# ROCK ISLAND ARGUS.

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## Don't Forget This is for You.

Do you want to save 20 cents on every Dollar's worth of Suits and Overcoats? We give you a discount of 20 per cent. on a suit or overcoat, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

**1-5 Off. 1-5 Off. 1-5 Off.**

This is about 40 per cent less than any Clothier will sell 'em. Think of it, 20 per cent discount in December, the largest and best stock to select from.

The London
CLOTHIERS & HATTERS
SAX & RICE, ROCK ISLAND, ILL.



Opening of "Kriss Kringle's Grotto"

BOSTON STORE
HARNED, PURSEL & VON MAUR

## This Week. Christmas is Close at Hand.

For weeks we have been planning and arranging for this festive occasion. No time or money has been saved, but the arrangements have been made with a lavish hand in order to make this opening one of the most attractive and enjoyable occasions of the year. In making our arrangements the children in particular have been given special attention, and we hereby extend a most hearty invitation to our little friends to come with their mothers and visit "Kris Kringle's Grotto." BEAUTIFTL SOUVENIRS VALUED AT $500, WILL BE GIVEN AWAY.

### Decorations.

The entire store has been elaborately decorated for this occasion, and now presents a bower of beauty, fresh from the artist's hands.

### Our Greeting is—Christmas Bargains.

They are many—they are desirable—they are reliable. There is a time to buy—it's now. There is a place to buy—it's at the Boston Store. Even a very little money will do wonders in purchasing presents for your friends.

### Come to Our Opening.

You will be pleasantly surprised; surprised at the splendid assortment: surprised at the superior qualities; surprised at the low prices. We have new novelties in nice, but inexpensive goods. We have nicer and more expensive goods, ranging in price as high as you care to go—FOR LITTLE AND BIG, OLD AND YOUNG, PRESENTS FOR EVERYBODY.

No one is so old, no one is so young, but what fitting and pleasing gifts may be found in abundance. The virtue in values; the beauty in well chosen goods; the power in low prices make our store the best place to do your Christmas shipping.

### Books, Books, Books!

Books by all the popular authors. Works by Bulwer, Lew Wallace, Dickens, Scott, Shakespeare, Hawthorne, Longfellow, E. P. Roe, Drummond, Holmes, Lyall, Cooper, Mark Twain, Prescott, Rosa M. Cary and Many others. Books of novels, historical, children's story books, Christmas cards, and BIBLES OF ALL KINDS.

### Toys, Toys, Toys!

Iron, wood, tin and rubber toys of every description: Dolls, games, banks, steam engines, drums, horns, blocks, trunks, wagons, sleds, skates and hundreds of others, for which space fails us to mention.

Art novelties, basket, metal goods, china, plush goods, music, silverware, jewelry, linen sets, table covers, etc., etc.

## HARNED, PURSEL & VON MAUR,

DAVENPORT, IA. Leaders and Promoters of Low Prices.


## CALLED TO ORDER.

### The Fifty-Third Congress is Ready for Business.

### REGULAR SESSION OPENED ON TIME.

**Good Attendance of Members in Both Chambers—President's Message Ready, and a Long One—Points from the Annual Report of Comptroller Eckels—Condition of the National Banks—What Is Thought at the Treasury of Governor Waite's Latest Scheme for Silver.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The regular session of the Fifty-third congress, which opened today at noon, will probably become historical by its legislation. The extra session, which lasted from Aug. 7 to Nov. 3, was only an interlude—a dress rehearsal. Now the actual play will begin. There was no preliminary work to delay business, no speaker to choose, no committees to appoint. The curtain rang up at once for business. For the first time since 1860 the house can resume the consideration of unfinished business immediately upon meeting. Up to and including the second session of the last congress (the Fifty-second) the rules of the house provided that six days must elapse before the unfinished business of the previous session could be taken up.

**Filibuster Proves Useful.**

The rule was an old one, and its inconsistency was brought to light at the beginning of the session of the last congress by Kilgore, of Texas. The house tried to take up an unfinished measure, but Kilgore made the point that six days must elapse before the matter could come up under the rules. He carried his point, but the committee on rules the next day reported a resolution which was adopted, repealing the six-day clause. The present rules of the house were accordingly framed so as to allow business to go ahead as if no recess or adjournment had taken place.

**Opening Proceedings Soon Over.**

The galleries of both chambers were well filled when the presiding officers took their places to call the two houses to order; so were the seats of members. For an hour or more the floors of both chambers had been occupied by groups of members renewing acquaintance and discussing the important questions that would come up for action. As the clocks in both houses pointed to noon the rap of the gavel sounded and the hum of conversation ceased.

**Ready to Listen to the Message.**

The chaplain's prayers were read, the rolls called, and with the swearing in of two new members—Bundy of Ohio, to succeed Enrichs and Griffin of Michigan, to succeed Chipman, the first a Republican and the second a Democrat—the house was ready for business.

Opening proceedings concluded in both houses. The usual committees were appointed to call on the president and announce that congress was ready to hear from him. The message was ready Saturday night. It is long—from 18,000 to 20,000 words.

### REPORT OF COMPTROLLER ECKELS.

**What He Considers the Cause of the Great Business Depression.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—The annual report of the comptroller of the currency, to congress will be more brief than the report usually made by that officer. It differs from former reports in that no tables appear in the body of the text. It shows 3,796 national banks to have been in operation at the close of the report year, with a capital stock of $995,158,124, represented by 7,450,000 shares, held by 300,000 shareholders. At the last report of condition the total resources of the banks then in operation was $3,169,563,881.36.

The total amount of circulation was Oct. 31, $229,111,593, a net increase during the year of $36,886,972. During the year 119 banks were organized in thirty-two states and territories with a capital stock of $11,230,000.

Within the same period 168 banks suspended, with a capital stock of $30,300,000. Of this number, 36, with a capital stock of $18,205,000, have resumed and 65 passed into the hands of receivers, with a capital stock of $10,885,000. At the close of the year seven remained in the charge of examiners pending resumption.

The comptroller reasons that the business depression of the past months was occasioned by the action of depositors withdrawing so much money from the banks, which caused a sudden contraction in the volume of money needed or employed for business wants by the banks, and they being compelled to call in loans and discounts to meet the demands of depositors prevented the making of new loans and rendered it hazardous on the part of banks to grant renewals of credit or extensions.

### WAITE'S SILVER DOLLAR SCHEME.

**Treasury Officials Point Out a Few Difficulties for It.**

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4.—Regarding the Denver dispatch saying that Governor Waite has arranged for the coinage of a hybrid silver coin upon which is to appear the Mexican mark as well as the Colorado coat of arms, officials of the treasury department express the opinion that the plan is not feasible, as it is not believed that the president of the Mexican government would enter into any such arrangement with a state government as that said to be in contemplation.

It is also pointed out that the coins would have fluctuating value, nobody would take them except for their bullion value, and that they would not have any circulation outside of the state of Colorado. They would not be legal tenders, the United States government would not receive them and the banks would throw them out as they do Mexican dollars.

**Epworth State Convention.**

JACKSONVILLE, Ills., Dec. 4.—The second day of the Epworth state convention opened with an increased attendance. President Harker of the Illinois Female college read an interesting and able paper, as did C. N. Gary of Chicago.

**A hidden electric light suddenly "unmasked" in a Quincy, Ills., hall revealed Mrs. T. W. Thompson, a "medium" masquerading on the stage as a spirit with her [illegible]**

### THAT "DIFFICULTY" AT ALTON.

**Rodgers Not Badly Hurt and Will Not Prosecute.**

ALTON, Ills., Dec. 4.—The affray between United States Consul John W. Coppinger and Colonel A. L. Rodgers is greatly deplored by the friends of each. Coppinger's statement has been obtained and is to the effect that he did not come here by appointment with Congressman Forman on business concerning the postoffice candidates, but to attend to some private affairs. He did not even know Forman was coming until he heard he was in the city, and when he went into Doran's saloon the idea of a conference being in progress there had not entered his head.

Though his argument with Colonel Rodgers was heated he had no idea of trouble until Colonel Rodgers struck him with his cane and attempted to strike the second blow. With the blood streaming down and blinding him and dazed from the force of the blow received he with the natural instinct of self-preservation drew his revolver and fired in self-defense. Coppinger slept none that night and suffered much from the wound on his head. Rodgers rested easily and is about his home. News has been received from Rodgers to the effect that he will not prosecute Coppinger.

### QUITE LIVELY FOR BALTIMORE.

**The Old Town Reports a Blaze That Costs Her $700,000.**

BALTIMORE, Dec. 4.—The Heisen building, 34 and 36 South Paca street, occupied by D. Langfeld & Co., cloak Manufacturers; the Deutsche Lithographing & Printing Company; Max. John & Cory, drapers and overalls, and Charles Heisen, shoe manufacturer, was destroyed by fire. The fire spread to August Menken's Tobacco Leaf and Cigar Company, the dissecting building of the Maryland University of Medicine, M. S. Levy, straw hat manufacturer; the Jewish synagogue at Paca and Germann streets, and L. Cobken's stables. Sixteen "subjects" were "in pickle" in the dissecting room and all were consumed. The loss is about $700,000; fully insured.

DULUTH, Minn., Dec. 4.—A fire broke out in the warehouse of the Union dock on Lake avenue. It enveloped the adjoining warehouse and both were destroyed. They were owned by William Dunn, of Chicago. Loss, $100,000.

### CLUE TO A MURDERER.

**He Leaves It Himself in the Basement of a House.**

CHICAGO, Nov. 4.—The finding in a basement at Willmette, a Chicago suburb, of a razor with blood and hair on it and some bloody garments, together with the discovery that some one had made the basement an abiding place for some time, living on the family canned goods which were stored there, has given the police a clue to the other man implicated in the murder of Mrs. Cron some weeks ago. The hair on the razor is the same color as Mrs. Cron's, and the garments were stolen from the house of Mr. Wheeler where Mrs. Cron lived. The murderer is said to be a man known to the police as Jack Norton. The other murderer was Paul F. Logan, who was killed by Mr. Wheeler while escaping from the house. While Mr. Wheeler was chasing Norton—as is now supposed—the house burned down, the robbers having set it on fire to conceal the murder.

### CHICAGO MAYORALTY.

**Democrats and Republicans Name Candidates—Death at a Convention.**

CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—George B. Swift was nominated for mayor by acclamation in the Republican convention in North Side Turner hall. The chairman appointed Alderman W. D. Kent, E. B. Cook and Charles Kozminski a committee to bring Mr. Swift to the platform. Mr. Kozminski had just made a little speech when he suddenly staggered and dropped dead in front of the chairman's table. Death was due to heart disease. The convention immediately adjourned.

The Democratic convention nominated John P. Hopkins for mayor. The election occurs Dec. 18.

**Status of Milwaukee Suspended Banks.**

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 4.—In a circular issued by Washington Becker, receiver of the Mitchell bank, the following terms are proposed: Ten per cent. in cash on demand after the bank opens, 10 per cent. in six months from Jan. 1, 1894, and the balance in four equal payments in ten, eighteen, twenty-four, and thirty months from Jan. 1, with interest at the rate of 3 per cent. from July 25, 1893. Under the proposition for the reopening of the Plankinton bank, each depositor is guaranteed his money within two years, with interest at 3 per cent. Judge Johnson, of the circuit court, who is familiar with the affairs of all the suspended banks, says the Plankinton bank could be opened immediately with safety to the creditors, the Mitchell next, and the Commercial within six months.

**Grave Charges Against a Student.**

OBERLIN, O., Dec. 4.—J. H. Smith, a student in the commercial department at Oberlin college, was convicted before Judge Ricks in the federal court for carrying on an illegitimate liquor traffic by which means he was paying his way through college. He obtained the liquor from North Carolina in three-gallon lots, and operated on the North Carolina system. Smith tried to evade arrest and got into North Carolina, but was located and arrested by United States Marshal Haskell, who brought him back to Oberlin. The sentence of the judge imposes a fine of $100 and thirty days in the workhouse.

**Kansas People Are in Want.**

TOPEKA, Kas., Dec. 4.—As a result of the recent cold weather and storms people living on the prairies in Wichita, Lane and Greeley counties are appealing for aid with which to buy fuel. At many of the railroad stations there was little coal for sale and this has been bought by merchants and people in the towns, while many families living on the bleak plains will freeze unless help is secured at once. If the snow storm continues railroad traffic will be blocked and in that event great suffering will follow.

**Mexican Revolutionists Disbanding.**

DENVER, Dec. 4.—Major Chaffee has received a letter from a United States officer at Palomas, Mex., in which he states that the revolutionists near there are disbanding and returning to their homes. Mexican troops are still guarding the [illegible]

## NOT FOR VAN ALEN.

### Declines the Office of Ambassador to Italy.

### THAT ALLEGED $50,000 DONATION

**And the Editorial Comments Thereupon Cause the Rhode Island Millionaire to Throw Up the Office That Has Given the President, Senate and the Press a "Heap of Trouble"—What the Accused Man Says About the Matter.**

NEW YORK, Dec. 4.—The following correspondence between the Hon. J. J. Van Alen and the president and department of state is made public and is self-explanatory. It is dated at Newport, R. I., Nov. 29, 1893, and addressed to the Hon. Walter Q. Gresham, secretary of state:

"SIR:—I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 28th of October in which you officially notify me that the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, has appointed me ambassador to Italy.

"Since the receipt of your letter I have given the matter my most serious and careful attention and as the result of my reflections have concluded to ask you to express to the president my decision not to accept the office tendered me.

**No Lack of Appreciation.**

"I must beg that you will not infer from this action any lack of appreciation on my part of the honor conferred. On the contrary I fully comprehend the dignity, importance and responsibility of the position, and having this realization I may frankly add that the nomination was extremely gratifying to me—not in a personal sense merely, but more particularly because of the opportunity afforded me of representing my country in such a manner as I hoped might be satisfactory to the American people and creditable to the administration. Among the comments upon my nomination which appeared in the public press one charge only merits attention, not because it was true, but because it was—and I suppose still is—believed by many persons unfamiliar with the individuals concerned and the facts essential to the formation of an accurate judgment.

**A Denial Without Qualification.**

"The charge was that I received the appointment in return for a contribution of $50,000 to the Democratic national campaign fund. While my nomination was pending in the senate it did not seem fitting and proper for me to offer more than an explicit denial. I was aware that as an interested party my statement would have little effect beyond the limits of my personal acquaintances. Now, however, when my action cannot be fairly attributed to purely selfish motives it seems to me that a repetition of that denial, which I make without qualification, should be sufficient for any honorable man.

**Contributed a Large Sum.**

"I have never denied and do not now deny that I contributed to the campaign fund—not $50,000, but yet a considerable sum of money, sincerely believing, as I did, that a continuation of Republican supremacy would be not only a hinderance to national progress, but in time a positive menace to the success of popular government and having large interests at stake I was impelled by both patriotic and selfish reasons to aid the Democratic cause.

**Never Thought of An Obligation.**

"So far from attaching undue importance to it I was fully aware that the contribution meant far less to me than the time and effort devoted by thousands of unselfish citizens to the same campaign. Nor did I believe that it should entitle me to any more consideration. On the contrary I have not only admitted, but have positively insisted at all times that it created no obligation to me whatever, and I feel confident that the president, who, in fact, was kind enough to say to the Democrats of Rhode Island that his personal acquaintance with me enabled him to consider my candidacy solely upon its merits, will bear me out in this assertion.

"On the other hand I frankly admit that until after the appointment had been made it never once occurred to my mind that my contribution could be used to my injury. It therefore seems to me sufficient to add that self-respect compels me to adopt the only alternative and to decline the high office to which I have been appointed.

"I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

[Signed] J. J. VAN ALEN."

### CLEVELAND ASKS RECONSIDERATION

**But the Rhode Islander Has Had Enough of Practical Politics.**

To this letter President Cleveland replied, hastening "to express my wish that you will reconsider this conclusion. The statements contained in your letter do credit to your conscience and Americanism, but you must allow me to dissent from their application in this case. I did not select you for nomination to the Italian mission without satisfying myself of your entire fitness for the place. I am now better convinced of your fitness than ever. You know, and I know, that all the malignant criticism that has been indulged in regarding this appointment has no justification and that the decent people who have doubted its propriety have been misled, or have missed the actual considerations upon which it rests.

"We should not yield to the noise and clamor which have arisen from those conditions. My personal preferment should enter very slightly into your final determination, but so far as I have such preference it is emphatically that you accept the honorable office conferred upon you and vindicate by the discharge of its duties the wisdom and propriety of your selection."

Under date of Nov. 25 Mr. Van Alen replied thanking the president for the kind sentiments expressed in his letter, but declaring that the purpose announced in his first letter had been "reached only after long and serious consideration of the subject," for which reason he felt "that I cannot accept the high office to which I have been appointed. My only regret in this decision, which I must beg you to consider as final, is that it is contrary to the personal preference which you so kindly express. But I cannot think it would be advisable for me to invite further misrepresentations by taking advantage of your [illegible]"

## VERY L[illegible]

### THE OPEN[illegible]

Proceedings of [illegible] Senate and [illegible]

The Convening [illegible] Law-Making [illegible]

The President's M[illegible] ceived and R[illegible]

An Insane Father [illegible] Children and Sui[illegible]

**WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. [illegible] weather is severe, which [illegible] for the lack of the usual [illegible] terest at the assembling [illegible] gress. The galleries were [illegible] ly filled. The senate was [illegible] order promptly at noon. Al[illegible] Senators McPherson and [illegible] were appointed a committee [illegible] on the president and receive [illegible] munications he might [illegible] recess was taken for an hour [illegible] reassembling the senate received [illegible] communication.**

**The house assembled [illegible] after 12. The chaplin in his [illegible] referred to the death [illegible] gressman O'Neill. W[illegible] West Virginia, Outh[illegible] Ohio, and Barrows, of [illegible] were appointed a committee [illegible] upon the president, and [illegible] message. Mr. Hives offered a [illegible] lution providing that the [illegible] be appointed to investigate [illegible] high strike. Recess was [illegible] 1:20, when the message of [illegible] dent was read.**

**Murdered Children and [illegible]**

**ERIE, Pa., Dec. 4.—[illegible] while under the influence [illegible] killed his two children today [illegible] suicided.**

**He Found the Gas That [illegible]**

**CHICAGO, Dec. 4.—Fred [illegible] plumber, accompanied by [illegible] W. S. Fisk, undertook to find [illegible] in the flat building at 140 [illegible] He found it, but not one of them [illegible] a good enough nose to know [illegible] the air in dangerous quantities [illegible] lighted match that found the [illegible] an explosion that painfully [illegible] three.**

**The State Epworth [illegible]**

**JACKSONVILLE, Ills., Dec. 4.—[illegible] day of the state Epworth [illegible] tion was devoted to religious [illegible] clusively—an early prayer [illegible] morning, a second meeting [illegible] noon and a mass meeting [illegible] The following officers have [illegible] President, C. E. Piper, Chicago; [illegible] president, F. H. Cummings, [illegible] treasurer, A. C. Northrup, [illegible]**

**A Case of Very [illegible]**

**DARIEN, Ga., Dec. 4.—[illegible] colored, mortally stabbed [illegible] and he died in ten minutes. [illegible] jury found an indictment [illegible] for murder. The trial [illegible] three days later and the jury [illegible] verdict of willful murder [illegible] the death sentence was pronounced [illegible]**

**Cedar Rapids Is All [illegible]**

**CEDAR RAPIDS, Ia., Dec. 4.—[illegible] tion of Mayor Daniels will not [illegible] disastrously to the city as [illegible] hended. The police force will [illegible] banded, the fire department [illegible] terfered with, and the [illegible] electric light contract will [illegible]**

**Casimir-Perier [illegible]**

**PARIS, Dec. 4.—After [illegible] Casimir-Perier, who refused [illegible] accept the responsibility [illegible] way to President Carnot [illegible] constructed a cabinet, of which [illegible] premier and in which there [illegible] of new men.**

**Two Tiny Specimens of [illegible]**

**GALENA, Ills., Dec. 4.—[illegible] born to Mrs. Frank [illegible] and one-quarter and [illegible] tively. Although so [illegible] perfectly healthy and well [illegible]**