

CHIEF'S MESSAGE CAUSES BIG STIR

INTEREST IN BOTH HOUSES OF
CONGRESS CENTERS IN WORD
OF THE PRESIDENT.

SENATOR A. B. CUMMINS TAKES OATH OF OFFICE

Is Presented by Dilliver—Propositor
for Visit to Panama by Commerce
Body of Lower Branch Is Enter-
tained—Other News of Legislature

Washington, Dec. 9.—Interest in both houses of congress centered Tuesday in the president's message. Senator Aldrich on behalf of the senate committee and Representative Payne for the house committee, appointed to notify the president that the two bodies were in session, informed their respective houses that they had passed their duty and each reported that the president had responded to their notification with a statement that he would immediately submit a message in writing. Secretary Latta followed close upon the heels of the two committees, appearing first in the senate and then in the house. The reading of the message began in the senate at 12:15, just a quarter of an hour after the senate had convened, and in the house a few minutes later.

The galleries of both houses were well filled and almost all the seats of senators and members were occupied by their owners. All of them were supplied with printed copies of the message, which contained 44 printed pages, with an elaborate appendix, accompanied by numerous illustrations showing the results of the work of the forestry bureau. Senators and members gave comparatively little attention to the reading of the message at the desk, but most of them immediately busied themselves with the printed copies before them. In these copies much interest was manifested.

Cummins Takes Oath.
The senate met promptly at noon Tuesday and after reading the journal Senator Dilliver presented the credentials of Senator-elect Albert B. Cummins of Iowa, elected to fill the unexpired term of the late Senator Allison, ending March 4, 1909, and the oath of office was administered to him by the vice-president.

Body May Visit Canal.
At the first meeting of the house committee on interstate and foreign commerce Tuesday, a proposition for a visit to the Panama canal zone by the entire committee before the end of the Christmas holidays was discussed. A subcommittee, with Representative Hepburn of Iowa at its head, was appointed to ascertain whether suitable arrangements could be made.

Seeks O. K. of Senate.
The president Tuesday sent to the senate a long list of nominations for all branches of the government service, practically all of which were appointments made and announced during the recess of congress. They include the cabinet nominations of Secretary Wright and Newberry, Public Printer Donnelly, Assistant Secretary of the Navy Satterlee, the Tokyo exposition commission, Interstate Commerce Commissioner Knapp, Commissioner of Labor Nell, Commissioner General of Immigration Keefe, and many diplomatic and consular officers, army and navy officers, postmasters, and customs officials.

RIVER FALLS; BANKS CAVE IN.
Situation at Pine Bluff, Ark., Much Improved, However.

Pine Bluff, Ark., Dec. 9.—The Arkansas river at this point fell three inches during the night, but the caving of the banks in the eastern portion of the city continued. The Cady mill site was washed away with the mill and the river Tuesday struck the mouth of Harding bayou with full force. A large force of men from the cotton belt railway shops worked all night constructing revetments of lumber and steel rails in an effort to break the force of the current.

The situation Tuesday, however, improved and if the revetments along the bayou hold the danger to property will be over for the present.

TO HOLD THE TROOPS IN CUBA.
Withdrawal of Soldiers to Be Gradual Movement.

Washington, Dec. 9.—A change has taken place in the program of the administration for the withdrawal of the American troops from Cuba. Instead of the movement terminating January 28, when the new president is to be inaugurated, as heretofore announced by Secretary Wright, the withdrawal will be more gradual, and according to the present program will run into April. The change in the policy of the administration was announced Tuesday.

\$150,000 Storehouse Destroyed.
New York, Dec. 9.—A big seven-story building at 154 Franklin street, used by the Western Union Telegraph Company as a storehouse, was destroyed by fire Tuesday, causing a loss of \$150,000.

Killed in Explosion.
Webb City, Mo., Dec. 9.—The plant of the Independent Powder Company near here was badly damaged Tuesday as the result of an explosion. One man was killed and another injured.

PRUNED FROM MESSAGE

"Nation's financial management during last seven years has shown most satisfactory results."
"It is worse than folly to prohibit all combinations as is done by Sherman anti-trust law."
"Improper favoritism and wrongdoing should be squelched by executive, not judicial action."
"Reactionary is the worst enemy of order."

"In point of danger to the nation there is nothing to choose between on the one hand the corruptionist, the bribe-giver, the bribe-taker, the man who employs his great talent to swindle his fellow-citizens on a large scale, and, on the other hand, the preacher of class hatred."
"It is well to keep in mind that exactly as the anarchist is the worst enemy of liberty and the reactionary the worst enemy of order, so the men who defend the rights of property have most to fear from wrongdoers of great wealth, and the men who are championing popular rights have most to fear from the demagogues who in the name of popular rights would do wrong to and oppress honest business men, honest men of wealth."
"To abandon the effort for national control means to abandon the effort for all adequate control."

"I believe that the more frightened corporations are themselves coming to recognize the wisdom of the violent hostility they have displayed during the last few years to regulation and control."
"In labor blind and ignorant resistance to every effort for the reform of business and for the readjustment of society to modern industrial conditions represents not true conservatism but an attempt to the wildest radicalism."
"As far as possible we should lighten the burden of taxation on the small man."

"It is right that the nation should tax the few who are rich."

"The very best of the nation's laboring men, the workmen, the laborer, the wage-worker, that by demanding what is improper and impossible he plays into the hands of his foes."
"The laboring men of the country by the way in which they repeat the word 'reform' to get them to cast their votes in response to an appeal to class hatred, have emphasized what is improper and Americanism."

"I again renew my recommendation for postal savings banks and the parcels post."

RECOMMENDATIONS.

More complete control over interstate commerce by the national government, putting the railroads under the interstate commerce commission, and moving them from the domain of the anti-trust law, the control to extend to issuing of securities, as well as rates; Authorization of traffic agreements between railroads; Control over telegraph and telephone companies by the interstate commerce commission; Amendment of the employers' liability law to give better protection to workmen; More safeguards for small stockholders who own stock in corporations; A model employers' liability law for the District of Columbia; Legislation looking to the removal of abuses connected with functions in labor disputes; Laws to preserve and rehabilitate the nation's forests as an important step in stopping the waste of national resources; Improvement of inland waterways; Repeal of the tax on denatured alcohol; Postal savings banks and the extension of the parcel post on mail routes; Provision for the next decennial census; Extension of the ocean mail act; Statehood for New Mexico and Arizona; Development of interstate fisheries; More scope for army retiring board on modern lines; Increase of the navy.

SUSPECTED SLAYER FOUND DEAD

Murder and Suicide End Lives of Fugitive Man and Girl Companion.
Trinidad, Col., Dec. 9.—Maggie Garcia, 16 years old, and Francisco Martinez, who was suspected of having murdered the four members of the Garcia family, were found dead, 20 west of the Garcia ranch in the extreme eastern part of Las Animas county. Both had been shot. Apparently Martinez murdered the girl and then committed suicide.

A posse located Martinez and the girl in a lonely canyon, and a guard was established over the place. Finding escape cut off Martinez killed his companion, whom undoubtedly he had abducted after murdering her parents, and blew out his own brains. Martinez had no horses, and had forced the girl to walk with him to the place where they were found.

SCENTS NEW ERA OF WARFARE.

Victor H. Metcalf in Interview Sees Airship as Big Factor.
Los Angeles, Cal., Dec. 9.—"We are on the eve of tremendous changes in methods of warfare. The development of aerial navigation is bound to bring about wonderful results. Just what the full effect will be I cannot foretell, but the airship cannot help but play an important part in the civilization of the future."

The foregoing is the prophecy made by Victor H. Metcalf, former secretary of the navy, in an interview here Tuesday. "The navigation of the air," he continued, "has been accomplished beyond all question. Even with its present engines, the Wright aeroplane, I am convinced, can make 200 miles at a flight, and can be perfectly controlled."

Government Cotton Report.

Washington, Dec. 9.—A total of 11,010,864 bales of cotton ginned from the growth of 1908 to December 1, and 26,922 active ginneries, against 8,343,396 bales ginned to December 1 last year, and 26,854 ginneries a year ago, were announced in the census bureau report on cotton ginning Tuesday.

Two Perish in Crash.

Winnipeg, Man., Dec. 9.—While a yard locomotive was crossing what is known as "the puzzle switch," in the Canadian Pacific yards at Fort William Tuesday it collided with a freight train, resulting in the death of E. R. Noble, the engineer, and A. Horsely, the fireman.

Brooklyn Merchant a Suicide.

New York, Dec. 9.—After having failed twice to take his life, George W. Sulker, a Brooklyn provision merchant, was successful, shooting himself through the heart. His 13-year-old daughter, Irene, was sitting near him when he fired the shot.



Sam Waitely.

"YES, my dear," said Aunt Susan, "I remember my school days as though 'twas only yesterday. And the spelling matches we used to have! There was old Squire Hephner, who always took a great interest in our school. He was a peculiar kind of man. Folks would call him cranky in these days, I suppose. He was so gruff and sullen that you'd think he'd snap your head off."

"Education was the old man's hobby. He had no learning himself, but used to tell us how he felt the need of it. He thought that people could not be educated unless they could spell clean from b-a, to incommunicability in the speller."

"Well, Squire Hephner had heard that the Red Haw district folks were making their boasts that they could out-spell ours, and it angered him. His daughter Harriet was the best speller in our school, and they said her father offered her any cow on his place if she'd spell the Red Haw school down. "One Friday afternoon the old squire came stamping into the schoolhouse when our school was having a spelling match. He was the director of our district, and the boldest scholar would be mute and meek when he appeared. He had two little jet black eyes that seemed to see right through you. He could make almost any scholar wobble in his seat by fastening his eyes upon him."

"The squire was the richest man in Four Mile, but he never gave any money away, and that made it all the more surprising when, just before school let out that night, he got up and in his short, jerky, gruff way said: "You've spelt pretty well this afternoon, scholars, and I'm glad of it, for, to my thinking, spellin's the most important thing a body can learn. In fact, it stands to reason you've got to be good spellers 'fore you can be good readers or real good in anything. It's all well enough to know how to finger correctly, an' I reckon grammar's well enough, though I never took much stock in it. Geography an' algebra an' history an' all that is good enough in its place, but 'ordin' to my notion spellin' beats 'em all."

"An' now, to encourage you in being good spellers an' to stop the braggin' of some districts not far from here, I'm goin' to make it an object for you to study your spellers like sixty for the next few weeks."

"In six weeks from tonight, an' that will be Christmas eve, we'll have a spellin' match in this house, an' I want it crinkled round that any school in this township is free to come an' spell for the prize I'll offer, which is \$25 in gold to the one that spells down everybody."

"Now, take your spellers home with you tonight an' do somethin' else with 'em besides a-chawin' the corners off. And with that the squire made one of his stiff bows to the teacher and walked out."

"I tell you, \$25 was a large sum of money in those days, and when it was known that the prize had been offered there was more studying of our old blue backed spellers than there had ever been before. We used to take them home every night, and our fathers and mothers would give us all the hard words, like 'daguerotype' and 'phibistic' and 'receipt' and those with silent letters in them, and we would spell them over and over again."

"The offering of that prize set the whole township in a commotion, and little else was thought of or talked about. The Red Haw and Jack Oak districts let it be known that they would try for the prize, and they had some good spellers in those schools, especially in the Red Haw."

"But none of them had a better record than Harriet Hephner, and they said that in those six weeks she studied her speller night and day. Folks who passed the Hephner house at midnight declared that through the windows from the road they had seen Harriet sitting on a stool up near the fireplace, leaning her head against the wall, and the squire sitting in his old hickory chair, spelling book in one hand and a tallow dip in the other, giving out words to her, and everybody else in bed. No wonder the girl became thin and peaked."

"You see, the squire fairly hated the Red Haw district and about everybody in it. The Red Haw and ours had formerly been one district, and he opposed their being divided, because he owned land in both, and he knew that if they were divided there would be an extra tax for a new schoolhouse and a new school fund."

"The squire had a sister living in the



Red Haw district, but he had not spoken to her for years and would not allow his folks to look at or speak to her or her children.

"The poor woman had, in the first place, married against the squire's wishes. That angered him. Still, he spoke to her when they met, though they did not visit back and forth any."

"Mr. Waitely, the squire's brother-in-law, was the one that first suggested the dividing of the district and did more to bring it about than any other man, which was natural, for the district was so big and the schoolhouse so far off that the Waitely children could not go to school in the winter time."

"But that didn't make the least difference to Squire Hephner. He was furiously angry with Waitely, and on town meeting day he and Waitely had some dreadful words."

"Of course Mrs. Waitely sided with her husband, and from that day the squire turned from his own kin. He

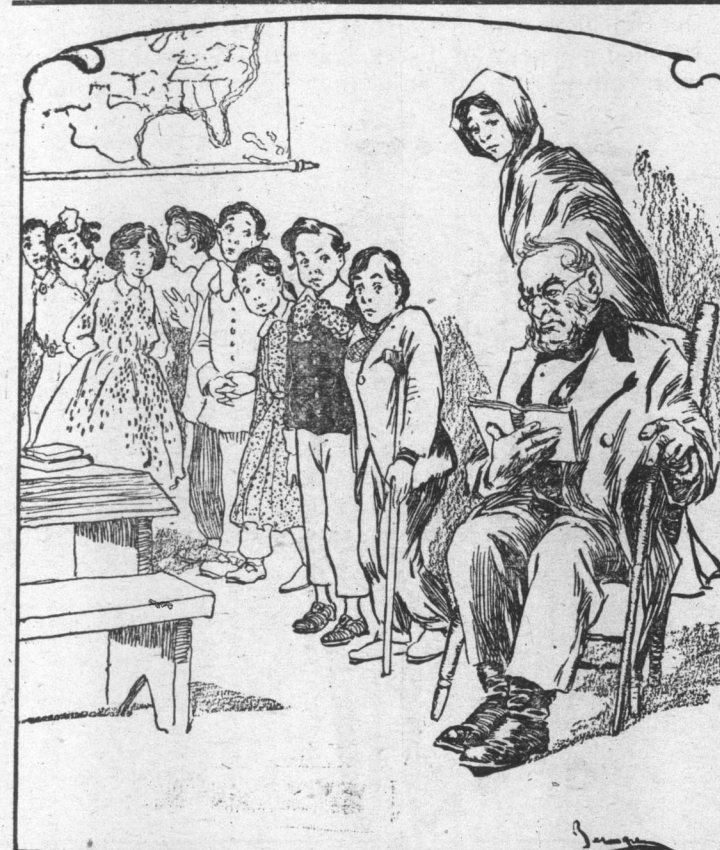


Harriet Hephner.

the valleys ring. Yes, and the sled up, too, and we were all thrown into a ditch. The edge of the wagon bow caught my beau's big feet under it, and I thought I should cry from mortification when he lay there and actually bawled and snuffed. I was so put out about it that I wouldn't sit by him after we got into the sled or speak to him afterward."

"When we reached the schoolhouse we found it packed so full that we could just crowd in. Most everybody had brought a candle to stick up on the logs and some sprigs of evergreen and berries to make the room look Christmas. There were four different teachers and well known spellers from all over the township."

"Lecta Plumb and I 'chose up.' I got first choice and took Harriet Hephner. She was pale as death and looked nervous and frightened. Lecta took Abimelech Abers, the leading speller from the Red Haw school, and I took



HE STOOD WITHIN A FOOT OF HIS UNCLE HEPNER.

Cindy Patch, the best speller from Jack Oak.

"Then we chose everybody in the room who could spell at all. I think we had more than fifty on a side. We stood in long rows on both sides of the house against the wall, and, much to my disgust, I got my hair full of tallow from a dripping candle."

"We were about ready to commence spelling and everybody had become quiet when the people who sat near the door made way for some one who had come late, and in came little Sam Waitely on his crutch, with his mother behind him in a poor, thin, patched old faded calico dress and a thin cotton shawl, with a faded old red hood on her head. I could see a hole worn in her shoe as she put her foot up on the stove hearth."

"Sam was then about fifteen years old, but not as tall as some boys of nine. He was very thinly dressed for such a sharp night, and they had walked fully two miles."

"I felt sorry for them and spoke up at once and took Sam on my side. It happened to be my turn to choose, and I was bound the poor fellow should not be slighted, whether he could spell or not."

"He had half a mind not to try, but I saw his mother reach out her hand and gently push him, and then he hobbled down to the end of the line and stood within a foot of his Uncle Hephner."

"Then the spelling commenced. I blush to tell it, but I actually missed the very first word given me, and that was 'mermaid.' I spelled it 'murmer.' I knew better, but I was so nervous I could not collect my thoughts. So I had to take my seat, and of course I had a little cry all to myself."

"But I nearly laughed so as to be heard all over the room when Azrael Whitehead missed 'goose.' He spelled it 'guse,' and he had told me in confidence that he half expected to get the

never spoke to them again, not even after Mr. Waitely died. The poor man got caught under a falling tree and was killed, leaving his widow with four children and nothing but a shabby roof over their heads and three or four acres of scrubby land."

"She had a fearfully hard time supporting herself and the children, but the squire never helped her. And, to make matters worse, her oldest child, little Sam, was a cripple, humpbacked and lame in one leg, so that he had to walk with a crutch. Of course he wasn't any help to his mother on the place, but she was trying to educate him, knowing that he never could do any physical work."

"Well, the spelling bee excitement became more and more intense as the time drew near, and when Christmas eve at last came the old Four Mile schoolhouse was a sight to see."

"The night was one of the coldest I ever remember. The stars shone like bright lamps in the sky. The sleighing was good and the air sharp enough to stir the blood and, if possible, still more to stimulate the boys and girls. A lot of the boys had borrowed a pair of sled runners and put a big wagon on them. Then plenty of straw was put in the box, and about twenty of us boys and girls piled in, with lots of quilts and buffalo robes and warm shawls."

"I had my first beau that night. His name was Azrael Whitehead, and of all awkward boys he was the awkwardest. I think I was the first girl he had ever asked to go with him. Anyhow, I know he fell flat on his back trying to help me out of the sled, and he let me go head first into a snow bank."

"I remember that his handkerchief was wet with cinnamon drops and that he gave me a handful of peppermint and cloves. I remember, too, how we all of us went up and down hill singing and laughing at the top of our voices. We made the old woods and

prize and had been studying his speller for weeks.

"Electa missed 'emanate.' She spelled it with an 't' instead of an 'n.' "Cindy Patch missed 'tranquillize.' I think she knew how to spell it, but she was excited because seven or eight had missed it before her. The Jack Oak scholars looked very sober when Cindy had to sit down."

"But you ought to have seen old Squire Hephner's eyes twinkle and his grim face look grimmer when Abimelech Abers, the best Red Haw scholar, missed 'phytochimy' and Harriet spelled it without hesitation. Bimelech got confused and thought the last letter was 'e' instead of 'y.'"

"The Red Haw people did look mortified, and the Four Mile folks were highly pleased and showed it, too, for all the best spellers were out on both sides, and only Harriet Hephner and five or six others were left. Four of them missed 'maliceous,' and Harriet was just going to spell it when Miss Waitely, in a scared, timid voice that could just be heard, said: "If you please, teacher, Sammy hasn't spelled yet."

"Sammy stood down at the end of the line, and they had overlooked him. But the teacher replied: "O! Indeed! I thought he was done long ago."

"I thought he said it sneeringly, and he gave Sammy the word in a tone that said plainly, 'You can't spell it anyway.' "But what did Sammy do but spell it correctly without the slightest hesitation."

"Then the others who were standing missed 'dromedary,' and that left Harriet and Sammy alone. I tell you, you might have heard a pin drop then. Everybody was half crazy with excitement."

"Old Squire Hephner did not move a muscle. He had the money, five gold five dollar pieces, and a fancy purse and was to give them himself to the winner."

"It seemed to me that that poor crippled boy got help from on high that night. I never saw anything like it. At first he was so shy that his voice almost trembled, but when he and the cousin he had never spoken to stood up there alone and his fierce old uncle glared so contemptuously at him the little fellow raised himself to his full height and from that moment never flinched."

"His large eyes glistened, and he threw back his head and looked boldly at his uncle and spelled the words in a loud, clear tone that fairly took people's breath away."

"His mother had quietly slipped through the crowd and taken her seat behind him, and those that sat near said she got one of his hands in hers and held it, while the tears streamed down her face."

"The two spelled against each other for a full half hour, and all the time poor Harriet was as white as a sheet, and I could see that she was trembling from head to foot."

"At last the teacher gave the word 'tyrannously.' Harriet spelled the first syllable, then stopped and stammered, looked imploringly at her father and then tremblingly went on and spelled it with one 'n.'"

"How did you spell it, Harriet? Did you have only 'n'?"

"Squire Hephner had been looking on a spelling book too. Now he turned sharply round to the master and in his hardest, coldest voice said: "She missed it, sir. Pass it to the next."

"Sam spelled it without hesitating an instant."

"You could have heard a pin drop in that room. It was still as death. Harriet dropped into her seat and buried her face in her hands. Squire Hephner's face never changed. Without a word he rose, reached out his long arm, beckoned to Sam to come to him and then dropped into the lad's outstretched hand the purse. Turning and facing the breathless people, he said: "I want you all to know that I think this has been a fair and square match, and my nephew deserves the prize."

"Without further words he took his hat and marched out of the house."

"Well, the Red Haw people actually carried Sam home on their shoulders, with Miss Waitely close behind, crying as if her heart would break with joy and nervousness. But she had on a long, warm, plaid shawl that I saw Miss Squire Hephner throw over her as she stepped out of the door."

"One of my sisters went home with the Hephners that night, and she said Harriet cried all the way home and was in mortal terror at the thought of meeting her father. She stopped on the doorstep a long while, and when she did finally step into the room, trembling and fairly mourning, her father, who was sitting with his head between his hands before the fire, got up and walked over to her and actually kissed her there before them all. Then he went off to bed without a word."

"But what followed was better still. Christmas day the squire took his big sled, put in lots of hay and blankets and drove off like Nimsli himself to his sister's. No one ever knew what happened there, but it ended in Miss Waitely and all the children going home with the squire. And a big Christmas day they had, folks said."

"The squire declared it was an honor to know a boy who could spell like Sam. They say he had that boy spell the dictionary half through that winter and nearly hugged him, who he spelled correctly the longest word in it. "The squire was the strangest man on the subject of spelling that I ever heard of. Nothing but Sam's knowing how to spell so well ever softened his heart toward his sister and her children. And nothing pleased him more than to have Sam and Harriet spell against each other for hours at a stretch."

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