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BUILDING NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL

1906-1923

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336.45 L. E. Jew  
11-5-1906

NO 6  
#1

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

## LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS NEED COSTLY REPAIRS

Before the next legislature meets a clean up of the house and senate chambers at the state capitol will probably be ordered by the board of public lands and buildings. The two legislative halls have gone for six years without a thorough renovation and are needing attention badly in some respects. The expensive wall paper which was put up during the latter part of 1900 is torn apart and hanging from the plastering here and there. Both the paper and the walls where they have been left bare are soiled with smoke, dust and cobwebs. The \$2.50 per yard carpet has not been taken up since it was first laid, at the same time the wall paper was hung.

Secretary of State Galusha is in favor of taking up the carpets and having them cleaned in advance of the legislative session. He would also re-paper the walls and touch up the desks in both chambers. A new chair must be purchased for the presiding officer of the house to take the place of the \$50 leather one donated at the last session to Speaker George L. Rouse of

Grand Island. Most of the other furniture is still on hand and does not need to be replaced.

If the renovation of the legislative halls is carried out this year, a deficiency will necessarily be incurred, as the legislature two years ago made no appropriation for the work. Expenditures for such purposes have been under more restrictions in recent years than they formerly were. For instance, a rule has been in force since 1903 that no more than \$1,000 may be spent for legislative supplies before the session opens. This is about one-fifth the amount needed during the course of an average session.

The rule was put into effect after W. H. Clark, a state house custodian, had bought a quantity of high-priced carpet and stored it in one of the upper rooms of the capitol. Nobody knew what was intended to be done with the carpet, and when found it was returned to the store which furnished it, by order of the state board. This incident called attention to the reckless buying then in vogue and the brakes have been on ever since.

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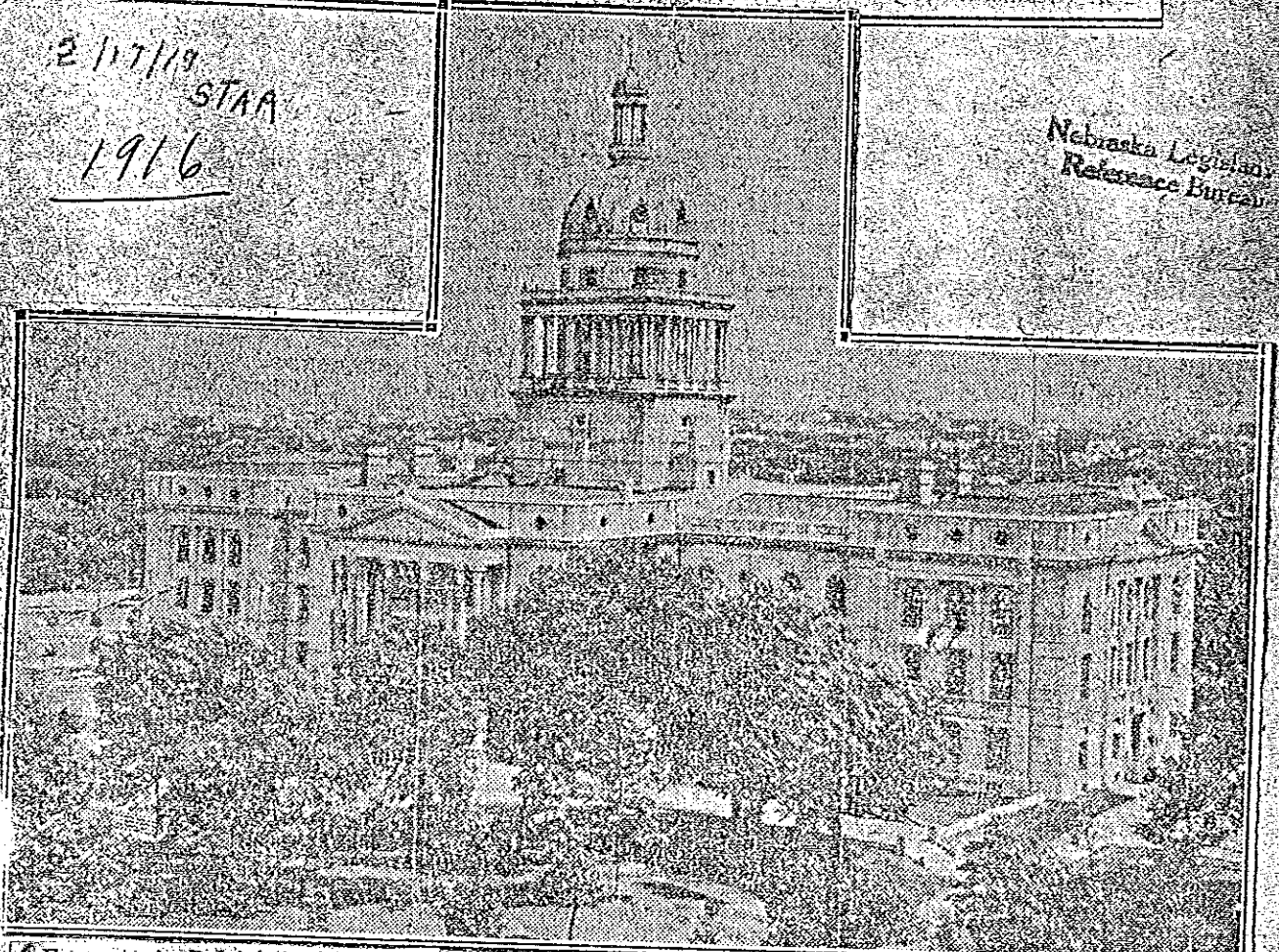
#2

# Capitol Planning is Mostly a Joke

By EDNA D. BULLOCK

2/17/19  
STAA  
1916

Nebraska Legislature  
Reference Bureau



En route to Raleigh I visited four capital cities to investigate legislative reference bureaus and some other matters. With increasing insistence it is borne in upon me that it would be perfect folly for Nebraska to build a new capitol, with any notion that it can house the state government for all time to come. I have lived in seven capital cities, and the story is everywhere the same. The capitol building, from the standpoint of good business, is a sinful extravagance. For the number of cubic feet of building, the amount of business transacted under the gilded domes is probably merely nominal. You have the spectacle of legislatures constantly, and I believe inevitably and legitimately, for the most part, increasing the agencies and activities of government. The various bureaus and departments are housed, if possible, in capitols that were built chiefly for architectural effect—large, high rooms, instead of the smaller and less lofty rooms that would be so much better to work in if they were properly planned and equipped. And everywhere the state government is overflowing the capitol

and spreading to adjacent lands and buildings. Most of the large, new capitols are wholly inadequate, while the older buildings are desperately overcrowded. It is not difficult to imagine that the Minnesota capitol, for instance, might house, for some time to come, the entire state government, including the historical society, for which it is now building a magnificent structure, if it were a modern business block instead of a work of art.

I would not be understood to object to a triumph of art and architecture, provided only people knew what they were doing, and could afford to pay for it. We ought not to delude ourselves into the notion that such a building will properly house a going concern such as a state government, for the work in hand. Lofty halls, with flaming, expensive and sometimes questionable mural decorations, grand staircases, throne rooms of one sort and another, rows of committee rooms, each of which contains cubic feet enough for two well-ventilated rooms with the same floor space—committee rooms that stand idle except for the biennial legislative period—these are what we pay for when we build a capitol building. And what we get is

an unsuitable place in which to transact most of the state's administrative business.

As a further consideration, the probable changes in state government should be taken into account. It is not impossible that all our states are entering upon a reconstruction period with reference to the machinery of state government. We may, within the next quarter century, find ourselves with a small, unicameral legislature sitting continuously, and a suitable grouping of administrative activities into departments.

There is an infinite waste of time and loss of motion in large buildings. I recently visited the New York educational building at Albany. The cloak and rest rooms for the library school are the best part of a block from where some of the people who use them work. The time consumed each day between the two points, if it could be estimated, would amount to an enormous waste of the working time of employes, as compared with using a more compact style of building.

My suggestion is that the capitol building should be designed to hold the political features of the state government, using a system of office



# Capitol Planning is Mostly a Joke

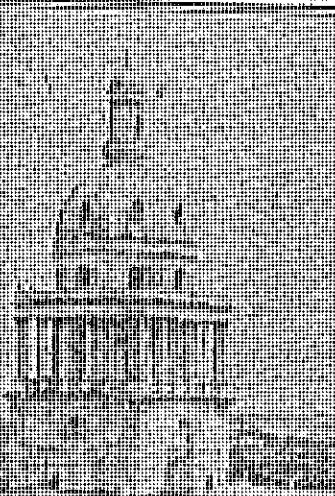
By [unreadable] [unreadable]

Capitol planning is mostly a joke... The architect of... Capitol office is... Federal Bureau and... National... with... planning... It is not... difficult to... imagine that the... Arizona... for... finance... for... same... time... to... cover... the... entire... state... government... including... the... historical... society... for... which... it... is... now... building... a... magnificent... structure... if... it... were... a... modern... business... block... instead... of... a... work... of... art...

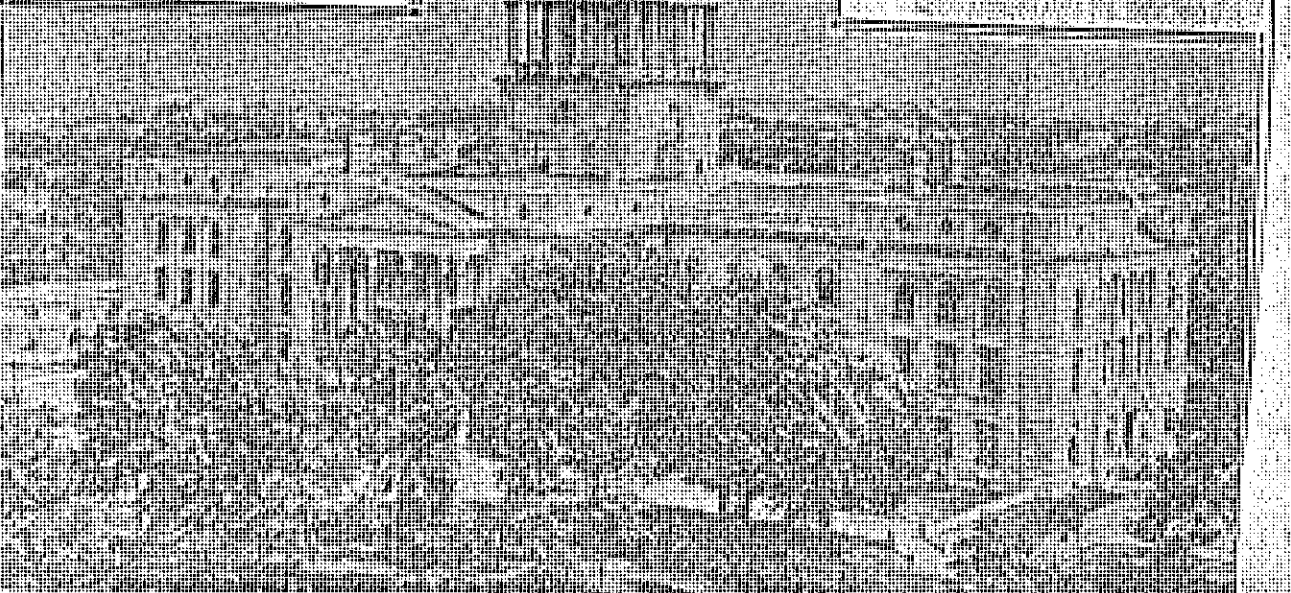
I would not be surprised to object to a building of art and architecture, provided only people knew what they were doing and could afford to pay for it. We could not in debate contradict this idea unless that such a building will properly belong a private citizen such as a state government.

For the State... Lobby... with... building... and... committee... planning... Federal... Bureau... National... with... planning... It is not... difficult to... imagine that the... Arizona... for... finance... for... same... time... to... cover... the... entire... state... government... including... the... historical... society... for... which... it... is... now... building... a... magnificent... structure... if... it... were... a... modern... business... block... instead... of... a... work... of... art...

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*State Journal*



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Nebraska Legislative  
Reference Bureau

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I would not be understood to object to a triumph of art and architecture, provided only people knew what they were doing, and could afford to pay for it. We ought not to delude ourselves into the notion that such a building will properly house a growing concern such as a state government,

for the work in hand. Lofty halls, with flaming, expensive and sometimes questionable mural decorations, grand staircases, throne rooms of one sort and another, rows of committee rooms, each of which contains cubic feet enough for two well-ventilated rooms with the same floor space—committee rooms that stand idle except for the biennial legislative period—these are what we pay for when we build a capitol building. And what we get is an unsuitable place in which to transact most of the state's administrative business.

As a further consideration, the probable changes in state government should be taken into account. It is not impossible that all our states are entering upon a reconstruction period with reference to the machinery of state government. We may, within the next quarter century, find ourselves with a small unicameral legislature sitting continuously, and a suitable grouping of administrative activities into departments.

There is an infinite waste of time and loss of motion in large buildings. I recently visited the New York educational building at Albany. The cloak and rest rooms for the library school are the best part of a block from where some of the people who use them work. The time consumed each day between the two points, if it could be estimated, would amount to an enormous waste of the working time of employes, as compared

with using a more compact style of building.

My suggestion is that the capitol building should be designed to hold the political features of the state government, using a system of office buildings for the administrative departments. The capitol could be just as expensive a work of art as the people cared to put their hard earned money into—but boards of charities, fish commissions, food commissions, hotel commissioners, etc., could be much more suitably and economically housed in other types of buildings.

Because Minnesota and Wisconsin have built wonderful buildings from the standpoint of architecture is no reason why any other state must do it. The several million dollars that each of these buildings cost would more than give Nebraska what would serve her purposes vastly better.

# Spiritual Values in Nebraska's New Capitol

C. H. Whitaker in the Journal of American Institute of Architects

The state of Nebraska is to build a new capitol. In the selection of an architect a competition is to be held. As a new capitol is a comparatively rare undertaking, the event is one of considerable interest. Without knowledge as to what may be in the minds of those who represent the state in this matter, or in the minds of the jury of award later to be chosen, or the program to be drawn as a guide for the competitors, the impending event suggests a retrospect and a speculation.

How were the great buildings of the past created, for example? Did they begin with a competition, and was there a program, and an award, and a selection, and a building all completed and handed over in the course of anywhere from two to five years? Not by any means. Things moved in a more leisurely way. No doubt we are much inclined to stress the quality of charm that we assign to the slowness of those times and to over-credit the possession of leisure to a certain quality in the people which led them to demand it as a means of satisfying their esthetic or spiritual existence. It is difficult to believe that some of them may not have been more or less lazy, or that they would not have built faster if they had known how, altho as most of their great buildings were not involved with large amounts of private capital which demanded the shortest possible loss in the interest bearing period, one great spur to building speed was not present. Yet one is still a little reluctant to believe that they would not have adopted certain of our labor-saving methods and appliances if they had been offered, for seldom have contrivances of that kind gone unappreciated in any age.

We could, no doubt, discover, if we had the complete records, that they were constantly making progress in those directions, and that the workmen of those days were continually inventing and contriving ways of doing things quicker and easier (as all workmen have been doing since the organization of labor), strong as were the traditions and standards and rules of the crafts they plied in medieval times. And, after all, it is only within the last generation, so to speak, that we have so speeded up our own building methods, and largely because of the discovery of steel construction and the use of concrete. But, nevertheless, and whatever the reason may have been, the people of the great period of medieval building do seem in some manner to have realized that the creation of a great civic structure was something more than a building undertaking. There was, if one may be forgiven the word, a certain spiritual accompaniment. The people had a share in the proceeding, in the first place, as in the cathedrals of Italy, for example, which were

state undertakings, financed by yearly levies and contributions. The work demanded a sacrifice, very often, and the building became a national event having a direct import in the lives of the people. It was the "opera" or the "work." It was almost a national avocation.

It was as tho they understood a building as we do not. Its form and mass and detail had a common interest and was almost unconsciously perceptible, possessing a meaning, if you will, which gave pleasure without effort, which satisfied a craving for expression, for the play of the spirit and for the enjoyment of the beautiful, altho it was all unconscious, no doubt, and could not have been explained. It did not need explanation, such as all art has, come to need nowadays, and passed as a natural corollary to life itself. Of course we must reckon with the great part played by symbolism. The printing press had not been invented, and imagery held full sway in all methods of inter-communication. The meaning of images and symbols was clear, for it came thru direct association with the thing or event imaged, or symbolized. It was the day of bard and minstrel, of mime and troubadour, of history written for the great mass of people only in song and story, passed from father to son, from mother to daughter, from minstrel to mime to the groups among which they roamed at periodic intervals. Thus the knowledge of and feeling for imagery was a very common possession until they were displaced by the invention of the movable type. A building was a book which all could read. Today, a very small minority can read a building, and, alas, too few buildings offer anything that is worth reading.

Shall we assume that the standards of public taste were higher then than now, and therefore take it for granted that by far the greater number of citizens were qualified to discuss the work as it proceeded? Such an assumption seems a fair one, from our knowledge of the times and the buildings they produced but at any rate we know that the workers on these buildings were abler craftsmen, as far as their respective trades were concerned, and while they no doubt were very human and did not sit around in the cold atmosphere of pure esthetics and philosophize upon the spiritual significance of this line or that form, they had an innate knowledge of line and form, and were not dependent upon a master architect for detailed drawings, and voluminous specifications. They had no art schools and they needed no art commissions. When they were not at work they no doubt went fishing and made love, and at times drank overmuch. They were mortals, like the rest of us, yet they could do things in building that we cannot.

The building grew slowly, which of course would not do for us at all. We pride ourselves upon the fact that we can do in two years what they did in two centuries. But is the result the same? That is both a hard and an easy question to answer. If by result we mean the physical product, we may say that our building will serve its purpose, as a shelter for human activities, quite as well, or better, than the old ones, and that its usefulness begins in a very short time. We do not have to wait two centuries, and, by building with great speed, we release a great amount of both capital and labor for other undertakings. We could not possibly wait two centuries for a new capitol or for any other buildings!

But, on the other hand, one feels quite safe in saying that our building, with all its benefits to the citizens, has not the same significance as had the older ones. We have not yet learned that the greatest function of art is to satisfy him who produced. We have not yet learned how to capitalize and make effective the latent spirituality in our citizens. They are used to buying art as they buy food, and they have lost the hunger for exercising their creative instincts, for our system of producing things has killed those instincts in all save the little band we now know as "artists." The citizens of Nebraska, for example, will buy a capitol, and will be proud of it, but will they love it and reverence it and understand it as the people of Italy understood their buildings? Perhaps they will, but is not the chief task of those who are to have the building in charge to make sure that the people of Nebraska so regard their capitol, not only in the beginning, but as long as it stands?

More than that, is it not also the task of the state to see to it that the people of Nebraska, young and old, are made to understand what a capitol means. Or, one might more properly say, they should understand what a capitol ought to mean, beyond the bricks and mortar of which it is composed. Here, indeed, is an opportunity for a lesson in art and a lesson in citizenship at the same time. The people of the state should, in some way, be interested to refamiliarize themselves with their history, with the events that have marked their progress. The children in the schools, of all ages, should have a special course in Nebraskan history, by which they should be stimulated to suggest symbols and images of that history, such as could be painted or carved as part of the decorative treatment. At the same time, they could also get a vision of the future state of Nebraska—of the destiny it ought to achieve as an agent for the building of greater human happiness. In other words they should in some way put something

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into their capitol besides money. It should not be designed and contracted for and built and handed to them as a finished product, which, like a toy, will quickly lose its charm, as ready-made toys do.

Of a truth, the capitol should never be finished. There should always be room for a kind of embellishment such as would keep interest alive and center the affection of the people in it. In what manner could citizenship be more surely stimulated to demand that the capitol be not only a fine building but a place in which man do better things than are done in our capitols of the present. Are any of us satisfied with all that goes on in our capitols?

Why not have the program for the competition confined to architects who are known to be able to design and build it—and surely no others would be invited—and instead of asking for a set of drawings, ask for a thesis upon what a capitol should be and how it could be made to serve the great purpose of helping to build a finer state? A program drawn up by one man, or by any group of men, disarms the competing architect at once, for it stifles his best and most useful powers—those of creation and imagination. True, he can use them somewhat in the design and plan, but he is after all bound by a conception that is not of his own, by the rules of usage, and, worse than that, he is also bound to respect the known predilections of the jury. He cannot design in opposition to the kind of building he knows will win their approval. Given twelve architects of known ability, I would rather choose on the basis of a clear presentation of their original conception of what a capitol building should be than upon the basis of their design as fitted to a preconceived idea of somebody else as to what a capitol should be.

And, again, will the state of Nebraska make it possible for such collaboration in its capitol as alone can produce the kind of building that is held up as representing architectural perfection? Will it leave collaboration to chance, for example, or will it invite painters and sculptors to go and live in Lincoln with the architect, and there daily ponder and discuss their joint responsibility and opportunity? That was how the great buildings were built—not by buying a jumble of unrelated decoration, nor yet by committing the sculpture and painting to the autocratic control of the architect. I remember the report of the committee on allied arts of the Institute, some years ago. It was signed by a chairman who is now the architectural advisor to the Nebraska state capitol commission. Its slogan was "Collaboration," and now that there has come to him the greatest of opportunities for encouraging the right kind of collaboration, one can only wish him the power to bring it to pass—for he will need tremendous power if he is successfully to persuade Nebraskans to build in the right way.

And I speak of Nebraskans only because it is of their capitol I write. The problem would be quite as difficult in any other state. Of course we cannot jump backward to medieval times, leaving all our scientific progress behind us, but we might try a big jump forward and accept as basic the principle that only thru an industrial freedom, such as that of the great building epochs, can we get a civic building that will be really great in the full meaning of the word. Where are the modern buildings that inspire men to great citizenship?

These are only a few of the reflections that are suggested by this newest of competitions. One could write an elaborate thesis on the subject of how a state capitol should be made an effective symbol of citizenship and a great lesson in art at the same time, but that is the function of the architect who is to design it. If he lacks that conception, then the building will never possess those qualities, but will remain still and cold and lifeless. The cornerstone will be laid with a ceremony and there will be speeches at the dedication. After that, there will be boastfulness and pride, but no understanding.

But it is so difficult to break a tradition—even a bad one—that Nebraska doubtless will pursue the conventional path, secure the conventional building, with the conventional result. Yet what a lesson she might give to the rest of the nation if her commissioners had the courage to break a new path? Yes—I think the school children of Nebraska ought to play the biggest possible part in building the new capitol. I am not sure, but what I would have them write the program.—C. H. Whitaker, in the Journal of the American Institute of Architects.



# OLD AND NEW STATE HOUSE

## MART HOWE TELLS WHY PRES- ENT CAPITOL SAGGED.

### Gives His Version of the Sand Pit and Filling of State House Driveways.

Mart Howe, a veteran of the civil war, a pioneer Nebraskan, formerly county clerk of Lancaster county and at one time clerk in the state land commissioner's office in the present state house, prepared the following sketch of the building of two capitolis on the site of the present capitol which is soon to be torn down, to make room for a \$5,000,000 structure:

"The first capitol was built by a Mr. Ward of Chicago. In 1867 the foundation was completed and the building was finished in time for the meeting of the legislature in 1869. It was a tall, flimsy affair, and had a high dome that could be seen twenty miles away when the sun shone bright, as I can testify to, as I rode a horse from Ashland. I soon was able to see it that distance. Mr. Ward had much trouble in securing suitable material, as no stone was nearer than Beatrice, and had to be hauled with all kinds of teams, and when it came to sand, he discovered, in putting down a well, an inexhaustible supply about seven or eight feet from the surface, under the ground where the south wall of the east wing of the present building now stands.

"Allow me to digress a moment. The first soldier who was interred in Wynka was Charley Chesnut, who lost his life in this sand pit. At that time Wynka was not in existence, so Captain Phillips who had a homestead east of the state house, allowed his remains to be interred on his land. The body afterwards removed to Wynka.

"When this building was completed, there being no sewers in those days, so the building was plumbed and connected to this sand pit. I relate this, for it has a very vital connection with our present state house.

### "Boss" Stout Contractor.

"The present state house was built by "Boss" Stout, who many old politicians remember. A man by the name of Wilcox of St. Paul, Minn., was the architect. Mart Davy was the superintendent and C. B. Fox foreman. In 1885 I was bookkeeper in the office of commissioner of lands. I remained in this office until it changed heads, and the center or the main part was completed during the time I was there. Mr. Fox, who was foreman during the construction of the penitentiary and the present capitol, and I became close personal friends, and he is my authority about the east wing, and the cause of its settlement, so here is where the old sand pit comes in. When the excavation was made for the

east wing, the men came on this old sand pit, but I am ahead of my story a little.

"When the commission decided to construct a new building the old one had to be removed. The contract was let to one J. S. Gregory and one night after the veneering was removed, a terrible Nebraska wind storm came up, and in the morning the old capitol was flat on the ground. In falling it went east, and broke thru, and filled this old sand pit up. So Mr. Gregory cleaned up the rubbish, but did not touch the sand pit. Now, I get back to the excavation, again. Mr. Stout called on the architect, Mr. Wilcox, and upon his advice, the pit was cleaned out some then arched over, and the wall carried up over this arch.

### The Wall Settled.

Prior to the meeting of the legislature in 1887, this south wall had settled so much that the state officers became alarmed, as there was a large crack in the gallery, so large at the south wall that you could throw a small cat into it, and the state superintendent became very much exercised about his side of the office. He wanted the board to secure him other quarters, and the board wired Mr. Wilcox immediately to come to their relief. He came, and he just laughed and laughed until he nearly split his sides. The idea, he says, of the building falling down. Most ridiculous, you could not pull it down, he said, but he had his pay, so what did he care, but the board was not satisfied, and they called in several of our local architects, and I think Mr. Tyler was one, and I guess they advised rodding. Seaton of Atchinson, came up, and he put the rods thru, not Joe Burns.

"I was there when the same was built, and I want to assure the man that removes it that he will find so much soft brick and sand inside of it, that he will wonder where it all came from. Some years ago, a big wind storm blew down one part of the walls at the penitentiary and disclosed walls filled with sand.

### Deep Driveways Filled.

"The capitol was now completed and under the contract the grounds must be cleared of all rubbish and the grounds must be beautified. In the three or four years of building, a great amount of chipped stone, sand, brick, and in fact there was a mountain of rubbish to be removed. Mr. Wilcox comes to the rescue of Mr. Stout. He draws the plans, and three men put in bids, Mr. Davy, Mr. Roggen and Jack Lanham. I was clerk of the board at this time. One bid was \$87,000, one about \$100,00 and Jack Lanham's \$27,000. The board was very much amused at the last bid, and called the party into the office. When they told Mr. Lanham what his bid was and what the other two were he vehemently protested that his bid was \$47,000. The board let him have the contract, altho he was \$40,000 below the lowest, but oh, what a job you got. He spent only

about forty minutes looking over the specifications while the others spent over a week.

"The specifications called for Colorado sandstone for all walks, and was to be two inches thick, and twenty four inches square and dressed. The driveways were to be about five feet deep and filled with stone, then crushed down with a steam roller. Was it done? Not on your life. What went into those driveways? All the rubbish that had accumulated during the building. Can you now see why those driveways were five feet deep? How about the stone that was used in the walks? John D. Knight and Lanham owned a stone quarry in Colorado that had not been paying very well, but these stone were shipped to the capitol grounds, unloaded and used and a majority of them were not two inches thick, but about one and a half, and the people of Lincoln know

as to the shape of stone that went down.

"Those four pedestals were intended to be surmounted with the bronze bust of our statesmen, to represent the executive, judiciary and legislative and something else. I can't remember. I have written most of this from memory, and I may be in error on some points, but in the main I am right. I would advise the present capitol commissioners to secure some one to put down test holes with a two inch auger and see where and how much sand underlies the present grounds."

The official announcement that the State Historical Society will join with the university regarding the making for the erection of a great central library building, is based on the fact that the library activities within the walls of the university are the accepted means for the management of the books for the erection of a library and appropriate work building on the half block and east of the state house grounds. It is a very important to be built the reference work will prefer to remain in the main building. The new library building will be better equipped with a centrally convenient location, because it has been demonstrated that the chief use of the collections is by the students and professors. The necessity of putting all of the libraries together is expected to appear strongly in the implementation, and make it possible to group this product through without much trouble. The present foundation on University and it is to be considered a good deal of a setback in the state, and all public spirited citizens will be glad to see the various projects in the building to be completed.

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The last book in which the historical foundation is concerned was purchased by the state by the city of Lincoln. The gift was made for the public purpose of encouraging the state to erect a historical society building, and to be assured that society that it would never again bring into question the city's title in the old historical square, ever known as Market square. In everybody's opinion that a square block in which the city got the value for the \$100,000 that went into the half block east of the capitol, the various things will be to let the society and the present and put the proceeds into the new building, in the school near the university campus.





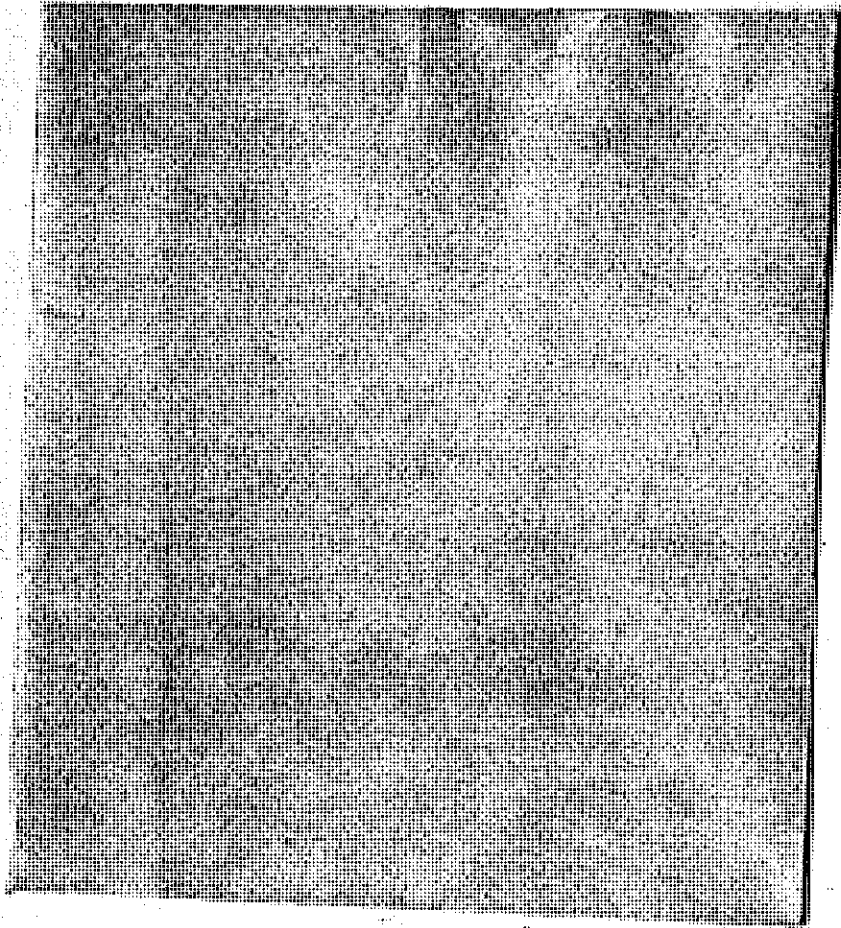
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Housing a State Government



# Housing a State Government

By E. D. BULLOCK

**WE** HAVE traveled far since the day when a judge might dispense justice under a palm tree by the city gate, or when an autocrat and a few scribes constituted a government. And just to the degree that we have evolved a complicated governmental machine, we have invited housing problems of great and perplexing proportions. Few of our American states have arrived at any satisfactory solution of these problems, largely I believe, because they start with the conventional tradition that a capitol should house under one roof an entire state government. Each state, as it arrives at the necessity of capitol building merely tries to build a larger and more ornate structure than the old one, but with comparatively little display of intelligent study of the modern state and its functions. Instead of building for the work to be done under its roof, an architectural monument is erected, and the state's official family is crowded helter-skelter into the lofty rooms—the handsomer and more spacious quarters often going to the departments that need space least and the growing departments are frequently put in quarters that do not permit of extension.

In time, the inevitable expansion of governmental business and function push some of the official family out into the other buildings—generally state buildings on adjacent sites. Infinite variety is found in the exoduses from the state houses of the country. Sometimes a temple of justice is built to house the state law library and the supreme court, or a building for the state library is erected, or for a museum, or for a group of administrative offices.

A questionnaire sent to the governors of all the states reveals some very pertinent facts concerning capitol building. Out of twenty-one states answering the question, "Is the present capitol adequate to house all state offices?" six respond affirmatively, the two of these say that any additional departments would have to be housed outside. One of the six is Missouri, where a new capitol is approaching completion—but Missouri already has a building which houses the supreme court and the attorney general. Many of the states have several buildings besides the capitol, and several officials express the opinion that the capitol should house only the executive and legislative branches of the government, better results for the business of the state being accomplished by putting administrative offices in office buildings. The state architect of Kansas gives it as his opinion that a state capitol is a complete unit in itself, and that to make additions would blemish the general plan. Clerical departments, he thinks, "would be able to accomplish their work more efficiently and satisfactorily in a segregated building as they would not be compelled to give time to entertain visitors who come to purely political offices."

Having been asked by the editor of *The Journal* to discuss the capitol question with specific reference to Nebraska, I have analyzed the state government as it now constituted, and find that it is necessary to house permanently in the city of Lincoln, eleven constitutional departments, and fifteen boards, bureaus and departments, a state library, a university with its library, and a number of state institutions. This is, by no means all the boards and bureaus that are found on the state roster, but it includes all that require permanent office or laboratory room.

Now the number of offices by no means indicates the amount of space needed, or its character. I am satisfied that an efficiency and economy survey would reduce the number of departments by consolidation and co-ordination. There are a number of boards that could be co-ordinated if, in building a capitol, provision were made for small office suites opening into a large reception room where one or two stenographers, a clerk, and one telephone could be made to do the work now carried on by several clerks and stenographers and several telephones.

In planning quarters for various departments it is absolutely necessary to know something of the work and prospective future of each office. It is quite easy to determine that the legislative branch of the government needs at least two large rooms, and a good many smaller ones as long as we have our present legislative body.

We have, in Nebraska, probably six indispensable constitutional departments that, once adequately housed, might never need additional space, unless extraneous functions are forced upon them. The legislature is included in this number. The other constitutional departments, including the education department, the board of control, the railway commission, the supreme court and state library, are bound to expand—some more than others. Several of the boards and bureaus have inspectors out in the field, but small need for large office suites here. Other activities should be encouraged to expand. Most particularly, libraries require room for growth, and can best be housed in buildings constructed specifically for library purposes.

The Nebraska problem seems to be separable into several elements. It would be wisdom to put out of the consideration a single, large architectural monument to house everything. Such a building is outgrown before it is completed, it is full of waste space, it is a thing of magnificent heights and distances, occasioning much lost motion, it is inconvenient and not conducive to highest efficiency. What then are the alternatives?

First—A small but artistic capitol building (preferably not of the dome variety) on the present site, to house some of the constitutional departments. If it is desired to include the court and the state law library, ample room for growth should be provided.

Second—If the court and law library are to be housed separately on adjacent grounds, a temple of justice, to include quarters for the attorney general.

Third—An office building for such departments as can best be housed in such a building.

Fourth—A library building at the university to house the university library, the historical library, the legislative reference library, and the library commission. The advantage of this arrangement needs only a casual investigation for its justification. The state library is a law library. It no longer attempts to be a general library. The university library should be given means to give this service to the state at large in addition to its present functions as a university library. The miscellaneous collections of the state library should be transferred to the university library. When this is done, Nebraska will no longer house in Lincoln two depository collections of United States documents—a housing cost of considerable proportions thus being saved. There are in the state library sets of miscellaneous periodicals that are not needed in a law library. Many of these sets are also in the university library. These the state library could be authorized to sell, and apply the funds thus acquired to the purchase of law books. The historical library has on its shelves many volumes that are not pertinent to its legitimate field, and many that are also on the shelves of the university library in the same building. The building up of the library activities supported by the state in Lincoln has been most unbusinesslike. If they could be housed under one roof, and the legitimate province of each defined so as to enforce co-ordination, they could render great service to the state. As by far the larger part of library patronage in Lincoln comes from the university, the campus is obviously the place for the proposed library building.

The most admired of recent capitols are probably those of Minnesota and Wisconsin. These cost in the neighborhood of five million dollars apiece. The Minnesota structure never has housed the entire state government. The old capitol is still in use, and the educational and library activities are soon to occupy a new building.

Nebraska is able to spend whatever is necessary to house the state government becomingly, but utility should be a prime consideration. One of the costly features of the Minnesota capitol is the mural paintings by artists of repute, among them Edwin Blasfield. Some of these paintings are thought by the critics to be worth crossing the continent to look at, and others may justify a trip from any point in the Gopher state to St. Paul. Mural decorations in public buildings, however, are a waste of money. Nebraska's own experience

and the growing departments are frequently put in quarters that do not permit of extension.

In time, the inevitable expansion of governmental business and function push some of the official family out into the other buildings—generally state buildings on adjacent sites. Infinite variety is found in the exoduses from the state houses of the country. Sometimes a temple of justice is built to house the state law library and the supreme court, or a building for the state library is erected, or for a museum, or for a group of administrative offices.

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The other constitutional departments, as well as the boards and bureaus vary greatly as to the amount of work done, and the number of people employed—some needing a number of rooms, and others adequately cared for with a private office for consultation and the keeping of records. Certain departments whose work is chiefly routine will not need room for expansion for all time to come, except for the keeping of records. Others must grow.

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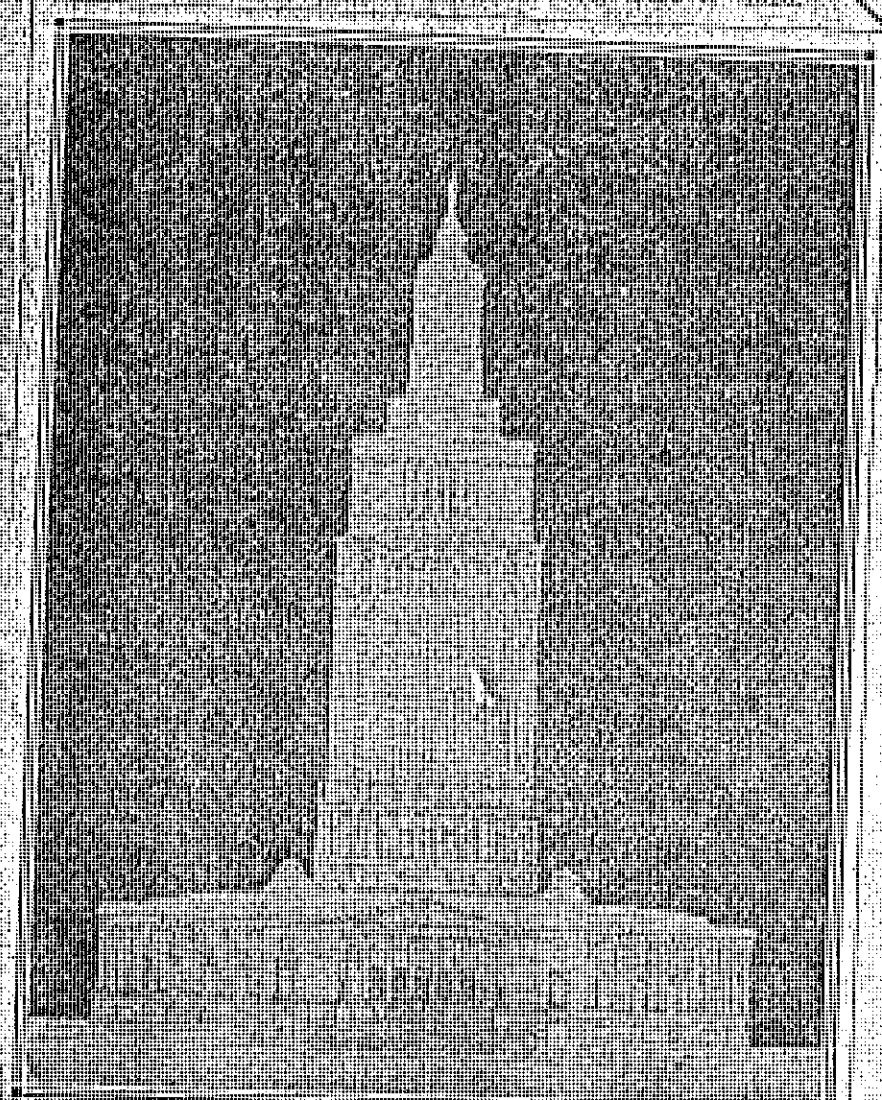
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Mob.  
7-13

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

MONDAY, STATE JOURNAL, PHILADELPHIA, JULY 4, 1929.



**THE EMPIRE STATE TOWER SECTION IN ITS PRELIMINARY COMPETITION.**  
The drawing has given over the capital design submitted in the competition by Harry Levin of Lincoln. It is believed by many of his admirers that the preliminary design, prepared by Mr. Levin, offered any assistance from any source, was more graceful and successful in every way than the final plan, in which he had professional advice in New York. Mr. Levin refused to discuss this phase of the business. He took the position that he was fairly treated in the competition and that he was satisfied to get it in the hands of the jury. For the benefit of those interested in the development of a section plan, the preliminary plan prepared by Mr. Levin and submitted in the original competition for state architects is here illustrated. It may be compared readily with the final design by Mr. Levin on another page.



336,45  
Neb  
1920 #14

## DEFENDS CAPITOL PROGRAM

### GOVERNOR SAYS ARTICLE IN NEW YORK PAPER IS UNJUST

#### Calls a Studied Effort by Some One to Discredit the Nebraska Capitol Commission.

Governor McKelvie has been unable to ascertain the name of the newspaper correspondent who sent misinformation to the New York Evening Post regarding the cost of the proposed capitol of Nebraska. After that newspaper refused to give the name of the author of a published article the governor wrote the following letter of correction to the editor of the Post:

My dear sir: In your issue of November 3, there was published, under a Nebraska date line an article that was highly critical of the program that is being carried forward in connection with the building of a new capitol in Nebraska. Rarely, if ever, has an article been published that was more replete in falsehoods, or that reflected a more evident intent to do malicious injustice to someone. A brief reference to the allegations contained in the article in question will amply prove the foregoing observations:

The first paragraph in your article states that the commission has paid out \$78,000 in fees for architects and has contracted to spend another \$40,000 for the same purpose, altho the rough pencil drawings are not yet complete. As a matter of fact the complete drawings and the work on the plans were about three-fourths complete on the date of your article, including, in addition to the plans, a large amount of modeling and study work necessary to the proper design of the building.

The second paragraph states that \$1,000,000 was originally intended to be spent on the capitol, but finally \$1,000,000 was appropriated, and the people now fear it will cost \$25,000,000. The facts are that \$5,000,000 was appropriated by the legislature, and no other amount was considered. This amount is being collected by a tax levy extending over a period of six years, and the commission has done nothing whatever to date to indicate that the completed building will cost more than \$5,000,000.

On November 18, 1921, the expenditures of the commission to date were as follows:

Architect's salary	\$ 21,869.10
Competition	27,005.60
Thos. W. Kimball	3,268.90
Capitol Commission	1,354.35
Plans	27,854.37
Foundation tests	799.63
Total	\$ 82,052.25

It should be further noted that the appropriation for this project became available for expenditure July 1, 1919, and by rushing the work the project might have been started at least within a year from that date. However the capitol commission has taken its time in making preparations for the work, pending a time when contracts for construction might be made at a much lower cost. Already this has resulted in a saving of many thousands of dollars to the state of Nebraska, and yet no bids have been asked for the construction. Construction for the foundation may begin within the next three or four months, but the larger contracts will be delayed even beyond that time, so that with the gradual reduction that is being reflected in building costs, there is no reason to expect that the building may not be constructed well within the appropriation that was originally made for it.

The fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh paragraphs state that Mr. Goodhue, as architect, was employed at a salary of \$25,000 per year and incidental expenses, and that two additional architects had been employed to draw plans for the foundation and for the heating and ventilating, at an additional cost of \$40,000. Also, that Mr. Goodhue was paid a bonus of \$12,500 when he received the contract to prepare the plans. The facts are that Mr. Goodhue was employed at a salary of \$25,000 per year and incidental expenses, plus the actual cost of preparing the plans. The amount mentioned as having been drawn by Mr. Goodhue to date has been paid for his salary, and the costs of draftsmen, and for the actual work done on the plans. The \$12,500 mentioned as a bonus was simply a part of his annual salary. The two additional architects mentioned are engineers, who have been employed by Mr. Goodhue.

It should be further explained that the contract with the architect provides that he shall receive a salary of \$25,000 per year and incidental expenses, plus the actual costs of preparing the plans, but that if these items finally amount to more than six per cent on the total cost of the building, then the customary architect's fee of six per cent for such undertakings shall be recognized as the contract basis for payment. Thus it is understood that any costs incurred in the carrying on of the work, such as the employment of additional engineers, will be covered under the two-fold contract, and the architect's fees can, in no instance, be more than the six per cent basis, that is recognized by all reputable architects as the proper rate of payment. In making the two-fold contract, the commission felt that the cost might amount to less than six percent, and we still have reason to believe that this will be

true. If it is true, then that saving will be made to the state.

The eighth, ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth paragraphs in your article criticise the plan of competition held by the commission, whereby the architect was selected. It is sufficient to say that the program, under which the competition was held, has been published in architectural journals and in the press throught the entire country, and it is doubtful that any similar competition has ever attracted such widespread attention in this program from the customary plan of holding competitions provided that the competition should be upon the selection of an architect and not upon the selection of a building, and it is upon this basis that Mr. Bertram G. Goodhue was selected. Regarding his high standing in the architectural profession, it is not necessary for this commission to say anything, and he is too well and favorably known for ability and integrity to warrant any further comment upon this subject.

As to the type of building selected, that is a matter for the people of Nebraska to pass upon, primarily, and you may be interested in knowing that the type that has been selected by the commission has met with the almost unanimous approval of the people in this state. Moreover, it has been most favorably commented upon by architectural journals and artists generally, who have made any study of it.

The facts hereinbefore enumerated are so well known to the people of Nebraska that we feel safe in saying that no reputable Nebraska newspaper would have published, originally, the article that was published in the Post. However, under the influence of its having been first published in the Post, it has been reproduced in one Nebraska daily newspaper, which, it is only fair to say, has been most unfriendly to certain members of the capitol commission.

Immediately that this article was brought to the attention of the commission, we wired, requesting the name of the author and we are in receipt of your telegram in which you decline to give this information. Later we have your letter in which you recognize the error that was made in publishing such an article.

It is seen that a studied effort was made by someone to discredit the commission, the architect and the project. We do not question your motives in the matter, for we recognize The New York Evening Post as a perfectly reputable newspaper, but we feel that, in justice to the facts, you will want to publish at least the essential facts contained in this communication, so that your readers may be apprised of the truth and, insofar as possible, the injustice that has been done in this instance will be overcome. Very truly yours,

SAMUEL R. MCKELVIE,  
Governor, Chairman Capitol Commission.

### FOUR SUPERVISOR BUILDING

Plans for erecting the new building for the supervisor's office...

Nebraska's new plans for the capital building are a suitable solution to the problem of providing a permanent and commodious structure for the state government...

With all plans agreed upon, Architect H. H. Goodrich of New York is to be retained to perfect the design and give the construction supervision...

It is the purpose of the commission to have completed in readiness and contract let as that construction for the upper part of the capital building during the month of early summer of 1922...

In this matter it was proposed that the new building will provide a two-story floor of office rooms 140 feet in width... The tower that will finally be constructed shall be a suitable...

It is stated that the state department of public works will take the general contract for the building and supervise the general operations...

The legislature of 1921 will convene in the winter months that have passed the session for this year...

By allowing two years to elapse within the preliminary structure, the capital construction will insure that a saving of \$1,000,000 or more will be realized...

Tests have been made on the underlying strata at various points down to a depth of forty feet. It was discovered that the Dakota sandstone found at that depth is capable of holding up any great weight...

The tower, from which it is predicted the language of Nebraska can be seen for a hundred miles or more, will be used chiefly as a hall of records...

The capital construction is supervised by Governor Beckwith as chairman, C. H. Peterson, superintendent of public works, W. H. Hardy of Lincoln, H. W. Head of Omaha and W. H. Thompson of Grand Island.

336.4-5  
Feb  
1916

Oct. 1921

California Agricultural  
Experiment Station

### TREE PLANTED BY GOVERNOR

Secretary of the State, Sacramento, Cal.  
The tree planted by Governor  
and A. M. Humphrey.

When the governor laid the last of  
the 100 trees, the other 99 had been  
planted which the captain had taken  
from the ship to make good for a  
tree which he will have not shown in  
the ground since from yesterday's  
experience and that of others. One of  
the trees planted in a garden within  
a few feet of the north landing from  
the southeast corner of the grounds  
is the present day tree. This tree  
was planted by Governor Humphrey on  
the 10th day of the month of August  
last, the trees were 100 and 100. It  
was planted in a tree brought from  
the West, but it never saw the West.

Another specimen claimed to be cut  
down or removed is near the well at  
the northwest corner of the state  
house. There is a dispute as to who  
planted this tree. A. M. Humphrey of  
Broken Bow, now serving as assistant  
secretary in Washington, points it  
out to friends as the work of his own  
hands. Others were under the impres-  
sion that Charles A. Hays, formerly  
of the first national bank of California,  
planted it with his own hands.

The largest specimen on the grounds  
is located in a garden, northwest  
near the north side of the state house.  
Two of these large, well-grown trees  
stand nearby and about 100.

The largest and most beautiful tree  
in the grounds, however, which was  
planted by the captain in 1850, is  
located near the captain's house. It  
was a tree which was reported to have  
been saved by Federal McIlwain of  
Fairbury at the point of a ship, the great  
ship wrecked and the men who pre-  
served it. It is a tree which the captain  
planted in 1850. It later developed  
that the largest tree was Mr. McIlwain  
and was a tree which was reported to  
have been the old record of garden trees and  
gardens.

Two trees were planted by Grand  
A. Humphrey when he was land  
gardener in the garden area which  
before the planting of his hands.

336.45

Nebraska

#17

Nov 6, 1921

Nebraska Legislative  
Reference Bureau

## AXMEN ON CAPITOL LAWN

### A. R. HUMPHREY'S SYCAMORE FALLS BEFORE SAW AND AX.

It was sixty feet tall and for  
thirty years had furnished  
more or less shade.

A. R. Humphrey's stately sycamore that has stood upon the state house grounds for thirty years was one of the trees that fell before the axe and saw Saturday. Nothing but a pole, white and bare, and a pile of limbs now lie on the ground as a reminder of the symmetrical tree that Mr. Humphrey says he planted.

In a letter to W. L. Gaston, deputy secretary of state, Mr. Humphrey predicted the fall of the tree. He was prepared for the worst and took it philosophically. He wrote that he believed Nebraska is now more in need of a new state house than it is of trees upon the capital grounds.

The next due to destruction is another sycamore planted by Governor Holcomb when he was in office. Among those that fell Saturday was an ash whose stump is now twenty-four inches in diameter. It shows forty-six rings, indicating that it is as old in years as it has rings. The ash tree stood directly north of the north entrance, near the broad walk which extends to Fifteenth street. Two maple trees about the same age and size north of the state auditor's office were also cut down Saturday. A small sawmill helps convert tree trunks into cord wood and stove lengths.

All trees coming within or near the walls of the proposed new capitol must go. The capitol commission has given them free of charge in return for their removal or destruction. The larger trees are being cut down while the younger are removed by the roots and sold to any one who cares to buy. A cottonwood nine feet and four inches in circumference will be cut down within a few days.

Among those cut Saturday were one planted by Governor Boyd and another planted by Walter Dawson of Lincoln.

The sycamore planted by A. R. Humphrey measured sixty feet to the topmost branch. The trunk now upon the ground is fifty-seven feet long, allowing two feet for the stump which still stands. It measured fourteen inches in diameter. When planted thirty years ago it was very small, no larger than a broomstick. Mr. Humphrey who planted it served as state

land commissioner from 1891 to 1896. He lives at Broken Bow but is now in Washington serving as clerk of Congressman Kinkaid's committee on irrigation of arid lands. His letter to Mr. Gaston says:

"I have your letter enclosing the clipping from The State Journal relative to the cutting down and removal of the trees on the capitol grounds. I note that you say our mutual friend is of the notion that a certain tree was planted by Charles A. Hanna. The tree I planted is or was to the northwest of the commissioner's office and east of the place where the walk coming down from the west front and the north front of the capitol building come together. It is on the north side of the walk. I planted there, on Arbor day 1891 or 1892, I do not remember which, a sycamore tree about the size of a broom stick. Present at the time were Gov. James E. Boyd, A. R. Samson, and Walter L. Dawson. Mr. Dawson now lives a block north of the capitol. Governor Boyd and Mr. Samson are both dead.

"I watched the tree grow for the next two or three years after I planted it. Mr. Samson, Governor Boyd, and Mr. Dawson also planted a tree on the ground. A few years ago Mr. Dawson and I were on the ground together and looked at our trees. Mr. Dawson's tree is to the north and east of my tree and probably far enough away to avoid the ax. And since this tree is not to be spared the woodsman's ax, I do not see that it makes much difference who planted it. On several occasions, passing this tree when the seed balls were thick on the tree and on the ground, I have put some of them in my pocket and tried to grow them on my ranch, but I never have been able to get a sprout from those seed balls.

"I think just now that Nebraska is more in need of a new state house than it is trees on the capitol ground, and if my tree gets in the way of the new state capitol building, so much the worse for the tree. At the same time I regret to see the tree destroyed.

"I like trees, I like to plant them and make them grow the way I want them to grow. You may not remember it, but in my yard at home, in Broken Bow, I have an elm that I grafted and regrafted until I made a fairly good figure 8 about six feet above the ground. And down on the ranch about the camping ground that you have visited I have a lot of trees that I am making grow to suit me. I enjoy it and it don't hurt the tree."

33645

Feb

Dec. 1921

#18

# CAPITOL FUND HAS LAPSED

## RULING OF STATE AUDITOR TIES UP TOTAL OF \$1,657,466.

### Attorney General Supports Him— New Appropriation of \$1,707,000 Now Available for Capitol Construction.

State Auditor George W. Marsh has ruled that the appropriation made by the legislature of 1919 for the expense of getting plans for a new state capitol, the letting of a contract for construction or the purchase of material has lapsed and is no longer available or under the control of the capitol commission of which Governor McKelvie is head. The amount alleged to have lapsed is \$1,657,466.78 cents. If the auditor is correct this amount of money is not available for the purpose of constructing a capitol until it is reappropriated by the legislature in 1923.

The legislature of 1921 did not reappropriate this money. It appropriated \$1,700,268.12, the purpose of the latter appropriation being expressed in the general appropriation bill by the two words, "for capitol." This was headed "Appropriation from capitol fund—special mill levy." As to whether this expression of the legislature carries with it any funds for the expense of the capitol commission Auditor Marsh will await legal advice. He is not certain that he is able to draw a warrant upon the treasury for any expenses of the capitol commission such as its final trip to New York City to confer with Architect Bertram G. Goodhue in regard to completion of plans for the building. The appropriation of 1921 says nothing about expenses of the commission. It simply says "for capitol" \$1,707,268.12.

Attorney General Davis said he believed the appropriation of 1919 had lapsed and that the balance in the treasury may not be available for the

purpose for which it was appropriated unless another legislature reappropriates it. He desires, however, to investigate the legislative record, specially that of 1921 which makes an appropriation for a capitol.

If the state auditor's views are sustained the state treasury will benefit thereby and possibly no inconvenience will be worked upon the building of a capitol. The treasurer will have the continued use of the lapsed fund for the purpose of cashing state warrants and will not be obliged to restore the money immediately to the capitol fund for use in construction work.

The appropriation of \$1,707,268 by the legislature of 1921 may be sufficient for all immediate purposes of the commission. That body proposes in March to let a contract for the building of a foundation and expects to let a contract in the summer for the superstructure, with a view to getting material on the ground next year and beginning construction in the spring of 1923. It is believed bidders on these works will not hesitate to accept a contract with knowledge that the appropriation of 1919 will not be available until the legislature of 1923 takes action.

From the appropriation of 1921 any work necessary in the construction which includes plans and specifications, tests for foundations, cost of supervision, can legally be drawn under the state auditor's ruling. His reason for holding that the appropriation of 1919 has lapsed is that under the constitution appropriations can be made for not to exceed two years. He finds nothing to show that the legislature of 1921 reappropriated the lapsed funds.

The 1919 act creating the capitol commission appropriated the proceeds of the levies of 1919 and 1920 for the uses of the commission. It further provided that for the purpose of defraying the expense of carrying out the act of 1919 a special fund should be created to be known as the capitol fund to consist of the proceeds of a tax of one and one-half mills on the dollar valuation, and that this tax should be levied in 1919 and thereafter for six years, to and including the year 1924.

From the appropriation of 1919 there has been expended \$49,801. From the appropriation of 1921 \$32,251.11 has been spent, making a total of \$82,052.11 up to December 1 of this year.

336 45  
No 6  
#19

Star  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1922.

THE GOODHUE STATE HOUSE  
AT LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Oh I am the house and I hold the key,  
The prairie secret abides in me.  
I know the ache of the prairie sod,  
I point the prayers that ascend to God,  
I mark the sweep of the vast plateau,  
Its buffeting winds, corn, row on row,  
My beaconlight floods an upland plain  
Whose billowing reaches are wind-swept grain.

So why should my base  
Have the filigree grace  
Of a Cavalier's cuff?  
Why a frou-frou of lace?

My walls will harbor no alien traces  
To mar the fields that you sow,  
You who conquered the desert places,  
Pioneers! Long ago  
Into the earth you set your plowshares,  
Out of the earth you dug the tares,  
Coped with the elemental races,  
Bore the brunt of their primal cares.

So why should my base  
Have the filigree grace  
Of a Cavalier's cuff?  
Why a frou-frou of lace?

Rock: Reminder of bold stockading!  
Rock: A memor of red men raiding!  
A lightship set in an upland sea  
With frontier strength built into me.

—Jessie Welborn Smith of Des Moines  
in People's Monthly for February.

336.45  
News  
#20

1922

# LIABILITY ON STATE

Assistant Attorney General  
Wheeler Gives Informal  
Opinion on Damages Re-  
sulting to Property From  
H Street Track. Feb. 17, 1922

WITHHOLDS HIS RULING  
UNTIL DAVIS RETURNS

Thinks Burlington Cannot Be  
Held for Payment as it De-  
clines to Ask for Trackage  
Rights on Own Account.

That the state may eventually be held for payment of damages sustained by property owners on H street, through the laying of a railroad spur and its use in delivering materials for construction of the new capitol, is the informal opinion of Assistant Attorney General Wheeler, to whom the city of Lincoln and the state capitol commission have referred the question of liability of damages.

Mr. Wheeler declines to give a formal ruling, in the absence of his chief, Attorney General Davis, but indicated the foregoing to newspaper men as the substance of his view on the matter.

As to whether or not the presence of the railroad track on H street would actually damage adjacent property, the assistant attorney general says this would have to be determined by evidence. If a property owner were able to prove himself damaged, the next question would be from whom he might recover.

As the Burlington railroad declines to ask for trackage rights on its own account, it cannot be held liable, Wheeler thinks. He doesn't see, either, where the city of Lincoln could legally be made to pay. Necessarily, therefore, property owners would have to look to the state for reimbursement.

Couldn't Touch Capitol Funds.  
Whether funds at the capitol commission's disposal would be available for payment of damages is doubtful. At any rate no one can sue the state without the consent of the legislature, and it is hardly likely that such consent would be given.

Mr. Wheeler suggests that property owners could, however, bring suit against the capitol commission to enjoin it from laying tracks in the street. While the injunction probably would not be issued, he thinks, the court might direct the state to "acquire by condemnation the servitude of abutting property."

This language being interpreted, means that the capitol commission would have to go out and get the consent of property owners to withdraw their objections to the alleged nuisance, or take legal steps to have the amounts of damages due them fixed by appraisal.

One thing Wheeler does not want done in any event. As president of the "Shoddy Alley Horseshoe club," which holds its Sunday morning meets in the alley between H and G streets, he opposes any railroad track being laid there which would break up the sport.

336.45

Ne b

#21

January 27, 1922

## NEW CAPITOL AND COMBINE

### DEALERS NOT AFRAID OF STATE'S "TRUST" BUSTING.

#### State Engineer's Attempt to Keep Local Cement Agencies From Getting "Nip" Treated as Significant.

State Engineer Johnson's attempt to "bust" the so-called cement trust to the extent of depriving the dealer of his "nip" just prior to the construction of a new state capitol is considered significant. Several things have developed since Monday, when the secretary of the state department of public works wrote the attorney general's office seeking to compel direct sale of cement from the mill to municipalities, counties, his own department and for any public work project. Cement dealers apparently are unafraid of trust busting along these lines. There is, however, more or less speculation as an equitable division of the so-called "nip" on the vast quantities of cement to go into the state house. Will it be "hogged" or divided? Or will Secretary Johnson and the attorney general brush the dealer aside? It is claimed that Oklahoma has done this very thing. At least one local dealer doesn't believe it.

#### Eighty Thousand A Year.

One prominent local contractor who has extensive business interests over the state, estimates the total dealer rake-off on cement used in public work development at approximately \$80,000 for the average year. He estimates the amount of cement used in this sort of work at around 800,000 barrels in twelve months. The dealer draws down a dime a barrel whether or not he ever sees the cement.

A prominent bridge contractor completed one big project in Nebraska and moved over into another county. He diverted one or two cars of cement

from one destination to the other. The local dealer in the second territory demanded his pound of flesh and he got it regardless of the fact that his cement sales for a year may not run over six or seven cars.

Lincoln paying contractors, during an average year, use approximately 200,000 barrels of cement. For a recently completed project at Broken Bow, 40,000 barrels of cement were required. This meant a \$4,000 "nip" to the dealer. The paying contractor, however, has no quarrel with the mill. He realizes that his preference is shown and that all contractors are on the same plane.

#### The Advance in Price.

In 1914, cement was purchased by the contractor at 55 cents a barrel. It now sells at from \$1.60 to \$1.80. Dealers claim that it has dropped approximately 30 per cent or from \$2.50 a barrel. When the price was 55 cents, persons connected with the cement industry were going broke. The price was below the producing cost, it is claimed. That many of the well-known brands come from within a compact sort of territory is indicated from the following list of brands and source:

Atlas cement—Hannibal, Mo.  
Lehigh cement—Mason City, Ia.  
Hawkeye cement—Des Moines, Ia.  
Iola cement—Iola, Kas.  
Western States—Independence, Kas.

Cement dealers have argued that ten cents a barrel is not enough margin for the risk taken in getting their money out of some contractors. But when the cash is not paid over within ten days, the "nip" becomes twenty cents a barrel.

#### Getting Around Dealer

It is not difficult for the contractor to get around the dealer if he wants to and feels that he can operate independently. For instance, the contractor who goes out on a big bridge project may put up a shingle announcing that he is a dealer in materials. It then becomes his privilege to absorb the "nip."

On behalf of the dealers, it is claimed that they would decline to bother with the cement business if their profits are confined to small sales. If they must pass up the big business, why bother with the crumbs?



336.45  
Feb.  
#22

Jan 30, 1922

# TO BUILD CAPITOL WITHIN SUM FIXED

## Members of Commission Tell Legislators That Five Millions Will Put Up a Serviceable Building.

Jan 31-22

Assurance was given the members of the legislature which met in informal joint session early Monday afternoon, that the new capitol will be built within the appropriation of five millions. W. D. Hardy and W. H. Thompson, members of the commission that has the building in charge, said so. They say that building costs are 60 per cent of what they were during the peak price period, and if interior decorating and some floor filling work is postponed, the cost will not exceed the appropriation.

The answer was given in response to a question by Representative Byrum, who said that this assurance would quiet most of the criticism against going ahead now. The bill re-appropriating the lapsed part of the fund raised by taxation the first two years of the levy comes up in the house Tuesday morning.

Mr. Hardy said that the policy of that body had been a waiting, waiting until building costs had come down and until enough money had accumulated in the treasury to make it unnecessary to go into debt at any time during the process of construction. They had figured on three and a half millions on hand by 1922. The best information now is that costs are down 40 per cent.

When the plans were decided on the architects estimated the cost would be \$1 a cubic foot of space. The finest dome plan submitted called for 15 million cubic feet. The Goodhue plan called for a building with 7.1-2 million cubic feet, measured from the water table up. The finished building, including vaultage and basement, will total 9 million cubic feet, which is less than in any other of the large capitol buildings of the country. It can be built now for 60 cents a cubic foot, or a total of \$5,400,000.

Mr. Hardy said that the commission could leave out the decorating and frescoing and could postpone the laying of the \$600,000 worth of glazed tile planned for the main corridors, legislative halls and supreme court rooms. He was assured that the building could be constructed within the appropriation if interior decorations were omitted now, not being necessary to occupancy.

He believed that the time had come

for the United States to begin building monuments. This would be a monument to the state, and one that the people would be proud of. It will be the best and finest of its kind in the United States, absolutely different in type. It ought to be more than a mere office building. Dome capitol's waste space. In the Minnesota building 40 per cent of the office space is wasted because of the dome space, and in Missouri 60 per cent. In the tower plan for Nebraska only 15 per cent is thus wasted. Here every office will have daylight illumination. Answering criticism of the tower feature Mr. Williams said that every bit of it would be usable and explained that the uses planned. He suggested that the cost of elevator service could be met by a ten cent charge to sightseers.

The commission had spent \$150,000 to date. One expense incurred he did not like. It cost \$30,000 to hold a competition among architects. The ordinary business man would have gone out and picked an architect without a competition. But it was soon evident, he said, that a selection could not be made in that way by a public commission. He felt sure that the state would not have got this type of building under any other way. There had also been criticism of the payment of \$25,000 a year to the architect. The contract calls for five years, and engineering. The consulting architect thinks this will save \$50,000 on the ordinary 6 per cent commission to architects. If it proves that it will cost more, the commission has an alternative contract by which payment will be limited to 6 per cent on the total cost.

Mr. Hardy said he had defended the size of the salary by saying that Caruso came to Omaha not long ago and sang half a dozen songs for which he was paid \$12,000. Nebraska has a number of singers who would have sung the same songs for \$500. The question is, do we want a Caruso architect or the other kind?

W. H. Thompson, another member of the commission, said the new building would cover twice as much ground as the present building, and \$400,000 in rents will be saved because the new one will be built around the present capitol.

Answering a question of Mr. Byrum, Mr. Thompson said that every member of the commission knew that it could let no contracts that called for payment of more money than had been appropriated, and that its intention was to see that the cost would be kept within the appropriation. The commission would let separate contracts for foundation, superstructure, heating and plumbing, and will provide itself with careful estimates in connection with possible costs.

336.45

Feb

#23

2/9/22

NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL

2-9-22

PORTING COMPANY;

76 WILLIAM STREET,

NEW YORK, N. Y.

# OLD CORNERSTONE REMOVED

SEALED BOX OF COPPER TO BE OPENED TUESDAY.

Governor's Secretary Reports That He Shook the Box and Heard No Gurgling Sound

10-31

The corner stone of the state house was removed Monday afternoon and the copper box within it was taken to Governor McKelvie's office where it will be unsealed Tuesday forenoon at half past 10 o'clock. The box is 4x8x12 inches and with its contents weighs ten pounds.

Secretary L. W. Horne of the governor's office shook the box violently and placed his ear to it. He could hear no sound resembling a gurgle, and decided that the person who started the rumor that T. P. Quick slipped a bottle into the box before it was sealed in 1884 must have been joking.

The old corner stone contained a hollow space the size of the box. The box rested upon a level stone and the corner stone had been placed on top of it with the hollow space over the box. The copper has turned a very dark color and a portion of the lower side of the box is grey with cement or mortar that had run into the cavity of the stone when the stone was laid.

The old stone after being removed from its place in the wall was removed fifteen feet north of the building and rests upon the ground. It will be laid by the side of the new corner stone November 11. The new stone has not yet arrived in Lincoln.

It is finished and supposed to be transported by rail. Two cars of Bedford limestone for the exterior walls of the new capitol arrived Monday. This stone is dressed on one side as if cut by a fine saw and then smoothed with sandpaper.

Ernest M. Fairfield, secretary of the board of control, who examined the sealed box from the old corner stone Monday said he had seen the state house that was torn down to make room for the present building and had seen work start on the pres-

# FEAR OLD CAPITOL MAY TOPPLE DOWN

Widening of Crack in Basement Floor Under Defective Walls Excites State Officials and Employees.

9-26-22

The widening of an old crack in the cement floor of the carpenter shop in the old state house basement created some excitement among occupants of the building Tuesday. The crack, that has widened in the southeast corner of the building directly under the office of State Superintendent J. M. Matzen and directly beneath the defective south and east walls. These walls sank many years ago and a big crack extends from the ground to the top of the building, two stories high. The floors and ceilings of the offices and representative hall were propped up with bridge timbers years ago at the urgent request of legislators who feared the walls might tumble outward and left floors and roof down upon their heads.

State Superintendent Matzen stays as little in his office as possible, but inspects schools and attends fall county teachers' institutes. He is a candidate for reelection on the non-political ballot. His assistants who do not travel in the line of their duties remain in the office in spite of the condition of the walls.

Dynamite was exploded Monday at the east side of the excavation for the first section of the state house. It was used in holes which are being bored for cement piers which will support steps leading to the terrace. The concussion is supposed to have widened the crack in the cement floor of the old building. This floor is adjoining the excavation for the new building. Only about ten feet of earth

supporting the old building stands between the new excavation and the basement of the old building. State Engineer George E. Johnson has from the first tried to allay fears of state officials and employees. He said there is no danger of the old building falling into the new excavation, but every new crack renews their fears.

## A Clean Capitol.

PLATTSMOUTH, Neb., Dec. 6.—To the Editor of the State Journal: In your Journal I have read from time to time of the proceedings of the capitol commission, the choice of the architect, the preparation of the plans, the cost of same, the excavations now under way, etc., so that I have a general idea of what has been done and is being done and projected. Recently, at two different times, I have heard our governor assailed and arraigned as an incompetent and despoiler. "Look at the capitol graft," they have said. The gentleman chosen as local chairman of the new party invited me to serve as delegate from this city to the state meeting. I had formerly been a progressive, but voted republican the last election, and when I told him I was reasonably well satisfied with the executive records, both state and national at the present time, and could not take much interest in a third party, that precipitated a broadside that was absurd in the extreme. He went as far as to assert that the architect chosen was to receive \$250,000,000 (perhaps he meant thousands). When I asked him where he got his figures he said that he read it in the Omaha News. Of course he was wandering far. It was my pleasure to quote him some figures from memory which showed him how ridiculous he was. Another instance of like nature, with a member of my wife's family, leads me to wonder how widespread is this gospel of misinformation that seems to be abroad in the land.

Is this misrepresentation of facts designed to "get" someone? McKelvie, no doubt. Is it possible that such absurd untruths can gain serious consideration among many voters of intelligence and affect elections thereby? Are we as voters as a whole to decide that all our troubles are to be heaped on the heads of the administration and seek relief in a new regime of hair-raising, loud-shouting, air-pawing savers of the nation? It hardly seems sensible to think so.

And now to quickly come to the point. I think your publication can serve its readers and the state well if you will outline the whole capitol proceedings to date, briefly covering these points: The legislative authority for a new capitol, the choice and personnel of the commission (of course the governor is not the whole works), the method of choosing plans and architect, his stipend and total payment, the wisdom of the preliminary work that has been done and what it has been, the estimated cost of the structure, the funds now available, the percentage of the total tax levy in the capitol building levy, etc. Personally, I would like to have this information in such form that I could refresh my memory and combat the foolish statements of some of my friends in a wise manner and be sure of my figures.

I think I will be willing to pay for a republication locally of these truths in order that this project, which I believe to be the most worthy and free from graft that has ever been undertaken in this state, may not be used as a basis of slanderous and untruthful campaign argument. I am not entirely pleased with McKelvie, but I do think it has been fortunate for the state that he has been our governor while this capitol business was forming.

I thank you for the clean pages of your paper. It is a pity there are a few publications so well edited. Respectfully,  
H. H. COTTON.

ent building and hoped to see the third capitol finished.

# STARTS WORK UPON WALLS

J. H. WEISE OF OMAHA TO LAY CAPITOL BASE COURSE.

Granite Stone and Steel Frame Work for Floors First Work Upon Superstructure of First

Section.

J. H. Weise of Omaha, general contractor on the first section of the superstructure of the new capitol, commenced work Thursday. While there is no stone or steel on the ground the contractor will be able to do some preliminary work. He must first prepare for the laying of the base course of granite and begin laying the floor system. The frame work of the floor is to be of steel. The granite is to be laid directly on top of the present cement foundation walls. The outer walls are 436-436 feet. Mortar is the only material that is to be placed between the concrete and the granite. The granite is rough dressed and will comprise blocks probably three feet thick. Upon this course the walls of the superstructure are to be laid. The outer stone is to be buff Bedford line stone.

W. J. Assenmacher of Lincoln, contractor who is putting in the foundation for section one, has not completed his work but will be able to keep ahead of the workmen who will be employed upon the superstructure. The foundation was commenced April 25 and was to be completed in seven months.

The contractor will commence work at the northwest corner of the building and work eastward around the entire excavation. The corner stone is to be laid at the point of commencement. The ceremonies are to be conducted November 11, armistice day, by the capitol commission, assisted by soldier and other organizations. General John J. Pershing has promised to attend and participate if it is possible for him to be present.

336. A-5  
A26

#24

Feb 17, 1922

## STATE MIGHT BE TO BLAME

### POSSIBILITY OF DAMAGES FROM CAPITOL RAILROAD.

Assistant Attorney General Believes  
City Morally Responsible But  
State Will Probably  
Have to Pay.

Assistant Attorney General Mason Wheeler is investigating the legal aspects of the proposed H street line from the Burlington yards to the capitol grounds, a line that may be built for the purpose of transporting material for the new capitol and for the carrying away of earth excavated for the foundation. He is not prepared to give the results as found by him, before an opinion is prepared the matter will be laid before Attorney General Davis who is expected to return to Lincoln Saturday.

Mr. Wheeler finds it a perplexing problem. He does not believe property owners will be damaged, but it may depend upon how the cars for hauling material are operated. He finds that courts generally hold that no damages can be claimed where a street railway is laid in front of city property, but that damages do accrue from the construction of elevated railways in New York. Some courts have held that damages accrue where steam cars are operated and some have held they do not. Whether the cars on the proposed H street line are to be operated by gasoline, oil or steam is not positively announced.

If damages are caused who is to pay? Mr. Wheeler believes the city of Lincoln is morally responsible, but he knows of no way it can pay. It is almost a certainty that the state will be responsible for the laying of the track. The state may employ the Burlington to construct the track, but the state will in all probability be held liable for any damages done to property along the street.

It is Mr. Wheeler's view that the state may acquire what is known in law as the servitude of property owners. The owners might enjoin the building of the track, but he does not believe the courts will stop the construction of public necessity. The courts might find that the property owners are entitled to peace and quiet and that they might be required to permit the maintenance of a so-called nuisance in return for a contract on the part of the state to pay damages.

If the state can save enough on the cost of hauling material for the capitol it might afford to pay some damages and yet do the hauling by rail cheaper than by trucks. Some have estimated the saving at \$200,000.

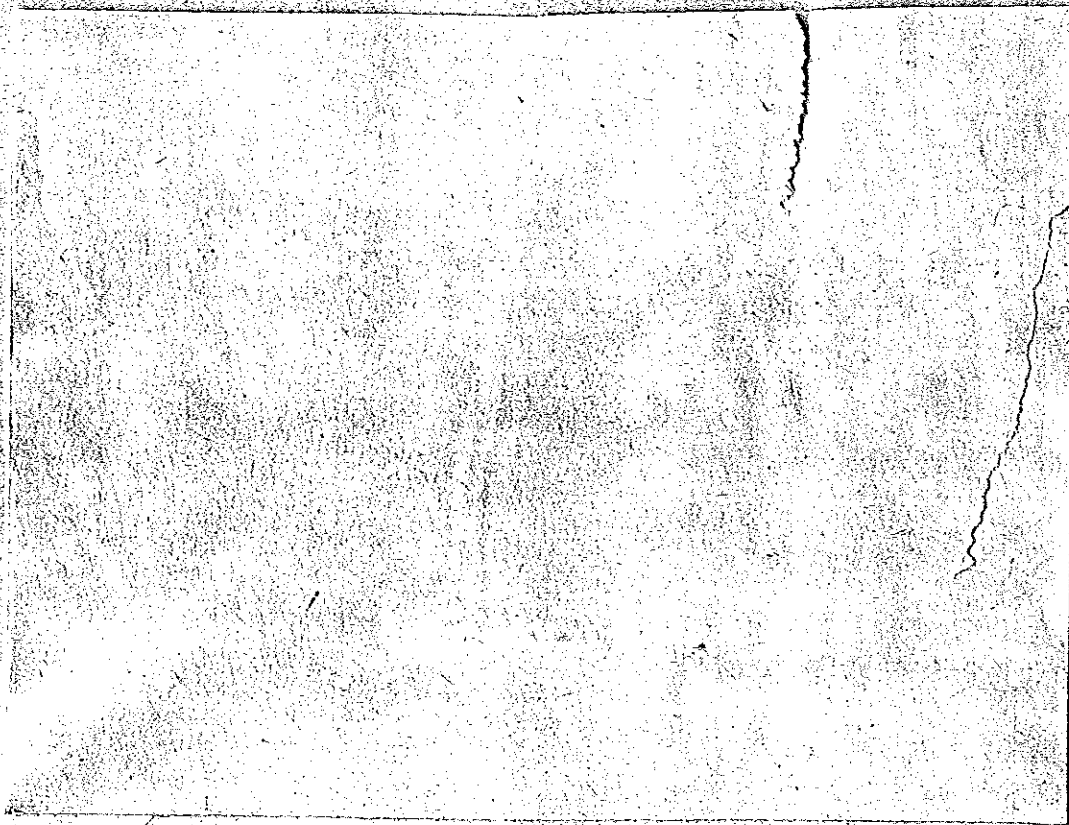
In what way damages shall be paid if any become due to property owners has not been determined. Some contend that in the end all claims must await the action of future legislatures. A shorter way may yet be found. The right of the capitol commission to incur liabilities on behalf of the state is another question that is being discussed. The commission has power under the law to obtain plans and build a capitol. If the building of a transportation line is one of the necessary elements in the construction the commission may have a right to build the line and incur liability in the name of the state, and may possibly pay damages out of the capitol fund. The assistant attorney general has not given his views on these questions.

336.45

Feb,

#25

4-12-22



# CAPITOL BIDS ARE OPENED

Assenmacher of Lincoln Lowest on Foundation.

COST TO BE LESS THAN \$230,000

Seven Out of Twelve Bidders Are Nebraskans.

Contract Covers Only the Excavation and Foundation of Concrete for the Outer Walls of Proposed Capitol.

At 2:30 the commission awarded the contract to Mr. Assenmacher who agreed to have half the work done in four months and half in six and one-half months from today.

Out of twelve bids received by the capitol commission Wednesday at 11 o'clock on the outer foundation walls of the proposed capitol W. J. Assenmacher Co. of Lincoln was the lowest. Assenmacher agrees to do the work for \$229,773. He is prepared to commence work within ten days and complete the foundation within seven months.

The commission has been counting on having the work done within a shorter period, in five months if possible, and an adjournment was taken until 1:30 p. m. to confer with Mr. Assenmacher on this question.

"For anything we know," said Governor McKelvie, chairman of the commission, "Mr. Assenmacher will qualify as the lowest bidder."

The commission took an adjournment after having conferred with architect Jarrett of New York who drew the plans for the foundation. The adjournment was taken for the purpose of a personal conference with Mr. Assenmacher in regard to the time limit for completing the work bid upon.

## Bids Open

Out of twelve bids seven were filed by Nebraska firms. The bids were opened in the senate chamber by three members of the capitol commission, Governor McKelvie, Walter Head of Omaha and George E. Johnson, head of the state department of public works. The bidders and their representatives and state officials and employes filled every seat in the senate chamber. Moving pictures of the scene were taken. The bids were as follows:

- Charles R. Gow, Boston, \$252,840.
- Western Bridge & Construction company, Omaha, \$357,000.
- Olson Construction company, Lincoln, \$238,500.
- James W. Black Masonry & Construction Co., St. Louis, \$292,000.
- Owings Construction Co., Atchison, \$260,000.
- Peter Kiewit Sons, Omaha, \$239,000.
- Ernest Rokahr & Sons, Lincoln, \$272,000.
- Bates & Rogers Construction Co., Chicago, \$276,000.
- W. J. Assenmacher Co., Lincoln, \$229,773.
- A. M. Hoolan, St. Louis, \$307,000.
- Jones Engineering & Construction Co., Omaha, \$255,000.
- Allied Contractors, Omaha, W. L. Cleary, manager, \$241,500.

The Jones Engineering company of Omaha sent a contractors bond instead of the certified check as required.

# CAPITOL BIDS ARE OPENED

(Continued From Page One.)

chamber to compare notes. C. J. Olson of Lincoln, said he did not care for the contract at the price named by the lowest bidder. The difference between the lowest and the highest was \$128,000, was considered evidence that some of the bidders must be far off in their estimates. One contractor said he desired a good margin of profit because some unforeseen obstacle, such as a cave-in of earth or the striking of quick sand, would cause a loss.

One contractor said he figured on 10,500 cubic yards of concrete, 68,000 cubic yards of earth to be moved, 300,000 brick for lining the outer foundation surfaces and 65,000 feet of asphalt covering.

Mr. Assenmacher said he could commence work in ten days and finish in seven months. He plans to sublet excavating and piling, but that he would do the concrete work.

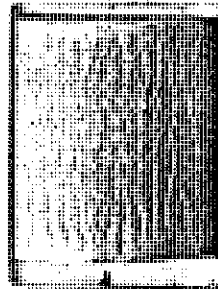
The successful bidder will be required to give bond for the full amount of the contract price. Harry Byrne of Omaha was on hand to furnish the required bond.

The plans and specifications call for 58,380 cubic yards of excavation. The foundation to be built at this time for only the outer walls of the capitol. Nothing covered by the present capitol is to be disturbed under this contract. The present work forms only about half the cost of the total cost of foundations for the new capitol. In area this foundation will form 75 per cent of the entire foundation. The present contract calls for a foundation for the outer walls of the contemplated structure, which is 400 feet square. Bids on the foundation for the dome and the connections between the wings and the tower and under the tower will probably be called for by the capitol commission next June.

The four large courts, nearly 100 feet square, will not be excavated because there is to be no basement under the courts.

The top of the basement wall will be five feet below the surface of the

present grounds surrounding the building. For concrete piers holes or walls from 25 to 55 feet will be excavated, the average depth being about 27 feet to sandstone. The piers will contain 118,420 cubic feet of concrete and the walls 164,780 feet. There are to be 230 concrete piling under the four entrances to the capitol and 144 tons of reinforcing steel is to be used. The total area of the foundation work is 195,000 square



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A. M. Hoolan, St. Louis, \$307,000.  
Jones Engineering & Construction Co., Omaha, \$255,000.  
Allied Contractors, Omaha, W. L. Cleary, manager, \$241,500.

The Jones Engineering company of Omaha sent a contractors bond instead of a certified check covering 10 per cent of the contract and it was announced the bid did not comply with the requirements of the commission.

Bates & Rogers of Chicago sent a letter accompanying their bid stating that if cassion work in earth or stone is required the price for excavating would be higher, the figures being given in the letter.

The commission retired to the governor's office to consider the matter of making an award.

After the bids were opened the many bidders remained in the senate

## CAPITOL BIDS ARE OPENED

(Continued From Page One.)

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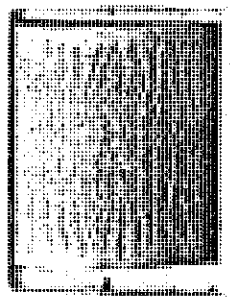
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The top of the basement wall will be five feet below the surface of the

present grounds surrounding the building. For concrete piers holes or walls from 25 to 55 feet will be excavated, the average depth being about 27 feet to sandstone.

The piers will contain 118,420 cubic feet of concrete and the walls 164,780 feet. There are to be 230 concrete piling under the four entrances to the capitol and 144 tons of reinforcing steel is to be used. The total area of the foundation work is 195,000 square



336.45

Feb

#26

5-3-22

# REGULATION ONE DAY LATE

## BUT CITY COUNCIL PROBABLY WILL GIVE BLESSING

Secretary Johnson, on Behalf of  
Capitol Commission, Files List  
of Rules Over New  
Railroad.

5-3-22

Rules and regulations governing conduct of operatives and employes of the Capitol Short Haul or "Haitch" street railroad, became effective May 1. On the day following, Secretary Johnson, on behalf of the capitol commission, filed a copy with the council. Under the agreement between council and state, the former shall o. k. any and all such rules which have a bearing on public safety. While lawmakers may recognize the cart as coming before the horse, they are expected to ratify at some convenient time.

Use of intoxicants by employes of the state's transportation system is forbidden. At least during business hours. They are not required to abstain when not on duty.

If it becomes necessary for the motorman to leave his engine, he shall see that the cab is securely locked. The reason given is to prevent outsiders from attempting to start the locomotive. Possibly this provision has in mind certain "H" street citizens who opposed locating the railroad in front of their porch swings. This regulation will prevent any such citizen from running the valuable locomotive into the sand hills or off in

the general direction of Mexico. The communication filed with the council carries the following title:

"Rules and regulations governing operation of locomotive and trains on "H" street and around the capitol grounds, which are effective May 1."

The rules are subject to change or amendment from time to time by the proper authorities. The first rule is in the nature of the following general notice:

"Safety is of first importance. Obedience to these rules is essential to safety. To enter or remain in the service is an assurance of willingness to obey the rules!"

Under the heading "general rules," it is provided that accidents, detention of operation or interruption of power or defects in track or overhead, must be reported immediately. Some other rules:

The operator of the locomotive must exercise care to prevent damage to equipment. If it is necessary to leave the engine idle for one hour or more, the trolley shall be removed from the wire, the engine blocked and hand brake set. The same rules apply when leaving the locomotive set for the night. It shall be placed on level track.

Exhaustive rules pertaining to coupling of cars and switching, are set out. Burlington yard rules require that trains and engines move in the way known or seen to be clear.

Air must be coupled and working thru before entering the intersection at Seventh and H streets.

Cars shall be inspected before they are moved from the Burlington yards. This to make sure that brake apparatus and draw-bars are in good condition.

Trains will stop before entering the intersection of the Burlington tracks at H and Seventh streets.

Flagmen will precede trains over intersections at Tenth, Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth.

Trains will be stopped and flagged at the crossings of the traction company at Tenth and Fourteenth streets.



Ne b

NEW CAPITOL  
SECTION

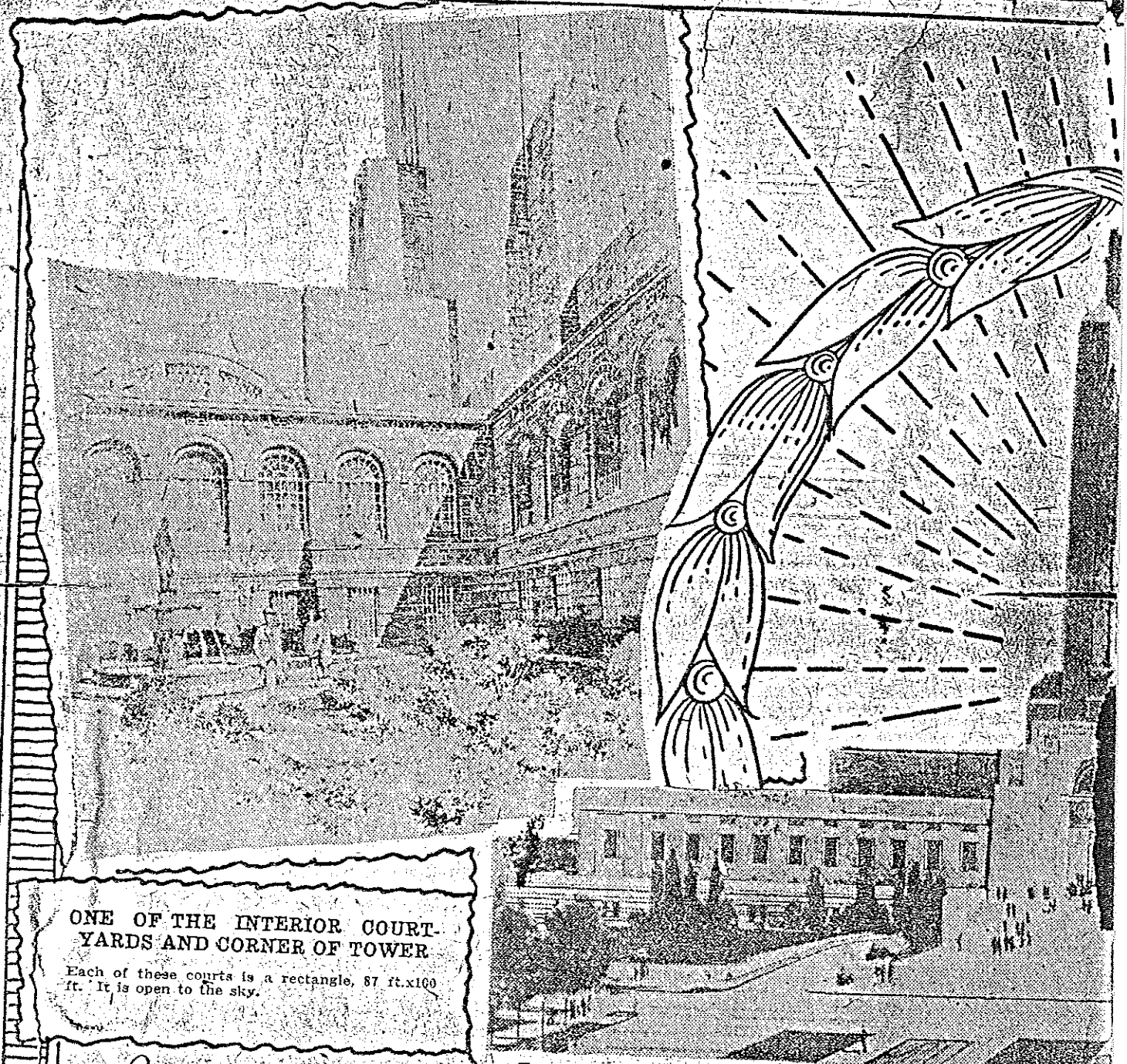
# THE LINCOLN

Nebraska's Daily

TWENTIETH YEAR

LINCOLN, NEB

## MAGNIFICENT NEW



ONE OF THE INTERIOR COURTYARDS AND CORNER OF TOWER

Each of these courts is a rectangle, 87 ft. x 160 ft. It is open to the sky.

NEBRASKA  
REFERENCE



THE NEW  
The building is in the form of an exact square of  
The greater part of the exterior

# SUNDAY STAR

Newspaper

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1922

SUNDAY

## VEBRASIKA CADIPING

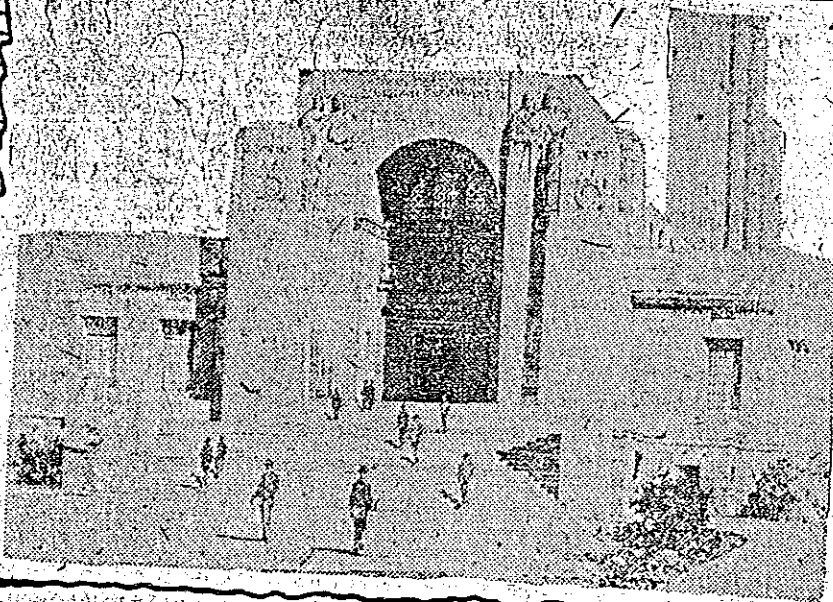


### SENATE CHAMBER

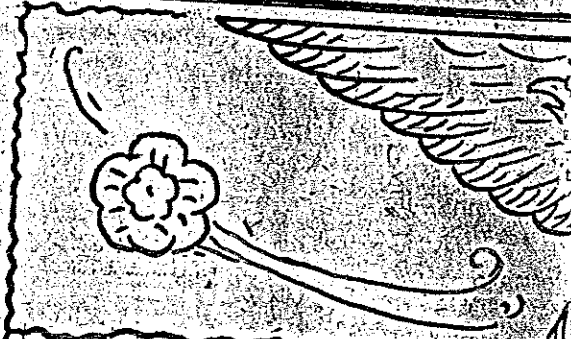
The walls here are of stone, though it is proposed to introduce in some places and also in the ceiling a different material of more abundant power for the sake of an acoustic effect. The structure is timber, which have taken the form of a pyramid shape, to be covered with wood and colored life. Because the position that stands around the entire space is a balcony separated from the Senate Chamber proper by screens on three sides and with similar openings to the fourth.



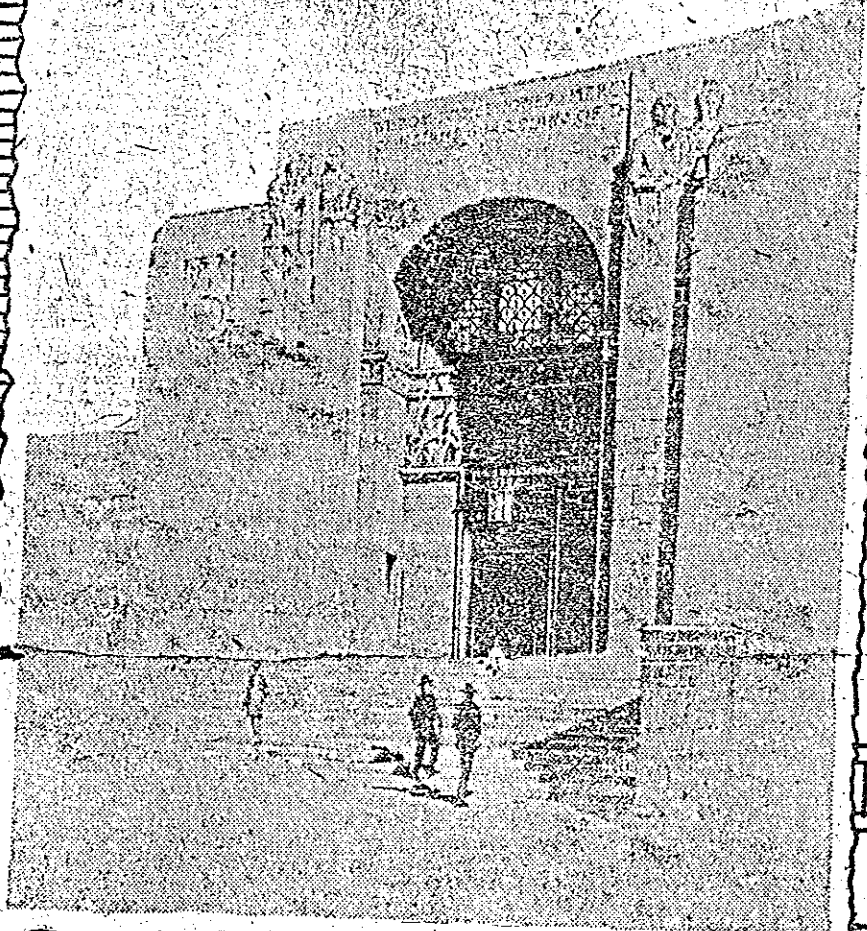
The building is in the form of an exact square, but the greater part of the exterior is rather low at the centre of each side by a somewhat higher shaped structure from the centre of which it is grounded to the top of its height on the dome. This office and every room in the building receives abundant light wells.



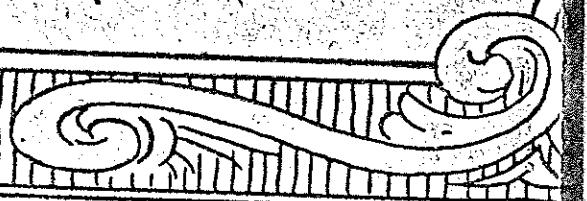
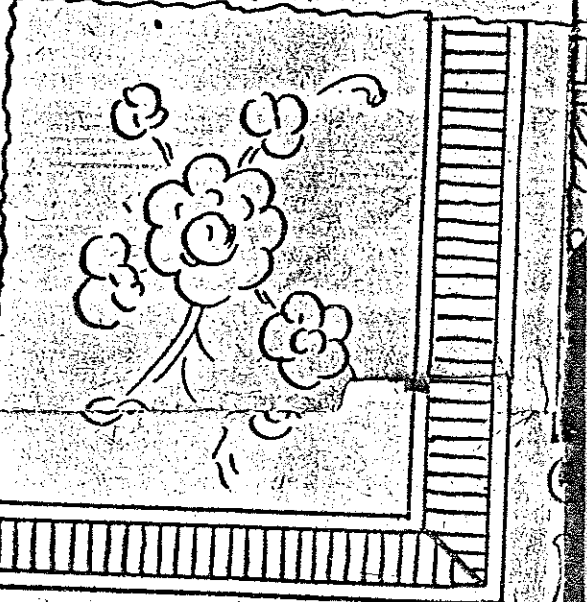
**MAIN FRONT OF BUILDING FROM FIFTEENTH ST.**  
The great archway is 25 ft. wide by 50 ft. high. Above the doorway is a panel 10 ft. high, relief symbolizing the coming of the pioneers. Above this panel is one of the three semicircular and gridded windows that admit light to the vestibule. On either side this arch is buttressed by pylons on the two outermost of which are two low relief panels, one of the arms of the United States and the other the arms of the State of Nebraska.



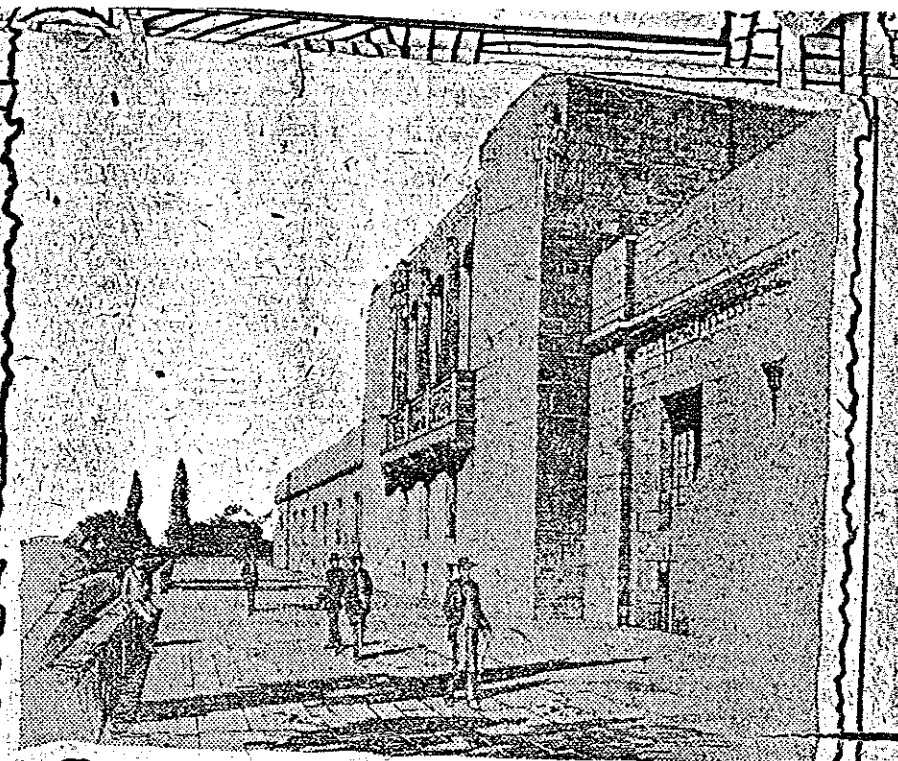
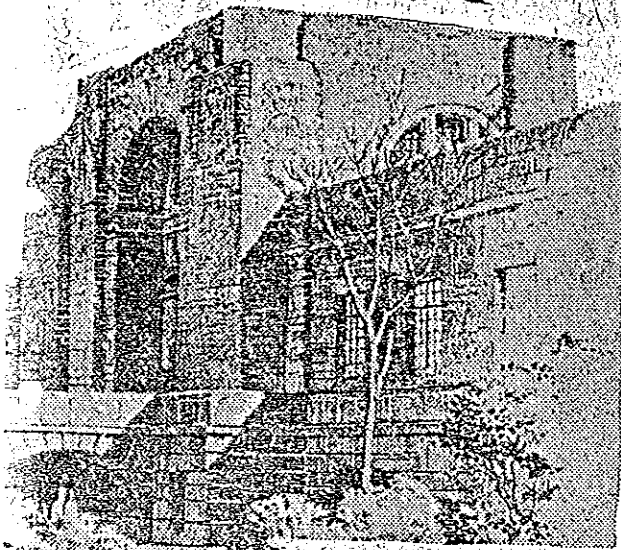
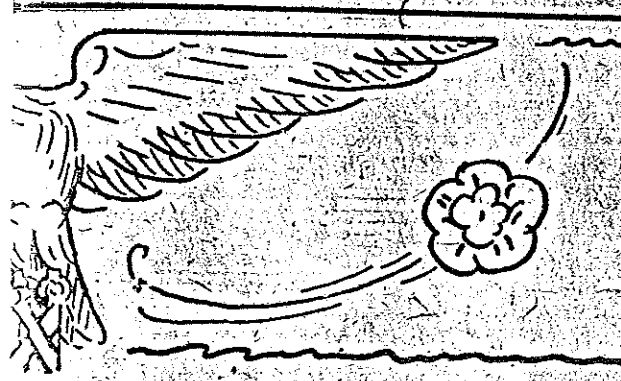
**ANOTHER VIEW OF MAIN ENTRANCE, SHOWING COVERED AUTO ENTRANCE.**



**"CLOSE UP" OF MAIN ENTRANCE.**

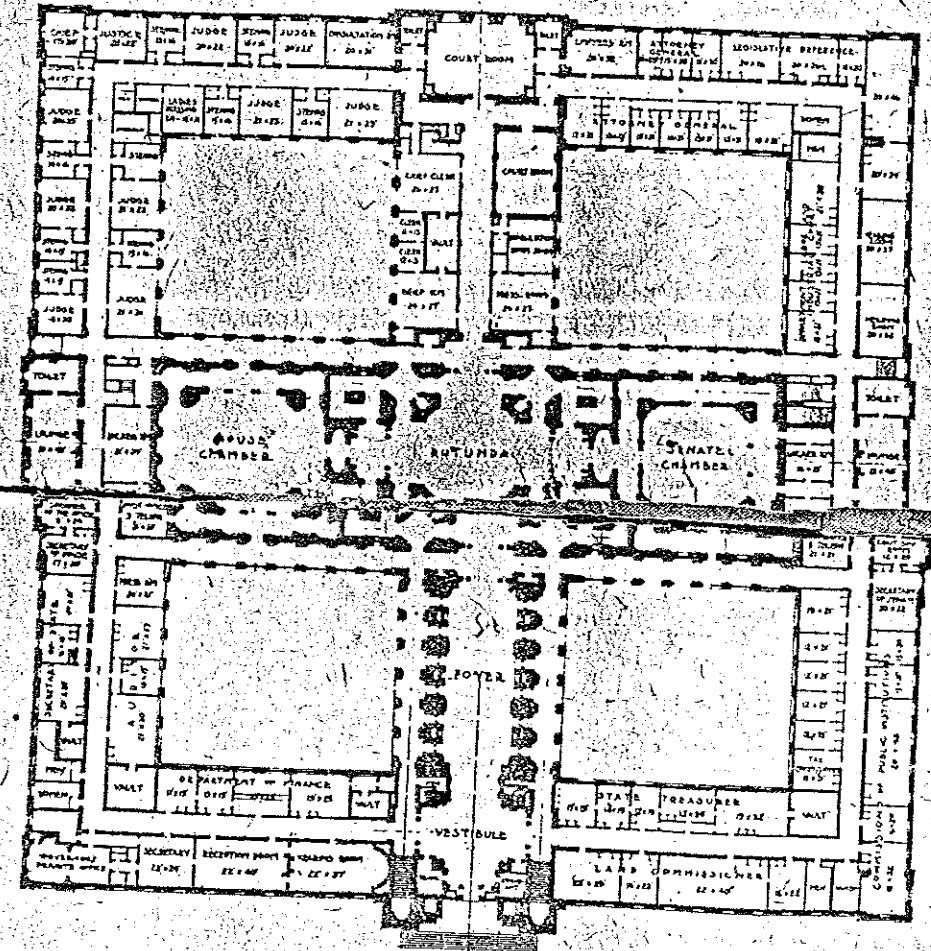
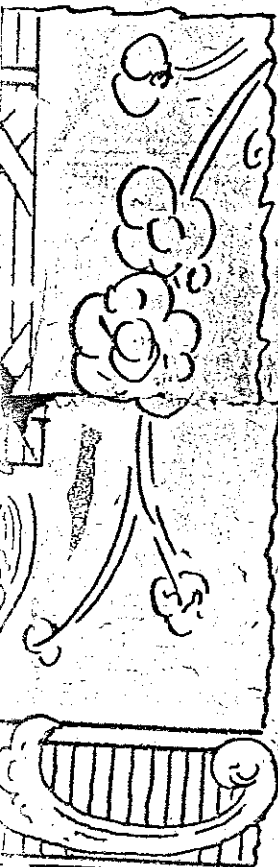


...the four courts contained within this area, every  
...light and this without the aid of skylights and



**LOOKING ALONG SOUTH FRONT FROM TERRACE**

This terrace is 20 ft. wide and extends completely around the building, giving access to the second or main floor. Within the central mass is the Supreme Court Room and on the floor above the reading room of the Law Library. The three-quarter length figures that occur between the windows and at the corners of the pylons represent the following outstanding law-givers: Minos, Hammurabi, Moses, Amenophis, Solon, Solomon, Caesar, Justinian, Charlemagne, Napoleon.



...of 8.00  
...of 8.00  
...of 8.00

Capital Was  
Issue for  
These Governors

# STATEHOOD!

## Scant 100-Vote Margin For the New Constitution

In the attic of Capt. William Donovan's house in Lancaster village 3 men literally sweat over their deliberations. It was July 29, 1867. And it was hot.

Anxious residents clustered in the shade of the Donovan home. They talked quietly, glancing anxiously toward the attic where the fate of Lancaster was being decided. The decision of these 3 men would either make of Lancaster the state capital or continue it as a mere county seat.

### The Platte Dividing Line

The epic of the attic was the last act in a serialized drama of many years. The first act opened in 1854 with the death of Nebraska Territory's first governor.

Francis Burt, 47-year-old South Carolina Democrat and editor, had arrived a sick man in Bellevue, near Omaha. With his appointment by Democratic President Franklin Pierce he carried the power to pick a temporary territorial capital.

Although Burt was put to bed in the Bellevue mission house the very October day he arrived, delegations from Omaha, Florence, Plattsmouth, Nebraska City and Bellevue pushed their way to his bedside, each to plead its case for designation as the capital.

Burt did take his oath as governor, but he died two days later and executive power passed to the territorial secretary of state, Thomas B. Cuming of Keokuk, Ia.

Cuming quickly picked Omaha as the temporary seat of government and set about to fortify his capital selection by apportioning the first Territorial Legislature so that the area north of the Platte, including Omaha, had more legislators and votes than the area south of the Platte.

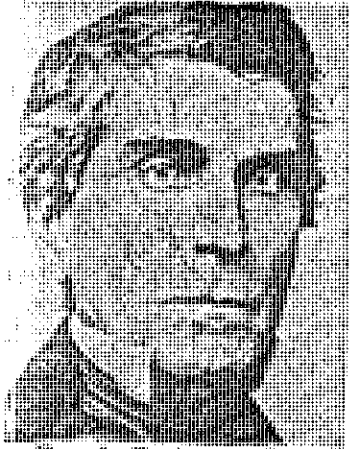
For the next 13 years, the Territorial Legislature engaged in a bitter quarrel over the apportionment of legislators between the counties north and south of the Platte. At stake in this struggle over who should have how many legislators from where were many issues including relocation of the territorial capital. On infrequent occasions delegations deserted their geographic camps. This happened in 1857 when legislators from Bellevue (north of the Platte), still smarting from their 1854 loss of the territorial capital to Omaha, joined with representatives from south of the Platte to pass a bill locating the territorial capital "in the town of Douglas in Lancaster County."

While it did not bother the anti-Omaha camp that there was no Douglas in scarcely-settled Lancaster County, it did bother the third territorial governor, Mark W. Izard, who had replaced Cuming. Izard vetoed the bill, pointing out that the town of Douglas was little more than a figment of legislative imagination.

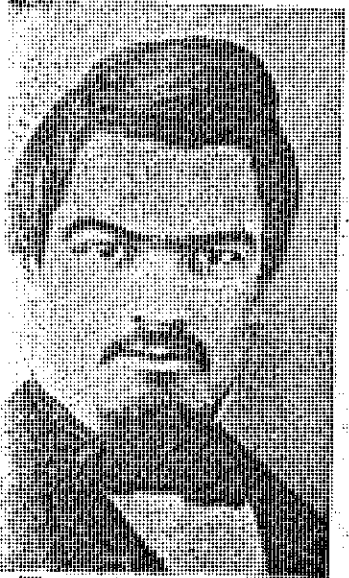
Ironically, the South Platte-Bellevue legislators had chosen to name their fantasy town after famed Illinois Democratic Sen. Stephen A. Douglas, historic debate opponent of Abraham Lincoln. Within a decade Lincoln's name rather than Douglas' was to be given the real Capital City of Nebraska.

The Civil War brought an armistice during the early 1860's in the battle over the capital, which remained at Omaha, then the territory's largest town.

Cessation of capital hostilities during wartime hostilities was fortunate for Lancaster. Had it not been for the several-year lull, the town site in the basin probably would not have stood a chance. The capital removers undoubtedly would have brought the fight to a climax, and Lancaster



Francis Burt . . . death intervened.



Thomas B. Cuming . . . he chose Omaha.

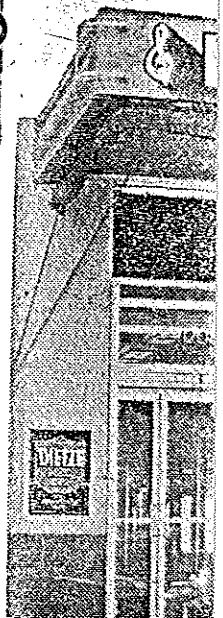
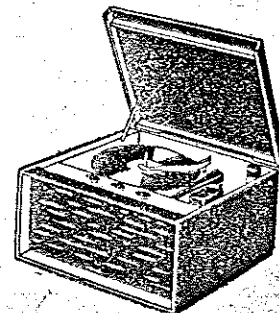
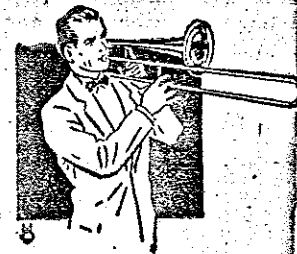
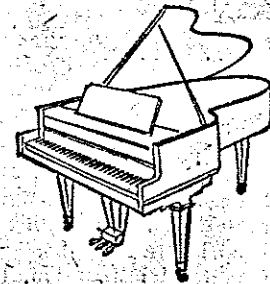


Mark W. Izard . . . vetoed Douglas' as site of legislative imag-



A scene in Nebraska's Terri

# Rep





A scene in Nebraska's Territorial Legislature . . . as illustrated in "The Story of Omaha" by Alfred Sorenson.

# Reputation . . .

## A REWARD

and

## A RESPONSIBILITY



# Nebraska's New \$5,000,000 State Capitol

BY E. E. WOLFE

the world's largest dollar capitol of constructive type of a twenty-story building, designed by one of the world's foremost architects.

is to be the display room for historical exhibits, relics and other articles of public interest.

Somewhere in the capitol—perhaps on the main floor, but possibly in the memorial chamber—will be an imposing marble slab engraved with the names of Nebraska soldiers, sailors and marines who gave up their lives in the service of their country during the world war. This is provided for by the legislature in 1919, appropriating \$100,000 for its construction.

While neither chamber fronts on the outside, or directly fronts an interior court, both are well lighted because they extend up through the height of another story, seen from the outside as a ridge on top of the main building running east and west through the central tower.

Committee rooms for the senate and house are located on the ground floor, conveniently reached by stairways. There are also some rooms on the main floor which might be utilized for senate committees, but for house use.

large open inside courts on this floor.

Public rest rooms and toilets, both sexes will be scattered through the building on both floors.

Ample Space for Library.

For the famous state library of Nebraska, whose contents are valued at more than half a million dollars, spacious quarters have been set aside in the south middle part of the building, on the third floor, which corresponds to the upper portion of the foyer in the north section. A big reading room on the south side proper will have four

Nebraska's vast extending 25 to 30 miles in every direction. From a real life farming reservation, dotted with red cities and towns, distant points, the tower will stand as a symbol of Nebraska's present and future. The tower is also a landmark in the form of a monument. The tower is also a landmark in the form of a monument.

**Entrances**  
The main entrance will be on the fifteenth street, which may be renamed as Pershing avenue. This doorway, admitting to the vestibule and foyer on the main or second floor will be reached by a broad flight of steps. Other public entrances will be provided on the east and west.

Automobiles will approach the capitol from the north, driving up on one side of the broad walk, passing under the steps to the main entrance, and departing on the other side, their path being in the shape of a horseshoe. An entrance will be provided on the ground floor for automobile passengers.

The south side will be reserved for deliveries of freight, express and general supplies. There a driveway will slope down to the level of the basement floor. There will be no pedestrian entrance on this side and no driveways east and west of the building.

Approaching the north entrance an arch indentation 50 feet high and half as broad—one will see a group of classic art figures, in sculpture or relief, above and to either side of the doors. The inscription "Wisdom, Justice, Power, Mercy, Constant Guardians of the Law," will be chiseled overhead and giant busts of these characters, rising out of the solid masonry, will flank it.

A bas-relief group showing "Migration of the Pioneers" will be placed just over the doors.

**Historical and Biblical Figures**

The history of all ages, and especially old testament scriptures, will contribute to the architectural enrichment of the structure on each of its exterior faces and on the corners and base of the tower.

Over a second floor balcony in the middle of the south side there will be three panels in bas-relief, typifying these important events in the progress of the Anglo-Saxon race:

1. The Declaration of Independence.
2. King John signing the Magna Charta.
3. Adoption of the American Constitution.

Twelve other bas-relief panels will be placed over corner pavilions around the building, illustrative of ancient, medieval and modern events connected with the development of popular government. Among these will be: The Roman senate; the doge and the council of Venice; meeting of the French etats general, preceding the revolution; and William Penn negotiating with American Indians.

At the east entrance, above high arched windows, bas-relief friezes will depict the proclamation of the law of the land with

other courtroom, 25 by 33, is separated from it by a transverse hallway. Consultation rooms, adjoint both, while nearby offices and work rooms are provided for ten judges and their stenographers. The supreme court clerk's office is also conveniently located.

**Elegant Suite for Governor**

Apartments designed for the governor occupy a space 143 feet long, varying in width from 22 to 41 feet, on the north front of the building and east of the main entrance. The governor's own private office is at the northeast corner, 16 by 35 feet in size. Next to it is his secretary's office and employees' workroom, 24 by 22; then the reception room, 24 by 41, and a hearing room, 24 by 38.

Particular attention has been given to the interior details of this suite, which will be of extreme elegance. The lower part of the wall to a height of 8 feet or more will be hardwood panels, and above these, walls and gracefully arched ceiling will be decorated with elaborate paintings.

The attorney general's office room will connect with the judiciary section of the main floor. The legislative reference bureau gets space on the south front, next to the attorney general. Other constitutional executive offices on the same floor will be those of the secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, and land commissioner. The code department of finance will occupy a suite across the hall from the governor.

Quarters for the railway commission, the state superintendent, and most of the code departments will be on the ground floor just below where state laboratories, a large cafeteria, a restaurant, kitchen, and pantry will also be located. The

central corridor, 25 by 33, is separated from it by a transverse hallway. Consultation rooms, adjoint both, while nearby offices and work rooms are provided for ten judges and their stenographers. The supreme court clerk's office is also conveniently located.

There will be small elevators, dumb waiters to books back and forth between stack rooms and the library, stories near the top of the tower each nineteen feet in height, will be used for office purposes until the library needs them, which will probably not be for the next forty or fifty years.

All parts of the building will be connected with a vacuum cleaning system, and dirt will be automatically conveyed through pipes to basement.

**Modern Elevator Service**

Four passenger elevators, in the corners of the tower, operate at high speed. When these are needed, two will carry passengers from the lower floor to the Memorial hall at the summit of the tower and back. One will carry office rooms in the tower, and fourth will be for the use of library patrons on the third floor.

There will also be a private elevator for the governor, operated electric push buttons, from his private office to the ground floor. A similar conveyance will connect the supreme court clerks' office with the state library.

Stairways will be rather plentiful, both on the lower floors and in the tower.

## New Capitol Fruit of Q of Those Who Plan

BY E. E. WOLFE.

The dreams of one generation become the realities of the next. All human progress during the ages since men forsook the trees and their primeval cave habitations and began living in houses built with hands has been achieved first by dreaming of better things and then working to achieve them.

beautifying the vicinity to harmonize with the new capitol is taken up.

Hindered by Removalists. In 1911 came the effort by certain elements in the legislature to remove the capitol from Lincoln growing out of the fact that this city had voted for prohibition locally before it was adopted by the state and nation. Liquor forces organized a movement in that direction, which enlisted quite a little support from communities where the people were led to believe that

# Exemplify Architectural Progress of World

## A Professional View of the Goodhue Plan for the Capitol

building will be heated by air passing through steam-pipe coils, and then forced electric fans into distributing Legislative chambers, committee rooms, and offices will be the system, which can be shut when the legislature is not in session. Another system will supply Governor's suite, the supreme courts, library, judges' and offices. In the summer, un-washed air will serve to cool interior temperature. Fans and air washers will be in a large room in the basement also, will be two big refrig-

CHICAGO, April 10.—I wonder if the good, hardy, progressive people of your commonwealth have any adequate realization of how fortunate they are in the outcome of the competitions, which at the same time gave them an architect and a basic design for their projected state capitol. I can hardly realize it myself. It almost seems as if one of my dreams has come true, or as near

Irving K. Pond of Chicago, who so strongly endorses the Goodhue plan for the Nebraska capitol, is an architect and author of wide reputation. His buildings are notable, his contributions to the literature of architecture are highly regarded, and his leadership in the profession is quite generally conceded. Mr. Pond has

put upon what Missouri has lost. I congratulate Nebraska upon choosing her architect for the great work and letting him strike out into the path of aesthetic freedom—yes even of abetting him in the move.

For that mid I may say this is not the first capitol without a dome. There are several examples of domeless capitols even in the United States. No dome covered the capitol of Rome in the high and palmy state; not even in the highest and

ing plants at a distance will be no heating plant on square, but steam will be from a distance, either from constructed by the state itself broad trackage, or by the Traction Co. from its plant state desires to contract with this will eliminate smoke and from the immediate vicinity capitol.

indation walls of the building, the tower; will be four feet at the base, narrowing to three at the top, of reinforced concrete. They will rest on piers of concrete, from four to six feet diameter, extending 18 to 30 feet down and supported in turn by Dakota sandstone underlying square. All columns on the above will be placed directly these piers.

to the great weight of the will have a solid concrete approximately 85 feet square, directly on the sandstone 20 feet below the basement. Piers 20 feet square will be in each corner, above this

Main Edifice 60 Feet High. walls of the capitol will an exterior height of about feet above surface at the central portion above the main roof will that part of the building 30 higher. structure will be as nearly as any erected by man. inflammable material of any will be used in the basement ground floor. All window will be of steel. Wooden and panelwork, and possibly will be utilized on the main all other construction ma-

with no tangible part of its creation. My direct connection with the project in its inception was in the relation I sustained as professional juror acting with Nebraska's broad-minded and far seeing capitol commission in the preliminary competition for the selection of three Nebraska architects to participate in the final competition.

In that preliminary competition one man had the courage to flout convention and the commonplace in his general scheme. Had he been equally bold or brave in the treatment of the architectural forms he would have set an exalted mark. However, as it was he let it be known to the jury that the last word had not yet been said in the matter of designing state capital buildings and opened their minds to the acceptance of a more adequate, though possibly unconventional, solution, should it come. It came and the capitol commission is to be congratulated upon recognizing and adopting it. The professional jury seems also to have recognized the merits of the design, but, knowing professional uries, I am inclined to attribute this rather to the interposition of a beneficent fate, than to the judicial workings of the technical mind.

I was pleased at the outcome of the final competition and so expressed myself to the governor to other members of the commission and to their professional adviser who has so ably conducted the competition. My sole disappointment in the

response to a request for his opinion on the manner in which Mr. Goodhue has developed his original theme.

results of the final competition lay in the seeming evidence that one whose mind grasped and solved so brilliantly the greater problem should have been fettered by the conventions of ancient architectural forms. But upon seeing the drawings you have so kindly sent to me, I realize that I feared foolishly and that the original competition drawings were under stress of time limitations or, as they may have been made, as a concession to a technical jury. Mr. Goodhue had no means of gauging the breadth of mind of the capitol commission as I had. In my work with them I found them quite amenable to the appeal of beauty and practicability, though clad in unconventional raiment.

Every step made in the process of developing the design to the present stage has been in the direction of breaking the shackles and freeing the spirit. Mr. Goodhue has been aided in this, very evidently, by the study he had put upon amore recent competition; a competition which, with all due respect to the counter pronouncement of a professional jury, I am of the firm opinion that he fairly won. However, Nebraska has not suffered but rather has gain immeasurably by the study

was a mortuary, then a religious expression; then an expression of ecclesiastical authority and domination. Lord only knows how it gained standing as an expression of civic authority in this country, where church and state are, let us hope, forever politically and governmentally divorced. The cupola as Mr. Goodhue has used it to crown his state house tower gives a sense of completion to the individual structure rather than a sense of dominating the surrounding community to the heights, not that it may crouch under the domination of authority but that it may luxuriate and expand in the sunlight and pure air of liberty under the law. If Nebraska ever regrets this proffered expression in architecture of her free and expanding spirit it will be when that spirit has degenerately succumbed to lower ideals—the which we hope will never be.

As a work of art embracing architectural, sculptural and mural expressions this structure should stand pre-eminent. In it the expressions are blender and stand unified—not as one manner clothing or embellishing another, but as a unified expression. Interior and exterior treatment is indicative of this. Simple, direct, diversified in unity, harmonious, rhythmic in its movement and color, this building should stand as a monumental expression of the highest in our democratic civilization.

material will be of fire-resistant quality.

White or cream-colored stone will be used in the building, but no selection of particular stone has been made as yet. Marble, granite

and limestone are available from various sources. The capitol commission will accept none that does not meet standard chemical and mechanical tests to insure its strength and durability.

Four Years to Complete Work of Construction

# Quarter of Century of Dreaming and Monument for State's Progress

named as the appointive member of the commission. Organizes. first meeting of the capitol commission took place on May 9, 1919. provided by the bill creating it, honor McKelvie assumed the position of chairman and Public Works secretary. Mr. Hardy was elected chairman. a subsequent meeting, on June 1919, the commission selected

Paul, Wisconsin at Madison and Missouri at Jefferson City. Some of the members had seen other state and national capitols during their previous travels.

Various details of architecture have been considered, by the commission and discussed with Mr. Goodhue from time to time, and the original plans have been changed in some particulars. The building design was finally adopted, was agreed upon at a meeting held by the commission with the architect in New

By these experiments, it was ascertained that the substrata underneath the site of the new capitol is amply strong enough to bear up the weight of the building with its 400-foot tower. Indeed, it would carry the tallest skyscraper in New York were it placed in the same location.

The capitol commission met on April 12 and opened bids for construction of the first foundation section, surrounding the present edifice. It awarded the contract to the lowest bidder, the W. J. Assenmacher Co. of Lincoln, for \$329,773. Ex-

Four years is the period of time estimated by members of the Nebraska capitol commission required to construct the new state building. They hope to have it completed and ready for occupancy, including the central tower, by the end of 1925. Allowing for contingencies which may arise to delay operations, the building will undoubtedly be finished by January 1, 1926.

In order that new quarters may be provided for the various governmental departments before the old edifice is vacated, the outer part of the new capitol will be erected first. This will leave the old state house



works and brings to this the distinction of originating an edifice which will attract from all parts of the world. Alhambra, of Spain, the of India, the Kremlin of Notre Dame, cathedral of St. Peter's, Westminster Abbey, and the world's great skyscrapers embody different ages, so the Nebraska capitol will be recognized as a creation which stands by itself. The design has received national and international attention among architects. Proportions are such as to meet anticipated needs of the state for a century to come. However, the expansion of activity would be more rapid than is anticipated, future requirements can be met by the erection of nearby buildings. The architectural of the capitol itself would not be additions to be made without losing its nobility of form.

### Elaborate Setting for Edifice

In connection with the capitol provisions are contemplated which will make harmonious surroundings for the seat of government. These include the widening of the street to the north from 100 feet to 200 feet and opening it to the east from O street to R, where the University of Nebraska will construct a building to the capitol, after extending its eastward.

A broad avenue more than half a mile long would thus be formed, lined with beautification along lines similar to those which have made the Champs Elysee of Paris a famous boulevard. At a midpoint on the avenue the future seat of Lincoln may be established and suitable buildings erected.

The street south of the capitol is already parked and improved to a considerable degree. The city of Lincoln will provide for the widening of the street both east and west. Plans are already being taken to put zoning regulations which protect the district around the capitol from threatened commercial development and preserve it as a residential area.

The Lincoln monument, now fronting at Fourteenth street will probably be moved to a position along Fourteenth street approach and in connection will be one of the chief features of the landscape plan.

Stonework walks around the capitol are to be taken up and leading from K, Fourteenth and Fifteenth streets up to the west and east entrances.

Stonework walks across the square will be moved.

### Magnificent Interior Features

A beautiful rotunda, with the top of its dome ceiling 105 feet above the floor, exquisite mural paintings and designs in ornamental carvings for walls and ceilings, a large collection of statuary, and other decorative effects will be seen about the building when it is completed.

One of the striking details of the interior is a memorial hall at the top of the square tower. This chamber will be 60 feet in diameter. The ceiling will be at the top of the tower 60 feet overhead in the center. The walls will be solid to a height of 10 feet above the floor, with long windows of art glass extending upward from that point a distance of 25 feet, on all sides. This

...cession of the Roman plebs, and other great events in world history.

### American Forefathers Portrayed

Two groups of American statesmen who helped to shape the country's destiny in the Revolutionary war and its succeeding era will be shown as bust figures over the east and west entrances. In one group will be seen Washington, Franklin, Jefferson and Madison; the other will include Patrick Henry, Hamilton, Monroe and John Marshall.

Near the base of the tower, outside, there will be eight sculptural likenesses of early American explorers in order of their respective discoveries: Lief Erickson, Columbus, Magellan, Cabot, Coronado, Cartier, Hudson and Drake.

Half-length figures of famous lawgivers of all ages, among them Moses, Caesar, Solon, Napoleon and others, are to be placed around the tower, large enough to show from the ground below.

Twenty-four engaged figures, with shields, to typify the various occupations practiced in the early days of Nebraska, will look down from the four faces of the tower near the top.

At the top of the tower, with his plow, a stage driver with his whip, a carpenter and saw, a blacksmith and horseshoe, a farmer's wife and a loaf of bread, and an Indian with a tomahawk, are some of them.

The dome of the tower is to be surrounded by four smaller domes. These will be ornamented with legendary Indian figures of the four winds and those of the eight planets, symbolized as ancient mythological deities.

### Hall of Fame Planned

In the great central rotunda of the capitol, niches will be left for half-sized statues in what is to be known as the "hall of fame." The personalities for this exhibit have not yet been selected.

Passing into the building through the main north entrance, one will step into a square vestibule, 40 feet on each side. From this, he will enter the foyer, a passageway of impressive dimensions and decorative effects. Its vaulted ceiling will rise 50 feet from the floor. At the farthest end, it will connect with the rotunda.

An open view will be had through all three of these great chambers and on to the supreme court room at the far end of the building. The main vista will thus embrace a distance of 225 feet. It will be lighted from great arched windows on what would be the third story level in a capitol building of the ordinary type.

The house of representatives is located east of the rotunda and the senate chamber, west of it, in the same relative positions as they occupy in the present capitol building. The representative enclosure will be about 70 by 75 feet in size and the senate room 48 by 60, with a 10-foot lobby running around it on three sides.

### Luxurious Legislative Halls

Marble columns, marble and tiled walls, magnificent arched windows and gorgeous mural paintings will make the two chambers equal in architectural splendor to the main corridors and rotunda. They will be furnished correspondingly. Connected with each hall are lounging rooms and locker rooms for the members, a postoffice, office rooms, press quarters, a telegraph room, and toilets.

About 150 feet of space separates the house and senate, which are brought closer together than in the present building.

ly, Dege... the fruit of a quarter century of dreaming by men and women of the state whose vision looked ahead to the time when a monument should be erected to the growth and progress of a great agricultural empire, to its educational leadership, and to its civic and industrial development.

Five years ago, on March 1, 1917, Nebraska celebrated the semi-centennial anniversary of its admission to the union. The flight of fifty years had wrought vast and marvelous changes in the prairie domain where Indian tribes and buffalo herds once roamed. The wilderness which pioneers of the '60's found here had been transformed into a modern commonwealth with 1,200,000 inhabitants living in a thousand cities and villages or on the tens of thousands of farms and ranches which cover the 80,000 square miles of the earth's surface included within its borders.

### Could Not Foresee State's Growth

It was beyond the conception of the early settlers to picture the glorious future of the state whose foundations they laid, which it would achieve even in the lifetime of many of their number. The old capitol which has stood for nearly forty years was, in its day, a fair symbol of the young state's material condition. But that time has long since passed, and now the unsightly structure is to make way for a new one that will typify the new Nebraska, grown out of its infancy into a mature community, rich no less in the character of its people than in the wealth they have created.

The new seat of government will realize the dreams of the second generation in Nebraska and constitute a lasting memorial to the first half century of its progress and development. It is planned on a scope commensurate to the expected future advancement of the state for a hundred or two hundred years.

As long ago as the latter '30's, when the west was recovering from several years of hard times and business depression, following an earlier "boom," the forward-looking citizens of Nebraska began to think and talk about the need for a state edifice of suitable design and adequate proportions to typify the majesty and dignity of the growing commonwealth.

### Historical Building Fizzled

The first concrete step toward providing a new home for the governmental activities was not taken until 1907, when the legislature appropriated \$25,000 for starting construction of a building on the half block of ground acquired by the

state and H. streets, just east of Capitol square.

It was intended that this building should house the supreme court, the state library, and the historical society's offices and museum, leaving the executive and legislative departments to occupy the entire space in a new capitol, whenever it should be constructed.

After the basement of the contemplated court, library and historical building had been built, further work was stopped when another appropriation of \$25,000 made in 1909 to continue it was vetoed by the governor. Later efforts to carry it ahead were defeated by personal enmities and jealousies of one kind and another.

The basement still presents a rather squalid spectacle on the corner opposite Capitol square, and presents a problem which will require attention when the matter of

might get the capitol, if it were taken away from Lincoln.

Although this scheme was eventually repudiated by the legislature, it had a formidable following for a time. The fight effectively prevented any consideration of a new capitol building in the 1911 session and was largely responsible also for withholding any appropriation to complete the historical society-supreme court building.

When the next legislature convened in 1912, its attention was mainly engrossed by the university removal contest, in which the house and the senate were at loggerheads with one another. Again, the capitol project failed of realization, though popular approval of it had been made manifest.

### "Economy" An Obstacle

The legislative session of 1915 was an "economy session" and appropriations for state activities which could be dispensed with were frowned upon. Some discussion was given to the building of a new capitol, but no action resulted.

Finally, in 1917, the legislature gave serious consideration to the need of a new building, and a \$100 appropriation finally passed both branches. The senate slightly amended the bill, after it had passed the house, and opponents succeeded in forcing a disagreement over this feature, which blocked the project.

The sum of \$65,000 was provided instead for alterations and partial reconstruction of the old capitol, but state officials who knew the conditions at first hand declined to spend more than a small part of the money, believing that to do so would be virtually throwing it away, and about \$66,000 of it remained in the state treasury.

Thus, from one cause and another, the new capitol undertaking had been put off again and again through a long period of years in the face of a steadily increasing sentiment for it. An example of this sentiment was furnished in 1911, when the Chamber of Commerce at Rushville, together with the potato growers and cattlemen's organizations, wired their representatives at Lincoln to have the legislature appropriate for the capitol and "change it to Sheridan county" if it thought the state couldn't pay the cost.

### Project Approved at Last

When the legislature of 1919 convened, the world war had just been terminated and reconstruction enterprises were foremost in the public mind. Public works of all kinds had been held back for two years, owing to the national concentration of money, men and materials in the great task of winning the war.

with the long-deferred capitol project; public sentiment had crystallized in its favor; and a spontaneous demand for the erection of a creditable state building made itself heard from over the state.

In a fine spirit the legislature met this sentiment. It passed the Mears-Tracewell bill appropriating the sum of \$3,000,000 to be raised by a special levy of 1 1/2 mills for a period of six years by more than two-thirds majority in each chamber. The bill carried the emergency clause and became effective when Governor McKelvie signed it on February 20, 1919.

By the terms of the measure, a capitol commission was created with the governor and the secretary of public works as ex-officio members and three others to be appointed by the governor. W. E. Hardy of Lincoln, W. W. Head of Omaha, and W. H. Thompson of Grand Island

Secretary, Mr. Huray was elected chairman. At a subsequent meeting, on June 13, 1919, the commission selected the architect and fixed the compensation at \$3,000. Mr. Kimball, at one time president of the American Institute of Architects, in a general plan of competition by certain architects were invited to submit designs for the new capitol building. Mr. Kimball's recommendation was adopted by the commission. Three Nebraska architects chosen in a preliminary competition open to the members of the profession generally in this state, and seven others, selected among the best architects in the United States, were asked to submit plans in the final competition of the ten competitors, except the one whose design should be selected, received \$2,000 for his services. The commission employed other architects from other states to act as jury in examining plans and designating the one deemed best. Members of the jury were also paid \$2,000 each and expenses.

**Designs Submitted Incognito.**  
The various sets of designs were placed in the hands of the architect without any identification marks to show who had prepared them, and the selection was made on the basis of getting the best building. Three main points were considered, namely, utility, beauty, and cost.

Nebraska architects in the final competition were Eliery Davis of Lincoln, John Latenser & Sons of Omaha and John and Alan McDonough of Omaha. Five of the other competitors were New York firms, two of Philadelphia, and one of San Francisco.

On June 24, 1920, the jury met at Lincoln to look over the designs before making its award. It spent two days considering them and on June 25 announced its decision in favor of the plans submitted by Bertram G. Brown of New York. This selection was confirmed by the capitol commission, and Mr. Goodhue thereafter became the designing and supervising architect for Nebraska's new capitol.

Waddy B. Wood of Washington, D. C., James G. Rogers of New York, C. Willis Polk of San Francisco and the three architects composing the jury.

The contract with Mr. Goodhue, which conforms to architectural practice throughout the country, allows a \$25,000 per year salary and all other items of expense incurred in preparing the plans and overseeing construction. An alternative contract, which the commission has the right to substitute if it sees fit to do so, provides for payment of 6 per cent commission based on cost.

**Original Plans on Exhibition.**  
In order that the people of Nebraska might have an opportunity to see the various architectural designs, several of which were deemed to possess remarkable beauty and originality of conception, the entire collection was placed on exhibition in a representative hall in the present capitol building. After being viewed there by hundreds of persons, they were taken to Omaha and submitted to public inspection in that city. Subsequently, they formed a striking exhibit at the state fair in 1920, where thousands of visitors from all parts of the state saw them. The designs were eventually returned to the architects who furnished them. Before arranging the competition, members of the capitol commission made a tour and visited three

some particulars. The building design as finally adopted was agreed upon at a meeting held by the commission with the architect in New York. **Foundation Tests Made.**  
During the summer of 1921 a series of tests was made on the clay and sandstone formations underlying Capitol square, to determine their weight-resisting powers. More complete tests were carried out during the early part of last winter, by excavating a large space east of the present building and superimposing hundreds of tons of iron rails on small-sized bases.

## Architect Goodhue Tells His Conception of Nebraska's New State Capitol He Has Designed

Architect B. G. Goodhue's conception of the new Nebraska capitol as designed by himself is set forth in a written statement which accompanied the plans at the time they were submitted in the competition of 1920. In this interpretation of his work Mr. Goodhue said:

"The site is a square in the heart of the city of Lincoln, the point of intersection of two great avenues; while the surrounding country is generally level. Therefore, from the very beginning, the authors of the design herewith submitted have felt impelled to produce something quite unlike the usual—and, to them rather trite—thing of the sort, with its veneered order and invariable Roman dome.

"As their studies have progressed this impression has but deepened, finally taking form in a vast, though rather low, structure from whose midst rises a great central tower which, with its gleaming dome of golden tiles, would stand a landmark for many miles around.

"Though everywhere monumental, no element of the practical or convenient has been sacrificed to this end. Even the tower is no mere useless ornament, for its shaft contains the glass-floored, many-storied library bookstacks.

**Ancient Types Disregarded.**  
"It has seemed to the authors that the traditions of ancient Greece and Rome and of Eighteenth century France are in no wise applicable in designing a building destined to be the seat of government of a great commonwealth. So, while the architectural style employed may roughly be called 'classical,' it makes no pretense of belonging to any period of the past. Its authors have striven to present something worthy of the high uses to which the building is to be devoted, an index to that which is within, a state capitol of the 'Here and Now' and naught else.

"Aside from the rotunda, memorial hall, and all specified requirements, and quite exclusive of all corridors, staircases, and toilets, the design provides 35,000 square feet of directly lighted floor space.

"Throughout the building's interior arrangements, the authors have striven to achieve the greatest degree of directness, compactness, and economy, consistent with conven-

struction of the first foundation section surrounding the present edifice. It awarded the contract to the lowest bidder, the W. J. Assenmacher Co. of Lincoln, for \$229,773. Excavating equipment was on the ground and work started during the later part of April. In order to expedite construction of the new capitol and secure the removal of dirt and the delivery of materials at the lowest cost, a line of electric railway was laid on H street, over which cars are hauled from the railroad yards to the building site and distributed as needed over a system of switch tracks on the grounds.

labyrinth to the unfamiliar visitor and that this none too common—though surely desirable—end has been attained not only without sacrificing, but actually increasing, its monumental quality.

**Suitable for all Seasons.**  
"Because of climatic conditions, the plan has been grouped around four large courts, which, cool in summer, would yet be protected from the cold winds of winter. Also for the same reason, the outer windows have been kept small, with those larger that open on the courts.

"It is incontrovertible that a single building housing all departments is more economical and more compact than a number of detached units having the same aggregate floor area—therefore this design is essentially that of a finished entity, as such scarcely susceptible of extension in the form of wings certain to encroach seriously upon the pleasant tree shaded space, which the authors regard as quite vitally part and parcel of the whole.

"If in coming years additions prove desirable, such should take form as quite separate, though harmonious, structures set about the square and lining the main avenue of approach, which in the block plan is shown widened and parked."

**Design Praised by Jury.**  
In selecting the Goodhue project as the best among the ten, which they had to choose from, the jury comprising Messrs Rogers, Wood and Polk offered the following comment:

"The design of the winner shows the greatest utility of any of the plans; it shows him to be able to design a monument worthy of Nebraska and capable of giving the fullest consideration as to proper expenditure. While he sacrificed nothing in area, utility, and beauty, he has been able to produce a building less than 75 per cent of the ground size of the average building in this city. He has produced for this space a building as free from binding traditions as it is from prejudice.

"He has planned his building as one that indicates its location, the site accepted by all the competitors, from which radiate avenues in four directions; a proper expression of the location of this site as it also is a proper symbol of the capitol of Nebraska, the center of the United States.

"A point worthy of the highest consideration in connection with this program is the proposed extension of Fifteenth street further north, and the widening of J street east and west. In our opinion, if your capitol building should prove to be a successful architectural monument, which our judgment leads us to expect, that its location, the site accepted by all the competitors, from which radiate avenues in four directions; a proper expression of the location of this site as it also is a proper symbol of the capitol of Nebraska, the center of the United States.

edifice is vacated, the outer part of the new capitol will be erected first. This will leave the old state house standing. If the new one is built all around it, when the offices and the state library have been moved, the old structure will then be torn down and the inner part of the new one put up. The tower 400 feet in height will come last.

Work is now in progress excavating for the foundation of the outer section, which will occupy two-thirds of the ground space. Half of the foundation is to be completed by the middle of August, and the capitol commission expects to award a contract in June for the superstructure of the first section, so that work can be commenced on it during the summer season. It is anticipated that this part of the superstructure can be built in a year, provided enough progress is made the first few months so that the work can be carried ahead through the winter season.

**Wait on Next Legislature.**  
One more legislative session, during the first three and a half months of 1923, will be held in the ancient halls. After the legislature adjourns demolition of the east and west wings will begin. As fast as space becomes available in the new outer structure to house the different offices, they will move and the tearing down of the old edifice will proceed. Special contracts will be let for scrapping the old capitol and salvaging the materials. This will be done ahead of time so as to rush the work.

In the meantime, the capitol commission will have awarded contracts for construction of the interior section of the new capitol, and its tower. The plan is to inaugurate this part of the project by the latter part of 1923. Members of the commission believe that during the remainder of that season and in 1924, the central edifice can be completed or at least made ready for the use of the legislature which is to meet in January, 1925.

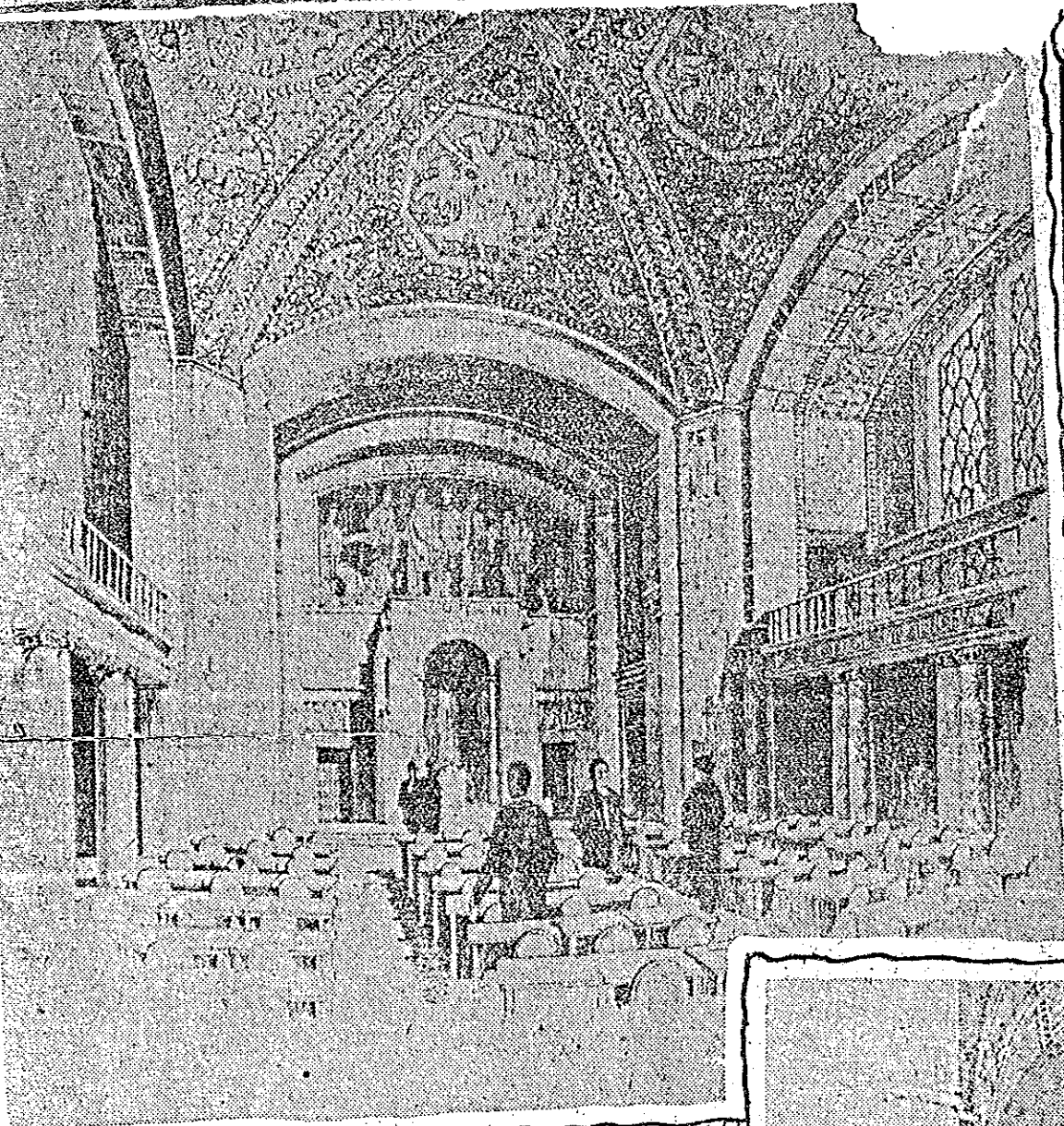
This would leave the tower as the only portion of the new building to be erected. One year would be plenty of time for that, the capitol commission estimates. Installation of statuary, carvings, ornamental frescoes and friezes, and mural paintings would be going on at the same time. Removal of railroad tracks from Capitol square and making the landscape improvements will, of course, come last of all.

**Cornerstone Laying Next Fall.**  
While no date has been fixed as yet for the formal laying of the cornerstone, this will undoubtedly be arranged for some time next fall. This will give Governor McKelvie and his associates on the capitol commission the distinction of officiating at the function before the term of Mr. McKelvie expires.

The ceremony of breaking ground for the new capitol was carried out on April 15, in the presence of Marshal Joffre of France, when Governor McKelvie drove a team of horses and steered a plow in the good, old-fashioned way.

While it has taken nearly three years to get ready for actual construction work on the new capitol,

# INTERIOR VIEWS



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Though on the plan this Chamber is of precisely the same dimensions as that of the Senate, owing to the necessarily larger seating capacity required, a somewhat different treatment has been used. The galleries, in this case on three sides only, are supported by pairs of marble columns. The Speaker's desk is placed in a niche on the west wall beneath a mural painting, the subject of which has not yet been determined. Here the vault is groined and strengthened with shallow ribs of the same material as the Senate Chamber.

# OF NEW CAPITOL



## SENATE CHAMBER

The walls here are of stone, though it is proposed to introduce in panel form and also in the ceiling a different material of high absorbent power for the sake of its acoustic effect. As elsewhere the ceiling, which here takes the form of a pendentive dome, is decorated with gold and colored tile. Beneath the galleries that extend around the entire room is a passage separated from the Senate Chamber proper by screens on three sides and with marble columns on the fourth.

# FAIR BIDS OR NO BUILDING

GOVERNOR M'KELVIE EMPHATIC  
ON THE SUBJECT.

Holes Will Remain Where They  
Are on Capitol Campus as Long  
as Competition Remains  
Shy.

The big depressions which have  
erased portions of the earth's crust on  
the capitol campus may remain there  
until satisfactory bids are received  
for a new structure. The capitol com-  
mission will take steps to encourage  
competition concerning the second  
submission of bids on the first sec-  
tion of the super-structure.

"The board is entirely dissatisfied  
with lack of competition," said the  
governor in an emphatic statement  
Thursday morning. The members are  
particularly displeased over this mat-  
ter of competition as regards cut  
stone. We consider the price wholly  
out of reason."

The commission will re-advertise on  
all trades, the bids to be opened on  
July 20. If the members are unable,  
thru altered instructions and plans to  
encourage competition and bids are  
not more satisfactory, it is presumed  
that there will be a third process of  
advertising. These processes pre-  
sumably will continue until the com-  
mission is satisfied.

## To Remove Excuses

Contractors have offered a number  
of reasons for lack of competition  
from some of the trades.

"We are going to remove the ex-  
cuses," said the governor.

There's to be an added provision for  
the guidance of bidders. Formerly  
but two plans were offered; one per-  
mitted the bidding on all trades com-  
bined while the other contemplated  
bids on the individual trades. The  
new or added proposal to be offered  
in the hope of inspiring competition  
meets an objection fasted by some of  
the general contractors. He may bid  
on supervision only. He takes the  
bids as received from the trades and  
assumes the post of general contrac-  
tor. If his bid is satisfactory and he  
personally is satisfactory to the com-  
mission. That this plan will tend to  
increase the number of bids on all  
trades is indicated from a major ob-  
jection voiced by one of the large con-  
tractors. His objection:

"The general contractor would pre-  
fer to have instructions sufficiently  
general that he may include bids of  
those men who bid on the several  
trades individually."

The governor stated that the com-  
mission has decided to eliminate some  
few requirements. Structural steel  
offers an example. The specifications

will provide in some cases for lighter  
steel and the alternate of reinforced  
concrete will be offered. Revision also  
will be made in plumbing, heating  
and ventilation and in electric work.

## No Basis for Lettings.

In the following statement, the gov-  
ernor indicates that in some trades,  
there were not enough bids to justify  
a conclusion as to whether or not they  
are within reason:

"There was not sufficient competi-  
tion to satisfy the board that the low-  
est prices obtainable were being of-  
fered. The holes will stay out there  
until we are satisfied that we are get-  
ting the very best bids. We believe  
that more bids are in prospect."

The principal eye-opener which  
tended to prove convincingly that  
some reason exists for failure of more  
contractors to bid on all trades, was  
the comparison between the one all-  
trade bid, that of John Gill & Sons,  
Cleveland, of \$2,840,000 and the total  
of all low individual trade bids,  
\$2,343,205. Between these figures is a  
difference of \$343,205.

Under the new arrangement, the  
same contractor may bid on all three  
propositions; individual trades, all  
trades, and supervision altho this is  
not likely. The governor stated that  
there also may be some slight re-clas-  
sification of trade groups.

The original theory under the plan  
of bids on individual trades, was that  
the state would do the work or en-  
gage some general contractor for su-  
pervision. In speaking of failure of  
more than one firm to bid on all  
trades, the governor said:

"This may be an unwarranted con-  
clusion but as we anticipated, the gen-  
eral contractors would be reluctant to  
bid on all trades because of the prob-  
able margin between the all-trades bid  
and the low total on individual trade  
bids. We now propose to remove this  
reluctance."

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# SURPRISED AT CAPITOL COST

## ASSUMED AS ONE REASON FOR TURNDOWN OF BIDS

### Members of Commission Indicate That Chief Desire Is to So Alter Specifications As to In- spire Bidding

June 15, 1922

Members of the capitol commission unofficially give as a reason for rejection of all bids on the outer structure of major project, number one, lack of competition on some of the trades and especially a lack of competitive bidding on all trades combined.

George D. Johnson, secretary of the department of public works and member of the commission, said that while there has been no intimation of any general changes in specifications, it is possible that some of the items may be split as a means of encouraging competition. The statement by the commission with the endorsement of the architect, also mentions possible changes in the instructions to bidders. The resolution, passed without dissenting vote, calls for readvertisement of bids, the same to be received not later than July 20.

#### A Follow-up Statement.

Governor McKelvie, chairman of the commission, announced late Wednesday that he will issue a general statement on Thursday in reference to the rejection. The resolution sets forth conclusions and it is assumed that the general statement will furnish some definite sort of idea on how and why these conclusions were reached.

A summary of the bids indicates that State Engineer Johnson hit the nail on the head when he said that the board desires more competition. Ten firms bid on heating and ventilating while but one firm bids on all trades; also on tile vaulting there was but one bid. On several of the other trades, there were but two bids. The following list shows where competition fell short.

#### To Discover and Correct.

Mason work, two bids.  
Concrete arches and fireproofing, two bids.  
Cement and granolithic floors, two bids.  
Gypsum roof slab, two bids.  
Cut stone work, two bids.  
Structural steel, two bids.  
Light and ornamental iron, five bids.  
Bronze, four bids.  
Marble work, four bids.  
Tile, two bids.  
Slate, two bids.  
Tile vaulting, one bid.  
Rough carpenter work, two bids.  
Metal lathing, two bids.  
Plastering, three bids.  
Interior wood finish, two bids.  
Kalamain work, fire and metal covered doors, two bids.  
Glazing, two bids.  
Painting, three bids.  
Elevator work, two bids.  
Plumbing, five bids.  
Heating and ventilating, ten bids.

Electric, six bids.  
Facing stone and rough blocks, four bids.  
Metal windows, three bids.  
All trades, one bid.  
Roofing and sheet metal work, two bids.  
Of the twenty-seven trades, fifteen offered but two bids each, two one each, three three bids, three received four bids, two received five bids, one received six bids and one received ten. There is the story of the rejection in a nutshell. It shows a lack of competition especially as regards the large projects. The ten bid project involves the expenditure of approximately \$100,000, while two-bid contracts concern the expenditure of as high as three-quarters of a million dollars.

#### To Discover and Correct.

Apparently the commission intends to do two things; discover, if it has not already done so, the reason for this lack of competition and if there is anything in a corrective way which will encourage more competition, to put that thing across.

The commission was not long in determining what to do. The tabulated figures were in the hands of the capitol builders shortly before noon. Before 3 o'clock announcement was issued concerning rejection.

Contractors were, in general, disappointed. Some of them believe that they can see wherein the specifications defeated the purpose desired by the commission, competition and lots of it. In answer to the question as to why there were not more general bids, one contractor said:

"The sub-contractor cannot bid thru a general contractor and at the same time bid direct. The general contractor would prefer to have it more general so that he may put into the bid that of any bidder, regardless of whether that bidder desires to and does bid direct to the commission on the same separate contract."

It was explained, from the contractor's viewpoint, that the general contractor is cut out of bidding direct on separate items. He figures that his chance of getting one or two of these trade contracts are much better than is the chance of getting the general contract so he simply ignores the latter.

Another reason for hesitancy to bid on the general contract, according to one contractor, is as he puts it, that there is no provision in the specifications for an alternate material. He calls attention to the fact that John Gill & Sons of Cleveland, only bidder on all trades, bid \$2,840,000 on the basis of Carthage stone, a much more costly commodity than Indiana limestone. As this contractor sees it, the firm mentioned was not given such latitude as would permit the naming of an alternate stone.

The commission is possessed of a fortune in certified checks. Presumably, these will be returned to the bidders. Of the seventy-nine bids submitted, but one contractor failed to observe the requirement that all bids must be accompanied by a certified check in the sum of not less than ten per cent of the amount of the bid.

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*August 13, 1922*  
**Challenge to Lancaster Democrats**

GRAND ISLAND, NEB., Aug. 11.—W. H. Thompson, member of the State Capitol Commission today gave out the following statement:

"To the public: Whereas at a recent convention held by the democrats of Lancaster county, in Lincoln, Nebraska, as shown by the press, the following resolution was adopted:

"We believe that the cost of the new state capitol should be kept within the appropriation, and that the very apparent profiteering in the bids for construction of the new capitol building should be handled without gloves."

"I, as a member of the Capitol Commission, for myself and for the other members thereof, state that the Capitol Commission has sole charge of the letting of bids; that each bid accepted has been without fear, favor or partiality and solely with an eye single to the best interests of the state; and on behalf of myself and the other members of the commission I denounce as absolutely false that part of the above resolution which charges that there has been profiteering in the bids for the construction of the new capitol, and denounce those responsible for the same.

"I also demand that the charges be proven; as made or publicly retracted.

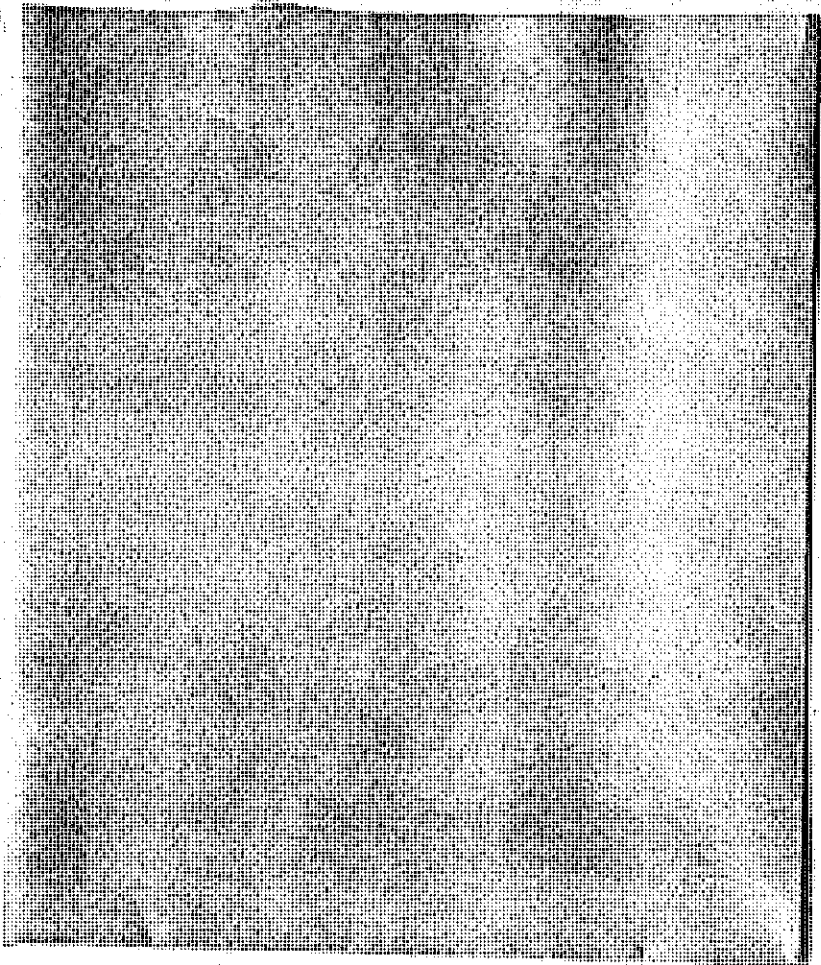
"W. H. THOMPSON."

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Star, October 29, 1922





# The Law and Learning of the Ages to be Inscribed in Nebraska's New Capitol

Student Has Scanned the records of the World to Find Suitable Phrases for the Decoration of This Magnificent Building.

H. B. ALEXANDER HAD DIFFICULT TASK

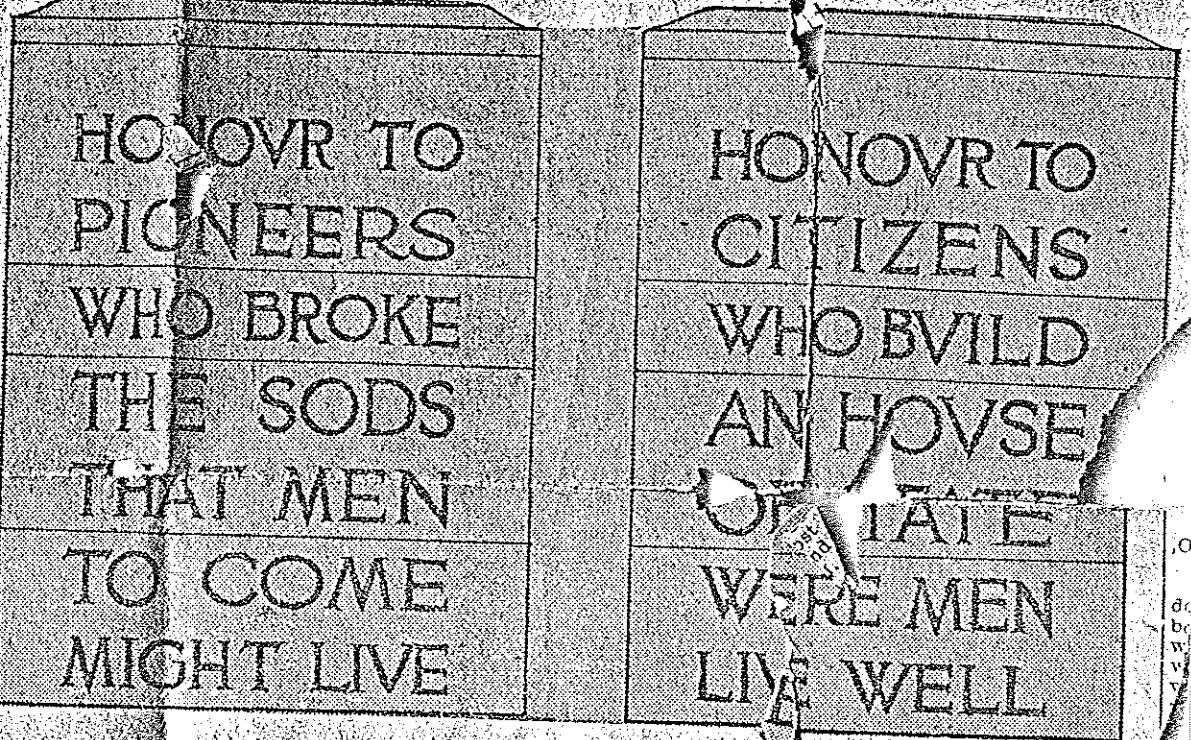
ages of Greece and Rome, Law Givers of Old and Our Own Washington and Lincoln Are to Be Quoted On Stone.

BY LULU MAE COE.

A building is a curious thing. One sunny day there is vacant corner or down-at-the-heel shack. Almost as one's eyes it is gone, and another proudly new one seems to spring full grown from the old cans and weeds.

Back of the bricks and the joists and the boards, however, are long days of endeavor. Back of them is the thought, the thought that is the master of wood and stone. No one dreamed of a finished result—the building that was to come. He placed the rooms and the foyers, he planned for the curved arch and confusion of carved ornament of the Byzantine style or the huge central dome of the Byzantine architecture. It was a public building, he thought of the terraces, the steps, the entrances, and the drives. But it enlarged in his mind, the thought that was father to the achievement.

Some one drew the thought to scale in black and white. Some one cured the weight and the strain. Some one found about the heart and arteries of the building, that like to call the heating. Some one laid out the drives, and the escaping with T-square and triangle. Some one turned the black to white and the white to blue. Some one who know can follow that a print. They can nail the up-lights, put in the beams, set the windows, and lay the smooth flooring. Others can come and run the snaky lines up and down the can, plumb, level, and polish. I can polish. I can build or complete. The building has shed its full life. It is to mecca of a city, its power of hurry, its completion, its vacancy, its as a business.



When the new capitol building is completed, and sightseers throng to the steps, one of the first things they will see will be these two inscriptions, which will be carved on the plynths of the Fifteenth street steps. Dr. Alexander wrote these inscriptions, as it was impossible to find anything fitted the thought he wished expressed, and which came within the architect's directions. To balance lines Dr. Alexander used the medieval spelling of honor, and the old-style "U" is used in the words.

from one language into the other. The text, freely translated, may not be suitable for the space, and he must transpose the thought without loss of its meaning. Times, too, when nothing that has been said, exactly expresses the thought in mind, and he must put his own thoughts into words. Before he finds the quotation, thought, he has received certain direction which formulate his plans about inscriptions. He is told how many letters in an inscription, as for example, the rounda frieze is to have 330 letters. Not an easy thing to find 330 letters that have a certain symbolism, or even about that many letters. Dr. Alexander took thoughts from two philosophers to make this carving, from Aristotle's "Politics" and from the "Republic" of Plato. The sentences he chose follow:

"HE WHO WOULD DULY REQUIRE ABOUT THE BEST OF THE STATE OUGHT TO DETERMINE WHICH IS THE MOST ELITE LIFE. MEN SHOULD THINK IT SLAVERY TO ACCORDING TO THE OF THE CONSTITUTION FOR IT IS THEIR SALVATION. LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS SPRING FROM THE MORAL DISPOSITION OF THE MEMBERS OF STATE. THE LAW AND DELIVER THE SOUL."

are to be inscribed on the plynths of the steps leading to the main entrance on Fifteenth street. They are to honor the people of the state, those who may never take part in its organization, and those who never have, but are those who unconsciously mould its laws and uphold its standards. It was impossible to find a ready-made quotation to fit all these needs, the style chosen was particularly difficult, and Dr. Alexander wrote the inscriptions himself.

"HONOUR TO PIONEERS WHO BROKE THE SODS THAT MEN TO COME MIGHT LIVE."

"HONOUR TO CITIZENS WHO BUILD AN HOUSE OF STATE WHERE MEN LIVE WELL."

On these same plynths, on the exterior side from the steps, buffaloes will be sculptured, and, if when time comes, Dr. Alexander's suggestions are carried out, the dates of the last great buffalo hunts by the Indians will be cut in low relief beside or on those figures.

Not only is it necessary to consider the words involved, but the composition of the words must be carefully noticed. If the words for one line have a number of fat letters, as M, W, and C, in order to maintain the balance of all the lines,

able phrasing. To fit that place, Alexander chose:

"POLITICAL SOCIETY EXISTS FOR THE SAKE OF NOBLE LIVING."

Aristotle kindly made that remark his "Politics," and it was appropriate for that position.

In The Governor's Room, Washington's Farewell address over the inscription for the governor's reception room. It has not been definitely decided as yet whether all of this shall be used, or

Make it a photograph

# to be ew Capitol

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whether one sentence is best. If but one Alexander has suggested the last as the administrative factor. is as follows:

THE BASIS OF POLITICAL SYSTEMS IS THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO MAKE AND ENFORCE THEIR OWN GOVERNMENT AND CONSTITUTION AT ANY TIME. EACH CHANGED OBJECTS ON ALL THE THEORY OF THE POWERS OF THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO ESTABLISH PRESUPPOSES EVERYONE OBEYING THE GOVERNMENT.

Special inscriptions have been chosen for the two legislative chambers, inscriptions that will fittingly express the fundamental tenets of those who sit within. Over the speaker's chair in the House of Representatives will appear the following lines from Lincoln's Cooper Institute speech, which was printed in the "ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE" AND "OUR DUTY" STAND IT.

Over the interior doors in the new Capitol there will be an inscription. Dr. Alexander was asked to write a line three which would be of four approximate four fulfill this direct following three: JUSTICE IS TANT AND P UAL WILL

from the three is chosen. Dr. Alexander stated that it emphasizes the administrative factor. The quotation

UNTO EACH HIS DUE  
LAW IS THE RAMPART  
OF THE CITY LAWS  
ARE THE REGISTERS  
OF THE PUBLIC WILL  
LIBERTY IS RIGHT  
OF INTELLIGENCE  
TO ASSUME ITS OWN  
RESPONSIBILITIES

The first one is the very famous definition of justice by Ulpian, a Roman jurist, whose definition was incorporated in the Code of Justinian. For the second one, Dr. Alexander went to the works of two men, Heraclitus, a Greek philosopher, for the first phrase and Poinseau, the French political philosopher. As he could not find the correct thought for the third panel, he wrote his own. For this room, he took the

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also two legislative chambers that will fit fundamental Over the House of Representatives will appear Lincoln's speech, which was printed in the "ADDRESS TO THE PEOPLE" AND "OUR DUTY" STAND IT.

the Senat and Capitol there will find Dr. Alexander line three which letters, and he chose A C ERI ONS ET ENDER

tablet bearing the names of those who gave their lives. A peculiarly appropriate selection has been made for this room, a quotation which every school child has heard, not a elaborate combination of words, short Anglo-Saxon words, with clear and definite meaning, but it expresses as none others can the spiritual purpose of those who go and of those who are left behind, Lincoln's Second Inaugural.

"WITH MALICE TOWARD NONE, WITH CHARITY FOR ALL, WITH FIRMLYNESS IN THE RIGHT, AS GOD GIVES US TO SEE THE RIGHT, LET US STRIVE ON TO FINISH

doors, one of the first things they saw on the Fifteenth street steps. Dr. Alexander used the med-  
itable phrasing. To fit that place, Dr. Alexander chose:  
"POLITICAL SOCIETY EXISTS FOR THE SAKE OF NOBLE LIVING"  
Aristotle kindly made that remark in his "Politics," and it was appropriate for that position.  
In The Governor's Room, Washington's Farewell address provided the inscription for the space over the mantel in the governor's reception room. It has not been definitely decided as yet whether all of this shall be used, or



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# APPOINTMENT OF JOHNSON

## CAPITOL COMMISSION DESIRES PROFESSIONAL ADVISER.

### Governor McKelvie Says Mr. Johnson's Services Have Been Valuable in Past and Will So Continue.

In regard to the appointment of George E. Johnson, secretary of the capitol commission, Governor McKelvie, chairman of that commission said: Mr. Johnson is to be secretary and professional adviser of the commission. He will be the only person representing the state who has professional knowledge of the construction of the capitol.

"His professional services in the past have saved the state many times his salary of \$5,000," said Governor McKelvie, "and he will continue to do this."

"No," said the governor, in answer to a question, "I do not think any other engineer appointed head of the department of public works and thus becoming ex-officio member of the commission, could do that because such a person could not possibly have the intimate knowledge that Mr. Johnson has gained of the work already done upon the capitol. It was upon Mr. Johnson's advice that bids on the first section of the capitol were rejected and deauthorized. That re-

sulted in the saving of about \$300,000 in the contract price.

"Have any leading republicans, such as Judge Perry directly or indirectly disapproved Mr. Johnson's appointment?" asked a reporter.

"No," said the governor. "On the contrary some leading democrats, such as W. H. Thompson, have approved it. The records of the commission show that the appointment was made one year ago at a meeting of the commission in New York. There was no disposition to withhold information of such an appointment. The reason for such action at that time was Mr. Johnson's statement to the commission that he had two or three offers to go into private employment. Any one of these offers meant more than double the pay Mr. Johnson was getting from the state or from the capitol commission. He desired to take up private employment. He had been so valuable an assistant that the commission felt it ought to retain his services on any satisfactory basis. The commission agreed, on motion of W. H. Thompson, that he should be employed to act as secretary until 1923, when he should become the active secretary and devote whatever time is necessary to the service of the state and commission. Mr. Johnson is to be secretary and professional adviser of the capitol commission. All sorts of political twists may be placed upon this action of the commission, but the real question is the value of his professional services. His services have been valuable in the past and will continue to be in the future."

The governor said Mr. Johnson is not to be clerk of the works. That is a position now occupied by W. L. Younkin, an appointee of Mr. Goodhue, architect, and approved by the commission. This appointee is really a representative of the architect.

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1/3/23

## HALF MILLION IS EXPENDED

### CAPITOL COMMISSION REPORTS TO LEGISLATURE.

Governor Tells Members All of  
Various Steps Taken So Far and  
of Harmony That Has Pre-  
vailed in Board.

S.J. (1-3-23)

Governor McKelvie transmitted to the legislature Wednesday a report of the work of the capitol commission that included a history of the entire transaction, detailing the passage of the law which levies taxes until and including 1924, the formation of the commission, the way in which it went about its work and the appointment of architect and the award of contracts.

Up to date \$589,902 has been expended. The foundation work cost \$207,617, and there has been on the superstructure so far \$103,313. The advisory architect and competition cost \$30,000; there has been spent on plans, specifications and architect's fee \$197,947; \$25,000 was spent for the railroad to the grounds; \$9,700 for its operation; \$2,600 for tests of building material and for foundations; \$1,685 for expenses of the commission; \$5,721 for expenses of secretary's office; and \$46.30 for miscellaneous expenses.

The governor said the commission had been duly diligent in effecting the greatest economy. He said that delaying the start of the work for three years meant lowered costs and \$307,000 was saved on the superstructure by throwing out the first bids received. Every semblance of wastefulness, extravagance and illegal expenditure has been avoided, he says.

The commission has worked in entire harmony, with the injection of politics scrupulously avoided. He hoped this policy will continue until the end. He said that there has never been a dissenting vote on any question, every difference of opinion being debated until a basis of common agreement and mutual understanding was arrived at. The governor invited the members to inform themselves about the work, and closed with a commendation of the new building as artistically beautiful and physically useful.

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# H STREET DEADLOCK

## Capitol Commission and City Attorney Peterson Unable to Agree Who Shall Be Responsible for Accidents on Spur.

### ATTORNEY GENERAL TO BE CONSULTED

## Carrier Explains Venture Too Unprofitable to Warrant Assumption of Liability — Property Owners Threaten Action.

The entire controversy over the building of a switch track on H street to haul material for the new capitol apparently has resolved itself into a deadlock between George E. Johnson, representing the capitol commission; C. Petrus Peterson, city attorney, representing the city council, and Burlington officials as to who shall be responsible for possible damage to property and liability for accidents if the track is built and trains operated over it four or five years until the capitol is completed.

With no apparent compromise in sight, Attorney General Davis was appealed to Thursday to help straighten out the tangle.

A meeting between Mr. Johnson, Mr. Peterson and the city engineer and members of the city council had been arranged for Thursday morning, but Mr. Peterson failed to show up at the city hall. Mr. Johnson, after a private conference with Deputy City Attorney Wilke and City Engineer Bates, left the city hall and said he would be ready to attend a meeting whenever notified. Mr. Peterson, by telephone, explained at that time that he did not consider it necessary to come to the meeting as he understood the Burlington would not have a representative present, and therefore nothing could be accomplished.

#### To Determine Power.

However, Mr. Peterson said later that he had held a meeting in his office with Mr. Johnson, Governor McKelvie and Mason Wheeler of the attorney general's office, and that the attorney general had been asked to canvass the situation to determine what power the state or the capitol commission had to secure the trackage and operate trains to haul material through the streets to the new capitol.

Mr. Peterson quoted Byron Clark, general counsel for the Burlington, as saying that he would not ask the city for a permit to built the H street track or accept the contract under those conditions. The Burlington's proposal to built the track, remove the dirt and deliver material to the capitol grounds for the new building provided specifically that the permit from the city council to build the track must be obtained by the capitol commission. The Burlington does not propose to have anything to do with the matter if it is going to be left open to claims for damages. Mr. Clark was quoted as saying:

E. Flynn, general superintendent of the Burlington, said Thursday morning that Mr. Peterson's invitation for a Burlington representative to sit in at a conference with the city council and representatives of the capitol commission had been ignored because the Burlington had made a clean-cut proposition to the capitol commission, which provided that the capitol commission must secure the permit, and the Burlington did not care to become involved in the wrangle over the H street right of way.

Mr. Flynn said further that the

Burlington's expense in building and operating the line over H street would leave it very little profit on handling material on which it secures the road haul, and that there will be no profit from other roads at the switching charge of \$5 a car which it has agreed to make, and therefore the Burlington would not consider the business desirable if it is necessary for it to assume any liability in connection with the matter.

#### To Follow Peterson.

Members of the city council indicated that they would abide by the recommendations of City Attorney Peterson in regard to passing an ordinance granting permission to build the H street track.

In the meantime, owners of property on H street apparently are as determined as ever to prevent the building of the track if possible.

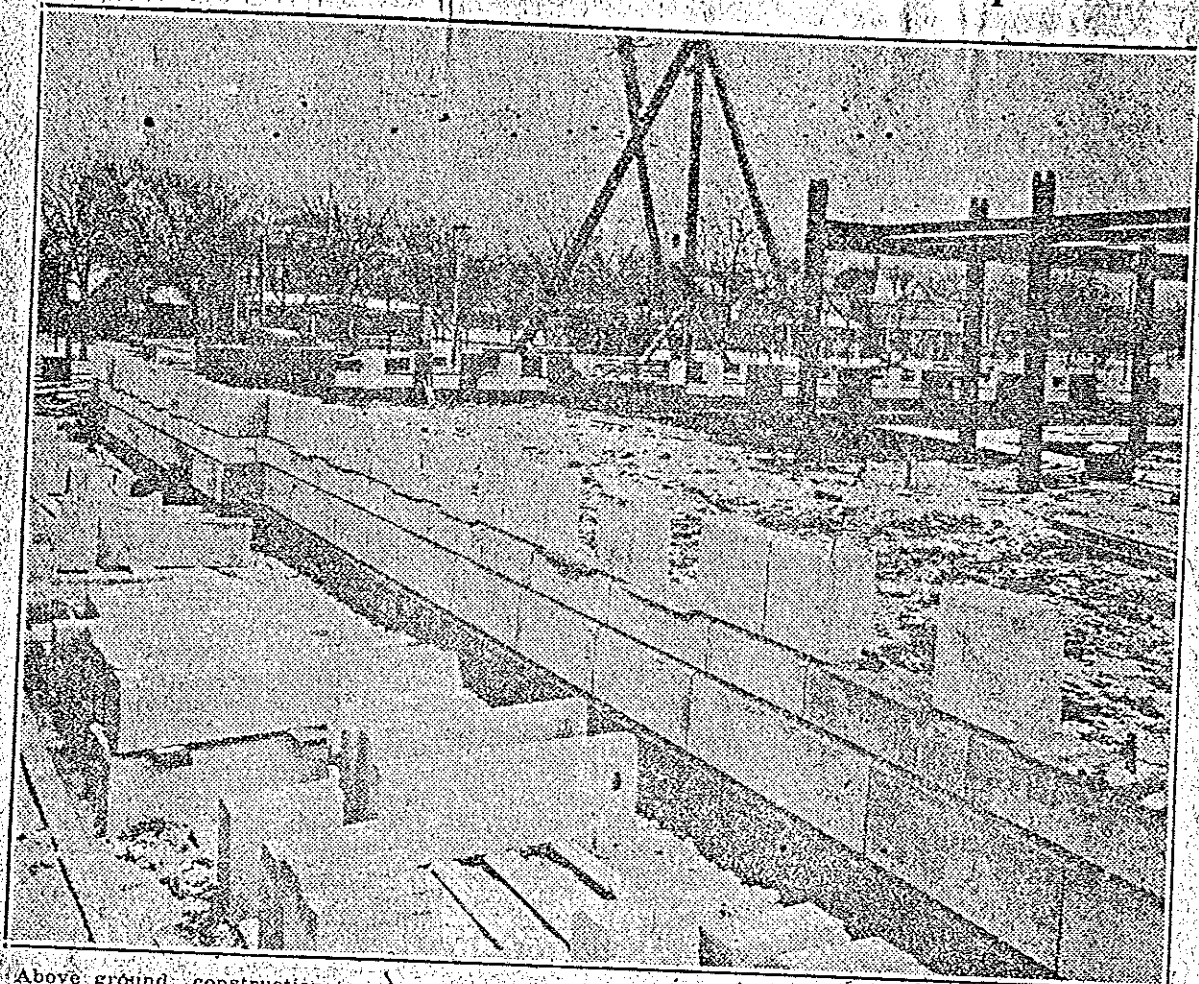
Indications Thursday were that there will be no further action in the matter until the attorney general's office has given its opinion as to what legal methods can be resorted to by the capitol commission and the city council to secure the track, and who would be liable for damage, if any, to property.

The Burlington has stated plainly that the permit must be issued to the capitol commission. City Attorney Peterson has said that if a permit is issued it must be to the Burlington and not to the capitol commission, and on this there seems to be an absolute deadlock.

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Feb.  
#34

Star Jan 7<sup>th</sup> 1923

## Progress of Nebraska's New Capitol



Above ground construction work on Nebraska's magnificent new capitol building was begun early this winter and has progressed satisfactorily in spite of several severe cold waves. The picture shows the four courses of stone laid around the northeast corner of the structure, where the corner stone was placed on November 11. The one course of granite as a base is readily discernible below the three layers of Bedford stone in which the bottoms of the first floor window casings can be seen.

Floors of the basement have been laid on the

north wing of the building shown and the steel framework is partly in place. The entire structure is surrounded by great derricks, one of which is shown, which carry either stone or steel into place as the building progresses.

The old capitol building, stripped of all approaches, shrubbery or trees, stands bare in the center of these activities. The new capitol is literally walling the old building in, and in the course of a few months it will be almost lost to sight behind the new walls.

—Photo By MacDonald.

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# NEW BASIS FOR SALARY

## CAPITOL ARCHITECT MAY BE GIVEN PERCENTAGE.

Commission Said to Be Committed to Change From Salary Basis to 6 Per Cent on Cost.

Walter W. Head of Omaha, member of the capitol commission, presented to the commission Tuesday a proposal to change the employment of an architect from a salary basis to a commission of 6 per cent of the final cost of the capitol. He suggested the appointment of a committee to prepare a statement showing reasons for the change.

The commission discussed the matter at the forenoon meeting in Governor Bryan's office, but took no action because the governor was called from the meeting to read his Thanksgiving proclamation at the university.

It was admitted the commission is pretty well decided in favor of the change to a commission basis. W. E. Hardy of Lincoln, W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, Roy Cochrane, state engineer, and Walter W. Head of Omaha and Governor Bryan constitute the commission.

"We know we will be damned if we don't and be damned if we do," said Mr. Head, "and we know we have a big job on our hands, but we are trying to work out this problem as best we can. There is one thing sure the commission will not spend more than the \$5,000,000 appropriated for a capitol."

"But we want some more appropriations," suggested Mr. Hardy. How much more no member of the commission was willing to say. They will later compile an estimate of the final cost and make it public. The \$7,500,000 once mentioned in a legislative hearing as the final cost will be short of the commission's proposed estimate, some contend.

Architect Bertram G. Goodhue of New York has been drawing \$25,000 a year salary on a contract which gives the commission leave to change at any time to a percentage basis. Six per cent is the prevailing basis for architect's fees, the commission says, on all kinds of work in cities and villages and even in the country on barns.

Mr. Head called attention to the fact that the commission was delayed one year in starting work on the building. One point in favor of the commission basis is that material for the first section of the building has all been bought. When the commission first adopted a salary basis it was said in support of that plan that it would offer no incentive on the part of the architect to use expensive material or to otherwise increase the cost of the building to taxpayers.

The commissioners in discussing the commission plan said the 6 per cent would cover all salaries and expenses except the traveling expenses of the architect and his assistants. The amounts paid the architect in the past are to be applied upon the commission he is to receive on the final cost of the building.

Architect Goodhue has drawn up to October 15, \$71,876 salary. His first pay was drawn November 17, 1920. The total salary and expenses

# NEW BASIS FOR SALARY

(Continued From Page One.)

drawn by him now amounts to \$10,867.33. Under the commission plan travelling and living expenses of the architect and his assistants are to be paid by the state, outside of the 6 per cent which goes to the architect. The architect is also to be paid extra for extra services caused by changes in plans ordered by the commission. He would be paid a commission on contracts for sculptures, mural and landscape features, furniture and fixtures. On a few items he would not receive 6 per cent. On interior furnishings which he designs he is to receive 10 per cent and on furnishings which he does not design he is to have 2 per cent. The contract provides that the architect shall not be required to surrender his rights to "prospective profits."

The commission is investigating the status of the new state seal. If it finds the new seal has not been legally adopted it will substitute the old state seal as a design to be placed at the right of the main entrance. The attorney general's office held that the act creating the new seal was void because it did not repeal the law creating the old seal.



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#36

S.J. 2/23/23

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FROM

# PROBE STATE STONE DEAL

GOODHUE, CAPITOL ARCHITECT  
SUBJECT OF CRITICISM.

SJ 2-23-23

George E. Johnson Says He Is Forcing State to Pay \$115,000 More for Bedford Stone Than Necessary.

George E. Johnson, member and secretary of the capitol commission reported to that body Friday at a meeting held in Governor Bryan's office that he believed the recommendations and actions of Bertram G. Goodhue of New York, architect for the commission, do not appear to him to be for the best interests of the state. Mr. Johnson therefore stated that he believed all the architect's work in connection with the capitol should be gone into very thoroly by the commission.

Mr. Goodhue was present at the meeting which was an executive session. Mr. Johnson charged in his report that the architect who is supervising architect is either deliberately or thru lack of knowledge is forcing the state to pay \$115,000 more for stone than should be paid. He alleges the grade of the stone should be had for 35 cents less per cubic foot. It was upon the advice of the architect that the commission awarded a contract to the Indiana Quarries company. Mr. Johnson says the coarse texture may lower the strength of the stone and the variation in color lowers the market value. He is making tests as to durability. The stone being used is approved by the architect.

Mr. Johnson also finds that the architect has disregarded wishes of the commission and awarded to an Omaha firm a contract for \$25,000 for special columns, whereas the commission desired to get competitive bids. He refers also to mistakes in plans made by the architect.

### Johnson's Statement.

Mr. Johnson made the following statement to the commission.

"Gentlemen: I have not approved of the claims of the Henry Struble Cut Stone company and claims of the architect for the reason that after making a very careful investigation of the stone we are using and the architect's recommendations regarding the stone contract, I find that the architect either deliberately or thru lack of knowledge is forcing the state to pay one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars more for the stone than we should pay.

"In explanation of the above statement, I wish to call your attention to the bids that were filed with the commission July 20th. The bid that was accepted was for No. 1 buff colittie Indiana limestone, \$.75 per cubic foot stone, to be shipped from the Indiana Quarries company's quarries.

"We had a bid of \$.65 per cubic foot on select buff Indiana limestone to be shipped from the Consolidated Stone company's quarries at Bedford, Indiana. These prices were both based on 330,000 cubic feet of stone, which is necessary for the building. This bid also had a supplementary offer—that if stone variegated in color was used a deduction of twenty thousand dollars would be made for the first section, which is one-third of the stone used in the whole building, or a reduction of sixty thousand dollars for the entire building, making a difference of thirty-three thousand dollars in the bid price and sixty-three thousand dollars less if select variegated stone was used from the Consolidated quarries over the bid on stone from the Indiana Quarries company.

"The architect's representatives were very emphatic in their statements that the architect would never approve of stone from the Consolidated quarries as they

Siderland Brothers of Omaha for \$25,000. This price may be all right; however, I do not believe such contracts can be let until after the commission has received competitive bids on same; and the architect's procedure is in direct violation of his instructions from the capitol commission.

"In view of the fact that there have been a large number of mistakes in the architect's plans which have previously been brought to your attention, and his recommendations and actions do not appear to be for the best interests of the state, I believe that all of his work in connection with the capitol should be gone into very thoroly by the commission."

select buff Indiana limestone to be shipped from the Consolidated Stone company's quarries at Bedford, Indiana. These prices were both based on 330,000 cubic feet of stone, which is necessary for the building. This bid also had a supplementary offer—that if stone variegated in color was used a deduction of twenty thousand dollars would be made for the first section, which is one-third of the stone used in the whole building, or a reduction of sixty thousand dollars for the entire building, making a difference of thirty-three thousand dollars in the big price and sixty thousand dollars in deductions, or ninety-three thousand dollars less if select variegated stone was used from the Consolidated quarries over the bid on stone from the Indiana Quarries company.

The architect's representatives were very emphatic in their statements that the architect would never approve of stone from the Consolidated quarries as they could not furnish the color of stone he wanted, that the only stone available from the Consolidated quarries was a blue or grey stone and Mr. Goodhue wanted a buff stone; and if Bedford stone was to be used, the only quarry that was in a position to furnish acceptable stone was the Indiana Quarries company. You will all remember these statements as they were discussed considerably at that time, and the contract was awarded accordingly on stone to be furnished by the Indiana Quarries company.

#### Architect Approved.

"After the stone began to arrive, I made an investigation and found that we were getting what the architect had approved. It appeared to me that we should be getting this stone cheaper than .75 per cubic foot as it is not a select grade of stone.

"I secured the services of Professor Mickey of the university and we went into the matter very thoroly by visiting different quarries around Bedford, consulting with Mr. W. N. Logan, the state geologist of Indiana, and by examining several buildings that have been constructed with different grades of limestone from different quarries in Indiana. We found that the architect's office was not correct in its statements that the Indiana Quarries company is the only quarry that can furnish a Buff Indiana limestone.

"We found that each quarry could furnish the same kind of stone which varies considerably in color and texture, depending on the elevation that the stone is being taken from, and that quite often buff stone from two or some quarries was used in the same wall of a building, without anyone being able to tell what quarry the individual pieces of stone came from. We found that the Consolidated Quarries company who gave us the low bid are the best equipped company in the United States and they are in a position to furnish in any quantity necessary for our building, any grade, color or quality of Bedford stone.

"We also find that the stone we are getting is exactly what the architect is asking for and what is known to the trade as between rustic and standard variegated; and one of the quarries offered to furnish us with any quantity of such stone that we wanted for .35 per cubic foot less than what we are paying for the stone we are receiving, which would reduce our price \$115,500; and I believe that before any further payments are made to the architect or on stone, we should have an adjustment of this price.

"I am having tests made on the stone that is going into the building; however, as these are not completed at this time, I am unable to make a statement as to the durability of the stone, but the coarse texture which lowers the strength of the stone and variation in color materially lowers the market value and we should have the benefit of such reduction on the select buff stone.

#### Contract for Columns.

"I am going into other items of materials that are to be used in our contracts. However, I am not in a position at this time to make any further statements, regarding same except to call your attention to the cash allowances—that is the sums that were set aside for special columns and such work involving special material or work where the personal element was an important factor.

"At the last meeting of the capitol commission, the architect was instructed to make up a list of individuals or companies that were in a position to take care of such work so that the commission could get competitive prices. Instead of following these instructions, the architect sends us a letter of February 10 stating that he has let the contract for columns on the first section to

# Secretary Johnson Tells Capitol Comm State Is Paying \$115,000 Too Much

### Engineer Claims Architect Either Deliberately Or From Lack of Knowledge Is Forcing Nebraska to Pay More Than It Should.

### MAKES TRIP TO QUARRIES TO INVESTIGATE SITUATION

### Charges Representatives of Architect Insisted No Other Company Could Furnish Satisfactory Stone Than One Given Contract.

B. G. Goodhue, New York architect for the new Nebraska state capitol, was confronted Friday morning by State Engineer George E. Johnson, a member of the capitol commission, at a meeting of that body, with written charges that favoritism was shown to Indian Quarries Co. on the contract for furnishing cut stone for the edifice at 75 cents per cubic foot, when equally good or better stone could be had for 40 cents per cubic foot.

Just before Johnson's letter was sprung, Mr. Goodhue had been called upon for a statement to the capitol commission as to the quality of the stone which has been furnished and put into the walls so far. He declared the material to be satisfactory and up to contract specifications.

The matter was left pending before the capitol commission when it took a recess at noon. It is understood that \$4,000, or so, has already been paid on the stone at 75 cents per cubic foot but bills which have been presented for \$40,000 to \$50,000 more are being held up until the commission decides what course of action it will take.

### Blames the Architect.

In his letter, State Engineer Johnson, who is secretary of the capitol commission, declares that "the architect either deliberately or through lack of knowledge is forcing the state to pay \$115,000 more for stone than it should pay."

According to Johnson, who has made a thorough investigation into sources of supply for Indiana stone, the Consolidated Stone Co. of Bedford, Ind., was in a position to fur-

nish plenty of No. 1 stone at 65 cents per cubic foot, under its bid last July, which the capitol commission rejected on Goodhue's assurance that this stone would not be satisfactory.

Present market conditions, Johnson asserts, are such that the stone could be obtained at a much cheaper price.

Goodhue's own claims for salary and extra allowances during the past quarter are being held up by Secretary Johnson.

The letter goes into the details of getting the contract for the stone at great length. The architect is represented by Mr. Johnson as having advised the commission that the only company in a position to furnish the stone desired by the architect was the Indiana Quarries company. The price of 75 cents per foot is 35 cents above another bid, Johnson claims.

Before any further payments are made, Secretary Johnson suggests there should be adjustment of the price.

The secretary of the commission cites another instance where he believes architect exceeded his authority in letting a contract to Sutherland Bros. of Omaha for columns for the first section of the capitol.

He concludes with this statement: "In view of the fact, that there have been a number of mistakes in the architect's plans which have previously been brought to your attention and his recommendations and actions do not appear to be for the best interests of the state I believe that all of his work in connection with the capitol should be gone into very thoroughly by the commission."

### The Johnson Letter.

The Johnson letter follows in detail:

"Feb. 20, 1923.  
"Nebraska State Capitol Commission.

"Gentlemen: I have not approved of the claims of the Henry Struble Cut Stone company and claims of the architect for the reason that after making a very careful investigation of the stone we are using and the architect's recommendations regarding the stone contract, I find that the architect either deliberately or through lack of knowledge is forcing the state to pay \$115,000 more for stone than we should pay.

In explanation of the above statement, I wish to call your attention to the bids that were filed with the commission July 20. The bid that was accepted was for No. 1 Buff Oolitic Indiana limestone, \$.75 per cubic foot stone, to be shipped from

the Indiana Quarries company's quarries.

### The Second Bid.

"We had a bid of \$.65 per cubic foot on select Buff Indiana limestone to be shipped from the Consolidated Stone company's quarries at Bedford, Indiana. These prices were both based on 330,000 cubic feet of stone, which is necessary for the building. This bid also had a supplementary offer—that if stone variegated in color was used a deduction of \$20,000 would be made for the first section, which is one-third of the stone used in the whole building, or a deduction of \$60,000 for the entire building, making a difference of \$33,000 in the bid price and \$60,000 in deductions, or \$93,000 less if select variegated stone was used from the Consolidated quarries over the bid on stone from the Indiana Quarries company.

The architect's representatives were very emphatic in their statements that "the architect would never approve of stone from the Consolidated quarries as they could not furnish the color of stone he wanted, that the only stone available from the Consolidated quarries was a blue or grey stone and Mr. Goodhue wanted a Buff stone; and if Bedford stone was to be used, the only quarry that was in a position to furnish acceptable stone was the Indiana Quarries company." You will all remember these statements as they were discussed considerably at that time; and the contract was awarded accordingly on stone to be furnished by the Indiana Quarries company.

### Trip to Indiana.

After the stone began to arrive I made an investigation and found that we were getting what the architect had approved. It appeared to me that we should be getting this stone cheaper than \$.75 per cubic foot, as it is not a select grade of stone. I secured the services of Prof. Mickey of the University and we went into the matter very thoroughly by visiting different quarries around Bedford, consulting with Mr. W. N. Logan, the state geologist of Indiana and by examining several buildings that have been constructed with different grades of limestone from different quarries in Indiana. We found that the architect's office was not correct in its statements "that the Indiana Quarries company is the only quarry that can furnish a Buff Indiana limestone." We found that each quarry could furnish the same kind of stone which varies considerably in color and texture, depend-

# Commission for Stone

ing of the elevation that the stone is being taken from; and that quite often Buff stone from two or more quarries was used in the same wall of a building without anyone being able to tell what quarry the individual pieces of stone came from. We found that the Consolidated Quarries company who gave us the low bid are best equipped company in the United States and they are in a position to furnish in any quantity necessary for our building any grade color or quality of Bedford stone.

We also find that the stone we are getting is exactly what the architect is asking for and what is known to the trade as between rustic and standard variegated; and one of the quarries offered to furnish us with any quantity of such stone that we wanted for \$.35 per cubic foot less than what we are paying for the stone we are receiving which would reduce our price \$115,500; and I believe that before any further payments are made to the architect on stone, we should have an adjustment of this price.

I am having tests made on the stone that is going into the building, however, as these are not completed at this time, I am unable to make a statement as to the durability of the stone; but the coarse texture which lowers the strength of the stone and variation in color materially lowers the market value and we should have the benefit of such reduction on the select Buff stone.

I am going into other items of materials that are to be used in our contracts. However, I am not in a

(Continued on Page 17)

(Continued from Page One)

position at this time to make any further statements regarding same except to call your attention to the cash allowances—that is the sum that were set aside for special columns and such work involving special material or work where the personal element was an important factor. At the last meeting of the capitol commission, the architect was instructed to make up a list of individuals or companies that were in a position to take care of such work so that the commission could get competitive prices. Instead of following these instructions, the architect sends us a letter of February 19, stating that he has let the contract for columns on the first section to Sunderland Brothers of Omaha for \$25,000. This price may be all right, however, I do not believe such contracts can be let until after the commission has received competitive bids on same; and the architect's procedure is in direct violation of his instructions from the capitol commission.

In view of the fact that there have been a large number of mistakes in the architect's plans which have previously been brought to your attention, and his recommendations and actions do not appear to be for the best interests of the state, I believe that all of his work in connection with the capitol should be gone into very thoroughly by the commission.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. J. JOHNSON,

Secretary Capitol Commission.

NO NEW BODIES

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Neb  
#39

S. J 2-24-23

# STONE WORK IS STOPPED

SJ 2-24-23  
CAPITOL COMMISSION TO TEST  
MATERIAL IN WALLS.

### Architect Goodhue Meets Criticism by Saying Quality and Color of Stone Is Up to His Taste.

Governor Bryan announced at the close of a meeting of the capitol commission Friday afternoon that the commission had ordered work stopped on the laying of Bedford stone in the outer walls of the new capitol until another meeting can be had for the purpose of discussing the difference of opinion that has arisen in regard to whether the stone in quality or color and texture is up to the specifications. Work on the brick and other portions of the contract will proceed as usual.

This meeting will be held within eight or ten days, the governor said, and will be attended by representatives of the Henry Struble Cut Stone company, and by Bertram G. Goodhue of New York, architect of the commission.

Mr. Goodhue attended the capitol commission meeting Friday except for a short period when the commission held a session apart from persons not members. The entire session was held behind closed doors in the governor's office.

George E. Johnson, member and secretary of the commission, filed a report in which he said the architect is approving stone not of the proper grade so far as color and texture are concerned, and that this stone is costing the commission \$115,000 more than it ought to cost under the contract made by the commission. He also alleged that Mr. Goodhue had contracted for \$25,000 worth of spe-

cial columns from Sunderland Bros. of Omaha when the commission had given instructions that it desired to let that contract on competitive bids.

"I have nothing to say," said Mr. Goodhue, after the meeting closed. "I am not much given to talk."

#### There Is Misunderstanding.

Governor Bryan, who is spokesman for the commission under a rule which prohibits others from talking about the business of that body, explained to reporters that there seemed to be a misunderstanding as to whether the quality of the stone comes up to specifications.

"Mr. Goodhue thinks the color and quality comes up to his taste," said Governor Bryan, "But there seems to be a variance between tests and specifications." Mr. Goodhue says if any of the stone does not come up to grade it can be removed from the walls. Professor Mickey of the university, who assisted Mr. Johnson in making the investigation told us he thought not to exceed 10 per cent of the stone might fall short of the test.

Mr. Goodhue left the meeting abruptly for the purpose of catching a train. He was accompanied by his assistant and did not look entirely pleased. The meeting was a postponed one on account of Mr. Goodhue's recent illness. He has just recovered from an attack of influenza.

In Mr. Johnson's report he said he had not approved the claims of the Henry Struble Cut Stone company or claims of Architect Goodhue. These claims amount to about \$50,000 and include three months salary for the architect at the rate of \$25,000 a year.

The capitol commission requested the architect to put in conduits in the capitol suitable for carrying additional wires that may be needed in the future if the legislature at any time desires to install an electric voting apparatus for the members of the house and senate, such as Iowa and Texas now have. The additional cost for the conduits will be about \$4,000.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

# JOHNSON REPLIES TO CRITICISM OF GOODHUE CHARGES

## State Engineer Says Architect For New Capitol Has Acted in High-Handed Manner.

### Lincoln Daily Star Work of Checking Up Stone in New Building Started — To Make Complete

Showing 2-27-23

Although no public announcement of results has been made, Secretary George B. Johnson, of the state capitol commission, and Prof. Clark Mickey, of the University of Nebraska Tuesday began the work of checking over the stone used in the work on the new \$5,000,000 state capitol. The check follows charges by Mr. Johnson that the state is paying an excessive price for the quality of stone being used.

Mr. Johnson Tuesday gave the press copies of a letter which he prepared in answer to an editorial attack upon him by the Nebraska State Journal.

The letter follows:

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 27.

LINCOLN STATE JOURNAL: I see an editorial in your morning paper which criticises me for not stopping the laying of stone immediately when I found that this stone was not according to contract, stating that the other members of the commission had depended upon me to look after these things and indicating that I had not properly protected them.

I anticipated an editorial along the line that was in your paper this morning and told your reporter yesterday that before any editorial was written on this subject, I would like to have an opportunity to talk to the editor for the reason that there were a number of things in connection with this building that had not yet been made public, and I did not wish to be put in a position to make a statement in regard to same before the commission had its next meeting.

In regard to the stone, it was made very clear to the architect at our meeting in his office, December, 1921, that the commission would not delegate myself or anyone else to take the responsibility of the building, that the responsibility was his and it could not be shifted from his office.

Played Waiting Game.

If this had been the first matter that had come up which was not right, I would have stopped the laying of stone immediately when the stone was delivered, however, after

of the architect to put over on the state a number of things that were not right, I decided that he did not intend in anyway to protect the state's interest and when it came to the stone, that I would wait and see just how far he would go. I also wished to have the opportunity to make sufficient tests before the stone was turned down.

Mr. Goodhue has been handling stonework for the past twenty-five or thirty years and if he wanted a stone that was irregular in color and texture, he certainly knew from past experience that such stone was a great deal cheaper and he should have specified what he wanted and seen that a contract was entered into accordingly, and then required the contractors to furnish such stone.

You state that Mr. Goodhue stated that the stone in color and texture is as near to what he wanted as any that was offered and that the contract went to the best bidder at the time the contract was let and what the market became later is another matter. Mr. Goodhue did state to the commission that the stone furnished is just what he wanted, however, had he made known to the commission at the time the contract was let that such stone was wanted, we had bids and samples which are still on file for ninety-three thousand dollars less than the bid that his office stated we must accept in order to get acceptable stone.

Matter of Protection.

As far as protecting the commission is concerned, there has been none of this stone accepted; and the amount of work done on the granite contract will more than offset the nineteen thousand dollars which has been paid. We also have a surety bond from a reliable company for \$686,000 which adequately protects us; and as you know the commission and the state are adequately protected in this matter, I assume that you mean I should have protected the commission from such publicity. I believe if you will have someone look over our records and see what has actually happened, that you will soon come to the conclusion that no one could protect Mr. Goodhue and the commission from publicity.

I wish to say that the commission has been watching these matters from the time that the specifications were first prepared and I am satisfied that only such material will be accepted that is proper for us to use and that is being furnished at the proper price.

You also state that Mr. Goodhue has a personal friend in New York who advised him not to handle this building as he would get mixed up in politics that would give him more trouble that it would be worth. I too have a friend in the east who ranks among the leading men of the United States and when he heard that Mr. Goodhue had been selected as the architect to build our building and that I as a member of the commission who had in charge the building

of same, he stated that he certainly felt sorry for me and my associates that he had been on a church board where Mr. Goodhue was the architect and that we would either have a great deal of trouble or we would have to stand for his high-handed methods, and speaking from my own experience after I have served sixteen years continuously in a public and have been responsible for the expenditure of more than 75 million dollars, I do not believe that any man has anything to fear in handling public work if he desires to do the right thing and is competent to perfect an organization and handle the work that he wishes to do. I know that the other members of the commission as well as myself consider it a great privilege to have the opportunity to be of service to the people of the state of Nebraska in handling the construction of this building and I know that when this building is finished, the people will be satisfied that they have received full value for money expended.

GEO. E. JOHNSON,  
Member and Secretary of the  
Capitol Commission.

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#40

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1923

# \$155,919 DRAWN BY CAPITOL ARCHITECT IN TWO YEARS

St. Louis  
Mo.  
2/19/23  
#4

## Bertram G. Goodhue, Supposedly Working on \$25,000 a Year Salary, Allowed Extra Items Under His Contract, Which Boosts Total to \$75,000 Annually.

### \$35,000 FOR "OVERHEAD EXPENSE" OF HIS OFFICE

### If Construction Should Extend Over Seven Year Period, Architectural Cost On Present Basis Would Be \$500,000, or Tenth of Total Sum.

Bertram G. Goodhue, New York architect employed to prepare plans for Nebraska's new state capitol and supervise its construction, has drawn from the state treasury during the first two years of his contract the gross sum of \$155,919, as shown by the records of the state auditor, and has a further claim pending for \$23,556 to cover the last quarter of 1922. Mr. Goodhue is supposed to be working on a salary of \$25,000 per year, but he has claimed and been allowed extra time under his contract which run the total over \$75,000 a year. Of the nearly \$156,000 paid to him thus far by the state of Nebraska, the sum of \$35,500 was to meet "overhead expense" in his New York office.

Some of the architect's friends have been representing him as "a poet and an idealist" with no taste for "sordid" commercial affairs. It would seem, however, from his financial dealings with the state of Nebraska that he might be classed as a fairly good business man.

Besides the amounts of money which Mr. Goodhue has personally drawn from the state in his own name, he has an assistant working in Lincoln, whose salary the state pays. This assistant, W. L. Younkin, has been paid \$4,526 up to the end of February.

#### May Run to Half Million.

If the period of construction for the new capitol should run six or seven years and the architect's bills for salary and extras continue to run as they have in the past, he would receive all told something like \$500,000. This is 10 per cent of the entire sum appropriated for the new capitol.

The total architectural cost, however, does not end there. Separate contracts have been made by the capitol commission, largely on Mr. Goodhue's advice and recommendation, with half a dozen eastern firms

that do special kinds of designing and engineering, and up to date \$12,700 has been paid to them.

Even this does not complete the expense under the general head of architecture, special designing, and engineering. Before contracting with Mr. Goodhue and the other firms, the commission employed fourteen other architects in arranging and carrying out the selective competition which resulted in his being chosen. This cost a total of \$29,752 more.

#### State Pays Many Assistants.

Under Goodhue's contract with the commission, he charges up to the state of Nebraska the services of many persons in his employ at the New York office for work claimed to have been done by them on the capitol plans and project.

At first there were ten or a dozen of these persons. Then the number increased to a score, and later to thirty, forty and fifty. During the second quarter of 1922, from April 1 to June 30, Mr. Goodhue billed to the state and collected for the services of 52 regular employes, besides three others engaged in sculptural work, one consulting plumbing expert, and a consulting electrical expert.

The rate of pay collected for Goodhue's own employes in that quarter ranged from 46 cents to \$9.60 per hour for a total of 6,745 hours, while the head sculptor and the plumbing expert were paid \$10 an hour each. The total of the claims for the three months' period, which was additional to Goodhue's personal salary and that of his assistant in Lincoln, exceeded \$15,300.

#### Large Sums for "Overhead."

Each of the architect's claims as filed and paid includes a large amount for "overhead," except in two or three instances when he received his salary on a separate claim.

For instance, he drew \$2,273 for "overhead" in June, 1921; \$3,302 in August; \$6,324 in September; \$9,010 in February, 1922; \$6,141 in June; \$5,635 in July; and \$2,250 in October.

His claim for the last quarter of 1922, not yet paid, carries an "overhead" item of \$4,700, while services of employes aggregate \$4,405.

It also appears by Mr. Goodhue's last bill that he has had \$7,906 for the printing of specifications fur-

nished to bidders which he had done by a New York firm, when printing houses in Lincoln would have done the same work for \$2,500. He is asking the capitol commission to reimburse himself for this expenditure.



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#42

# FIFTY-TWO OF HIS EMPLOYEES ON STATE PAY

During One Period of Three Months, Over Half-Hundred of Workers in Goodhue Office, Drew Some Compensation from State of Nebraska.

## TOTAL CLAIM FOR

Quarter: \$32,097.70

Includes \$41,175.76 to Employees of Architect, \$6,250 as Salary to Mr. Goodhue and \$5,634.92 Office "Overhead."

How Architect B. G. Goodhue of New York managed to get 52 of his employes on the payroll of the state of Nebraska during one period of three months, for a total of \$14,175, in addition to his own salary of \$6,250, his "overhead" of \$5,634.92, and many other items, is shown by his detailed claim on file with the Nebraska capitol commission as allowed and paid last July in the total sum of \$32,097.70. This claim is similar to several others on which he has received payment.

The Goodhue employes worked at rates of pay ranging from 46 and a fraction cents per hour up to \$9.60 per hour. Only nine of the entire number were charged to the state at less than \$1 an hour, and the great majority were listed at \$2 an hour and upward. The total number of hours which the state paid for during this three-months was 6,845. On the basis of a 44-hour week, this was equivalent to 155 1-2 weeks, or approximately three years working time of one person, with no vacations allowed.

Extra charges were made for "overtime" of the manager, bookkeeper, stenographer and office boy, and for other employes not definitely specified.

A consulting plumbing expert at \$10 an hour, an electrical expert at \$14.28 per hour, and a head sculptor at \$10 an hour, with two assistants at \$1.20 and 50 cents, respectively, were paid in addition to the architect's office staff.

Following is the itemized claim of Mr. Goodhue for the quarter beginning April 1 and ending June 30, 1922, but not including his own salary of \$6,250:

**ARCHITECTURAL.**  
F. L. Mayers, 49½ hours, \$237.96  
A. Whittlesey, 182½ hours, \$467.95.

336.45  
Feb.

March

5th  
4923

A. Whittlesey, 12 hours, \$46.16.  
H. Phillip, 110 hours, \$282.05.  
H. Phillip, 28½ hours, \$109.62.  
E. T. Jago, 15 hours, \$38.46.  
O. H. Murray, 291½ hours, 747.46.  
O. H. Murray, 35 hours, \$134.62.  
E. Praeger, 326½ hours, \$669.74.  
E. Praeger, 42 hours, \$129.24.  
J. P. Wilson, 107½ hours, \$192.96.  
R. Dana, 410 hours, \$633.33.  
R. Dana, 76 hours, \$190.01.  
E. L. Chisling, 192½ hours, \$296.14.  
E. L. Chisling, 7½ hours, \$17.31.  
W. L. Younkin, 121 hours, \$186.15.  
W. Wessel, 332 hours, \$425.64.  
W. Wessel, 65½ hours, \$125.98.  
G. C. Styles, 244½ hours, \$313.46.  
G. C. Styles, 4 hours, \$7.69.  
H. Boak, 29 hours, \$37.19.  
H. Boak, 3 hours, \$5.77.  
E. Weston, Jr., 46½ hours, \$59.61.  
F. H. Walker, 41 hours, \$47.31.  
F. H. Walker, 9½ hours, \$16.44.  
J. F. Ryba, 52½ hours, \$105.00.  
L. W. Willis, 23 hours, \$46.00.  
W. Hausmann, 13 hours, \$26.00.  
E. R. Jenny, 21 hours, \$42.00.  
W. P. Hardman, 25 hours, \$50.00.  
C. B. McKenzie, 12 hours, \$24.00.  
G. Redlein, 42 hours, \$84.00.  
A. G. Hansmer, 37½ hours, \$75.00.  
J. H. Walsh, 201½ hours, \$201.50.  
J. H. Walsh, 92 hours, \$138.00.  
F. W. Bowen, 1 hour, \$0.90.  
F. W. Bowen, 10 hours, \$13.46.  
J. N. Nolan, 422 hours, \$378.72.  
J. N. Nolan, 79 hours, \$106.36.  
H. F. Kerrigan, 4 hours, 3.08.  
A. C. Smith, 457 hours, \$351.54.  
A. C. Smith, 20 hours, \$23.09.  
E. J. Mathews, 37½ hours, \$19.23.  
J. Edwards, 157½ hours, \$72.69.  
J. Edwards, 47 hours, \$32.54.  
R. P. Rodgers, 161 hours, \$74.31.  
R. P. Rodgers, 6 hours, \$4.15.  
Totals, 4,703½ hours, \$7,339.82.

## PLUMBING EQUIPMENT.

J. A. Coyle, 287½ hours, \$1,725.00.  
A. C. Young, 279 hours, \$627.75.  
L. J. Day, 269 hours, \$695.24.  
A. Herzog, 244½ hours, \$50.13.  
L. F. Hart, 89 hours, \$200.25.  
T. R. Peyrek, 26½ hours, \$69.62.  
N. Bjorklund, 21½ hours, \$48.38.  
P. Ruman, 13½ hours, \$30.38.

(Continued on Page Nine.)

336.45

Neb.

#43

1923

# WILL SUPPORT MR. GOODHUE

3/7/23 JO.  
NEBRASKA ARCHITECTS TENDER  
THE ASSISTANCE.

Say That Press Criticism "Outrages  
Every Idea of Justice and  
Challenges Sports-  
manship."

OMAHA, Neb., March 7.—At the annual meeting of the Nebraska chapter, American Institute of Architects, held last Tuesday in Omaha, and at which the more prominent architects of the state were present, the entire matter of the controversy concerning the new capitol building, which controversy has been featured thru several interviews with Mr. George E. Johnson in the public press was discussed and resolutions were passed by the architects offering to Mr. Goodhue their support in the matter. The architects seem to feel that outside of the political phase the charges which have been made might be due to the different viewpoint which a highway engineer and an experienced architect might hold toward materials and effects, and that naturally due to his much greater experience and knowledge of monumental buildings the presumption is that the architects would be more nearly the correct view in any such situation.

The resolution as passed by the architects follows:

Whereas, a member of the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, Bertram G. Goodhue, Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, now rendering a distinguished service to architecture and do this commonwealth as architect of the new capitol of Nebraska, has been attacked thru the public press in a manner which outrages every idea of justice and challenges our sense of sportsmanship.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Nebraska Chapter of American Institute of Architects shall convey to Mr. Goodhue thru a letter by its president our knowledge of the above fact, our regret therefore, and our desire to express our fealty and appreciation, and do offer to Mr. Goodhue the whole hearted support of this chapter.

#44

# DENY CAPITOL

## March 9th 1923 BRYAN ASSERTS ALL SERENE AT STONE INQUIRY

### Governor Refutes Report That, Serious Difference Arose at Meeting of Capitol Commission Inquiring Into Building Material.

### HEAD WIRES DENIAL OF FRICTION AT PARLOR

### State Engineer Johnson De- clares His Resignation In Near Future Not Due to Dif- ferences In Present Stone Controversy.

Mr. Goodhue's Statement appears  
in full on page 12.

Governor Bryan, chairman of the state capitol commission, and other members of that body made statements Friday morning in denial of reports published by morning newspapers in Lincoln and Omaha indicating that serious difference and friction developed at the commission's meeting Thursday to inquire into the quality of stone furnished for the new building and other matters pertaining to the services of Architect B. G. Goodhue.

W. W. Head of Omaha, upon reading reports in the two morning newspapers of that city that he and Governor Bryan had had a falling out during Thursday's session, wire a statement to the governor flatly contradicting the story. Mr. Bryan corroborated Head's statement with one saying that no disagreement or clash of any kind took place in the meeting.

State Engineer George E. Johnson, secretary of the capitol commission, also refuted the story published by Omaha papers, indicating that he was to resign his position on account of personal enmity toward Architect Goodhue unless the commission cancelled its contract with the latter.

"It has been understood all along between Governor Bryan and myself," Mr. Johnson, "that I was to resign in the near future. The resignation does not depend on any action of the commission. I have delayed doing so only because I wished to bring out all the facts relative to the furnishing of inferior material for the building and other things which the people of Nebraska should know."

Mr. Goodhue presented to the capitol commission a typewritten statement of considerable length, in answer to the charges made by Secretary Johnson two weeks ago, relative to the quality and prices of stone used for the facing of the new capitol, alleged inaccuracies in the plans, and the letting of a contract for columns to an Omaha firm without authority from the commission.

The architect's statement was handed to press representatives Friday morning by Governor Bryan, along with one of his own summarizing Thursday's proceedings. Mr. Goodhue left the governor's office at 11 a. m. and said he was going out of town, but would return whenever needed. He has engaged an attorney at Omaha and presumably intended to stop off in that city before making up his mind whether to return to New York or not.

Thursday's hearing, according to the governor, was very informal. He said that everyone present, including members of the commission, Architect Goodhue and his assistants, Prof. Clark Mickey, of Lincoln, Contractor Henry Stryble, and various other contractors whom the commission called in, was privileged to make statements, ask questions and present suggestions.

Telegram From Head.  
The message which came from Governor Bryan from W. W. Head at Omaha, Friday morning, read as follows:

"Omaha Bee and World-Herald carry story that you and I had a disagreement in the meeting of the capitol commission yesterday. The statement is preposterous, as your attitude toward Mr. Johnson and the other members of the commission was very fair indeed. Neither was there any disagreement between you and me. Suggest that you ask Lin-reporters of these papers to make necessary corrections."

The governor said that he knew nothing about the stories until he heard from Head, as he himself had not seen the papers. He commented as follows:

"Mr. Head's statement is correct. There were no disagreements among the members of the commission yesterday, and no feeling of any kind

erred by the inquiry. It was not possible for the commission to consider the testimony or prepare a statement for the public setting forth the results of the inquiry up to date. All important statements, including questions and answers that were taken down in short hand and as

(Continued on Page 17.)

# DENY

#44  
March 9th 1923

## BRYAN ASSERTS ALL SERENE AT STONE INQUIRY

Governor Refutes Reports  
That Serious Differences  
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was expressed, shown or intended between members of the commission or anyone else present."

Governor Bryan gave out the following report of the session held Thursday:

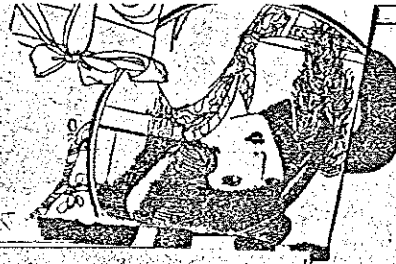
The capitol commission took up the matters relative to the stone that is being used in the capitol building, and also probed into all matters relative to the contracts, construction, price and quality of stone, etc., and went as far as they could with any testimony or evidence that could be used. The capitol commission was in continuous session for more than eleven hours in order to get the benefit of any information that could be furnished by any of those who were available of witnesses. It is the desire and intention of the commission to probe all matters relating to the capitol to the bottom and to give the public all the information pertaining thereto that seems of any public interest.

Mr. Goodhue filed with the commission a statement which was in reply to the statement made before the last meeting of the commission by Mr. Johnson, who is a member of the commission. At yesterday's meeting, Mr. Johnson submitted additional matter to the commission relative to the construction, contracts, etc. Mr. Goodhue was given a copy of Mr. Johnson's communication and was requested by the commission to make a reply. As soon as that report is received by the capitol commission, both the statement by Mr. Johnson and the reply thereto by Mr. Goodhue will be given to the press for the information of the public.

Mr. Struble of the Henry Struble Stone Co., who has the contract for building the first section of the stone wall, assured the commission that the stone that he had shipped to Lincoln for the new capitol was the stone that had been ordered and approved by the architect, and that he, Mr. Struble, stood ready to furnish the kind of material that the commission required or demanded. He stated that if there was any faulty piece of stone in the building he was not aware of it, and that he would replace any such stone that was condemned by the commission. Mr. Struble made a verbal statement at length to the commission and was requested by the commission to reduce his statement to writing. It will also be given to the press when it is completed.

Owing to the length of the session of the commission yesterday and the large range of matter covered by the inquiry, it was not possible for the commission to consider the testimony or prepare a statement for the public setting forth the results of the inquiry up to date. All important statements, including questions and answers that were taken down in short hand and as

(Continued on Page 17.)



# ITOLIC

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# MR. GOODHUE OR JOHNSON?

## STATE ENGINEER MAY NOT STAY IF ARCHITECT DOES.

3/9/25 - 50  
Showdown Before Capitol Commission on Charges Heard by Commission Behind Closed Executive Doors.

The capitol commission in closed session in Governor Bryan's office heard several witnesses Thursday and took testimony bearing on the charges made by a member of the commission, George E. Johnson, against Architect Bertram G. Goodhue. The session began at 11 o'clock and the commission did not stop for luncheon but had sandwiches and coffee brought in from the statehouse cafeteria. The utmost secrecy surrounds the entire proceedings all during the day. Witnesses whose names were not made public were called into the commission's presence, questioned and turned out.

### Talk of Showdown.

The commission closed its hearing at 9 o'clock Thursday night, but nothing was given out by Governor Bryan on behalf of the commission. It was said that the hearing amounted to a showdown of both sides to the controversy and that if the commission does not ask Goodhue to cancel his contract as architect and supervisor, Commissioner Johnson will resign rather than be held responsible by the commission for work done in the future.

The commission is alleged to have asked Attorney General Spillman for an opinion and the reply was that if the charges of Mr. Johnson are proven the contract would be abrogated.

Mr. Goodhue was to leave following the adjournment of the meeting for a trip to Omaha. He intends to return to Lincoln Friday.

Governor Bryan, who is spokesman for the commission, under a rule which prohibits members of that body to talk about affairs before them, announced to reporters at 5 o'clock in the evening that no report of the investigation would be given out until the commission had time to go over the matters it had before it. Following the taking of testimony the commission intends to digest what it has discovered and the governor will then make public a report of the inquiry.

The governor said Mr. Goodhue had filed an answer to the charges made by Mr. Johnson and that Mr. Johnson had filed another statement. The charges made by Mr. Johnson were made public at the time they were filed with the commission by Mr. Johnson and without the commission's knowledge. The answer now on file from Mr. Goodhue is still withheld from the public but the governor said it would be given to the press later, together with other matters.

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### The Principal Complaint.

The principal complaint filed by Mr. Johnson now at issue is the grade of the Bedford stone being used in the capitol walls, and what price shall be paid if the stone is allowed to remain in the walls. Mr. Johnson alleged the grade contracted for at 75 cents a foot is not being furnished but that a lower grade has been approved by Mr. Goodhue or his agents and that the stone approved is not worth to exceed 40 cents a cubic foot.

A stenographer was present when witnesses were questioned and recorded the testimony for the benefit of the commission.

The first persons called into the commission's private rooms were Mr. Goodhue and his office manager, F. L. Mayers and his designer, O. H. Murray, W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, a member of the commission, was not present. He had not returned from his winter visit to California.

Before going into the hearing Mr. Goodhue requested reporters not to ask questions because he could not under the circumstances open his lips. He indicated that circumstances might arise under which he would feel at liberty to talk of the matters before the commission. He said he found it hard not to talk when he was before the commission two weeks ago.

J. G. Ray, representing the Indiana Quarries company of Chicago, was among the first to arrive, about 11 o'clock in the forenoon. He remained almost constantly in the public reception room until 5 o'clock in the evening and had not been called to testify when that hour arrived. His company furnishes the Bedford stone which the Strubble company sets in the capitol.

At 4 o'clock J. P. Shirley and Herman Gunther of the firm of Peterson, Shirley & Gunther of Omaha, contractors who have knowledge of the grades of stone and who have bought a great deal of that material, were called into the secret session.

At 5 o'clock representatives of the Strubble Cut Stone which mills the Bedford stone and sets it in place, were called as witnesses. Clark E. Mickey of the university engineering department, assistant to Mr. Johnson in making tests of Bedford stone now being used, was called to the commission's room at the same time.

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Journal  
March 12, 23

# WOULD EXPEL MR. GOODHUE

3/12/23 50.

HOUSE RESOLUTION ALSO HAS  
JOHNSON ON LIST.

Representative Gallagher Proposes  
to Can Both of Them and Find  
Substitutes Who Will  
Stick to Job.

Representative Donald Gallagher, youthful member from Holt county, introduced a resolution in the house Monday urging that both Architect Goodhue and Engineer Johnson be discharged from the service of capitol building in Nebraska. Several members arose in a body in protest and consideration of the thing went over one day.

Mr. Gallagher, a lawyer, and not an engineer, announces that the stone is obviously imperfect. In his decision, he apparently concurs with Mr. Johnson who he would fire. He charges negligence, blames Mr. Goodhue for not establishing a residence in Nebraska and for receiving \$25,000 a year but neglects to mention that the architect also gets his traveling expenses. He apparently is willing to take out of the hands of the capitol commission the little matter of running its own business and recommends ouster of the two men and the selection of substitutes.

If the commission should be forced by Mr. Gallagher to fire its architect and should select a new one via the same route as Mr. Goodhue was chosen, it might be up against another preliminary cost of upwards of \$30,000. The member from Holt does not recommend a successor for either the architect or Mr. Johnson. The resolution in full:

"Whereas, the stone used in constructing the outer wall of the new capitol is obviously and unquestionably imperfect, and whereas, the people of the state of Nebraska who are paying for this building are intensely interested in seeing the building constructed in as nearly a perfect manner as possible, and whereas, Architect Goodhue, who is drawing \$25,000 per year from the state of Nebraska and spending most of his time in New York, and Engineer Johnson, are equally to blame in so far as constructing the building of imperfect stone, the former because he originally recommended the stone, the latter because he passed on the stone before it went into the building, and whereas, the negligence of those two men is certain to result in either a great financial loss to the state of Nebraska, or in a building built of poor material, therefore, be it

"Resolved, that we, the members of this house, as representatives of the taxpayers of the state of Nebraska, recommend the ouster of both Goodhue and Johnson, and further recommend the securing of two men to take their places, who will stay on the job and conscientiously look after the interests of the people of this state in the highly important task of constructing the new state house."



# PUTS BLAME ON BOTH MEN

## Gallagher Introduces Resolution in House Recommending Ouster of Both Architect Goodhue and Engineer Johnson

### GOES OVER FOR A DAY ON MEAR'S OBJECTION

#### Commission is to Hold Another Meeting On Wednesday to Consider Evidence Taken at Recent Hearing

Both Architect B. G. Goodhue and State Engineer George Johnson are blamed for the use of inferior stone in the new state capitol building, and the removal of both men is demanded in a resolution presented in the lower branch of the legislature Monday by Representative Donald Gallagher, republican member from Holt county. On objection by Mr. Mears and others it was laid over for one day as the rules provide.

Mr. Gallagher stated to The Star that when he was at home a few days ago the people were talking more about the new capitol and the alleged failure of those in charge to secure the quality of stone called for by the specifications and contract than any other subject. His resolution declares that the defects in the material being used are plain to any observer.

The capitol commission is to hold another meeting Wednesday and consider the situation further. It has not yet made any findings as to the kind of stone furnished.

Following is the text of the Gallagher resolution, which is evidently intended to prevent a "whitewash" as the outcome of the inquiry:

"Whereas, the stone used in constructing the outer wall of the new capitol is obviously and unquestionably imperfect, and

Whereas, the people of the state of Nebraska who are paying for this building are intensely interested in seeing the building constructed in as nearly a perfect manner as possible, and furthermore,

Whereas, Architect Goodhue, who is drawing \$25,000 per year from the state of Nebraska and spending most of his time in New York, and Engineer Johnson are equally to blame insofar as constructing the building of imperfect stone, the former because he originally recommended the stone, the latter because he passed on the stone before it went into the building, and

"Whereas, the negligence of these two men is certain to result in either a great financial loss to the state of Nebraska, or in a building built of poor material, therefore be it Resolved that we, the members of this house, as representatives of the taxpayers of the state of Nebraska, recommend the securing of two men to take their places, who will stay on the job and conscientiously look after the interests of the people of this state in the highly important task of constructing the new state house."

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### THE COMMISSION'S DUTY

The capitol commission, meeting Wednesday, is passing on the evidence recently secured in the hearing on the charges brought by State Engineer George E. Johnson against Architect Bertram G. Goodhue. At this time it is concerned only with determining whether the state is paying an excessive price for the material and whether inferior stone is being used in the construction of the first section.

A second set of charges embodying other phases of the work has been drawn by Mr. Johnson, and filed with the commission. Mr. Goodhue was given a week's time to prepare his answer. Then the commission contemplates giving both charges and answer to the public.

Unfortunately the capitol commission appears in the role of a defender instead of an impartial inquisitorial body. If it has on its own initiative made any effort to secure opinions from disinterested parties, outside of witnesses called in by the state engineer to substantiate his views, then the public has not been correctly informed of the fact. There are several men in Lincoln well qualified to give the commission valuable information relative to the stone being used.

Elsewhere in this paper will be found a letter from Fred Kimball, of the firm of Kimball Bros., of Lincoln. Mr. Kimball has spent a lifetime in working with stone. To quote from his letter:

"I have made a careful and thorough investigation of the Bedford limestone being used in the construction of the new capitol and from my observation I can say that a large portion of this material is badly defective and should be replaced. Good Bedford stone makes a splendid building material and is used all over the country, but there is good stone at Bedford and there is also bad stone. I should say, and I do not believe that I exaggerate, that fully half of that which has gone into the walls of the building that is intended and expected to be Nebraska's pride, is very bad.

The stone with which fault is found is of very coarse texture; in fact is so coarse that it can be termed rotten. Some of it is permeated with very small holes, resembling those made by worms and is entirely lacking in lasting qualities. This fact will be readily apparent to anyone at all informed of matters of this kind.

A close examination of the stone will disclose the fact that some of it is planed in one direction, some of it in another and still others show a curve to the planing. It is said that this is under the direction of the architect and is for the purpose of attractive lighting effect. The extra cost of this diverse system of planing is said to be fifteen or twenty cents a foot—in the aggregate a vast sum which the taxpayers of Nebraska must pay. Notwithstanding the great cost involved in this plan, it can be said with certainty that one standing a hundred feet or more from the finished wall will be unable to say in what manner the stone is planed.

"I have examined Bedford stone in other buildings in this city and find none of the defects so apparent in the new capitol. The postoffice above the first course is of this stone, as are the columns of the Science hall at the state university and the trimmings in the public library. All of this stone is of first quality.

"The state capitol is of handsome and artistic design, possessing rare individuality. It seems an outrage that poor material—stone of the kind I have described, should be allowed in the walls of the structure."

There are other men who have given long study to stone of the same opinion of Mr. Kimball. If the commission has undertaken to secure their views, it has not informed the public of that fact. There are other men out in the state who could shed light on the situation. If necessary, why not send to other states? The matter of the quality of the stone is of such paramount importance that the commission cannot afford to sit quietly by and take only the information which comes to it. It should endeavor to collect all of the evidence to be had. When it has done this, then it will have fulfilled its duty but not until.

The matter of the contract which the commission has drawn with the architect is not properly a subject of inquiry. The contract has been drawn and signed and is binding unless vitiated by the action of one or the other of the parties to it.

Yet, in at least one particular, the contract contains a provision which is indefensible. It specifies that in the event that the contract is annulled by the state, the architect shall receive a stipulated percentage of what he would have received had the contract run its full course. There are no qualifications.

How the commission came to sign such a contract is past understanding. No private individual or business concern would tie itself in such a fashion. It reveals a lamentable lack of business acumen on the part of the members of the capitol commission. Once again the commission is reminded that its first concern must be the interest of the people of this state. Mr. Goodhue is admittedly by all of the best judgment of his profession, a great architect. He has a score and more of tremendous building achievements to his credit. But he is not a demi-god subject to foolish worship, and his interests are not above the interests of the people of this state. He came voluntarily into the competition for honor and financial rewards of constructing Nebraska's new capitol. He is a public servant of the people of this state in every sense of the word, and as a public servant must expect criticism in the same fashion as any other official of the state.

A wholesome recognition by the capitol commission that the people are expecting sane ordinary business judgment to be applied in the construction of the new capitol, along with a proper appreciation of art, will do much to clarify the situation.

# CAPITOL BOARD DIVIDED AS TO ISSUES RAISED

Members at Wednesday Meeting Unable to Agree as to Details During Letting of Contracts, Governor Bryan Reports.

WAITING TO HEAR  
FROM W. H. THOMPSON

Matters in Dispute Will Be Submitted to Him—Former Governor McKelvie Is Called In.

One drastic change in the muddled situation developed in the Wednesday hearing of the capitol commission. Questions raised by George Johnson and Mr. Goodhue relative to the price and quality of stone, what authority and latitude the architect was given, what responsibilities the state engineer may have as a member of the commission, whether there was any discrimination shown in letting contracts, whether there was before the commission any stone contracts lower than the one accepted, will all be determined by the members of the capitol commission who passed on these measures a year and a half ago.

When it came out at the conference that there was a difference of opinion among the members of the old commission present, who were Mr. Johnson, W. E. Hardy and Walter Head, in regard to matters being investigated, and which were decided over a year ago, as to questions of fact, such as what certain provisions in the contracts mean, and what bids were properly before the body when the contracts were let, it was determined to allow the entire old commission to settle these questions definitely.

Former Governor S. R. McKelvie was phoned to, and went immediately to the governor's office, where the entire matter was threshed over. In this discussion Mr. Bryan, the only new member, took no part, but acted as chairman, he said Thursday morning. It was finally decided that the absent member, W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, should be asked to come to Lincoln, and that facts in dispute would then be settled. Governor Bryan telegraphed to Mr. Thompson who is in California.

In the meantime work on the masonry of the capitol is at a standstill, just where it was when Mr. Johnson made his first charges, and construction work involving stone was held up to allow an investigation. Mr.

Bryan said that the members of the old commission will issue a complete statement, or a majority and minority report, setting forth their understanding of exactly what was done when the bids were let in 1921.

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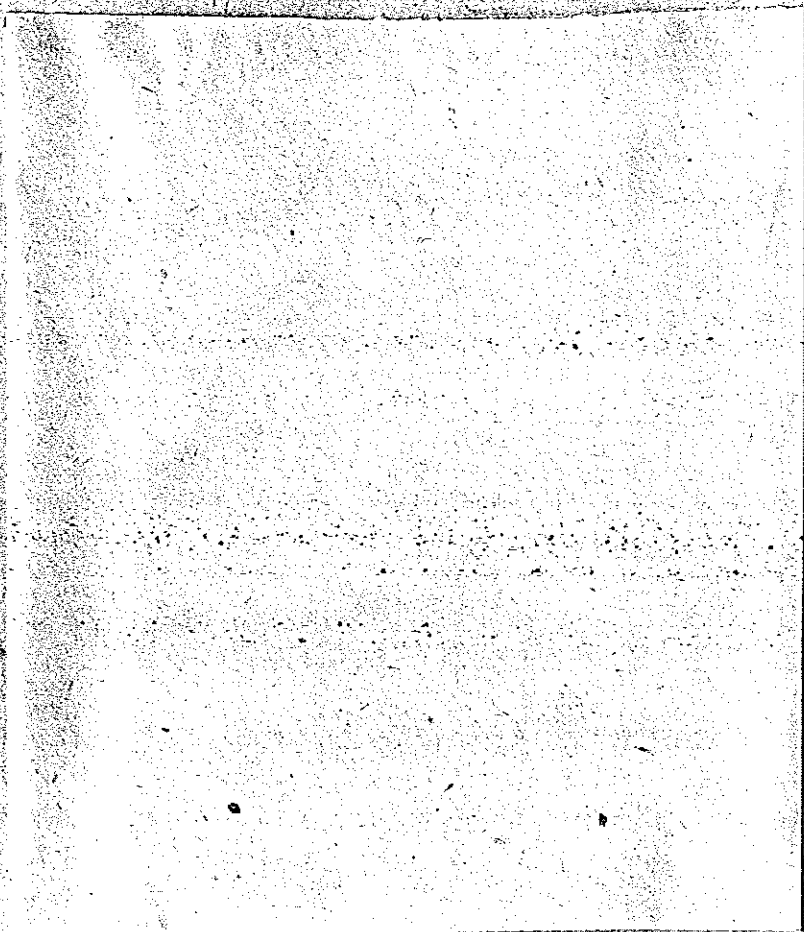
Star Thursday  
March 15-1923

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March 16, 1923



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# MR. STRUBLE TALKS STONE

DISCUSSES MATERIAL HE FURNISHES FOR NEW CAPITOL.

Tells of Bedford Material Which His Company Is Sawing and Placing in the Capitol Walls.

The following statement by Henry Struble of the Struble Cut Stone company, made before the capitol commission, was made public by Governor Bryan, chairman of the commission:

To the Honorable Governor and Capitol Commission of the State of Nebraska—Gentlemen:

At the conclusion of my statement before your honorable body on March 8, 1923, I was asked to dictate and submit to your honorable body the substance of the remarks which I made in connection with the investigation now being made by your body with reference to the material and construction of the new capitol building.

As near as it is possible to recall my statements from memory they are as follows:

I beg to remind the commission at this time that there were two openings of bids in connection with the letting of the contract for the new state capitol. The bids first presented were rejected by this commission. At the time of the taking of the second bids it was found by the commission that the bid of the Henry Struble Cut Stone company for the finishing, fabricating and setting of the granite and limestone for the building taken in connection with the bid of J. H. Weise company of Omaha for the balance of the work constituted by far the lowest bid presented to the commission. After due consideration by the commission and some negotiation as to whether a general contract should be let to the Weise company and the stone work sub-contracted to the Struble company it was finally determined that contract should be entered into direct by the Weise company for the balance of the work except stone and, by the Struble company for the stone work.

Might I digress at this moment to say that certainly so far as the Weise company is concerned I believe that the action of the commission is beyond criticism as the Weise company has a reputation second to none as builders and contractors and I believe that I can convince this commission (if permitted to go on and perform the work in the manner which my company is attempting to perform) that no mistake was made with reference to the letting of the stone work to the Struble company.

### Rustic Finish.

Immediately following the awarding of the contracts the Struble company prepared to go on with the performance of the work called for in the contract and specifications. Our Bedford mill was immediately instructed to and did prepare samples

that if it was desired I could procure from one of the mills in Bedford which was equipped for making that finish, whatever quantity of material it was desired to install; and accordingly would purchase a considerable quantity of shot-sawed stone from the J. F. Falt company. Subsequently I changed at the expense of my company one of the gang-saws into a shot-sawing device and I am now having a second gang-saw changed so that shot-sawing may be done with that machine.

I suggest to the commission that if its members will examine the specifications they will see that but one finish is called for therein, that putting in the five different finishes which I have installed in the walls already built is an additional expense to the Struble company but not to the state of Nebraska. I am doing this for the reason that I believe that when the plans of the architect have been carried out to a finish that the state of Nebraska will have the finest and most artistic state capitol to be found in the United States.

I have in past years done some minor work for Mr. Goodhue and have found him to be an architect of exceedingly artistic taste and rare capability and it was at the time I entered into this contract and now is my belief that his design and idea with reference to carrying out the design are going to result in something of which this state may well be proud.

### Quality of Stone.

Question has been raised in the newspaper articles which I have read with reference to the quality of stone furnished. Let me say to the commission that every foot of stone furnished or which will be furnished by my company for installation in this building is and will be strictly in accordance with the terms of my contract. Indiana goltic limestone is found in large quantities near Bedford and Bloomington, Indiana, it varies largely in texture and color. What is commonly known as No. 1 buff limestone is generally classified as of three grains—fine, standard and coarse. The fine limestone because of its adaptability for certain work and largely because it is much easier to saw, plane and cut is somewhat higher priced than the standard and coarse.

I might say however, that to the cut stone contractor, while there is some saving in purchasing the coarse stone in the block, the added expense of sawing, cutting and planing the coarse stone over the expense of fabricating the fine stone makes the various grades or grains of the finished product cost the cut stone company approximately the same amount. The reason for this is that pieces of flint or other coarse stones may be found in the coarser grades and these pieces of flint or coarser stone dull or break the tools used in fabricating the finished stone the finer stone can be sawed a great deal faster than the coarser stone. For certain work where certain finishes are desired the finer stone is preferred, on the contrary in many buildings preference has been and will always be given to the coarser grains.

### The Corner Stone.

My attention has been called to the statement which appeared in the newspaper that someone has stated

with the Capitol commission over this work. I hope and expect the same treatment from the commission which I am ready to accord to the people of the state of Nebraska. I believe that the commission has chosen an architect without a peer in this country for designing and superintending the construction of a building such as the state of Nebraska wants. I hope and expect that the work of my company will not fall short of that high standard called for in the contract and I believe desired by both the commission and the architect.

Before closing may I add one personal word. The contract calls for payments to the cut stone contractor monthly upon estimates to be furnished by the architect. The first estimate has been paid. Estimates issued to my company in December, January and February remain unpaid. There is over \$82,000 of estimates issued by the architect and delivered to the state authorities which have not been honored as yet. Approximately 50 per cent of the stone called for in this contract has been fabricated by my company, a large percentage of this is on the ground. Might I ask that the commission not alone approve what I have done and what I am seeking to do but show its appreciation of my efforts by taking care of the estimates promptly in accordance with the terms of the contract. It is my belief and I am sure that this honorable commission will agree with me that the contract for this work is being upon the state of Nebraska well as upon the Henry Struble Stone company.

yond criticism as the Weise company has a reputation second to none as builders and contractors and I believe that I can convince this commission (if permitted to go on and perform the work in the manner which my company is attempting to perform) that no mistake was made with reference to the letting of the stone work to the Struble company.

#### Rustic Finish.

Immediately following the awarding of the contracts the Struble company prepared to go on with the performance of the work called for in the contract and specifications. Our Bedford mill was immediately instructed to and did prepare samples showing the quality, kind and finish which we believe the specifications called for and the architect desired to have in the building. These samples were approved. In addition I instructed the mill to finish off a large number of blocks of stone and to build these blocks into sample piers showing them as they would appear in the finished building; this was done and the representative of Mr. Goodhue's office called at our mill at Bedford, Indiana, on August 17, 1922, and inspected the piers so constructed.

I present to the commission at this time copies of the photographs then made showing the construction of the piers, the finish and texture of the blocks therein and the manner in which it was proposed to lay the walls. The representative of the architect as I have stated called at our mill and approved these sample walls. It was suggested by him that before taking these photographs certain of the stones be removed from the piers and stones of coarser texture be placed therein in order to give to the wall that "rustic finish" which Mr. Goodhue and his representative had stated was desired in the completed wall in order to carry out the design and general effect desired by the architect; accordingly this was done.

After the changes had been made in the sample walls as suggested by Mr. Mayer, the representative of the architect heartily approved the color, texture, quality and finish of the sample stone work submitted to him.

One of the points which has been constantly kept before us by Mr. Goodhue was the fact that he desired, not alone the different finishes and textures of stone, but that it was his wish that as much of the yellow tint of N. 1 buff Indiana limestone as it was possible to procure should be installed in the walls of the new capitol. We have in accordance with this desire of Mr. Goodhue's been to a great deal of added expense in making careful selections of the rough blocks from which the finished stone should be fabricated, endeavoring at all times to keep away from what Mr. Goodhue characterized as a "cold" effect.

Following the approval of the sample walls the drafting department of the Henry Struble Cut Stone Company prepared working plans and drawings. At the expense of my company and in order to avoid the delay of the mails, I sent our chief draftsman to New York with these working plans and drawings in order to get the immediate approval of the architect. He spent nearly a week there going over the details of these plans and drawings with the architect's office and secured the approval thereof. I did this for the reason that I was advised that not alone was first class work desired by the commission, but that the time of the finishing of my

pany approximately the same amount. The reason for this is that pieces of flint or other coarse stones may be found in the coarser grades and these pieces of flint or coarser stone dull or break the tools used in fabricating the finished stone the finer stone can be sawed a great deal faster than the coarser stone. For certain work where certain finishes are desired the finer stone is preferred, on the contrary in many buildings preference has been and will always be given to the coarser grains.

#### The Corner Stone.

My attention has been called to the statement which appeared in the newspaper that someone has stated that the corner stone is the only piece of No. 1 buff gottic limestone which can be found in the state capitol building. Let me say to you that that corner stone is one of which I am proud. I found out what I believe the commission wanted and at considerable trouble procured this stone. There is not a finer piece of limestone in the United States, but it is what we class as statuary stone.

This commission could not find enough stone of that grain and quality in America to build the state capitol, nor do I believe that a capitol building of stone of that grain and texture would have the same beautiful appearance which will be found in the capitol, if the coarser textures and rougher finishes are used, as we have started to use them.

Some of these newspaper articles purport to be signed. I do not know who is responsible for their publication, but I do deplore the giving of publicity to charges against my company without giving to us a chance to first explain our position and avoid any misunderstanding upon the part of either the commission or the public. The Henry Struble Cut Stone company has, I believe, done everything required by it by the contract in working upon this building. Publicity of this sort is not desirable from the standpoint of any business house.

In the years in which the Henry Struble Cut Stone company has been engaged in the cut stone contracting business, it has undertaken 766 different contracts of varying importance. It happens that this particular contract is No. 758. The fulfillment of those contracts has involved the purchase by our company, the fabricating and installation of upwards of two million (2,000,000) cubic feet of stone. The Henry Struble Cut Stone company has never had a serious controversy with an architect or owner with reference to a job which it was performing. It has never placed a lien upon any work, it has never sued an owner and I believe has always satisfied every owner and architect for whom it has performed work.

#### Not Seeking Trouble.

I do not propose to get into trouble

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#### Five Styles of Finish.

Going back for a moment to the matter of finishing of the limestone I beg to say that at the time the sample walls were finished and first inspected they contained gang-sawed material, diamond-sawed material, wire-sawed material and planed material; that Mr. Mayers, the representative of the architect, expressed a desire to have more of the rough finished material and suggested that it might be well to incorporate in the wall some shot-sawed finished stone. I told him that at that time I was not equipped to shot-saw stone but

started to use them.

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#### Not Seeking Trouble.

I do not propose to get into trouble

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#51

Journal - Mar. 21, '23

## NEW CAPITOL TO BE A THING OF BEAUTY

3/21/23 - Jo.

Dr. H. B. Alexander Tells Institute  
of Architects Says It Will Stand  
as Monument as Well as  
Office Building.

OMAHA, Neb., March 20.—(By the Associated Press.)—"When completed the new \$5,000,000 state capitol of Nebraska will be the most impressive piece of architecture in all America," declared Dr. H. B. Alexander, head of the department of philosophy at the University of Nebraska at a dinner here tonight of the local chapter of the American institute of architects, at which he was the guest of honor.

"The new Nebraska capitol will be as fine in its own distinctive way as any of the monumental achievements, either Greek or Gothic," Dr. Alexander said. "It is more than an office building; it is a public monument and the value of it is not to be measured in terms of cost, but rather by the standard of an enduring significance. It should be regarded as the imposing symbol of the culture which the great plains regions should eventually produce."

Dr. Alexander, who is a distinguished essayist, philosopher and author of "Odes to the Generation of Man," highly praised the architect, Bertram G. Goodhue of New York city, who planned the new capitol, declaring that Mr. Goodhue is "first of all an artist, and an artist of genius."



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Feb

#52

1923

# STONE TESTS TO BE MADE

## CAPITOL COMMISSION AGREES LOWEST BIDDER GOT WORK.

### May Be Unanimous as to Facts— Trying to Stipulate Prices for Different Kinds of Stone in the Future. J.O.

3/22/23

The capitol commission investigation behind closed doors adjourned at 6 o'clock Wednesday evening. Governor Bryan, spokesman for the commission, announced that tests of Bedford stones would be made Thursday and another meeting will be held at 11 o'clock Friday to receive reports of the tests.

These tests are to be made to show the crushing strength of the stone, and according to Governor Bryan the result of the investigation may depend upon these tests. He said the indications are that the commission will be unanimous as to facts relating to quality of stone and price and contracts entered into.

The governor said the commission is trying to stipulate as to prices of stone of different grain or texture. He said it is trying to agree upon a sliding scale as to prices for different kind of stone for future use, it being optional with the state as to whether it shall use stone of different texture.

### Went to Lowest Bidder.

"The indications are," said the governor, "that the commission will be unanimous in a finding that the lowest bid before the commission was accepted. If the stone stands the tests the commission feels it can arrive at a unanimous agreement as to quality."

It is understood that if the commission desires it can use coarse grained stone and it will be given credit for stone of that quality.

The contention has been that the commission is paying 75 cents for stone that is not worth over 40 cents a cubic foot. Later it was alleged that the commission is not buying stone by the cubic foot for the first section now being constructed, but that this section was contracted for at a lump sum and that the price of 75 cents was fixed as the maximum price for the other two sections to be built in the future, this being desirable so that uniformity of stone may be obtained in the future without an increase of price.

One of the disputes that arose is whether the stone should stand a test of 4,000 pounds an average in the wall or per unit. It has also been contended that weathering qualities of the stone are of importance but that the strength is not for the reason that the stone is merely a veneer for the outer walls and that it is so laid in the wall as not to be required to stand any considerable weight.

The meeting was attended by Architect Goodhue, George E. Johnson who preferred charges but who severed his actual connection that the capitol commission Wednesday noon by resignation Roy Cochran, successor to Mr. Johnson as deputy secretary of the department of public works. Former Governor McKelvie and all members of the commission. W. H. Thompson came from California to be present as a commissioner.

### Additional Charges Not Divulged.

Just before the close of the capitol commission meeting the six members of the legislature comprising a joint investigation committee were invited in. The commission told the committee it would be pleased to have it witness tests of stone to be made Thursday. Chairman Wiltse of the joint committee held a brief session later to outline its course of procedure in investigating the same matter now before the capitol commission. Mr. Johnson has filed with the joint committee the same charges he filed originally with the commission. He has also filed with the committee additional matter which he filed with the commission March 8. The commission recently gave to the public the answer of Mr. Goodhue to Johnson's charges. The additional matter filed by Mr. Johnson with the commission and any answer filed by Mr. Goodhue has not yet been made public by the commission. The joint committee stated Wednesday night it did not care to make public Johnson's additional matter at this time.

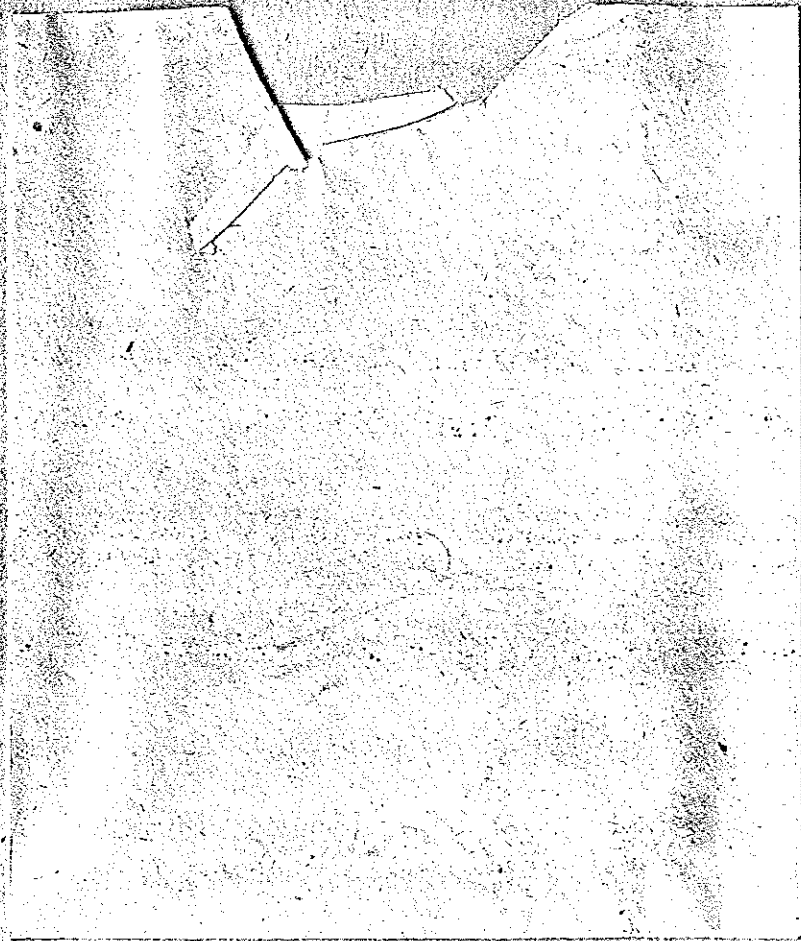
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#53

Journal

3/23/23



# JOHNSON HAS WORD TO SAY

(Continued From Page One.)

have someone look over our records and see what has actually happened, that you will soon come to the conclusion that no one could protect Mr. Goodhue and the commission from publicity.

I wish to say that the commission has been watching these matters from the time that the specifications were first prepared and I am satisfied that only such material will be accepted that is proper for us to use and that is being furnished at the proper price.

You also state that Mr. Goodhue has a personal friend in New York who advised him not to handle this building as he would get mixed up in politics that would give him more trouble than it would be worth. I too have a friend in the east who ranks among the leading men of the United States and when he heard that Mr. Goodhue had been selected as the architect to build our building and that I was a member of the commission who had in charge the building of same, he stated that he certainly

is sorry for me and my associates, that he had been on a church board of Mr. Goodhue was the architect that we would either have a great deal of trouble or we would have to stand for his high-handed methods; and speaking from my own experience after I have served sixteen years continuously in a public office and have been responsible for the expenditure of more than seventy-five million dollars, I do not believe that any man has anything to fear in handling public work if he desires to do the right thing and is competent to perfect an organization and handle the work that he wishes to do. I know that the other members of the commission as well as myself consider it a great privilege to have the opportunity to be of service to the people of the state of Nebraska in handling the construction of this building and I know that when this building is finished, the people will be satisfied that they have received full value for money expended.

GEO. E. JOHNSON.

Member and secretary of the capitol commission.

# JOHNSON IS GIVEN ROAST

(Continued From Page One.)

sonally," said Mr. Head, "and the commission considered them."

"Mr. Johnson was complaining that the working samples were not like the original and he brought the originals before the commission," said Mr. Hardy. "That ought to be proof that we had the samples before us."

The controversy followed the statement made by Professor C. E. Mickey in regard to tests of stone which he had made. The controversy had no bearing on the test and the test no bearing on the discussion.

Mr. Mickey was questioned after his report on tests. The commission desire to know if the samples before the commission upon which bids were based had been seen by him. He said he had seen them. He was asked by Mr. Thompson if they came up to his idea of No. 1 stone. Mr. Mickey said they did not in his opinion.

Governor Bryan asked if the working samples were the same as stone in the wall. Mr. Mickey said he could not tell until the surface of both were smoothed down in the same way.

At this point Mr. Johnson said the original samples were never brought before the commission. This brought out a storm of protest from all members of the commission. He was reminded that samples had been before the members and Johnson himself had asked that they be locked up so that no one could change them when the commission was not using them.

"You know these samples were never brought before the commission before this trouble came up," asserted Mr. Johnson. Johnson insisted the samples do not conform to the contract, which calls for select buff Bedford stone.

Governor Bryan asked if the stone in the wall conforms to the samples. Mr. Mickey said the wall contained about 10 per cent of stone not up to samples.

"Was not this delay caused because you admitted you did not know what No. 1 stone was?" asked Mr. Thompson. Johnson admitted this.

When the commission got around to Mr. Johnson's quotation of Goodhue's instructions that no consideration could be given to material inferior in grade when such material runs in different textures and colors, Mr. Thompson and Mr. McKelvie both contended that this meant the commission contemplated the use of varying textures. Mr. Thompson said he had no doubt the commission had in mind varying wall.

Mr. Goodhue admitted that he had said the instructions ought not to have gone out of his office, but said he had qualified that by saying it should not have gone out without the full consent of the commission. He was in Europe at the time.

Relled Upon Johnson.

"We wanted a varying wall and if the stone was not up to contract it was up to Johnson to tell us about it," said Mr. Thompson.

Several member then stated that they had the utmost confidence in Mr. Johnson and his ability. They relied upon him like a brother, said Mr. Thompson. They had faith in him.

# JOHNSON IS GIVEN ROAST

JO. 3/23/23  
CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS DIS-  
PUTE HIS STATEMENTS.

He Asserts State Is Being Skinned on Price of Stone—He Is Charged With Playing to the Galleries.

Charges that the state is being "skinned" made by George E. Johnson, former member of the capitol commission, with counter charges that he is playing to the public on false pretenses were hurled across the room in Governor Bryan's office Friday noon when the commission invited newspaper reporters in for the first time.

"I think the state is being skinned, and I want something done about it," exclaimed Mr. Johnson.

The members of the commission replied in earnest, not to say heated tones.

Much of the discussion was in loud tones, but referred to technical matters and procedure of the past which was not intelligible to those who have been excluded from the closed hearings of the commission.

It was evident that Former Governor McKelvie, W. H. Thompson, Walter H. Head and W. E. Hardy, were inclined to look with misappreciation upon Mr. Johnson when he alleged that samples of Bedford stone upon which bids were based had never been officially before the commission.

"They certainly were," said Mr. McKelvie, "and if any member did not see them and consider them he was surely derelict in his duty."

"Why you carried them around with you and you showed them to me per-

(Continued on Page Six-A.)

# NEW CHARGES BY JOHNSON

3/23  
LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATORS TO  
TAKE TESTIMONY.

Allegations of Discrimination on  
Part of Architect Bertram Good-  
hue in Favor of Material  
and Firms.

3/23/23

The legislative joint committee appointed to investigate the capitol commission will open Friday morning at 9 o'clock in one of the office rooms of Secretary of State Pool. The capitol commission which is under investigation is itself conducting an investigation of charges filed by George W. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was a member of the commission but severed his connection Wednesday noon by resignation. The capitol commission is not thru with its investigation, yet the same charges filed with the commission have since been filed with the legislative committee. Thus two investigations will be in progress at the same time. Mr. Johnson is said to have desired a legislative investigation before the capitol commission had passed upon his charges.

The legislative investigation has been termed an investigation of the investigation. The capitol commission has met behind closed doors and announced from time to time the more important proceedings, including Architect Goodhue's answer to Mr. Johnson's charges, and gave to the public copies of testimony taken behind its closed doors.

Mr. Johnson gave to the press his original charges which Mr. Goodhue answered. Later, on March, 8, Mr. Johnson filed additional charges with the capitol commission. These charges nor any answer Mr. Goodhue might have filed with the capitol commission, have not been made public, but the legislative investigating committee Thursday evening, upon the eye of its first meeting, gave out the original and the additional charges filed by Mr. Johnson with that committee. They are the same as the charges filed with the capitol commission.

The legislative committee comprises Senators Wiltse, Kroh and Purcell and Representatives McCain, Kemper and Kendall. This committee notified Mr. Johnson to appear Friday morning to offer proof of the charges he has filed with the committee.

### New Charges of Johnson.

The original charges dealt principally with stone for the capitol walls, errors made in the drawing of plans, and the awarding of a contract for \$25,000 for ornamental columns. Mr. Goodhue's answers to these charges were made public and published.

In the additional charges now before both the capitol commission and the committee of legislators, Mr. Johnson mentions matters heretofore not made public but also reviews the

### MR. GOODHUE'S ANSWER.

The answer made by Mr. Goodhue to the second charges brought by Mr. Johnson, former state engineer, has been in the hands of the capitol commission for several days. It is said to be a categorical denial of most of the charges. Where a difference of opinion exists on building methods, Mr. Goodhue simply gives his professional decision as an architect and puts it up against the opinion of the civil engineer. Where it is alleged that the specifications make it possible for but one firm to bid, as in the case of hardware, Mr. Goodhue says that these were submitted to Mr. Johnson, who should have objected if there was anything wrong. As a matter of fact, he shows that four leading firms, the best in the country, can bid in the hardware, the word "approximately" in the specifications doing away with all possible objections. As to the letting of the contract for interior columns against the orders of the commission, Mr. Goodhue shows that no such contract has been let in the matter of art work, Mr. Goodhue has contended from the first that it would be impossible to let such work by contract to the lowest bidder. The matter of the stone which is mentioned again by Mr. Johnson, is now being settled by the commission.

even the certain materials were specified, the architect's office informed them that it would be necessary to  
Continued on Page Ten.

start," said Mr. Johnson that I was not familiar with stone work but was with steel work, and it is not to be expected that I should have as much knowledge as the architect.

Mr. Johnson further said it was true the commission had always stood by him when there was a difference of opinion between him and the architect, but that it never should have been necessary for him to point out mistakes of the architect.

When Mr. Johnson said only stone contractors had been called as witnesses Mr. Head reminded him that the commission had told him to call witnesses.

"I have proved every point I raised by the witnesses that were here," said Johnson.

"Who could your attention to the screw nipple?" asked Head. "I did and I called your attention to other matters which were corrected, and now you go out and try to make the people believe you are the only one on the commission who is trying to save the state's money.

"We are getting exactly what we contracted for," said Mr. McKelvie. "If we are not it is our own fault. We did the best we could. I am willing to stand my share of the responsibility. If there is inferior stone the state is not getting what it is entitled to."

### Test Poorest Stone.

The test reported by Mr. Mickey of stone in a piece taken from the walls showed an average of 3,850 pound per cubic inch. The contract and specifications call for approximately 4,000 pounds.

Seven tests were made of a stone chosen by Mr. Mickey as being of a type he considers the poorest.

A stone of finer texture tested at the request of the contracting stone quarry tested 5,740 and 4,200 to the cubic inch.

As the wall in section one of the building has required to bear only 42 pounds to the inch the test as to compressure strength is considered of no importance.

The lowest test of the stone chosen by Mr. Mickey was 3,450 pounds and the highest in the same piece of stone was 4,320, tho a piece six inches tested 4,470.

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In the additional charges now before both the capitol commission and the committee of legislators, Mr. Johnson mentions matters heretofore not made public but also reviews the issue of stone.

In his new charges Mr. Johnson asks that Mr. Goodhue be asked to explain ten different transactions. The hearing, before the committee will first take the form of an inquiry as to what Mr. Johnson knows about the matters; he has asked that Mr. Goodhue explain.

The ten new charges are, in substance:

No. 1. Mr. Goodhue should give reasons for failure to include reinforced concrete for floors after he had promised the commission at its meeting in New York in December, 1921, that he would provide for the same. The excuse his office gave was a certain steel design would be cheaper, according to Mr. Johnson. An alternate proposal was then prepared by Goodhue's office and the commission's bids showed that this item reduced the cost on the first section \$20,000. Mr. Johnson charges that since then Mr. Goodhue has requested contractors to make changes in plans and caused the use of extra necessary materials without allowing contractors any additional compensation, and if this procedure is allowed to obtain prices for reinforced concrete floors in the remainder of the building will be considerably increased.

#### Proposed Plumbing Contract.

No. 2. Mr. Goodhue should be asked to explain why he wished to force thru the total plumbing contract for the entire building at a time when plumbing material was almost at the peak.

Mr. Johnson adds that Mr. Goodhue said it would be impossible to get plumbing of the second and third sections of the building connected on to plumbing of the first section owing to certain rules of the plumbers' association. Mr. Johnson alleged he pointed out that the price on plumbing had not dropped in proportion to building material, and that the commission cared nothing about the plumbing association of New York because local plumbers would get the work if it were let in sections instead of a whole.

No. 3. Mr. Johnson says as yet no explanation has been given for the fifty or more mistakes in the drawing of plans, even tho the architect had needed in explanations for \$9 to \$10 per hour for experts to check these plans.

#### Regard to Discrimination.

No. 4. The architect has specified and is insisting on the use of an acoustic material that is only made by one company and it has only one kind the acoustic qualities as compared with material being used in the United States supreme court chamber and other rooms thruout the country. Mr. Johnson explains that this matter was taken up with the architect and

## NEW CHARGES BY JOHNSON

(Continued from Page 1.)

bid in exact conformity with the specifications or their bids would not be considered.

Mr. Johnson asks that the architect give an explanation in regard to his action in trying to force the state to use the American radiators. It is alleged his engineer cut out all competition by specifying radiation with screw nipples. Later, in August, 1922, Mr. Johnson said he received a reply to his inquiry in which the architect said: "Engineers state, commission is entitled to screw nipples under specifications, but have no serious objection to United States Radiator Co's. type radiator."

#### Window Specifications.

No. 6. Mr. Goodhue's specifications for windows, says Mr. Johnson, were drawn by specifying the contact that the windows were to have so that no one excepting the International Casement company could bid. His office later stated that any standard casement window would be acceptable. Since then he has insisted they be used with the exception of secondary windows. At the request of the commission Mr. Johnson secured lower prices on these windows, the price being \$12,544 less than the International Casement company price by allowing other competitors to make the same changes that were of-

to the specifications furnished to the capitol company.

No. 7. Why did the architect order the marble columns in violation of the instructions which he had from the commission?

#### Who Shall Do the Carving.

No. 8. Mr. Johnson says he called attention at the December meeting of the commission to Mr. Goodhue's statement that no one but Edwin Ardolvio could do the carving. Mr. Johnson says the commission has a bid from one of the largest carving organizations in the United States to do the work on the first section for \$28,000 less than Mr. Ardolvio's price and it was Mr. Johnson's opinion that the man of the architect's choice would do little of the work himself but that he would send a group of Italians to do it.

No. 9. In regard to hardware Mr. Johnson says Mr. Goodhue specified locks that have a distance of 3 7/8 from center of hub to center of cylinder, and Mr. Johnson finds this closer the specifications to a special lock that Mr. Goodhue wishes to use, cutting out competition on the same and will cost more than is necessary.

No. 10. Mr. Johnson says the working drawings for stone show the bonding of the stone in several places is not to exceed six inches on stone which are from four feet to five feet long. This short bonding runs up the entire side of the building almost in a straight line. This is not in line with standard practice and the wall is not as strong as it should be says Mr. Johnson.

#### Reviews Stone Issue.

Mr. Johnson in closing his additional charges goes into the stone question. He says a letter dated July 12, eight days before bids were received on stone, was sent to contractors in the form of instructions. This was a circular letter from the architect. It closes with this quotation, according to Mr. Johnson:

"No consideration can be given to the acceptance of material of inferior grade when such material runs in different textures and colors."

Bids were filed accordingly, says Mr. Johnson, and Mr. Goodhue's representative, the capitol commission, the Consolidated Stone Co., could not furnish the stone as it was not of a grade that would satisfy Mr. Goodhue, even tho the stone price was \$33,000 lower than the bid Mr. Goodhue's office recommended.

Mr. Johnson says in his charges that there was a separate proposal to reduce this figure \$20,000 on the first section or \$60,000 on the entire building, giving the commission \$93,000 less than the bid recommended by Goodhue's representative, and this low bid covered first grade stone, the only exception being that they be allowed to furnish stone varying in color. A contract was made by the commission with the Indiana Quarries company for No. 1 buff Bedford. Mr. Johnson says Mr. Goodhue knew then what he wanted, and went to the mill and gave instructions as to what he wanted and that a temporary stone wall was laid there by his direction and that a photograph shows the stone in the sample wall at the mill is exactly the same texture and finish that is being furnished and shows the variations in color.

It is further related by Mr. Johnson that Mr. Goodhue came to Lincoln in December, 1922, and went over the wall and stated exactly what he wanted and said he wanted some stone

to the specifications furnished to the capitol

him."

Mr. Johnson says Mr. Goodhue replied that it was necessary to have an assortment of engineering, heating and plumbing engineers and an expert in all of these were granted. Johnson says he has no objection to correlate these different and present a set of plans for the commission that could be constructed the building with a number of changes.

"I believe the commission should begin," says Mr. Johnson, "to find out what Mr. Goodhue is furnishing that is worth we are paying him."

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#### Who Shall Do the Carving.

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No. 9. In regard to hardware Mr. Johnson says Mr. Goodhue specified locks that have a distance of 3.78 from center of hub to center of cylinder, and Mr. Johnson finds this closes the specifications to a special lock that Mr. Goodhue wishes to use, cutting out competition on the same and will cost more than is necessary.

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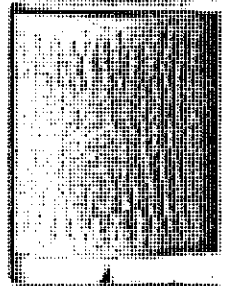
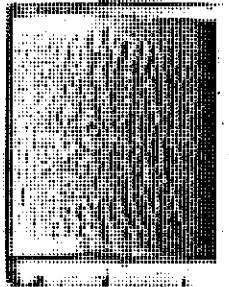
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to the specifications that were furnished to the capitol commission by him."

Mr. Johnson says Mr. Goodhue replied that it was necessary for him to have an assortment of experts in engineering, heating and ventilating engineers and an expert sculptor, and all of these were granted, yet Mr. Johnson says he has not had ability to correlate these different experts and present a set of plans to the commission that could be used to construct the building without a large number of changes.

"I believe the commission should begin," says Mr. Johnson's charges, "to find out what Mr. Goodhue is furnishing that is worth the salary we are paying him."



# BIG SAVING IS NOW POSSIBLE

Capitol Commission, In Voting Clear Bill to Goodhue, Finds Saving of Approximately \$45,000 Possible By Stone Adjustment.

## NO PERSONAL GAIN FOR THE ARCHITECT

Defective Material to Be Replaced and Remaining Sections to Be Completed With Stone of Same Grain, Color and Texture.

*Lincoln Daily Star*

3-24-23

Charges by George E. Johnson, former state engineer, that stone being used in the new capitol can be bought at a price lower than the state is paying, were borne out in the formal findings of the capitol commission, which call for an adjustment on the price of stone in the first section of \$14,666.67. The commission also decided that the use of the same mixture of three grades or textures, requested by the architect, will be continued in the other two sections of the building, making a total saving to the state of about \$45,000.

Henry Strubbe, whose company is furnishing the finished stone in the walls, was present and agreed to the commission's decision. The adjustment price is based on present prices of the three grades of stone, which are 45, 65 and 75 cents.

Architect Bertram G. Goodhue is exonerated of all charges brought against him by Mr. Johnson, former secretary of the commission, by that body's formal report, which was signed following the Friday meeting in the governor's office by Messrs. McKelvie, Head, Hardy, Thompson and Johnson, Governor Bryan and Roy Cochran, the two new members of the commission, also signed as did Prof. Clark E. Mickey, who was called in as a stone expert.

### The Commission's Findings.

The commission's findings are as follows:

"First—That the contracts entered into by the commission for the construction of the Nebraska state capitol building, except for elevators, which contract was let in the amount of \$164 00 in excess of lowest bidders, were let to the lowest bidder of bids on file with the commission.

"Second—That from all the evidence, testimony and information submitted at said hearings, the commission finds that Architect Goodhue received no personal profit or benefit, directly or indirectly, from or growing out of any contract or contracts for material or building

#54 336.45 Neb. Star March 24, '23

or construction of the state capitol building.

### Stone Pressure 3,200.

"Third—That on March 23, 1922, the commission secured the services of Professor Mickey, of the state university, under instructions and directions to remove a sufficient sample of stone, which has been criticized from the terraced wall of the capitol building, and that a proper and necessary test of said stone be made; that such sample was removed from said wall under the direction of Professor Mickey and by him tested, and from the official report made to the commission by Professor Mickey on March 23, the commission finds the average pressure test made from such tests was 3,200 pounds pressure per square inch.

"Fourth—It is the opinion of members of the commission and is their best judgment that the remainder of the terraced wall of the capitol building be finished and completed with the same grain, color and texture of stone which is now being used in the building, as the members of the commission believe that the stone now being used is of good material, very artistic and with the exception of color and texture, complies with all requirements of the specifications as originally drawn by the architect and as submitted to bidders.

"Fifth—The commission believes after a thorough investigation and examination of reports of the various stone quarries that stone known as 'coarse buff' is now selling at 45 cents per cubic foot and that stone known as 'standard' is selling at 75 cents per cubic foot and that stone known as 'select buff' is selling at 75 cents per cubic foot, and inasmuch as all three above described grains of stone are now being used in the construction of the capitol building in order to get the desired effect and since the walls of the building, as now being constructed, are for all purposes as good as though 'select stone' had been used throughout.

"The commission is agreed that the contractor, for supplying the stone in the first section of the building, should credit his account against the state or the capitol commission with the differences between the average price of all three grains of the said stone, which is 61.2-3 cents per cubic foot and 75 cents per cubic foot the present price of 'select buff' or number one buff, Indiana limestone or a total of \$14,666.66.

"The commission is also agreed that on the second and third sections of the capitol building that it, the commission, should have the option, under its contract with the Indiana quarry to use, if it so desired, 'coarse buff' stone at 45 cents per cubic foot, 'standard' at 70 cents per cubic foot or 'select' at 75 cents per cubic foot."

#55

# G. E. JOHNSON RENEWS CLAIM OF NEGLIGENCE

## Former State Engineer Charges Before Legislative Body Capitol Architect Is Either "Grossly Negligent or Grossly Incompetent."

*Lincoln Daily Star 3-24-21*  
**CLASH OVER "\$10  
AN HOUR" WORKERS**

### Goodhue Admits Recommend- inf of High Salaried Drafts- men But Denies That They Worked Under His Supervi- sion.

George E. Johnson, former state engineer, renewed his previous charges that Capitol Architect Goodhue "is guilty of either gross negligence or gross incompetence," before the joint legislative investigating committee, which met in the supreme court chamber at 9 a. m. Saturday. His charges in regard to the stone contracts was passed over by Mr. Johnson on the assumption that the decision arrived at by the capitol commission Friday settled this matter. The present hearing is based on the ten specific charges against Mr. Goodhue, which with the architect's complete answer were printed in Friday's Star.

In the meantime work on the capitol walls, stopped since the controversy came up, was scheduled to start again Saturday afternoon, as soon as a committee consisting of Mr. Goodhue, Prof. Clark M. Mickey and Deputy State Engineer Roy Cochran, now secretary of the commission, could inspect the work already done and indicate which individual stones are not up to standard and must be replaced.

Saturday morning Auditor Marsh drew warrants for claims allowed by the commission for \$23,365.40 to Mr. Goodhue, covering his salary of \$6,250 for the quarter ending January 1 and the usual overhead and extra expenses. Included in this amount is the \$7,000 printing item which a delegation of local printers objected to. Two claims by the Henry Strubble company were also approved. They were filed in December and February and were for \$21,864.60 and \$24,587.00.

The legislative committee, which is composed of Senators Wiltse, Purcell and Kroh and Messrs. McCain, Kendall and Kemper, settled down to a business-like taking of evidence, and personalities which featured the commission's meeting Friday were almost totally eliminated. W. H. Thompson and W. E. Hardy,

of the commission, and Architect Goodhue, and his attorneys were present, and the hearing was conducted much as a law suit.

**Johnson Statement.**  
In opening his case, Mr. Johnson made the following formal statement:

To the joint committee of the Nebraska state legislature investigating work done on the state capitol building.  
Gentlemen:

"I wish to say at this time that I do not wish to be construed as saying anything that will reflect on the judgment or actions of the state capitol commission. I know that in each instance before taking any action, the commission secured what they considered the best advice obtainable and after looking back over all the work the commission has done, I do not know of a single instance, considering the information that we were able to get, where the commission could have acted more wisely.

"I am, however, satisfied that the architect is guilty of either gross negligence or gross incompetence, and this is the charge that I wish you to keep in mind as this bearing progresses; and when discussing the mistakes that the architect has made.

"I do not wish the committee to get the impression that I have personally found all these mistakes as our field organization has been working as a unit in checking this work, and the major mistakes have been found here and corrected. A part of these mistakes have been found by rechecking in Mr. Goodhue's office, but all of the corrections that I have to present are the result of mistakes found and corrections made or to be made after the contracts were let."

Respectfully submitted,  
**GEORGE S. JOHNSON.**

Mr. Johnson real into the record accounts of the preliminary work and contracts made by the capitol commission, of which he was secretary, tending to show the responsibility which was placed on the architect and the assistance which was given him. Under the contract with J. H. Wiese company, that

company was to construct the greater part of the first section, including masonry, structural steel, carpenter work, interior finish, roofing, plumbing, heating and electrical work, including the services of the contractor's office and field organization necessary to correlate the work under the supervision of Mr. Goodhue, for the lump sum of \$1,431,000.

"My duties were to correlate the different trades and have the same responsibility that a general contractor would have if a general contract were let," said Mr. Johnson, and the architect was to retain his rights and privileges as to accepting and rejecting materials and supervising the work as set forth in his contract. And the work I was to do was contracted except the foundation work, elevator work, plumbing, heating, ventilating and electrical work."

### Clash Over "\$10 Men."

A clash occurred between Mr. Johnson and Mr. Goodhue when the former referred to some of the "\$10 an hour" men preparing plans under

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the architect's supervision, which were afterward found to be faulty and had to be corrected. Mr. Goodhue admitted that he had recommended these men, but denied that they worked under his supervision. "I considered their judgment better than mine or we would never have hired them," he said.

"Additions had to be made to these plans after the contract was let," said Mr. Johnson. "They were drawn by experts recommended by the architect and should have been perfect."

Mr. Goodhue's answer to Mr. Johnson's second set of ten specific charges was made a part of the record, and exception was taken to parts of it by the former public works secretary. The architect's explanation of asking changes in the concrete floor work because the Omaha company getting the contract had failed to take into account the "negative load," was branded as not true by Mr. Johnson, who said that the company had been required to put in material which it can go into court and collect for.

The architect's explanation of the manner of letting the plumbing contract, which he first planned to let in one unit for the entire building, Mr. Johnson asserted was mostly sarcasm and not based on sound business judgment. If Mr. Goodhue's idea of letting the contract in one lump had prevailed, he said, only a few of the largest firms in the United States would have been able to bid, and local firms cut out entirely.

### Many Changes in Plans.

A copy of the foundation plans, to which important corrections were made by Mr. Johnson, were filed with the committee. He also filed a list of sixty-one changes in the architect's plan which were necessary in order to properly construct the building.

Before adjournment over the noon hour, Chairman Wiltse read a letter from Homer B. Knauß, of Omaha, secretary of the Nebraska division of the American Society of Civil Engineers, offering the organization's co-operation and assistance to the committee in carrying on its investigations.

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CLOSE OF CAPITOL CASE. TO

On February 23, George E. Johnson, then state engineer and a member of the capitol commission, made public a series of grave charges against Bertram G. Goodhue, architect of the new Nebraska capitol. Verbally Mr. Johnson supplemented these charges with even more serious accusations.

The matter has been investigated patiently by the commission for four weeks. Every scrap of evidence that could bear on the case has been heard. Testimony has been invited from every source. The stone, the chief feature of the controversy has been subjected to exhaustive tests.

The findings of the commission are that all contracts have been let to the lowest bidder with the single exception of the elevators, where a preference of \$164 was given to secure the kind the commission desired. The commission further finds that "Architect Goodhue received no profit or benefit directly or indirectly from or growing out of any contract or contracts for material or construction of the building of the state capitol."

This finding is signed by all of the members of the capitol commission, including former Governor McKelvie, and former State Engineer George E. Johnson. The appearance of Mr. Johnson's name on this report is of course a withdrawal of his charges against Mr. Goodhue. The architect is cleared of all charges affecting his personal and professional honor. It is a happy circumstance that brings the name of the chief accuser to the report to make it unanimous and conclusive.

In spite of the injustice and cruelty of the personal charges brought against Mr. Goodhue the investigation can be written down as wholesome and a good thing for the state. It developed the fact that by using stone of three different grains, a wall may be secured with the "bloom" or texture desired by the architect without paying the highest price for all of the material and without weakening the wall in the least. The possibility of making this combination was not known to Mr. Johnson, apparently, nor to others in charge of the inspection, until the fact was brought out in the investigation. The commission was quick to act on this development and has not only succeeded in recasting the present stone contract at a saving of \$14,866.66, but has taken an option for the same kind of stone for the remainder of the building at a saving of nearly \$30,000 more.

The painful incident will thus be of direct financial advantage to the state. It will be even more useful in increasing the watchfulness of all of the people connected with this great work until it reaches completion.

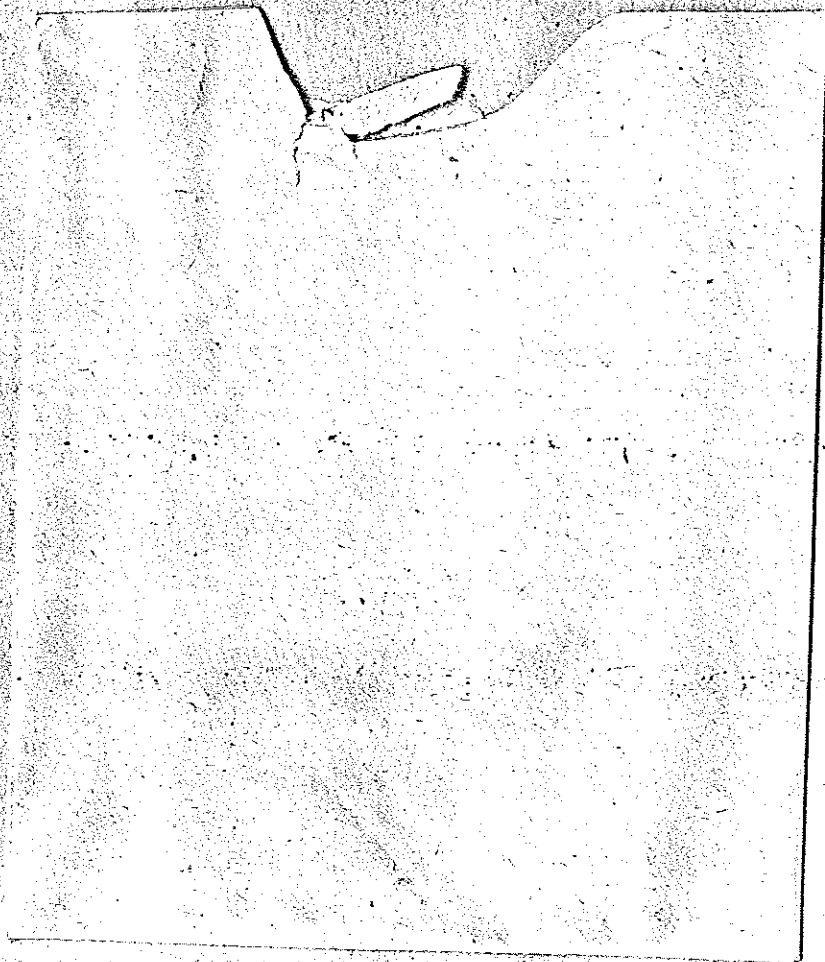
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3/24/23



# CAPITOL COMMISSION CLEARS MR. GOODHUE

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## FINDINGS THAT ARCHITECT DID NOT BENEFIT BY CONTRACTS.

### Credit for \$14,666 Asked and Defective Stone in the Wall to Be Removed--- Same Grades to Be Used.

#### Findings of the Capitol Commission.

First. That the contracts entered into by the commission for the construction of the Nebraska state capitol building, except for elevators, which contract was let in the amount of \$164.00 in excess of the lowest bid, were let to the lowest bidder, of bids on file with the commission.

Second. That from all the evidence, testimony and information submitted at said hearings, the commission finds that Architect Goodhue received no personal profit or benefit, directly or indirectly, from or growing out of any contract or contracts, for material or building or construction of the state capitol building.

Third. That on the twenty-second day of March, 1923, the commission secured the service of Professor Mickey of the state university, under instructions and directions to remove a sufficient sample of stone, which has been criticized, from the terraced wall of the capitol building, and that a proper and necessary test of said stone be made; that such sample was removed from said wall under the direction of Professor Mickey and by him tested, and from the official by Professor Mickey on March twenty-third, the commission finds the average pressure test made from such tests was 3,850 pounds pressure per square inch.

Fourth. It is the opinion of the members of the commission and is their best judgment that the remainder of the terraced wall of the capitol building be finished and completed with the same grain, color and texture of stone which is now being used in the building, as the members of the commission believe that the stone now being used is of good material, very artistic and with the exception of color and texture, complies with all requirements of the specifications as originally drawn by the architect and as submitted to bidders.

Fifth. The commission believes, after a thorough investigation and examination of representatives of the various stone quarries, that stone known as "coarse buff" is now selling at 45 cents per cubic foot, and that stone known as "standard," is selling at 70 cents per cubic foot, and that stone known as "select buff" is selling at 75 cents per cubic foot and inasmuch as all three above described grains of stones are now being used in the construction of the capitol in order to get the desired effect, and since the walls of the building, as now being constructed, are for all purposes as good as the "select buff stone" had been used thruout. The commission is agreed that the contract for supplying the stone in the first section of the building, should credit his account against the state or the capitol commission with the difference between the average price of all three grains of the said stone, which is \$1 2-3 cents per cubic foot, and 75 cents per cubic foot, the present price of "select buff," or No. 1 buff oolitic Indiana limestone, or a total of \$14,666.66. The commission is also agreed that on the second and third sections of the capitol building that it (the commission) should have the option, under its contract with the Indiana quarries, to use, if it so desires, "coarse buff stone" at 45 cents per cubic foot; "standard" at 70 cents per cubic foot, or "select buff" at 75 cents per cubic foot.

The capitol commission Friday afternoon unanimously arrived at a decision on charges filed by George E. Johnson, former member of the commission. It finds that Architect Bertram G. Goodhue received no profit or benefit directly or indirectly growing out of contracts for construction or for material for the new capitol.

nesses and having continued the hearing, March 21, concluded the hearing on March 23, and having had under consideration all charges and denials thereof to this date and from the evidence and information offered to and secured by the commission, find that the contracts entered into by the commission for the construction of the Nebraska state capitol

... per cubic foot; "standard" at 70 cents per cubic foot, or "select buff" at 75 cents per cubic foot.

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The commission decides to continue the use of the grades of stone in the first section of the building known as the terraced wall as it believes the stone is of good material, color and texture; but it directs the removal of defective stone from the wall, and it arrives at a sliding scale based on the market price of stone of the same grain, color and texture and under this decision asks for a credit of \$14,666 on the first section of the building. If the remainder of the building is built of the same material this means a credit of about \$45,000, but the commission does not say what material it proposes to choose for the two sections remaining to be built. It finds the stone, with exception of color and texture, complies with specifications.

Henry Struble, contractor building the first section, was present, and agreed to the report. Mr. Ray, representing the Indiana Quarries company which furnishes the stone, and said it was satisfactory, tho his attorney, Mr. Hart at first objected to the finding that select buff Bedford stone is now worth 75 cents on the market. He said it was worth 80 cents a cubic foot.

The contractor is to be given orders to proceed with the laying of stone which had been ordered discontinued.

Architect Goodhue, Professor Mickey and Roy Cochran, serving as a member of the capitol commission, were authorized to select the stones which shall be removed from the walls now laid. Mr. Mickey said about 10 per cent of the stone laid ought to be removed from the wall.

The legislative investigating committee which adjourned Friday morning without taking testimony will meet Saturday at 9 o'clock in the supreme court room at the state house to hear the same identical charges which Mr. Johnson filed with the capitol commission.

The findings of the commission were first signed by Former Governor McKelvie, Walter W. Head of Omaha, W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, W. E. Hardy of Lincoln and George E. Johnson. It was immediately signed by Governor Charles W. Brayton who has presided over the investigation. Professor Mickey and Mr. Cochran also added their signatures.

#### Decisions of Commission.

The findings are as follows:

Findings and recommendations of the capitol commission upon consideration of charges and criticism relative to stone being used, and also charges pertaining to Architect Goodhue.

The Nebraska state capitol building commission, having met in formal session on March 8, and having taken up for consideration and determination written charges and complaints filed with commission by George E. Johnson, secretary of public works, received the testimony and statements from all available sources and wit-

nesses and having continued the hearing on March 21, concluded the hearing on March 23, and having had under consideration all charges and details thereof to this date and from the evidence and information offered to and secured by the commission, find that the contracts entered into by the commission for the construction of the Nebraska state capitol building, except for elevators, which contract was let in the amount of \$164,000 in excess of the lowest bid, were let to the lowest bidder, of bids on file with the commission.

# JOHNSON GIVES MORE EVIDENCE

## Presses Charges of "Gross Incompetency or Negligence" of Architect Before Legislative Investigating Committee.

### GOODHUE TO MAKE REPLY ON APRIL 3

### Former Secretary of Capitol Commission Elaborates On Specific Items Involving Huge Sums — Work to Be Resumed Monday.

Voluminous documentary evidence and unqualified verbal statements in support of his ten specific charges against Architect Bertram G. Goodhue, were placed on record by George E. Johnson, former secretary of the capitol commission, at the Saturday hearing of the joint legislative investigating commission, together with a formal answer by Mr. Goodhue.

"I am almost inclined to let the whole thing slide on my former answer," said the architect, when the introduction of evidence by Mr. Johnson was completed. On advice of his attorneys he reconsidered, however, and the committee adjourned to 11 a. m. Tuesday, April 3. Mr. Goodhue left for New York Saturday afternoon, but will return to Lincoln in time for the next hearing. The committee is, under instructions to report to the house and senate, and members are of the opinion that their or, at the most, four weeks will see the close of the session.

That Mr. Goodhue specified when calling for bids, and has insisted on, acoustic material for the new capitol that is only manufactured by one company, was one of Mr. Johnson's charges. This material, it is charged, is inferior in acoustics and more expensive than another kind which could have been secured.

Says \$150,000 Too Much Paid.

"If your committee desires any further evidence in regard to this matter," said Mr. Johnson, "I would advise that you call in competent witnesses, as I am satisfied that if the same specifications and materials used prevail, that has been furnished by the architect, we will pay \$150,000 more for the acoustics material than should be paid."

The first specifications prepared by Mr. Goodhue for heating apparatus called for a special type made by a particular company, Mr. Johnson said. When this fact was called to the attention of the commission, a letter was sent out opening the bids to all standard equip-

ment. The architect, by telegrams, attempted to qualify the matter by calling for radiators with "screw nipples," made by only one company, the former state engineer asserted but was overruled by the commission.

The same tactics were employed in preparing the bids for windows, drawing the specifications so fine that only one concern was qualified to bid, was another charge advanced. The commission this time sent out a letter without the architect's knowledge.

"If it had not been for this letter by the capitol commission, we could not have received bids from

anyone, except the International Casement company," asserted Mr. Johnson.

The fact that the capitol commission has instructed Mr. Goodhue to cancel an order given by him for marble columns, was told the committee by Mr. Johnson. This was done since the present controversy started, and details were not given. It is understood that \$231,000 in cash was allowed in the contract for certain specific items, and that Mr. Johnson, at the commission's request, wrote to the architect in December asking for names of companies doing the kind of work specified in the cash allowance in the contract, and also asking him to recommend the companies best qualified to do the work.

"We heard nothing further until the order was placed," said Mr. Johnson. "I did not object to the price on the columns, but Mr. Goodhue seemed to take the position that this money could be spent without competitive bids."

W. E. Hardy, a member of the commission, here remarked that that body had never relinquished the right to have the ultimate decision in letting contracts.

All references to the stone contract was passed by Mr. Johnson in view of the formal findings of the capitol commission on that subject Friday.

Faulty Stones Picked Out.

Saturday afternoon a committee consisting of Mr. Goodhue, Prof. Clark E. Mickey, Roy Cochran, deputy state engineer and present commission secretary, checked a

dozen or fifteen stones in the walls which will be examined more closely the first of the week, and some of them taken out and replaced. This is in accordance with the commission's agreement with Henry Struble, of the Struble, Cut Stone company, that faulty stone should be removed and an adjustment made on the price, amounting in the first section to \$14,666.67.

In the meantime, work on the masonry as well as all other construction work on the building which has been held up since the controversy between Mr. Johnson and Architect Goodhue started, will be actively resumed Monday morning.

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#### THE CAPITOL FINDING.

When George E. Johnson, former secretary of the state capitol commission, filed his charges with that body, he specifically stated that he believed the state was paying too much for the stone which it was receiving for the new \$5,000,000 building.

Since making his original charge, Mr. Johnson elaborated on other matters in which he was at variance with the architect. On all of these charges, the commission has ruled that the evidence did not justify the statements which the former state engineer had made. It has given the public to understand, and the evidence has been largely to the effect that the stone did meet specifications and was precisely the kind of material which the architect desired.

In one particular, Mr. Johnson is fully sustained. By its findings, the commission itself has justified Mr. Johnson in his charge that the state was paying too much for the stone for the new capitol. In directing a rebate of \$14,666.66 on the stone for the first section, the commission is admitting it was paying too much for the stone. If the same saving results on the other two sections, the net result will be a saving to the state of \$45,000.

Mr. Johnson is entitled to full credit for this saving. He made his fight alone. He was subjected to severe criticism for performing what he conceived to be his public duty. It will be well for the taxpayers of Nebraska to recognize that to Mr. Johnson, and to him alone, is due the credit for the saving.

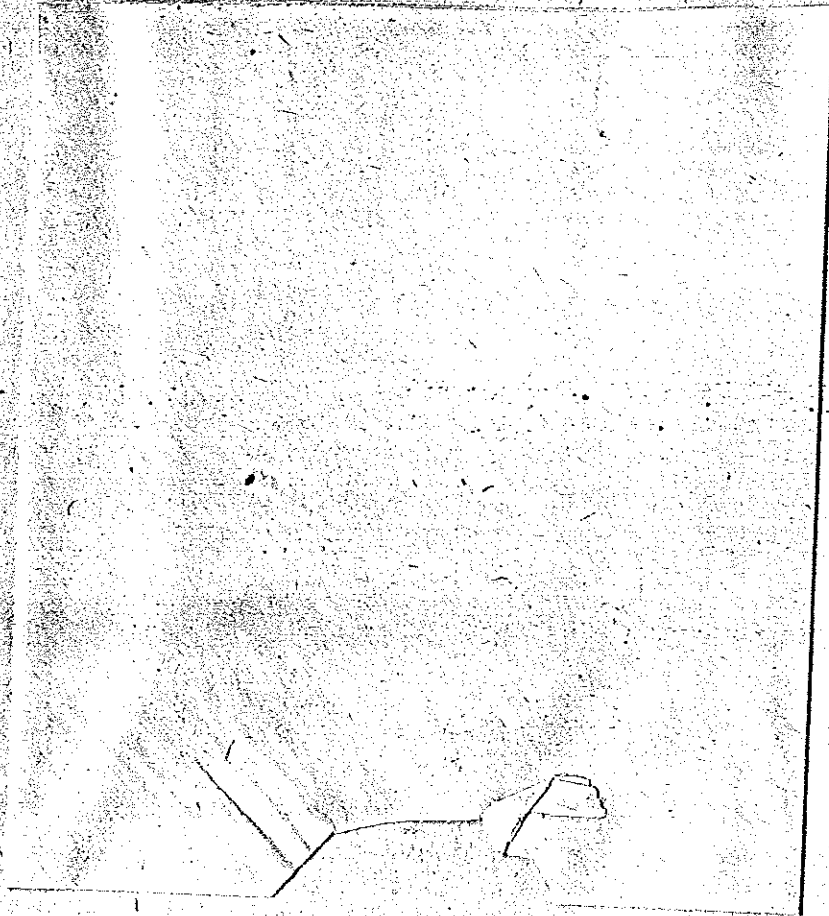
The joint legislative committee of house and senate is completing its inquiry into the capitol situation. Within a short time it will be ready to report its findings. When its work is completed, the state will then be ready to resume work on the new buildings. The information given to the public as a result of the inquiry affords the tax payers a better understanding of the problems connected with the building project and cannot be anything but helpful.

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Capital Investigation, 1923



# MR. GOODHUE WILL ANSWER

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**INCLINED TO STAND ON HIS FORMER EXPLANATION.**

**Architect's Attorney Advises Him to Prepare Fully to Refute Mr. Johnson's Charges Before Legislative Committee.**

Chairman Wiltse and the legislative investigating committee were confronted with matters artistic before the committee adjourned until April 3 at 11 a. m. If the committee in the meantime finds the legislature promises to remain in session longer than is now expected it will telegraph Mr. Goodhue that he can have more time to prepare to answer the evidence presented by George E. Johnson intended to prove that Mr. Goodhue is "either grossly negligent or grossly incompetent," as Mr. Johnson's charges now allege.

Mr. Johnson closed his testimony, but may desire to call some witnesses. "I am inclined to let the matter slide on my answer, but my attorney hardly agrees with me," said Mr. Goodhue.

Mr. Congdon, attorney for Goodhue, said he believed Mr. Goodhue ought to answer fully all matters presented, and that this may take time. Mr. Goodhue protested that an injustice would be done him to require him to prepare his testimony in less than three weeks. He consented to try to be present with evidence collected from his office records and probably with witnesses April 3, but he desires additional time if the committee can grant it. He said he had no witnesses here, having brought none from New York.

Mr. Johnson said to him the case he had made by presenting records of the commission and letters was plain enough, but he might desire to call some witnesses.

Before the committee adjourned Mr. Johnson said he hoped it would join with the capitol commission in disposing of the question of stone, and therefore he deferred presenting any testimony on that question to the committee. He said the commission's records were being made up and would soon be ready to submit to the committee.

The legislative committee is uncertain about granting delays in the hearing for the reason that it is not known how long the legislature will be in session. The committee is directed to report to the legislature before that body adjourns sine die.

Arrangements are in the meantime being made by the capitol commission to order the laying of stone to be returned. W. H. Thompson, member of the commission objected to the use of the word "defective" stone which are to be removed from the walls. He said the record of the commission does not use that word. The motion bearing on this point...

in the sculptor's models. Mr. Ardolino, however, has proved his ability to grasp and execute in stone the character desired by Mr. Lawrie. It will therefore be folly to have the sculptor's models made by Mr. Lawrie if the value of his artistic touch is lost in the execution of the carving.

"Let me assure you that the selection of Mr. Edward Ardolino for the carving will produce the best results and be in the interest of the state and believe me, faithfully yours,

"BERTRAM G. GOODHUE."

Mr. Johnson's charges relating to this are as follows:

"Mr. Goodhue also told the commission at their meeting in December, 1922, that no one excepting Edward Ardolino could do this carving satisfactory to the sculptor and himself. I wish to call your attention to the cash allowance, page 16 of trade No. 5, \$81,847 is set aside for the carving. This work is covered in Mr. Ardolino's letter to Mr. Goodhue, quoted above.

"We had a proposal with one of the bids, which is still on file, proposing to use one of the largest sculptor organizations in the United States to do this work for \$30,000 less than the cash allowance of \$81,847, which would make a difference in price of \$51,847 or \$26,000 less than Mr. Ardolino's price.

"I believe the architect should be required to recommend several companies who are in a position to do the carving and then the commission, after receiving quotations, will be in a position to decide who should do the work. The specifications for this carving require the work to be satisfactory to the architect and according to the models, and I do not see where the state is taking any chances on hiring any well organized firm of carvers to handle this work."

Mr. Goodhue said in his explanation of this matter before the capitol commission that if the commission in the interests of economy desire to force on sculptor, who is an artist, a carver with whom he may not be in sympathy, it would seem hardly worth while to employ a sculptor of Mr. Lawrie's known ability.

In regard to Johnson's charge that Goodhue had specified a certain lock that cuts out competition Mr. Goodhue interrupted to assert that there are no final specifications for hardware, that they are tentative and that the copy of a record presented by Johnson as evidence was tentative and not a specification. In his published answer to this charge Mr. Goodhue said two prominent hardware men had stated that the proposed specification will not shut out competition.

In regard to a similar charge relating to windows Mr. Goodhue has also entered a denial, but Mr. Johnson said but for a letter sent out by the commission to bidders there would have been no bids on windows except the bid of the International Window Case-ment company.

**Commission Had Not Relinquished.**

When Mr. Johnson came to the matter of the contract with Sunderland Brothers for marble columns he said that the matter had been settled by the capitol commission and that Mr. Goodhue had been directed to cancel the contract. Mr. Johnson said he did not object to the...

Chairman Wiltse admonished Mr. Goodhue to wait until Mr. Johnson had completed his testimony.

In his explanation to the capitol commission Mr. Goodhue said:

"Radiation. The correspondence given by Mr. Johnson is correct. It is also true that the heating and ventilating engineers' specifications call for screw nipples, which are considered the best form of construction for radiators, and, to this extent, limited competition among bidders, and lower bids might have resulted had the specifications been more liberally drawn. As shown by the correspondence, Mr. Johnson seemed very anxious to relieve the contractor from his obligation to furnish screw nipples, although relieving the contractor from the requirements of the specifications, the contractor may have been saved much money and have given the state a poorer form of radiation than the specifications called for."



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Arrangements are in the meantime being made by the capitol commission to order the laying of stone to be resumed. W. H. Thompson, member of the commission objected to the use of the word "defective" stone which are to be removed from the walls. He said the record of the commission does not use that word. The motion bearing on this point is alleged to direct the removal of such stone as do not come up to the specifications or samples, but the word "defective" is not used in the motion.

After the committee adjourned its members retired to compare samples and stone in the walls and to compare working samples with the original samples submitted by the stone company before the contract was let.

The adjournment of the committee will have no bearing upon the resumption of stone work.

#### Sculptural Carving.

To show that Architect Goodhue is either grossly negligent or incompetent Mr. Johnson submitted this letter from the architect:

"New York, Dec. 9, 1922.—George E. Johnson, Esq., Secretary Capitol Commission; Lincoln, Neb.—Dear Sir: In accordance with a request of the capitol commission I hereby submit the following firms as having executed carving for me:

"Edward Ardolino, New York; John Evans & Co., Boston, Mass.; George Brown Co., New York; Henry Struble Stone Co., Bedford, Ind.

"Of these firms Mr. Ardolino has proved the most able and at the same time the most reasonable considering the artistic value of the finished work. For many years he has been executing the carving of Mr. Lawrie's work and has his approval and endorsement. The carving at St. Vincent Ferrer's church and the reredos at St. Thomas' was executed by him, and in both cases, at a considerable saving over two of the firms named above.

"In my experience I have found it difficult to obtain the same character in the stone carving as was expressed

Mr. Goodhue said in his explanation of this matter before the capitol commission that if the commission in the interests of economy desire to force on sculptor, who is an artist, a carver with whom he may not be in sympathy, it would seem hardly worth while to employ a sculptor of Mr. Lawrie's known ability.

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#### Commission Had Not Relinquished.

When Mr. Johnson came to the matter of the contract with Sunderland Brothers for marble columns he said that the matter had been settled by the capitol commission and that Mr. Goodhue had been directed to cancel the contract. Mr. Johnson said he did not object to the price of the columns contracted for but objected to the items of \$281,951 in cash allowance which the architect assumed he had the right to spend without competitive bids.

"It is hardly fair to put it that way," interposed Mr. Hardy of the capitol commission commenting upon Mr. Johnson's statement that the commission had not authorized spending of this money without competitive bids. "The commission never relinquished that right to the architect."

"Its right to receive competitive bids and let contracts," explained Mr. Johnson.

"I do not know," said Mr. Thompson, "I was not here. I believe we did have a competitive bid on marble columns and did not need to have another. The commission has not said there were no competitive bids."

Mr. Goodhue in his published explanation told of the difficulty in getting four large marble columns either in Italy or America but that Sunderland Bros. finally stated they could secure in red Verona marble, which was satisfactory to him, but at a price in excess of the allowance. This firm had the contract at that time.

Mr. Johnson presented records and letters to show that Mr. Goodhue had in the face of instructions from the commission that bids would be received on any standard material had specified a certain type of radiation. The commission's letter to contractors that any standard material might be bid upon was disregarded, said Mr. Johnson.

"Was the price of the contract changed as a result?" asked Mr. Goodhue. Mr. Johnson made no reply and

# GOODHUE TAKES OVER A FOURTH OF COSTS PAID

Designing, Plans and Surveys  
Claim About 39 Per Cent of  
Total Expenditures to Date;  
Little Over Half of Con-  
struction.

## ARCHITECT IS WELL GUARDED BY CONTRACT

Alternative to Pay Designer  
6 Per Cent of Total Cost of  
Capitol Would Require  
\$180,000 and Large Addi-  
tional Sums. *March*  
*4-1923*

There has been expended up to date on the new Nebraska capitol building the sum of \$599,628, of which \$160,445 has gone to Architect B. G. Goodhue of New York and his assistants; \$42,791 to eastern firms for furnishing special designs, surveys and estimates; \$29,752 for preliminary architectural plans and advisory services before the contract was let to Goodhue; \$313,753 paid for actual construction work on the building; and about \$50,000 for miscellaneous other items.

It is thus seen that the total cost of architecture, special designing and surveys amounts to about 39 per cent of the total expenditure to date, and that nearly 27 per cent of the whole is represented by payments made under Goodhue's contract alone.

Another Goodhue claim of \$23,356 is in the hands of the capitol commission, covering the last quarter of 1922, which increase his total charges to \$183,801 up to January 1, 1923.

As his contract with the capitol commission was signed November 8, 1920, the services of himself and his assistants, plus "overhead" and various extras, have cost the taxpayers of Nebraska about \$7,000 per month, or \$84,000 a year. If his last claim should be allowed and paid as presented, his nominal salary is \$25,000 a year.

### Contract Ties Commission's Hands.

There has been some talk about the possibility that the commission might get rid of a bad bargain by dismissing Goodhue and taking direct charge of the project. It appears, however, that this cannot be done, under the contract signed in 1920, without paying him a further large sum.

An inspection of the contract gives the impression that the capitol commission tied its hand and foot when it signed up with the architect. The instrument is very much in his favor

and contains specific clauses which apparently relieve him of liability for the poor quality of stone that is said to have been delivered and used in the outer walls up to the present time.

One paragraph provides that if the architect dies or is discharged, or if work should be abandoned on the capitol building, payment must be made to him or his estate amounting to four-fifths of the salary which he

would otherwise receive during the unexpired part of a five-year term.

Two and a quarter years of that period has already elapsed. The commission, therefore, would have to pay four-fifths of Goodhue's salary for two and three-quarters years yet to come, should it see fit to dispense with his services now. It would have to hand over a cool \$55,000 as the price of letting him go, without the performance of any additional services whatever on his part.

### Alternative Contract Also Bad.

While the capitol commission reserved the right to change over to what is termed a "percentage" contract at any time within five years, there does not seem to be much prospect of relief in that direction. The alternative contract allows the architect 6 per cent commission on total cost, plus a number of "extras."

In case it should elect to do this, there would have to be an immediate adjustment whereby the architect would be entitled to \$180,000 at this time, plus the salary of his assistant in Lincoln and all traveling expenses incurred by himself and persons employed by him in connection with the capitol project. He would have to be paid additional sums as the work progressed.

Further, Mr. Googue would have the right under the percentage contract to claim extra pay for a considerable number of changes which have been made from time to time

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in the original plans.

If the commission should change from the \$25,000-a-year salary contract to the one providing for 6 per cent commission on total cost, it would be up against this clause:

### Can't Deduct from his Pay.

"No deduction shall be made from architects' fee on account of penalty or other claims against contractors and nothing in this agreement shall be taken as a surrender of rights to prospective profits herein, legally belonging to the architect."

Which means, if it means anything, that the architect could not be held responsible for the delivery of low grade stone, although he is in charge of the construction work and the state is depending on him to see that it gets high grade materials for which it has contracted to pay a high price.

The salary contract contains a somewhat similar paragraph, to the effect that the architect shall endeavor to guard against defects and deficiencies in the work of contractors, but he does not guarantee the performance of their contracts.

Many business men are unable to understand how the capitol commission came to bind itself to these conditions, giving the architect all the best of it, and at the same time agreed to pay him so liberally, when the country is full of competent architects, and private concerns are able to get plans for buildings on a much more reasonable basis.

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A WOUND TO HEAL. TO

It is now the part of Nebraskans who love justice to make felt the state's appreciation of Bertram G. Goodhue. The architect to whom we owe the prospect of a state capitol of international note as a work of art has been subjected to much suffering. His character as a man and as an architect has been roughly assailed, sincerely no doubt, but without just foundation. The unanimous findings of the capitol commission, including old and new members alike, are an absolute vindication for Mr. Goodhue. This alone does not compensate for the shock to which he has been subjected.

Before he undertook this work Mr. Goodhue was warned by his friends that he was walking into grief. As most men know, every great public venture like this is subject to public suspicion and to the play of politics. The architect who ventures to direct so conspicuous a public building as a state capitol risks entanglement with politics and invites the rough treatment which publics hold ever in store for public men.

The politician is inured to criticism and attack. He could not otherwise remain a politician. Ten thousand voices may call him crook and a thief and he smiles while their shafts break on his epidermis like arrows against a castle wall. The artist is necessarily of different type. He is sensitive, else he could not be an artist. He is not practiced in indifference to assaults upon his character or conduct. A statesman would come riotously happy out of the trial thru which Mr. Goodhue has come. The vindication has been extraordinary. His assailants have been refuted, his enemies silenced. But to the artist it remains a humiliation that the assault was made. Nebraska has dealt Mr. Goodhue a blow which is calculated to dishearten him for the highly important work which remains for him to do here.

It is doubtful whether any considerable number of Nebraska people have at any time taken seriously the imputations against Mr. Goodhue. The truth is that there is in Nebraska a tremendous pride in the new capitol, both in respect to the plan and to the general efficiency and integrity with which the work of construction is being carried on. The unanimity of judgment in this case of such opposites as Governor Bryan and ex-Governor McKelvie is expressive of the general unity of the people in this matter. Mr. Goodhue is entitled to proceed with his work in the assurance that his services are warmly appreciated by the people of the state. He may rest assured, further, that the worst in the way of fulfillment of his friends' warnings is now over. The way is clear ahead.

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# JOHNSON HAS WORD TO SAY

3/27/23 JD

## STATE ENGINEER DISCUSSES THE CAPITOL STONE PROBLEM.

Says He Waited in This Matter  
Until Tests Could Be Made  
and the Results Made  
Known

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 27.—To the Editor: I see an article in the morning Journal which criticises me for not stopping the laying of stone immediately when I found that this stone was not according to contract, stating that the other members of the commission had depended upon me to look after these things and indicating that I had not properly protected them.

I anticipated something along the line that was in your paper this morning and told your reporter yesterday that before any editorial was written on this subject, I would like to have an opportunity to talk to the editor for the reason that there were a number of things in connection with this building that had not yet been made public, and I did not wish to be put in a position to make a statement in regard to same before the commission had its next meeting.

In regard to the stone, it was made very clear to the architect at our meeting in his office, December, 1921, that the commission would not delegate myself or anyone else to take the responsibility of the building, that the responsibility was his and it could not be shifted from his office.

If this had been the first matter that had come up which was not right, I would have stopped the laying of stone immediately when the stone was delivered, however, after having blocked a number of attempts of the architect to put over on the state a number of things that were not right, I decided that he did not intend in anyway to protect the state's interests; and when it came to the stone, that I would wait and see just how far he would go. I also wished to have the opportunity to make sufficient tests before the stone was turned down.

Mr. Goodhue has been handling stone work for the past twenty-five years and if he wanted a stone that was irregular in color and texture, he certainly knew from past experience that such stone was a great deal cheaper and he should have specified what he wanted and seen that a contract was entered into accordingly and then required the contractors to furnish such stone.

You state that Mr. Goodhue stated that the stone in color and texture is as near to what he wanted as any that was offered and that the contract went to the best bidder at the time the contract was let and what the market became later is another matter. Mr. Goodhue did state to the commission that the stone furnished is just what he wanted, however, had he made known to the commission at the time the contract was let that such stone was wanted, we had bids and samples which are still on file for ninety-three thousand dollars less than the bid that his office stated we must accept in order to get acceptable stone.

As far as protecting the commission is concerned, there has been none of this stone accepted; and the amount of work done on the granite contract will more than offset the nineteen thousand dollars which has been paid. We also have a surety bond from a reliable company for \$686,000 which adequately protects us; and as you know the commission and the state are adequately protected in this matter, I assume that you mean I should have protected the commission from such publicity; I believe if you will

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# G. E. JOHNSON RENEWS ATTACK UPON GOODHUE

## Testifying Before Legislative Committee, Former Engi- neer Says Architect Should Proceed Without Awaiting Commission's Order.

*Lincoln Daily Star*  
ASSERTS WITNESSES

### FEAR BOYCOTTING

4-3-23  
Ex-Secretary Alleges Com-  
mission Learned "Early In  
Game" New Yorker Could  
Not Be Depended Upon—  
Head Disputes Charge.

"I am contending that when the state of Nebraska is paying an architect \$25,000 per year, paying his assistant \$6,200 a year and employing other special engineers at a great cost, it should not be necessary for a commission of laymen to go to that architect and tell him what to do." This was the statement made Tuesday morning by George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the capitol commission in the hearing before the joint legislative committee which is investigating Mr. Johnson's charges against Architect B. G. Goodhue.

At the hearing the members of the old and new capitol commission were present with the exception of Governor Bryan. Mr. Goodhue and his attorney were also on hand, the hearing taking place in the office of the secretary of state. The only witness to testify beside Mr. Johnson was John Westover, Lincoln steel contractor.

#### Claims Witnesses Fearful.

Mr. Johnson stated to the committee that he had had difficulty in getting witnesses to appear, as the architects, he alleged, are in a close corporation, and have it within their power to persecute contractors and ruin their businesses. It was suggested that the men might be subpoenaed and compelled to give testimony, whereupon Johnson requested that such service be had upon Mr. Jolly of the Concrete Engineering company of Omaha. Shortly after noon the hearing was adjourned until 1:30 p. m.

In the beginning Mr. Johnson asked that Mr. Goodhue be sworn and required to reiterate under oath the testimony given by him at the former hearing or that the same be stricken from the record. It was agreed

# G. E. JOHNSON RENEWS ATTACK UPON GOODHUE

(Continued from Page One.)

that this should be done, for the purpose of emphasizing, as he said, the fact that the architect is entirely responsible for all of the work on the building. Mr. Johnson read from the legislative act creating the capitol commission and from the contract with Mr. Goodhue. These show that the architect is to have general supervision and administration of all the work, though Johnson stated that Mr. Goodhue would contend that he was not responsible for the work of the special engineers.

#### Submits Steel Figures.

The first matter taken up by Mr. Johnson was his statement that by requiring the architect to insert alternative proposals for reinforced concrete instead of steel he had saved the state \$20,000. Mr. Goodhue had stated that this was because steel advanced in price \$20 per ton between the time of the drawing of the specifications and the letting of the contracts. John Westover testified that the average price of steel in Lincoln in March 1922, was \$2.38 per hundred, in May it was \$2.11 and in July it was \$2.30.

Mr. Johnson has charged that Mr. Goodhue was anxious to let the contract for all of the plumbing in the building at one time. This job extending over a period of five or six years, he declared, would have cost the state much more than to let it at three different times as the other work is being let. For the entire job, he asserts, there would have been but a few bidders and prices would have been high. He quoted the prices on plumbing materials at different times beginning the first of the year. These show a more or less steady advance. But Mr. Johnson stated that this is due to strikes in the material plants. Because of these strikes many of the factories have been closed and the business is being reorganized. When this is accomplished materials will cost much less and the state will save a large sum. At the time the architect wanted to let the contract for all of the plumbing, prices were very little below the war peak.

#### Head Interrupts Testimony.

It was stated by Mr. Johnson that

very early in the game the commission found that the architect could not be depended upon, but Commissioner Walter Head interrupted to say that Johnson was speaking only for himself and not for the Omaha member. Mr. Head also asked if the commission was being investigated or only the architect. Mr. Johnson answered that when the affair started it was only Mr. Goodhue, but if the commission wanted to get into it he was perfectly willing.

Changes in plans which had been made by the architect were about to be gone into when adjournment was taken. Mr. Johnson stated that the architect would contend that credits which the state would receive would balance the extra cost entailed by these changes, but he said that these things would be in the next contract and the state would have to pay for them ultimately.

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# ARE AFRAID TO TESTIFY

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**JOHNSON EXPLAINS WHY WITNESSES WILL NOT APPEAR.**

**Counsel for Goodhue Insists on Their Being Summoned and Tell All They Know About Construction Matters.**

Twice during the legislative investigation Tuesday morning of the charges filed by Engineer Johnson against Architect Goodhue in connection with the latter's work on the state capitol, did Mr. Johnson make the declaration that he was unable to get contractors to appear before the committee to support certain of his claims.

The first was made at the beginning when Mr. Johnson said that he had tried to get the contractors on steel work to back up his claim as to steel prices, but that influential architects had interfered and they were fearful of being prosecuted or their business injured. The second was when the matter of plumbing was taken up. Mr. Johnson said the plumbing contractors were afraid of what the architects might do to them on other contracts, and referred to the society of architects as a closed corporation.

Counsel for Mr. Goodhue, at this point, insisted that he name the men and that they be cited to appear as witnesses. The only name given was that of Mr. Jolley of the Concrete Engineering company of Omaha.

In the matter of steel prices, Mr. Johnson called John Westover, head of the Westover Steel & Iron works of Lincoln. Mr. Westover was called to controvert a statement of Mr. Goodhue, said Mr. Johnson, that the state saved nothing by using reinforced concrete instead of steel because steel went up from March, 1922, when the specifications were drawn, from \$60 to \$80 a ton. Mr. Johnson claims a saving of \$20,000, and Mr. Westover's testimony was to the effect that the average price he paid for steel during March was \$2.38 a hundred, while in July, when the contract was let, steel was billed him at \$2.30 a hundred.

In answer to questions of Mr. Head, Mr. Westover made it plain this was the base prices and not for steel fabricated in place in the structure.

In the matter of plumbing Mr. Johnson criticizes Mr. Goodhue for wanting to let the contract as a unit. Mr. Johnson said that this would cover five or six years; that it would be so big a job that competition would not be had save between a few firms, and that in the meantime plumbing material was certain to be reduced from the wartime figures.

Mr. Goodhue, in his answer to the commission, said that plumbing material prices have actually increased in price since the piece contract plan was adopted. Mr. Johnson submitted figures that show there have been advances over January, 1922, running from 10 to 50 per cent. He said in explanation that there had been a big strike in the factories with the result

that some of the big ones had closed down and were being rebuilt on more economical lines. He insisted that there was no question that at the next letting there will be a considerable decline in prices.

Mr. Johnson began the morning session of the committee with a request

(Continued on Page Ten)

that all that Mr. Goodhue had interposed during the hearing be stricken from the record because not sworn to and Mr. Goodhue's attorneys readily agreed, promising he would swear to it when he took the stand.

To emphasize, as he said, that Goodhue is responsible for the superintendence of the building and of the special engineers employed, Mr. Johnson read from the law creating the capitol commission and from the contract. He said that this showed the commission had no authority in law to employ anybody but the architect for superintendence, and that the contract specifically said the architect should have direction and control of all of the work. The proposals also set this out, he said.

In answer to a question as to the relevance of certain testimony offered Mr. Johnson said that he was trying to show that when the state was paying an architect \$25,000 a year, an engineer on the job \$5,200 a year and numerous special engineers, that the cost would run up to between \$300,000 and \$400,000, why the commission should not go to him to locate responsibility.

Ex-Governor McKelvie wanted to know if the commission had not always exercised its own judgment with respect to various matters, and Mr. Johnson replied that "it found out early that it could not depend upon him." Three of the members promptly put in a disclaimer that this did not represent their sentiments and that Mr. Johnson was not speaking for them.

Capitol Commissioner Head rose to inquire who was being investigated, the commission or the architect. Chairman Wittig read to him the explicit statement of Mr. Johnson, made in the beginning, that the testimony and charges were not intended to reflect on the judgment or motives of the commissioners. Mr. Johnson sharply replied to Mr. Head to the

effect that so far it had been confined to the architect, but if the commission wants to get in, there were no bars up.

Answering what he said Mr. Goodhue would be certain to say with respect to changes in the plans made necessary by mistakes or omissions of the architects and draftsmen, that the credits and extras would about balance one another, Mr. Johnson said that a large number of the items now being listed as credits because left out of the contracts already made would have to be taken care of in the next contract, and the state eventually would have to pay for them.

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## GOODHUE WILL MAKE SHOWING

Johnson Completes Presentation of Charges Before Legislative Committee Investigating Capitol Project.

### TESTIMONY DEALS WITH CONTRACTS

Matter of Acoustical Material, Radiation, Window Frames, Hardware and the Stone Carving Considered.

George E. Johnson practically finished the presentation of his charges against Architect Bertram G. Goodhue before the joint legislative investigating committee Wednesday morning and Mr. Goodhue was expected to take the stand in his own behalf during the afternoon. The morning hearing was devoid of sensational episodes of every character.

W. R. C. Rowan, who on Tuesday had testified that his firm was not allowed to bid on the acoustic work for the building, was recalled and identified photographs of St. Cecilia's cathedral at Hastings; the supreme court chamber in the capitol at Washington and Temple Beth-el at Detroit, Mich., all of which he stated are equipped with the products of his company. He also said that his company gives a positive guarantee of results, providing its specifications are followed. Mr. Johnson had said that the Rowan products would have cost the state one-ninth what that which the architect has prescribed would cost.

The next matter taken up was the alleged attempt of the architect to restrict bidding on radiation to the products of the American Radiator company. United States radiators were finally agreed upon and Mr. Johnson said that it would be difficult to figure the amount saved by this change, as the American company did not bid as high after the restriction had been removed and competition allowed. This was done at the behest of the commission.

#### The Window Frames.

Mr. Johnson testified that the state saved about \$11,000 on window frames. The architect had drawn specifications for a certain frame to be furnished by the International Casement company. Then after bids had been received the architect changed the specifications so as to allow the company to furnish a lighter frame. Mr. Goodhue had considered the matter closed by the commission let the contract for another frame to the Lupton company, thus saving the amount mentioned.

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# GOODHUE NOT AT FAULT SAYS HEAD

## Commission Member Takes Blame From Architect at Capitol Hearing.

### Former Secretary Johnson Declares Contract Fixed Responsibility.

At the Tuesday afternoon hearing before the joint legislative committee which is investigating the charges made by George E. Johnson against B. G. Goodhue, architect of the new capitol, Walter W. Head, member of the commission, told the investigators that the commission and not the architect should be blamed for apparent extravagances. He said that Mr. Goodhue had never been in charge of the work except as an advisor, but Mr. Johnson had previously read from the contract for the purpose of emphasizing, as he stated, that the architect was in fact in charge of the work, and responsible for it.

Mr. Johnson charged that Mr. Goodhue attempted to let the contract for all of the plumbing in the building at one time, instead of at three different times, as other contracts are to be let, but Mr. Head said that there was never any thought in his mind of buying any more material than was required for the first section.

Mr. Head stated that he voted to pay the \$7,000 claim for printing the specifications, about which there has been a great deal of talk. It was in a bill for the balance due Mr. Goodhue up to January 1, 1923. Mr. Head did not notice at the time that this item was in the bill, but he would have voted for it if he had known it.

W. R. C. Brown, secretary of a Philadelphia company which manufactures a product known as acoustic tile testified that his company had been requested by an engineering company to bid on the acoustic work in the building but he was informed at Mr. Goodhue's office that it would be useless to bid unless he could furnish a certain make of tile, to be obtained only of one company. It is stated that the architect desires this tile for the arches. Mr. Rowan insists that his tile will give three times the acoustic capacity of that selected by the architect and that it will cost one-third less. Mr. Johnson also declared that the Rowan material is modern and serviceable. If it is used the cost will be one-ninth the cost of the other. Mr. Johnson said that he did not believe that the legislative committee

would stand by and allow the people of Nebraska to pay nine times as much for material as was necessary. During the afternoon Mr. Johnson called attention to the prices Mr. Goodhue paid to experts in his office, this running up to several dollars per hour. These men, it was stated, are glad to come out here and work for \$165 to \$175 per month.



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S. J.

## EIGHT MEN IN EXPERT CLASS

4-4-23 S. J.  
DEMOCRATS KID THEMSELVES AS  
TO CAPITOL TOWER.

Attempt to Throw Bomb When  
House Takes Up Consideration  
of Appropriation for State  
Commission.

Eight House Democrats, sitting as experts on towers and domes, signed a communication, presented by one of them in committee of the whole Wednesday. This communication or motion would require the fixing up of the old dome and retaining it in preference to the proposed tower.

The tower was referred to as a "smokestack monstrosity." The eight democrats profess to like the present knob much better and one of them said that the saving will be \$4,000,000 if the knob is brightened up and retained. This member declared that capitols have been built dome-like since "Heck was a pup."

Representative Keyes, democrat not listed among the eight, moved as a substitute that straw roofing be used. The little funfest died with the voting down of the motion.

No serious objections were voiced to the following item in the appropriation bill:

Capitol commission—Special levy 1923-1924 together with any unexpended balance on hand June 30, 1923—\$3,283,111.94.

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# ARCHITECT HAS REPLY FOR ALL CHARGES MADE

## Goodhue Testifies Before Legislative Committee Dur- ing Entire Morning Session In Answer to Charges of Former Engineer.

### SAYS TRIED BEFORE "CRIME" COMMITTED Brings Counter "Accusation" That Johnson Forced State to Accept Bid For Certain Kind of Radiators — To Summon Witness.

Bertram G. Goodhue, capitol architect, was on the witness stand during the entire forenoon session of the hearing before the joint legislative committee investigating charges preferred against the architect by George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the capitol commission. His direct testimony was completed just before the committee adjourned at noon and he was to be submitted to cross examination by the accuser during the afternoon.

Mr. Goodhue took up the charges where he had left off on the preceding day, going into them categorically. The first matter to demand attention was that of acoustics, it being charged that the specifications limit the bidders to Rumford tile which costs many times what other material equally good can be purchased for. Mr. Goodhue stated that the commission had not yet approved of these specifications and that he was being tried for a crime that had not yet been committed. To use another material known as "Acoustolith" a saving of over \$30,000 would probably be made and a good material obtained, he said, but the shape of the rooms would have to be changed, for the architect did not believe that the commission would require him to use plaster and lath on domed rooms.

#### Says Estimates Necessary.

Referring to the \$13,000 cash allowance to be made to the contractor for colored tiling in the north vestibule or entrance, it was stated that this was to be made to conform to the ideas of the architect and these had not yet been worked out, except in a tentative way. It was impossible, therefore, to have a bid based on exact specifications. The only way of covering such a condition was to make an estimate of the probable cost and limit it to that estimate. The actual cost might be less than the estimate or allowance, as in the

case of the carving, where it was \$4,000 less.

The nearest approach to a clash between the contending parties at the morning session came when Mr. Goodhue took up the matter of heating specifications. Mr. Johnson had charged that the architect had sought to limit the bidding to radiators of the American Radiator company with screw nipples, but the commission had finally accepted those of the United States Radiator company, with push nipples. Mr. Goodhue stated that a representative of the Robert Parks Plumbing & Heating company, which was awarded this contract had said to him that its bid was based on American radiators with screw nipples and not on U. S. radiators.

"I think that Mr. Johnson should give an explanation of why he forced the state to use U. S. Radiators with push nipples," said the architect.

#### Subpoena is Asked.

Mr. Johnson at once demanded that a subpoena be issued for Mr. Eicholz, the Parks representative, that he might be called upon to give rebuttal evidence. He declared that Mr. Eicholz and a representative of the United States Radiator company had called upon him and asked that the use of U. S. radiators be permitted. It was on this account that he had taken up the matter with Mr. Goodhue. Mr. Eicholz will be called.

Mr. Goodhue stated that he had little to say in regard to the window casement specifications. He had approved the contract with the Lupton and had not felt very strongly about the matter one way or another. Any good casement would satisfy him. It had been charged by Mr. Johnson that the architect's specifications called for a certain window frame manufactured by the International Casement company and the state saved about \$11,000 by substituting the Lupton frame.

Denial was made of the charge that the architect had wrongfully let the contract to Sunderland Brothers for eight marble columns to cost \$35,000. No such contract has been let, Mr. Goodhue declared. In the specifications there is a cash allowance for such columns, but Sunderland Brothers wired him, he said, that they would cost more than \$2,000 in excess of this sum. This firm has the marble contract for the building, as far as it has been let, and this includes the columns at not to exceed \$25,000.

#### Reads Sculptor's Letter.

Mr. Goodhue read a letter from Lee Lawrie, the sculptor who is to design the stone carvings for the building, in which the artist expressed great confidence in Edward Ardellino, said to have been employed to do the carving. It was stated by the architect that the stone contractor had let this contract to Ardellino for \$77,840, whereas the allowance was \$84,000. Mr. Johnson contends that no such contract could be lawfully let and that the state can have the work done far below the Ardellino figure. Mr. Goodhue told of many high class commissions executed by Ardellino and exhibited photographs of a number of them.

Answering the charge that the hardware specifications were so indefinite that bidders could not mass bids upon them the architect stated

(over)

that these specifications were as yet only tentative and he read a letter from a representative of what he said was one of the biggest dealers in good hardware in the country, in which it was stated that the specifications were clear. The architect stated that he had called for a certain style of door check and hinge, but these were the best made and could be purchased from the manufacturer by any dealer.

Mr. Goodhue stated that he had asked Mr. Johnson to point out to him the faults which might exist in the stone setting plans, thinking that some might have been overlooked, as charged, but thus far the request had not been complied with.

#### Designed Many Buildings.

In conclusion the architect stated that he is fifty-four years old and has worked at his present profession since fifteen years of age. He designed the United States military academy at West Point and the government hotel at Colon, many other public buildings throughout the country, including about thirty-five churches, five of the largest of the latter being in New York city. In recognition of his work on these metropolitan houses of worship he was awarded the gold medal of the American Institute of Architects.

The Nebraska capitol is the largest commission he ever undertook and in reply to a question by a member of the committee he stated that his base cost price on this was \$5,000,000, exclusive of furnishings. It is now being built for sixty cents a cubic foot and at this rate the cost would run to between five and one-half and six million dollars. In a recent conversation with Otto Eidlitz, one of the greatest authorities in the country, the latter had predicted a break in prices within the next eighteen months or two years and if this should materialize Mr. Goodhue stated the cost of the building would of course be less. The plans call for 7,453,000 cubic feet.

# AIM IS TO PUT BEST MATERIAL IN NEW CAPITOL

## Architect Goodhue Answers Charges Made By Former State Engineer.

### Says He Yielded to Commis- sion at Every Point Ques- tioned in Plans.

Bertram G. Goodhue, architect of the new capitol testified in his own behalf, Wednesday afternoon before the joint legislative committee which is engaged in investigating the charges made against him by George E. Johnson, formerly state engineer and secretary of the capitol commission. The architect told the committee that he had done what he conceived to be his duty in obtaining for the state as fine a building as possible and in excluding inferior material from its construction. Mr. Goodhue was on the stand practically all afternoon and was expected to resume his testimony Thursday morning, the committee having adjourned until 9 o'clock Thursday.

It was frankly stated by the architect that he had drawn his plans so as to limit the number of bidders, thus insuring the best of materials. He said, however, that he had yielded to the commission at every point where these matters were questioned.

"As I have conceived and still conceive my duties as your architect, they have been and always are," he declared, "to obtain for you as fine a building as it lies within me to produce—to give, of course, due regard to the effecting of economies whenever possible, but not to specify or to permit the introduction and installation of frankly inferior material because such might be a little cheaper."

Mr. Johnson's final witness before he rested his case was James Webber, 31, a stone cutter who served his apprenticeship in England beginning at the age of 7, who said he built the postoffice building and an arsenal at Bristol, England, and who later was a contractor in Lincoln and built the Lancaster county court house by the eighties.

#### Criticizes Construction.

Mr. Webber criticized the capitol construction. The mortar joints, he said, specified by the architect to be a half inch thick, should only have been three-sixteenths to a quarter inch. In twenty years these

joints would fall out, and the stone would have to be "repointed."

He pronounced the structural work a "stone veneer" because of the narrowness of the facing material, and predicted that the iron anchors to the brick backing would rust out in a few years.

The overlapping of upright joints, which in many cases was only four inches by the architect's drawing, would tend to cause fissures particularly when these close joints were near the corners, as he said many were.

"As a mechanic I'm ashamed of this work," he declared. He was not cross-examined except by members of the committee.

Isaac Congdon, Omaha attorney who with Kenneth Findlayson is Goodhue's legal counsel, in cross-examining Johnson, asked him if the Sunderland Brothers contract of Omaha did not include a cash allowance of \$25,000 for marble columns.

"A cash item had been set aside in the contract for that purpose," Johnson replied. Johnson had raised the question of the propriety of the architect's writing to the company ordering the columns if it could get them within the price. He contended that this violated the state statute requiring competitive bids.

#### Admits Mistake Made.

Mr. Goodhue in his opening statement said mistakes had been made and would be made in so large a project as the new capitol, but he insisted there was nothing to warrant such charges of "gross incompetence or gross negligence" as Johnson had preferred. He appealed to the committee to consider in this connection his position as a reputable architect.

The changes in the plans, after the foundation contract had been let—which Johnson enumerated as sixty-one—he said had been due to the fact that the Jarrett-Chambers company, foundation engineers, hired by the commission to do this planning, made their drawings from incomplete drawings of the superstructure from his own office.

This was necessary, he said, be-

cause the capitol commission was rushed for time, and wanted to get started on the building. To offset this explanation, Johnson read into the record the fact that the architect had been hired two years before, and the foundation engineers nearly a year before the contract for the foundation was let last July.

Goodhue insisted in his statements that his ideas that Johnson had criticized had been reasonable ones.

The saving of \$20,000 to the state that Johnson claimed in overruling Goodhue's plan for "short span steel" and accepting cement, Goodhue said might not be an economy. He accepted his engineer's report, he said, that concrete, if not properly prepared, was liable to cause trouble.

As to the letting of the contract for the plumbing of the whole building at once, which Goodhue urged and the commission overruled, Goodhue said he was guided by the advice of his plumbing expert, Werner

Nygren, who argued that plumbing would go up and that if the contract was let of different sections to different firms, it would be hard to fix responsibility for bad construction.

To prove his contention, he read a letter from the W. G. Cornell company, of Chicago, big plumbing supply dealers, to show the increase in costs to date had been 30 to 32 per cent over what they were when the matter came up.

He took considerable time discussing the merits of Rūmford tile, the material accepted for acoustic material for the first section of the capitol by the commission, for \$25, 50, as against the "Acoustile" and other materials made of felt.

The architect's estimate showed \$113,500 for this material in the whole building. W. R. C. Rowan, representing a felt concern testified for Johnson yesterday that his material would have cost nine times less.

Goodhue pointed out that the accepted material was a genuine baked tile of structural and architectural merit, while the other was only felt over which canvas was stretched, suitable only in panels between wood.

In this connection he explained to the committee that he had introduced Prof. Sabine of Harvard university "the Columbus of acoustics," and out of that introduction the two—Guastavino is the manufacturer—worked out the Rūmford tile.

The criticism made by Johnson that the electrical and steam instrument room was not included when the contract was let was answered by Goodhue with the assertion that at that time the commission did not know where the steam tunnel was to come into the building.

The quarters for this equipment—Goodhue denied it was a room—were added at a cost of \$2,300 for construction, only \$230, he said, more than if the quarters had been shown on the original plan.

# WILL STAND 1,000 YEARS

4-6-23 S.J.

## WHAT CHARLEY OLSON SAYS OF WALLS OF NEW CAPITOL.

Solid Mass of Concrete in Foundation Makes It Immaterial Whether the Stones in It Overlap Very Much.

Charles Olson, who told the legislative investigators that he has built half the large structures in Lincoln, testified Friday morning that in his opinion the walls would stand for a thousand years. He was called by Mr. Goodhue to contradict the testimony of James Webber, veteran mason and contractor, who said that because of the large joints and the failure to lay the stones so that one overlapped the other sufficiently, would result in stones falling out within twenty years.

Mr. Olson further qualified as a taxpayer, owning \$350,000 worth of property. He said that the old-time masons provided wide overlapping because the foundation walls were then of stone only, and that if the foundation of this building were only of stone he would say the walls are being improperly constructed. The fifteen feet of solid concrete that forms the foundation of the new capitol makes this overlapping of no importance, and he said that it permitted artistic variations. It was pointed out that these variations occur only in one part of the walls.

He said he had looked at the walls five or six times as the work progressed, and that it is a perfect job. The heavy joints are not made of mortar, but of Portland cement that will in time become harder than stone, and no ill effects from water will be possible. There is no chance for decay. He said the bonding of which Mr. Johnson complained was the finest he ever put his eyes on, and the wall will stand for a thousand years so far as the mortar and stone are concerned.

Mr. Johnson said he had asked Mr. Olson to look at the stone samples, and also stones in the wall and sought to get him to repeat what he said. It contained some vigorous profanity attached to a declaration of the rottenness of the stone.

"Why, Mr. Johnson," he said, "I never said anything of the kind. I have never sworn all my life."

"But that was your opinion, leaving out the swear words?" asked Chairman Wiltse.

"Yes, but there were only a few of these bad stones."

### Another Estimate of Cost.

Mr. Johnson, during the morning, called attention to an estimate of the cost of the new capitol, made a year ago by Mr. Murray of Goodhue's staff. This gave \$3,600,000 for the first section, \$4,021,000 for the second and \$1,500,000 for the tower, a total of over 9 millions. Mr. Goodhue said that these figures were supplied by one of the most expensive contractors he knows, and Mr. Johnson said that if the 10 per cent necessary to cover architect's fees, field work and other costs, were added to this the cost would be over 10 millions. This is misleading, however, because the first section cost nowhere near the figure given. If the same unit costs prevail for the remainder of the building the total will be a little over 7 millions.

Mr. Thompson brought out that the commission had at all times kept within the appropriations so far, and that the contracts were so drawn that there would be no overlapping of the appropriations.

W. L. Younkin, clerk of the works, and Mr. Goodhue's personal representative on the job, read a reply to the charges of Mr. Johnson insofar as they covered changes in the plans that the engineer said showed incompetency or neglect. He took each up in turn, and explained why it was necessary. Sometimes it was beyond the architect's control, other times that there had been switches in the commission's orders, and the like. He said that balancing the credits against the debits for extras the state had been saved \$6,590.

He is an architect himself, and said he regarded a most incompetent the architect who did not find it necessary to make changes in plans as the work progressed to get a better building and save money for his client. He explained why foundation plans were hurried and other details of the progress of plan-making. It was necessary to so time the work that as soon as the present legislature gets thru the work of demolition of the two meeting chambers begin so that by two years hence the house and senate will be provided for.

No more or bigger mistakes had been made, he said, on this job than on jobs of like magnitude and that the state had suffered no loss because of changes. In answer to a question of Mr. Johnson he said that he was paid \$60 a week while in Goodhue's office in New York, and draws \$100 a week here as clerk of the works.

On cross-examination Mr. Johnson questioned the validity of some of the reasons he gave for the changes. He also brought out the fact that some of the contractors had refused to agree to the deductions made in some instances, and others disputed the basis of computation.

Mr. Johnson stated that in the specifications he had drawn it was provided that whenever there was a deduction the state should be credited on the same unit cost basis as it would be debited if any extras were

# WILL STAND 1,000 YEARS

(Continued From Page One.)

put in. He said this was not put in the specifications sent out by the architect, with the result that the contractor is protected on extras but the state is not on deductions. He said the commission never had a chance to pass on the final specifications because of the haste necessary to get advertising for bids started, due to the favorable price situation.

Commissioner Thompson at one time objected to the method employed by Mr. Johnson in testifying, arguing and otherwise breaking the rules of legal etiquette, and Mr. Johnson retorted that he was getting even for the third degree given to him by the commission.

"I am a whole lot more interested in this than you are," shot back Mr. Thompson. "You are out. I am still in."

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

# STATE GAINED IN STONE CONTRACT

—MCKELVIE.

Former Governor Says Credit  
Possible Through Struble  
Company's Fairness.

Frankly Asserts Belief That  
Johnson Is Wrong In Pres-  
ent Controversy.

Former Governor McKelvie testified Thursday afternoon before the joint legislative committee investigating the charges of George E. Johnson against Bertram G. Goodhue, capitol architect, that the state was not in reality entitled to the credit of \$14,633 made by the Struble Cut Stone company, which is furnishing the stone for the new capitol. This credit was allowed by the contractor after the commission had finished its investigation of Mr. Johnson's charges to the effect that the company was not furnishing stone of the quality called for in the contract.

The former governor stated, however, that the stone is according to contract and that it was only out of consideration upon the part of the Struble company that any reduction was obtained by the state. Then Mr. Johnson read from the findings of the commission to prove that his former chief was wrong.

The contract with the Struble company calls for No. 1 stone and the commission found this term means the same as select, which is the finest grain stone from the quarries. It further found that stone of three different grains was being used in the building, the prices of these ranging from 45 cents to 75 cents per foot at the quarries. Mr. Johnson stated that five minutes after the commission had announced these conclusions the stone men agreed to make the payment.

### Final Cost Problematical.

At the inquiry Thursday afternoon members of the committee evinced curiosity as to what the ultimate cost of the building would be, but no one could tell them. Mr. Goodhue was questioned on this matter and said that it would be impossible to tell. Prices of materials and labor might advance or they might decline. Mr. Johnson stated that the contracts for the first section totaled \$2,880,553, this section being approximately 40 per cent of the entire job. At this rate the total cost of the building would be \$7,000,000. The first section is being built for 60 cents per cubic foot, and Mr. Goodhue stated that costs are 20 per cent higher now than they were a year ago. At the peak price period during the war, what is now costing

60 cents would have cost one dollar and before the war would have cost 40 cents. A decline in costs is looked for by experts, it was stated.

Former Governor McKelvie and Mr. Johnson, who held an appointive position under him for four years, spoke rather warmly to or of each other just before the hearing closed for the day. Mr. McKelvie had been telling the committee the history of the capitol commission and what he had done, saying that it alone was responsible for what had been brought about or left undone; that he was proud of the part that he had had in the work and had no desire to shirk any responsibility.

Then he complimented Mr. Johnson, telling what a hard worker he had been. "But," said the former chief, "I am utterly at a loss to understand his position at this time. I think that he is wrong."

### Tells of Other Duties.

Then Mr. Johnson told of the regular duties of the office which he had held, including the supervision of road, bridge, irrigation, drainage and other works, and asked the former chief executive if he considered it right and proper for a man with all of these things on his hands to be required to check up and bring to the attention of the capitol commission the mistakes of an architect who was drawing a salary of \$25,000 and was being provided by the state with all of the experts and assistants he desired, some of them being paid as high as \$100 per day.

The governor asked Mr. Johnson if he had not served as expert witness in cases and was answered to the effect that he had so served and that in recent years he had received for such service \$100 per day.

Mr. Goodhue's counsel sprung something of a surprise when he produced J. P. Williams of the Sunderland Brothers company of Omaha. This company has the sub-contract for the marble and tile for the first section of the building and it was charged by Mr. Johnson that Mr. Goodhue had ordered the marble columns for it without authority, there having been a cash allowance of \$25,000 for these. Such order, if it had been placed, was ordered cancelled by the commission.

### Letter Is Produced.

Mr. Williams produced a letter which he stated had been written by him to Mr. Goodhue on February 21, 1922, and mailed to the latter in care of the capitol commission at Lincoln. In this letter he offered to furnish the columns for \$24,970. The letter, he said, had been returned to him on February 28 with one from Mr. Johnson in which the latter stated that Mr. Goodhue had returned to New York. Mr. Goodhue told the committee that he had never seen the letter before and did not know that it existed until that morning.

Mr. Johnson said that at the time the letter reached Lincoln the capitol

commission was in session with Mr. Goodhue; his mail was opened and placed on his desk, this letter among others. He did not see it until after the architect had gone back to New York, and as the commission had ordered the column order cancelled he returned the letter to the writer. He was not sure that this was actually the letter he saw, as he had no recollection of any quotation below \$25,000. Mr. Johnson stated that

the only controversy over the columns was as to the right of Mr. Goodhue to order them.

### Printing Bill Bobs Up.

Chairman Wiltse again brought up the matter of \$7,000 paid to the New York Post for printing the specifications for the building, and which is claimed to be about three times what the work could be done for in Nebraska. Mr. Goodhue said that this was a rush job of a technical nature and that there was much overtime upon it, which had to be paid for at extra prices. Mr. Johnson, however, called attention to the fact that on March 22 he and the architect went over the specifications and it was May 4 before the copies were mailed.

Mr. Johnson again insisted that the plans for the foundation of the building were faulty and that there were superstructure walls with no foundation walls to support them. Mr. Thompson and Mr. McKelvie of the commission asked if these things had cost the state anything or had delayed the building, but the former state engineer countered by declaring that when architectural services were costing what the state of Nebraska is paying no such things should occur.

Attorney Isaac Congdon, representing Mr. Goodhue, asked Mr. Johnson if he had gone to the commission with his charges or had waited until about to quit office and

had then gone to the newspapers with them. He replied that he had taken the matters up with the commission as soon as he was certain that he was correct. The commission had referred him to Mr. Goodhue and that the latter had passed the matter along.

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# PROBE WILL END MONDAY

4-7-23 S.J.  
NEARLY ALL TESTIMONY IN IN  
THE INVESTIGATION

Legislative Committee Will Take  
Vacation Saturday and Listen to  
Windup and Arguments  
Early in Week.

When the legislative investigators wiped off their probes and doffed their surgical garb Friday afternoon it was with the understanding that when they meet again Monday morning George E. Johnson, accuser of Bertram G. Goodhue, will have a little rebuttal testimony to offer and that the case will be closed with twenty minute summaries of the evidence from each side.

Friday afternoon was devoted to gathering together some odds and ends of evidence. J. H. Wiese, who is doing the laying of the stone for Henry Strubble, told how the setting is done and of the effect of the system used. The stones are joined together by cement mortar five-eighths of an inch thick on the outside and three-sixteenths on the inside. A galvanized iron anchor holds the layer of stone to the wall of brick.

Mr. Wiese said the best workmanship and material were going into the job, and that the wall will be as durable as it can be made. He did not consider that the bonding was very material to the strength of the wall in view of the fact that when the cement hardens it will all be a solid mass, with no chance for moisture to enter. Mr. Wiese said he had been building government buildings for twenty years, and constructed the addition to the Lincoln postoffice.

### Stone Should Be Wet.

H. P. Letton, consulting engineer, said his work had been largely with brick and he felt that it was necessary to have these and stone wet before being set in mortar. The stones in the capitol wall are now going in dry, and the theory given by Mr. Letton is that if the stone is dry it will absorb a considerable part of the water in the mortar, whereas if it be wet the mortar will retain the water in it, which is necessary to make it stick.

W. R. C. Rowan, representing the Mazer company, which vainly tried to interest the architect in its acoustic occupied the stand for an hour. He said that if Mr. Goodhue had consented to listen to him he would have avoided some of his mistakes. He said his firm is not only a supplier of material but of acoustic engineering advice, and is a recognized authority

on fitting up buildings so that acoustics are not left to accident. He detailed the history of the development of this science, and said that Guastavino, who got a \$48,000 contract for furnishing acoustic tile for the first section, is not an expert, but merely a manufacturer.

Mr. Rowan's complaint against Mr. Goodhue was that he accepted the advice of men who are not experts in securing results, and Mr. Johnson said that what he accused the architect of in this matter is that if he had investigated this product he could have got the ceiling and walls with the same architectural finish for a ninth of the cost.

Mr. Goodhue interrupted to say that the ceiling should be excepted, and he predicted that when Johnson sees this in place he will say to go on with the tile for the remainder of the building.

### Mr. Rowan Complains.

Mr. Rowan insisted that Mr. Goodhue had never used nor ever examined his product, or he would not have said that it is impossible to get true vaults with it. He said that Guastavino tiles are only facing, which is no more than his felt blocks are, and that on the canvas which can be attached to it and tightly stretching, thus gaining resonance thru vibration, anything can be painted or placed. He said he could not understand why, under these circumstances anyone should accuse his products of being lying architecture. Altho a patented article, any contractor can buy the basic material, and that it can be put in for nearly a third the cost of Guastavino tiles.

"You are the foremost and most voluminous authority I have listened to for a long time," said Mr. Goodhue. "Come and see me in New York. Phone me a week in advance and I will give you time to go over it with you."

"Will you be as sarcastic then as you are now," flung back Mr. Rowan.

"Probably," said the imperturbable Mr. Goodhue.

Mr. Goodhue said he had nothing to sell, and Mr. Johnson retorted that he had drawn the specifications for the state so that nobody could buy anything else. He said that what he was complaining of was that by so drawing the specifications Guastavino had no competition, whereas if they had been opened so that Rowan might bid, Guastavino would have cut his price 20 to 25 per cent.

H. E. Wright testified to having overheard the manager of the Parks company, which has the capitol plumbing contract, ask Mr. Johnson to get approval of the use of U. S. Radiation Co. material, put in to answer a statement of the architect that the manager said he had bid on American stuff.

### The Cash Allowances.

As one result of the dispute as to whether there should be any such thing as cash allowances in any of the contracts, Commissioner Thompson announced that before proceeding further the attorney general would be asked to give an opinion as to the

(Continued on Page 3.)

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

# PROBE WILL END MONDAY

4-7-23  
(Continued from Page 1.)  
legality. The cash allowances are sums set aside under various trades for the payment of something for which no designs have been drawn or the nature of which has not been determined, and naturally upon which no competitive bids can be secured. When it comes time to get these, if the contractor pays less than the cash allowance the state gets credit, and he cannot pay any more.

Mr. Goodhue said an honest difference of opinion existed between himself and Mr. Johnson over this. He did not see how else these items can be handled, and it is an almost universal rule with architects. He said that Mr. Johnson had accused him of violating the orders of the commission when he gave the contract to get the eight marble columns for the main entrance to Sunderland, but he certainly understood the commission had given that company the marble contract, which included a cash allowance for the columns, and that was why he had told them to go ahead. When they told him they would cost

\$2270 more, he believed that automatically cancelled the deal.

The architect said it was strange that the letter of Sunderland agreeing to furnish these columns for the cash allowance, sent while he was in Lincoln and "suppressed" by Johnson, had never reached him. He insisted that Johnson's saying it had been opened by mistake in his office and then sent back showed that Johnson was either incompetent or negligent or something else.

Mr. Goodhue insisted that there would be plenty of competition on the hardware contract.

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4/7/23 S. G.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU.

4-7-23 COST OF THE CAPITOL. 53

When the architect of the new Nebraska capitol and the members of the capitol commission tell the legislative committee that they do not know how much the building will cost they are speaking in good faith. They managed to let the basement contract very near the bottom of the depression following the wartime boom. When it came to the superstructure prices were already advancing, and it required refiguring and considerable ingenuity to arrange satisfactory contracts. Whether it will be possible to complete the structure within the original appropriation will depend on the state of the labor and material market when the time comes for these lettings. Financiers are looking for a period of inflation followed by a rather decided slump, but no one can tell in what month or in what year these movements will take place.

The probabilities are that the appropriation of \$5,000,000 will no more than cover the cost of the bare building, leaving the murals and statuary and other decorations to be provided later. It was not the intention of the legislature to have the building furnished out of the original fund in any event. The important thing now is to finish the building according to the original plan, leaving the decorative features for the consideration of later legislatures.

All this brings out a side light on industrial conditions. The east is not at all easy over the present boom there. With Europe still in a tangle and national agriculture still in the

dumps, tho not so deep as a year ago, where is the solid foundation for an industrial boom and the kited prices pertaining thereto? Factory owners are raising their wage scales with perturbation of spirit. They know by recent experience how much harder it is to reduce than to increase wages. If a check in industry is due next year, they have in prospect a repetition of their 1921-22 troubles in getting wages back into line with prices.

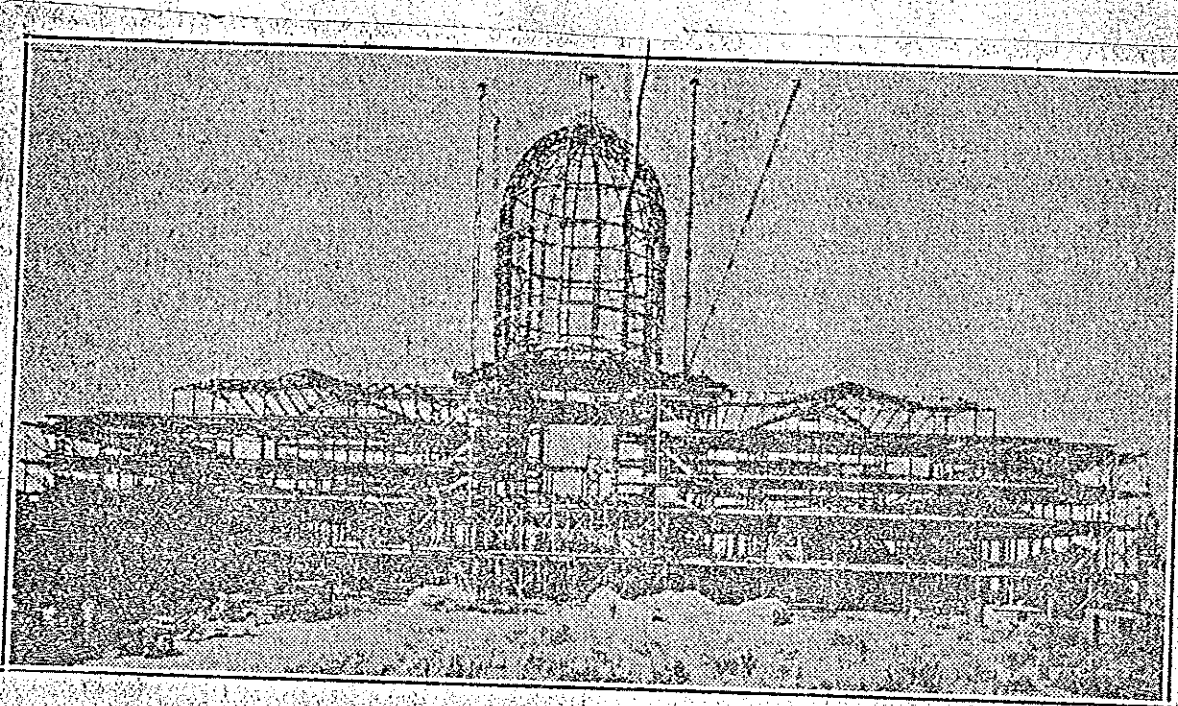


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Above is the skeleton of the present state house. The picture was taken about forty years ago during the construction of the capitol and the view is from the east side of capitol square looking north and south.

**BY LYNNELLE GREER.**

Harry Bradley, colored janitor for the state senate stumbled onto something last Sunday while he was digging around in unexplored nooks and corners, that has made him very happy. And "stumbled" is just exactly what he did, and found it.

Contrary to the belief that nothing good comes to those who desecrate Sunday by sweeping and cleaning and dusting around in general, Harry found that he had some extra work to do, and did it. One of the things he did was to clean off the false ceiling of the alcove adjoining the office of the lieutenant governor, and while he was upon the top of the alcove, trying to reach the bottom through the inches of dirt and dust, he stumbled on something and his foot went down on some glass. He

heard the glass crack, and then he went the rest of the way to see what he had broken.

**Skeleton View Shown.**

It was a picture of the present state house under construction forty years ago. Just the skeleton of the building is up, and the view of it is from the east side of capitol square, looking north and south.

The picture is large, and was framed. No one ever remembers seeing it before, so it must have been put away for safe keeping shortly after the capitol was completed.

In the distance one can see the old Christian church which is at the present time St. Mary's cathedral, and there are other old landmarks, too, which would be familiar to those who could remember them.

The dome of the capitol is very much in evidence, that is the skeleton of it, and one can't help but wonder if there was as much discussion about this bit of architecture forty years ago as there is over the prospect of our new dome.

The picture is Harry Bradley's by right of discovery, and whether Harry will keep it all to himself, take it home with him, or whether he will allow it to hang in the new capitol is entirely up to him. It has been at the capitol the past few days, but how long Harry will allow it to remain there no one knows.

The old capitol was constructed at a cost of \$691,423.30 and the contract was let to W. H. B. Stout; William H. Wilcox was the architect, but the records do not show where he was from.

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No. 6

# Architect Goodhue's Closing Statement To Committee Investigating Johnson Charges

"To me this whole episode has been simply disgusting. I resent with all the force there is in me the mean, petty, suspicious little charges that have been levelled against me," said Capitol Architect B. G. Goodhue in his statement to the legislative investigating committee which concluded its hearing Monday morning into the charges filed by George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the commission.

Mr. Goodhue's statement in full follows:

"Gentlemen: It is now over six weeks since your former state engineer produced his first set of charges against me—a period during which I have not performed any of my proper duties to my clients, either to you or to any others. These charges came as a complete surprise, not only to me but to every member of the commission—excepting, of course, himself. I have now for the third time I don't know but the fourth—answered these or substantially the same charges so completely that each has proved a boomerang rather than anything else. As evidence of gross negligence or gross incompetence they are, to me, and to every architect, preposterous. What I have come to believe, gentlemen, is that they are nothing but a smoke screen.

"First, Mr. Johnson says that I am wrong because I am insisting on a contractor's supplying the state with something that I consider necessary, though he apparently does not, without making the state pay extra for it; this is the case of the steel. And then, that in obtaining or trying to obtain—it is not yet quite clear which—certain marble columns for a definitely specified allowance, I

have violated the laws of the state which, he says, makes illegal the architect's practically universal clause dealing with 'allowances'. Right here, gentlemen, I ask you to remember that when I found the lowest price I could get for the four large columns was \$32,000, I deliberately set down in place of this amount the sum of \$20,000. And that in the letter from the marble contractor submitted in evidence the other day, this amount was accepted. It seems to me that no better evidence of my having guarded the interests of the state could possibly be brought to your attention.

### A Monumental Building.

"Mr. Johnson also charges me with calling for better acoustic material than he thinks the state should have. This charge I admit—cheerfully admit. I don't want upholstery, whether felt, flexible cheesecloth, or what not, used in what I was assured was to be a monumental building. So it is quite true that I have not always specified the very cheapest thing, and that my plans have been drawn and my specifications written to provide against the introduction of any really inferior, and thoroughly cheap and nasty substitutes for something better. Right here, let me ask why the Nebraska state capitol commission awarded the elevator contract to a firm that had not submitted the lowest bid? Don't misunderstand me, I am not questioning this action. In fact, I thoroughly approve it. The commission took this course in the case of the elevators for precisely the

same reason that I insisted upon letting the contract for acoustic ma-

terial to a certain concern, namely to get the best. I ask you to determine whether this is either gross negligence or gross incompetence on my part.

"As for Mr. Johnson's third charge, changes in plans and specifications, the net result of these, according to Mr. Younkin's auditing, is going to mean a saving to the state of between six and seven thousand dollars.

"With regard to the stone: I am forced to refer to this because Mr. Johnson has done so so often, though the issue is definitely closed, was it my 'gross negligence' or his, that caused this matter to be held up so long that, by the time his charges were first made, perhaps eight times as much stone had been delivered on the ground and eight times as much set in the wall, as when I personally expressed my approval of it to Mr. Johnson last December? And eight times as much money was being withheld from the stone contractor, who, in my opinion, and evidently in Governor McKelvie's, as well, has been forced, because of his immediate business needs, into giving up an amount legitimately due him. I contend that it was Mr. Johnson's duty, as state engineer and secretary to the commission to have brought any doubts he may have entertained as to the stone, or as to anything else for that matter, immediately to the notice of the commission, and immediately to my notice as well.

### Speaks for Reputable Architects.

"But I am not going on with this sort of thing any longer. I want to talk to you now from a different and quite new angle; the angle of

the reputable architect. In my whole professional career up to February, 1922, nothing had ever been even hinted to my professional discredit. Assuming from this, if you don't mind, that I am a reputable architect, I speak now for all reputable architects, and for one of the greatest, oldest, and most honorable of the arts.

"This world of men and affairs exists only upon a basis of confidence. Before confidence was attained and established as the great working principle governing human relations, creatures hardly human beings, used to sneak about trying to bat each other over the head when the other wasn't looking.

"Now, no business transaction takes place, no human intercourse of any sort occurs, except upon this

basis of confidence, and to confidence every reputable architect is entitled. Gentlemen, I am sorry to have to say it, but it seems to me confidence is precisely the thing that has not been accorded me as your architect. The present investigation proves, or seems to prove, that at least one individual, your former state engineer, has not regarded me as able, willing, and glad to work with my clients to the end that your state capitol shall be what it should be at the least, expense consistent with good design, good material, and good workmanship. I early felt Mr. Johnson's antagonism. Throughout, he has enjoyed every possible advantage of position, personal acquaintance, access to all documents, down to keeping the minutes with his own hand, even including, it would seem from the evidence before you, the privilege of violating the United States mail.

"An architect's reputation is a very fragile thing. It can be clouded even by unproved charges. So I hold that no matter what decision you may reach, even my reputation has been hurt; how much I am not now prepared to say.

"The other day I said that in every difference of opinion on so-called business matters that have come up between Mr. Johnson and me at the various meetings of the Nebraska state capitol commission, its members had invariably sided with Mr. Johnson and against me. To this rule, there was one notable

Mr. Johnson wanted to general contractor—that is, to obtain sub-bids as he himself, purchase and construct the building for. For various reasons, I think this a most unwise proceeding. At first, the commission itely favored it; but when d to them how intricate, and vast the building business stated that I did not Johnson's previous experience irrigation and highway ranted his taking on such the commission switched my side. I leave you to ether in his charges Mr. s being-guided by motives rest devotion to the state, king his personal revenge. pon me his personal malice ointing his, shall we say, ambition?

"This whole episode has been simply disgusting. I resent with all the force there is in me the mean, petty, suspicious little charges that have been levelled against me. Even momentary thought of my part that I could be. It has been said that the Nebraska owes me an apology, gentlemen, does it or

*Lives in Star  
Monday Apr 9-23*

# CAPITOL CASE IN THE HANDS OF COMMITTEE

Both Sides Complete Arguments in Hearing Growing Out of Charges Brought Against Architect Goodhue by Former Secretary.

EXPECT TO ANNOUNCE FINDINGS WITHIN WEEK

Johnson Claims Case Already Proven, While New York Designer Intimates Malice and Resentment Motive Behind Accusations.

The determination of the justice or injustice of the charges made by George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the state capitol commission, against Architect Bertram G. Goodhue that the latter is either grossly incompetent or grossly negligent, is now in the hands of the joint legislative committee, which has during the past week listened to testimony offered for the purpose of substantiating or disproving these charges. The committee heard a little additional testimony Monday morning and then listened to arguments. The findings will be made known the latter part of the week or the first of next, it being stated that it would take the stenographer a few days to transcribe his notes.

Each side to the controversy was allowed twenty minutes for argument, Mr. Johnson being given five minutes for his opening, the defense being then allotted twenty minutes, with fifteen minutes for Mr. Johnson in which to close. Half of Mr. Goodhue's time was taken by himself, he reading a typewritten statement. The former state engineer insisted that his charges had been proven, while the defense was just as emphatic in denying this. In fact Mr. Goodhue was quite bitter, and hinted that his accuser was actuated by malice and resentment because he had not been allowed to have his own way.

### Old Building Valueless.

One thing that was brought out at the hearing Monday morning was that no estimate nor provision has thus far been made for tearing down the old capitol or installing the heating and tunnel. Members of the committee asked Mr. Johnson about this and he told them that con-

tractors had told him that the old building would be a practical loss, with little salvage. None of the old material will go into the new building. Nor has there been provision made for work upon the grounds. These items, it was stated, will cost from \$400,000 to a half million dollars.

### Johnson Presents His Side.

In his opening statement Mr. Johnson said that he had been asked why he did not have an attorney to assist him, taking into consideration the fact that Mr. Goodhue had three, besides having behind him the capitol commission and the American Institute of Architects. He said that he felt that the committee would decide the matter entirely upon the evidence, without regard to argument, and this he believed had shown that his charge of gross incompetence or negligence was very charitable. He asserted that the figures submitted by the witness Younkin as to the cost of making changes in the plans merely represented "probable" cost and that some of the contractors had already refused to accept the sums allowed.

Mr. Congdon, in his argument took the ground that an assault upon the architect is an assault upon the commission and a finding against him would be one against the commission, whose architect he is. The first finding for the committee to make would be as to whether it has confidence in the commission, there having been shown no instance wherein Mr. Goodhue had deceived the members of that body. It is true, Mr. Congdon said, that the architect wants certain things in the building; whether or not he gets these things is up to the commission. An investigation of this character hurts the one who is investigated, no matter whether such investigation is warranted or not. This one was not warranted, it was stated, as shown by the evidence.

In his closing statement Mr. Johnson said that Mr. Goodhue had complained that he should have earlier called attention to the stone being furnished, but, he said, he had worked for weeks to find out just what No. 1 stone, as called for in the contract, was. Indiana stone men had finally said that it could mean nothing but select buff and the complaint had then been made. In the matter of

(Continued on Page Nine.)

limiting certain kinds of material to the products of specified manufacturers, whose goods the architect desired used, Mr. Johnson said that the proper way to do this would be to make the specifications broad enough to obtain competition, then select the material preferred. In this way much better prices would be obtained.

Mr. Johnson predicted that on account of the way things have been going the commission will switch from the \$25,000 per year salary which it was to pay the architect and will pay him on the six per cent basis, which means that he will thus get a commission on all the extras that have been made necessary and on the high priced materials. Many savings have already been made for the state, it was asserted, many of them over the protest of the architect.

Mr. Johnson asserted that in the matter of cash allowances the architect had twice violated the orders of the commission in letting contracts without competitive bids. The commission did not know of the existence of these items in the specifications and if Mr. Goodhue were allowed to continue as he has he will be able during the construction of the building to hand out \$280,000 without any competition whatever.

In conclusion Mr. Johnson declared that the people of Nebraska started out to build a five million dollar capitol, but if Mr. Goodhue is to be allowed to continue as he has begun it will cost more nearly ten millions than half that sum.

Paul Penny was the first witness called Monday morning, he being the engineer detailed to supervise the construction of the foundation. He said that the changes in plans found necessary as the work progressed had cost 52.4 per cent above the unit contract price. William L. Younkin, at present in charge of the work for Mr. Goodhue, agreed with Mr. Penny as to the average of the excess cost above the contract prices, but said that the items on which there was such excess are comparatively small. He had revised his figures submitted at a former hearing and stated that the credit balance to the state on the sixty-one changes of which Mr. Johnson had complained would be \$7,500.

The final witness was A. E. Cole, head of the state purchasing department. He said that his estimate on the cost of the books of specifica-

tions for which Mr. Goodhue had paid \$7,000 in New York was \$2,851. He had submitted the matter to a number of printers since making this estimate and their figures had been below his own.

336.45

#78

Ne'b.

Star Apr 11<sup>th</sup>  
1923

ORDERS CAPITOL  
STONE REMOVED

Over Objection Of Architect,  
Bryan Directs Substitu-  
tion Of Material.

Several Blocks To Be Refin-  
ished—Other Commission  
Members Approve.

Over the objection of Architect B. G. Goodhue, Governor Bryan has ordered Deputy State Engineer Roy Cochran to remove six stones from the walls of the first section of the new capitol, and to see that ten others are refinished, to be inspected for possible removal later. The order has the approval of the commission.

Professor Clark E. Mickey and Mr. Cochran, members with Mr. Goodhue of a special committee to check the stones, signed the report submitted to the commission, and subsequently forwarded to the Henry Strubble Cut Stone company. The report shows that five of the stones are defective, one should be removed for further examination, and ten may do if rubbed down to a new finish.

Mr. Goodhue witnessed a part of the inspection before his departure for New York. At that time he expressed himself as being opposed to the removal of any stone for the reason that such removal would tend to mar the architectural beauty of the building.

336,45

Feb.

#79

S.J.

4/11/23

## PICKS STONE FOR REMOVAL

4-11-23 S.J.  
COMMITTEE ACTS BUT GOODHUE  
OPPOSES ACTION.

Messrs. Cochran and Mickey Recom-  
mend Taking Out of Five Stones  
From Walls of the New  
Capitol.

R. L. Cochran, deputy secretary of the department of public works and serving as a member of the capitol commission, and Clark E. Mickey of the university engineering department, expert advisor to the capitol commission, have designated the stone to be removed from the walls of the capitol. The two men were selected by the capitol commission March 23, to designate stone to be removed.

In a written report filed with the Henry Struble Cut Stone company, copies of which were filed with the commission, Mr. Cochran and Mr. Mickey designate only five stones to be removed. These are designated by number as follows: L-183, L-191, L-93, B-96, H-84.

They recommend that stone number K-108 be removed for inspection of the porosity of the sound end.

They recommend that ten stones be rubbed down subject to subsequent inspection. These are designated as numbers A-44, F-171, G-42, H-78, J-129, J-181, M-155, O-138 and F-134.

This notation is appended to the report: "Mr. Goodhue, a member of the committee, witnessed a part of the inspection, however, left before the inspection was completed in order to catch a train. However, he expressed his opinion as being opposed to the removal of any stone for the reason that such removal would tend to mar the architectural beauty of the building."

336.45  
Feb.  
#80

# OBJECTING TO CAPITOL COST

1923

4/13/23 Jo  
TWO HOUSE MEMBERS DEMAND  
EXPRESSION OF OPINION.

Want That Body to Tell Capitol  
Commission to Keep Within the  
Five Millions Heretofore  
Appropriated.

Representatives Thatcher of Boyd and Amspoker of Keya Paha introduced a resolution in the house Friday morning declaring it to be the sense of that body that the capitol commission should keep within the appropriation for the new statehouse, but upon objection it went over until Monday. The resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the legislature of 1919 made provision for the construction of a new state capitol and provided a fund of 1 1/2 mills on the grand assessment roll of the state, same to be levied for a term of six years, beginning with the year 1919, and especially providing that said building should cost not to exceed five million dollars, and

Whereas, the plans and specifications now under consideration appear to call for the construction of a building which will cost at least several million dollars in excess of the provision of the act of 1919, therefore be it

Resolved, that it is the sense of the house of representatives of the forty-second session for the year 1923, that the cost of the construction of the said capitol shall be kept within the said sum of \$5,000,000.00 and this chamber does hereby go on record as opposed to any expenditures in excess of the said sum of \$5,000,000.00 as a wasteful and unwarranted expenditure of the taxpayers' money.

It is further ordered that the chief clerk of this house shall send to each of the said capitol commission a true copy of this resolution together with a roll call of the house thereon.

The house standing committee reported for slaughter S. F. 143, which permits the owner of land to fish and hunt on his own premises without getting a license from the state.

The house killed, by a vote of 42 to 41, the Hyde bill creating a Nebraska agricultural credits corporation, defining where it shall get its money and providing for loans to banks. It also killed Jacoby's compulsory eradication of bovine tuberculosis bill, 29 to 49, many who have been offended by the author's rough and ready debating tactics taking apparent pleasure in shouting out their "noes."

By a vote of 84 to 0, the house passed H. R. 509, which declares that where school districts border on a stream that forms the state boundary line, this line shall be the boundaries of the districts. Dakota county wanted this and Representative Heffernan rose and thanked the members from the well-known bottom of his heart, and expressed the hope that they will all wear diamonds.

The house also concurred in senate amendments to H. R. 433, which limit to \$5 a day the pay for county commissioners who act as highway commissioner and entire expenses of the office to \$1,500 a year.

336.45

Feb,

#81

Star Apr 17  
1923

## SENDS OUT COPIES OF HIS ARGUMENT

### Johnson Prepares Summary of Evidence He Presented In Stone Controversy.

### Claims That He Was Unfairly Treated By Supporters of Architect Goodhue.

George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the state capitol commission, whose charges against Bertram G. Goodhue, architect of the next capitol, were recently investigated by a joint legislative committee, has sent to the newspapers of the state copies of his concluding argument before the committee. Accompanying the copy of the argument is a statement in which Mr. Johnson claims that he has been unfairly treated by the supporters of Mr. Goodhue and by some of the newspapers. The statement follows:

"Gentlemen:—As the Lincoln and Omaha papers have printed Mr. Goodhue's article on his side of the capitol investigation and have not seen fit to print the summary of the evidence presented by me to the legislative investigating committee at the same time Mr. Goodhue's article was read, I am sending you a copy of my argument which includes a summary of the evidence presented so that you will be in a position to present the facts to your readers.

"Some of the larger papers have mis-stated facts which I know have misled the public in regard to this matter. For instance—one Lincoln and one Omaha paper stated that the matter was all settled before the legislative investigating committee began to receive evidence.

"Wednesday morning, one of the Omaha papers stated that I had failed to substantiate my evidence and indicated that the entire hearing was based on a grievance between Mr. Goodhue and myself. A second Omaha paper states this morning that the stone removed a month ago on order of Professor Mickey and selected by him was the worst in the wall and this stone measured up to specifications when it was tested." The reporters of all the papers in Omaha and in Lincoln heard Professor Mickey's report read which stated definitely that this stone did not meet the test required by the specifications.

"Monday evening, a professor of the university requested the members of the legislature that are on the capitol investigating committee to take dinner with him so that he might go over some of the inscriptions that he had prepared to use in the capitol building with them; and when the committee arrived at the dinner, they found that they were not only meeting with the professor of the university, but also some of the large news editors of the state and members of the capitol commission and they were required to listen to them in addition to listening to the college professor. This was while the committee had the evidence under consideration. Such action on the part of Mr. Goodhue's supporters was very unfair to the committee and to the citizens of the state of Nebraska.

"I am sending a copy of this letter and my argument to the legislative investigating committee to one paper in each county in the state, and I hope that you will present these facts to the public. You may present any part or all of the summary of the evidence, or this letter, and I will personally guarantee that each statement is supported by the evidence in the hands of the legislative investigating committee.

"Very truly yours,

"GEO. E. JOHNSON."

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Neb.

#82

4/18/23

S.J.

# CLUB CALLS MR. JOHNSON

4-18-23 S.J.  
CANDLE LIGHT MEMBER MAKES  
A STATEMENT.

Dr. Alexander's Address on the  
Capitol a Regular Club Paper,  
and Will Be Repeated If  
It Is Desired.

Adrian M. Newens, a member of the executive committee of the Candle Light club of Lincoln, speaking on behalf of the officers and members of that organization, notifies the editors of the state that Ex-State Engineer Johnson has circulated a misrepresentation of a recent meeting of the club to the press of Nebraska.

"The fact about this matter," Mr. Newens points out, "is that Dr. H. B. Alexander gave a wonderfully inspiring address on the symbolic significance of the new capitol, with illustrations never before shown here of the sculpture, before a regular meeting of the Candle Light club one week ago last Monday evening. The members of the legislative investigating committee were invited, with the assurance that nothing concerning the controversy with the former state engineer would be presented, and that they would be excused immediately after the address, and before the discussion. This plan was carried out, and the members of the committee left after the pictures were shown.

"No one was present at this meeting beyond the membership of the club except the committee from the legislature, W. H. Thompson of the capitol commission, J. H. Broady, who represented Governor Bryan, and one or two private guests. No news editors outside the membership were present. The propriety of inviting the members of the committee to hear Dr. Alexander's address, and their acceptance, can best be determined, if it is seriously brought into question, by securing a repetition of this address before the entire legislature. The Candle Light club will engage to secure this speaker, with the slides showing the sculpture, if the members of the senate and house wish."

### Mr. Johnson's Charge.

The following has been sent to the country press of the state by Mr. Johnson:

"Gentlemen:—As the Lincoln and Omaha papers have printed Mr. Goodhue's article on his side of the capitol investigation and have not seen fit to print the summary of the evidence presented by me to the legislative investigating committee at the same time Mr. Goodhue's article was read, I am sending you a copy of my argument which includes a summary of the evidence presented so that you will be in a position to present the facts to your readers.

"Some of the larger papers have misstated facts which I know have misled the public in regard to this matter. For instance—one Lincoln and one Omaha paper stated that the matter was all settled before the legislative investigating committee began to receive evidence.

"Wednesday morning, one of the Omaha papers stated that I had failed to substantiate my evidence and indicated that the entire hearing was based on a grievance between Mr. Goodhue and myself. A second Omaha paper states this morning that "the stone removed a month ago on order of Professor Mickey and selected by him was the worst in the wall and this stone measured up to specifications when it was tested." The reporters of all the papers in Omaha and in Lincoln heard Professor Mickey's report read which stated definitely that this stone did not meet the test required by the specifications.

"Monday evening, a professor of the university requested the members of the legislature that are on the capitol investigating committee to take dinner with him so that he might go over some of the inscriptions that he had prepared to use in the capitol building with them; and when the committee arrived at the dinner, they found they were not only meeting with the professor of the university, but also some of the large news editors of the state and members of the capitol commission and they were required to listen to them in addition to listening to the college professor. This was while the committee had the evidence under consideration. Such action on the part of Mr. Goodhue's supporters was very unfair to the committee and to the citizens of the state of Nebraska.

"I am sending a copy of this letter and my argument to the legislative investigating committee to one paper in each county in the state, and I hope that you will present these facts to the public. You may present any part or all of the summary of the evidence, or this letter, and I will personally guarantee that each statement is supported by the evidence in the hands of the legislative investigating committee.

Very truly yours,  
"GEO. E. JOHNSON."

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU



336.45  
Neb.  
#83

1993

4/18/95 ARCHITECTURAL ETHICS - Jo.

When Architect Goodhue was thrown on the rack he was, from the point of view of the public, at a special disadvantage. There is a common belief on the street that architects make money "on the side." When an architect specifies this or that material, it means, according to the whisper, that they make a commission on sales of that material. Men about to build houses are apt to be warned by friends to look out for architects' commissions. When there was a mix-up over the capitol stone there were plenty to assume that there was commission in the stone for Goodhue. Maybe he even owned an interest in a Bedford quarry.

The fact of the matter is that a surgeon here and there will "split" a fee; that is, pay a commission to the doctor who brings him a case. A lawyer can sometimes be found to take retainers from both sides to a legal controversy. But such a surgeon is a shyster doctor and such an attorney is a shyster lawyer, and both get spotted in time and are shunned by reputable practitioners and patrons. There are also "shyster" architects; but an architect caught in taking fees from any interest but his client is evicted from the company of decent architects. And he is pretty sure to be caught. Among architects of standing this violation of the ethics of the profession is practically unknown. Even if an architect is not honest, he finds honesty the best paying policy.

The capitol controversy ended without a shadow upon Architect Goodhue's integrity. The public, a prominent Lincoln architect says, has little idea of the cost of architectural service. Many people are not willing to pay this cost directly. If any architect falls into the commission taking vice it is apt to be some starving fellow who, forced by this public atti-

tude to take work at less than it is worth, turns to shady practices for the rest of his pay. But this relates to an architectural underworld. The architect of public standing is not taking money on the side; or if he is, the days of his public standing are short.

336.45  
Ne b.  
#84

4/19/23 S.J.

## NEW CAPITOL TO BE A THING OF BEAUTY

4-19-23 S.J.  
Nebraska Destined to Be the Cradle  
of a Worth While American Ar-  
chitecture Is Opinion of  
Thomas R. Kimball.

OMAHA, April 18.—(By the Asso-  
ciated Press.)—The astonishing in-  
fluence that the new capitol of Ne-  
braska, now under construction,  
seems to be having on present day  
architectural design, leads to the sug-  
gestion that Nebraska may be des-  
tined to be the cradle of a worth while  
American architecture, according to  
Thomas R. Kimball, of this city, past  
president of the American institute of  
architects.

"Nebraska has blazed the pathway  
that is leading the world to aesthetic  
architectural freedom in this new  
state capitol," states Mr. Kimball.  
"The influence of this new building  
is shown in the recent Chicago Trib-  
une competition, where among 200 or  
more submissions, most of the notice-  
able efforts were clearly traceable to  
this capitol.

"Extreme simplicity has taken the  
place of elaboration, resulting in great  
saving in cost without loss of dignity.  
There are several points of arrange-  
ment that are peculiar to this build-  
ing, one of which is that the usual  
useless dome is replaced by an equally  
monumental and wholly useful tower,  
wherein space for storage of state rec-  
ords is provided, adequate for a cen-  
tury."

"The architect has drawn from  
nearly every known style, type and  
period of architecture, and in their  
combination at once defied precedent  
and achieved a striking success."

Mr. Kimball stated that it might  
well lead to a new and lasting type  
of architecture.

"This new capitol not only shatters  
accepted tradition in its plan, but pre-  
sents a most enlightening example of  
how, without stupidity, adapting or  
covering, we may avail ourselves of  
our full heritage of design," he  
added. "This new capitol has at least  
challenged the assumption that this  
age of material things, with its new  
client 'the people' may be going to  
have a worthy and lasting architecture  
of its own, accomplished both because  
of and in spite of the commercialism  
that so dominates the here and  
now."

The new capitol will be approx-  
imately 440 feet square, covering al-  
most four acres, and will cost the  
state about \$5,000,000. The basement  
will be below the grade, a first floor  
forming a terrace entirely around the  
building, and a main floor bringing the  
parapet to a height of 51 feet from  
the ground level. The tower rises  
from the center to a height of 400 feet  
and is surmounted by a colossal fig-  
ure called "The Sower." It will be  
80 feet square at the base and taper  
only slightly as it rises. It is a square  
severe shaft, pierced on each of its  
four sides by long continuous win-  
dows, terminating in a graceful dome.  
The lower portion of the tower will  
contain the main rotunda. Above will  
be a dozen floor of offices housing  
many of the state departments.

The main entrance is from the  
north, by means of a broad flight of  
steps. Immediately inside is the hall  
of state, a vaulted apartment about  
50 feet high. At the left are the gover-  
nor's chambers while at the right and  
left of the rotunda are the senate and  
house chambers, respectively. The  
supreme court rooms and library are  
in the rear.

Four courts opening to the sky will  
admit light and air to the interior.  
The entire structure is unique in that  
no artificial lighting is required in any  
department.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45  
Feb.  
#85

4/19/49

L.D. Star.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

# NO DEDUCTION ON PRICE OF STONE

4-19-23 L.D. Star.  
**Struble Company Paid Full  
Claims For February  
and March.  
Commission Reported Firm  
Had Agreed to Accept  
Lower Rate.**

Although the state capitol commission made findings several weeks ago that a deduction of 13 1-3 cents per cubic foot should be made from the contract price of 75 cents, because of some stone furnished and used in the new building which is of a cheaper grade than that designated by the architect's specification, it now develops that the Henry Struble Cut Stone company, which agreed to accept the lower rate, has been allowed and paid its full claims for February and March without making this deduction.

Warrants have been issued by the state auditor for a total of \$65,092.93 covering the two months, in favor of the Struble firm, on vouchers approved by the capitol commission. These vouchers are not itemized, and in issuing the warrants Auditor Marsh did not know that payment was being made on the old price basis of 75 cents per cubic foot.

The February claim was \$28,874.09, and the one for March came to \$36,218.84. Both of these had been held up by the capitol commission during its investigation of the controversy involving the quality of the cut stone.

According to George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the capitol commission, who made up the record of its proceedings, the minutes showed that the commission had directed deductions to be made from the February claim for all stone delivered and put into the walls prior to February 1, and on each monthly installment thereafter as additional stone was used.

When asked about this matter, Mr. Johnson stated that his minutes showed a motion to that effect made by Mr. Head and adopted by the commission. They further showed, he said, that the several interested contractors appeared and accepted the commission's findings, including the cut of 13 1-3 cents per cubic foot on the price of stone.

This is the reduction which the commission announced at the time would save about \$15,000 on the first section of the building and approximately \$45,000 on the entire structure.

Upon learning that no deduction of this kind had been made on any bill yet presented, Auditor Marsh has served notice on the capitol commission that before any more claims for construction work are allowed and warrants issued for them the commission will be expected to file itemized statements showing what each claim covers. The practice heretofore has been simply to file a voucher for the lump sum, showing that it was approved by the commission.

22-75 SJ  
THE CAPITOL SCULPTURE.

After two years of study, Lee Lawrie, one of America's most promising young sculptors, has submitted half a dozen sketches of panels, grilles and other decorations in stone for the new Nebraska capitol. As these are examined and compared with other similar work, one begins to realize that besides being a great achievement in architecture, the new capitol is to bring to Nebraska some masterpieces in sculpture which are likely to be among the most cherished possessions of our people.

At the top of the massive walls guarding the main entrance, are four heroic heads, "Justice, Wisdom, Power and Mercy, Constant Guardians of the Law." Over the doors at the center of this entrance is the "Panel of the Pioneers," picturing the march of the early settlers into Nebraska. Over the east and west entrances are to be stone panels bearing historical pictures of the development of the society that finds its highest expression in this building. The Court of Areopagus, now ready for the stone carver, is appropriate for the frieze of such a building, for it represents the beginning of the reign of law. Likewise the Magna Charta panel will properly serve as a grille of the balcony over the south entrance just outside the supreme court room.

A study of these photographs is recommended to Nebraskans at this particular time because they show the spiritual nature of the building Mr. Goodhue has been striving with all his heart and soul to give them. Like the drawings of the architectural features of the structure, they reveal a high order of genius and a lofty purpose just on the point of triumphant achievement. The power in this sculpture can be felt even in these imperfect sketches. There is nothing merely pretty in this work. It is primitive in its vigor. Irresistible is the movement of the stone figures across the Panel of the Pioneers. Mr. Lawrie's work is centuries old and centuries new. It will live to inspire many generations of Nebraskans.

To have such works of art in and around the court rooms, the chambers of legislation and the offices of administration cannot fail to exercise a profound influence upon the very character of the state government.

Some of our criticism of the men who have been giving their very life blood to furnish us an inspiring capitol causes our critics to offer the sneer that we are not worthy of such a building. It is for those entrusted with the supervision of this great work to push on until the temple is

336.45

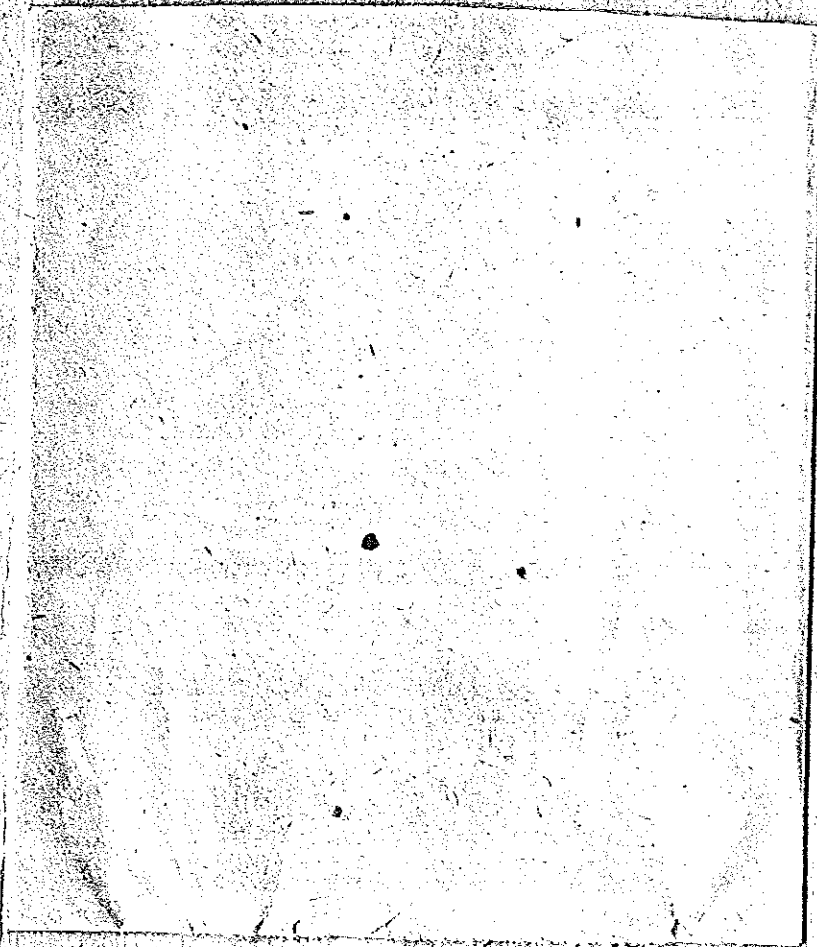
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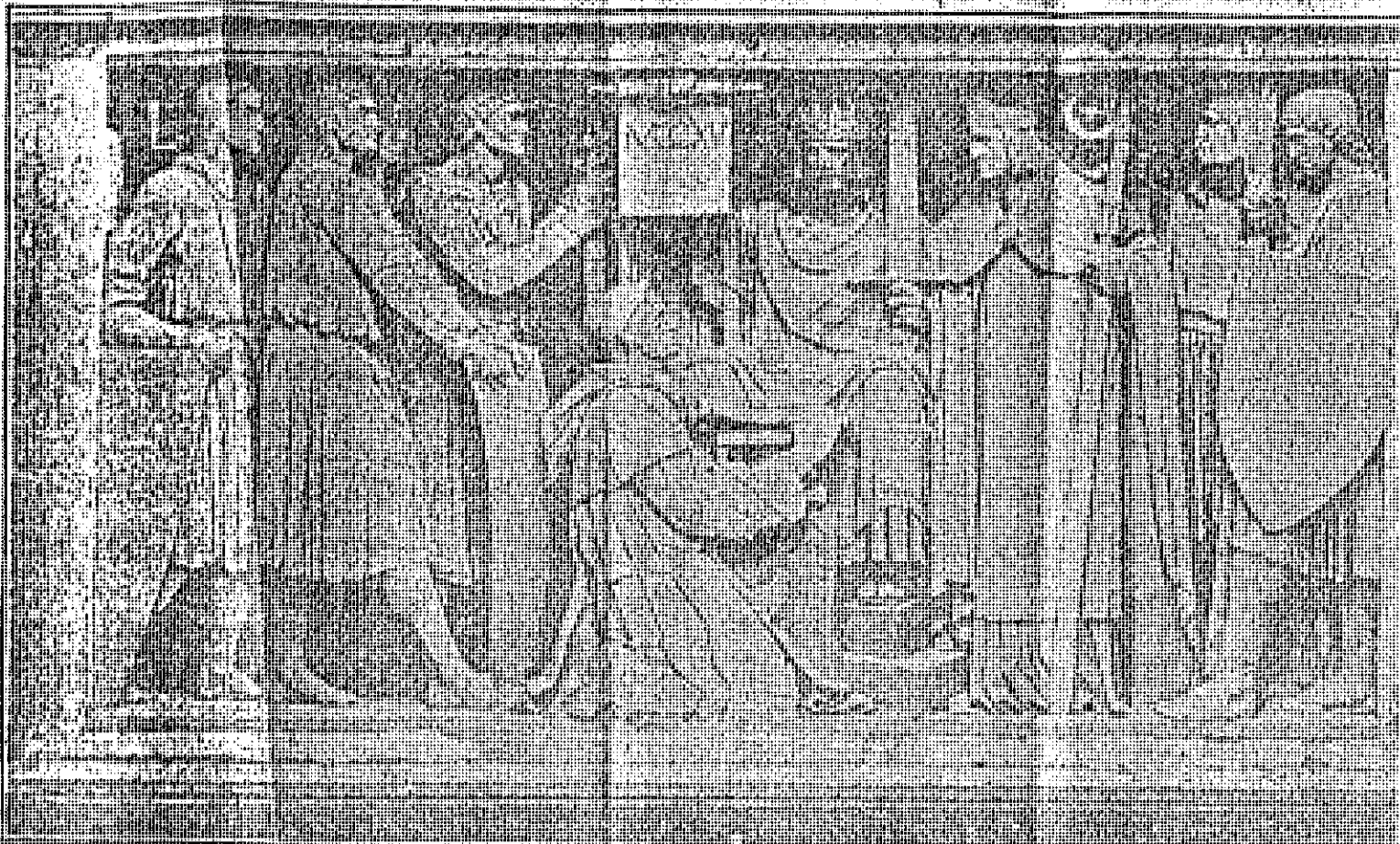
NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

Sculpture of new Capitol

Star  
Apr. 22, 1923

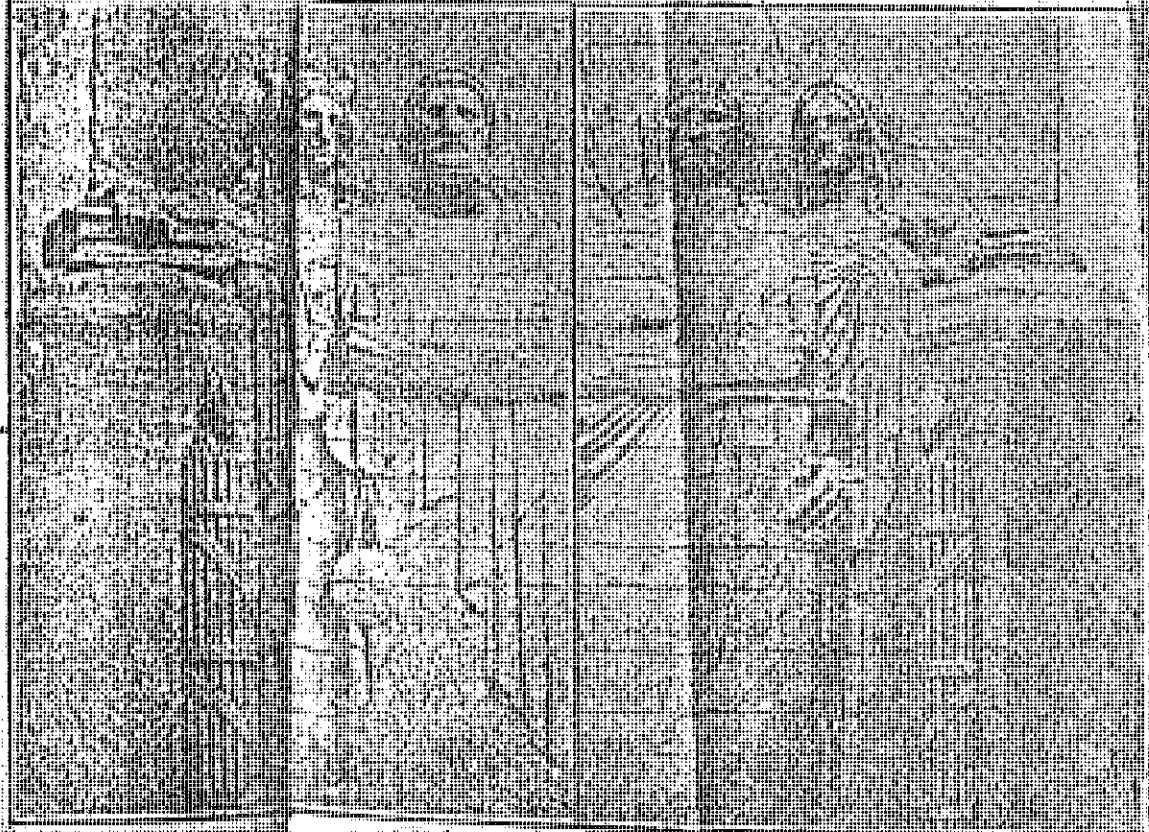


# Sculpture For The Ne



Relief of the Massacre, one of the panels designed for the entrance just outside the entrance to the main deposit the granting of the great charter by King John of England to the barons and prelates of the supreme court on the west the beginning of modern freedom.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

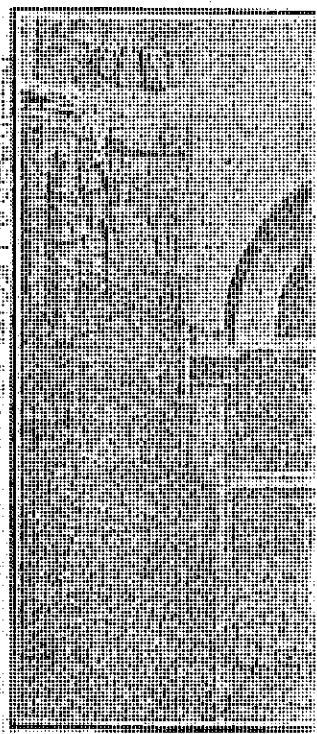
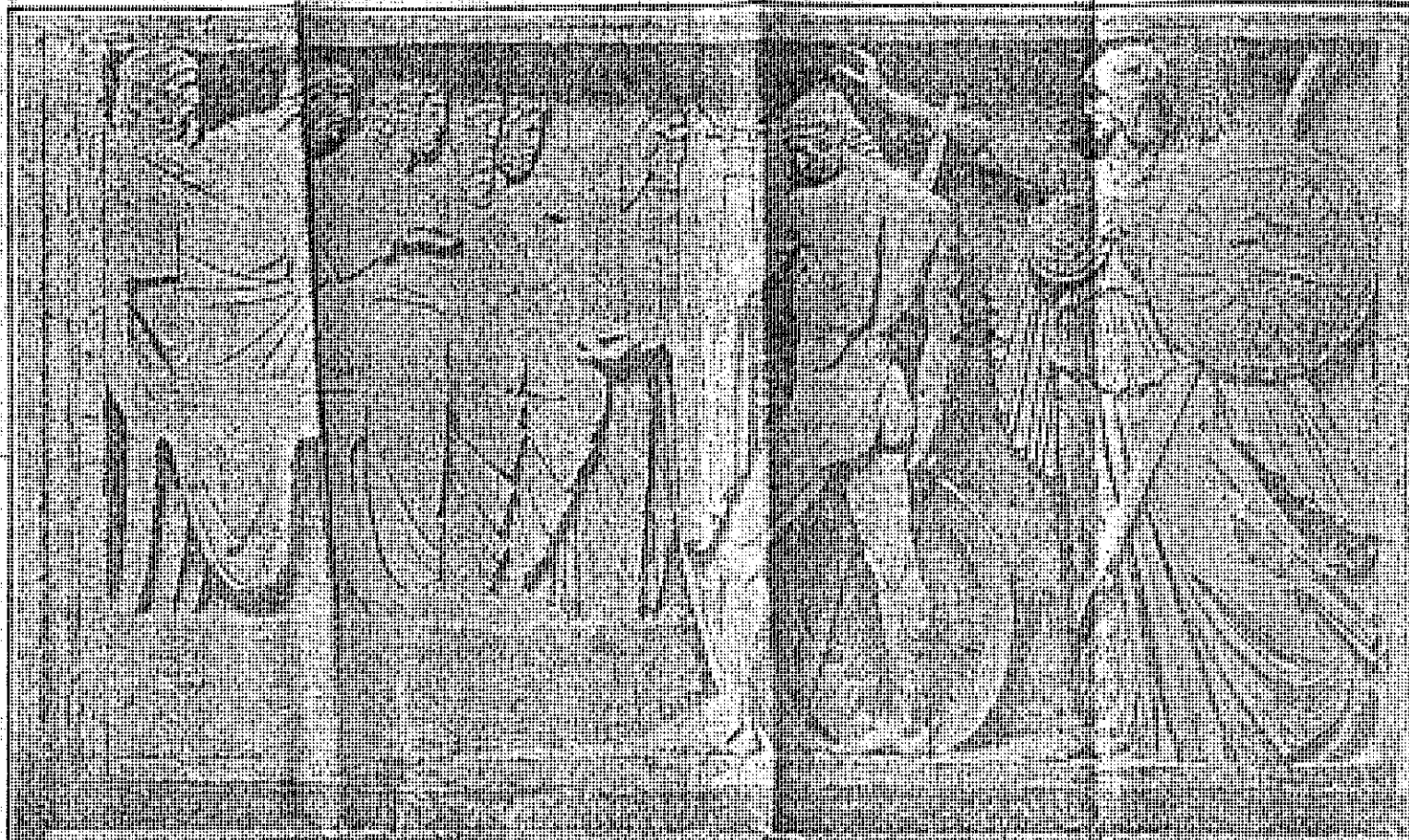


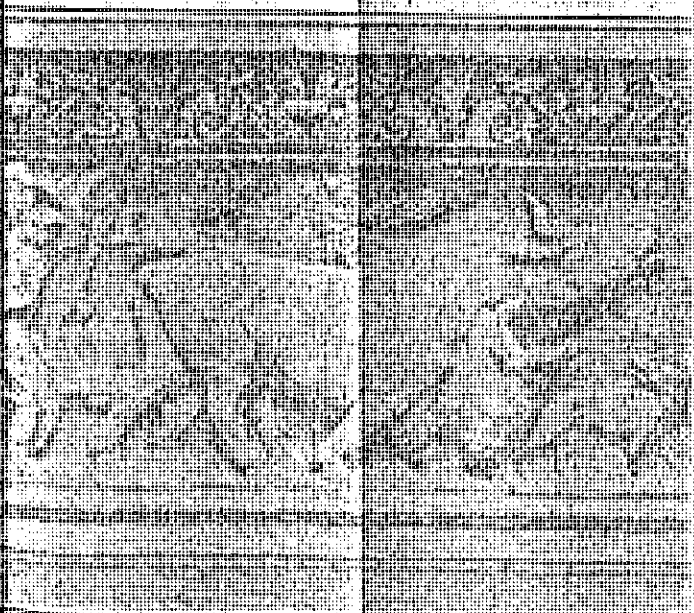
Illustration of the birth and death of Mrs. Lincoln's great-grandmother, the first of the Nebraska legislators of the Lincoln family, and the first of the Nebraska family.

The guardians of the people's wisdom with their crowns and heads upon the bench of the law; Justice, especially architectural in style.

# Nebraska State Capitol



The relief to be placed over the entrance of the Capitol. It represents the "Court of the Dropared," the ep...  
 of the lateral (and or west) entrance of the Capitol, it represents the "Court of the Dropared," the ep...  
 in the beginning of the supplies of the Capitol, it represents the "Court of the Dropared," the ep...



Faced at the pleasure to be placed over the door will be the work of the...  
 seen and will be the work of the...  
 decorative in every line of composition...  
 from direction. It perhaps is...  
 the Greek and Roman...  
 and they represent their grand...  
 of the new capital showing the...  
 of "The Guardians of the Law..."

of the new capital showing the...  
 of "The Guardians of the Law..."

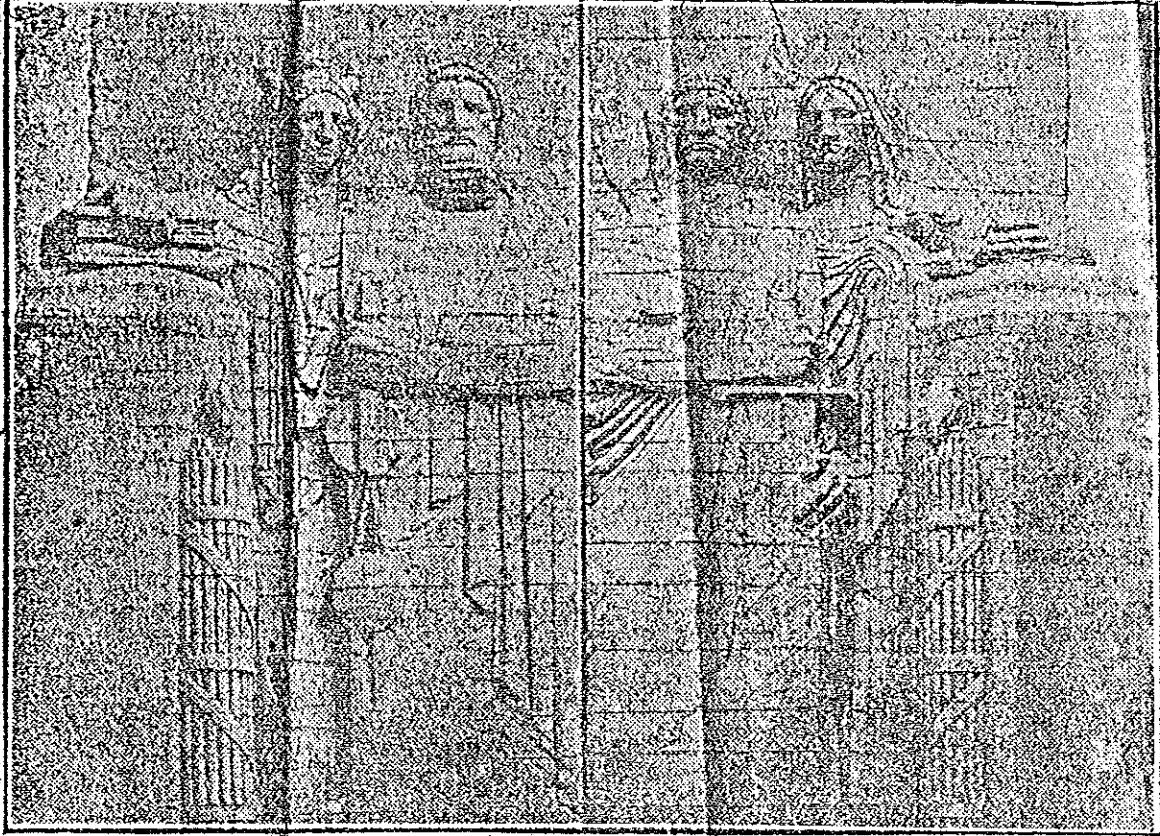
There is no...  
 of the new capital showing the...  
 of "The Guardians of the Law..."

of the new capital showing the...  
 of "The Guardians of the Law..."

The panel depicts the granting of the great charter by King John of England to the barons and represents the beginning of modern freedom.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU



Elevation of the north of Mr. Lawrie's great portal may be seen the Constant Guardians of the

The guardians of the north portal: Wisdom with her mural crown and hand upon the book of the law; Justice with the scales of justice; Power with the sword; Mercy with her hand raised to stay.

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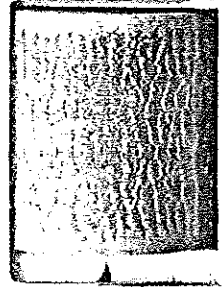
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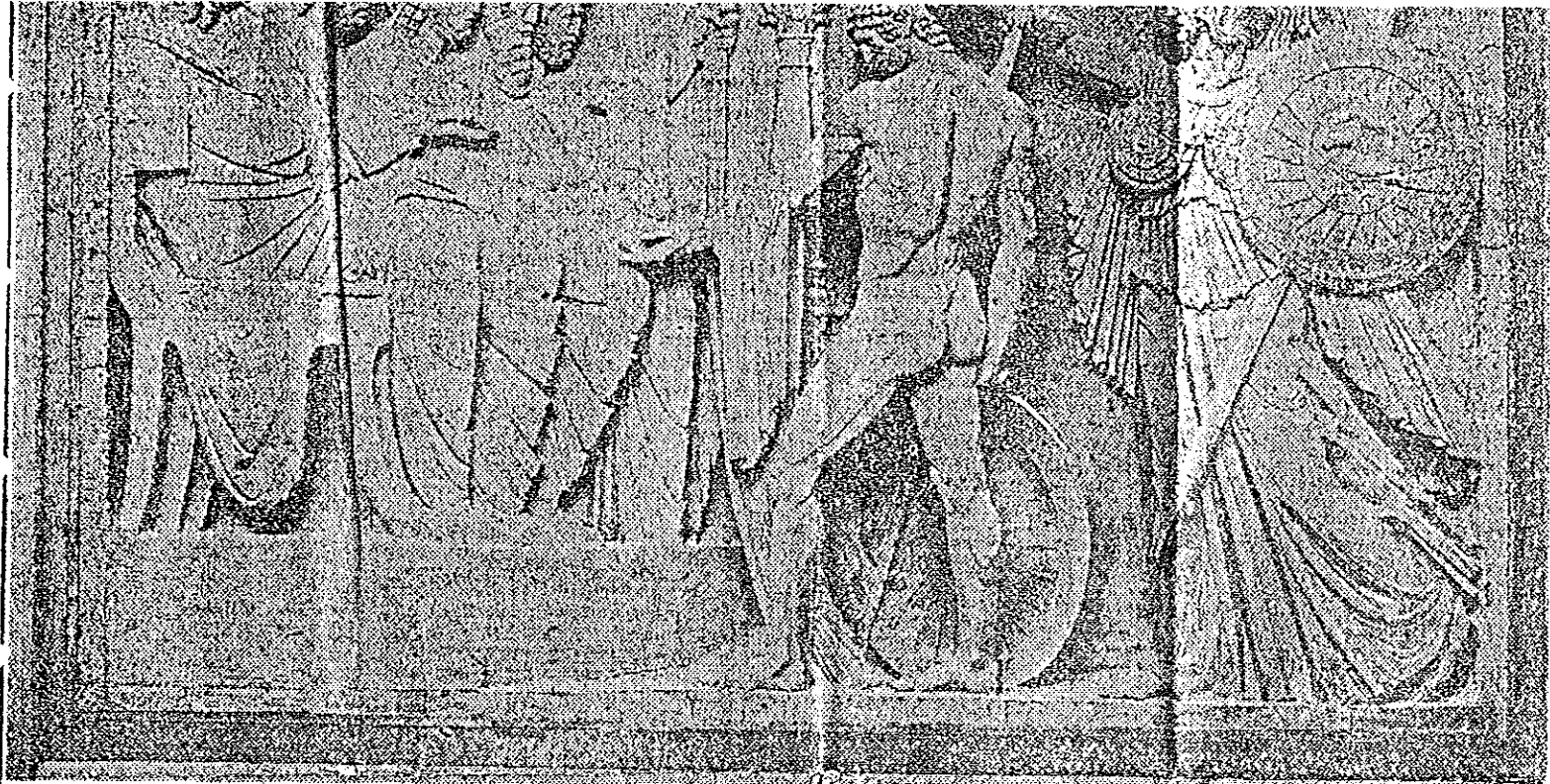
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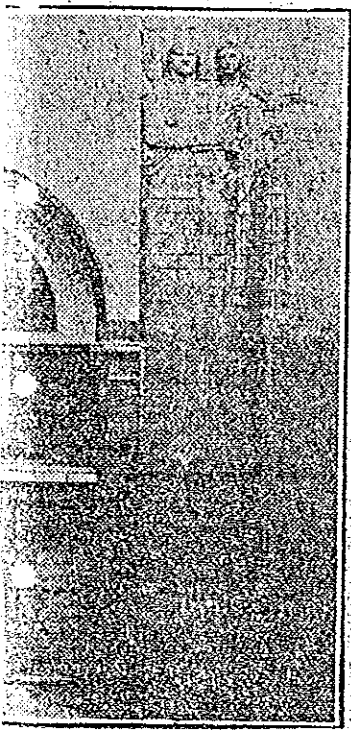
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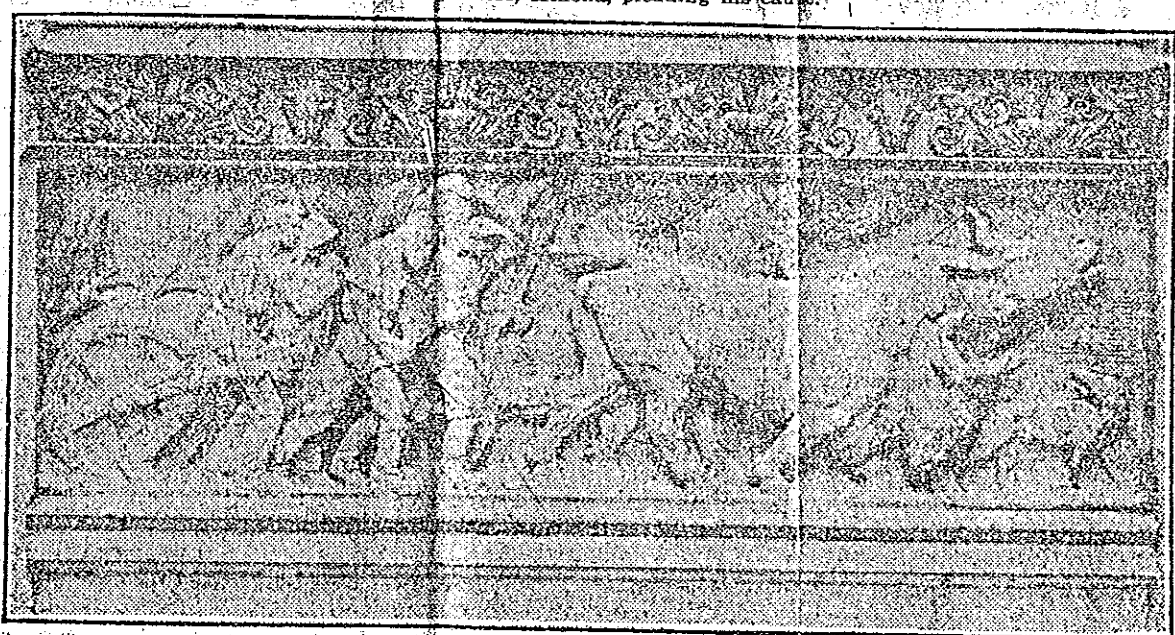




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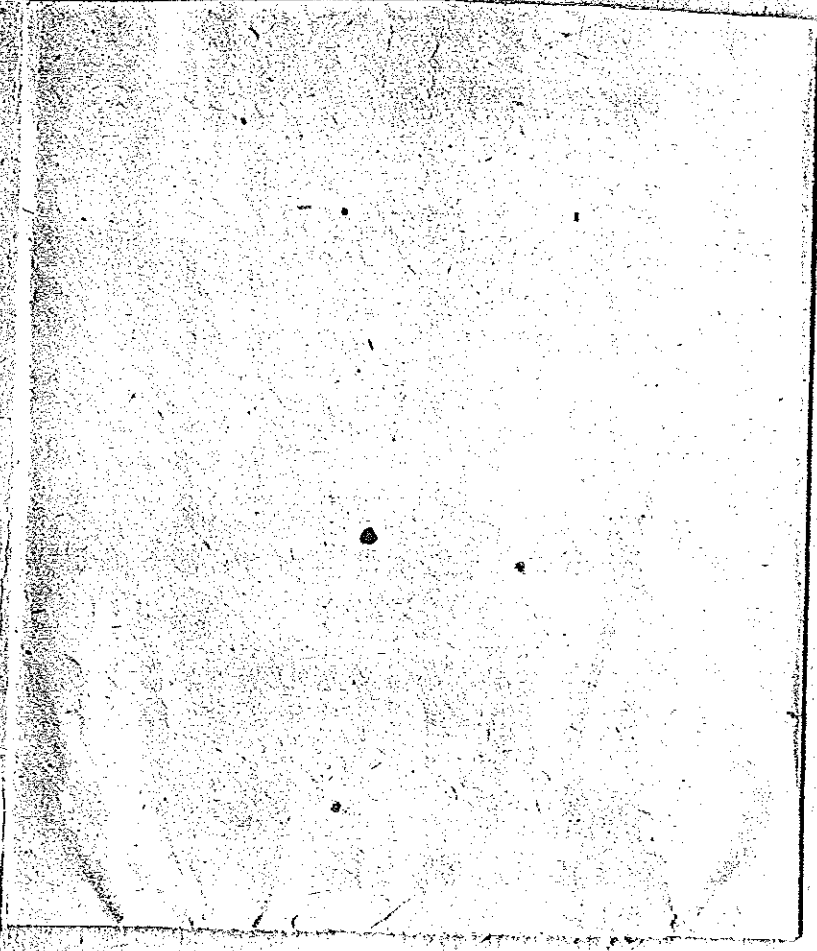
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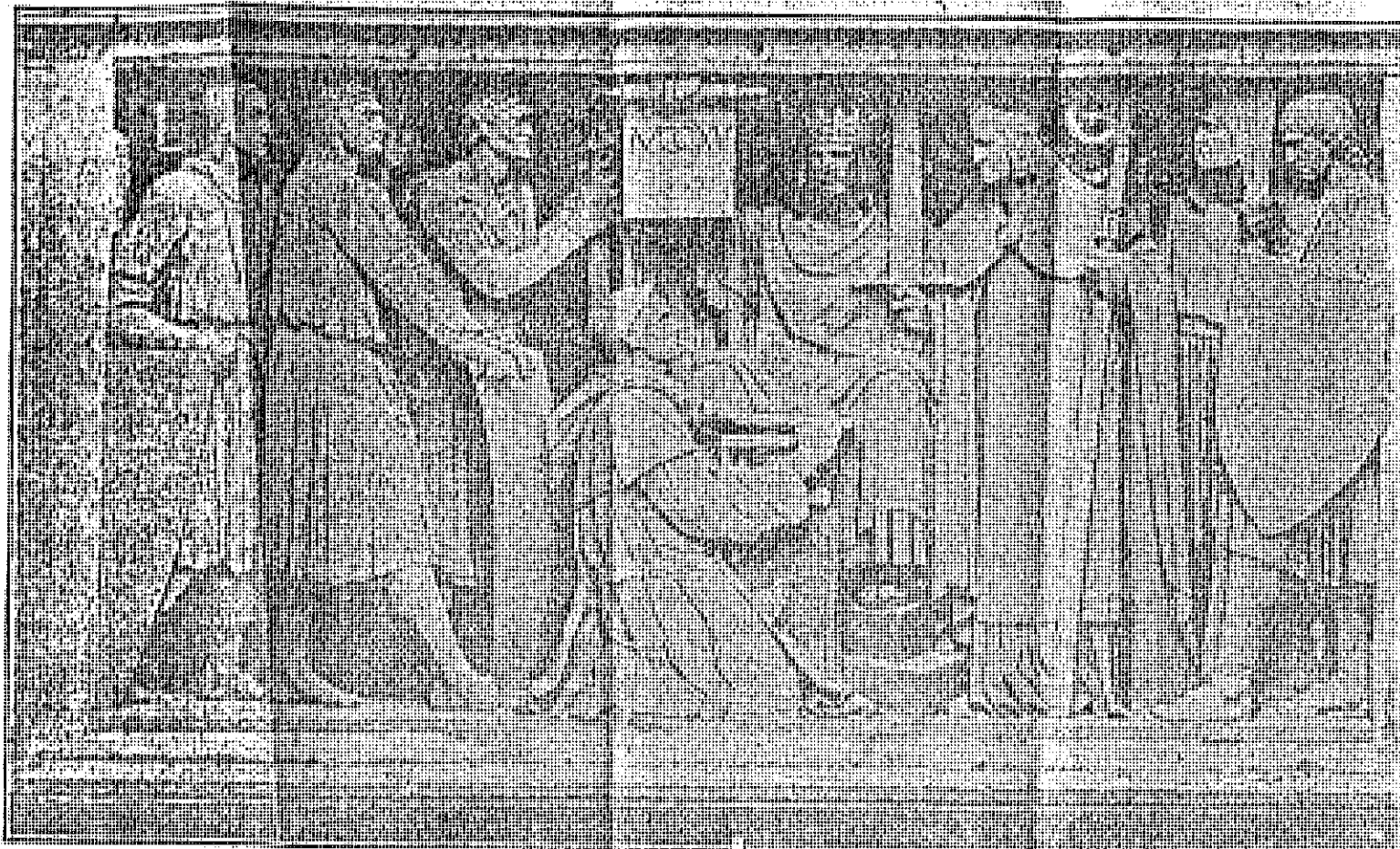
NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE  
REFERENCE BUREAU

Sculpture of new Capitol

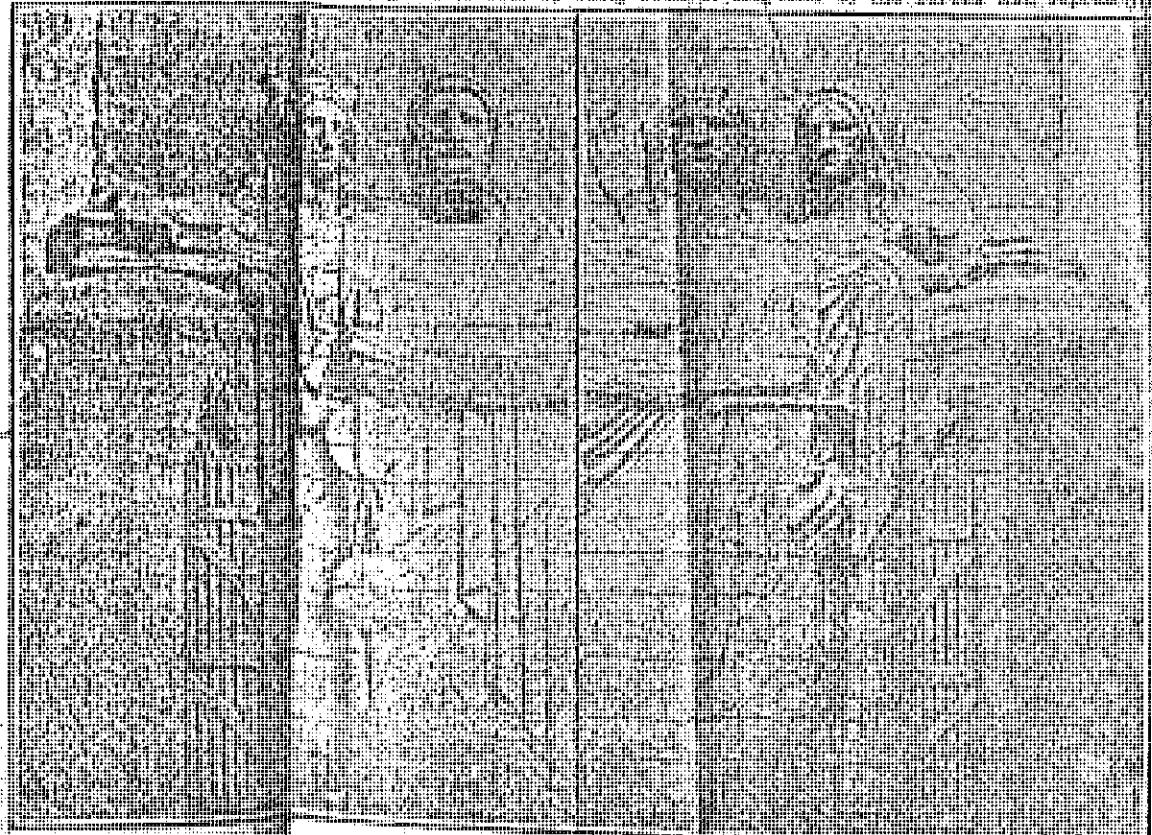
Star  
Apr. 22, 1923



# Sculpture For The Ne



Detail of the Magna Carta, one of the panels designed for the balcony just outside the chamber of the supreme court on the north. The panel depicts the granting of the great charter by King John of England to the barons and represents the beginning of modern freedom.



REPRESENTATIVE LEGISLATIVE

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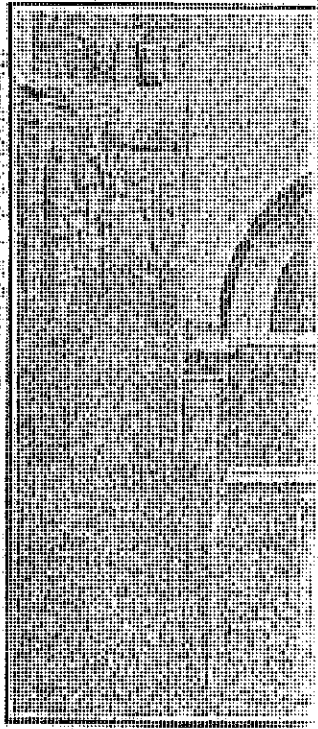
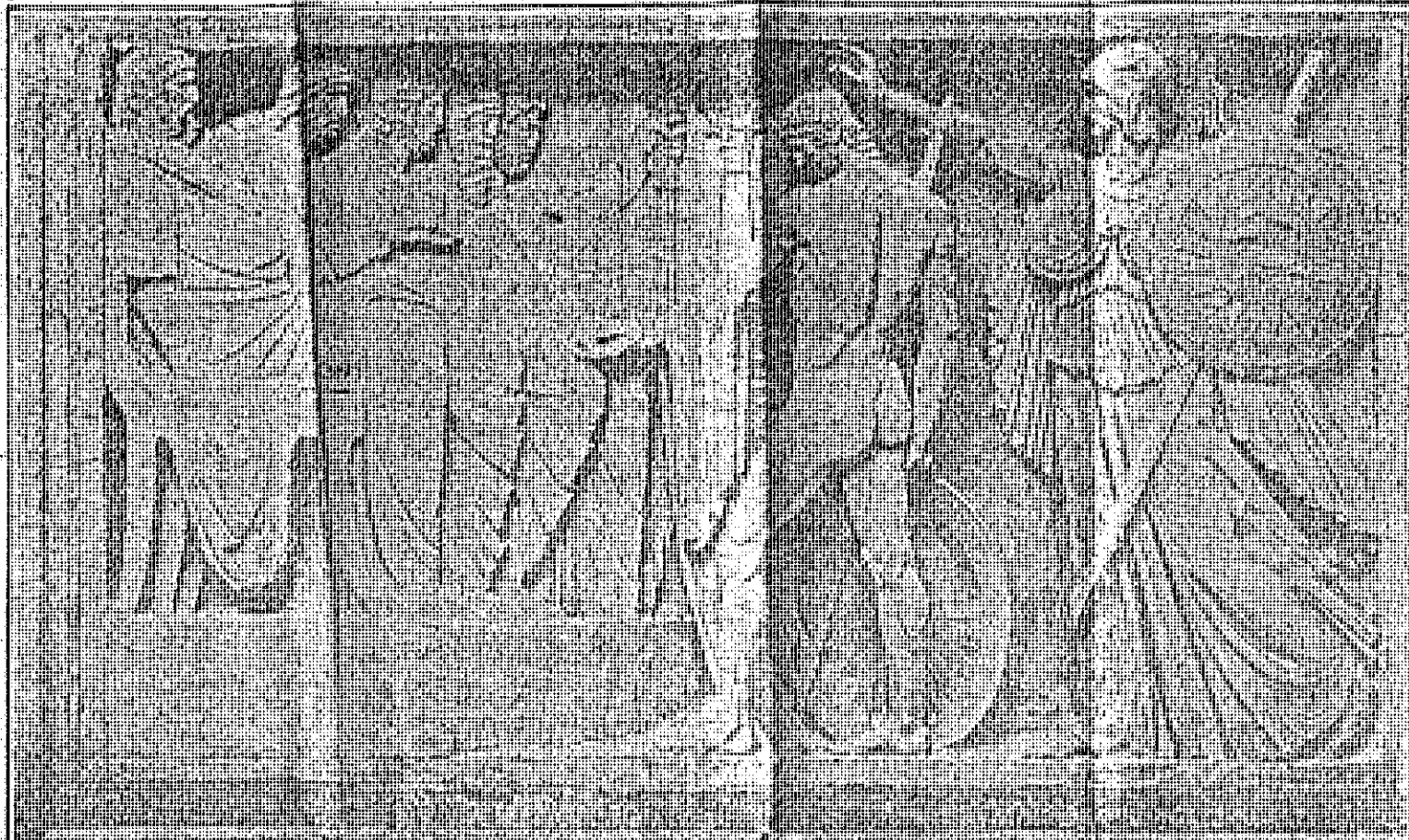


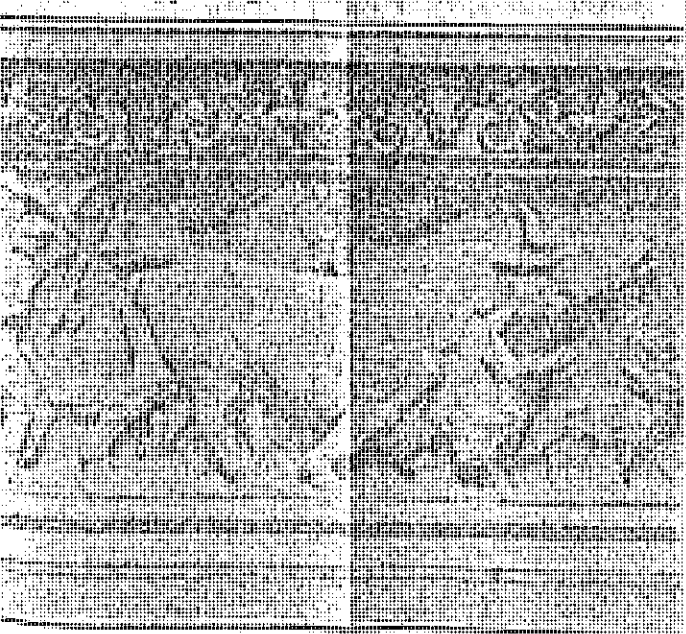
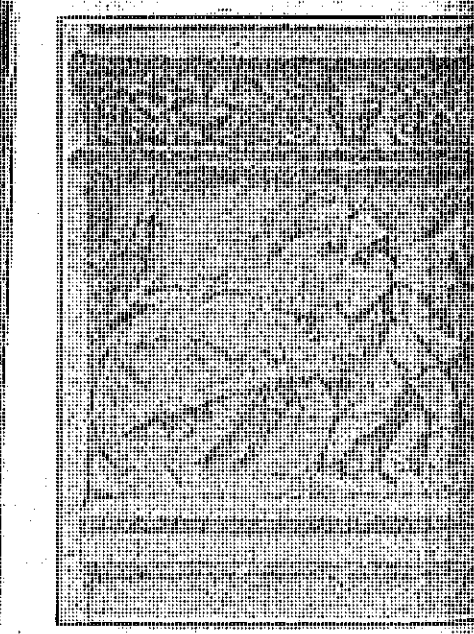
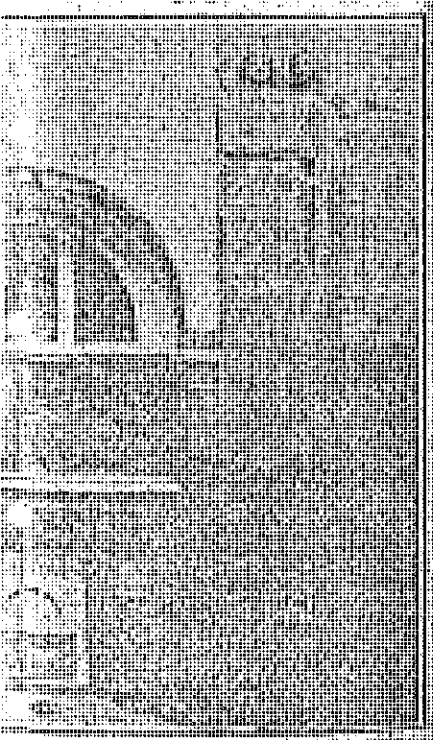
Illustration of the north end of the Lincoln great in the north tower which is the original entrance of the Lincoln building.

The guardian of the... Justice with an oral order... the hand upon the book of the law; Justice with the scales of justice...

# Nebraska State Capitol



The relief to be placed over the entrance of the Capitol (east or west) according to the design of the sculptor, is the bringing of the captured Alabamians before the Alabamian judges with the captured. It represents the "Car of the Alabamians". The captured Alabamians, Alabamians, pleading his case.



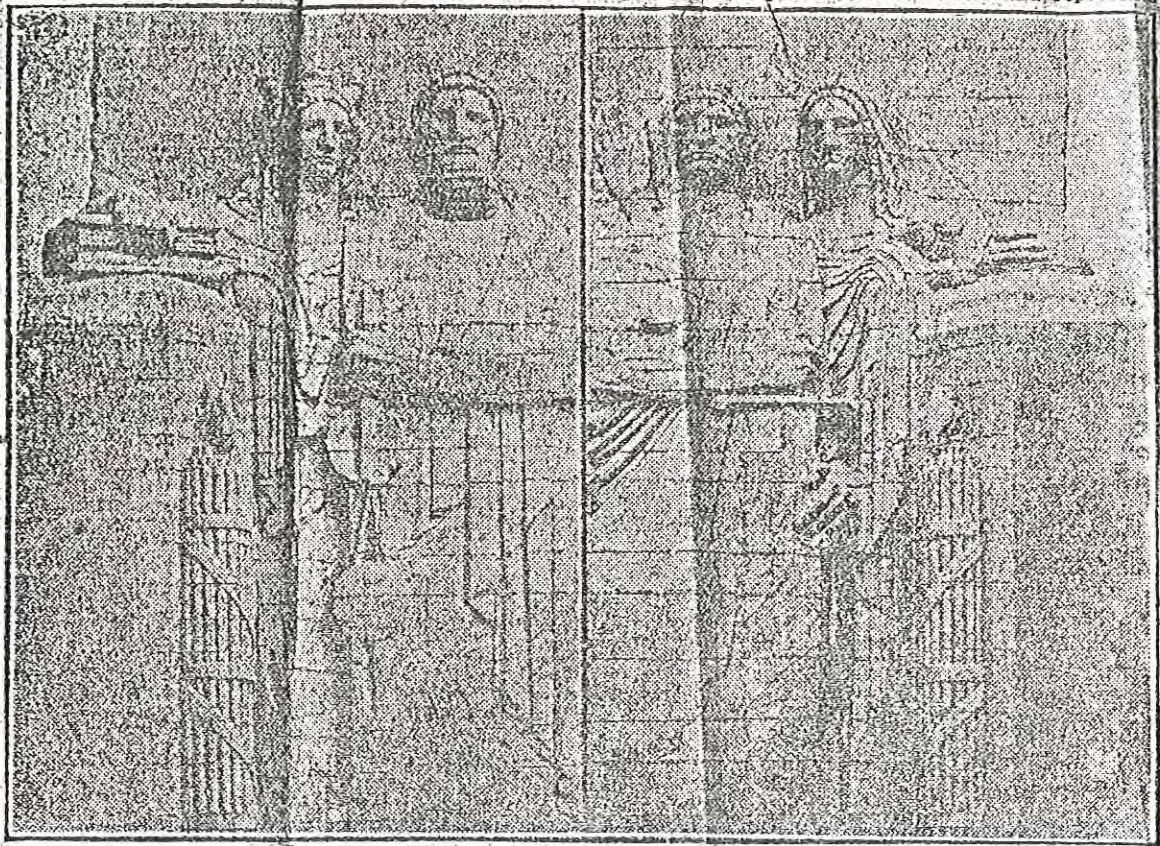
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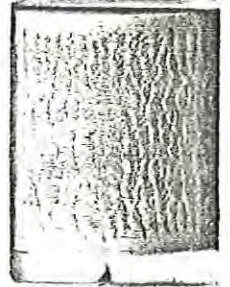
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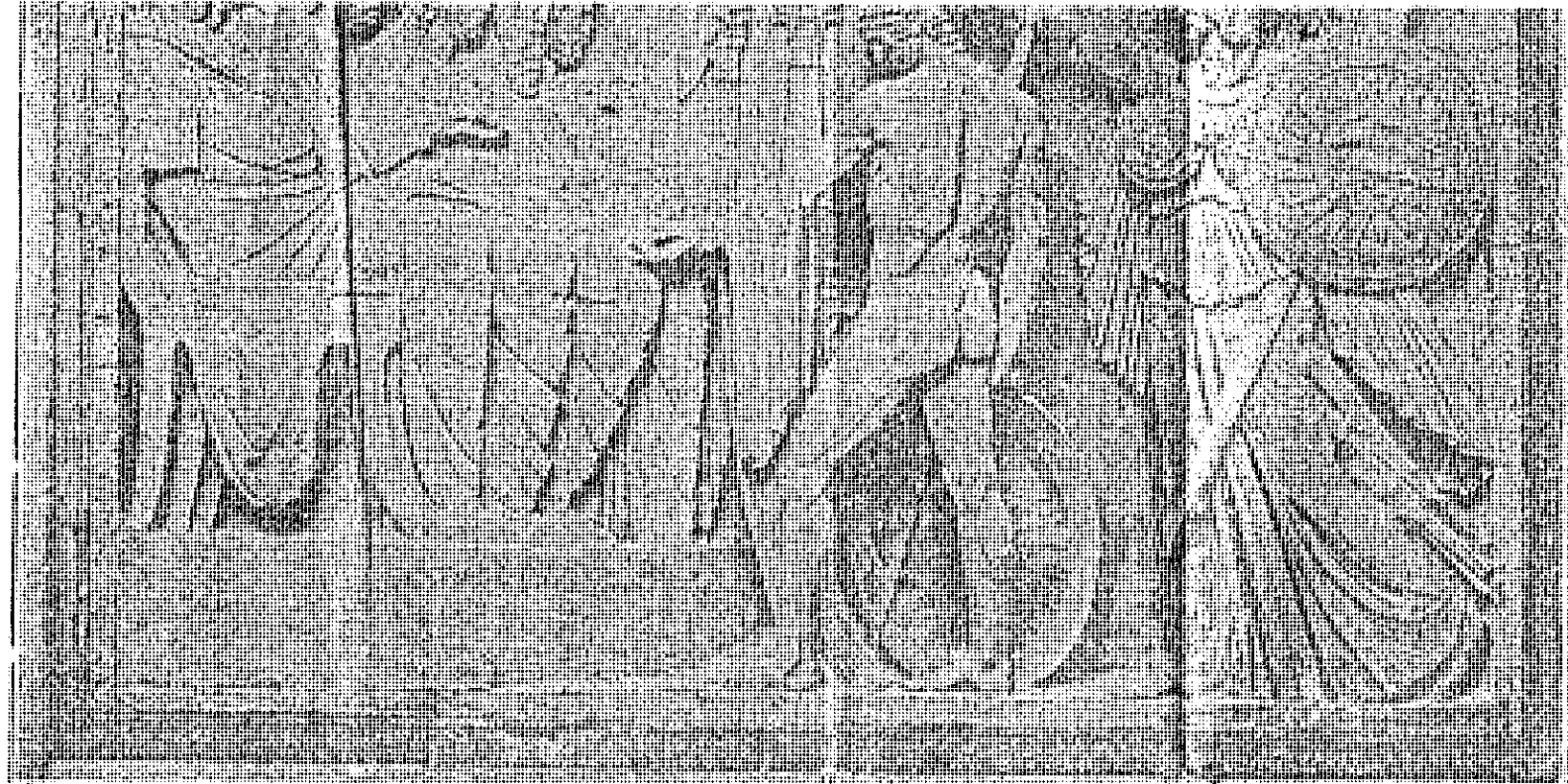
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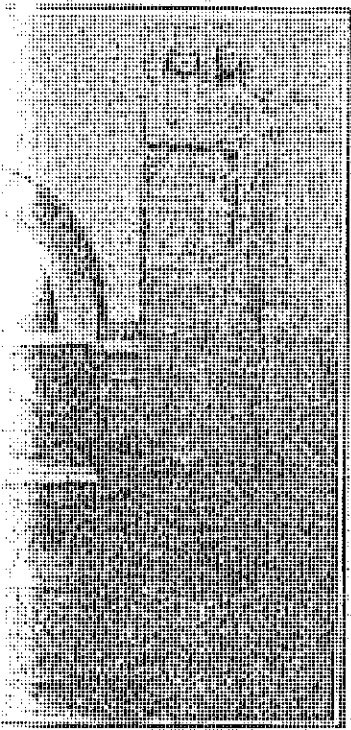


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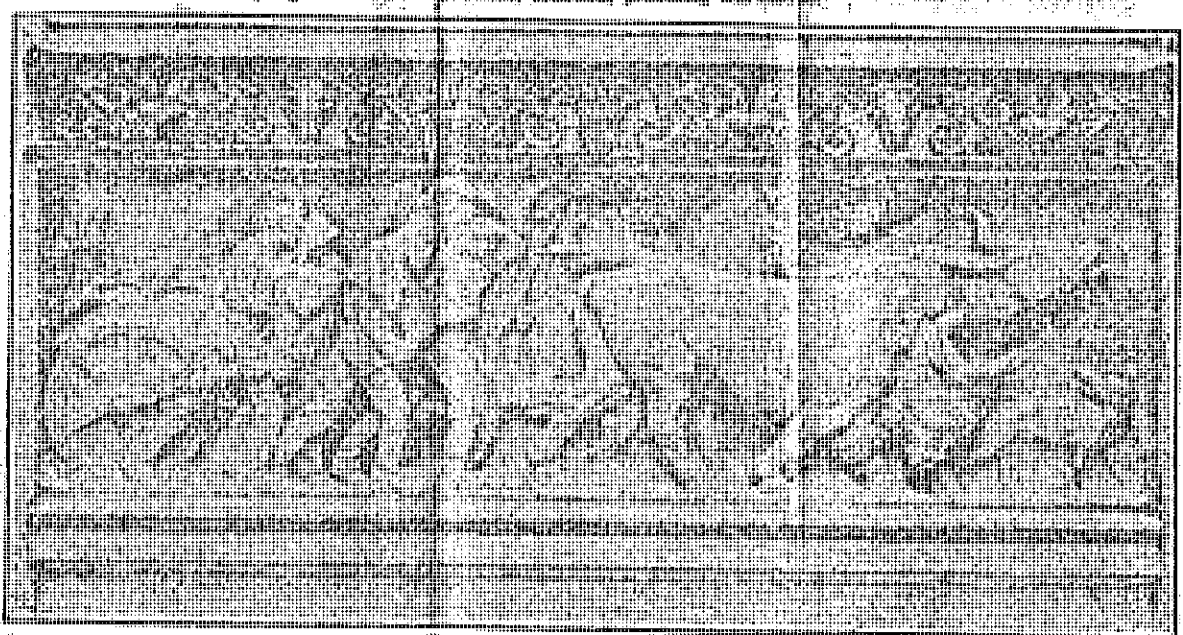
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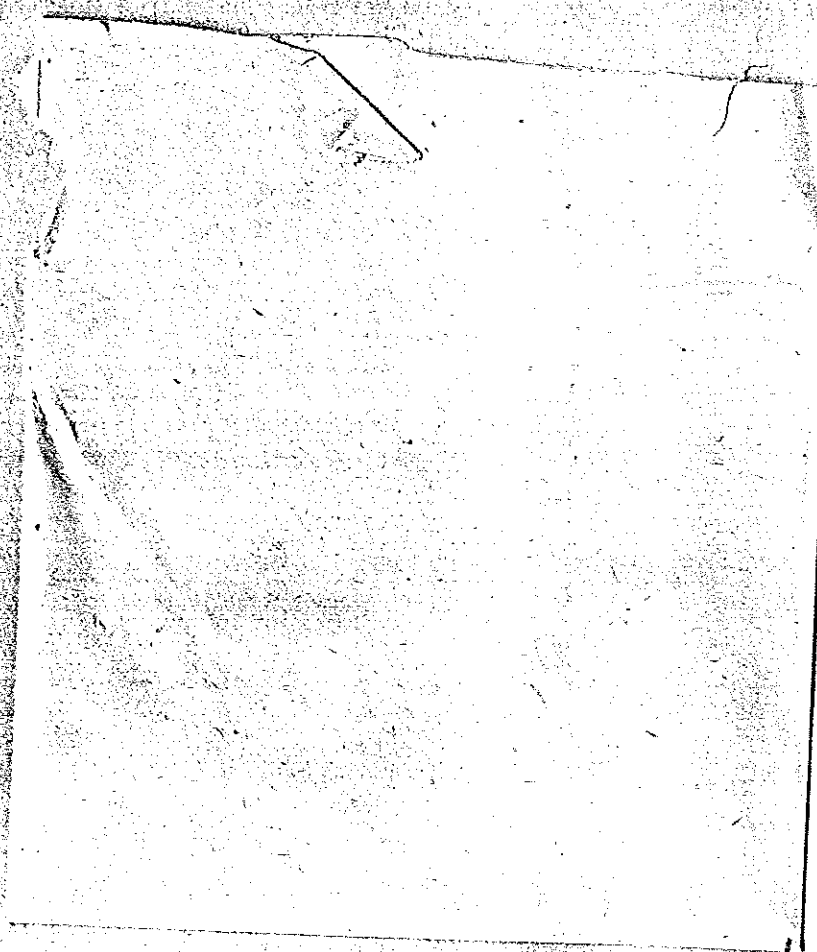
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April 25, 1923

Nebraska Capitol



# Joint Legislative Committee, Investigating Capitol, Finds Goodhue Failed in Some Instances to Protect State

Architect Subjected to Criticism in Report Which Legislators Make, After Conducting Lengthy Inquiry.

## GO INTO DETAIL ON ALL TWELVE CHARGES

The joint legislative committee appointed to investigate and report on the charges made by George E. Johnson, former state engineer and secretary of the capitol commission, that the architect, Bertram G. Goodhue, had been guilty of gross negligence or incompetence. Wednesday submitted a lengthy report signed by all of the members, Senators John Wilts, J. S. Kroh and D. R. Purcell and Representatives W. A. McCain, E. L. Kemper and J. F. Kendall.

There were twelve distinct charges of alleged incompetence or negligence made by Mr. Johnson, and these are taken up and discussed in their order by the committee, after it has first gone into a history of the controversy and set forth portions of the law governing the construction of public buildings and the statute creating the capitol commission and making the appropriation. Attention is called to the fact that the latter is for \$5,000,000 and the law provides for a fine of from \$500 to \$1,000 upon any officer, who shall have plans and specifications made and used where the cost of the building exceeds the appropriation.

### Did Not Protect State.

In regard to charge No. 1, covering the payment by the architect of \$7,000 for printing books of specifications, the committee finds that the work could have been done in Nebraska in the required time, for from \$2,200 to \$2,850 and "that the architect did not duly consider and protect the interests of the state in that matter."

Charge No. 2, in regard to stone, it is found that this matter has already been adjusted by the commission, which is to save \$14,666.66 on the first section and approximately \$44,000 on the entire building.

Charge No. 3, to the effect that the architect failed, as he had agreed, to furnish duplicate plans for steel and reinforced concrete construction, it is found that he did not furnish such duplicates until after the matter was taken up with him and that \$20,000 was then saved on the first section of the building. They should have been furnished "in order to properly protect the interests of the state."

Charge No. 4, that the architect arranged to invite bids on plumbing

for the entire building, is found to be true. If this had been done "the best interests of the state would not have been protected."

### Cost of Expert Service.

Charge No. 5, in regard to changes in plans and specifications, it is found that these neither added to nor reduced the cost of construction materially. In this connection, however, attention is called to the expensive experts in the office of the architect, whose time the state was required to pay for and it is stated that they could be replaced with men of equal ability in Nebraska at a considerable saving.

Charge No. 6, relating to acoustics tiling, which for the building is estimated to cost \$408,500, it is found that the architect has been insistent on the use of a certain kind, but if bids are invited on the material used in other public buildings a saving of many thousands of dollars can be made.

Charge No. 7, heating and ventilation, it is found that the architect drew his plans and specifications so as to limit the radiation equipment to one firm. These were later changed at the instance of the commission, but "the architect has offered no justifiable excuse for so drawing his plans and specifications."

### Saving on Casements.

Charge No. 8, window casements, the committee finds that by having the architect's plans and specifications changed the commission saved \$11,000 on one section.

Charge No. 9, marble columns, no findings made.

Charge No. 10, stone carving, for which work the architect shows a preference for a certain man, while the commission has a bid of \$28,000 from another, on one section, it is found that the architect "did not have in mind or duly consider the saving which might be made by employing other carvers."

Charge No. 11, hardware, the committee finds that the architect has not "offered any justifiable excuse for so drafting his plans and specifications and in so limiting the bidding on this class of material."

Charge No. 12, bonding or overlapping of stone, the committee expresses itself as not satisfied with the explanations of those who sought to justify the short overlapping and finds it to be a departure from the generally acknowledged practice of masons.

### (Findings In Full.)

The findings in full follow: Your committee begs to report its findings as follows:

1. In regard to the claim of the architect for \$7,000, which was paid to him by the capitol commission for the printing of the plans and specifications of the building we find that the testimony disclosed plans and specifications consisted of twenty-six "Trades" or pamphlets. The specifications for each "trade" were

contained in a separate pamphlet excepting in the case of pamphlet or "trade" No. 27, which was a combination of the twenty-six "trades." Fifty copies of each "trade" or pamphlet were published.

The purpose of having the "trades" or pamphlets printed separately was to enable the capitol commission to furnish plans and specifications to prospective bidders in order to secure competitive bids on the different items for which it desired to contract for the construction of the building.

Your committee finds that the architect without having previously consulted the capitol commission arranged to have this printing done in New York city and that he filed his claim with the commission for \$7,000 for the printing of such specifications and that the same was duly allowed to Mr. Goodhue as part of his office expense.

We further find that the contract for the printing of the same could have been secured through the state purchasing department of the state of Nebraska for a sum ranging from \$2,200 to \$2,850 and that the work could have been completed within a period of ten days to two weeks; that Mr. Goodhue's excuse for having this work done in New York city was a desire to have the work quickly done and the necessity, as he claimed, of re-reading the proof. Your committee is of the opinion that there was sufficient time to have had the printing done through the state purchasing department of the state of Nebraska and that the charge for the printing of the same was from three to four thousand dollars more than it should have been. We are forced by the evidence to conclude that the architect did not duly consider and protect the interests of the state in that matter.

### Relative to Stone.

2. In regard to the claims of the contractor for the stone furnished for the walls of the building, your committee finds:

That after your joint committee had been appointed and as it was about to proceed with its hearings, the capitol commission entered into an agreement with the contractor by virtue of which an adjustment was made of the differences between them and by virtue of which it was agreed that the contractor would reduce its claim for the stone furnished in the first section of the building in the sum of \$14,666.66 and that a total reduction of approximately \$44,000 was made in the cost price of the stone for the three sections of the building.

The committee further finds that three grains of stone designated as "fine," "next fine," and "coarser" and also as "fine," "medium," and "coarse" texture had been used in about equal quantities in the walls of the building and that these respective grains of stone were selling at approximately 45, 70 and 75 cents

per cubic foot; that the capitol commission adjusted its differences the prices of the stone on the basis of 612-3 cents per cubic foot, which was the average price of the three grains of stone used in the building.

Your committee further finds that the capitol commission arranged for the removal from the walls of the building, any stone of questionable texture or quality and that it agreed that on the second and third sections of the capitol building, that it should have the option under its contract with the Indiana Quarries company to use, if it so desired, "Coarse Bu stone at 45 cents per cu. ft.," "Standard" at 70 cents per cu. ft.; "Select Buff" at 75 cents per cu. ft.

### Duplicate Plans.

3. As to the charge that Mr. Goodhue personally promised to furnish duplicate plans and specifications and to receive duplicate bids covering both steel and reinforced concrete floor construction, your committee find that the architect did not furnish these duplicate plans until after the matter was taken up with him by the capitol commission and that such duplicate plans and specifications were then furnished and bids received on the duplicate plans and that by virtue of the duplicate bids a saving was made to the state on the first section of the building of approximately \$20,000. Mr. Goodhue's explanation of his reasons for not having originally furnished the duplicate plans and specifications as agreed, was that he believed steel construction better than the reinforced concrete.

It is the opinion of the committee that the architect should have furnished the duplicate plans and specifications and that the same were necessary in order to properly protect the interests of the state.

### Plumbing Costs.

4. In regard to the charge that Mr. Goodhue was arranging to invite bids on the plumbing for the entire building your committee finds this charge to be true. We find also that Mr. Goodhue sought to justify this arrangement on the grounds that he believed a better and more favorable price could be secured by the commission for the plumbing if let in one contract for the entire building rather than if let in sections. Mr. Goodhue also contended that if the contract was let in sections it would be more difficult to fix responsibility in case defects developed in workmanship or material.

On the other hand it was contended by Mr. Johnson that it was not advisable to let the contract for the entire building at one time for the reason that the prices on plumbing material were at the peak of war time prices; that in his judgment, plumbing material would fall in price; that if the contract were let



# FILES REPORT ON CAPITOL INQUIRY

(Continued from Page One.)

In sections as the building was constructed, more favorable bids would be received and smaller and possibly local firms who would be otherwise prevented from doing so, would bid on the work; that if bids were invited for the entire building only, none, excepting the very largest firms would bid; and that there would therefore be very little, if any, competition.

The committee further finds that the commission has since so arranged that the contract for plumbing will be let in sections and that this matter has been satisfactorily adjusted.

It is the judgment of the committee, however, that if bids had been invited for the plumbing on the entire building at one time, as proposed by the architect, the best interests of the state would not have been properly protected, and that it was preferable to invite bids on the sections of the building separately.

## Necessary Changes.

6. Your committee finds that fifty or more changes are necessary in the architect's plans and specifications for the construction of the building. It was not shown, however, that these changes in the plans either material added to or reduced the cost of construction. Some of the changes in the plans were necessary because of the omission from the plans and specifications of certain walls which were absolutely necessary for the safety of the building. Other walls had to be strengthened, and no provision was made in the plans and specifications for a room 20x36 feet which had to be added to care for the electrical equipment required for the building.

The committee realizes that it is practically impossible to erect any building of a monumental kind without being required to make numerous changes in the plans and specifications. We are of the opinion, however, that the plans and specifications should be made as complete as and that it is the duty of the architect and his assistants to keep in touch with the work so that errors in the plans may be quickly discovered and that the necessary corrections and changes may be made without entailing any unnecessary expense to the owner. The state has been required to bear the extra expense caused by the changes required and also has borne the expense incurred in making the corrections in the plans and specifications.

In order that the public may know something of the expense the state pays as a part of the "architect's costs" we cite the following figures: The state paid to the architect for the quarter extending from April 1 to June 30, 1922, inclusive, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the contract, above referred to as a part of the "architect's cost" the sum of \$25,847.70. The main portion of this amount was paid to experts whose salaries ranged from about 45 cents per hour to as high as \$9.60 per hour. The

furnishing of this material for the reason that it is made by one company only. In that case the total cost of the tiling for the building, if the estimates submitted to your committee are correct, will be approximately \$408,500. Your committee does not recommend the use of any particular kind of acoustical material, but are satisfied from the evidence that there are other and much cheaper makes of acoustical material on which bids should be invited. We believe that the same kind of acoustical material which was used in the United States supreme court chamber at Washington, in the Dominion parliament building at Ottawa, Canada, the state capitol building at Cheyenne, Wyo., the Temple Bethel at Detroit, Michigan, and numerous other buildings of monumental kind and character, is a high grade and generally satisfactory material.

While there was some conflict in the testimony, the evidence showed that the acoustic material used in these buildings is from two to three times the efficiency of the "hard-burned semi-porous" tile called for in the specifications, and that it costs only about one-half to one-third as much per square foot. It is also claimed that the necessary quantity of acoustic material required by the architect's plans and specifications will cost from four to five times as much as an equally effective quantity of the material used in the buildings above referred to. We believe that the capitol commission can make a saving of many thousands of dollars to the state on acoustic material alone if it sees fit to invite bids on the various kinds of such material now being used in other public buildings.

## Heat and Ventilation.

7. Your committee further finds that the architect's plans and specifications for heat and ventilation of the capitol building contained the following provisions: "The radiators shall be of the 'Peerless' type, made by the American Radiator company, or equivalent, with malleable iron screw nipples."

That upon the discovery of the requirements of this specification the capitol commission took up the matter with the proper authorities for the purpose of opening the specification for all standard material and equipment, thus permitting other firms besides the American Radiator company to bid for the furnishing of the radiation for the capitol building. It appears from the evidence that the architect's plans and specifications would have the effect of confining the bidding for the furnishing of the radiation and the ventilation of the capitol building to one company.

Your committee further finds that the capitol commission later caused these plans and specifications to be opened to other makes of radiators and that it made a satisfactory adjustment of the matter concerning the furnishing of radiation and ventilation for the building. We are, however, of the opinion that the architect has offered no justifiable excuse for so drawing his plans and specifications, that the radiation and ventilation of the building was practically limited to material manufactured by the American Radiator company alone. We are of the opinion also that he did not properly protect the interest of the state in that regard.

8. Your committee finds also that the architect's plans and specifica-

standard companies could also be received, and that by so doing the capitol commission saved to the state approximately eleven thousand (\$11,000) dollars on the windows for one section of the building alone.

9. While there was some controversy concerning the marble columns to be furnished for the building, it seems that this matter will be properly adjusted. The committee therefore makes no finding in reference to this charge or complaint.

## Matter of Carving.

10. In regard to the carving, it seems that the architect had a special preference for Mr. Ardolino, whom he considers of superior ability as a carver. It seems also that the capitol commission had a bid from one of the large carving associations in the United States and that it proposed to do the carving on the first section of the building for approximately \$6,000 less than the price which was asked by Mr. Ardolino, who was recommended by Mr. Goodhue. If a saving of \$25,000 can be made in the carving for one section of the building alone, the saving on the three sections would be large enough to at least justify the capitol commission in carefully investigating the skill, ability and reputation of other carvers. It appears that the architect has shown a special favoritism to Mr. Ardolino by designating him as the person to whom the contract for carving should be let. It appears that he did not have in mind or duly consider the saving which might be made by employing other carvers. The committee makes no further findings or suggestions than as above indicated.

11. As to the specification submitted by the architect covering hardware and certain looks having a distance of 37-8 inches from center of hub to center of cylinder, it does appear that the plans and specifications were indefinite as to detail, and that as drawn they had the effect of limiting competition among bidders. We do not believe that the architect has offered any justifiable excuse for so drafting his plans and specifications and in so limiting the bidding on this class of material. As the contract for this material has not been let, this matter, however, can still be properly cared for and adjusted if the capitol commission, in its judgment, deems it advisable to do so.

## Overlapping Of Stone.

12. As to the bonding or overlapping of the stone in the walls of the building, your committee finds that there are places in the walls where the bonding of the stone is only four to eight inches, although the stone at such places is from three to five feet in length. In one place in particular, this short bonding runs up the side of the building and in almost a straight or perpendicular line for a distance of eight or ten feet. Testimony was taken on this matter. It was contended by the witnesses on one side that the bonding of the stone was not a matter of much consequence where the foundation of the building is firm and secure. On the other hand, there were capable and experienced men

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standard companies could also be received, and that by so doing the capitol commission saved to the state approximately eleven thousand (\$11,000) dollars on the windows for one section of the building alone.

9. While there was some controversy concerning the marble columns to be furnished for the building, it seems that this matter will be properly adjusted. The committee therefore makes no finding in reference to this charge or complaint.

**Matter of Carving.**

10. In regard to the carving, it seems that the architect had a special preference for Mr. Ardolino, whom he considers of superior ability as a carver. It seems also that the capitol commission had a bid from one of the large carving associations in the United States and that it proposed to do the carving on the first section of the building for approximately \$26,000 less than the price which was asked by Mr. Ardolino, who was recommended by Mr. Goodhue. If a saving of \$26,000 can be made in the carving for one section of the building alone, the saving on the three sections would be large enough to at least justify the capitol commission in carefully investigating the skill, ability and reputation of other carvers. It appears that the architect has shown a special favoritism to Mr. Ardolino by designating him as the person to whom the contract for carving should be let. It appears that he did not have in mind or fully consider the saving which might be made by employing other carver. The committee makes no further findings or suggestions than as above indicated.

11. As to the specification submitted by the architect covering hardware and certain looks having a distance of 37-8 inches from center of hub to center of cylinder, it does appear that the plans and specifications were indefinite as to detail, and that as drawn they had the effect of limiting competition among bidders. We do not believe that the architect has offered any justifiable excuse for so drafting his plans and specifications and in so limiting the bidding of this class of material. As the contract for this material has not been let this matter, however, can still be properly cared for and adjusted if the capitol commission in its judgment deems it advisable to do so.

**Overlapping Of Stone.**

12. As to the bonding or overlapping of the stone in the walls of the building, your committee finds that there are places in the walls where the bonding of the stone is only four to eight inches, although the stone at such places is from three to five feet in length. In one place in particular, this short bonding runs up the side of the building and in almost a straight or perpendicular line for a distance of eight or ten feet. Testimony was taken on this matter. It was contended by the witnesses on one side that the bonding of the stone was not a matter of much consequence, where the foundation of the building is firm and secure. On the other hand, there were capable and experienced men

who testified that the short overlap or bonding of the stone was defective and is not considered standard practice. The architect contended that the bonding was so arranged because of certain artistic effects which he desired to produce. Your committee was not satisfied with the explanation of those who sought to justify the short overlapping of the stone. We believe it to be a departure from the generally acknowledged practice of masons.

Your committee realizes that the capitol commission is composed of men of integrity, ability, business experience and of high standing. They have served without pay, and have given much time and attention to their duties. They have been frequently compelled to neglect their private affairs in order to properly perform their duties and that they must rely upon the architect in matters requiring technical knowledge of building. The evidence shows that the members of the commission have acted promptly whenever it came to their knowledge that specifications as prepared by the architect did not provide for competitive bids on certain materials and that in every such case they ordered that necessary changes be made to meet such requirements. They have performed their duties in a conscientious manner and have aided this committee in every possible way during this investigation.

**Deputy Inspector.**

The committee recommends that a deputy inspector, other than the clerk of the works selected by the architect, be appointed as required by the section of the statute above referred to, in order that the interests of the state be guarded at all times in the construction of the building.

Your committee finds that the first section of the capitol building comprises about 39.85 per cent of the entire building; that the total contracts awarded for that section amount to approximately \$2,800,533 that on the same basis, the capitol building will cost the state about \$7,000,000; that it will be necessary to expend about \$400,000 extra on the grounds and for heating plant and removal of old building.

Other estimates furnished your committee place the cost of building

at about \$9,000,000 but it was contended that some reduction would likely be made in these figures.

It should be borne in mind that the cost of furniture, fixtures and supplies are not included within these totals and that the appropriation for the erection of the capitol is \$5,000,000. The statute which requires the architect as well as all others connected with the erection of the building, to keep within the appropriation should be always kept in mind in determining the kind and cost of material to be used.

**Competitive Bids.**

With these requirements in mind, it seems that it is the duty of the architect and all other persons in charge, to keep in mind when contracting for material their imperative duty to not exceed the appropriation. To do this, competitive bids should be had whenever possible on material or work required. In this respect we believe the architect was negligent. We also are of the opinion that as the state has contracted to repay the architect, in addition to his annual salary of \$25,000 for practically all expense he may properly incur while in the performance of his duty; that he should carefully guard the state as to the cost of material used, and strive to keep the total costs of the building exclusive of furnishings, as nearly within the appropriation of \$5,000,000 as possible. The people have a right to expect this and demand that it be done.

If the labors of this committee help to bring about the above results, and to restore fair competitive bidding on public contracts, and helps to guard against excessive and extravagant expenditure of public funds, we shall feel that our efforts have not been in vain.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN WILTSE,

Chairman.

J. S. KROH,  
E. R. PURCELL,  
W. A. McCAIN,  
E. L. KEMPER,  
J. F. KENDALL,

ever, that the plans and specifications should be made as complete as and that it is the duty of the architect and his assistants to keep in touch with the work so that errors in the plans may be quickly discovered and that the necessary corrections and changes may be made without entailing any unnecessary expense to the owner. The state has been required to bear the extra expense caused by the changes required and also has borne the expense incurred in making the corrections in the plans and specifications.

In order that the public may know something of the expense the state pays as a part of the "architect's costs" we cite the following figures: The state paid to the architect for the quarter extending from April 1 to June 30, 1922, inclusive, in accordance with the provisions of Article III of the contract, above referred to as a part of the "architect's cost" the sum of \$25,847.70. The main portion of this amount was paid to experts whose salaries ranged from about 48 cents per hour to as high as \$9.60 per hour. The evidence also discloses that the state paid the plumbing expert \$10 per hour and the electrical expert \$14.28 per hour for their services. It is the opinion of your committee that a large number of men employed by the architect at such high salaries could be replaced by men with equal ability in the state of Nebraska at salaries much less than has been paid and thereby make a very considerable saving in the cost of the building.

#### Interior Finish.

6. Your committee further finds that the architect's plans and specifications call for acoustic tile for the interior finish of the main rooms of the building, which it is estimated will cost \$408,500. This cost will be distributed among the three sections of the building, approximately as follows: Section No. 1, \$43,500; section No. 2, \$317,000; section No. 3, \$48,000.

The specifications first submitted required that the tile be of the "best quality hard-burned semi-porous, of sizes ranging from 1x6 ft. to 12x24 ft. in length." After protest was made by the commission the specifications were changed so that "acoustic tile that will pass scientific acoustical test (by the acoustical laboratory, Harvard university, or by any other laboratory satisfactory to the architect), approving the property of correct absorption of sound will be satisfactory to the architect; provided further that these tiles or blocks are of color and shade satisfactory to the architect and conform to the sizes indicated or shown on the drawings."

The committee further finds that the architect's specifications require that an extra allowance of \$13,000 be made to the contractor so that the material can be colored and finished to satisfy the architect. The meaning of this provision is not clear and the architect and Mr. Johnson were not agreed as to the purposes for which the \$13,000 were to be used.

Your committee further finds that the architect is very insistent that no tiling be used except the kind of tiling called for in his plans and specifications, and that he has not been favorably disposed to the consideration of bids on any other kind of acoustical material than that called for in his plans and specifications. It is the judgment of the committee that if bids are limited to this one kind of tiling, that there will be no competitive bids for

firms besides the radiator company to bid for the furnishing of the radiation for the capitol building. It appears from the evidence that the architect's plans and specifications would have the effect of confining the bidding for the furnishing of the radiation and the ventilation of the capitol building to one company.

Your committee further finds that the capitol commissioner later caused these plans and specifications to be opened to other makers of radiators and that it made a satisfactory adjustment of the matter concerning the furnishing of radiation and ventilation for the building. We are, however, of the opinion that the architect has offered no justifiable excuse for so drawing his plans and specifications that the radiation and ventilation of the building was practically limited to material manufactured by the American Radiator company alone. We are of the opinion also that he did not properly protect the interest of the state in that regard.

8. Your committee finds also that the architect's plans and specifications provided for a class of windows which was made only by the International Casement company. That later this matter was taken up with the architect by the capitol commission so that bids from other

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# MAKING SHOW OF AUTHORITY

## HOUSE RESOLUTION WOULD FIRE ARCHITECT GOODHUE.

### Another Proposal Tells Commission What It Should Do in Matter of Cost in Order to Please Public.

By a vote of 65 to 25 the house passed the resolution, after voting down an amendment offered by Baldridge that it be worded "as near \$5,000,000 as possible." He explained that this would not bind the house to charging the commission with unwarranted and wasteful expenditure if the cost exceeded that figure.

The house refused Thursday to table a resolution which asks the capitol commission to keep construction cost within \$5,000,000 if possible. The vote was 23 to 67. Representatives Thatcher and Amspoker, first termers are the authors. These members also circulated a resolution urging that the contract of Architect Goodhue be terminated. There are twenty-two signers.

There has developed a strong feeling in the house against so-called interference with the work of the commission or reflection upon that work. Messrs. Amspoker and Thatcher, in their initial resolution, refer to a cost in excess of \$5,000,000 as wasteful, excessive and extravagant. This conclusion was reached without consulting members of the commission. Nor did the introducers consult Governor Bryan who, during the late campaign, promised to hold the cost within the appropriation.

The following members are listed as signers of the Goodhue removal resolution: Amspoker, Thatcher, Whitehead, Colman, Hyde, Quinn, Hughes, Harrington, Donnelly, Moore, Gallagher, Auten, Lundy, Peterson, North, Essam, Yochum of Otoe, Yochum of Saunders, Wingett, Johnston, Hueftle, Parkinson. Five of them are democrats.

Of the following twenty-three members voting to table the resolution to hold the cost down to \$5,000,000, nine are democrats.

Beushausen, G. B. Collins, C. S. Collins, Davis of Cass, Dennis, Depsmore, Dyball, Dysart, Green, Hansen, Harrington, Keifer Miner, Neff, O'Malley, Regan Rourke, Smith, Strehlow, Thomssen, Wilson of Dawes, Wilson of Lancaster, Wood.

W. H. Thompson, member of the capitol commission, was surrounded by a group of members following the noon recess. Several of them were inclined to be hostile. Grant Mears, author of the capitol bill, was particularly so. Others, however, told the commissioner not to be hurt over anything this legislature may do or seek to do.

"What do they mean?" asked Mr. Thompson. "Do they think that members of the commission intend to violate the law?"

He clearly showed resentment over action which he takes to reflect upon the honor and integrity of men who have given their time for nothing in order to serve the state. He resented the intimation that the commission is being dominated by the architect and in retorting to a statement by Mears in regard to what the architect "pulled," said:

"He has pulled nothing. In explaining his vote to table the

resolution, J. Reid Green said that it is foolish to assume that the commission will exceed the appropriation or that more money will be spent until a legislature appropriates it.

Amspoker and others made predictions that the cost will reach seven, eight or ten millions. The more conservative were inclined to take the view that it is not yet conclusive that the cost need exceed \$5,000,000.

"When we say what the capitol will cost, we do not know what we are talking about," said Dysart. Too many cooks often spoil the broth. We certainly are in no position to tell the capitol commission what to do."

Those who argued for the resolution, declared that during the special session they were told that the cost will not exceed \$5,000,000.

"The report is now spreading like wildfire that it will cost ten million," said Hardin. "This resolution doesn't save the state a dollar. It simply asks the commission to stay within the amount appropriated if possible."

This explanation that it doesn't really mean anything beyond a request, hurt Mr. Thompson more than some of the statements of a more un-

certain and radical type. He took some of these things to mean that the commission is not to be trusted—that it needs watching.

Representative Kemper, member of the joint committee which investigated the commission, explained the situation without offering criticism.

"I am convinced," he said, "that the building must essentially cost more than \$5,000,000 in accordance with the plans and specifications. The architect had in mind a monumental building—something to stand for ages. He had also in mind utility. All space can be used. The difference between a dome and a tower is that one holds empty space while the other holds occupied space. The ability and integrity of members of the commission cannot be questioned. While I believe it to be a physical impossibility to complete the structure within the appropriation, this resolution will be a little reminder that the people are anxious for economy."

Following is the resolution regarding Mr. Goodhue's removal:

"Whereas, the report of the joint legislative committee appointed to investigate the capitol commission and the building of the state capitol, shows that Architect Bertram G. Goodhue has been grossly negligent in protecting the interests of the state of Nebraska, and has persistently ignored various elements of costs in the construction of the building, in violation of the law and

"Whereas, the testimony and committee report shows that the architect has made many errors in his plans and specifications, which has resulted in an unnecessary expense to the state, and has ignored the section of the law which requires that all public buildings be constructed within the appropriation made by the legislature; and

"Whereas, said committee's report shows that said architect has repeatedly drawn his specifications so as to favor certain manufacturers and materials, and furnished specifications for first class stone, and immediately after contract was signed, agreed to the acceptance of stone of lower value without notice to the capitol commission; therefore be it

"Resolved, that it is the sense of this house that the contract with Architect Goodhue should be terminated at the earliest possible date, and that he be removed from further supervision of said building."

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Feb, #89

1923

THE LINCOLN STATE JOURNAL

GOVERNOR NICELY FIXED

STATE SPENT \$3,000 IN INTERIOR OF MANSION.

5/11/23 Jo-

Place Once Without Fit Coffee Pot Now Supplied With Modest Priced Dishes and Linen.

Now that the legislature has adjourned Governor Bryan finds himself nicely fixed with a salary of \$7,500 a year, a good roof over the mansion and plenty of paint on the outside and \$10,000 of state funds available for the next two years to pay for improvements, repairs, gas, water, telephone, lights and janitor service, whereas the other governor preceding him in office had something like \$3,500 for these items.

In addition to spending between \$2,000 and \$3,000 for a roof and exterior paint for the governor's mansion during the McKelvie administration, the state thru Land Commissioner Dan Swanson in charge, began spending money from the 1921 appropriation to make the house home-like. It had been used for little besides committee meetings and work rooms for state house clerks and occasionally for a public meeting of assessors or a little political party caucus, and was all run down.

The governor's mansion is now in habitable condition and visitors from out in the state who pay taxes for its upkeep need not be ashamed of it, tho they may wonder whether it is economy for the state to furnish and give a residence to the governor or pay rent as was the custom before the present mansion was bought.

Land Commissioner Dan Swanson began last December to repair and

decorate the interior of the mansion for Governor Bryan's use. He tried to confine himself to such principles of democratic simplicity as he knew the incoming governor was in favor of and he consulted the new governor frequently, but the best he could do was to spend \$3,042.60 up to May 8. While Governor Bryan was announcing to the public that he was going to save anywhere from \$6,000,000 to \$9,000,000 of the people's money Commissioner Swanson was spending a little of it to make the governor comfortable and home like. The governor never protested so far as reported. About \$800 went to the painter and paperhangers and nearly \$500 to the plumber for repairs on the heating and water plant.

It was necessary to supply the mansion with furnishings of all kinds, and even dishes and table linen. The governor did not even have a fit coffee pot.

The governor moved in the first of the year and by February 10 the largest purchase of furnishings, \$555, was paid for by the state.

The purchases included everything needed in a home, such as "bar. val curtains for kitchen" costing \$31; "three pairs of voile curtains for

daughter's room," costing \$18.73; "dining room draperies," \$132.82.

"Curtains and draperies for governor's room, as estimated, \$45," is another item in the bill.

These prices were all wholesale prices, the state being favored to that extent by the dealers. Hall draperies cost \$70.35.

Dishes cost \$109.98, but the dealer gave a credit of \$24.09 for merchandise, so the bill was only \$79.08. This included a coffee pot at \$2 and "one covered oval dish" at \$6.75.

Sheets were bought for \$1.70 each or eighteen for \$30.60. Another dozen cost \$17.35. Two dozen napkins at \$10.31 a dozen or two dozen for \$20.62 is another item on the bills of furnishings. Two "cloths" cost \$11.25 each. Hemming four table cloths and twenty-four dozen napkins cost \$16.80, the hemming being done by Mrs. H. H. Bradley, 2861 Garfield street.

These furnishings were bought out of the \$14,000 appropriated two years ago for repairs of capitol, grounds and mansion. The total of \$3,042.60 from December 9 to May 8 do not include telephone, light, gas and water or janitor service or heat, the latter being furnished free by the state from its capitol heating plant.

336.45

No. 6  
#90

1923

### Pool Objecting To Allowance of Printing Claim

5/19/23

Another meeting of the state capitol commission has been called for next Thursday, at which time Architect B. G. Goodhue of New York will be present. Governor Bryan, chairman of the commission, was in conference Saturday forenoon with Goodhue's personal representative, W. L. Younkin, and Secretary Roy Cochran of the commission.

Secretary of State Pool, who is not a member of the capitol commission, and whose signature is required on all state warrants, is objecting to the recent allowance and payment of a \$7,000 printing bill which the architect included with his claim covering the last quarter of 1922. The netire claim of \$23,000 was paid before Pool learned that this item was in it. He now proposes that \$4,000 be deducted from the architect's salary voucher for the first quarter of 1923, that being the estimated difference between what the printing cost in New York City and what it would have been done for if the contract had been let to a Nebraska firm.

Mr. Goodhue's voucher for salary and cost items covering the first quarter of this year, which amounts to something over \$13.00, is still in the state auditor's hands. It was presented ten days ago, but no warrant has yet been drawn.

336.45

Feb, 1923

#91

## URGE CHANGE IN CAPITOL

5/24/23 To -  
CITIZENS WOULD ALTER EAST  
AND WEST ENTRANCES.

Delegation Calls Upon Capitol Com-  
mission—Fred Humphrey Says  
Additional Expense Is Not  
Necessary.

A committee comprising H. Herpolsheimer, R. H. George, Fred Humphrey, W. E. Sharp, J. F. Sharp, H. B. Smith of Gold & Co., and E. L. Smith of Magee's called on the capitol commission Thursday and presented a request for a change in plans for the east and west entrances of the new capitol.

The committee was chosen as the result of several meetings by a group of Lincoln citizens. It has no suggestion for changes about the south entrance or the main entrance on the north. The east and west entrances have been planned with less ornamentation than the committee thinks desirable. The prints which the committee exhibited to the commission show these entrances to comprise a plain open way into the first story, or thru the walls of the one story portion known as the terrace. At either side of the openway a stairway leads up the side of the wall to permit access to the top of the terrace and from this platform entrance can be had in to the second story or main floor at several places.

The committee proposes a straight flight of steps at the east and west entrances direct to the top of the terrace and that large entrances be provided from the terrace into the second story or to the main floor. It is alleged by the committee that the plans can be changed now before the entrances are erected without additional expense for building material. The entrances are not to be built, according to present plans of the commission, until the old building has been torn down and removed. About eighty feet of the walls on the east and west will remain uncompleted until the present building is dismantled.

W. E. Sharp of the Lincoln Traction company, who accompanied the committee, has stated that his company would like to change its line which now runs one block on J street between thirteenth and fourteenth. It prefers to run this line south from Thirteenth to H street on Thirteenth street if this is satisfactory to patrons.

Mr. Humphrey was asked about the large growth of trees and shrubs and recent planting of shrubs outside of lots lines on J street west of the capitol. He said the widening of J street to 100 feet was contemplated and when this is done the view will be less unobstructed.

The meeting of the commission was attended by Governor Bryan, W. E. Hardy, W. H. Thompson and Architect Goodhue. Deputy Secretary Roy Cochran of the department of public works, member of the commission, was detained at McCook by high water. Walter Head of Omaha had not arrived at Omaha.

#92

336, 45  
Feb.

1923

# GOODHUE TO DRAW PLANS

## CAPITOL BOARD ASKED FOR MODIFIED ENTRANCES.

Stone Hereafter to Be in Accord  
With Samples—Engineer Mem-  
ber Responsible to  
Commission.

5/25/23 50

The capitol commission closed a two days session Friday after having asked Architect Goodhue to draw plans for more elaborate entrances at the east and west ends of the capitol, adjusted claims of the Henry Struble company for stone, determined that the engineer member of the board is responsible as a representative of the commission for material entering into the building and arrived at the conclusion that the present building can hardly be dismantled until after the next session of the legislature in 1925.

The commission also determined that hereafter its meetings shall be open to the press, except on possible occasions when the interests of the state seem to require executive sessions.

Governor Bryan, spokesman of the commission under former rules of that body, announced that he had suggested open meetings hereafter in view of the fact that the commission has now settled all matters as to contracts and quality of stone. There was no dissent to this suggestion.

In regard to more elaborate entrances at the east and west ends, Governor Bryan said he had raised that question in the commission prior to the visit of a delegation of Lincoln citizens Thursday. The commission asked Architect Goodhue to submit modified plans, the change not to involve much additional expense for building, no more than is necessary to make the entrances more elaborate, said the governor.

Originally the capitol was planned by the architect with the main entrance facing west. The commission requested that the building be turned with the front facing north, toward Fifteenth street.

Credits to the amount of \$4,000 from the contractor for quality of stone furnished was agreed upon by the commission and Henry Struble. This covers stone in the present walls some of which is alleged to be

of less market value than the quality called for by the specifications.

Engineer Roy Cochran, deputy secretary of the department of public works, was decreed to be the representative of the commission of which he is a member to supervise the material entering into the building when the architect and contractor may differ, but the commission is over all and the governor has power to appoint a special representative if he sees fit to do so. The engineer member and architect, who also represents the commission, were instructed to require all future stone to come within the specifications and in accord with samples approved at the time the stone contract was awarded.

The percentage of deduction for stone in the present wall amounts to

\$4,000 and it is estimated that these walls constitute one-third of the work required under the present contract.

The commission discussed the method of checking claims filed by the architect's New York office for over head and decided that the system is so complete, that it is hardly possible to furnish the state auditor and secretary of state with details of every claim, but the commission is willing to comply with this red tape if possible.

No date was set for the next meeting. No contracts will be awarded for building prior to the meeting of the next legislature unless the price of building material seems to justify.

### Burlington Announces Changes in



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#93

1923

# BRYAN TO PASS UPON IMPORTANT CAPITOL NEWS

## Governor Announces He Will Censor Official Information As to Policies.

## Will Call For Resignation Along With Alibi If Rule

6/16/23 Is Violated. Star

"Orders have been issued through the heads of the various departments over which I preside that no more official information is to be given out bearing upon appointments, executive policies, or other matters for which the governor is responsible, until it has been submitted to me and I have had a chance to pass upon it," Governor Bryan announced to newspaper reporters at the capitol Friday morning.

"Employees have also been instructed that anyone who gives out such information will be expected to send his resignation along with his alibi."

Twice during the past week, Mr. Bryan has been vexed by the publication of news items which he says were prematurely released. One of these was a report on the detailed expenditures for the new state capitol up to June 1. The other was an announcement that the number of state highway divisional engineers had been reduced from ten to six, coupled with the redistricting of the state and the names of those slated for the positions.

### Capitol Report Stirs Executive.

The capitol commission had a night meeting last Tuesday in the governor's private office, just before W. H. Thompson left for California. It was on that afternoon that an itemized list of capitol expenditures was published. A member of the commission chided Mr. Bryan for giving out these data before the commission itself had received the figures.

The governor replied that he had not given out anything on that subject and hadn't even seen the figures himself. When the house of representatives, just before the adjournment of the legislature, requested the information, to be sent to its members by mail after they had gone home, Mr. Bryan called upon State Engineer Cochran to prepare and submit it.

Cochran is a member of the capitol commission and was present when the subject came up, but he said he had not given out anything.

"Three copies of the report were brought by myself to the governor's office in a sealed envelope, and turned over to one of your office assistants," he told Governor Bryan. "Those are the only copies that have left my department."

Subsequently, it developed that Chief Clerk Frank P. Corrick, of the house of representatives, being anxious to obtain the figures and send them out to the legislators as soon as possible, had visited the capitol commission's office when Cochran was not there and obtained a copy from his stenographer, who supposed it was all right to let it go out.

Not Officially Approved.

About the same time, the list of new highway division engineers and districts was published. Governor Bryan says it had been submitted to him but was not officially approved.

The governor was considerably peeved, and he thereupon issued his order that no news involving appointments and administrative policies should henceforth be given out until he personally authorized such action upon penalty of decapitation for the offending subordinate.

"This may scare your appointees and make them afraid to give out any news at all," was suggested by the governor.

"The order does not apply to routine news or to matters of general administration, but only to those things for which I am directly responsible," was his reply.

"Suppose an employe finds it difficult to distinguish between news that he could give out and what he shouldn't."

"In that case, he had better call me."

336.45

1923

Neb.

#94

# HARDWARE IN NEW CAPITOL

ALLOWANCE OF \$25,000 MADE  
FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Bids to Be Received by Governor  
Bryan and Opened in Presence  
of Bidders, Septem-  
ber 12.

*8/24/23*

The state capitol commission has advertised for the filing of bids for hardware for section one of the new capitol. An allowance of \$25,000 has been made for the cost of hardware and the bids must come within that amount.

Bids are to be filed with Governor Bryan, chairman, on or before 10 o'clock central standard time, September 12 and opened in the presence of bidders immediately after the time of bidding has closed. Governor Bryan and Secretary R. L. Cochran of the commission will open the bids but whether a meeting of the full commission shall be held at that time has not been decided. The awards will not be made until the commission has fully considered the bids, and no contract signed until a complete set of samples have been filed with the architect and the architect's consent and approval in writing, shall have been obtained. Hardware shall be guaranteed against manufacturer's defects for a period of five years. Articles that do not conform to the samples shall be removed and replaced at the contractor's expense.

Bidders are required to deposit \$25 for a set of drawings and specifications, the deposit to be returned to unsuccessful bidders. As the contractor for interior wood finish is a subcontractor of the J. H. Wiese Co. who is under contract for the capitol, the contractor selected to supply the hardware will of necessity be subject to the instructions and directions in furnishing the hardware of the general contractor. If a bid is submitted by a manufacturer the bidder is to state in his bid the articles not of his own manufacture and the names of the manufacturers. If the bid is submitted by an agent, jobber or hardware dealer, the bidder is to state in his bid the names of all manufacturers and the articles manufactured thereby. A certified check for 10 per cent of the amount of the bid must be submitted.

The hardware to be purchased includes articles of the governor's suite, court room No. 1, judges consultation room, lawyers room and reading room, and hardware for all doors, ceiling lights, transoms in rooms, hallways, toilet rooms and all other hardware required thruout the building. This includes hardware for window openings, hardware for swing fire and sliding doors, coat and hat hooks, bolt heads or studs for exterior door at south entrance, and for north entrance sliding doors on the second floor.

A sample metal window frame and plate glass was delivered at the capitol Friday by Davis Lupton Sons & Co. of Philadelphia. The capitol commission settled the controversy raised by George E. Johnson in regard to metal window frames. The sample is now sent so that the commission can see what it has purchased and see that the windows correspond to the sample when they are put in place.

386, 45

Feb.

#95

1923

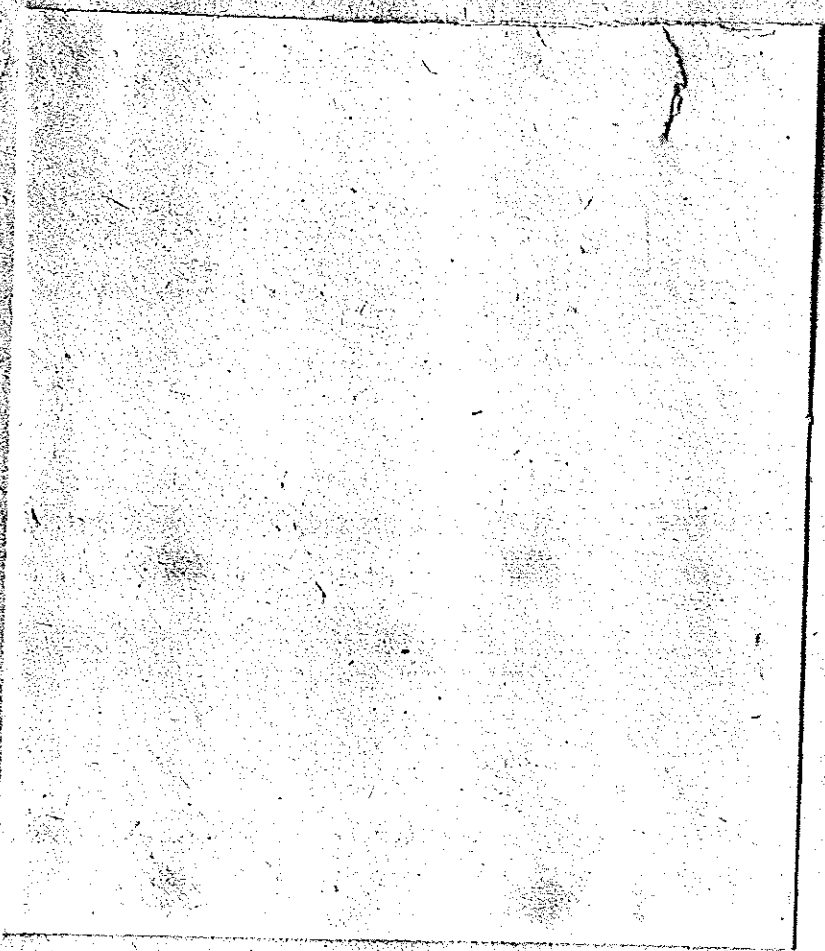
Janitors at the capitol gazed in amazement Saturday when they saw a sample window for the exterior walls of the second or main floor of the new capitol. The window contains forty-eight small glass panes each set in a frame of metal. The thought of cleaning each of these little glasses instead of two large panes to a window gave the janitors violent pains. Each glass is about one foot tall and much less in width. The metal sash is between four and five feet wide and about eight feet tall. A larger window is to be used in the interior walls facing courts.

8/26/23 JB -  
The custom at the old state house is to clean the big plate windows only when driven to it by stern commands of the superintendent of the building. The process consists in swiping the glass with a cloth saturated with cleansing powder and water and later a quick semi-circular wave of the hand and a dry cloth in the general direction of the glass. What is not wiped off usually blows off in the breeze a day or two later. The friction of the wind polishes the glass. It is the general consensus of opinion of those comprising the state board of janitors that this old and simple process of cleaning windows will not apply to a big window cut into forty eight separate panels, each divided by a ridge of metal one inch in relief.

336.45

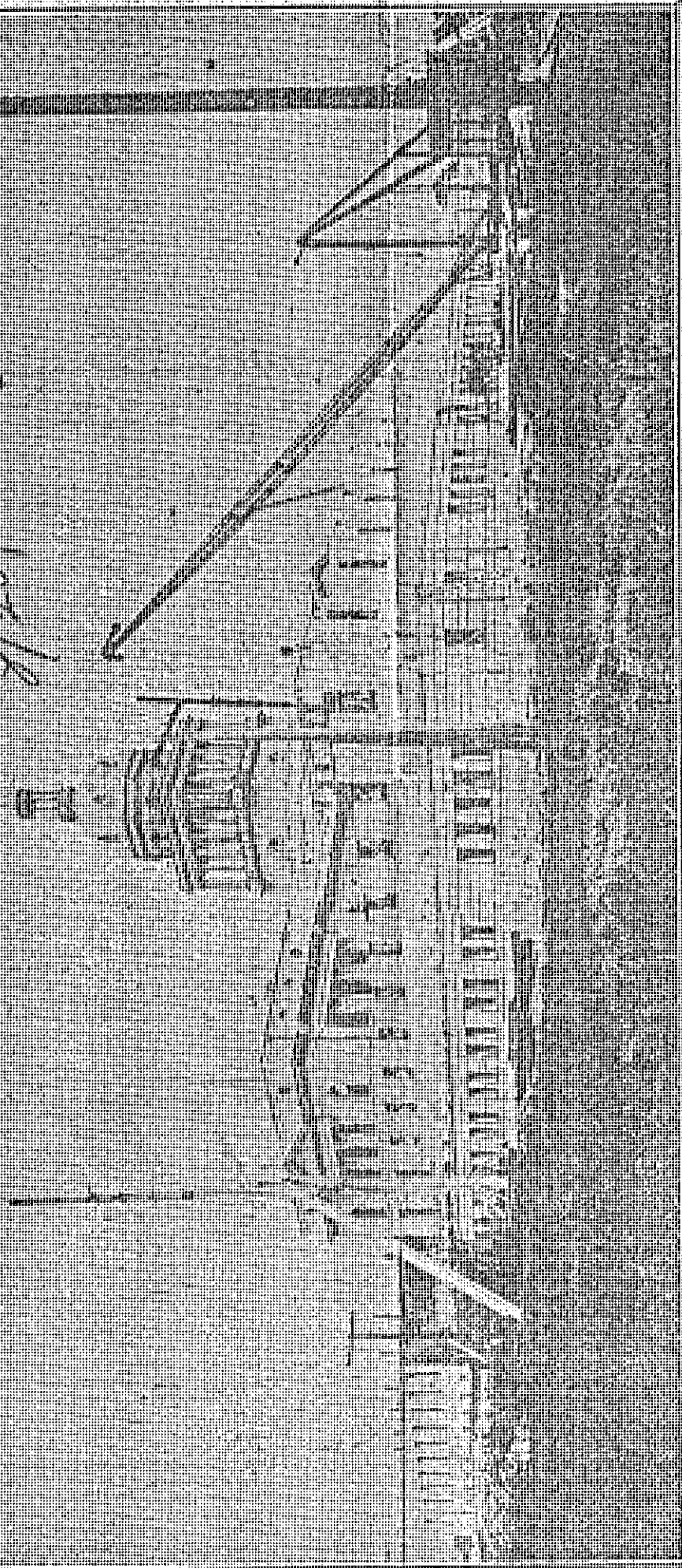
Neb,  
#96

Star  
8-26-23



# Progress of Construction Work on Nebraska's New Capitol

9/26/29 Stay



Construction work on Nebraska's new Capitol building has progressed to the point where it is now possible to erect a steel skeleton for the main part of the structure. The work is being done by the Nebraska State Construction Co., which is in charge of the project. The building is being erected on a site in Lincoln, Nebraska, and is expected to be completed in the near future. The new Capitol will be a landmark building, and its construction is a major undertaking for the state. The building will be a two-story structure, and will be built in the classical style. It will have a central dome, and will be surrounded by a colonnade. The building will be a fitting home for the Nebraska State Legislature, and will be a source of pride for the people of the state. The construction work is being done in a systematic and efficient manner, and it is expected that the building will be completed in a timely and economical manner. The new Capitol will be a fitting home for the Nebraska State Legislature, and will be a source of pride for the people of the state.

336.45

Neb,

#97

Journal  
9/13/23

## STATE ASKS CITY FOR STORM SEWER

Capitol Commission Adopts Resolution Calling for Construction of Line Three Blocks Long.

Governor Bryan, Chairman of the capitol commission, announced Thursday that the commission had rejected bids on the hardware for the first section of the capitol and will advertise immediately for new bids. Bids will probably be received within twenty days. The commission received only two bids. They were returned without opening. The commission has \$25,000 available for the purchase of hardware for section 1 of the capitol. There are five firms furnishing hardware of the class desired. Some of these had asked for an extension of time to permit them to prepare bids. The commission thought it best to readvertise.

The commission adopted a resolution asking the city of Lincoln to construct a storm sewer to connect with the 24 inch storm sewer being built upon the capitol grounds. The city has inadequate storm sewers to carry water from the proposed capitol. The nearest large city sewer is Fifteenth and N streets, three blocks away from the capitol. At that place the city sewer is three feet three inches.

A temporary heating plant to warm the new capitol rooms while workmen are engaged in interior work this winter is to be purchased. It will cost about \$5,600. The commission decided to buy two boilers at \$1,200, two metal smoke stacks at \$100 each and the work of installation will cost \$3,000 additional.

336.45  
Neb  
#98

1983

## WORKERS TO DEFY WINTER WEATHER

*9/10/23 star*  
Commission Discusses Plans  
to Heat Part of Capitol  
Under Construction.

Interior Work to Continue  
Through Cold Weather Ac-  
cording to Present Plan.

Provision for heating that part of the new capitol building now under construction, so that interior work can be carried on without interruption during the season of cold weather, was considered by the capitol commission at its meeting Wednesday afternoon.

At a previous meeting, Governor Bryan and State Engineer Cochran, chairman and secretary of the commission, were authorized to negotiate for the purchase of two boilers and the erection of a temporary building to house them. The two officials expected to make a report on the matter.

The present heating plant on Capitol square is not capable of supply heat other than that needed for the old building. There is no room for additional boilers. Additional boilers will probably be located just south of the Lincoln monument. Two sets of steam pipes will be required, one running into the south part of the new building and the other into the north part, as the two sections are separated from each other.

Bids for interior hardware in the first section of the new building were to be opened Wednesday, but some of the bidders asked for additional time and it was not certain that those already delivered to the capitol commission would be opened.

Capitol Expenditures June 11 - October 1, 1923.

Architect's salary .....	\$65,625.00
Architect's office expenses (Note: This sum includes payment for a great deal of advance work on plans, for future construction not yet contracted) .....	
Competition (Preliminary pre-contract expense) .....	136,468.20
Architectural adviser of Capitol Commission .....	27,054.48
Heating and ventilating engineers .....	3,268.90
Foundation engineers .....	17,967.60
Quantity survey (Computing estimates) .....	12,263.47
Expenses of Capitol Commission and their office .....	12,500.00
Clerk of the works and inspectors .....	9,407.35
Construction and operation of railroad - \$35,407.76 less amount earned \$10,197.00 .....	14,066.36
Foundation tests and testing materials .....	25,210.76
Miscellaneous expenses .....	8,571.85
Boilers and stacks .....	178.30
Amount paid to foundation contractor (Payments completed) .....	2,600.00
Amount paid to J. H. Wiese Company (Building contractors) .....	234,317.04
Amount paid to heating and plumbing contractors .....	489,781.02
Amount paid to stone contractor .....	122,051.40
Amount paid to electrical contractor .....	281,938.16
Unpaid balance on all obligations .....	33,182.20
	67.52



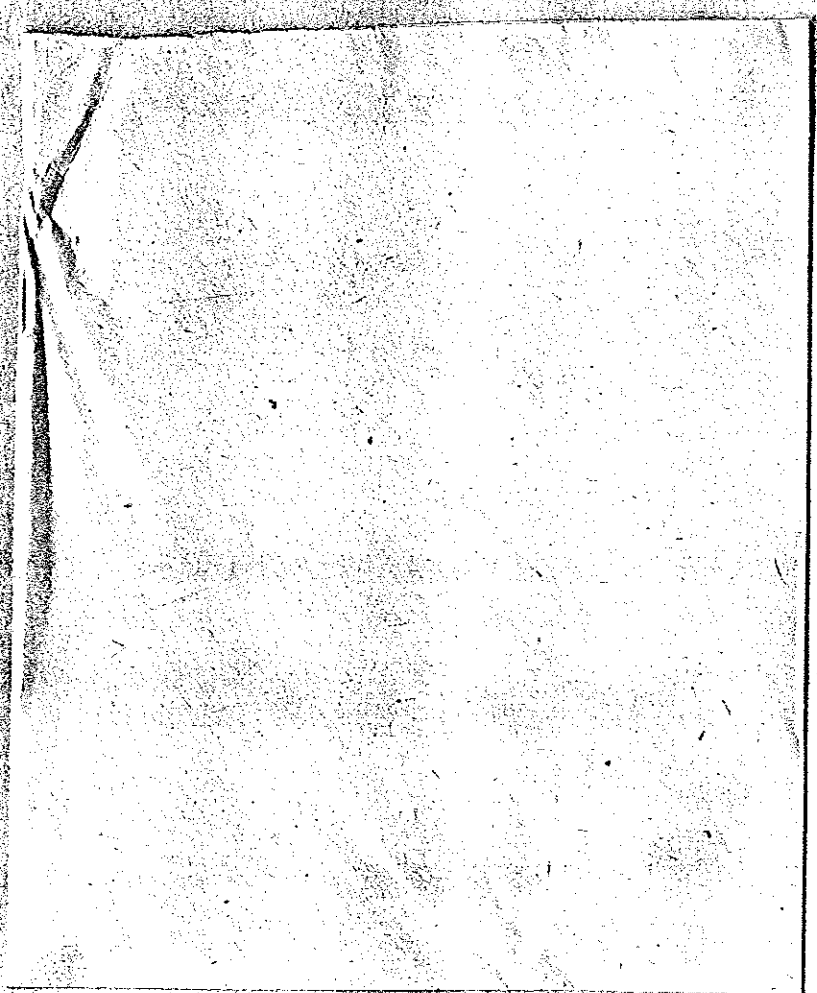
336.45

Neb.

#99

October 9, 1923

State Capitol



# DISCUSS PLAN TO CUT DOWN CAPITOL COST

(Continued from Page One.)

an will afford some saving to the state.

## Committee to Report.

It was decided to proceed slowly, by having a committee investigate and report in full at the next meeting, giving in full the reasons for making the change. Mr. Head will doubtless be chairman of this committee, as the proposal came from him.

"The commission has been considering the advisability of this step for a year or more," Mr. Head told the press squad. "Personally, I am very much in favor of it, because I am satisfied that in the long run it will be to the state's advantage."

"You might say that we have had the alternative contract under consideration from the beginning," added Mr. Thompson. "When we signed up for the salary contract in November, 1920, we added a provision giving us the right to change to the commission basis at any time within five years."

No construction work was done until the spring of 1922, so that the architect was on the state payroll a year and a half before the actual building operations started. The first section is now about two-thirds finished. The contract will not be let for the second, or interior, section until the latter part of 1924, or early in 1925. After that, the central tower rising to a height of 400 feet above the ground surface, will be built as the third section, under still another contract.

All this, the commission now figures, will take four or five years additional time at the least. Uncertainty as to how long the construction period might run is one of the principal reasons why the commission now thinks the other contract would be preferable.

## More Money To Be Needed.

It will take considerably more than the \$5,000,000 appropriated for the new capitol under the 1919 act to complete the building, according to the plans, members of the commission say. Up to this time, \$1,883,000 in round numbers has been expended and as much more will be required to carry out the existing contracts on the first section. Thus, two-thirds of the total amount available from the original appropriation will be used up before work begins on the interior part of the building or the tower. The interior section is the one which will contain the legislative halls and most of the vaulted corridors, statuary and other expensive details.

An estimate of the completed cost has been submitted to the commission, but the figures were not given out Tuesday morning. It was intimated that the final outlay will be between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000. Mr. Head denied that it would reach \$7,000,000.

You can say that this commission will not undertake to spend more than the amount appropriated," he declared.

Recommendations will be laid be-

time of entering the state's employ. This was paid him.

Should the capitol commission switch over to the percentage contract, the architect would have due him at the present time a greater sum than he has drawn under the salary agreement, but future payments would probably be less.

The alternative contract allows him 6 per cent computed upon the total cost of construction exclusive of his own fees. This would mean 6 per cent on \$7,500,000, if the building should cost that much, or a total of \$450,000. To this would be added certain extras specified in the contract, such as traveling and hotel expenses, payment for extra work in changing plans, and reimbursement for labor or expense caused by delays.

It is specified that an amount equal to 20 per cent of the total compensation shall be due the architect upon completion of preliminary sketches, and that 60 per cent shall be due when the plans and specifications were completed. Assuming \$450,000 his total percentage compensation, the state would have been owing Mr. Goodhue \$270,000 a year or more ago.

Further provisions are that the state shall pay additional sums to the architect "from time to time and in proportion to the service rendered," while his extra costs shall be paid as they are incurred.

Foundation tests, made by New York engineers under another contract with the capitol commission, together with quantity surveys and various other special services costing \$40,000 to \$50,000 are not included in the architect's compensation.

The percentage contract covers complete architectural service and also sculpture, mural and landscape features, furniture, fixtures and hangings. However, on sculpture, paintings, furniture and hangings designed by the architect he is to receive 10 per cent of the cost, and on those not designed by him the allowance will be 2 per cent.

A further clause in the percentage contract says that "Nothing herein shall be taken as a surrender of rights to prospective profits legally belonging to the architect." The exact meaning of this phraseology has not been made clear.

Member Head of the capitol commission emphasized the fact that the form of contract as outlined is the one commonly used by architects in the erection of business structures and dwellings for private clients.

guests, who numbered thirty-two included a group of the club members and Mrs. Bossingham and Harry Hall. The color motif of the appointments was pink, white and gold and flower bowls filled with pink roses and a dainty small white flower graced the two large tables of sixteen places each.

One of the very attractive affairs of Thanksgiving week was the bridge luncheon today at 1 o'clock at the Lincoln hotel for which Mesdames W. A. Howland and M. O. Frazer were hostesses. Lavender chrysanthemums and lavender tapers decorated the prettily appointed luncheon tables arranged in the garden room and the lavender color motif was repeated in the tally cards. Bridge was played during the afternoon. G. Goodhue some \$6,600, representing ten tables. Among the guests were Mrs. A. E. Bossingham of Geddes, S. D., who is the guest of her sister Mrs. Fred Hallett, and Mrs. Judy Lally of St. Paul, Minn., the guests of Mrs. G. E. Doerck.

four quarters was, respectively, 19.5 per cent, 40.44 per cent, 48.70 per cent and 70.02 per cent.

The peak was reached in the first quarter of 1922, when "overhead" items made up 81.07 per cent of the architect's expense bills. For the balance of that year, that item came to 58.13 per cent in the second quarter, 21.15 per cent in the third and 29.18 per cent in the fourth.

1923 Overhead Drops. This year, the overhead percentage has dropped considerably. It was 18.96 per cent the first quarter, 18.37 per cent the second, and 18 per cent the third.

The auditor's office also questioned certain items in Goodhue's claims for overhead, relative to interest paid on borrowed money and cost of bank exchange. It will not insist on deductions from these items, however.

The following statement was given out from the auditor's department:

"State Auditor George W. Marsh is recovering from Architect Bertram W. Goodhue some \$6,600, representing income taxes paid by Mr. Goodhue but charged by him as overhead expense in his bills, which bills were duly passed by the capitol commission.

## Used a Rubber Stamp.

The architect's bills come to the state auditor vouchered for by the capitol commission, marked "allowed for payment by the capitol commission at a regular meeting," with a rubber stamp signature of the governor and signed by the secretary of the commission.

The contract made between the capitol commission and Goodhue gives the capitol commission the choice of paying the architect 6 per cent of the cost of the building, plus certain extras, also providing "plus cost" and "minus cost" charges as regards certain items.

The total amount expended by the capitol commission up to November 1, 1923, is \$1,621,183.12. Of this amount there has been paid to B. G. Goodhue the sum of \$202,351.13, or about 12 1/2 per cent.

## Items Are Biked.

"Mr. Goodhue's bills would include items in bulk, such as overhead expense, with no detailed statement attached. When it appeared that the architect's charges were running considerably above 6 per cent of the cost of the building, more detailed statements of architect's costs were insisted upon by the state auditor's department. The capitol commission not appearing in position to furnish the desired information, Deputy State Auditor Honza took up the matter direct with Mr. Goodhue, and the information and statements desired were furnished and turned over to State Accountant Sommer, who made a check and a distribution of the items.

It was found among other things that Goodhue had been charging a pro rata share of his taxes to the capitol commission. It developed that these taxes were mostly 'income taxes' paid by Mr. Goodhue personally and, of course, not a proper charge to overhead. When this matter was called to Mr. Goodhue's attention, he agreed to refund to the state of Nebraska all taxes charged from the beginning of his services. The amount involved is \$8,597.78. Of this amount \$1,777.29 has already been deducted from current bills and the balance of \$4,820.49 will be deducted from future bills.

## Statement of Bills.

"According to the classification shown on the bills submitted to the state auditor, the amount paid to B. G. Goodhue up to November 1, 1923, \$202,351.13, is made up of the following items:

Architect's fees.....	\$ 65,625.00
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much in favor of it, because I am satisfied that in the long run it will be to the state's advantage."

"You might say that we have had the alternative contract under consideration from the beginning," added Mr. Thompson. "When we signed up for the salary contract in November, 1920, we added a provision giving us the right to change to the commission basis at any time within five years."

No construction work was done until the spring of 1922, so that the architect was on the state payroll a year and a half before the actual building operations started. The first section is now about two-thirds finished. The contract will not be let for the second, or interior, section until the latter part of 1924, or early in 1925. After that, the central tower rising to a height of 400 feet above the ground surface, will be built as the third section, under still another contract.

All this, the commission now figures, will take four or five years additional time at the least. Uncertainty as to how long the construction period might run is one of the principal reasons why the commission now thinks the other contract would be preferable.

#### More Money To Be Needed.

It will take considerably more than the \$5,000,000 appropriated for the new capitol under the 1919 act to complete the building, according to the plans, members of the commission say. Up to this time, \$1,633,000 in round numbers has been expended and as much more will be required to carry out the existing contracts on the first section. Thus, two-thirds of the total amount available from the original appropriation will be used up before work begins on the interior part of the building or the tower. The interior section is, the one which will contain the legislative halls and most of the vaulted corridors, stuary and other expensive details.

An estimate of the completed cost has been submitted to the commission, but the figures were not given out Tuesday morning. It was intimated that the final outlay will be between \$7,000,000 and \$8,000,000. Mr. Head denied that it would reach \$9,000,000.

"You can say that this commission will not undertake to spend more than the amount appropriated," he declared.

Recommendations will be laid before the next legislature for an additional appropriation sufficient to carry the project through to completion. Governor Bryan will doubtless include this amount in his budget proposals.

#### Over \$210,000 Drawn by Architect.

In the three years since he began his services to the state, Architect Goodhue has drawn a total of \$210,867, according to the state auditor's records. This is an average of over \$70,000 per year, of which \$25,000 is his own salary and the remainder is made up of salaries paid to his helpers, overhead expense, traveling expenses, etc.

The architect has received as his personal salary a total of \$71,775 for a little less than three years. Other items paid him, not including the last warrant for \$2,266 of miscellaneous expense, aggregate as follows:

Overhead, \$12,685; draughtsmen's services, \$48,989; direct charges, \$12,082; plumbing designs, \$5,923; electrical designs, \$5,050; steel designs, \$5,447; blue printing, \$3,412; modeler's services, \$3,226; sculptor's work, \$2,621; traveling expenses, \$2,345; consulting plumbing expert, \$1,915; consulting electrical expert, \$371; depreciation, \$340; specifications, \$320.

Under either of the two forms of contract, the architect was entitled to an initial payment of \$12,500 as half of his first year's salary, at the

ago.

Further provisions are that the state shall pay additional sums to the architect "from time to time and in proportion to the service rendered," while his extra costs shall be paid as they are incurred.

Foundation tests, made by New York engineers under another contract with the capitol commission, together with quantity surveys and various other special services costing \$40,000 to \$50,000 are not included in the architect's compensation.

The percentage contract covers complete architectural service and also sculpture, mural and landscape features, furniture, fixtures and hangings. However, on sculpture, paintings, furniture and hangings designed by the architect he is to receive 10 per cent of the cost, and on those not designed by him the allowance will be 2 per cent.

A further clause in the percentage contract says that "Nothing herein shall be taken as a surrender of rights to prospective profits legally belonging to the architect." The exact meaning of this phraseology has not been made clear.

Member Head of the capitol commission emphasized the fact that the form of contract as outlined is the one commonly used by architects in the erection of business structures and dwellings for private clients.

Goodhue some \$6,600, representing income taxes paid by Mr. Goodhue, but charged by him as overhead expense in his bills, which bills were duly passed by the capitol commission.

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"The contract made between the capitol commission and Goodhue gives the capitol commission the choice of paying the architect 6 per cent of the cost of the building, plus certain extras, also providing 'plus cost and minus cost' charges as regards certain items.

"The total amount expended by the capitol commission up to November 1, 1923, is \$1,621,188.12. Of this amount there has been paid to B. G. Goodhue the sum of \$202,351.13, or about 12½ per cent.

#### Items Are Bulked.

"Mr. Goodhue's bills would include items in bulk, such as overhead expense, with no detailed statement attached. When it appeared that the architect's charges were running considerably above 6 per cent of the cost of the building, more detailed statements of architect's costs were insisted upon by the state auditor's department. The capitol commission not appearing in position to furnish the desired information, Deputy State Auditor Honza, took up the matter direct with Mr. Goodhue, and the information and statements desired were furnished and turned over to State Accountant Sommer, who made a check and a distribution of the items.

"It was found among other things that Goodhue had been charging a pro rata share of his taxes to the capitol commission. It developed that these taxes were mostly 'income taxes' paid by Mr. Goodhue personally and, of course, not a proper charge to overhead. When this matter was called to Mr. Goodhue's attention, he agreed to refund to the state of Nebraska all taxes charged from the beginning of his services. The amount involved is \$6,597.78. Of this amount \$1,777.29 has already been deducted from current bills and the balance of \$4,820.49 will be deducted from future bills.

#### Statement of Bills.

"According to the classification shown on the bills submitted to the state auditor, the amount paid to B. G. Goodhue up to November 1, 1923, \$202,351.13, is made up of the following items:

Architect's fees.....	\$ 65,625.00
Draughtmen's salaries....	48,988.74
Overhead.....	42,684.93
Depreciation.....	339.54
Direct charges.....	12,082.49
Travelling expenses.....	2,344.59
Modeler.....	3,226.00
Sculptor.....	2,621.20
Plumbing plans.....	6,922.97
Electrical plans.....	5,050.44
Consulting plumbing expert	1,915.00
Consulting electrical expert	371.33
Specifications.....	319.69
Steel design.....	5,446.73
Blue printing.....	3,412.43
Total.....	\$202,351.13

## INSCRIPTION ON CAPITOL

STATE'S SALVATION REPOSES IN THE CITIZEN.

First Copper Sheets Forming Roof Are Laid by Workmen in Satisfactory Manner.

"The salvation of the state is watchfulness in the citizen," is an inscription in stone which will appear over the main entrance of the new capitol, facing north. Only the lower line, "in the citizen," is now in place. Spectators have been guessing for some time about what was going to be "in the citizen." When the other stones are in place. Some thought it had to do with a full dinner pail, or the exercise of the franchise, such as registering in time to vote at election or doing their Christmas shopping early, but none predicted it would be anything unpleasant or uncomplimentary to the citizen.

Good weather has favored construction/work on section one of the new capitol and the building is rap-

idly being enclosed. The stone setting, as viewed from the outside, is nearly completed, but there is much still unfinished. A great deal of work is being done that cannot be seen by spectators who pass the building.

W. L. Younkin, assistant to Architect Goodhue and a representative of the capitol commission, is daily inspecting work being done by eleven of the twenty-five trades represented in the contract. The work now in progress comprises: Masonry, concrete slab work, concrete floors, gypsum roof slabs, stone setting, structural steel, copper roofing, metal furring for lathing, plumbing, heating, electrical work.

### Copper Roofing.

The first copper roofing was put on with some misgivings by a workman who had never laid sheets of the size called for in the contract. These are 2x8 feet. Sheet metal workers of Omaha, thru a delegation that visited Lincoln, expressed disfavor for large sheets, would buckle with expansion and might contract and leave the roof in bad condition. The workman who laid the first copper found no difficulty in laying them and soldering them

without a ripple in the surface. He said he found the eight foot sheets could be put on as smoothly as the smaller sheets which he was used to. They are anchored to a surface made of gypsum coated with asphalt. The gypsum is laid upon solid concrete.

The Wiese company which has the general contract to build section one will soon be ready to place canvas in the windows. Frames to hold the cloth have been sawed by a portable mill on the capitol grounds. Mr. Younkin said the cloth might possibly be oiled to keep the cold weather out. By using these temporary windows during the winter when interior finishing is being done da-

of splashing plaster destroying the enamel on the metal window frames will be avoided. The temporary heating plant which the capitol commission is building near the old heating plant soon be ready for use. It will furnish heat for the new building only and enable workmen to work in the coldest weather.

the great plans for harnessing her great natural powers and resources make just as interesting reading as those old sagas. Iceland's minister to Denmark, Sveinn Bjornsson, tells of the wonderful resources of his country. Some of these are highly developed, others are barely tapped and some have not been touched at all. Among the former are the fishing grounds, the richest in the world. Six weeks recently produced an export surplus of 45,000,000 pounds of herring.

# DISCUSS PLAN TO CUT DOWN CAPITOL COST

Members of Board Believe  
Would Be Cheaper to Pay  
Goodhue Commission Rather  
Than Straight Yearly Sal-  
ary. *11/27/23 Star*

## CONSTRUCTION COST WILL EXCEED SEVEN MILLION

Estimated That \$1,683,000  
Has Already Been Expended  
in Work On First Section;  
Four or Five Years Before  
Building Is Completed.

Members of the state capitol com-  
mission have become convinced that  
their contract with Architect B. G.  
Goodhue of New York, under which  
he is paid \$25,000 a year salary and  
the state also pays the salaries of all  
of his assistants working on the Ne-  
braska capitol project, together with  
overhead and traveling expense and  
other items, is proving to be too ex-  
pensive to the state and that a  
change should be made to the alter-  
native plan of paying 6 per cent  
commission on the final cost of con-  
struction, plus certain additional  
items.

This proposal was brought up  
Tuesday morning at the monthly  
meeting of the commission, by W. W.  
Head of Omaha, who said he had  
thoroughly investigated both con-  
tracts and believed the state would  
do better to exercise its option of dis-  
carding the salary contract and  
adopting instead the percentage ba-  
sis.

W. H. Thompson and W. E. Hardy  
expressed themselves as favorable to  
such action. Governor Bryan, chair-  
man of the commission was not pres-  
ent when newspaper men talked with  
the other members. It is understood,  
however, that he and State Engineer  
Cochran also think the 6 per cent

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

# REFUND MADE BY ARCHITECT

Goodhue Returns \$6,600  
Covering Percentage of In-  
come Tax and Included In  
Bills to State As Overhead,  
Auditor Marsh Announces.

## AGREES TO MAKE NO MORE SUCH CHARGES

Statement By State Official  
Says That Accountant Dis-  
covers Amounts Mostly In-  
come Taxes Paid By Mr.  
Goodhue Personally.

State Auditor Marsh announced  
Tuesday that his department has  
secured from B. G. Goodhue, New  
York architect, for the new state  
capitol, a refund of about \$6,600,  
covering a percentage of the archi-  
tect's income taxes and included in  
his bills to the state of Nebraska  
as items of "overhead expense" during  
the past three years. Nearly \$1,800  
of this has already been repaid and  
the balance of \$4,800 will be deducted  
from claims of the architect here-  
after filed.

It has been agreed between Good-  
hue and the state auditor's office  
that hereafter the bills rendered shall  
contain no items of income tax.  
\$202,000 Total Amount Paid.

The total sum paid to Mr. Good-  
hue up to this time, according to  
a summary given out by Auditor  
Marsh is over \$202,000. A little  
more than one-fifth of this is rep-  
resented by overhead charges.

State Accountant Sommer, in going  
over the claims presented by Archi-  
tect Goodhue from time to time, finds  
that he has charged the state at  
different times with "overhead"  
ranging from 8.48 per cent to 31.07  
per cent of the total claims (filed  
by and paid to him, aside from his  
salary of \$25,000 a year.

The lowest rate was during the  
last quarter of 1920, when he began  
his work for the state. In 1921, the  
proportion of "overhead" during the

336,45  
Ne b.  
#100

12/1/23 J.S.

## ESTIMATE GIVEN TO CAPITOL COMMISSION

Second Section of Building May  
Cost More Than First—  
Total About Seven Mil-  
lion Dollars. 12/1/23 J.S.

Rough estimates of the cost of the new capitol asked for by the capitol commission and placed before that body by W. L. Younkin, assistant to Architect Goodhue, indicates that the second section of the building will cost more than the first section now under course of construction. There is said to be more stone in the second section altho it contains large legislative and other halls.

Mr. Younkin's estimate is on the basis that prices in the future will be no lower than prices paid for the section now being built. It is roughly estimated that the first section will cost \$2,600,000, the second section \$3,000,000 and the third section, comprising the tower, will cost \$1,500,000; the total final cost of the building being estimated at about \$7,000,000. The legislature has appropriated \$5,000,000.

Mr. Younkin expects to get the temporary heating plant in operation the middle of next week. Fire has been burning in the temporary plant for a week or more for the purpose of drying out the furnace brick under the boilers. The first work to be undertaken on the interior of the first section is to be the plastering. Metal lath is now being put in position. Oiled canvass in the windows admit light and retain heat from the temporary heating plant.

Copper roofing is going on as rapidly as a force can lay it. Workmen are laying the floor upon the top of the terrace. A granite horder will be laid on this floor.

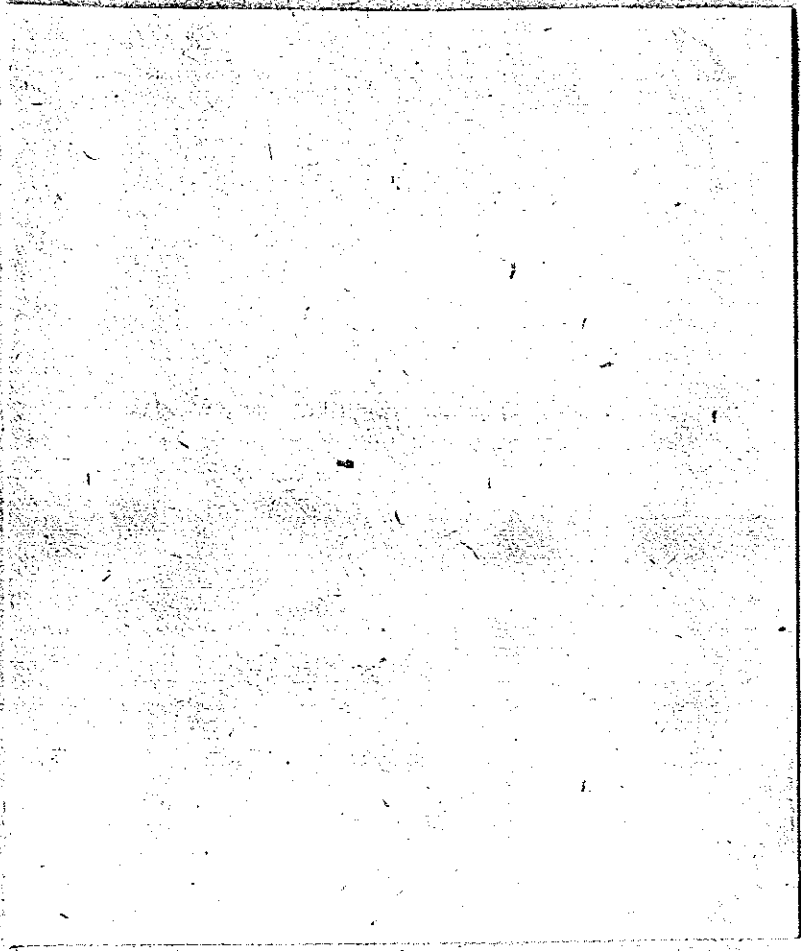
336.45

1983 Feb

12/27/23

#101

Capitol  
Library



# DELAY WORK ON CAPITOL

MAY CEASE CONSTRUCTION FOR  
TWO YEARS.

No Contract After Completion of  
Present Section Until the  
Next Legislature Meets—

Granite for Steps. *12/15/23*

Governor Bryan, chairman of the capitol commission, said Friday the commission feels that no attempt should be made to let a contract for the second section of the new capitol until the next legislature has met. This means a considerable delay in the construction of the capitol and consequently it is believed the commission will change the basis of Architect Goodhue's pay to a 6 per cent commission basis instead of a salary of \$25,000 a year.

The change in basis the governor said depends upon the extent of the delay in construction and this delay in turn will depend much upon the cost of material in the future.

"If the commission should now proceed to let a contract for the second section," said Governor Bryan, "it would have to bear the expense of tearing down the old building and providing hall room for the next legislature which convenes January 1, 1925. The committee appointed to investigate and report on a proposed change of basis for the architect's salary was authorized to continue its work and report later."

A delay of at least two years in the work of construction is predicted as a result of the governor's statement that a contract will not be let for section two until after the next legislature convenes. The present section is to be finished next July if completed on time. Few familiar with the work expect it to be finished by that time.

The governor announced that the capitol commission decided to order light grey granite from Maine instead of dark granite from Minnesota for the massive steps which will approach the main entrance. This change was asked for by Architect Goodhue who told the commission the darker color would resemble a mountain of black stone in wet weather and at all times would not be light enough in color for the walls of the capitol. The additional cost of the Maine granite will be \$6,000.

# GRANITE IS TOO GLOOMY

COMMISSION MAY CHANGE TO  
LIGHT GRANITE.

Substitution of Maine for Minne-  
sota Stone May Cost an Extra  
\$6,000, But, Architect  
Recommends. *12/15/23*

The capitol commission has under consideration the question of substituting Maine granite of a light color for Minnesota pinkish-gray granite for use in the steps at the main entrance of the new capitol. At a meeting of the commission, the matter was discussed but not decided because of the absence of Walter W. Head of Omaha. A meeting will be held January 11 or 12 at which Architect Goodhue and Mr. Head and all other members of the commission will be in attendance.

The commission will probably pass upon this matter in January as well as on the proposed change of plans for the east and west entrances and also the proposal of the city of Lincoln relative to storm water sewer connections.

A change in the granite for steps at the main entrance may cost the state \$6,000 extra. If the Minnesota granite is used in the steps Architect Goodhue believes it will present a dark, dirty looking mass, especially in wet weather. The Minnesota granite was used in the base course of the new capitol and is deemed suitable for that purpose, but the architect desires a lighter color for the steps. If Maine granite is used there may be some delay in getting it out. Henry Struble, who has the contract for stone, told the commission Friday that delay would not interfere with his plans. He said J. H. Wiese of Omaha, the contractor on construction, was the one who might be delayed. Mr. Wiese was called in and said the steps could not be placed in position until spring and a delay until then would not interfere with his work. Both Mr. Struble and Mr. Wiese said they would waive any possible claim for damages they might have if the commission desires to wait for granite from Maine. The steps at the main entrance form a large portion of the entrance as they run to the top of the terrace at the foot of the second floor, and are very broad, somewhat resembling a pyramid.

No action was taken by the commission in regard to changing the architect's pay from a salary to a 6 per cent commission basis. This can be done at any time the commission desires.

The commission informally requested its engineer to work out a plan to concentrate the storm water sewers from the capitol at one point, probably near Fourteenth and K streets, so that the city of Lincoln will be able to connect with the city sewer system at one point instead of at four different places. The estimated cost to the state of this change is \$2,600. The city has requested such a change in the capitol storm water sewers.



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The commission took no action at a recent meeting on proposed changes in the east and west entrances of the capitol. Architect Goodhue's plans for the changes are still before the commission. The plans were drawn at the request of citizens of Lincoln who desire four "front doors" to the capitol instead of one. The architect and commission originally planned for one front door. The tentative plans for the changes call for front steps on the west extending straight upward to the top of the terrace, with a new arched door leading from the terrace in the west side of the building and bisecting the senate cloak room with a corridor which is said to spoil the original plans.

The proposed change does not alter the door from the ground by which people can enter the building from the west, but calls for a new door above the terrace. The east entrance is treated similarly, except that the new door there is square while that on the west is arched. Under the original plans one can mount the terrace at the west by stairs, that approach the terrace alongside the wall, but after reaching the terrace one must walk around it to the north main entrance to get inside the building.

W. E. Hardy and Ray Cochrane, members of the commission who are on a committee to consider and report on additional space in the new building asked for by the railway commission, were not ready to report. Whatever arrangements the commission may make in regard to assignment of space in the building can be rearranged after the building is turned over to the board of educational lands and funds, which board is the legal custodian of the capitol and grounds. Governor Bryan is chairman of the commission and of the board.

If the contractors complete the work on section No. 1 by July 1 next year, state officers will move into the new portion early in the fall. Henry Struble reported that the last car of cut stone for the section now under construction is ready to leave the quarries for Lincoln. The work of laying stone is nearing the end and the work of finishing the interior will proceed during the winter. Steam heat is now being used in the new portion for the benefit of workmen and plasterers.