

TAFT HOST TO 1,813

Receives Members of Congress at State Reception.

WINTER'S LARGEST PARTY

Few Members of Military, Court, and Diplomatic Circles Attend.

Wives of Cabinet Officers Assist Mrs. Taft in Receiving Line—Guests Bank Up Red Room to Watch Presentations, and Ushers Are Kept Busy—Miss Taft and Her Guest, Miss Vincent, Greet Many Friends.

The largest of the state receptions of the winter was given at the White House last night when 1,813 guests passed through the blue room to exchange brief greetings with the President and Mrs. Taft. The reception, the third of the season given annually in compliment to Congress, is the most democratic and thoroughly American of all the functions which take place in the White House in the course of a winter.

There were few foreigners in last night's gathering, and the army and navy officers, whose brilliant uniforms will add to the pictorial effect of next Tuesday night's reception, the last on the calendar of the Taft administration, were encountered at rare intervals by the promenaders in the red corridor and in the state drawing rooms. A few of the Supreme Court circle mingled for a while with the guests in the blue room, but departed early.

Many Interesting Features.

A reception in compliment to Congress, at this juncture in political affairs, has many interesting features. Among the guests last night were some of the leaders of both Houses, who made the occasion one of formal leave-taking of the President and Mrs. Taft and the members of the administration.

Among the women who passed through the blue room as guests were some who at the next congressional reception may be occupying places in the historic line to assist the new President and the next first lady of the land to make a success of White House hospitalities. There was some good-natured prophesying among various groups that gathered in the east room, and some reminiscence among the blue room groups that watched the passing throng from behind the line.

rooms there was a simple and appropriate floral decoration.

The long table in the state dining room, from which the buffet supper was served, was decorated with plants of maidenhair ferns and red carnations, and the mantel was banked with maidenhair ferns. The Marine Band played during the reception, and later for a series of dances in the east room. Many handsome costumes were worn.

Mrs. Bryce in Gray.

Mrs. James Bryce wore a gown of pale gray chiffon and satin. Mme. Bryn, wife of the Norwegian Minister, was in sapphire-blue chiffon over white satin. Countess de Chambrun wore a handsome gown of black velvet and lace, with diamond ornaments.

Miss Mabel Boardman wore a gown of white brocade, with angel sleeves of lace. She wore a diamond tiara.

Mrs. Thomas K. Laughlin was in a becoming gown of black charmeuse with chiffon.

Mrs. A. Garrison McClintock wore a gown of deep purple satin, with lace, and a wreath of silver leaves in her hair.

Miss McClintock wore a gown of flame-colored chiffon with touches of blue satin.

Miss Nagel wore pale pink satin, draped over an underdress of lace, and with lace sleeves.

The Misses Meyer wore charming gowns with blue and silver brocade draped over underdress of lace.

Miss Gamble was in pink chiffon over white satin with sleeves of tulle with

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Speaker an Early Arrival.

The Speaker, accompanied by his daughter, Miss Genevieve Clark, Mrs. Pitzer, and Miss Pitzer, was an early arrival. The party remained until the end of the reception, the Speaker making a tour of the state drawing rooms, joining the throng in the dining room for supper, and watching the dancing in the east room, which followed the formalities of the evening.

The chief justice and Mr. Justice Mahlon Pitney were among the Democratic guests reaching the blue room via the east room, where they waited their turn to get into the line. Mr. Justice and Mrs. Lamar were other representatives of the Supreme Court circle present in the blue room for awhile. Among the diplomats present were the British Ambassador and Mrs. Bryce, the German Ambassador, the Peruvian Minister and Mme. Perret, the Costa Rican Minister, the Minister of Salvador, the Minister of Norway and Mme. Bryn, the French military attaché and Mme. Chambrun, accompanied by the latter's mother, and Signor Catalani, the Italian chargé d'affaires. They arrived at various times during the progress of the reception, and were admitted at once to the blue room, where they joined the party behind the line.

Miss Taft Greet Guests.

Miss Helen Taft and her house guest, Miss Mabel Vincent, the former showing evidences of the distressing catastrophe of the afternoon, appeared in the blue room early in the evening and remained in the state apartments until the close of the reception. Miss Taft had to answer many inquiries and to recount a number of times some detail of the disaster.

She wore a gown of white chiffon brocade, with lace angel sleeves, and a string of pearls around her throat. Miss Vincent was in pale pink charmeuse, veiled in spangled tulle.

In the receiving line were the President and Mrs. Taft, Mrs. Knox, Mrs. MacVeagh, Mrs. Stimson, Mrs. Wickersham, and Mrs. Nagel. Maj. Roads made the presentations, assisted by the military and naval aids detailed to the White House.

Guests Keep Ushers Busy.

As the guests left the blue room there was an inclination on the part of many to bank up in the red room, and take a review of the receiving line before which they had just passed. It required the tactful manipulation of Chief Usher Hoover and his assistants to lure these retrospectively inclined guests from the highway to make room for the hundreds who were following.

Mrs. Taft looked especially well last night in a gown of black velvet, with a bandeau of platinum set with diamonds, and a necklace of pearls and diamonds. Mrs. Knox wore a becoming gown of white brocade, Mrs. MacVeagh wore a rich gown of purple and gold brocade and some wonderful pearls, Mrs. Stimson was in black satin, the upper part of the gown of white tulle, Mrs. Wickersham wore light blue satin brocade, and Mrs. Nagel wore midnight blue chiffon over white satin.

Rooms Charminglly Decorated.

The blue room was charmingly decorated with pink and white azaleas, American beauty roses and white lilacs, and in each of the other state drawing