Company, located in West Nashville, was almost totally destroyed by fire this afternoon.

NO. 1 CYPRESS SHINGLES, 4x20

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WHILE THE MESSAGE WAS BEING READ IN THE SENATE



SOME UP-TO-DATE NOTES

Interesting Letters Between Col. Parker and His Appointee.

HOW WOODWARD DECLINED

National Committeeman Said on Saturday Mr. Woodward Consented to Serve, but He Declined November 28.—What Was Said and Done at Republican Committee Conference.

The designation of Mr. C. J. Bell by Hon. Mark Hanna as chairman of the inaugural ceremonies in place of Mr. Woodward was announced yesterday in the Evening Times.

Mr. Woodward being chairman, the mere announcement of which caused a revolt among all the prominent Republicans of the District, scores of whom gave voice to their disapproval on the morning following Col. Parker's arrival in Washington from New York and his giving his suggestion to the press.

Col. Parker stated on the morning of his arrival here that he had telegraphed his suggestion to Mr. Woodward to Mr. Hanna at Cleveland, after he had seen persons generally around town.

Immediately upon the news of Mr. Woodward's suggestion as chairman, one of the most prominent Republicans in Washington, speaking for the old war horses, mailed a letter to Mr. Hanna at Cleveland in which he protested on his and their behalf against the appointment of a Democrat to the position.

WORKING OF THE LEAVEN. In the meantime the Republicans held meetings and appointed committees to elect Charles J. Bell.



Chairman of the Inaugural Committee.

press their disappointment. Two of the other Washington papers published some interviews which were possibly intended to counteract the feelings of the disappointed, but these interviews were conspicuous for their lack of Republican opinion.

The appointment of Mr. Woodward's friends by reason of the delay of Mr. Hanna is supposed to be telegraphed to Mr. Hanna and the Republicans saw the advantage of the situation and especially when Mr. Hanna gave out from Cleveland that he would attend to the appointment when he came to Washington.

SOME INCONSISTENCIES. Col. Parker was interviewed by a Times reporter on Saturday afternoon. "Will Mr. Woodward serve?" he was asked.

"I know it. He told me he would," emphatically replied Col. Parker. "He will take right hold and does not think of resigning."

This was before the Republican committee had called on Mr. Hanna at 4 p. m. This is repeated as noteworthy, inasmuch as according to a letter to Col. Parker, said to have been written on the 28th of November, Mr. Woodward is credited with having declined to serve on Saturday last, however, Col. Parker said that Mr. Woodward told him that he would serve, and would take hold right off.

From all the facts which the public is familiar the appointment of a Republican to the chairmanship is entirely due to the almost universal desire of the Republicans of the District that one of their party should be at the head of affairs in "this auspicious season."

Continued on Fourth Page.

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