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BUILDING NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL
1924-1928

Lincoln, Nebraska.
February 12, 1924.

Mr. Speaker:

I move that the Chief Clerk of this House procure from the State Capitol Commission, or other proper source, a statement showing the total payments, as follows, to January 1, 1924:

Architect's Salary	\$71,875.00
Architect's Office Expenses (Note: This sum includes payment for a great deal of advance work on plans, for future construction not yet contracted)	138,732.40
Competition (Preliminary pre-contract expenses)	27,054.48
Architectural Adviser of Capitol Commission	3,268.90
Heating & Ventilating Engineers	17,969.60
Foundation Engineers	12,263.47
Quantity Survey (Computing estimates)	12,500.00
Expenses of Capitol Commission & their Office	9,932.42
Clerk of the Works and Inspectors	16,883.02
Construction and operation of railroad-\$39,175.38 less amount earned \$10,201.00	28,974.38
Foundation Tests and Testing Materials	8,707.39
Miscellaneous Expenses	2,555.30
Boilers and Stacks and incidental expenses thereto	3,390.69
Amount paid to Foundation Contractor (Payments completed)	234,129.94
Amount paid to J. H. Wiese Company (Building Contractors)	638,321.63
Amount paid to Robt. Parks- Heating & Plumbing Contractors)	151,803.34
Amount paid to Henry Struble Cut Stone Co. (Stone contractor)	394,800.19
Amount paid to W. G. Cornell Company (Electrical Contractor)	35,194.69

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

(UNDER BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA)

LINCOLN

OFFICE AND LIBRARY, ROOMS 108-111 LIBRARY HALL

TELEPHONE: 16891 (UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE)

February 15, 1924.

To Members of the Forty Second Legislature,
Gentlemen:-

In compliance with a House Resolution
of May 1, 1923, the appended statistics are furnished
by the secretary of the capital commission.

Respectfully,

Director.

Capitol Expenditures October 1 - December 31, 1924.

Architect's Salary.....	\$71,875.00
Architect's office expenses (Note: This sum in- cludes payment for a great deal of advance work on plans, for future construction not yet contracted)	138,732.40
Competition (Preliminary pre-contract expenses).....	27,054.48
Architectural adviser of Capitol Commission.....	3,268.90
Heating and ventilating engineers.....	17,969.60
Foundation engineers.....	12,263.47
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Amount paid to Henry Struble Cut Stone Co. (Stone contractor).....	394,800.19
Amount paid to J. G. Cornell Company (Electrical contractor).....	35,194.69

Members of the Forty-second Legislature,
Gentlemen:-

May 15, 1924

In compliance with a House resolution
of May 1, 1923, the appended ^{Lincoln, Nebraska.} statements ^{for 1924} are furnished
by the secretary of the Capitol Commission.
Respectfully,
Director

Mr. Speaker:

I move that the Chief Clerk of this House procure
from the State Capitol Commission, or other proper source,
a statement showing the total payments as follows, to
April 1, 1924: *Capitol expenditures to April 1, 1924*

Architect's Salary - - - - -	\$71,875.00
Architect's Office Expenses (Note: This sum includes payment for a great deal of advance work on plans, for future con- struction not yet contracted) - - - - -	\$138,732.40
Competition (Preliminary pre-contract expenses) - -	27,054.48
Architectural Adviser of Capitol Commission - - -	3,268.90
Heating & Ventilating Engineers - - - - -	17,969.60
Foundation Engineers - - - - -	12,263.47
Quantity Survey (Computing Estimates) - - - - -	12,500.00
Expenses of Capitol Commission & their Office -	10,555.17 ✓
Clerk of the Works and Inspectors - - - - -	18,549.69 ✓
Construction and operation of railroad \$49,495.31 less amount earned \$11,140.68 - - - - -	38,354.63 ✓
Foundation Tests and Testing Materials - - - - -	8,779.54 ✓
Miscellaneous Expenses - - - - -	3,412.93 ✓
Expenses - Temporary Heating Plant - - - - -	18,881.62 ✓
Amount paid to Foundation Contractor (Payments completed)	234,129.94
Amount paid to J. H. Wiese Company (Building Contractors)	779,682.90 ✓
Amount paid to Robt. Parks-Heating & Plumbing Contractors)	171,782.05 ✓
Amount paid to Henry Struble Cut Stone Co. (Stone Contractor)	467,869.97 ✓
Amount paid to W. G. Cornell Company (Electrical Contractor)	41,069.21 ✓

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

(UNDER BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA)

LINCOLN

OFFICE AND LIBRARY, ROOMS 108-111 LIBRARY HALL

TELEPHONE: B 6891 (UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE)

May 15, 1924.

To Members of the Forty-Second Legislature:

Gentlemen:--

In compliance with a House resolution of May 1, 1923, the appended statistics are furnished by the secretary of the capitol commission.

Respectfully,

Director.

Capitol Expenditures to April 1, 1924.

Architect's Salary-----	\$71,875.00
Architect's Office Expenses (Note: This sum includes payment for a great deal of advance work on plans, for future construction not yet contracted)-----	138,054.48
Competition(Preliminary pre-contract expenses)--	27,054.48
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Amount paid to W.G. Cornell Company (Electrical Contractor)-----	41,069.21.

336.45

Neb,

#102

2/16/24 STAR

ASK BIDS FOR INTERIOR WORK OF NEW CAPITOL

2/16/24 STAR
Contracts for First Section
of Building to Be Let
April 15.

Plan to Complete Decoration
of Governor's Suite
This Year.

Announcement was made Tuesday by Governor Bryan, chairman of the state capitol commission, that bids are being advertised for and contracts will be let on April 15 for decorative interior woodwork, special hardware and lighting fixtures for those parts of the first section of the new capitol where the plans call for them.

The woodwork is to cost not more than \$75,000, the lighting fixtures about \$15,000 and the special hardware not more than \$8,000, those being the amounts allotted for the three items. Only the governor's office suite in the northeast corner on the second, or main floor will be finished with full decorative effects this year as the capitol commission does not want to spend too much money for such work, until the next legislature decides how much shall be made available. The executive suite, when completed, will show the public and the members of the legislature what to expect when the supreme court room, the north vestibule, the central rotunda and the legislative halls have been completed.

Explanation of Plans.

In explaining the commission's plans, Governor Bryan said that intending bidders should apply for the plans and specifications by March 1, which will give them six weeks time to prepare their bids.

"The special interior woodwork and the special hardware apply to the special finish rooms which are, therefore, finished more artistically than the office rooms," Mr. Bryan explained. "These special finish rooms include the governor's suite comprising the governor's room, governor's secretary's room, reception room, and hearing room; also the supreme court room, the lawyers' consultation room, the judges' consultation room, and the reading room.

"The finish of these rooms varies

336,45 Neb #103

FINE FINISH FOR CAPITOL

WOOD CARVINGS FOR GOVERNOR'S SUITE

Special Fixtures for Executive Offices, Reception Room and Court Rooms Estimated at \$75,000. 2/26/24

Governor Bryan, chairman of the capitol commission said the commission has under consideration the finishing of the governor's quarters in the new capitol with mural paintings and other decorations as originally planned so that the incoming legislature may have an idea of the nature of the work which has been planned for the vestibule and corridors of the section now in process of construction. The commission is now advertising for bids on wood finishings and fixtures for this section for which \$75,000 has been allotted. Hardware and other finishings are to be contracted for.

Bids have been advertised for, and contracts will be let on April 15, 1924, the Special Interior Woodwork, Special Hardware and Lighting Fixtures for the first section of the new Nebraska State capitol. All application of bidders for this work should be received by March 1, 1924. It is expected that progress on the building will be sufficiently advanced at the time the contracts are awarded to allow the installation of this work to be started immediately.

The special interior woodwork and the special hardware apply to the special finish rooms which are, to a certain extent, public rooms and are, therefore, finished more artistically than the office rooms. These special finish rooms include the governor's suite comprised of the governor's room, governor's secretary's room, reception room, and hearing room; also the supreme court room, the lawyers' consultation room, the judges' consultation room and the reading room.

The finish of these rooms varies considerably but, to a large extent, have oak plank floors, with American walnut, ornamental tile, marble and ornamental plaster employed extensively in the wall and ceiling finish. Much of the woodwork will be beautifully carved and inlaid with various colored woods, in keeping with the general architectural scheme of the rooms. All of this special woodwork is to be installed for a sum not to exceed \$75,000 which has been allotted for this work.

Each bidder on the special woodwork will be required to submit with his bid a sample carved and inlaid panel made in his own shop according to a plan prepared by the Architect Bertram G. Goodhue, so that the Capitol commission and the architect may secure information as to the type of work the bidder can execute. This sample will be of the same type of work that will be executed in the building. It is thought that this will enable the architect and the commission to choose the bidder most capable of executing the work.

The special hardware will also be (Continued on Page Ten.)

WOOD CARVING FOR CAPITOL

(Continued From Page One.)

installed in these special finish rooms. It will be specially made and elaborately carved to be in keeping with the rest of the finish. It is estimated this will cost approximately \$8,000. All other woodwork and hardware have been contracted for.

The contract to be awarded for the lighting fixtures includes all lighting fixtures for the first section of the superstructure. These fixtures are divided into two classes, class "A" and class "B". The class "A" fixtures are of special design and will be installed in ornamental rooms and corridors. Fifteen thousand dollars have been allotted for these fixtures and the various firms bidding are required to prepare their own designs and make them as artistic as possible for this amount. The class "B" fixtures are standard fixtures and will be installed in all rooms not requiring the more elaborate class "A" fixtures.

2/26/24 Journal

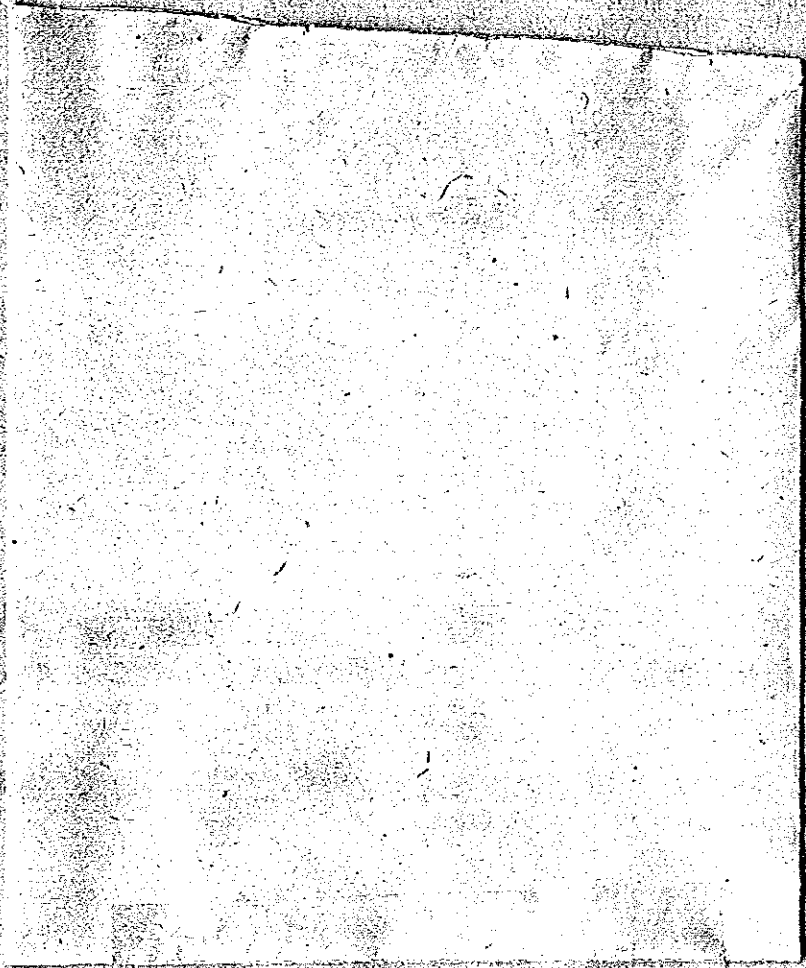
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Neb.

The Passing of Bertram Goodhue

#104

4/24/24



HIS PASSING IS DEPLORED

CAPITOL COMMISSION MOURNS
ARCHITECT GOODHUE.

Governor Bryan to Call Meeting of
Commissioners to Consider
Future Building
Program.

The sudden death of Bertram G. Goodhue, architect for the capitol commission, was a shock to members of that body. Governor Bryan, chairman, was unable to say what effect the death of Mr. Goodhue have upon the future of the building now in course of construction. He will call a meeting of the commission within a few days to consider the matter. As the plans in general have all been prepared it is assumed the details of their development can be carried on by Mr. Goodhue's estate or by his executors.

"The Nebraska capitol was his masterpiece," said Governor Bryan. "Any change discussed or suggested that altered his design he would fight for as a father fights for his child. The new capitol, when completed will stand as a monument to the architect who conceived it as well as a monument to the state, and it will be considered more of a monument in view of his sudden death.

"News of the death of Mr. Goodhue was not only a shock but a severe loss to the state. His association with the capitol commission have been very pleasant. No one could come in touch with him without being impressed with his ability as a great architect and his conscientious interest in his work. It is fortunate that his work has progressed to the extent it has and that his plans were developed to the extent they have that not only the people of Nebraska but the people of the country may have the benefit of his vision of a magnificent yet practical and efficient public building which will stand in a class by itself for beauty and utility. His death is a personal loss to the commission and to the state."

Plans for section one of the capitol are completed and the construction work will be finished this year. Contracts for the second and third sections, the latter being the tower, have not been awarded. It is said plans for the second section are about complete.

The contract which Mr. Goodhue entered into with the capitol commission November 16, 1920, provides for a salary of \$25,000 a year for the architect for five years, with the privilege on the part of the commission of changing the basis of salary to 6 per cent commission on the cost of the structure.

The meaning of the intricate provisions of the contract will be considered by the commission. One provision is that in case of the architect's death, the abandonment of the work or his discharge after preliminary studies have been made and presented, there shall be paid to his estate that part of \$100,000 that the unpaid portion of his five year fee bears at that time to the full fee

DEATH CALL FOR GOODHUE

NEBRASKA CAPITOL DESIGNER
VICTIM OF HEART DISEASE.

Leading Exponent of Gothic
Architecture and of Skyscrap-
ers—Was Fifty-five
Years Old.

NEW YORK, April 24.—Bertram G. Goodhue, fifty-five, designer of the Nebraska state capitol, died suddenly at his home here last night of heart disease. He had just returned home from a theatre.

A few years ago Goodhue caused some consternation in church circles when fringing the stone of St. Thomas church here, it was said he hid the dollar sign as symbolical of Fifth avenue in one of his designs.

He was one of the exponents of Gothic architecture and also of skyscrapers. He proposed an eighty-story building on the site of the present Madison Square Garden.

Dr. H. B. Alexander, whose work as professor of philosophy in the University of Nebraska has made him familiar with many phases of the history of culture, was asked early in the conception of the capitol to suggest the sculptural decorative scheme and to select the inscriptions. He has for three years been closely associated with Mr. Goodhue in such matters. Professor Alexander was profoundly moved by the news of Mr. Goodhue's death, and expressed concern over its effect upon the future of the building. When he was asked concerning the matter he said:

"It is a great shock to every citizen of Nebraska who is at all concerned with public enterprises to hear of the death of Mr. Goodhue. It is a particular shock to those of us who have been brought in more or less personal contact with him as a result of his work upon our capitol. At this time it is difficult to direct one's thoughts simply to the public loss because of the very great reality of the personal loss. Mr. Goodhue was a man whom any man might value as a friend. He was not only an artist to the tips of his fingers, full of enthusiasm for the work which he was doing, but he was also a man of clear and broad public vision and the quality of his personality was finding its way in every element of the building he was constructing. The man can hardly be separated from his work. It was near his heart, in no sense as a commercial venture for his firm, but primarily because he was an architect who saw, and an American with enthusiasm for the houses which reflect our public life.

The Future of the Capitol.

"What the consequences of Mr. Goodhue's death upon the building which is considered his greatest creation are to be we cannot now foresee. One thing is certain, and that is that if it is to be monumentally great in every particular the carrying forward of the plan must be in hands entirely sympathetic with Mr.

that altered his design he would fight for as a father fights for his child. The new capitol when completed will stand as a monument to the architect who conceived it as well as a monument to the state, and it will be considered more of a monument in view of his sudden death.

"News of the death of Mr. Goodhue was not only a shock but a severe loss to the state. His association with the capitol commission have been very pleasant. No one could come in touch with him without being impressed with his ability as a great architect and his conscientious interest in his work. It is fortunate that his work has progressed to the extent it has and that his plans were developed to the extent they have that not only the people of Nebraska but the people of the country may have the benefit of his vision of a magnificent yet practical and efficient public building which will stand in a class by itself for beauty and utility. His death is a personal loss to the commission and to the state."

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The contract which Mr. Goodhue entered into with the capitol commission November 16, 1920, provides for a salary of \$25,000 a year for the architect for five years, with the privilege on the part of the commission of changing the basis of salary to 6 per cent commission on the cost of the structure.

The meaning of the intricate provisions of the contract will be considered by the commission. One provision is that in case of the architect's death, the abandonment of the work or his discharge after preliminary studies have been made and presented, there shall be paid to his estate that part of \$100,000 that the unpaid portion of his five year fee bears at that time to the full fee for the whole five years of service covered by the contract. This may mean that his estate is entitled to about four-fifths of the entire salary or fee for five years.

Provisions in the contract recognize the proprietary rights in the design of the capitol.

Drawings and specifications are the property of the architect whether the work for which they were made is completed or not, but

(Continued on Page Ten.)

HIS PASSING IS DEPLORED

(Continued From Page One.)

the agreement requires the architect to give the capitol commission one copy of each record drawing and specification for its files.

The agreement binds both the commission and the architect, their successors, executors, administrators

DEATH CALL FOR GOODHUE

(Continued From Page One.)

in the spirit in which it was conceived. It is absolutely true that Mr. Goodhue gave of his best abilities not because of the financial returns but primarily and fundamentally because he was putting into it the soul of an architect and because he was well aware of, even if modest to express, the fact that the Nebraska state capitol is one of the great buildings of the world. No man could erect for himself or for his art a more superb memorial and no people amidst whom such a memorial is placed could be less than merely grateful in carrying the work forward to the completion of which the artist dreamed."

A Great Loss to Nebraska.

W. E. Hardy, member of the capitol commission, was greatly shocked by the news in the morning paper of the death of Mr. Goodhue. The members of the commission had met their architect only a few days ago and noticed that he seemed to be in unusually good health and spirits. He went thru the usual consultation with the commissioners and seemed to be pleased with the progress being made on the building.

The death of the architect is looked upon by Mr. Hardy personally as a great loss to the state. It is not so serious as it would have been had it occurred before the completion of the plans. The entire structure has been designed and the drawings are in the possession of the commission. These permit the building to be completed according to the original design. So far as the integrity of the structure is concerned and the beauty of its exterior, practically nothing will be lost by the dropping out of the man whose genius inspired it.

"The great loss to the state," Mr. Hardy said, "will be in the final touches. The last strokes of the pencil that may add so much to the beauty of the completed work. The sculpture by Lee Laurie is practically complete and has received the approval of Mr. Goodhue. Where we will miss his services will be when

personality was finding its way in every element of the building he was constructing. The man can hardly be separated from his work. It was near his heart, in no sense as a commercial venture for his firm, but primarily because he was an architect who saw, and an American with enthusiasm for the houses which reflect our public life.

The Future of the Capitol.

"What the consequences of Mr. Goodhue's death upon the building which is considered his greatest creation are to be we cannot now foresee. One thing is certain, and that is that if it is to be monumentally great in every particular the carrying forward of the plan must be in hands entirely sympathetic with Mr. Goodhue. It is an error to suppose that because the main lines of the capitol are laid down in blue prints that therefore the architect's further services are of minor significance. As a matter of fact, his care, his constant touch is needed at every moment, from the laying of the cornerstone to the emplacement of the last mural. Mr. Goodhue said repeatedly that in his conception a public building should have no decoration that was not signification and that the significations ought to reflect the meaning and purpose of the building. He meant by this that the decorative scheme of the whole building should have the same unity as its formal outline, that is its completion as a monument could only be full and satisfactory when all the sculpture, murals, inscriptions and other elements of its beautification were in harmony with the central plan. For such an achievement a single directing mind, capable of utilizing all its helpers, is absolutely essential. And it is the loss of this mind, in the death of Mr. Goodhue, that strikes a heavy blow upon Nebraska.

"For my own part I can only say that the citizens of this state should regard it as not merely a duty to the genius of the dead but an obligation to themselves and to all mankind—for Mr. Goodhue's monument is not merely for Nebraska but for the world—that this capitol be completed as nearly as is now possible

(Continued on Page Ten.)

WAGER ON RALSTON.

NEW YORK, April 24.—Money to be wagered that Senator Ralston of Indiana will be the democratic nominee for the presidency, has been received on Wall street.

J. S. Fried and company, brokers, have \$2,500 to place against \$8,750 Ralston will be named. That is at odds of 1 to 3 1-2. Another is \$2,000 to \$20,00, or 1 to 10, he will be the next president.

Governor Al Smith's odds are lower. The price on his nomination is now 1 to 2, and election 1 to 7.

President Coolidge remains a favorite at odds of 7 to 5.

B. G. GOODHUE, STATE CAPITOL ARCHITECT DEAD

(Continued from page One.)

not yet been worked out, the state could either claim a deduction on that account or call upon Mr. Goodhue's architectural organization in New York to finish the work of planning before payment was made. The element of supervision does not seem to be involved in this phase of the contract, as there could obviously be no personal supervision after the architect's death.

Will Call Special Meeting.

Governor Bryan will call a special meeting of the capitol commission within the next few days to consider the emergency created by Mr. Goodhue's sudden demise. The governor is not prepared to say what line of action will be followed. One of the first things to be ascertained is whether the architect had an efficient working organization which can be depended on to carry the project through as efficiently as he himself would have done.

As to what may be due Mr. Goodhue's estate under the clause covering the eventuality of his death, Governor Bryan believes that a practical business construction of the contract, rather than a strictly legal view, will determine to what extent the state is liable in the way of an additional fee.

A warrant for \$12,500 in payment of Architect Goodhue's salary for the last quarter of 1923 and the first quarter of 1924, was issued to him just a week ago. It came back to the state treasurer's office for redemption on Wednesday, payment having been made through banks in Nebraska and New York.

These salary payments had been deferred because the capitol commission has had under consideration a proposal to exercise its option of changing from the salary contract, under which it has been paying Mr. Goodhue \$25,000 a year and his expenses, together with salaries and expenses of his assistants working on the Nebraska project and part of the overhead cost of his New York office, to the alternative basis of 6 per cent commission on the cost of the new capitol, plus certain items of expense.

That matter is still undecided and Governor Bryan said it would depend on the respective provisions of the two contracts, with particular reference to the death of the architect, whether the commission will make the change under present circumstances.

Work Supervised by Assistant.

Ever since construction was started on the new capitol, the operations have been supervised by W. L. Younkin, whom Architect Goodhue sent here from New York for that purpose. Mr. Younkin also acts as the capitol commission's agent in seeing that contractors perform their work properly. Neither he nor the commission had received any direct word Thursday forenoon concerning Goodhue's death.

"For myself and the other members of the capitol commission I wish to say that the passing away of Mr. Goodhue will be a severe blow to the state as well as a personal loss to the capitol commission."

New York city, the Groller club, New York city, City Church of St. Vincent Ferrer, for the Dominican fathers, New York city. Mr. Goodhue also designed the Ford dormitory at Rutgers college, New Brunswick, N. J., a parish house for St. Peter's church, Morristown, N. J., the town of Tryone, N. M., for the Phelps Dodge corporation, as well as many country houses for persons in the east and in the extreme west.

Mr. Goodhue prepared plans for the National Academy of Sciences, Washington, D. C., Chapel of the Incarnation, Baltimore, Md., St. Vincent's church, Los Angeles, St. John's church, Los Angeles, and the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, Cal.

During the war, he was consulting architect in connection with the navy department. He was concerned principally with the naval air station and marina base, now built at San Diego.

He was author of "Mexican Memories" and contributed as expert to "Spanish Colonial Architecture in Mexico" by Sylvester Baxter. Goodhue was also a contributor to magazines.

He was a member of the Architectural League of New York, Century club of New York, Eastern club of Boston, the Club of Chicago, Sons of the Revolution, and numerous other clubs.

ARCHITECT OF NEW NEBRASKA CAPITOL DIES

B. G. Goodhue Is Victim of Heart Attack --Commission Meets Soon To Consider Emergency--Construction Proceeds.

(Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, April 24.

Arrangements were being made today for the funeral of Bertram G. Goodhue, New York architect, who designed the Nebraska state capitol building and who was one of the most prominent exponents of the skyscraper buildings in New York. He died suddenly of a heart attack at his home last night.

Mr. Goodhue, who was 55 years old, was born in Pomfret, Conn., April 28, 1869. He was made a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1917 and a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

The Nebraska state capitol, for which Mr. Goodhue drew plans five years ago, is considered one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the country. He was in competition with ten foremost architects, and his design was accepted because of its simplicity and its

4/24/24
4/25/24

say that the passing away of Mr. Goodhue will be a severe blow to the state of Nebraska, as well as a personal loss to the commission," said Governor Bryan, its chairman. Our relations with him were always very pleasant and we were impressed with his great ability as an architect and the intense, conscientious interest he took in his work.

"The Nebraska capitol was regarded by Mr. Goodhue and by others as his masterpiece. When completed it will stand as a monument to the architect who conceived it, no less than to the commonwealth whose government it will shelter. For years to come, it will stand out in a class by itself for its great beauty and as a new type of architecture.

"It is fortunate that the work has progressed so far and the plans have been developed to such an extent that the people of Nebraska and the whole country will have the benefit of Mr. Goodhue's vision in designing such a magnificent edifice. It is not only the most artistic, but the most complete and efficient governmental structure planned in many years."

Drew Revised Entrance Plans.

Some months ago, at the request of the capitol commission, Mr. Goodhue prepared and submitted drawings of modified plans for more elaborate and ornamental entrances on the east and west fronts of the new capitol. He was personally opposed to changing the original design, however. The commission has not yet decided whether or not the two entrances mentioned and the interior arrangements in their vicinity will be changed in accordance with the revised plans.

"Mr. Goodhue took great pride in his own design, and when any proposal was made to alter it he would fight for it like a parent defending his child," Governor Bryan said.

Mr. Bryan did not become a member of the capitol commission until more than two years after the contract with Mr. Goodhue was signed. He has not familiarized himself as yet with the details of the two alternative contracts.

W. H. Thompson of Grand Island, now a judge of the supreme court, W. E. Hardy of Lincoln and W. W. Head of Omaha are the members of the commission who, with former Governor McKelvie and former State Engineer Johnson signed the agreement with Architect Goodhue under which the latter assumed the work of planning and supervising construction of the Nebraska capitol.

Mr. Thompson has not indicated any intention to resign from the capitol commission on account of his membership on the supreme bench Governor Bryan said.

Designed Many Big Structures.

Born in Pomfret, Conn., April 23, 1869, the son of Charles Wells and Helen Grosvenor Goodhue, Mr. Goodhue was educated at Russell's Collegiate and Commercial Institute in New Haven. In 1911, he was awarded the honorary Sc. D. by Trinity college, and April 8, 1902, married Lydia T. Bryant.

Mr. Goodhue was first associated as general assistant and draftsman with Renwick, Aspinwall, and Russell in 1885. Six years later he joined the firm of Cram and Wentworth as partner, which firm was later succeeded by Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson.

This firm was successful in winning the competition for the United States military academy at West Point. Among other noted buildings designed by this firm are the Chapel of the Intercession and St. Thomas's church on Fifth avenue, New York city, the Havana Pro-Cathedral, the pro-cathedral at Halifax, N. S., the Taft school, Watertown, Conn., Washington hotel, Colon, Panama, and the California state building and Fine Arts building at the San Diego, Cal., exposition. Mr. Goodhue was consulting and advisory architect for the entire exposition.

Since the dissolution of the firm in 1914, Mr. Goodhue had offices

of the skyscraper buildings in New York. He died suddenly of a heart attack at his home last night.

Mr. Goodhue, who was 55 years old, was born in Pomfret, Conn., April 23, 1869. He was made a fellow of the American Institute of Architects in 1917 and a member of the National Institute of Arts and Letters.

The Nebraska state capitol, for which Mr. Goodhue drew plans five years ago, is considered one of the finest examples of Gothic architecture in the country. He was in competition with ten foremost architects, and his design was accepted because of its creative power and originality. He was one of the chief exponents of Gothic design in the United States.

Mr. Goodhue attracted considerable attention as the designer of the Dollar sign over the Brides' door at St. Thomas' church, New York. The design, part of an emblem to portray the types of life of Fifth avenue, and hidden in a maze of Gothic engraving on the door, aroused some indignation among many of the clergy and church-goers, who when they discovered the design, protested that it was false in spirit.

Mr. Goodhue was also a writer, and in addition to many magazine articles, was the author of "Mexican Memories."

Work to Proceed.

Construction of the first section (the outer part) of the new state capitol, now approaching completion under the contract awarded two years ago to J. H. Weise & Co., of Omaha and various associated firms, will proceed regardless of the death of Architect Goodhue, but the capitol commission's plans for future operations on the two remaining sections will be somewhat disarranged through his demise.

Governor Bryan, chairman of the commission, said that the first thing to be ascertained is to what extent the whole plans have been perfected and detailed drawings and blue prints furnished to the state. Plans and specifications for the interior finish, including mural decorations, sculpture, landscape effects, furnishings and fixtures, have not as yet been fully worked out.

"The news of Mr. Goodhue's death was a surprise and personal shock," declared Governor Bryan. "I did not see him when the capitol commission held its meeting on April 15, that being the day when I was busy with the pardon board hearing on the Simmons application. However, I understand that he was in his usual health and spirits at that time. He always appeared to be an active, energetic man in the enjoyment of good health, and I was not prepared for this event."

What Contract Calls For.

The contract between Mr. Goodhue and the capitol commission, entered into on November 18, 1920, provides that he was to receive \$25,000 a year salary for five years, and for whatever additional period might be agreed upon for the continuance of his services.

It is specified in the agreement that in case the architect should die his estate shall be entitled to four-fifths of the amount that would be still due him for the remainder of the five-year period. The unexpired part of the contract term is about one year and seven months, which would seem to make the state liable to the architect's heirs for an additional fee of \$32,500, after paying in full for his services up to the date of his death.

This, however, seems to be contingent upon complete plans, working drawings and specifications having been furnished for the entire project. If some of the details have

the time comes to put the last touches on the legislative halls and the soldiers' memorial room. He was a great genius who could feel the difference between the artistic and the inartistic and could tell us at once what we ought to do to secure the best results."

Mr. Hardy was asked how much he thought the investigation of a year ago last winter had shortened Mr. Goodhue's life. He felt that the incident had been serious to the architect. He has always lived intensely and the shock of the legislative investigation had greatly increased the tension under which he was living. In recent months the members of the commission have been hopeful of his recovery from the effects of that experience and his sudden death now comes as a great and unexpected shock.

The Goodhue Organization.

The first news of the death of Mr. Goodhue was received thru the morning paper by William M. Younkin, who is the local representative of the architect and clerk of the works for the commission. He spoke in the highest terms of his chief, with whom he has been associated since 1915, with the exception of time taken out for war service. Mr. Younkin said that he supposed Mr. Goodhue's business would be carried on indefinitely by his present organization. He has a large number of trained men who carry out the details of his work. There are several designers for example who have been making the details for the capitol for about three years. Several times a day, when he was in town, Mr. Goodhue was in the habit of going thru the work rooms, stopping at every table and making criticisms and suggestions. The men who have been doing this work, Mr. Younkin believes, are thoroly competent to carry it thru to completion. In fact, nearly all of the designs have been made and need only the finishing touches to prepare them for the building.

The Goodhue organization is housed on the top floor of a thirteen story building just off Fifth avenue on West Forty-seventh street, New York. A large amount of important work is now passing thru. In addition to the large projects already mentioned is the library for Yale, which will cost many millions. So far as the work on the capitol proper is concerned, Mr. Younkin is of the opinion that the organization can complete it without difficulty. Where the help of the master will be needed most keenly will be when the time comes for the mural paintings and other interior decoration. The murals, however, were no part of Mr. Goodhue's commission, and he may not have cared to be responsible for them in any event.

An Irreparable Loss

Thomas R. Kimball of Omaha, who was president of the American Institute of architects when Mr. Goodhue was selected as architect of the capitol commission, said on Tuesday morning that he had a feeling of irreparable loss, not only as a citizen of Nebraska but as a member of the national institute.

"I look upon Mr. Goodhue," he said, "as one of the great architects of all time. Given the opportunities of the time, he would have been one of the greatest."

and assigns. The architect is authorized to have a right to join with him other architects with whom he may enter into partnership, subject to the capitol commission's approval, and if one architect should die the duties and rights of the architect shall devolve upon the remaining partner or partners, but neither party to the agreement is authorized to assign or transfer his or its interest without the consent of the other.

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#105

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WORK ON CAPITOL TO BE CONTINUED

W. L. Younkin, Assistant to
Goodhue, Says No Reason
For Interruption

"I know of no reason why the construction of the new capitol should not proceed along the same line as heretofore, and through the same agencies," said W. L. Younkin, assistant to the late B. G. Goodhue, deceased architect of the building, Saturday forenoon. Mr. Younkin has been in charge of capitol construction here since the work began in the summer of 1922.

"Of course, Mr. Goodhue's death will throw more responsibility upon those who were associated with him," Mr. Younkin stated. "But his organization is amply equipped to carry the project ahead without interruption, and to furnish complete plans in accordance with the Goodhue design. In fact, I think the detailed plans are fairly complete, except as to the making of pen drawings for the second and third sections. Pencil sketches have been executed for all parts of the structure."

A meeting of the capitol commission to be held at Governor Bryan's office Saturday afternoon to consider the situation created by Mr. Goodhue's death and decide what to do about going ahead with the undertaking beyond the first section, now approaching completion.

Neither the commission nor Mr. Younkin had been apprised up to Saturday noon when the funeral is to be held at New York. The only word received was a brief message two or three days ago from A. C. Mayers, the architect's principal assistant, announcing his death.

W. W. Head, one of the commission members, is away from his home at Omaha, for about two weeks. If he is anywhere near New York, the commission would like to get into touch with him and have him attend the obsequies as its representative.

Former Governor McKelvie, who was chairman of the commission when construction of the capitol began, and who signed the contract with Goodhue, has gone east and will probably be present at the funeral.

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AMONG The Clubs

DR. ALEXANDER TELLS OF SCULPTURE OF NEW CAPITOL

Dr. H. B. Alexander gave an illustrated address on the sculpture of the new state capitol before the art department of the woman's club in the temple at 2 o'clock on Friday afternoon. His presentation of the subject aroused much enthusiasm over the artistic possibilities of the new structure. After the address Mrs. W. W. Whitfield and Mrs. W. A. Sain poured tea.

Dr. Alexander began with a general description of the capitol, showing a few slides indicating its place among the architectural masterpieces of the world and indicating

the origin of some of its features. He presented slides showing the chief features of the sculpture of the new building. So far as it has been planned this is all to be carved in the stone now going into the walls. Dr. Alexander explained that the purpose of the architect and the sculptor was to express the life of Nebraska so far as it can be presented thru their art mediums. The building itself is original in conception, altho many of its features have the feeling of some of the noblest and oldest of all architectural forms. The sculpture of the exterior aims to preserve some characteristic Nebraska features, such as the buffalo on each side of the steps of the main

figures flows down some distance from the head and quite modifies the appearance of the entrance as it is seen today. Over the main door is entrance. Mr. Lawrie had modeled beasts of enormous vigor and strength. The wings of the Asiatic buffalo are not included in this design, but the figure has all of the power of the ancient images. The buffalo stands on featherlike grass. In the background are stalks of Indian corn, making a striking decorative feature.

The main portal now completed so far as the stone work is concerned on the northern entrance was shown as it will be after the carvers have finished their work. On the massive pylons on either side of the entrance will be carved the coat of arms of the nation and the state. The upper corners of these great buttresses will be rounded into the fasces a bundle of bound sticks representing the sovereignty of the state. The

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four great figures of Wisdom, Justice, Power and Mercy were shown to be carvings with much rugged beauty. The drapery from these a great panel representing the arrival of the pioneers, with dog and oxen and wagons and the crude implements with which the first sod was turned.

Dr. Alexander considers the great feature of the architecture of this building to be the series of panels running around the top of the main structure. These will be great stone reliefs picturing the development of law, beginning with Moses, coming down to the Greek courts depicting the signing of the Magna Carta, the declaration of independence and other of the great steps in the development of the race. As many of these panels as have been modeled were shown, and Dr. Alexander gave them high place among the greatest sculpture of the world.

The inscriptions on the building were described as having been selected for the purpose of interpreting the meaning of the capitol to the people of the state. On the frieze above the windows of the main story are the names of the counties of Nebraska. This has greatly interested the people of the state and has and can now be seen to be a worthy decorative feature. On the panels on the face of the balustrade will be these inscriptions:

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#107

5/29/24

Journal

CARVING DONE IN LINCOLN

UNION IN OMAHA OBJECTED TO MACHINERY.

Blocks of Marble Brought to Lincoln by Contractor and Completed for New Capitol.

One of the capitals for use upon four large marble pillars in the north vestibule of the new capitol was lifted from the ground Wednesday and placed in position. When the other three are finished by carvers they will be hoisted to their places. This may be within a few days. The roof of the vestibule will be put on and the very important work of constructing the vaulted ceilings will be commenced. This latter involves acoustic tile.

The capitals now being carved at the foot of the flight of steps at the north entrance of the building were to have been finished in Omaha by Sunderland Bros. Co., who have a contract to furnish four large and four smaller marble pillars for the vestibule. The capitals were not carved in Omaha because of a ruling of the carvers union of that city, according to an account given recently by the general contractor.

It is alleged the Omaha union decided that the capitals should be classed as lime stone. The material is called Champville marble. It comes from Italy and is cream colored. Being classed by the union as lime stone the carving is held to be hand work. The Sunderland Bros. Co. had started the carving with carvers from New York. Pneumatic chisels were being used. Machinery could not be used to carve

the material if it were stone, but could be if it were marble, according to union regulations. The contractors deemed the material marble and urged that all marble is really lime stone, but rather than have a controversy with the union over the question of hand work or use of machinery the four big blocks of marble were brought to Lincoln for completion. There is no carvers' union at Lincoln. Three of the Italians from New York who commenced work on the blocks in Omaha were transferred to Lincoln and they with another were set to work completing the carving. They are members of the union. The workmen are using

chisels operated by compressed air, the same sort of machinery they were using in Omaha.

The capitals are about four feet in height. The principal figures in the capitals are bullocks' heads and ears of maize. They are carved only upon two sides because the pillars upon which they rest are in corners of the vestibule and the rear sides are not exposed to view.

The four large shafts in the vestibule have long been in position with bases. The shafts are twenty-two feet long. They are made of red Verona marble. The shafts came from Italy and because of their size were obtained with difficulty. They

were turned and polished in New York city. These four shafts and four shorter shafts and caps and bases were furnished by Sunderland Bros. Co. on contract which calls for \$25,000 and an extra allowance for carving on the exterior and interior of the building.

The vaulted ceilings in the vestibule, governor's reception room and over the front and rear driveways are to be the work of R. Guastavino Co., of New York city. Mr. Guastavino, now fifty years of age, is the successor of his father in what is said to be an exclusive business of the manufacture of tile for vaulted ceilings and the placing of them in

position. The senior in this business is reputed to have gone back to Italy to study the old Roman vaults of exquisite workmanship and solved the method used by the ancients in their construction. He is making solid tile in varying sizes one inch thick. Designs drawn by artists are reproduced in beautiful colors. Tile of this manufacture Architect Goodhue insisted upon and in turn was charged with extravagance by George E. Johnson before a legislative committee. In reply he said he did not care to put inferior material in the Nebraska capitol. The drawings of designs for vaulted ceilings in the capitol are said by critics to assure

that structure some of the most artistic work in existence.

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#108

ARCHITECTS COSTS FIXED

CAPITOL COMMISSION AGREES
TO PAY \$359,979 TOTAL.

Goodhue Organization to Complete
Plans and Supervise Construc-
tion for an Additional
\$80,000.

A tentative contract agreed to by
both sides, said Governor Bryan,
chairman of the capitol commission,
calls for a total of \$359,979.99 archi-
tects fees and costs for supervision
and completion of plans for the cap-
itol. This is not more than 5 per
cent of the estimated cost of the cap-
itol, as viewed by the commisison,
not counting engineering costs for
a heating plant.

The cost of architects fees is there-
fore likely to be 1 per cent less than
the customary 6 per cent allowed
architects. Governor Bryan, spokes-
man for the commission, said the
architectural costs will be \$75,000
less than originally estimated.

The contract has been agreed to
by the Goodhue estate. Only the
wording remains to be worked out
by the commission before it is sub-
mitted to the Goodhue organization
of architects which will carry on the
work to completion.

According to figures prepared and
submitted to the Goodhue organiza-
tion in New York recently the com-
mission agrees to pay to Mrs. Good-
hue, widow of Bertram G. Goodhue,
\$32,816 as the amount due her hus-
band on the existing contract. The
commission has already paid \$247,
163.99 on this contract. The commis-
sion is thus obligated to pay \$279,
979.99. It further agrees to pay an
additional sum of \$80,000 for the
finishing of plans, supervision and
expenses, not including engineering
work on the heating plant.

The \$80,000 is a flat sum, not
based upon either a salary or com-
mission basis. The present contract
calls for a salary of \$25,000 a year for
the architect, the commisison having
the privilege of changing this to a
commission basis.

The governor did not state the es-
timated cost of the capitol completed.
It is said to be more than \$7,000,000.

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

(UNDER BOARD OF REGENTS, UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA)

LINCOLN

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TELEPHONE: B 6891 (UNIVERSITY EXCHANGE)

November 10, 1924.

To Members of the Forty-Second Legislature:-

Gentlemen:-

In compliance with a House resolution of May 1, 1923, the appended statistics are furnished by the secretary of the capitol commission.

Respectfully,

Director.

Statement of Total Payments by Capitol Commission to October 1, 1924.

Architect's Salary-----		\$84,375.00
Architect's office expenses (Note: This sum includes payment for a great deal of advance work on plans for future construction not yet contracted)-----		138,732.40
Competition (Preliminary pre-contract expenses)-		27,054.48
Architectural adviser of Capitol Commission-----		3,268.90
Heating and Ventilating Engineers-----		17,969.60
Foundation Engineers-----		12,263.47
Quantity Survey (Computing Estimates)-----		12,500.00
Expenses of Capitol Commission--\$2,231.05 and their office-----	9,544.27-----	11,775.32
Clerk of the Works and Inspectors-----		23,399.68
Construction and operation of railroad:		
Construction to Capitol Grounds	\$10,901.39	
Construction on Capitol Grounds	6,620.42	
Cost of Electric Lines	5,919.48	
Cost of Operation	30,925.26	
	<u>\$54,366.55</u>	
Less amount earned-----	11,585.68	42,780.87
Foundation Tests-----	\$7,319.99	
and Testing Materials-----	1,507.55-	8,827.54
Miscellaneous Expenses-----		7,222.60
Temporary Heating Plant-----		20,983.52
Amount paid to Foundation Contractors-		
Payments completed--		234,129.94
Amount paid to Wiese Company, Building Contractors-----		1,133,935.82
Amount paid to Heating and Plumbing Contractors		190,963.31
Amount paid to Stone Contractor-----		494,860.30
Amount paid to Electrical Contractor-----		43,153.01
Amount paid to Elevator Contractor-----		3,060.00
		<u>\$2,511,255.76</u>

NO CONTROL OF CAPITOL

PROPERTY REVERTS AGAIN TO NO MAN'S LAND.

Discovery Is Made That Code Law Repealed Statute Giving Custody to Board of Educational Lands.

The Nebraska capitol and grounds, unknown to the state officers, is again in no man's land, just where this property was discovered to be twelve years ago. No one has legal control of it. The same is true of the governor's mansion and the fair grounds, both the property of the state.

The newly constructed portion of the capitol may fare better. It is apparently legally under the control of the capitol commission, but that body has no authority of law to turn the new structure over to any one, and may have to continue to control that much of the state's property unless the next legislature should straighten out the legal tangle and again pass an act designating some one to have care and custody of the old and of the new capitols. The old capitol is to be torn down following the legislative session, so that much of the property may soon cease to be a source of dispute.

There has been no legal control of the capitol and grounds since 1919 when the code law purposely or clandestinely repealed the law of 1913 which had given control to the board of educational lands and funds. This latter board and every one else supposed it was the legally designated custodian of the capitol, but the discovery was made Monday that the code law of 1919 repealed section 5875 of the revised statutes of 1913. The last line in the repealing clause of the code law did the work. The section thus repealed is not mentioned in the list of repealed sections in the title of the code bill. Whether the repeal will be held valid is a matter of conjecture, but the commission appointed to compile the statutes of 1921 omitted the section on the strength of the clause in the code bill which names that section as one marked for repeal.

The missing section has gone the way of the state board of mediation which was also repealed by the code law. The last legislature refused to pass a new mediation law in place of the old, but did make the usual appropriation of \$1,000 for such board.

The capitol and grounds were formerly under control of the board of public lands and buildings. When the board of control was created the constitution amendment of 1912 named certain institutions over which it should have control. The capitol was not one of these. As the old statute giving the capitol to the care of the board of public lands and buildings was repealed, the capitol slumped back into no-man's land. Hiland H. Wheeler, compiler of the statutes at that time, discovered this omission in 1912. The legislature of 1913 passed a bill introduced by the revision commission, comprising Post, Broady and King, giving control of all lands not given to the board of control by the constitutional amendment to the board of educational lands and funds. This latter board by constitutional authority has control only of educational lands and funds, and as the capitol has not been classed as "educational" a special statute was required to place the capitol under the educational board.

The constitutional convention of 1919-20 and the people adopted an amendment giving the board of control charge of all charitable, reformatory and penal institutions. The capitol is none of these, so when the code bill repealed section 5875 this valuable piece of property again became no-man's land so far as control is concerned.

The board of educational lands and funds by resolution relinquished control over a portion of the capitol grounds to the capitol commission so the latter could carry out the law which authorized the commission to construct a new capitol on the site of the present capitol. It now develops that the board had no legal jurisdiction over the capitol and grounds at the time it adopted this resolution.

As the capitol commission is authorized by law to build a new building on the present site it is within its rights in controlling the new building, and as there is no one authorized to accept the building when finished it may have to remain under the control of the

capitol commission until the legislature speaks.

Governor Bryan who is chairman of both the commission and the board, will go out of office two days after the next legislature convenes. In the meantime Land Commissioner Swanson, secretary of the board of educational lands and funds, is acting as custodian of the old capitol. He is not afraid anyone will walk away with it.

The board of educational lands and funds consists of the governor, secretary of state, state treasurer, land commissioner and attorney general. The capitol commission comprises the governor, secretary of the department of public works, W. E. Hardy, of Lincoln, Walter W. Head of Omaha and Judge W. H. Thompson.

State Journal

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Feb

#110

12/2/24
Journal

BRYAN BOSS OF CAPITOL

STATUTE MAKES HIM LEGAL
CUSTODIAN 12/2/24

Code Law of 1919 Repealed Law
Giving Control to Board of
Educational Lands and
Funds.

The old capitol and grounds having reverted to no-man's land by reason of the repeal of a statute making the board of educational lands and funds custodian of that property Governor Bryan is authorized by law to take summary possession. The discovery Monday that the civil administration code law of 1919 repealed the custodian law and leaves the capitol and grounds in care of no particular board or officer was followed by the discovery of a statute that gives such property over to the care of the governor.

Section 4827, compiled statutes of 1922, reads:

"The governor is hereby constituted legal custodian of all property of the state not specially entrusted to other officials by law; and he is hereby authorized and empowered to take summary possession of such property of the state without any process of law, and to adopt such measures as he may deem proper to preserve it from injury or deterioration."

The board of educational lands and funds which was legal custodian comprises Governor Bryan, Secretary of State Pool, Attorney General Spillman, Treasurer Rob-

inson and Land Commissioner Swanson. The capitol, governor's mansion and state fair grounds were left without a legal custodian in 1912 when the board of public lands and buildings was abolished and the board of control was created by constitutional amendment. By statute the legislature of 1913 placed this class of property in care of the board of educational lands and funds. The code law of 1919 repealed this statute but the repeal was not discovered until Monday. The validity of the repeal may be questioned because the repealing clause was not in the title of the bill, but the courts have not held in the past that it is necessary to mention a repealing clause in the title of bills.

In addition to the statute giving the governor power to take possession of state property not under any other legal custodian the capitol commission of which he is chairman has authority of statute to construct a new capitol on the site of the present capitol and the commission thus has something to say about who treads upon the capitol grounds and may tear down the old building whenever it sees fit to do so to carry out the plan of construction. Between the governor and the capitol commission the entire control of the building and grounds now appears to lie. The board of educational lands and funds appears to have no legal control over the old or the new building. Governor Bryan has taken no action but is planning to move into the new capitol by the middle of December or by the first of the new year. He will be succeeded January 8 by Adam McMullen, incoming governor, who will then be custodian of the capitol until such time as the legislature passes an act creating a legal custodian.

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SESSION LAWS

FORTY-THIRD SESSION NEBRASKA LEGISLATURE

(House Roll No. 235)

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE, WAYS AND MEANS.

AN ACT to provide an additional amount for the maintenance of the Capitol Building for the biennium ending June 30th, 1925; to appropriate Nine Thousand Seven Hundred Dollars (\$9,700.00) therefor; to provide the conditions for the payment thereof; and to declare an emergency.

Be it Enacted by the People of the State of Nebraska:

Section 1. Maintenance Capitol Building.—The following named sums, totaling Nine Thousand Seven Hundred (\$9,700.00) Dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, respectively, for the purposes herein named, by way of additional amounts required to maintain the Capitol Building for the biennium ending June 30th, 1925, are hereby appropriated out of moneys in the general fund, not otherwise appropriated:

Moving and installing vault fixtures and adding new necessities for the Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, Secretary of State, Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, also equipping vaults in basement with adjustable steel shelving	\$5,000.00
Moving Library	2,500.00
Three Firemen (4 months)	1,200.00
Two Janitors (5 months)	1,000.00
Total	\$9,700.00

Sec. 2. Duties of Governor, Auditor and Treasurer.—
The amount herein appropriated shall be expended under the supervision of the Governor. The Auditor of Public Accounts is hereby authorized and required upon presentation of proper vouchers to draw warrants on the general fund in the state treasury for the purposes herein set forth and the State Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to pay said warrants when so presented.

Sec. 3. Emergency.—Whereas, an emergency exists, this act shall be in full force and take effect from and after its passage and approval according to law.

Approved February 25, 1925.

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III

2/13/25 Star

CAPITOL MANAGER BILL IS DEFEATED

House Turns Down Proposal For Superintendent With \$4,000 Salary.

Stated That McMullen Plans to Arrange For Care At Low Cost.

There will be no \$4,000-a-year superintendent of the capitol building and grounds, appointed for 6 years and not removable except for specific cause, as Representative Sarah Muir of Lancaster county proposed in her bill, H. R. 140. The committee of the whole Friday morning ran a steamroller over the bill, which was indefinitely postponed by a large majority without a record vote.

Valiant efforts to save it were put forth by Miss Muir, with the assistance of Messrs. Rodman, McMaster, Byars and McLellan; but the temper of the house was very strongly against "fastening another bloodsucker on the state of Nebraska," as Mr. Waldron expressed it.

Before action was taken on the bill itself, Mr. Gilmore offered an amendment cutting the salary to \$2,000. Mr. Dick said he would be glad to take the job at this figure. Later, Gilmore withdrew his proposal after being informed that the governor is the legal custodian of the capitol, with a fund of \$105,000 at his disposal to care for it and the executive mansion during the next biennium, if the legislature appropriates what he has recommended in the budget.

Had Consulted Experts.

Miss Muir said she had talked with experts in such matters, who told her that public buildings generally were not well looked after. She and other supporters of the bill argued that it would not do to have some cheap man entrusted with the care of property representing an ultimate investment of \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 by the state.

Mr. Rodman, by parliamentary tactics, succeeded in staving off the vote for half an hour, when it was

apparent that the house wanted to kill the bill without further ado. He first moved to table, and when that failed he moved to report progress on the bill. Debate on this motion was allowed, although points of order were raised against it.

It was admitted by Miss Muir, in reply to a query, that the bill would take away some of the governor's control as custodian of the capitol and chairman of the capitol commission.

Could Increase Salary.

According to the bill's terms, \$4,000 would be the minimum salary, with no limit on the amount that could be paid. Miss Muir insisted that other states with fine capitols pay more than this.

The sentiment was voiced by Mr. Wood that the legislature had better keep hands off during the period of construction, leaving the capitol commission and the board of educational lands and funds (the governor being chairman of both bodies) solely responsible.

It was stated during the discussion that Governor McMullen plans to combine the duties of supervising the capitol with those of another appointive officer, at a great deal less expense to the state than the Muir bill would have required.

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1925

TOTAL COST OF CAPITOL

COMMISSION NOW ESTIMATES IT AT EIGHT MILLIONS.

Legislature Fixed Nine Million Dollars as Maximum—Econ- omy Necessary to Keep Within Limit.

The capitol commission having awarded a contract for the second section of the new capitol at approximately \$2,700,000, now hopes to complete the building with furniture, heating and landscaping at a cost of \$8,000,000. The last legislature fixed \$9,000,000 as the maximum cost. By exercising economy the commission hopes to finish the building well within this limit. As there is no assurance the levy made by the legislature will raise \$9,000,000 the commission is compelled to keep the cost down to the lowest possible figure.

The bids on the second section were higher than the commission expected. It had estimated the cost of that section at \$2,500,000. With \$75,000 to be added for stone at the quarry to the award of Tuesday the cost of the second section may exceed \$2,700,000, but that amount is used by the commission in making the following estimate of the total cost of the building, with furniture, heating plant and landscaping:

First section	\$3,000,000
Second section	2,700,000
Third section	1,500,000
Landscaping and furniture	500,000
Heating plant	300,000
Total estimated cost	\$8,000,000

The third section includes the tower above the rotunda and all superstructure west of the tower, including the senate chamber.

Thirty months is the time limit for completion of section two. Work cannot commence until July 1 when it is expected the old building will have been removed.

The commission doubts very much whether the house of representatives can be finished by January, 1927, when the legislature convenes in regular session, but work on that end of the building will be pushed in the hope that representative hall can be in condition to be used by the representatives, even if it is not completed.

The highest price paid for Bedford stone in the rough at the quarry is 75 cents a cubic foot, but the transportation, cutting and laying of this stone in the walls makes it cost \$5.50 a cubic foot.

Within two or three days the commission hopes to settle upon a choice of cement. Portland cement is to be used in the foundation but bidders were asked to bid on any other kind of cement for use in brick backing for walls and cement for stone masonry. Carl Swanson of State Land Commissioner Swanson, has been before the commission as a representative of the Portland cement mills. The specifications permitted for bids on natural cement, or a cement manufactured at Fort Scott, Kas. The natural cement will cost less than Portland cement. Four corners under the tower will contain 78,000 cubic feet of cement. Piers take 75,000 feet.

Henry Struble of the Struble Cut Stone company of Chicago was the successful bidder on cut stone. His contract also calls for laying the stone in the walls. His company furnished and laid stone for the first section.

J. G. Ray of the Indian Quarry company, Chicago, which furnishes the Bedford stone in the rough, came to Lincoln to be present when bids on section two were opened. The commission takes stone from this company under a contract entered into a year or two ago. The prices paid by the state are 75, 70 and 45 cents a cubic foot, an average of 61 1-3 cents.

The work of demolishing the dome of the old capitol ceased Tuesday on account of a gale which made it dangerous for workmen to resume their task.

336.45
Feb,
#113

Journal March 1925

The legislature has ratified the action of the capitol commission in starting the construction of a building that will in the end cost for the structure alone about \$6,500,000 instead of the \$5,000,000 contemplated in the original act. Only one vote in the senate and a mere handful in the house went against the new four year levy, which will insure the completion of the Goodhue design in just about ten years after the passage of the original act. The parts of the structure already in use sold the design to the law makers so completely that there was no real protest against going on with the work under the present organization.

The first law provided \$5,000,000 for the capitol alone. Not a dollar was to be put in for furnishings or anything but the fabric of the building. The commissioners surveyed the needs of the state and found how much room was needed. It was estimated that if prices went back almost to normal, as it was believed they would, the job could be done at the amount named. To make sure that they were strictly within the law the commissioners were careful not to adopt the Goodhue design officially. They kept themselves in such relations with the legislature and the architect that they were able at any time to chop off the tower and trim the art work to such an extent that if the lawmakers insisted they could produce a completed capitol for \$5,000,000.

They even went so far as to have Mr. Goodhue picture a rounded dome over the stump of the tower, to use in case any legal controversy arose. No trouble of any kind has arisen and none is likely now. The approval of the building is so universal that some day the state will probably tender the commission a vote of thanks for having enough vision to start an adequate structure when a less resourceful body would have built on entirely too small a scale. Best of all, the commission now gets a \$6,500,000 building without having at any time disregarded the law limiting the cost to \$5,000,000. The levy will furnish \$3,000,000, one-half of which will be available for a heating plant, on the railroad tracks, landscaping the grounds, buying furniture, and helping out on the mural paintings and accessories.

336.45

Neb.

#114

3/3/25 STAR

State Buys Carload Of Coal From Richardson County Mine

A carload of Nebraska coal from the newly developed mine in Richardson county, near Rulo, has been purchased by the state and will be used for heating the capitol. The price to be paid is \$7 a ton, f. o. b. Lincoln. The coal will be shipped as soon as it can be taken from the mine and loaded on a car. There will be from 40 to 50 tons in the consignment.

After the coal is received here, which will be within a few days, it will have to be hauled from railroad tracks to the heating plant on Capitol square. This will cost 60 to 75 cents a ton additional, if the hauling is done by hired truck drivers and teamsters. If Governor McMullen should see fit, he could have some of the men and trucks from the public works material yards do the work.

The coal is to be of regular lump size, such as that in ordinary domestic use. Most of what is burned

to heat the capitol is nut coal, which comes cheaper.

W. I. Lewis, owner of the Rulo mine, wrote to Governor McMullen on February 24 saying he would like to sell one carload of his output to the state. Desiring to aid a new Nebraska industry, the governor authorized his secretary, David Mecker, to negotiate the purchase. This was done over the long distance telephone on Monday.

The first carload Lewis sold, which went to Falls City, brought him \$6.50 a ton on track at Rulo. The price of \$7 to be paid by the state at Lincoln will not net him quite so much, but Lewis expects to get enough advertising from the shipment to make up the difference.

The Rulo man some time ago wrote to the governor asking aid from the state in buying some machinery to increase the productive capacity of his mine. He hopes to strike a 26-inch vein before long, which would entitle him to the state bounty of \$3,000, or \$4,000 for a thicker vein.

336.45

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#115

3/17/25
STAV

SIGNS CAPITOL LEVY MEASURE

Bill Providing Special Tax
Raising \$3,000,000 More
to Complete New State
House Gets Governor Mc-
Mullen's O. K. 3/17/25
STAV

Upwards of \$3,000,000 more to complete Nebraska's new state capitol, furnish and equip it, provide a landscape setting, and construct a heating plan on railroad trackage with the necessary conduits to carry steam was made available when Governor McMullen affixed his signature Monday evening to H. R. 308, the bill levying a special tax of .22 mill for the next four years to raise the funds for these purposes.

This is the first major bill to pass the legislature and be signed by the governor. It had virtually no opposition in either branch of the lawmaking assembly. State wide sentiment in favor of completing Nebraska's monumental building, which creates a new type of American architecture, was reflected in the general support given H. R. 308 by the state senators and representatives.

Next Thursday the capitol commission is to receive bids for tearing down the old capitol building, in order to clear the way for the second section of the new structure. About May 1, bids will be received and contracts awarded for the second portion.

#116

336.45
Feb.

3/19/25
Journal

L, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1925

CAPITOL IS LIABILITY

TO COST STATE \$34,500 TO
GIVE IT AWAY

J. H. Wiese Offers to Take All
Material and Remove It From
the Grounds for That
Sum.

It will cost the state \$34,500 cash to have some one wreck the old capitol, the state to take the material after the wrecker has put it on cars. If the contractor takes all the material it will still cost the state \$34,500. This was the lowest bid opened Thursday by the capitol commission when it convened in the governor's office. It was a bid submitted by J. H. Wiese of Omaha who built the first section of the new capitol, now nearing completion.

A. Assenmacher of Lincoln who built the foundation and excavation of that section was also a bidder. Only two bids were received for demolition of the capitol. The Trester company of Lincoln is standing by with an offer of \$8,148.89 for the material after the wrecker places it on cars. The commission had not advertised for such a bid, but had told the Trester company it would receive one of that kind and place it on file. The Trester offer excludes brick, stone, slate and marble tile which the state may desire to keep for use in paving the courts in the new capitol or for crushing for use in making concrete for the second section of the new building.

Governor McMullen, Walter W. Head of Omaha, and Roy Cochran, secretary of the department of public works, were the commissioners who opened bids on wrecking.

The specifications called for placing the old material on cars and completing the job of demolition in seventy-five days after the old building is vacated in the spring.

Alternate specifications asked for bids on demolition, the contractor to take all material; to take all except limestone and to take all material except marble and slate floor and borders in corridors.

The bid of Wiese on the demolition of the building was \$54,000 the material to go to the state. On alternative No. 1, the contractor to take all the material, Wiese offered to deduct \$20,000. Assenmacher who bid \$89,000 on the work of demolition, offered to deduct \$7,000 if he retains all material.

In bidding on alternate No. 2, the contractor to take all material except limestone, Wiese offered to deduct \$12,000 and Assenmacher to deduct \$4,000.

On alternate No. 3, the contractor to take all material except marble and slate floor and border in corridors, Wiese offered to deduct \$19,000 and Assenmacher \$6,000. Wiese put up a certified check for \$7,000 and Assenmacher for \$9,000.

The three commissioners have the bids under consideration. They also received bids on 2,700 lineal feet of steel hookcases for the state library in the new capitol. These bids vary in respect to weight of material, time of delivery and completion. The bids were: University Publishing company, \$8,714; Berger Manufacturing company, \$13,782; Gus Hyers for a St. Louis firm, \$17,500; Rudge & Guenzel, \$7,700; Durand Steel Locker Co., \$5,875; Van Dorn, \$6,555; Steele Equipment Corporation, \$9,030; General Fire Proofing Co., \$7,315; Latch Bros., \$9,037.

336.45

Neb

#117

4/4/25

Journal

GRANITE PILLARS SAVED

Capitol Commission Obtains Them
as Gift for Use in Uni-
versity Buildings.

The granite pillars on the north and south entrances of the old capitol have been saved by the state and will be given to the university for use in some of the proposed new buildings on the city campus. The capitol commission has accepted the bid of the Wiese company of Omaha to demolish the old capitol and carry all material away, except the twelve granite columns. The commission induced the contractor to give the columns free of charge. The work of demolishing the old building will not begin until the supreme court moves out, probably within two weeks. By that time railroad tracks will have been completed between the old and new buildings so that the wrecking crew can load material upon cars. The columns contain three pieces each of fine granite, with caps and bases.

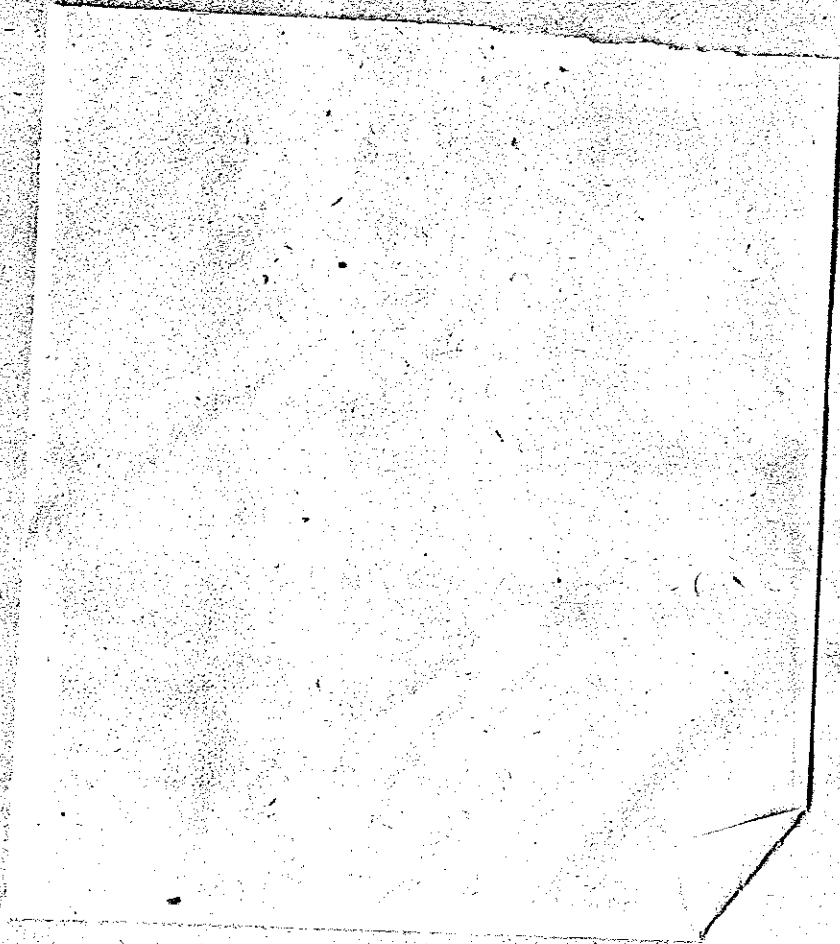
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#118

A Trip Thru The Old Capitol

4/15/25 Journal



A TRIP THRU OLD CAPITOL

GUIDE GOSSIPS ABOUT HISTORICAL INCIDENTS.

Gives Visitors One Last Chance to Refresh Their Memories Before Building Is Demolished.

The old capitol of Nebraska, now almost surrounded by a new building, is to be demolished. It will begin to crumble within a week. Its walls are already punctured with bridge timbers to support a derrick upon the roof for the removal of the dome. Another derrick will sit in state upon the floor of the senate chamber and its arms will reach out and grab brick and stone and lower it into railroad dump cars. Where governors and state officers, surrounded by gold braided military staff officers were wont to hold receptions and balls, the electric crane will scatter dust as it eats off the brick and stone walls, now weak with senatorial oratory.

The office rooms in the old building are empty and filled with trash left by occupants who were glad to leave behind them the yellow papers and dust of years. The old building served its purpose yet it is with a feeling of sadness pioneers see it demolished. It was of the Chicago or Minneapolis style of architecture common forty-five years ago, mixed with a little Greek. It is now surrounded by a style all its own, tho harking back to the days of Babylon when barbers were scarce and whisks were represented by the Assyrian bas relief method, consisting of curlicues such as are used to portray the beard on the carved buffaloes at the main entrance on K street.

For the accommodation of people who would like to take one last look at the interior of the old building the capitol commission may decide to employ a competent guide to pilot visitors on sight seeing trips and lecture upon the history of each apartment. The building cannot be saved as Arbor Lodge at Nebraska City was preserved to the people, but somebody may be found who can hand out some interesting gossip about what happened in it. Sightseers might be treated to some such talk as this:

"Here at the west entrance is where Peg-Leg the would-be robber of the treasury was shot thru the back and fell mortally wounded by the unerring aim of those who lay in wait.

"This bullet lodged in the wood by the side of the door and that hole thru the glass in the vestibule window was made by Edg hit Watchman Good who imagined he

Spring Bride



MRS. LLOYD PEATE.

Mrs. Lloyd Peate, whose marriage to Mr. Peate took place on March 11 at Marysville, Kas., was formerly Miss Nettie Gillette and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Gillette, 1433 North Twenty-seventh.

who wouldn't weep after taking one nip out of that bottle?

"In this room our war governor, Neville, resigned to become colonel of a Nebraska regiment in the world war, but it was a conditional resignation and Lieutenant Governor Howard never stepped up into the governor's chair.

"Governor Crouse, in 1894, is said to have written a resignation in this very room when the legislature looked elsewhere for a senator, but tore it up. The only governor who actually resigned and stuck to it was Dietrich. He was chosen United States senator in 1901, at the close of a senatorial deadlock in which a few prominent citizens of the state were unsuccessful participants.

"It was in this same room that Tom Hall, railway commissioner, told the state board of assessment something about its duties.

"Get me, governor?" he concluded.

"Yes, I get you, Tom, but I don't believe a blankety word you say," answered Governor Morehead.

"We will now go into this room across the corridor. Here is the trap door in the floor, now nailed up, thru which it was alleged the special watchman came with an armful of ballots that had been sent in by county clerks to be canvassed by order of the legislature. You have heard all about that story, I suppose, so I will say no more.

"Now we are in a room once occupied by the then new and struggling banking department. One clerk attended to the whole business. Rows of pasteboard boxes stood against the walls. Each box was labeled with the name of a

lives at that time, 1891. He got a black eye mixing with the crowd when the door was broken in. He is one of the few survivors of that melee.

"Here is the senate chamber from which Senator Taylor of Loup fled the state and thus caused a long deadlock over a railroad maximum rate bill. In a prayer Chaplain Diffenbacker of the house shook the missing senator over the coals of the lower regions until all could smell the sulphur, but Taylor never returned to Nebraska.

"Would you care to see the room in which Secretary J. W. Johnson of the old board of transportation wrote his classic defense of railroad rates entitled 'The Travels of a Steer?' No? Then we will move on to the third floor.

"Here is a room once occupied by a legislative committee. It was on the floor of this room that a janitor, early one morning following a night meeting of the committee, found a paper/tape such as were then used by hanks to put around packages of bank notes. It was stamped \$500. That was a long time ago, legend says.

Committee Room Secrets.

"These committee rooms on the third floor were not used for office purposes except three months every two years when the legislature met. They were preempted in the interim by clerks in the state house or by traveling men who could get a key from a friend. Sort of a dormitory, you know, beds and everything, and saved rent for the boys. Baylis S. Littlefield, editor of a little paper called the Lincoln Sun published a story about what he called orgies that went on in the capitol, and the board of public lands and buildings ordered the boys to take their beds, bugs and all elsewhere.

"Do you care to see the basement? There is an opening of a tunnel down there. It was not a robber's tunnel, but one carrying water and steam pipes from the old heating plant on the capitol grounds. It was large enough for a man to stand in. Not far from the opening there is an incinerator in which waste paper is burned. During the world war, when spies and bombs were dreamed of by all alert people, a janitor was scared out of his wits by the explosion of a thin hollow tube of metal which some one jokingly filled with powder and put in a pile of waste paper. Press reports carried news of a dastardly attempt to blow up the capitol of Nebraska, and pictorial news service companies displayed pictures of the capitol as it was twenty years before, with an insert of Governor Morehead as he then looked. These were shown in front of theaters until the council of defense ordered them out of sight.

"There is no truth in the report that there are bats in the belfry of this capitol. There is no belfry and there are no bats, but the dome contains a large space filled with guinea pigs which are used by the bacteriological laboratory of the state bureau of health. The dome has been closed to visitors for years because it is unsafe.

pened in it. Sightseers might be treated to some such talk as this:

"Here at the west entrance is where Peg-Leg the would-be robber of the treasury was shot thru the back and fell mortally wounded by the unerring aim of those who lay in wait.

"This bullet lodged in the wood by the side of the door and that hole thru the glass in the vestibule window was made by Hight Watchman Good who imagined he heard three university boys trying to break into the treasury to initiate a friend in a certain organization.

"Out there on the lawn is where John Currie, the eminent sculptor and brick mason, started to carve a statue of Abraham Lincoln out of marble given with a flourish by the state of Tennessee. No, he did not finish his work, ran out of money. The figure of Lincoln you see there or could see if it were not for a big granite tablet at the back, is the work of Daniel Chester French of New York.

Little Office Secrets.

"Here at the right is the room where William B. Price worked as a poor man at the head of the state insurance department. Myron Wheeler once held down a similar job in the same office.

"In this room Porter, secretary of state, was directed by the supreme court to do a certain thing, but he hasn't done it yet. In the same room the city health officer called one day to say that the ordinances made and provided did not permit the harboring of swine within the city limits.

"Now we come to the chief executive office, first occupied by Governor Thayer, but only after he had defeated in his effort to take possession of the newly finished building designed for the supreme court. Here was the beginning of the Boyd-Thayer contest for possession of the governor's office based on the allegation that James E. Boyd was not a citizen of the United States and therefore ineligible. In this room, when Boyd won he was ushered back into office by cohorts from Omaha and declined to take the proffered hand of the ousted governor.

"Here is where ex-Governor Poynter sank down to his death after pleading with Governor Shallenbarger to sign the early-closing bill applying to saloons. In the next room Governor Shallenbarger signed that bill. That legislation no doubt hastened the statewide and later nationwide prohibition of the sale of intoxicating liquors.

He Had a Little Drawer.

"You are now in the inner private room used by many governors. The old fashioned flat top desk so long used had a secret door in the side. By pushing a panel a thirsty governor could retrieve a fat flask and pass it to a caller, then it could be passed back to its hiding place, but when the next caller came, perhaps a member of Bishop Skinner's blue ribbon club, the scent of the liquor could linger round it still but powerful. One of our governors was prone to weeping when things touched him. He gained a reputation for tenderheartedness. Well,

up, thru which it was alleged the special watchman came with an armful of ballots that had been sent in by county clerks to be canvassed by order of the legislature. You have heard all about that story, I suppose, so I will say no more.

"Now we are in a room once occupied by the then new and struggling banking department. One clerk attended to the whole business. Rows of pasteboard boxes stood against the walls. Each box was labeled with the name of a bank. Quarterly reports were stored in the pigeon holes.

"The Bank of Lushville is about to declare a dividend," said the lone clerk one day when a close friend came in. Thereupon the clerk pulled out a pigeon hole compartment and produced, not a paper document, but a flask which was duly passed from one to the other. The same clerk on another occasion inquired anxiously, even eagerly, about this bank.

"I am sorry to say the Bank of Lushville has gone into voluntary liquidation," replied the clerk. The name of this bank never appeared in the official reports of the banking department notwithstanding the label on the pigeon hole.

"We are now on the second floor of the old capitol. Here is the door that was opened by force when the sheriff of Lancaster county served a writ upon Speaker Elder of the house of representatives to proceed with a canvass of the vote cast for Governor Boyd and state officers and declare the result as shown upon the face of the returns. The glass in the door was broken when the posse rushed the door after it had been opened by a friendly fellow on the inside. In this corridor militiamen, uniformed and armed, paced the floor under order of Governor Thayer. Anson H. Bigelow, attorney of Omaha who appeared last week before Governor McMullen to ask for the veto of the amendments to the workmen's compensation law, was a clerk in the house of representa-

Governor Morehead as he then looked. These were shown in front of theaters until the council of defense ordered them out of sight.

"There is no truth in the report that there are bats in the belfry of this capitol. There is no belfry and there are no bats, but the dome contains a large space filled with guinea pigs which are used by the bacteriological laboratory of the state bureau of health. The dome has been closed to visitors for years because it is unsafe except for the most active climbers."

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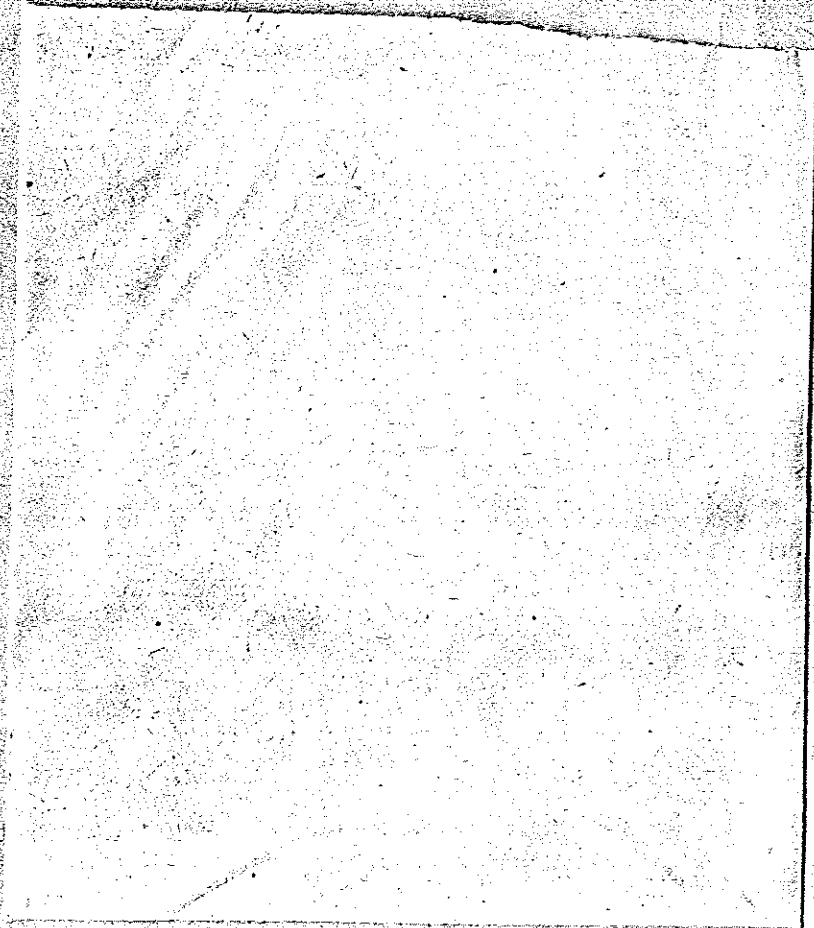
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#119

4/16/26

Journal

An Appreciation of the Nebraska Capitol



AN APPRECIATION OF THE NEW NEBRASKA CAPITOL

4/26/25
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INTERIOR CAPITAL WITH EARS OF CORN

By F. A. Good.

And now all the "danger," "no admittance" and "keep out" signs have gone from the new capitol and one may roam about the rotunda; stroll thru half a mile of corridor or break into the governor's suite "ad libitum." Better yet, Charlie Pool or the governor's secretary or even a supreme judge or two may help you about and to appreciate the visible glory of it all.

Surely every Lincoln citizen should take an hour off and familiarize himself with the most wonderful building now developing on Capitol hill. Architecture is called "frozen music" and the Bard of Avon has said:

He man that hath not music in himself,
Nor is moved with concord of sweet sounds,
Fit for treason, stratagems and spoils.

A few years and Lincoln will be a modern Mecca, and people from afar will make pilgrimages to see what is new in architectural beauty and interior design. Christopher Wren gave to London and to his generation Saint Paul's cathedral as his masterpiece; Bertram Goodhue's masterpiece is being evolved here in Lincoln. Soon the touring sightseer might as well go to Rome and not see the pope as to visit the middle west and not see Nebraska's famed capitol.

Just stay around a bit and we will adventure with you now in a little excursion to see what we may see. We like to slip in underneath the great granite steps of the southern exposure. My! the walls, abutments and things hereabouts do look massively substantial. Now we shove thru a big revolving door and enter a dimly lighted grotto or arcade. To our left we locate a narrow stair, which at a turn suddenly widens, and we sense lofty arched ceilings and beautifully plain stone walls.

As we emerge into full light on the top step we stand, and stare, and blink, in an effort to comprehend it all, but are overwhelmed by the sheer beauty and magnificence that greets us with such precipitation. We have now entered the main rotunda and stand a bit stunned, awaiting for our senses to in some way respond to the "Arabian Night" vista lying below, above, and all round about us.

We realize the futility of attempting to force the eye to absorb and digest so very much in one ensemble. So we must apply our

sculpture and paneling of this great building, both inside and out. A number of lesser pillars stand about in ever appropriate locations bearing their respective burdens of beam and ceiling and giving us a sense of their eternal fitness in the maker's plans.

Up high on the east, west, and north walls of this rotunda are great bare, recessed, rectangular spaces; so in anticipation we feel that some day these walls will encompass heroic panels done in relief which will bring us a new inspiration and a pride of country, much as do the great bronze doors of our national capitol.

But the crowning glory of this, our feast of the retina, is achieved when the eye reaches the zenith, or dome, of this rotunda. Flooded with daylight we behold a dozen or more separate bits of colored glass mosaics, each seeming to stress in some Egyptianized or traditional way the general agrarian motif to which we have previously alluded. And these individual and collective designs are all set in a heavy beading of gold—gold that scintillates and glistens and dazzles the eye and while we look into this new firmament our soul revolts, for the time being, against everything cheap and tawdry, and we are rich—rich indeed.

About the rim of this inverted bowl is a greater circle of words—words pertinent to the mosaics we have mentioned; but we have accumulated growing pains of the neck trying to locate the starting place of the sentiment expressed. Fain would we lie down on the cold stones and figure it all out—some day we may.

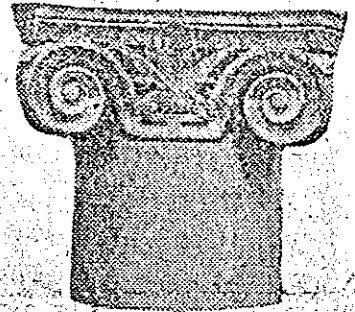
Traveling due east down a long and severely plain white corridor, we halt at a door lettered "Governor." The big knob responds to our twist in a very competent way; a way quite unknown to cheap

hardware. Judge Day tells us those locks were made to order, and gold filled, too. Of course the governor was "in conference" which is satisfying to us who have come just to look about.

We marveled a bit at the six-inch flooring thruout this great suite of rooms. We had thought it was not done any more. White ash stained a dark brown is the general scheme of the woodwork and the color effect is very rich and subdued. We appreciate the beautiful panelings framed with inlays; the grained, arches of the ceiling and the depending chandeliers therefrom; also the big fireplaces and the several massively carved benches along the several walls. We would like to suggest a few "Brobdingnagian" rugs for these rather spacious halls and a few things done in oil to grace their walls. Some one—mayhap 'twas done on St. Patrick's day—thru some wild caprice, did over the beautifully veneered panelings of Private Secretary Meeker's room with green paint, one glimpse at which might easily cause Bertram Goodhue to turn over in his crypt.

An eighth of a mile further on, we halted at the portals of the supreme court room. The doors closed and held fast by golden bolts. Just when we despaired of seeing anything more we saw Day—Supreme Judge Day—coming to us "for conference." And now comes Judge Good, as well, but neither has possession of the golden key; nor has Mr. Lindsay either. Mr. Lindsey would hie him hence and obtain the magic key—would we await—we would—he did.

Now we are auspiciously ushered into another wonder room. We remember that 'twas here in this room that Mr. Goodhue insisted that certain accoustic tiles be used on the walls. We vote the tile a success for there is no hollow echo



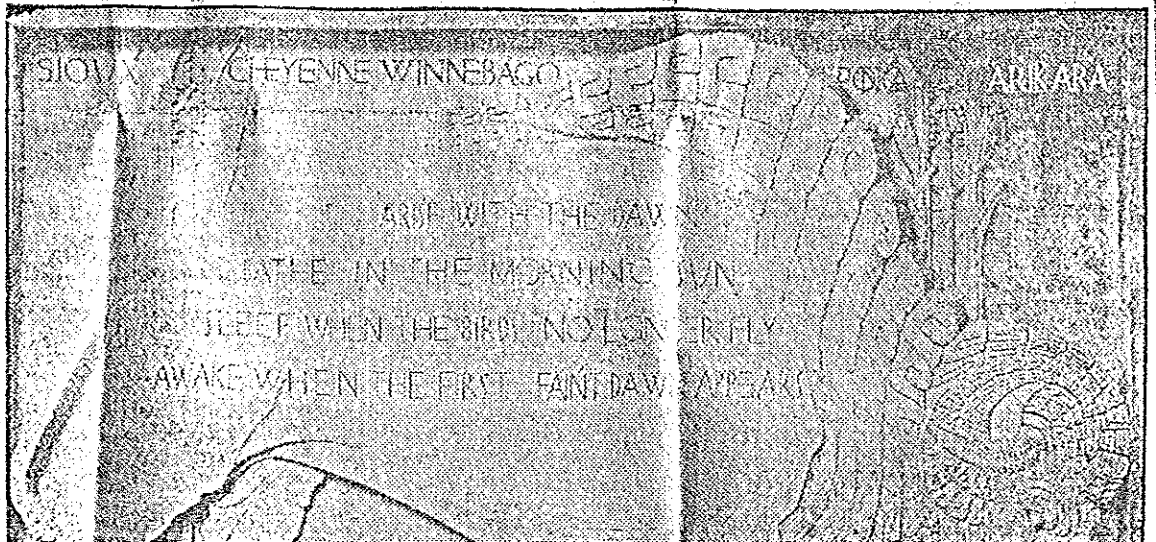
CAPITAL IN ENTRANCE

in evidence and conversation is easily done from corner to corner. The ceiling of this room is deeply beamed in dark wood with some elaboration and the seats and benches conform to the same general plan.

There is a "barbarous" bit of sentiment carefully wrought in the inlay immediately back of where the several judges are to sit in solemn state. It's going to be some continuous job for "their honors" to explain that "eye and ear witness" prescription as writ. Methinks the aforesaid mentioned man with the can of green paint may have wandered into the wrong room and greened over innocent walls while this particular atrocity is left at large.

These judges, our honorable guides, now invite us to ascend and invade those precincts usually held sacred to those of the woolsack or of the cap and gown. From this point of vintage we attempt to tell 'em—the judges—that "we, the people of these United States,"—but forget the rest. Not being on the bench in any permanent way, we descended and passed out of this chamber. The key again functioned in the golden lock and now we thanked our fine judges and said: "Good day."

Selections From the Art of the New Nebraska Capitol



should take an hour or so and familiarize himself with the most wonderful building now developing on Capitol hill. Architecture is called "frozen music" and the Bard of Avon has said:

"The man that hath not music in himself,
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Just stay around a bit and we will adventure with you now in a little excursion to see what we may see. We like to slip in underneath the great granite steps of the southern exposure. My! the walls, abutments and things hereabouts do look massively substantial. Now we shove thru a big revolving door and enter a dimly lighted grotto or facade. To our left we locate a narrow stair, which at a turn suddenly widens, and we sense lofty arched ceilings and beautifully plain stone walls.

As we emerge into full light on the top step we stand, and stare, and blink, in an effort to comprehend it all, but are overwhelmed by the sheer beauty and magnificence that greets us with such precipitation. We have now entered the main rotunda and stand a bit stunned, awaiting for our senses to in some way respond to the "Arabian Night" vista lying below, and all round about us.

We realize the futility of attempting to force the eye to absorb and digest so very much in one ensemble. So we must apply ourselves now for a time to detail. Looking down, where our feet trespass, we discover a floor of onyx and marble mosaic. Hundreds of beautifully veined and figured pieces of myriad colored stones are skillfully set and matched and altogether make up a tessalated floor, so exquisitely wonderful, that our sole hesitates to profane its fair surface: yet certainly it was planned for foot contact; else where might one stand?

Four great round columns of dark French marble rise from their several corners. Atop of these are caps of Cararra marble done in bull head design that strays not too far from a conventional form, yet still responds to the agrarian motif, that has dominated so much of the

and these individual and collective designs are all set in a heavy beading of gold—gold that scintillates and glistens and dazzles the eye and while we look into this new firmament our soul revolts, for the time being, against everything cheap and tawdry, and we are rich—rich indeed.

About the rim of this inverted bowl is a greater circle of words—words pertinent to the mosaics we have mentioned; but we have accumulated growing pains of the neck trying to locate the starting place of the sentiment expressed. Fain would we lie down on the cold stones and figure it all out—some day we may.

Traveling due east down a long and severely plain white corridor, we halt at a door lettered "Governor." The big knob responds to our twist in a very competent way; a way quite unknown to cheap

Private Secretary Meeker's room with green paint, one glimpse at which might easily cause Bertram Goodhue to turn over in his crypt.

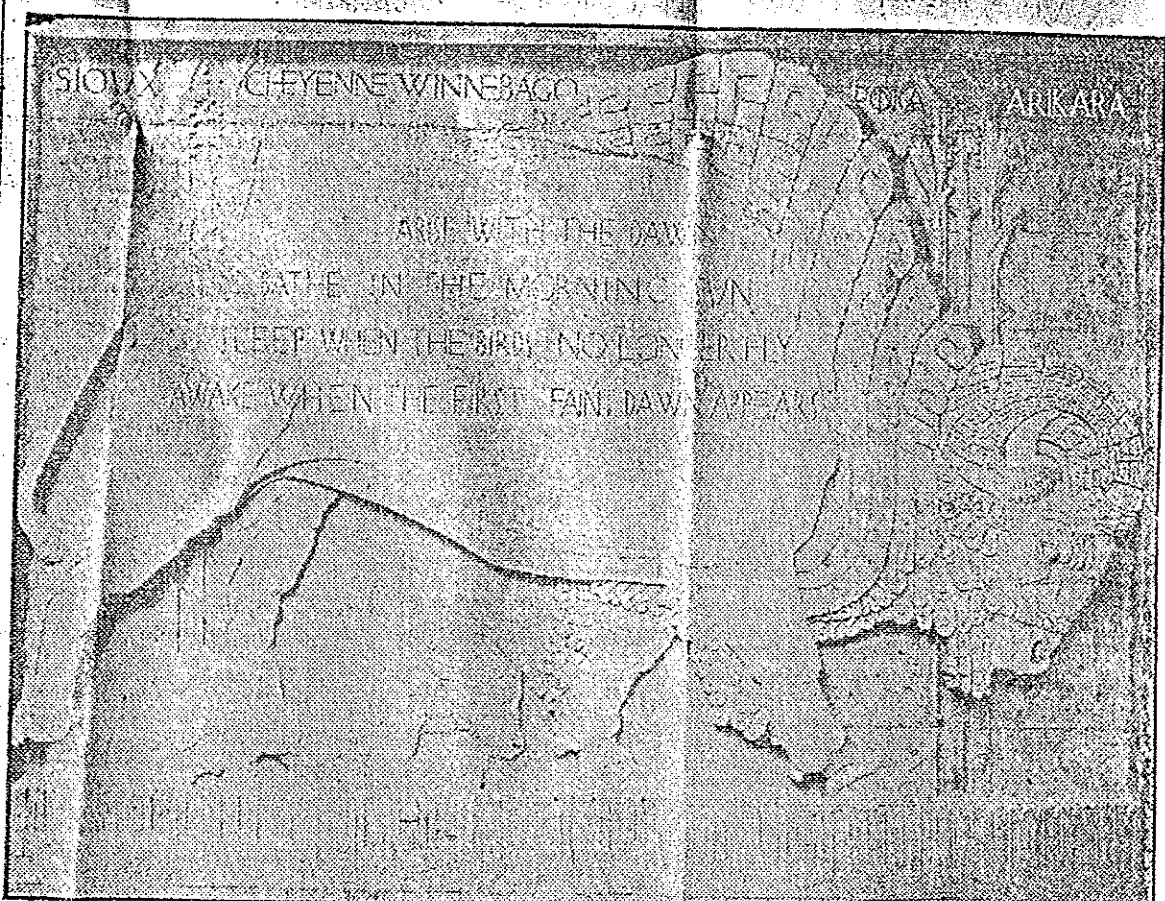
An eighth of a mile further on, we halted at the portals of the supreme court room. The doors closed and held fast by golden bolts. Just when we despaired of seeing anything more we saw Day—Supreme Judge Day—coming to us "for conference." And now comes Judge Good, as well, but neither has possession of the golden key; nor has Mr. Lindsay either. Mr. Lindsey would hie him hence and obtain the magic key—would we await—we would—he did.

Now we are auspiciously ushered into another wonder room. We remember that 'twas here in this room that Mr. Goodhue insisted that certain accoustic tiles be used on the walls. We vote the tile a success for there is no hollow echo

solemn state. It's going to be some continuous job for "their honors" to explain that "eye and ear witness" prescription as writ. Me thinks the aforesaid mentioned man with the can of green paint may have wandered into the wrong room and greened over innocent walls while this particular atrocity is left at large.

These judges, our honorable guides, now invite us to ascend and invade those precincts usually held sacred to those of the woosack or of the cap and gown. From this point of vantage we attempt to tell 'em—the judges—that "we, the people of these United States," but forget the rest. Not being on the bench in any permanent way, we descended and passed out of this chamber. The key again functioned in the golden lock and now we thanked our fine judges and said: "Good day."

Selections From the Art of the New Nebraska Capitol



One of the splendid buffalo carved in the stone of a cheek of the main entrance on the north front of the Nebraska capitol. The carving was done by Italian artists and craftsmen from models designed by Lee Lawrie. At the top of the panel appears the names of Indian tribes living in Nebraska before the white men came. The panel is enriched by conventionalized Indian corn. The huge beast is shown walking on the rich virgin turf of the Nebraska prairie. The inscriptions on sides of the animals were chosen from the lore of the Indian tribes by Dr. Hartley B. Alexander.

336.45

Neb.

#120

4/24/25

Journal

4/24/25 Jo

OLD DOME IS DOOMED

**PINNACLE REMOVED FROM
VENERABLE CAPITOL.**

**Wreckers Attack Landmark That
Once Gleamed Gold and Silver
at Ratio of Sixteen
to One.**

Crowds near the old capitol were attracted Thursday afternoon by the appearance of a man on the pinnacle of the dome. He was first seen about 4 o'clock. Within fifteen minutes he had removed the ball ornament on top of the observation tower that surmounts the dome proper. This ball was once covered with gold leaf and gleamed in the sun in an attempt to act the ratio part of sixteen-to-one in outshining the silver on the larger dome.

A short time prior a large section of the iron covering of the dome proper was removed by two men who pried it off in sheets and dropped it inside the dome.

The man at the pinnacle had one assistant in gaining access to that point. They carried ropes and a heavy timber to the observation tower, tied the timber crosswise to

two of the pillars that support the roof of the little tower. By means of a ladder one man tore off a section of the ceiling, then removed a portion of the outer covering of the small dome and crept thru, seized the ball and worked with it until he got it detached. He carried it back thru the hole he had made and handed it to his assistant on the floor of the observatory. A strong gale was blowing when the men were at work. The observatory will be removed piece at a time and dropped upon a platform inside the dome proper. An arm more than one hundred feet long, attached to a derrick on the roof will be able to reach all parts of the large dome. Within a few days the entire dome will no longer be visible.

The roof of the west wing of the old capitol is now pretty well demolished. Two railroad dump cars on either side of the building are being loaded with stone and brick.

The state fair board expects to receive the first cars of debris from the old capitol. The cars are to be started over the Capitol and H street railway, switched to the Burlington and thence to the Rock Island railroad which has an unloading track on the fair grounds near a large sink hole which is to be filled. The filled-in ground is not far from the old automobile or machinery hall. The space is to be used for parking automobiles. The switching by the railroads is to be free of charge.

336.45

Web

#121

5/7/25

Journal

A visitor who will be much interested in the campus and also the disappearing state house, is Robert D. Silver, who left Lincoln forty-five years ago and has since lived in Santa Fe, Chicago, Denver and St. Louis. His father, R. D. Silver, came here from Logansport, Ind., in 1869 and erected the main building of the university. He was obliged to comb the country for material, hauling the lumber from Nebraska City, burning the bricks here in Lincoln, and employing the local sandstone for the foundation against his protest. His lack of confidence in this material was justified, for in 1877 it was necessary to jack the building up and put better stone in the underpinning.

This early contractor, who was only twenty-six years old when he took the university job, was a lively young chap. He was elected mayor in 1873 and 1876, and served as county clerk in 1877 and 1878. When the second capitol was under construction in 1883 he made a bid for the central portion. His tender was more than \$40,000 lower than that of W. H. B. Stout, but the latter was given the contract on the theory that Mr. Silver did not own a developed Nebraska quarry and therefore could not guarantee a uniform quality of stone. The state board was mandamused in the supreme court, but "Boss" Stout won in short order. The young Mr. Silver looks over the melting old capitol and the growing new one and speculates with great interest on the political as well as the construction changes that have taken place since his father was in the business. The elder Silver died in Denver more than thirty years ago.

Anybody can see that the old capitol was cheaply and poorly built. The chances are, however, that there was much less profit in it than was generally supposed at the time. It cost, all told, less than a million. "Boss" Stout was the lessee of penitentiary labor. He had his hand in all kinds of enterprises, and was a power in politics. He built the Lancaster county court house and some other buildings, and later went to Washington, where he was broken by the failure of the government to pay for granite for the library of congress. The old capitol was an expression of the slap-dash construction and the rough and ready politics of early Nebraska. It probably was no better and no worse than the social and business and

336.45

1925

5-10-25

Neb,
#122

Capitol

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

Goodhue's Influence on Architecture

7/29/25

Talbot Faulkner Hamlin in The Nation

State Journal, July 29, 1925.

The life of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue seemed in a thousand ways to fit perfectly into his talents, seemed again and again almost voluntarily to shape itself so as to bring out the greatest that was in him. To the great loss of modern architecture, he died before his time. But he began younger than most of his fellows, and he lived long enough to give an entirely new emphasis to the architecture of his country.

He was enabled to achieve this by two things: the force of his own driving passion for beauty and his alert sensitiveness to the culture of his time. So gifted, he could never become either the ape of the fashionably pretty or the typical bitter and futile rebel against the conventions that surrounded him. He was one of those men living in a transitional age who are able not only to express but to lead; he expressed the best, and the strength of his genius led him beyond his generation into that expression of timeless ideals which is the essence of prophecy.

After years of youthful study with Renwick he entered the profession of architecture in 1891, as a member of the firm of Cram and Wentworth. It was a moment of tremendous and vivid life in American architecture; the early efforts of McKim, Mead and White, of Richard Hunt, of Richardson were bearing their fruit; knowledge was growing; popular taste was becoming more trained; the ideals of the pseudo "Queen Anne" period had received their death-blow. It was a time when growing archaeological knowledge and growing taste, coupled with a dearth of vital tradition, led inevitably to style revivals; and with Goodhue a long training under one of the most sensitive and careful of the older school of gothicists, Renwick, was crowned by his entry into a firm whose gothic work was—and is, under its later name of Cram, Goodhue, and Ferguson—justly famous.

But the strict accuracies of a traditional gothicism could never bind Goodhue's imagination. He early entered the field of illumination, of type and page design, and for ten years this was his chief hobby. And, as if intoxicated by freedom from the strict demands of structure and style, his imagination ran decorative riot, filling exquisite borders with gracious and complex intricacies of black and white, changing the hair lines and obvious rectangles of type into flowing, sure, accented forms full of subtle strength. Page after page of missals, special editions, title sheets, example after example of bookplates, monograms, tailpieces, ornaments came from his hand, not only enriching the history of modern American typography but also, thru the discipline of meticulous black and white, giving Goodhue himself a training in the use and composition of ornament, in the delight of small scale and free curve—the effects of which are evident in the stalls and



BERTRAM G. GOODHUE.

conception, unfortunately, was too great for the judges; it took liberties with the program, and another design was awarded first place. Yet that design of Goodhue's is a climatic point in American architecture; here for the first time was revealed complete freedom and mastery of style. Before it even the best American architecture had been preeminently stylistic; after it came a growing liberty, of which the Hote, Shelton, by Arthur L. Harmon is a typical instance. And in the late work of Goodhue this pure type of imaginative creation is the continual and dominating master passion. It shows in the simple buttressed shapes and surface ornament of his competitive design for the Chicago Tribune building; in the fresh classicism of the Washington Academy of Sciences. It reached its most adult and powerful expression in the Nebraska state capitol, now taking form, and in the still unrealized design for a memorial chapel for Chicago university, where Gothic tradition is revitalized and made truly ours.

One wonders exactly how this spirit of freedom took form and grew in Goodhue. It came first, I believe, from his continual alertness to beauty of any kind. To him, the trained Gothicist, the meticulous designer of intricate black and white, there was granted sudden contact with the luxurious, dramatic richness of Mexican churches during a visit to Mexico in 1893—a visit often repeated. And he made a trip thru Persia with a client, Mr. Gillespie, in 1903. The one experience set him studying the decorative power of the Baroque, and started forces in him that reached full expression only in the colored tiles and scintillating doorways of his buildings

color which his imagination saw glowing over it all. Let us hope that America may produce mural decorators worthy of the opportunity he has given them. Thus, just as style freedom led him inevitably into co-operation with sculptors, so his profound grasp of engineering; his profound love of sincerity, and his passion for beauty led him inevitably to a realization of the necessity for painting in any complete building.

The story of the Los Angeles library illustrates the magnificent integrity of the man. Following the enormous success of his San Diego exposition buildings, Goodhue was engaged to design a great public library for Los Angeles. The design was conceived in the exuberant Mexican renaissance of the exposition buildings, and complete working drawings of the conception were made. Then the whole scheme was postponed because of an adverse economic situation. When the building scheme was resurrected only two years ago, an ordinary architect, even an ordinary architect of talent, would merely have sent out the old drawings and reserved what new ideas he had for future use. Not so Goodhue. He abandoned the original plans entirely, and made a complete new design in harmony with the ideas of style and structure which he had achieved in the meanwhile. Gone were the broken pediments, twisted columns, and angular scrolls of the Spanish renaissance. Instead there was a building of great plain surfaces, accented at just the right points with sculpture—ranked figures rising from pylons, richness around the door, austerity, dignity, dramatic climax; walls, doors, windows, sculpture; and within great, simple, beautifully proportioned rooms brilliant with color—pure architecture; yet all without a trace of the bizarre or the merely eccentric.

So in the Nebraska state capitol and in this library American architecture has come of age. In them it has mastered and absorbed its traditions, and mastered its engineering. In some such manner as theirs, and in some such direction as that to which they point, will great American architecture inevitably develop.

ment, in the design of small scale and free curve—the effects of which are evident in the stalls and organ of St. Thomas's Church, in the Byzantine arabesques in the little corner door at St. Bartholomew's, or in the intricate ironwork of some of the screens at St. Vincent Ferrer's.

Yet this delight in detail never made him small-minded. A large and glamorous romanticism prevented that. Drawing after drawing of his is filled with the sense of sun and windy spaces; there is a large sketch of a castellated house set picturesquely on a craggy Westchester hilltop, made as late as 1915, which is full of dreamlike coolness and distance and vitality. A little man, with his sense of ornamentation might have been content to design charming bookplates or missal borders all his life; a little man with his romanticism might have slid over into artistic sentimentality with little effort (certain of his early drawings seem rather near the verge themselves); but the greatness which enabled him to possess both qualities was a barrier against either danger. He was bound by the logic of his own character, his own creative drive, to harmonize this dual nature.

Goodhue found this harmony of structure, of romantic creation, and of decorative richness only too short a time before his death. He found it by reducing architecture to the simplest terms. He forgot the trammels of "style." Not the knowledge, not the stimulus of historic styles—that remained always; but the demands of fashionable adherence. Nor did he let himself be bound by the equally rigid demands of fashionable or unfashionable modernism. He had too much beauty to create to waste energy on being "original"; he was never eccentric in character or design.

This effort toward freedom of style shows early. It shows in the intercession chapel in numberless little freedoms of detail; in St. Bartholomew's it has resulted in a sort of glorious and triumphant failure. There, with McKim, Mead and White's magnificent porch as a starting-point, Goodhue began to use pure form and surface texture in a new way. There is, in the front, much use of slightly inclined wall planes to give vertical shadows that die out as they approach the bottom. There is a free use of simple expressions of the controlling idea of tracery. There is warmth and color in the materials, a living variety. And yet the whole is not completely successful; like many expressions of early stages in transition, certain innovations seem artificial mannerisms and the studied variety in wall materials, however charming, lacks the structural directness and simplicity that characterize the best work of Goodhue.

But in the competitive design for the Kansas City war memorial all of this tentative character is gone. In that design not the Gothicism or the classicist or the modernist speaks, but only the creator. In its piled majesty there is no dictation of forms by a priori styles. Rather, the free classic details flow naturally from the mass. It is the mass composition that dominates; a mass conceived with a tremendous sense of climax, so that the whole has an austere and tragic emotionalism character-

istic. The decorative devices in him that reached full expression only in the colored tiles and scintillating doorways of his buildings for the San Diego exposition; the other, filling his mind with new forms of oriental decoration, not only tiled the courts of the Gillespie California house, and brought water and color indoors—as in its lovely conversation room—but also made possible those little sketches of Persian gardens, real and imaginary, which, in their mingling of accuracy and romance, of small-scale detail and large vision, are so strikingly characteristic. How could a man so sensitive to differing and sometimes contradictory beauties remain long a stylist?

Freedom from the bonds of a style at once brought with it other significant developments. It made Goodhue look more and more to sculpture and painting as the true ornament of a building. No longer could ornament issue by the mile from the hands of a merely competent draftsman and modeler; something more was necessary. In this development Mr. Goodhue was assisted remarkably by his co-operation with the sculptor Lee Lawrie, to whom more and more the working out of little decorative details was yielded. Only by a true sculptor, working freely, yet in closest co-operation with an understanding architect, could have been produced the friezes and the neo-Grec ornament of the Academy of Sciences, or the bison pylons and the great figures of the Nebraska capitol.

The other development is even more important. It was Goodhue's growing realization that the great problem of modern architecture is the relation of architect to structural engineer. Architecture, to realize its vast opportunities today, must not only absorb engineering, not only use it to make its dreams; it must make of the engineering itself, girders and columns and even pipe spaces and what not, a means to new beauty. And it is a realization of this which makes the designs for the interior of the national academy of sciences, for the Nebraska capitol, and for the new Los Angeles public library unique. In them Goodhue has reduced architecture to its elements—beautiful structure. No more for him the bird-cage of wire lath hung from extraneous beams, and plastered to ape bygone glories. No longer a structure dictated by economic necessity (death to creation, and productive only of dull cubical boxes). It is determined by aesthetic necessity. In great room after great room Goodhue gives us walls, floors, and ceilings in which the real girders supporting what is above are not only expressed but by careful proportion made into elements of beauty. And so, thru the study of concrete forms, he brought back something of the grand simplicity of fifteenth-century Italian interiors; something of the direct beauty of the Davanzati palace. It only remained for him to bring into the whole the

DOWN COMES OLD CAPITOL

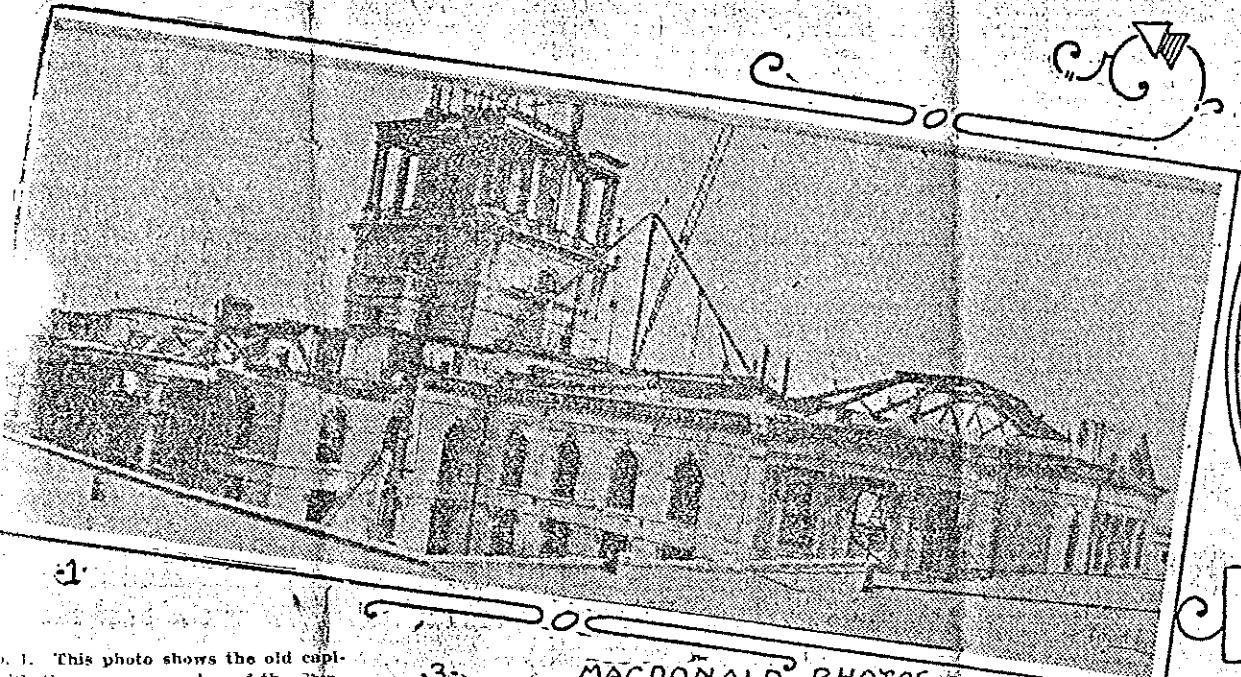
WRECKERS WORK DOWNWARD
AND FROM WITHIN.

Stubby Tower That Supported the
Dome Is Giving Way and the
Exterior Walls Are
Crumbling.

Pompeii in its last days had nothing on the old capitol of Nebraska. When Pompeii was last seen by the populace it was on the bad order list. Its buildings were falling to the rumble of sheet iron thunder, a popular brand of fireworks was playing from adjacent Mount Vesuvius, a ballet dance was in progress, at the foot of the buildings and hidden behind potted palms, in front of a sheet of water, a band was playing "The Barber of Se-

Wrecking the Old Capitol to Make Way for the New

5/16/25 J.W.



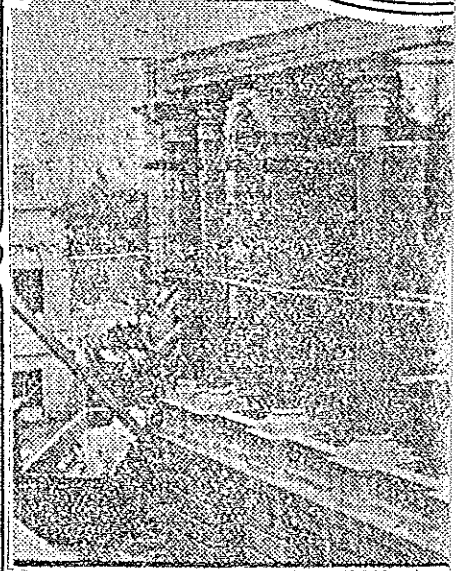
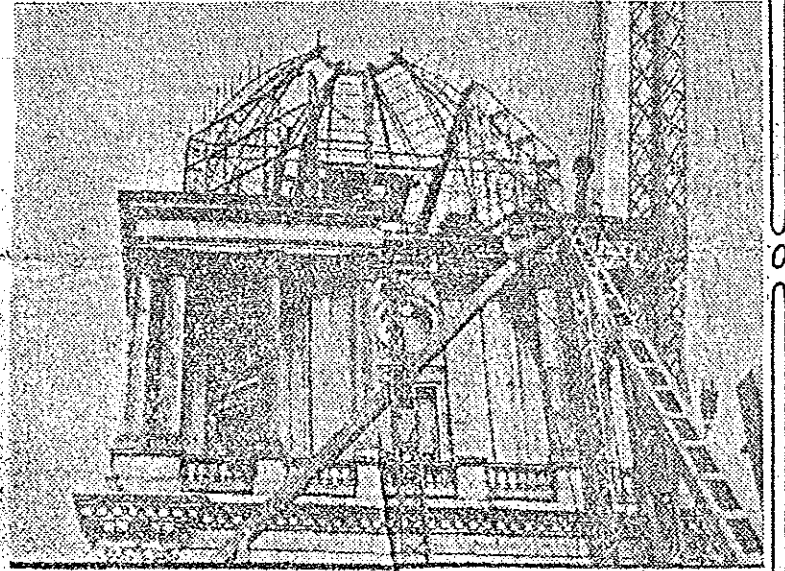
MACDONALD PHOTOS

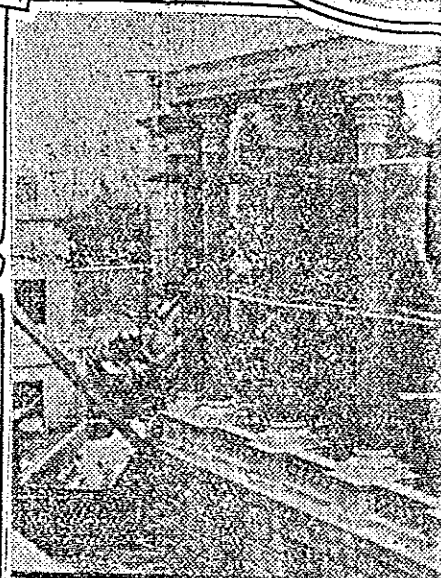
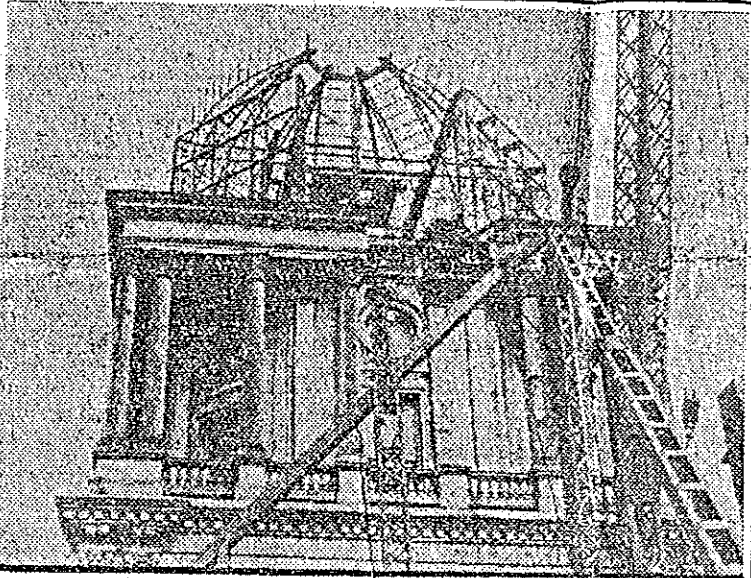
No. 1. This photo shows the old capitol with the copper covering of the dome removed. Heavy bridge timbers at the right formed the roof of the senate chamber. The walls of an attic forming the fourth floor at the left of the dome have been removed. The whole building had been gutted of woodwork. This photo was taken from the roof of the new capitol which shows in the foreground.

No. 2. The boom of the derrick resting on the roof has been spliced with timber to enable it to reach to the top of the steel frame of the dome. Part of the frame had been removed.

No. 3. The arm of this derrick is 100 feet long. The 24 added twenty-five feet to it. It was barely able to reach the topmost part of the dome. Steel work in small sections were taken from the dome and lowered over the side to the ground below and was later loaded into railroad cars and hauled away.

No. 4. Six granite columns form the north and south entrances of the old building. Scaffolding was built to facilitate careful removal of these pillars which are to be used by the university for a new building.





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ville." The inhabitants had consulted the most popular gods and found no comfort and were rushing to the nearest union depot and could find none. That happened 79 A. D. and the union depot is still talked of, nothing more.

The old capitol of Nebraska, standing as a temple of liberty and emblematic of the majesty of government by the people, is being wrecked. It is not coming down to the music of bands or the rumble of thunder, but almost silently it is melting away. The pillars of the temple went down during the week. Merely the wave of a hand, the gesture of a finger was sufficient. The man at the electric derrick responded to silent signals and the granite columns came down one by one, piece by piece, and were laid as gently upon the floor of a flat car as a mother lays her infant in a crib to sleep.

The columns, polished and shiny as when first erected nearly forty years ago, with their caps and bases, are the only material deemed worth saving from the wreck. They are about twenty feet tall, each in three sections. They now repose under the stadium at the university, to be used at some future time in some way not yet determined by the regents of the university. They are a gift of the state to the state, free of charge.

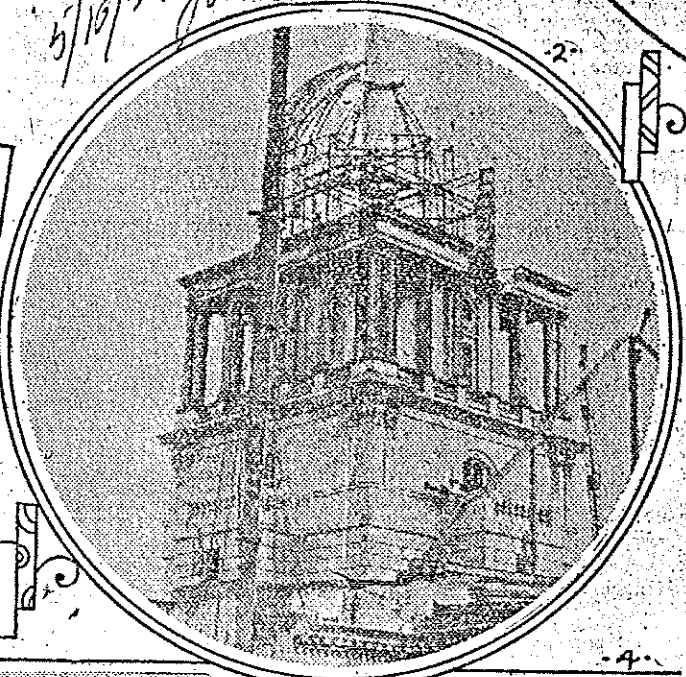
Scaffolding had to be built around the pillars before they could be removed. After the overlaying stones had been removed and the capitals lifted off, the top section of each pillar was lifted by two little steel pins inserted in the original holes at the top. The pins were attached to the pulleys of the derrick's boom.

When the iron cable was wound around a drum operated by an electric motor the section of granite arose, was swung over the flat car, the cable was let slide and the big stone dropped gently and slowly to the bottom of the car. Under it a square timber had been set so that the section of the columns would gravitate to the head of the floor, the pulley of the derrick allowing it to descend as slowly as the operator desired.

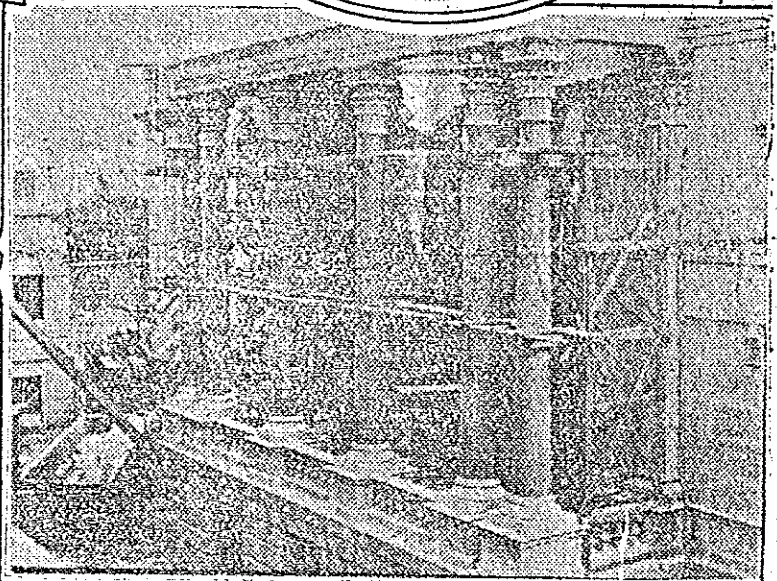
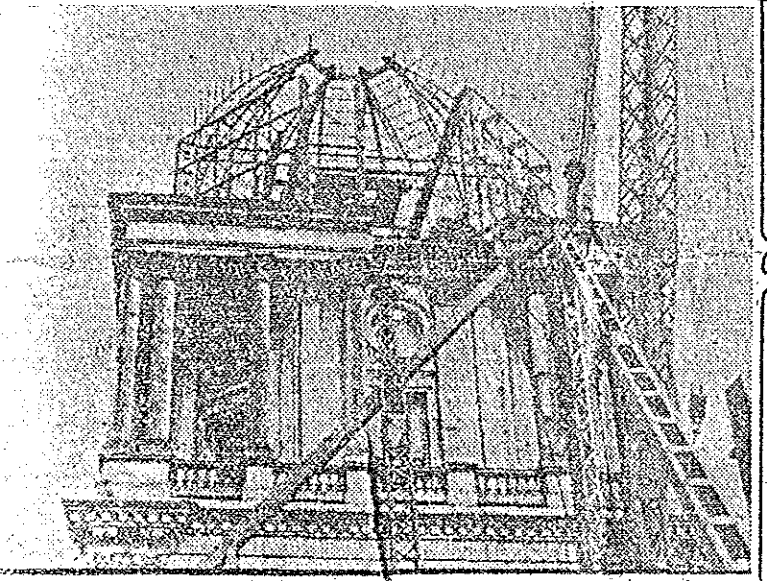
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 as a sheet of water, a band
 The Harbor of Se

Wrecking the Old Capitol to Make Way for the New

5/19/25



3. MACDONALD PHOTOS



ville." The inhabitants had consulted the most popular gods and found no comfort and were rushing to the nearest union depot and could find none. That happened 79 A. D. and the union depot is still talked of, nothing more.

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336.45

Neb.

#123

5/15/25
Star

MASSIVE PIERS UPHOLD TOWER

Great Columns Of Concrete
To Reach Bedrock Be-
neath Central Section Of
New State Capitol.

EACH TO SUSTAIN
TREMENDOUS WEIGHT

Expected That Excavation
and Foundation Will Be
Completed Before the First
Of Next Year.

Sixteen enormous concrete piers, grouped four in each corner, will be sunk into the ground under the central part of the new state capitol, in order to support the crushing weight of the tower 80 feet square and 400 feet high which is to surmount the edifice.

Each group of four piers will be 32-foot square, with the edges of the piers only half an inch apart from each other. An interval of 30 feet or so will separate the groups from each other. This type of construction is considered stronger than to have the concrete footing all in one mass, as it allows for expansion, contraction, and slight settling.

The piers are designed of sufficient strength to carry a load of 12 tons for each square foot of their top surface. They will go down 20 or 25 feet below the basement floor level, so as to rest their bases upon the Dakota sandstone which underlies this whole region.

For other portions of the second, or interior, section of the capitol, excavation or which is to begin in July, concrete piers will be provided from 4 to 8 feet in diameter, and in a few instances 10 feet. These also will go down to the Dakota sandstone. There will be about 200 of them. The outer section, already completed, rests on 400 such piers ranging in diameter from 4 to 8 feet.

Ready for Next Legislature.

It is hoped to finish the excavation and foundation before January 1, so that work on the interior superstructure can proceed during the winter, as much as the weather will allow. The capitol commission's plans contemplate having the

(Continued on Page Six.)

new chamber for the house of representatives completed in the rough by the time the next legislature convenes, in January 1927. It will not be possible to have the decorative work done by that time, but the hall can be used if the project goes ahead on schedule.

The senate chamber is not included in the second section, but there is another chamber for the supreme court to be constructed under the contract for that part of the building, and it will serve as a temporary meeting place for the upper branch of the legislature in 1927.

When the second section is built it will complete the state library suite, except for stackrooms in the tower. The main reading room and library office will extend north from the quarters now occupied, on the third floor, to the central rotunda.

A magnificent foyer 130 feet long, with an arched ceiling 60 feet high, will lead from the north vestibule, already constructed, to the center of the new capitol, on the main floor. There it will open into the great interior plaza, or rotunda, with an arched dome overhead whose peak will rise 30 feet above the floor.

On the first floor, below the rotunda, part of the space will be used for a public dining hall. Other first floor space will provide additional office rooms for departments of the state government.

All of these latter features are to be constructed as parts of the second section. Two years and six months from July 1 is allowed as the time for its completion.

#124

New \$10,000,000 State Capitol, When Finished, To Be Monument To Past and Symbol of Future

A monument to the past and a symbol of the future are combined in the new state capitol of Nebraska, the first section of which was completed and occupied late in 1924. Excavation work for the second, or interior, section of this distinctive edifice is now going on. The contract for its construction fixes January 1, 1928, as the time for completion. Two or three years more time will be required for the third section, comprising the high tower and the west middle portion of the structure.

The unsuitability of the old capitol, built in the early '30s, came to be recognized 20 years ago, and efforts were made in various sessions of the legislature to provide for a new one; but on account of capitol removal agitation nothing was done for a number of years. In 1917 both branches of the legislature passed bills appropriating \$1,000,000 for a new state building. They failed to agree on the precise wording, however, and the appropriation failed for that reason.

In 1919 the legislature got down to brass tacks on the capitol question by enacting a bill to appropriate \$5,000,000 for a building that would suitably typify the greatness of Nebraska and commemorate the creative work of her pioneers and the services of her soldiers in the world war, as well as provide ample housing for all departments of the state government during a century to come. A capitol commission, with the governor as chairman and the state engineer as secretary, was created to carry out the project.

Employs Goodhue as Architect.

In the fall of 1920 B. G. Goodhue of New York was employed as architect for the new capitol, his plan having been chosen as the best among ten submitted to a committee of architects whom the commission designated for that purpose. Detailed plans were completed the following year, and in the early part of 1922 digging was commenced on the site of the first section.

While the old capitol was still in use, the outer portions of the new one were being constructed around it. In this way the state saved a large expenditure for rentals which would have been incurred by removing the offices to outside quarters. When the section now in use was finished, the various departments moved out of the old building and into the new. Demolition of the old capitol began last March, just as the legislature was getting ready to adjourn. It was completed early in July, and since then the work of excavation the big hole for the central foundation and the interior

cross has been in progress. This is now two-thirds completed. Construction contracts have been awarded for the superstructure, and operations will begin thereon by the time excavation is completed, or before.

It became apparent before the first section had been finished that \$5,000,000 would not be enough to build a capitol on the dimensions of the Goodhue plan and with its ornamental features and setting. The last legislature therefore appropriated \$4,000,000 more, continu-

336.45
Ne b.
#125

WORK ON BIG TOWER BEGINS

Star 9-25-25
Construction Of Sixteen
Huge Concrete Piers to
Support 400-Foot High
Central Section of New
Capitol to Start Monday.

FOOTING EXCAVATION ALMOST HALF DONE

Masonry Piles, 20 Feet
Square, Will Go Down 15
Feet or More to Sandstone
Bed; 13 Tons Of Steel In
Each Of Four Largest.

Construction of the sixteen huge concrete piers that are to support the central tower of the new state capitol which will rise 400 feet above the ground level, will begin next Monday. Excavations are almost complete for eight of these piers, which will be arranged in groups of four, the third hole is now being dug. The piers will go down 15 feet or more below the level of the basement floor so as to rest upon the bed of Dakota sandstone which underlies Capitol square.

Each excavation is 32 feet square and will contain four of the piers. There will be one group under each corner of the tower. In every group, the pier nearest the center of the building will be 20 feet square. There will be two others alongside and one cornering it, to fill out the 32-foot space. Expansion joints only a fraction of an inch wide will separate the concrete columns in each group.

Thirteen tons of steel reinforcing bars will be used in each of the 20-foot piers. Proportionate quantities of steel will be used in the others. After they are built up from the sandstone base to a height of 15 feet, more or less, structural steel beams will be set upon them to carry the weight of the upper tower walls. The lower walls will rest directly on the piers.

Foundation Engineer Here.

Edwin S. Jarrett of the Jarrett-Chambers Co., New York, which was employed by the capitol commission in 1921 as foundation engineers for the new seat of government, has arrived in Lincoln to inspect the excavations made for the interior section before concrete work begins on the tower footings. He will remain for a few days and see the first concrete go into the big holes.

A few inches of this material will be poured in and allowed to harden, after which steel bars will be laid upon it and more concrete poured

over them. The work will be carried along as rapidly as possible to equalize pressure upon the sandstone base by placing a new weight above it to take the place of the excavated earth and sand. If the holes were left open for any length of time, side pressure might force the sandstone upward, only to be forced back again and cause settling when the concrete was poured in.

To Mix Concrete by Carload.

Elaborate preparations have been made by the J. H. Wiese Co., which has the excavation and construction contracts for the new capitol, to mix and handle concrete on a big scale. A huge container built of heavy timbers with capacity for several carloads of sand and gravel, has lately been installed alongside the 100-foot tower for hoisting the mixture and running it by gravity down inclined gutters to wherever it is to go. There is also a long, wide platform for handling cement and other materials.

Foundation Engineer Jarrett was in Lincoln two or three years ago and supervised test borings made on Capitol square to ascertain the depth of the sandstone below the surface. It was not possible to bore underneath the old capitol building, but excavation work which has been done on the site where it stood shows the basic material there at very nearly the depth which was estimated from the tests made around it.

To Start Mixing For Capitol Piers

Star 9-25-25
Within the next week the mixing and pouring of concrete for supporting piers beneath the foundation of the interior section of the new capitol will be commenced. A number of circular holes about 4 feet in diameter are now being dug by hand from the level of the basement floor down to the sandstone formation 20 feet below. These will be filled with concrete, and the foundation walls will rest upon them.

The first piers thus constructed will be at the west end of the central excavation. After they are completed, a high concrete tower will be erected in the space surrounding them, from which it is planned to run the liquid concrete by gravity some distance in different directions, to fill up similar holes and also for the construction of the walls themselves.

Trestlework has been laid for railroad track to run along the south side of the big hole in the ground, crossing the excavation in two or three places. The track will serve for hauling away dirt and for bringing in gravel, cement, brick, stone and other building materials.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

336.45

Feb.

#123

5/15/25
STAT

MASSIVE PIERS UPHOLD TOWER

Great Columns Of Concrete
To Reach Bedrock Be-
neath Central Section Of
New State Capitol.

EACH TO SUSTAIN
TREMENDOUS WEIGHT

Expected That Excavation
and Foundation Will Be
Completed Before the First
Of Next Year.

Sixteen enormous concrete piers, grouped four in each corner, will be sunk into the ground under the central part of the new state capitol, in order to support the crushing weight of the tower 80 feet square and 400 feet high which is to surmount the edifice.

Each group of four piers will be 32 feet square, with the edges of the piers only half an inch apart from each other. An interval of 30 feet or so will separate the groups from each other. This type of construction is considered stronger than to have the concrete footing all in one mass, as it allows for expansion, contraction, and slight settling.

The piers are designed of sufficient strength to carry a load of 12 tons for each square foot of their top surface. They will go down 20 or 25 feet below the basement floor level, so as to rest their bases upon the Dakota sandstone which underlies this whole region.

For other portions of the second, or interior, section of the capitol, excavation or which is to begin in July, concrete piers will be provided from 4 to 8 feet in diameter, and in a few instances 10 feet. These also will go down to the Dakota sandstone. There will be about 200 of them. The outer section, already completed, rests on 400 such piers ranging in diameter from 4 to 8 feet.

Ready for Next Legislature.

It is hoped to finish the excavation and foundation before January 1, so that work on the interior superstructure can proceed during the winter, as much as the weather will allow. The capitol commission's plans contemplate having the

(Continued on Page Six.)

new chamber for the house of representatives completed in the rough by the time the next legislature convenes, in January 1927. It will not be possible to have the decorative work done by that time, but the hall can be used if the project goes ahead on schedule.

The senate chamber is not included in the second section, but there is another chamber for the supreme court to be constructed under the contract for that part of the building, and it will serve as a temporary meeting place for the upper branch of the legislature in 1927.

When the second section is built it will complete the state library suite, except for stackrooms in the tower. The main reading room and library office will extend north from the quarters now occupied, on the third floor, to the central rotunda.

A magnificent foyer 130 feet long, with an arched ceiling 80 feet high, will lead from the north vestibule, already constructed, to the center of the new capitol, on the main floor. There it will open into the great interior plaza, or rotunda, with an arched dome overhead whose peak will rise 80 feet above the floor.

On the first floor, below the rotunda, part of the space will be used for a public dining hall. Other first floor space will provide additional office rooms for departments of the state government.

All of these latter features are to be constructed as parts of the second section. Two years and six months from July 1 is allowed as the time for its completion.

#124

New \$10,000,000 State Capitol, When Finished, To Be Monument To Past and Symbol of Future

A monument to the past and a symbol of the future are combined in the new state capitol of Nebraska, the first section of which was completed and occupied late in 1924. Excavation work for the second, or interior, section of this distinctive edifice is now going on. The contract for its construction fixes January 1, 1928, as the time for completion. Two or three years more time will be required for the third section, comprising the high tower and the west middle portion of the structure.

The unsuitability of the old capitol, built in the early '30s, came to be recognized 20 years ago, and efforts were made in various sessions of the legislature to provide for a new one; but on account of capitol removal agitation nothing was done for a number of years. In 1917 both branches of the legislature passed bills appropriating \$1,000,000 for a new state building. They failed to agree on the precise wording, however, and the appropriation failed for that reason.

In 1919 the legislature got down to brass tacks on the capitol question by enacting a bill to appropriate \$5,000,000 for a building that would suitably typify the greatness of Nebraska and commemorate the creative work of her pioneers and the services of her soldiers in the world war, as well as provide ample housing for all departments of the state government during a century to come. A capitol commission, with the governor as chairman and the state engineer as secretary, was created to carry out the project.

Employs Goodhue as Architect.
In the fall of 1920 B. G. Goodhue of New York was employed as architect for the new capitol, his plan having been chosen as the best among ten submitted to a committee of architects whom the commission designated for that purpose. Detailed plans were completed the following year, and in the early part of 1922 digging was commenced on the site of the first section.

While the old capitol was still in use, the outer portions of the new one were being constructed around it. In this way the state saved a large expenditure for rentals which would have been incurred by removing the offices to outside quarters. When the section now in use was finished, the various departments moved out of the old building and into the new. Demolition of the old capitol began last March, just as the legislature was getting ready to adjourn. It was completed early in July, and since then the work of excavation the big hole for the central foundation and the interior

cross has been in progress. This is now two-thirds completed. Construction contracts have been awarded for the superstructure, and operations will begin thereon by the time excavation is completed, or before.

It became apparent before the first section had been finished that \$5,000,000 would not be enough to build a capitol on the dimensions of the Goodhue plan and with its ornamental features and setting. The last legislature therefore appropriated \$4,000,000 more, continu-

336.45
No 6
#125

WORK ON BIG TOWER BEGINS

Star 9-25-25
Construction Of Sixteen
Huge Concrete Piers to
Support 400-Foot High
Central Section of New
Capitol to Start Monday.

FOOTING EXCAVATION ALMOST HALF DONE

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Feet or More to Sandstone
Bed; 13 Tons Of Steel In
Each Of Four Largest.

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

1925

336.45

Neb

#126

DECORATIONS FOR CAPITOL

MISS MEIERE, ARTIST, MEETS
WITH BOARD.

Will Begin Work Immediately Upon Art Tile Designs for Rotunda and Representative Hall.

Hildreth Meiere, of New York, artist who designed the art ceiling for the vestibule of the capitol, is in Lincoln on her home from California and will remain until Tuesday evening. She met Governor McMullen, W. E. and Roy Cochran, members of the capitol commission, Monday and discussed the decorations she will do for the second section of the building. Miss Meiere recently returned from Europe. She brought back photographs of floor decorations in the cathedral of Siena built in the fifteenth century.

Work to be done by Miss Meiere for the second section of the capitol includes the floor and ceiling decorations for the central rotunda which will extend 110 feet from main floor level into the tower, in foyers leading to this rotunda, the house of representatives library. The senate chamber is not included in the second section.

Miss Meiere saw her design for the entrance vestibule in the capitol Monday for the first time. She found the colors a little more muted in the design than she had expected, but was pleased with the effect. The ceilings to be designed for the remainder of the building will be similarly treated as to color scheme with the exception of the floor in the central rotunda. The capitol commission is willing to have the floor figures made of white and black marble.

The decorations are included in the general contract entered into by the capitol commission with Wiese & Co., of Omaha. Guastavino & Co., of New York is the subcontractor who supplies the decorations and Miss Meiere is the designer. The art tile decorations of the capitol are entirely new, none of the same type having been used heretofore.

The designer expects to begin work immediately and will try to deliver her first work for the second section to the tile makers early this winter.

The central figure in the floor design for the central rotunda will be the earth. The four geological eras will be represented by symbolic figures. The evolution of the earth, without reference to the manner in which mankind was created, will be portrayed. Prehistoric animals will be a part of the design.

The eight virtues, courage, fortitude, magnanimity, and others will have a place in the decorations.

The arch of the central rotunda representing the state, will be represented as being upheld by four pillars, law, labor, religion and public spirit.

Traditions of the past, the present and ideals of the future are to be portrayed. The school and family will be shown in opposite panels. Youth, age, maturity and childhood are subjects to be dealt with.

336.45

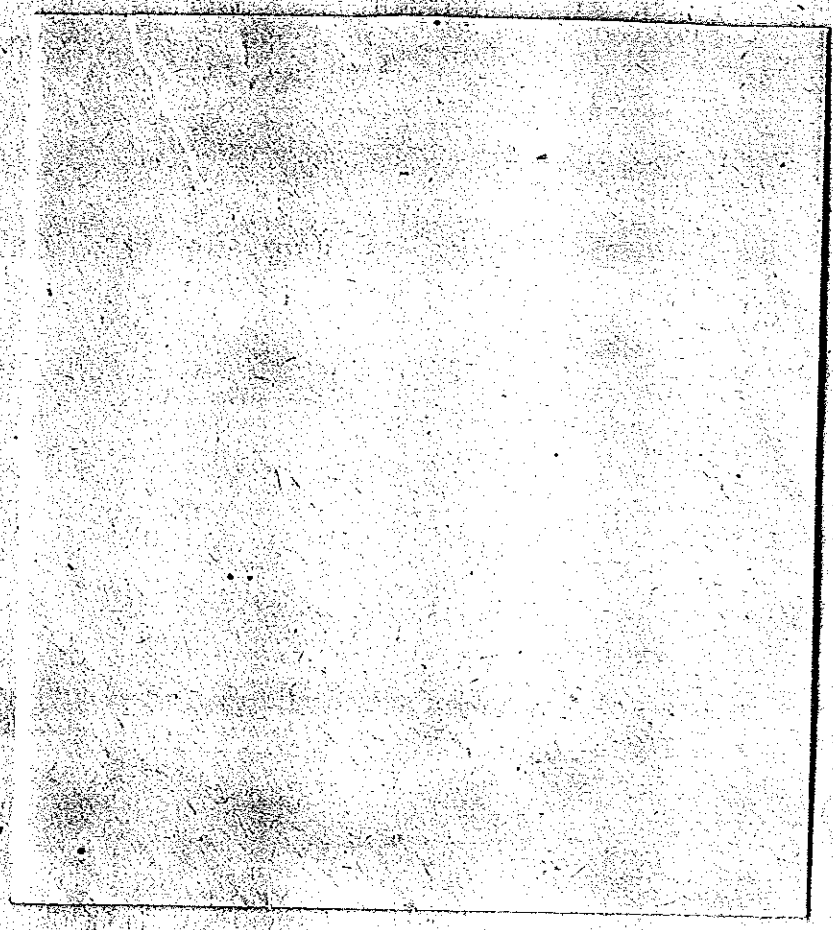
State Capital

Neb.

#127

Star

Oct. 4, 1925.



Decorative Tiling for New Capitol, Planned Far in Advance, Depicts Evolution of World

Long years will elapse before the proud tower of Nebraska's new capitol rears itself above the green prairies. Months upon months will pass before the interested walk down its foyer and stand in its rotunda. The second section of the mammoth new structure is not yet above the ground.

Workmen are going down deep into the earth and gouging it, and are putting in cement and stone and mortar in place of the soft, yielding soil. Barely begun though it is, that piercing tower and the foyer and the library, the senate and the house chambers are complete in the minds of those who plan them. To the last brilliant little tile, they know how they want this capitol building to appear.

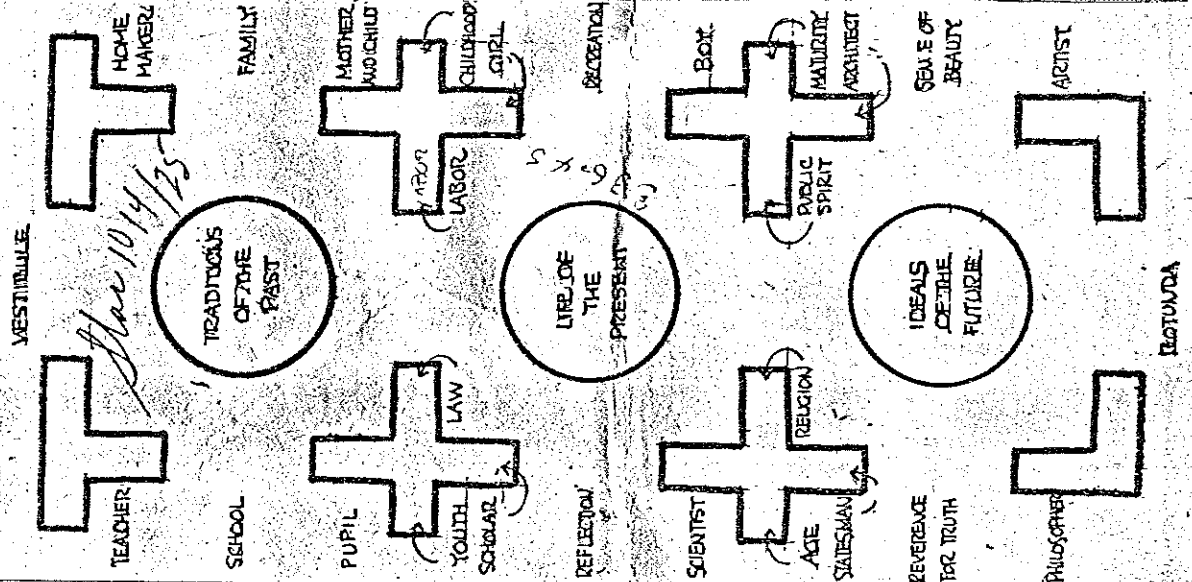
Those who execute see but the minutes' construction, but those who design dream far beyond the day's output of brick and stone.

Miss Hildreth Meiro of New York is one who designs and plans far ahead of the material construction of the building. She will furnish designs for the ornamental tiling to be placed in the main foyer, central rotunda, legislative chambers and state library quarters of the new capitol, on a plan suggested and outlined by Dr. H. B. Alexander of the state university. Miss Meiro did the designs in the National Academy of Science in Washington and she has designed the mural and tile work for many of the large eastern churches. She is not employed directly by the capitol commission, but does her work for G. Guastabino and company of New York which has the sub-contract for the acoustic and decorative tiling.

The designs for the foyer, the rotunda, and the house chamber have been submitted to the commission and they will be considered probably at the next meeting. Tentative plans have been arranged for the senate and the library decoration, but they are not to be considered at present.

Evolution of World. According to Dr. Alexander, the tile and mural work in the two sections follows a definite plan in the evolution of the world. The vestibule of the capitol, which has been completed, represents nature and the foyer will represent history. The designs of the great central rotunda will be made about the state, and the work in the house and in the senate of the red man. With that thought in mind it is probable the decorations in the library will be emblematic of the spirit of man.

The foyer, over 100 feet in length, connecting the vestibule with the



The plan of decoration for the new foyer in the second section of the capitol typifies three phases of man's history, the past, present, and future. The symbolic figures and designs are to be carried out in brilliant shades of tile, so that the passage from the vestibule to the elaborate rotunda may be one of great beauty. Dr. H. B. Alexander has suggested the decorative plans, which are to be designed by Miss Hildreth Meiro.

Symbolic of law, labor, religion and public spirit, the four figures on the vestibule will be in relief, and will picture childhood, youth, maturity and age, the first two opposite labor and law, and the last two opposite public spirit and science.

mission, has been planned to represent successive geological periods in the evolutionary progress of this region. All of the floor work, if accepted on the recent plan, will be in black and white marble.

Alexander stated, "are among the most artists' bead work in America. There are none superior to them. The work in the styles of the plains and forest Indian in their weaving."

"The Winnebago and Omaha Indians have developed another kind of work called 'cut out' work. The idea originated entirely with them. Many years ago the plains Indian would buy strips of bright ribbon because it was pretty and wear it any way they saw fit. Some of the more artistic members of the tribe finally began putting the ribbons in geometrical patterns, as they did the leather work many years ago, and the effect was pretty. The work is an artistic development along tribal lines and although it is a more modern treatment, it is thoroughly Indian in character."

During the past summer Dr. Alexander lectured at Sarbonne on Indian art, and had with him a number of very wonderful pictures painted by American Indians.

There is a growing tendency towards a renaissance of Indian art. Dr. Alexander said, "and if we are not careful our Indian cut-work will come to us from Paris first."

Dr. Alexander stated that the Indian is instinctively an artist. He does not know why he is nor how he happened to be one. He has no training except various facts handed down from one generation to another. He has the most wonderful color sense in the world to work with his own, but he will readily trade them off for gaudy, cheap paints if given the opportunity.

"To put an Indian in an art school would spoil him, I believe," Dr. Alexander said, "no matter how talented he was. He imitates a great deal as it is rather than cultivate his own artistic sense, and his work, if placed in an art school would be more imitative than creative."

Suggests Annual Ceremony. Close to Fremont is Pahuk, a sacred spot at one time to some of the Indian tribes in Nebraska. Dr. Alexander thinks it would be fine to have a pageant presented on that spot each year, by the Indian tribes who now live and did live in Nebraska. Indian history is rich in mythology and there is a story concerning Pahuk which if dramatized by the Indians, with Indian music, would be a spectacle the whole country would desire to see. This could take place at a certain time each year, and tourists from all parts of the United States would journey there.

"There are other states which do not have half of the beautiful things that our own state has," Dr. Alexander said, "but everyone hears about the things they do have. The citizens of the state want people to know what they have. Nebraska has many things that are more or less wasted because they are not taken enough interest to exhibit anything."

"I would be very glad to help any one to do anything I could to help."

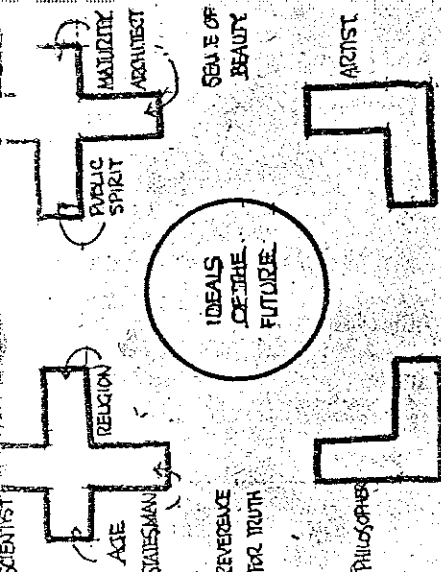
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The foyer, over 100 feet in length,
 connecting the vestibule with the
 rotunda, will be divided by high
 arched into three sections or bays.
 The first one, opening out of the
 vestibule, will represent traditions
 of the past, the central one, life of
 the present, and the third one lead-
 ing into the rotunda, will be ideals
 of the future.

If the designs are followed out by
 the commission as submitted each
 bay will represent a fundamental
 aspect of life. The wall panels in
 traditions of the past are entitled,
 "school and family," in life of the
 present, "reflection and recreation,"
 which come after the establishment
 of the family, and in ideals of the
 future, "reverence for truth and
 sense of beauty."
 Family will be symbolized by
 tiled figures of the home maker,
 the father, and of mother and
 child and school, by teacher and
 pupil.
 The symbols of recreation a-
 re perhaps playing ball, and a
 girl with a garland of flowers,
 are been suggested, and for the
 symbolism of the twin panel, re-
 creation, figures of scientist and
 it is, will probably be used.
 Artist and artist have been sug-
 gested as the symbols of sense of
 truth and statesman and philoso-
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 The large pillars to the arches
 and other figures in tile.



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Symbolic of law, labor, religion and public spirit. The four figures on the vault piers will be in relief, and will picture childhood, youth, maturity and age, the first two op-posite labor and law, the latter two as companion pieces.

Eight Winged Virtues.
 The ornamentation scheme for the interior central dome of the rotunda is symbolical of the great virtues, including courage, temperance, justice, wisdom, magnanimity, faith, hope and charity. As seven is the customary number of virtues, magnanimity was added to suit the square form of the building.

Eight great symbolic winged figures will represent the virtues forming a circle so that their out-spread wings will create the effect of a huge rose. The rose will be truly gorgeous, as the wings are to be in crimson, gold blue and orange, with a golden light in the center, possibly symbolizing light of virtue.
 As the domed ceiling of the ro-tunda will be 110 feet above the floor at its center—more than twice the height of the vestibule ceiling—the tiling designs to be worked in it will be on a correspondingly larger scale to bring out the details clearly. The vestibule ceiling is 45 feet high.
 It is probable that quotations from Plat and Aristotle in bronze letters will come below the fig-ures, and immediately beneath the quotations three mural paintings.
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"I would be very glad at any time to do anything I could to help, and if the Pahuk dream ever comes to pass, I would be willing to help with the musical settings in any other way possible."
 Dr. Alexander has had much to do with planning some of the art work at the new capitol, and the work is filled with Indian motifs. The new bronze doors at the entrance are to be done in Indian design.

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336. 17

Neb.

#128

JOURNAL 11-15-25

MARKER FOR HOMESTEAD

0-11-13-25
Large Stone From Old Capitol

With Bronze Tablet To Be

Set Up at Freeman Place.

BEATRICE, Neb., Nov. 12.—The site of the first homestead in the United States will be marked with a large stone marker and bronze tablet. This will be put up on the farm of Daniel Freeman, near here. A delegation of five women from the Beatrice chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution came to Lincoln Thursday and selected a stone among those from the old capitol at Lincoln.

Mr. Freeman applied for a homestead just after midnight of the day the homestead law went into effect. He had selected his land and had improved it somewhat before the law was enacted. Mr. Freeman is now dead but his son, LeClaire Freeman, survives.

336.45

Ne b

#129

The art work on the Nebraska state capitol is under way in four studios in New York city. The Goodhue Associates are finishing the detailed drawings for the Hall of Representatives. Lee Lawrie is doing the bronze doors for the main entrance, and thinking over the colossal heads for the tower. Mr. Tack is putting his whole heart into the paintings for the governor's reception room, and Miss Meiere is literally pouring her life blood into the colored tiling for the rotunda and the hall of state leading into it from the main entrance on the north. They all believe they are working on what is destined to be the greatest building in the world.

The designs for the tiled ceilings and walls are first drawn by the artist and then sent to the factory for the guidance of the artisans. Miss Meiere has in her uptown studio great sheets of designs for the ceilings and side panels. She spreads them out over the floor and broods over them. She is in constant communication with Dr. H. B. Alexander, who has prepared the general scheme for the inscriptions and decorations for the entire interior.

The rotunda of the capitol is 110 feet from the floor to the top of the vaulting. The problem is to decorate this dome so broadly as to be effective from the floor and at the same time to have enough detail to be worth while for artists to ascend to the balconies for a closer study. The idea now is to have eight great figures standing at the line where the vault begins to spring, their heads almost touching the crown of the rotunda. These are to represent the great virtues of the state. The colors will be celestial blue and gold.

The ceiling of the foyer connecting the northern entrance with the rotunda will contain three large medallions representing the traditions of the past, the life of the present, and the ideals of the future. The side panels will speak for labor, law, religion and public spirit. The large spaces under the windows will be left for mural paintings, which will not be done, probably, until the building is nearing completion.

The ceiling for the house of representatives is now being worked out in terms of Indian symbolism. Four is the sacred number of the Indians. There will be four circles on the ceiling, representing earth, air, fire and water. Indian agriculture will represent the earth, a Pawnee or Sioux eagle plumed warrior will represent the air, the council of peace will show fire and an equestrian buffalo hunt will bring in the water element. Acoustic tile will be worked in wherever possible in the ceiling and the walls of the legislative chambers. It has proven so valuable in the supreme court room and in the governor's hearing room that it is now considered indispensable to the comfort of the law making bodies.

W. O. I.

Journal
Jan. 29, 1926

336.45

Feb.

#130

Journal
Jan. 30, 1926.

Capitol Sculpture Attracts Attention

An indication of the interest being aroused by the Nebraska capitol in neighboring states is the comment of the art editor of the Rocky Mountain News, George William Eggers, upon Mr. Lawrie's sculpture as presented by Professor Alexander in an illustrated lecture before the Denver art museum recently.

"Doctor Alexander's lecture upon the capitol at Lincoln was profoundly impressive in many ways. Among these was its presentation of Lee Lawrie's sculpture for the building. For a long time we have had before the Denver public a suggestion for an art museum building, which should in its various parts carry the flavor of different architectural styles—the practical purpose of this peculiarity being that an art museum must become the proper setting for a wide variety of objects, produced in far separated places and periods. We are perfectly aware that this type of building group, handled in the right way, can be a harmonious whole, and any assertion that it cannot (in the absence of actual experimentation to prove it) is purely academic and theoretical.

"Lee Lawrie, in his work at Lincoln, has proven the principle of our contention, and proven it under

conditions of a far more difficult sort than those governing the building of a museum. He has retained the flavor of the sculpture of each appropriate period in each of the portrait statues with which he had adorned the judicial unit of the building, tho this has involved adorning a single portion of the structure with sculptures in the Egyptian manner, in the Assyrian, in the classic, the Gothic, the renaissance and the modern. And he has shown that by a maintaining of the big essentials—Gothic, the renaissance and the scale of parts—there is as much harmony among the figures as the situation calls for—just as, despite the fact that the faces are of all types, from Egyptian to modern European, one does not think of a lack of 'harmony' among the portrait themes of the same statues."

The lecture on Masterpieces of American Indian Art, delivered at the same Museum, also invited comment. The lecturer showed, says Mr. Eggers, "astonishing examples of work in practically every field of visual art. Two or three of the finest drawings ever made of horses came from a Sioux Indian of some twenty-five years ago. Peruvian pottery, which might be confused with the Greek, such was its perfection of technic, and Mexican

carving, in some cases showing the repose of the Egyptian and in others the grace of the Japanese, gave a new idea to many hearers, of the standards of the art produced upon the American continent—probably without foreign influence of any kind. He also showed Indian costume, seen in the open or in the forest, becoming peculiarly a part of its environment—the very essence of a harmony of man with nature.

"From the examples shown by Professor Alexander with their suggestions of the arts of the most divers countries, one is compelled to admit that such theories as the one that Mexico was ever in close contact either with China or with Egypt seem less plausible than the theory that under roughly similar conditions the human mind will evolve roughly similar expressions anywhere. The speaker pointed out that these early Americans had achieved a more perfect accord with their environment than we of the present day have done and he dwelt especially upon the fact that their art was sprung from the soil—from the conditions of their life and was in a sense a formulation of those conditions—an interpretation of them to the Indian's consciousness."

336.45

Feb

#131

Star
Feb. 7, 1926

Huge Beams Here for Beginning Of Work On New Capitol Tower

Star 2-7-26
Thirty-six immense steel beams, averaging 15 tons each in weight, are to be put in place during the next two or three weeks as the first detail of construction work on the great central tower of Nebraska's new capitol. They will rest on the huge concrete piles already sunk below the basement floor level, and will themselves be encased in massive walls of concrete to be poured around them.

The beams, which will constitute the main support of the tower, were recently unloaded into the pit, where excavation work and sinking concrete shafts down to the Dakota sandstone base have been in progress since last summer. They average 14 feet in length, and the largest of them weigh 18 tons—36,000 pounds—apiece. They are handled by derricks, several of which have been set up in the pit and on the banks above it.

The tower will rise 400 feet above the top of the steel uprights in the basement. It is to be 80 feet square with steel framework to carry the walls above the rest of the building. From the ground floor to the top of the inside dome—something over 100 feet—the construction is to be of concrete, brick and stone,

with heavy steel reinforcing. Manager Frazer, in charge of the building operations for the J. H. Wiese Co., expects to see work begin on the superstructure of the interior section of the capitol before the end of February. The job has been carried along during the winter on the schedule that was laid out in advance. As the weather grows milder it will be possible to speed things up. The east and north wings of the inner cross will probably be the first to rise above ground level.

To expedite the handling of all kinds of materials, the contractor has purchased 2,000 feet of movable narrow gauge railroad track, together with a dozen small cars and a gasoline engine to haul them. This is special equipment provided for the capitol job, but it can be used afterward on other contracts.

Structural steel, brick and other materials will be brought in from the outside and distributed over the narrow gauge tracks, laid on top of the first floor, to be lifted by the derricks to places in the walls where they are needed. When the walls at one place are built up to the desired height, the tracks will be moved so as lead to the other points.

TREASURER AS FARMER

Q-2-16-26
INSISTS ON SPROUTING CABBAGE IN HIS OFFICE

Head Janitor of \$9,000,000 Capitol Orders Boxes of Earth Removed From Waxed Linoleum Floor

Shall a state officer be allowed to sprout cabbage and tomato plants in his office in what will some day be a \$9,000,000 capitol? This question was raised Monday when Janitor William Dean received orders to take four small wooden boxes filled with earth out of a vacant room at the east end of the suite occupied by Charles D. Robinson, state treasurer.

The question has not yet reached Governor McMullen, custodian of the capitol, but it is on its way thru a line of red tape. It has not yet reached Charles B. Pirie, custodian in fact and state purchasing agent under appointment by the governor. It has got as far as James W. Isherwood, who is directly under Mr. Pirie. Mr. Isherwood is electrician, engineer and foreman of the janitorial force at the capitol. He directed Janitor Dean to remove the boxes from the unused room of the state treasurer's suite. Mr. Dean received opposite instructions from Treasurer Robinson. Then Mr. Isherwood had a talk with the treasurer.

"I am responsible for my offices," said the treasurer, and neither Mr. Pirie nor the governor can tell me what I can do and what I cannot do in my own offices."

Mr. Isherwood gave up his efforts and the sprouting is going on. Wooden boxes containing earth, planted to cabbage and tomato seed, are moistened with water when the hot southern sun shining thru a window indicates more water. The boxes stand on waxed battleship green linoleum. They stand a foot or two from the low windowsill looking out upon a court yard. The position, facing a south window, is considered an ideal one for sprouting cabbage and tomato seed. Treasurer Robinson sowed the seed only last Saturday. In his leisure hours he sits at his desk smoking his pipe, content and happy in the thought that the seed are surely coming to life in the warm sunlight. The room where the sprouting is going on is one

assigned to the state normal board, with the consent of the state treasurer, and that board uses it quarterly for a meeting place.

Animals Barred from Capitol.
The keeping of rabbits and guinea pigs in the new capitol has been prohibited, much to the dismay of Secretary Frost of the department of public welfare, who needs these animals close at hand for use in the laboratory of the bureau of health. They were kept in the lower part of the dome in the old building, but are banned from the new.

Three blocks away from the state treasurer's office as the crow doesn't fly, corn is sprouted, but it is grown in copper and water tight zinc trays and cabinets for the benefit of farmers who desire seed corn tested as to its germinating qualities. This sprouting takes place in the department of agriculture in the south section of the capitol. The cabinets are so made that the floors are protected from moisture.

Treasurer Robinson is not growing cabbage and tomatoes with the expectation that a federal export board will be provided by congress to handle his surplus and give him American prices for what he has left after dumping the surplus upon Europe. He is not doing it to help the farmer, but to satisfy a craving for agricultural pursuits. He expects to raise his plants in his garden in Lincoln. Mr. Robinson is not a descendant of the Knickerbockers who raised cabbage in their front yards in New Amsterdam which is now New York city. He was reared amid the rock bound hills and rills of Pennsylvania where much of the land is so rocky that grain must be injected into the earth with a shot gun. He migrated to Cripple Creek, Colo., when a young man. Passing thru the fertile plains of Nebraska he resolved if he ever got back from the mountains he would return to Nebraska and devote a part of his life to raising cabbage and things. After Cripple Creek reverted to its original orthopedic condition he got as far back as Red Cloud, Neb., and was elected state treasurer. He is now serving his second term in that office and is not a candidate for reelection, the state constitution prohibiting more than two successive terms.

Treasurer Robinson is under a \$1,000,000 bond to faithfully perform his duty. He feels it his duty to sprout cabbage and tomatoes in his office. There are things which a bonding company objects to a state treasurer doing, but thus far none has ever denied him the right to grow cabbage in his office.

On the other hand Governor McMullen is legal custodian of the new capitol and is under \$50,000 bond to perform his duty. The

statute authorizes him to preserve it "from injury or deterioration." The capitol is still in no man's land so far as the law relating to control of state property is concerned. It is not designated in any statute as being under any one's control, since the code law of 1919 contain-

ed a repealing clause wiping out the former statute which made the board of educational lands and funds custodian of the capitol.

Section 4827, compiled statutes of 1922, makes the governor custodian of the capitol. It says:

"The governor is hereby constituted the legal custodian of all the property of the state not specially entrusted to other officers by law; and he is hereby authorized and empowered to take summary possession of such property of the state without any process of law, and to adopt such measures as he may deem proper to preserve it from injury or deterioration."

Journal
Feb. 16, 1926

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#133

FAN ROOM FLOOR LAID IN CAPITOL

This Room Is to Contain Ventilating Equipment—Bridge on the East to Come

9-3 Down - 26
The concrete floor in the "fan room" in the new capitol has been poured and is now setting. The fan room is not a room where state officers and employes may come to be fanned when the weather is around 100 degrees. They need not leave their offices to get the benefit of the fan room. It is a room in the basement in the second section of the new building directly north of the foundation for the tower. It is to be equipped with a ventilating system connected with the entire building when it is finished. Drafts of the proper kind are to be wafted into offices thruout the structure and sucked out again to be replaced with fresh air for the benefit of state officers and employes while they are doubled over the desks at work. Workmen were busy Monday smoothing down and tamping earth in the east section of the basement preparatory to covering it with cement.

Concrete has been poured for practically all piers and foundation walls, except about 100 feet of wall on the south side of the second section. Steel workers are putting up steel piers and beams and braces in the base of the tower. Most of this steel is to be deeply imbedded in concrete piers yet to be poured.

The railroad track which enters the opening in the outer walls of the east side of the building was being torn up Monday afternoon. One heavy bridge which held this track just inside the walls on the north side of the opening is also to be removed. In place of this standard gauge track an industrial track three feet wide is to be built. Small cars will be used to carry building material to the walls or into the enclosure. The railroad track entering the opening in the walls on the west side of the building is to be used in its present position or possibly near by. Brick and dressed Bedford stone have been unloaded ready to be moved on small cars or by derricks and crane to the outer or interior walls. The bridge over the east opening in the walls is to be torn down sometime this week. This will further increase the walking distances when officials in the north and south sections desire to confer with each other. Pleasant weather will be taken advantage of to push all kinds of work on the new capitol.

State Journal
March 2, 1926

#134

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Star 3-21-26

LEGISLATURE MAY BE WITHOUT HALL

Star 3-21-26
Only Rough Masonry Enclosure Of House Chamber To Be Ready By 1927.

Senate Will Have to Use Makeshift Quarters Or Rented Space.

Where will the Nebraska legislature of 1927 hold its sessions when the time arrives for it to assemble, only a little over nine months in the future?

This question is beginning to receive serious consideration at the capitol, where the idea has begun to dawn on state officials that the central portion of the new building, now under construction, will be only half completed by next January.

The new house chamber, located in the east leg of the interior cross, will probably be enclosed by rough walls of masonry some time during the fall, but there is no possibility of getting it "dolled up" with decorative finishings before the legislature meets. If it is to be used, the members will have to be satisfied with rather barnlike surroundings.

All available rooms for committee meetings will present the same appearance. The legislators, moreover, will have to put up with all kinds of distracting noises from construction work going on around them, and with makeshift stairs and passageways. There will be no luxurious lounging or smoking rooms, such as are provided for in the plans of the completed capitol.

Senate Chamber Last.

As for the senate, it will not even have the bare walls of its future chamber. That hall is not to be constructed until the third section of the capitol is built.

The contractor has until the end of 1927 to finish work on the second section and turn it over to the state. The third section will include the high central tower, above the rest of the building, and the leg running westward from the central rotunda. The tower will have to be erected first, as all ma-

terials must be hauled in by rail from the west. This means that the senate chamber will come last. It may not be available even for the 1929 legislative session.

It is evident, therefore, that some other meeting place must be provided for the senate. Possibly it could be accommodated next year in the large room adjoining the house chamber, intended ultimately as a lounging place for the representatives. It might, as an alternative, be permitted to occupy the second supreme court room, in the south leg of the interior cross, if the work there should be far enough along. Or, it might be relegated to one of the large rooms on the ground floor of the completed portion of the capitol now in use, with a few other rooms for its secretary's office, its engrossing and enrolling room, and other auxiliaries.

Would Retard Affairs.

If none of these makeshifts will do, the senate must go outside of the capitol and transact its business in rented space. As there is no suitable building for the purpose near the capitol, this would place the two branches so far apart as to retard legislation a good deal. It is probable, if the house should occupy its own chamber, that the senate will also meet somewhere in the capitol.

"We are working ahead with a view to having construction far enough along at the east end so that the house can work there," said W. L. Younklin, superintendent of building operations. "As for the senate, I don't know what can be done for it, if anything. The contractor must reserve the central part of the building and the north and south legs of the cross to keep his activities going through the winter. He cannot give up anything more than the east end to the legislature, and even at that it will be pretty noisy for the solons. We will do the best we can for them, and they will have to stand for some unpleasant features."

Another thing which has to be looked out for in advance is providing furniture for the use of the two legislative branches. A lot of the desks and chairs used in the old capitol were taken home by members of the house last winter. The senate stuff has been turned over to the state welfare department and is being utilized for holding professional examinations. It might possibly be secured for next winter's sessions of the senate, but other equipment must be supplied for the house. There is a special contingency fund of \$25,000, appropriated by the last legislature, at Governor McMullen's disposal, which could be drawn upon for that purpose.

The capitol commission, of which the governor is chairman, will give its special attention to the matter of providing places for the house and senate to meet, before the time arrives for their assembling.

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#135

World-Herald
Mar. 26, 1926

B. G. GOODHUE'S WIDOW VISITS STATE CAPITOL

113-21-26
Says Architect Considered Building the Greatest Accomplishment of His Career.

Lincoln, Neb., March 25 (AP).—Mrs. Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue of New York, wife of the architect who designed the Nebraska capitol, today visited what she considers the greatest of all shrines to her husband's memory.

She was accompanied by Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander of the University of Nebraska.

Mrs. Goodhue declared the supreme court chamber is the most beautifully designed room of its kind in the country.

On the wall of the court room, behind the bench, is the inscription of the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus, which reads: "Eyes and Ears are Poor Witnesses when the Soul is Barbarous."

"Mr. Goodhue would rejoice at this; it is the most significant inscription in the Nebraska capitol," declared Dr. Alexander.

Mrs. Goodhue said she believed that the reproductions and prospectus of the new nine million dollar state house, which is about half completed, give no idea of the beauty of the building.

She said that her late husband considered the building the greatest accomplishment of his career. Second in this respect, Mrs. Goodhue said, was the Los Angeles library which Mr. Goodhue designed.

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#136

Journal

Mar. 31, 1926

The public knows very little about it, but the artists who have been commissioned to decorate the new capitol are diligently at work preparing the designs for the central part of the building now under contract. The foyer leading from the north entrance and the rotunda are to be enriched with colored tile, worked into designs symbolizing the life and aspirations of the people of Nebraska. Miss Meiera, who prepares the cartons for the tile manufacturers, has devoted her whole time for weeks to the plans for these two apartments. She has made literally hundreds of sketches and is just now bringing them to a finished state after infinite labor and pains.

The general plan of the art work was first laid out by Mr. Goodhue when he finished the architectural drawings. He called in Dr. Hartley Alexander to arrange a scenario for the decoration in the great apartments. Miss Meiera was selected to do the sketches for the tile work. Dr. Alexander decided on the spiritual theme for each room, the harvest for the north entrance, the present, the past and the ideals of the future for the foyer, and so on. The artist would draw thumb nail sketches and submit them to Dr. Alexander for approval. Then they would be enlarged and submitted again. Change after change has been made, the artist working in closest sympathy with the scholar, and further changes will be made until the designs are considered perfect. Then the tile makers will take the cartons and burn in the colors that are to stand on the walls of the capitol for centuries, it is hoped.

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JOURNAL 4-3-26

#137

NO HOME FOR THE LEGISLATURE YET

4-3-26
State Officials Face Problem of Housing the 1927 Lawmakers Since Capitol Is Unfinished.

Present prospects are that the 1927 state legislature will convene here with a pocketful of bills and no place to meet.

State officials are now facing such a situation which has arisen out of the expressed improbability that the east wing of the new \$9,000,000 state house, which will contain the house of representatives, will not be completed by next January.

The west wing, which will house the senate, will not be erected until the 400-foot tower is completed. This is made necessary for the transportation of material into the inner area of the capitol building. Contractors have until the end of 1927 to finish the second section of the capitol. This includes the east wing and the base of the tower. The third section will include the high central tower, above the rest of the building, and the branch running westward from the central rotunda to the west wing. This means that the senate chamber will be built last. It may not be available even for the 1929 legislature.

Governor McMullen, it is understood, is one of the few state officers who have entertained hopes that the east wing may be erected and fitted up to accommodate the 1927 lower house. State Engineer Roy Cochran expressed the same hope. There is a possibility, was his comment.

W. L. Younkin, architectural engineer in charge of operations, said that efforts will be made to finish the east wing roughly so that the lower house might be able to hold a session there. As yet there has been no arrangements made to accommodate Nebraska's thirty-three senators.

There is a possibility that the senate might be able to use a large room adjoining the house chamber, intended ultimately as a lounging room for the representatives. Another suggestion for a makeshift senate chamber is the use of the second supreme court room, in the south leg of the interior cross, should it be completed in time.

In the event that none of these suggestions can be carried out it will probably be necessary for the upper branch of the assembly to transact its business in rented space. As there is no suitable building near the capitol, this would place the two legislative branches so far apart as to retard legislation.

Another problem, that of furniture, confronts the state government in making preparations for the legislature.

Many desks and chairs used in the old capitol were taken home by members of the 1925 session. The senate furniture has been turned over to the state welfare department and is being utilized for holding professional examinations. This furniture might be used for the senate again, but other equipment must be provided for the house.

The capitol commission will be called together soon to consider the problem and make at least tentative arrangements to accommodate the Nebraska lawmakers.

Construction on the east wing is progressing rapidly, however. Excavation work is well under way and it is expected that the concrete beams will be sunk within the next few weeks. The steel frame work will then be placed in position. If the wing can be prepared to accommodate the house members, said Mr. Younkin, it will be only in the "rough."

"The members might be bothered with the noise of construction work during the session but they will have to put up with it," he declared. "We will do the best we can for them. I am working on the problem of the east wing construction at present. I will probably know definitely by August whether the unit can be completed to the extent that the legislators may occupy it by January, 1927."

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Feb
#138

STAR 4-13-26

ERECT COLUMNS CAPITOL TOWER

Star-4-13-26
Steel Supports Being Placed
In First Of Wall Above
Ground Level.

Some of the heavy steel columns which will help support the 400-foot central tower of the new state capitol were put in place Tuesday in the walls rising above the ground level. These rest upon massive piers of steel and concrete recently constructed in the basement, which, in turn, are carried by shafts of concrete running down 25 or 30 feet to the bed of sandstone.

The columns now being put up will be embedded in masonry and concrete, but will not carry much of the weight in the walls extending up to the top of the inside dome. Their chief function will be to hold up the tower itself, rising nearly 300 feet higher.

Laying of cut stone for the outside walls of the interior section of the capitol will start this week. These blocks are 4 to 8 inches thick, laid alternately. After two courses of them have been put in place, brick backing is laid, then two more courses will be added above, and so on.

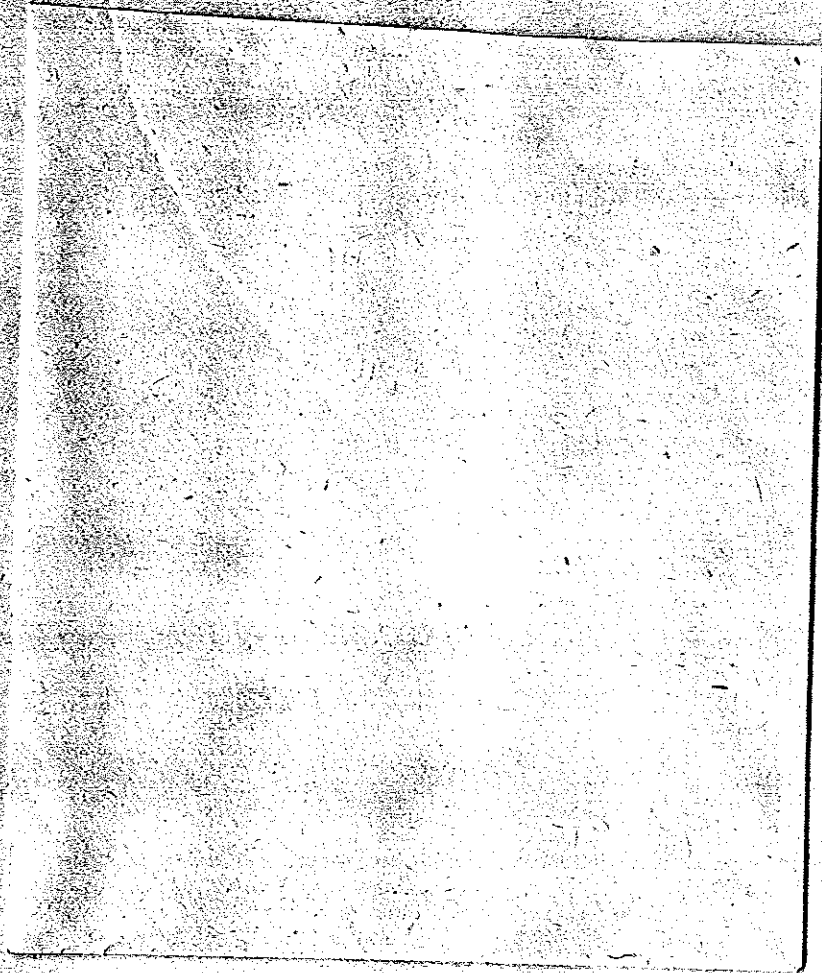
Most of the ground level floor is now completed, and industrial railroad track will soon be laid upon it to haul materials.

Liberty, Theme of New Capital Sculpture N.H. 5-2-26

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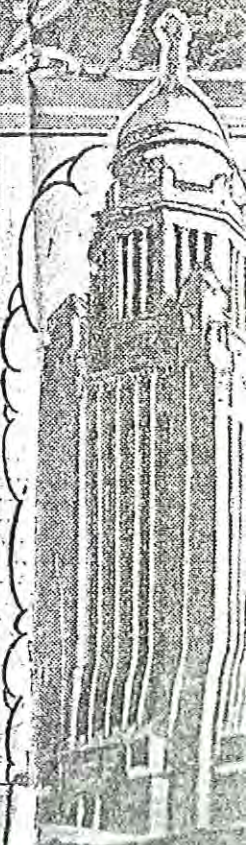
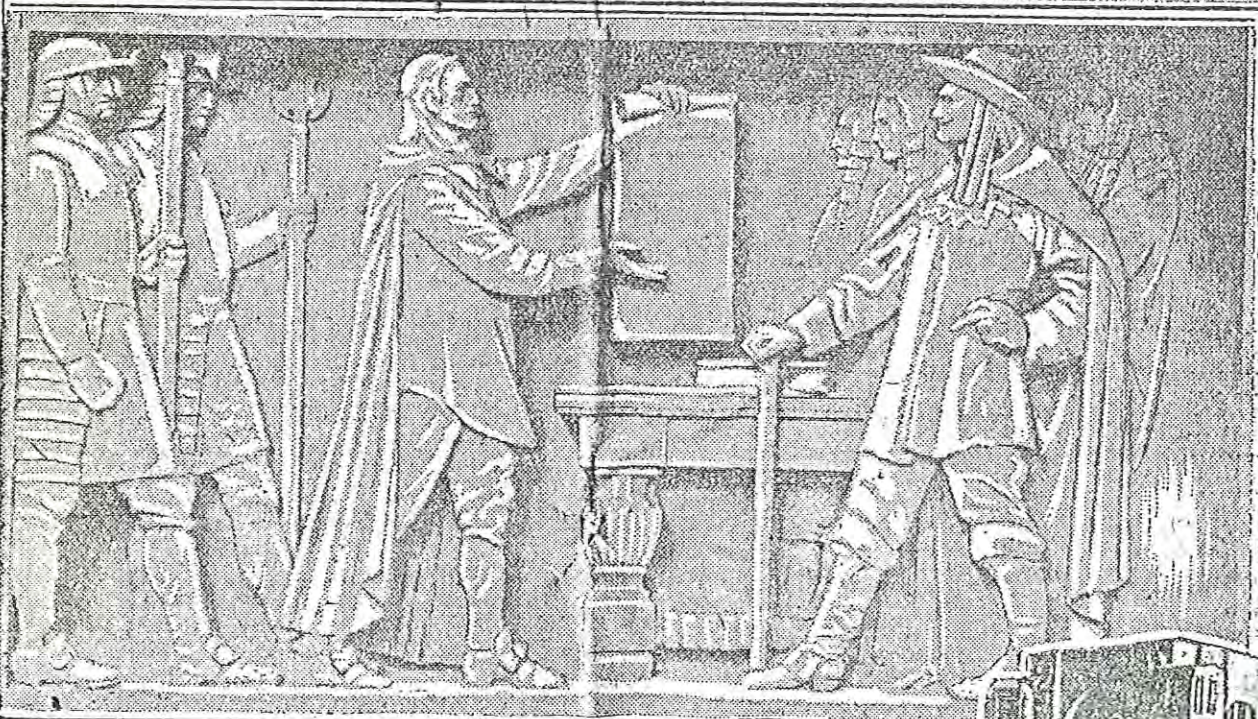
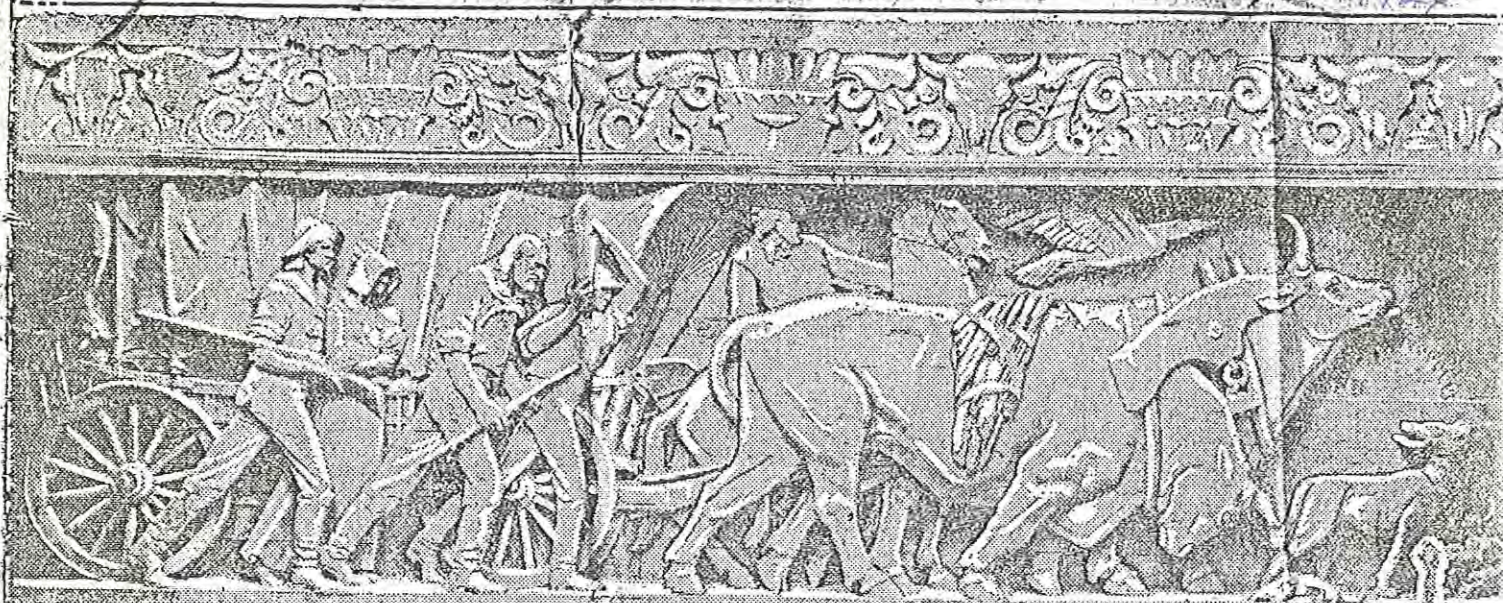
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MAGAZINE
SECTION

Sunday World

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, MAY 2, 1926

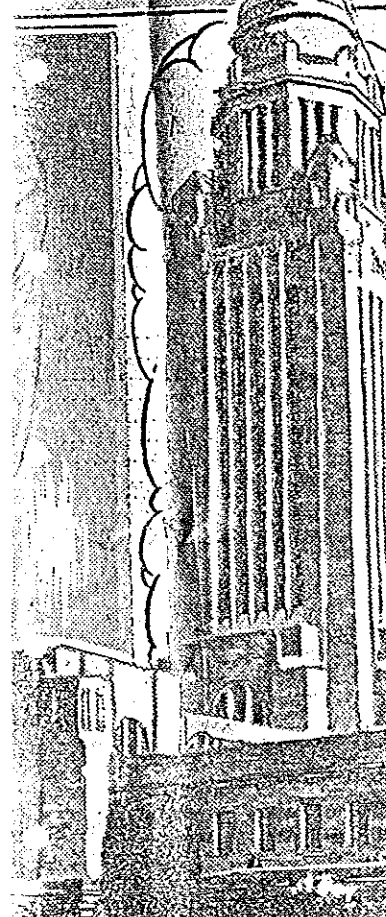
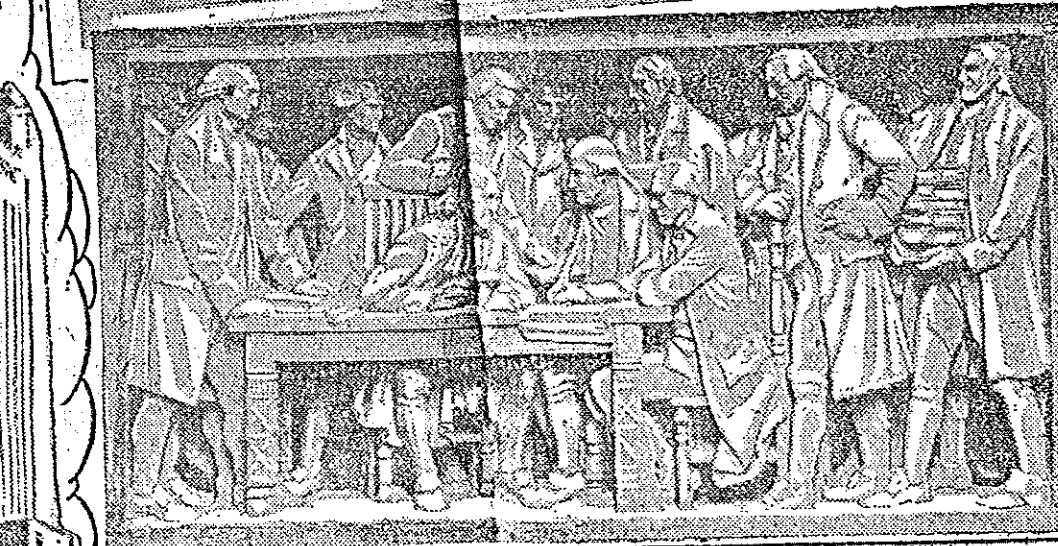
1926



Panels Depict Great Scenes and Moments in History; One the Signing of Declara-

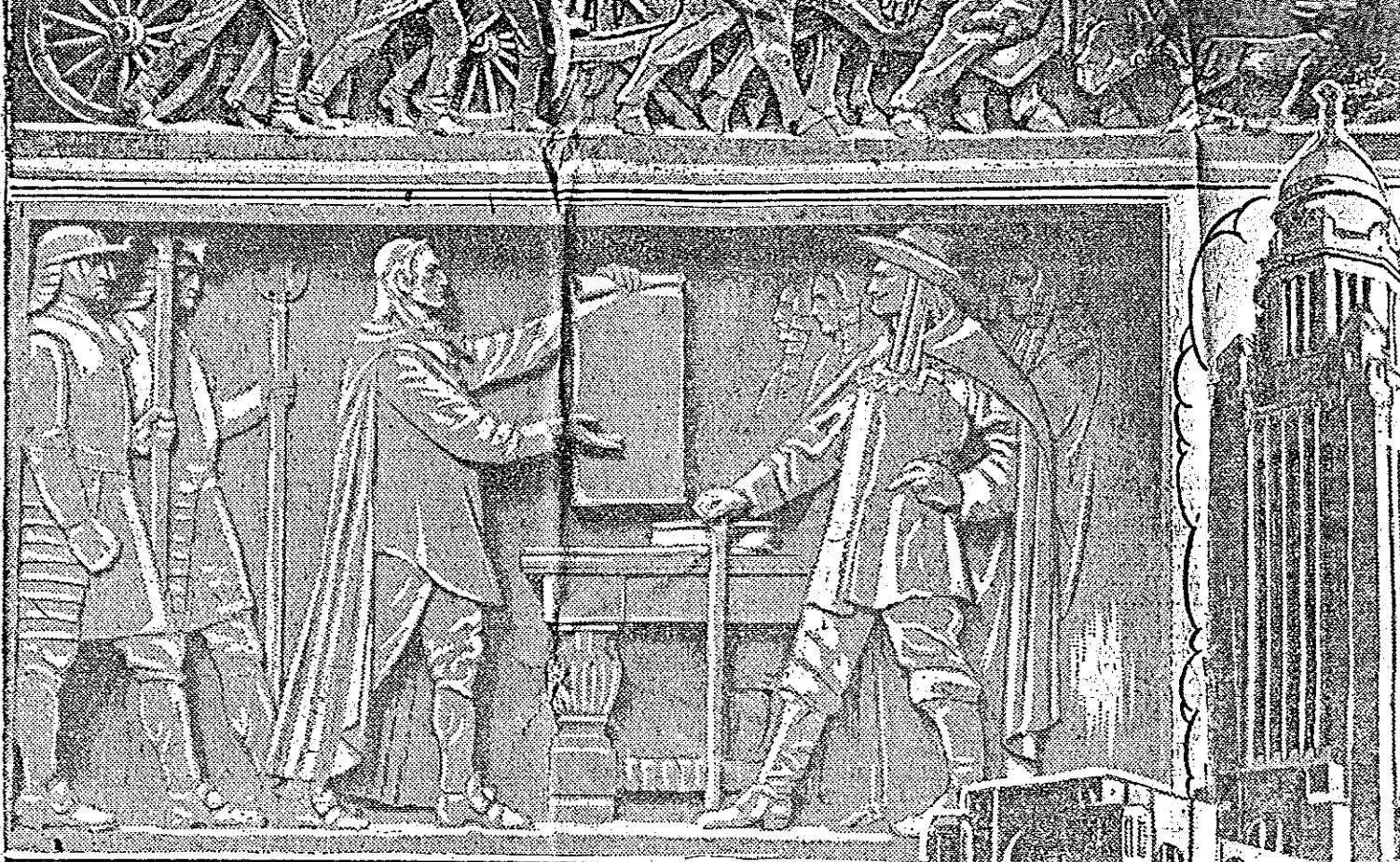
NEBRASKA, MAY 2, 1926.

Liberty, Theme of New Capitol Sculpture



grown feeble, he had to sit down and clutch his stick, but the light in his face was stronger than ever.

The remaining panel, the largest of them all, is perhaps the most striking of these epics on liberty. It is over the marble entrance. Across the prairie, striving toward the setting sun, goes the covered wagon, borne on by hope and heroism, into the wilderness to found an unseen empire, unseen by eyes only and not in



Panels Depict Great Scenes and Moments in History; One the Signing of Declaration of Independence—Another the Covered Wagon of Pioneer

BY LEO J. RYAN

IF future governments of Nebraska, through the next two or three hundred years, are led astray from the pathways of political liberty and the politico-religious doctrine of human right, it will not be because the ikons have been wandering to point the way to set up the atmosphere.

Everybody expects Nebraska's new capitol to be standing three hundred years from now—else why are we spending nine million dollars on it, without even a wry face? And the sculpture on the capitol is certainly bathed in the idea of political liberty. So much as has been completed thus far has no other theme. What's yet to come is only maybe; the designs are not yet approved, but it is quite likely that the liberty theme will be preserved.

There are eight panels on the upper corners of the building, two panels to a corner. Only five of these are completed. Going back to the most remotely traditional of the five, a panel depicting Moses bringing the tablets of the Ten Commandments down from Mount Sinai, there is the ancient precedent for law-giving, and no doubt this panel acts as a sobering influence on all the others, where liberty more directly holds forth, an influence sobering with its reminder that liberty without law is anarchy, just as surely as law without liberty is tyranny.

FAMOUS COURT OF THE AREOPAGUS

Another panel shows the Areopagus, the famous court of ancient Athens, where the

Upper Left—Caravan of the Pioneers. Upper Right—The Signing of the Great Free Speech. Lower Right—Signing of the Declaration of Independence. Below—Photographs of the panels are by R. V. Smatny, Lincoln. The picture of the capitol

judges sat upon the top of a small mountain and to which any person might go after justice, to find it in varying degrees of perfection, for the court lasted several hundred years.

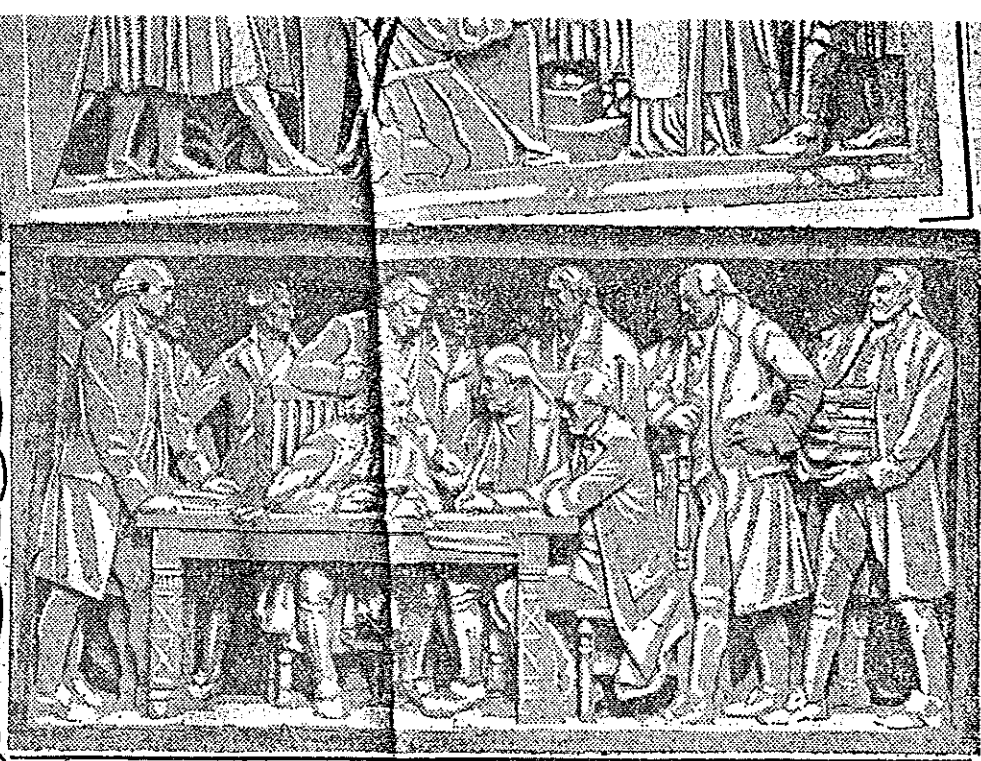
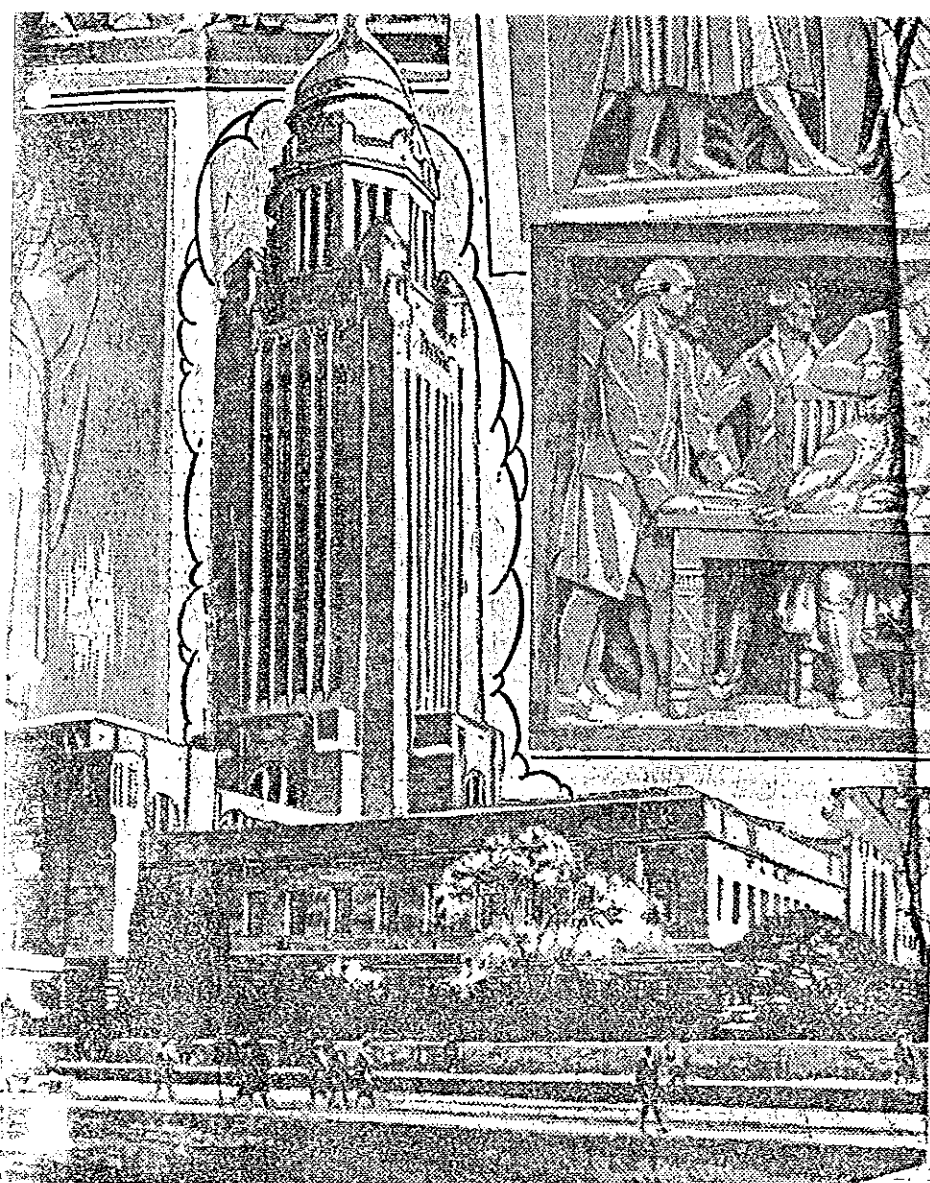
Liberty and equality for women, only so recently realized in politics, is glorified in another panel which shows the great Deborah judging Israel. The story of Deborah in the Bible, Judges IV and V, is a bit condensed, but it leaves no doubt but that she was a howling success in her day and a credit to woman-kind that looks to achievement on its own. For Deborah was a great fighter, able totally to overwhelm the Canaanites and to call the forces of Nature to her aid equally as well as did the man, Joshua, who made the sun stand still—if you are a fundamentalist. The historians, who are always taking the joy and the romance out of life, now doubt very much whether Deborah ever actually judged Israel, but the ladies won't care about that. She was also a poet, and very probably wrote the "To Deum," one of the best sellers of all literature for a few thousand years, and she could fight; so why worry about whether she ever actually held police court? Another panel shows Milton defending free

speech, which was even a more daring thing to do in his day than it is in the United States at the present time. It took more nerve to defend free speech in seventeenth century London than it does to defend it today in Passaic, N. J., where all they do is send you to jail for talking about it. So when the Nebraska legislature, tired of talk and desiring action, begins to consider clothes on debate, be serious, sober John up there on the outside wall, his arm flung back with a St. George-the-Dragon gesture, battling for liberty and restrained chlamusic.

It will not be forgotten, of course, that Milton is also the father of divorce courts, a manhood no less distinguished because it is accepted for a very personal reason; that is, say, because things at home weren't going too well, and be and Mrs. Milton had reached the point where alimony seemed a most peculiar relief.

FIGURE OF OLD DOCTOR FRANKLIN

In following the chronological order from Moses down, we had forgotten the panel which for people who speak English or something that passes for it, is undoubtedly the most



Right—The Signing of the Great Charter. Lower Left—Milton Defending the Declaration of Independence. Below—The Capitol as it will look when completed. Lincoln. The picture of the capitol is by Bostwick.

... which was even a more daring thing in his day than it is in the United States present time. It took more nerve to deliver a speech in seventeenth century London than it does to defend it today in Passaic, where all they do is send you to jail talking about it. So when the Nebraska legislature, tired of talk and desiring action, to consider clotures on debate, behold a sober John up there on the outside with his arm flung back with a St. George-and-wagon gesture, battling for liberty and unlined chin-music.

... not be forgotten, of course, that Milton was also the father of divorce courts, a paradox no less distinguished because it was based for a very personal reason; that is to say because things at home weren't going any well, and he and Mrs. Milton had reached a point where alimony seemed a most popular...

... OF OLD
... FRANKLIN.

... following the chronological order from down, we had forgotten the panel which, people who speak English or something passes for it, is undoubtedly the most sig-

nificant of them all. Back in 1215, in the damp fields of Runnymede, the angry barons of England finally cornered a scared king and forced from him the Great Charter of Right, and English law immediately began to be a humanly tolerable instead of a divinely despotic institution.

When King John affixed his signature, or his mark, to the Magna Charta—the scratch of pen may not have been heard around the world, but it is still being heard, more or less pleasantly through time, from Lexington to Dublin, and Moscow, and Dayton, and the Riff. Just over the south entrance to the capitol, sandwiched in between John Hancock signing the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the constitution of the United States, King John, elaborately attended, is still signing the Great Charter in stone and Runnymede still lives to direct Lincoln.

The panels of the signing of the Declaration and the constitution speak for themselves. An interesting picture brought out by the sculptor is the figure of old Dr. Franklin, the printer, in each panel. At the signing of the Declaration Franklin is vigorous and a moving spirit about the table; when the constitution was signed 13 years later the old philosopher had

grown feeble, he had to sit down and clutch his stick, but the light in his face was stronger than ever.

The remaining panel, the largest of them all, is perhaps the most striking of these epics on liberty. It is over the marble entrance. Across the prairie, striving toward the setting sun, goes the covered wagon, borne on by hope and heroism, into the wilderness to found an unseen empire, unseen by eyes only and not in spirit. What the pioneer spirit saw, what the pioneers' strong imaginations pictured for them, Nebraska people are enjoying now just as really as, perhaps even more really than, they are enjoying the fruits of the great dreams that Franklin had, and Jefferson, and Hancock, when the Declaration of Independence and the constitution were born. The pioneers were idealists, and idealists are not popular folks these days; but they had, with their dreams, the force and power and courage to work them out and to make them come true.

THE INFLUENCE OF ATMOSPHERE.

Into the depths of this covered wagon panel has been beaten a sheet of gold, something which was not in the original plan. But critics complained that the contrasts were not sharp enough to bring out the picture from a distance, and the gold was set in to cure the alleged defect. It gives at the same time golden glow to the western sky toward which the pioneers are striving, and even seems to light these strained faces with a brightening smile, which perhaps makes the picture better.

Besides these panels, the walls of the capitol are already well sprinkled with sculptured figures of individuals who played great parts in the story of freedom and civilization. These are figures of Moses, Akhenaten, Solon, Justinian, Hammurabi, Julius Caesar, Napoleon and Charlemagne, representing the great law-givers and generals, and many more will be added later as the building goes forward to completion.

So in this the taxpayer may feel secure: If the state government at Lincoln isn't run according to the best of democratic ideals, it won't be for the lack of atmosphere.

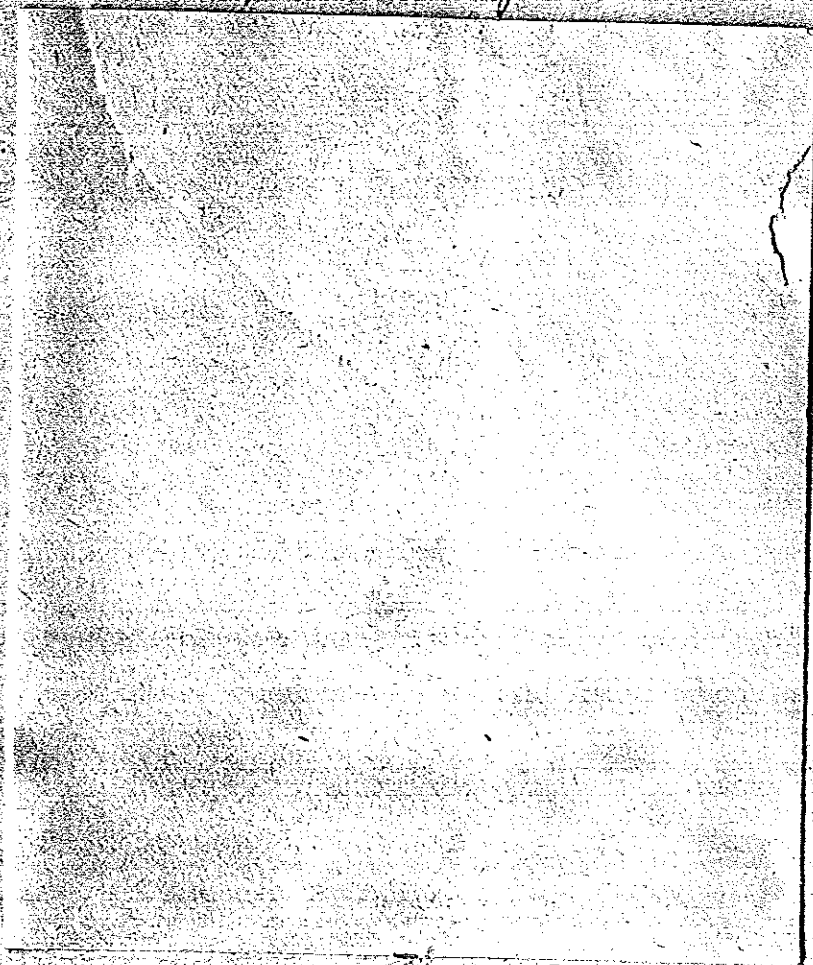
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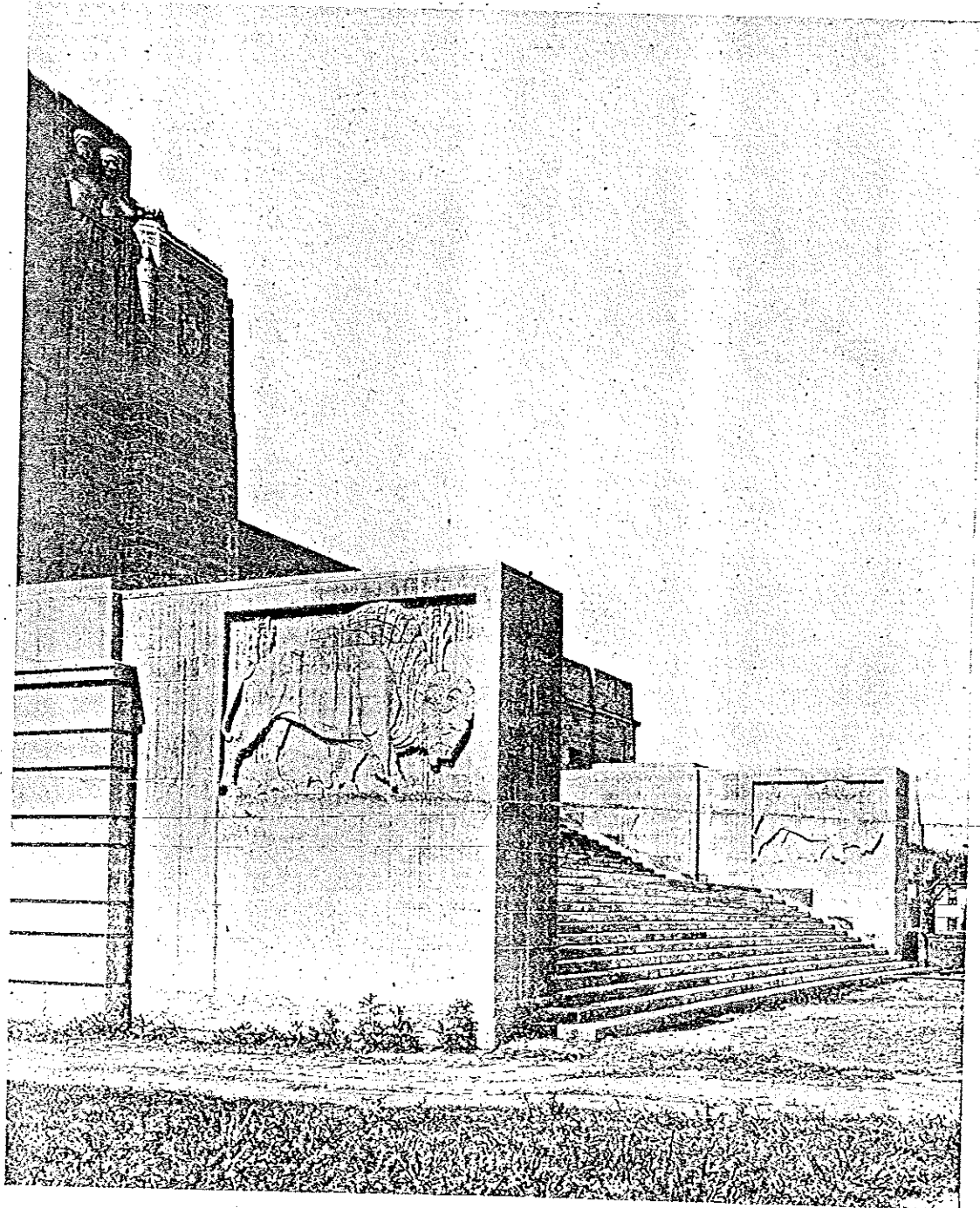
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New Capital big undertaking



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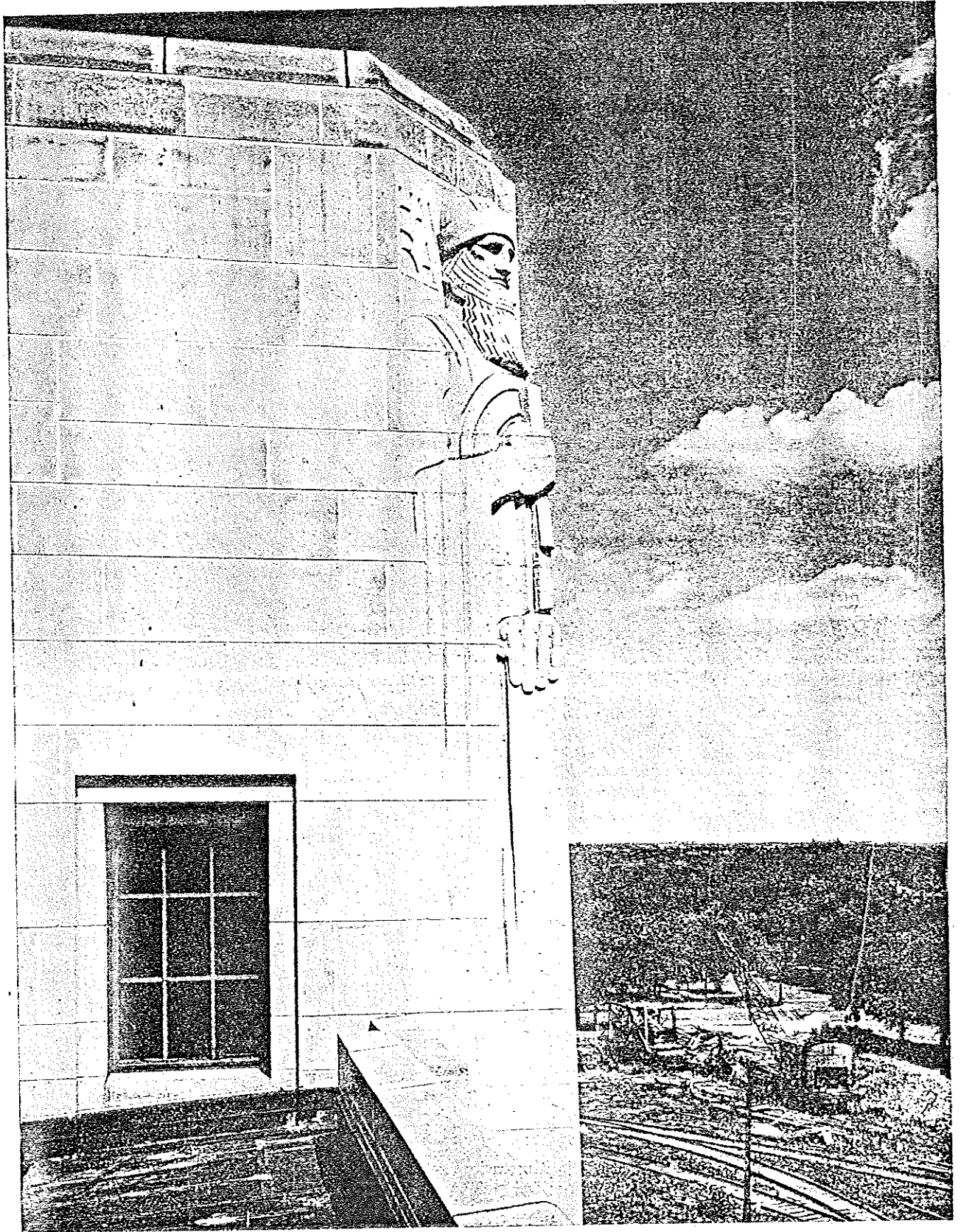
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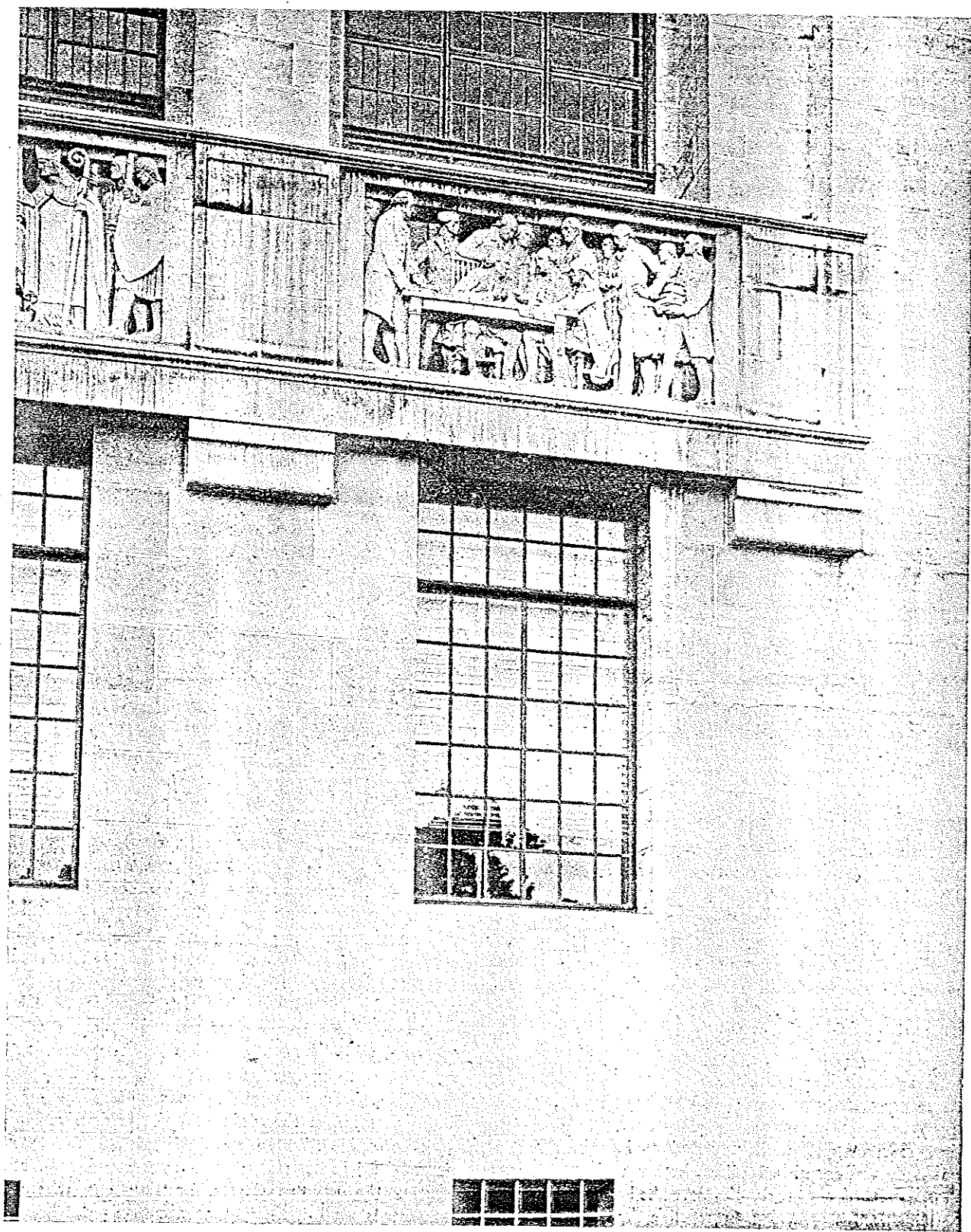
BALUSTRADE AND STEPS—MAIN ENTRANCE

The Architectural Sculpture of the Nebraska State Capitol

The above, together with the two illustrations immediately following, are selected from **THE ARCHITECTURAL SCULPTURE OF THE NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL**, by Charles Harris Whitaker and Hartley Burr Alexander, scheduled for publication by the Press of the American Institute of Architects, Inc., 20 October next.



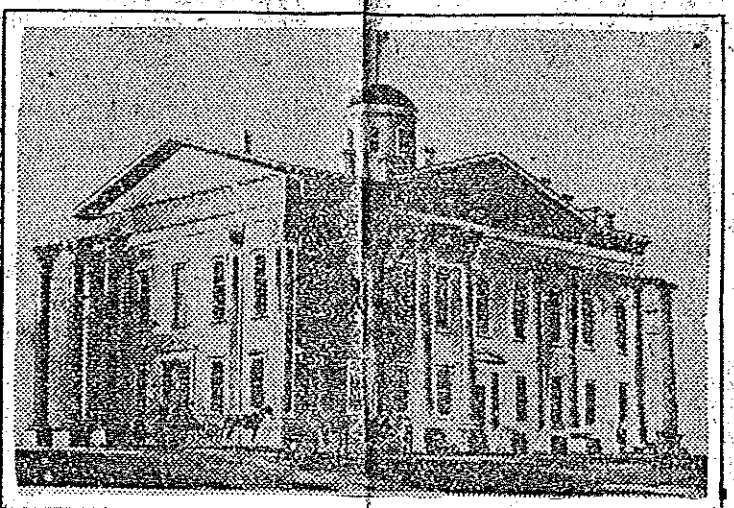
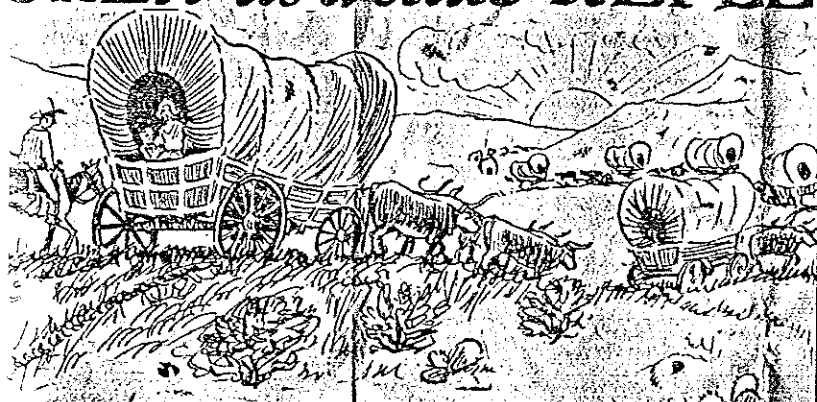
HAMMURABI
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL



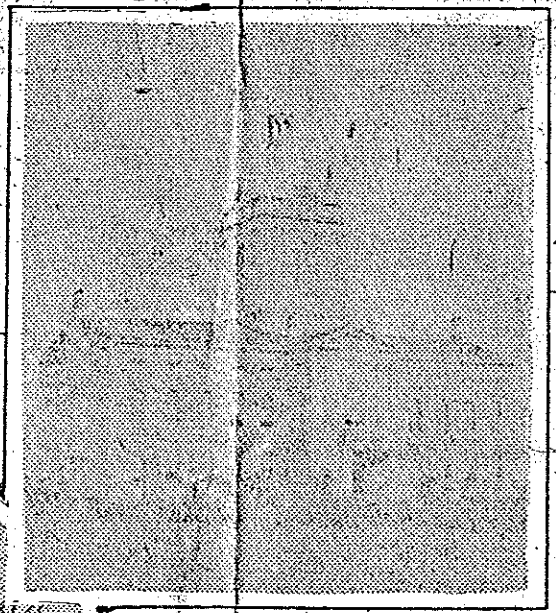
BALCONY PANEL—DRAFTING IN THE CONSTITUTION
NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL

...ry and took the oath of office on... who had been instructed to...
 ...ed. 20, 1855. He was a former... nounced "Mr. Speaker, the Governor...
 ...nister who owed his appointment... how approaching" forgot his lif...
 ...the political influence of Sena... He speech and presented the gov...
 ... on January 12, 1856. He... as governor for a short time, re...
 ...brought to the state the prestige and... signing in September of the same...
 ...impartiality of an outsider, which... year that he was appointed and...
 ...which was so much needed at this... leaving the following December. J.

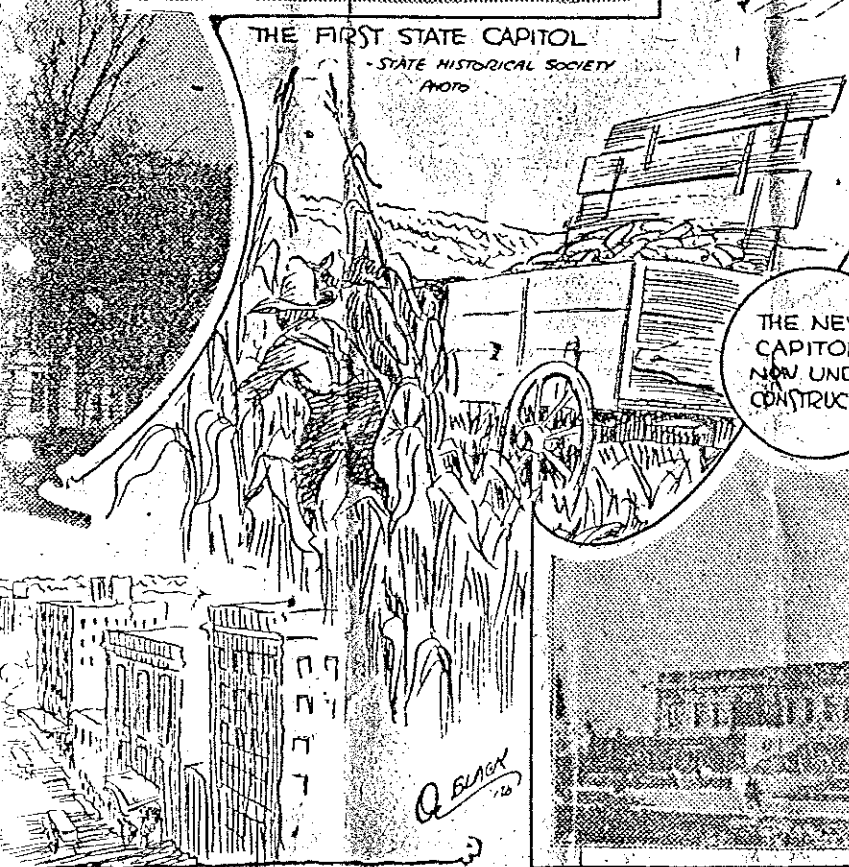
GRESS as a State REFLECTED in her CAPITOLS



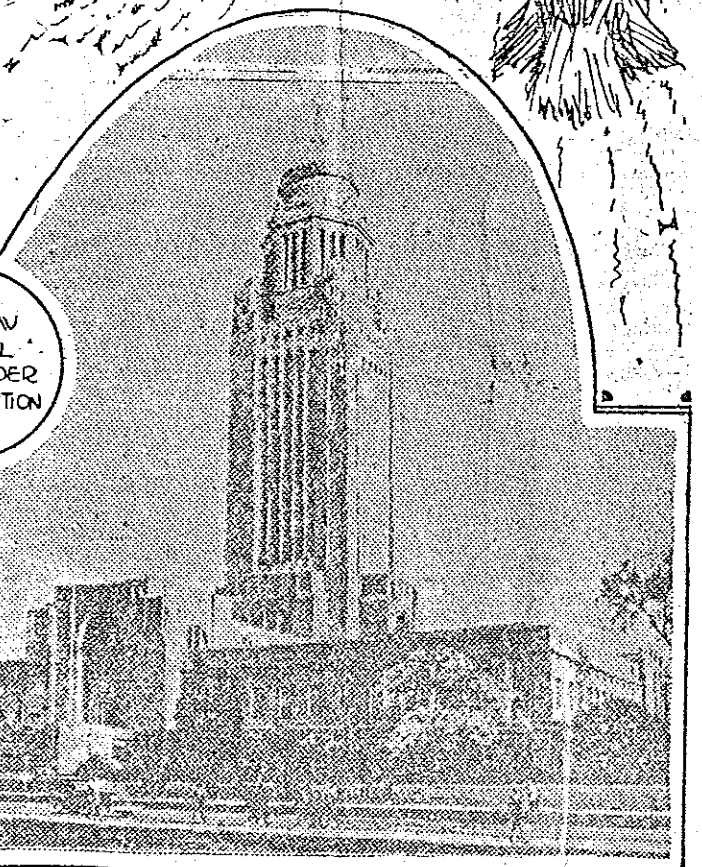
THE SECOND TERRITORIAL CAPITOL
 -STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO



THE FIRST STATE CAPITOL
 -STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY PHOTO



THE NEW CAPITOL
 NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION



A. BERRY

capitol is not being builded in a day.

This stone embodiment of Nebraska's statehood is a structure of the years. As the state has grown slowly but steadily through more than a half century, so is the great structure wherein is housed its government rising bit by bit, and rearing itself stone by stone toward the skies that bend over the prairies, slowly, to us who visualize the finished structure, but very steadily, to us who go away and return after a space of time.

We who pass the huge piles of brick and beams, the little circus track of railway and the panting engine, day after day can not realize the onward progress of the new capitol building. It seems the same today, as it was yesterday, that change is almost infinitesimal, that the capitol building must be a thing of the ages, instead of years.

Men Carving History.
And yet—one day we went by and the outer walls were in place. Another day, and men were carving the history of all time on the balustrades beside the great stone steps, over the arching doors, above the windows.

With scarcely a conscious thought of the building for months, we suddenly knew that the old gray building within that had stood like a ghost inside the new walls was gone. A little later, and the gaping opening between the eastern walls was closing permanently.

Watching Its Progress.
We have watched it grow from the first stone that was laid through work on the second section, well on toward the third. Yet, so quiet and unostentatious is time, so swift and so many the events of every life, that few can give the history of Nebraska's newest capitol, the building that is to stand for generations yet unborn.

"Um, the capitol was started about, lemme see. Yes, just about the time, I think,—or was it when—"

usual reaction to dates on the most epic structure.

The first concrete step toward providing a new home for the governmental activities was taken in 1907, when \$25,000 was appropriated to erect a building to house the supreme court, the state library, and the historical society's office and museum at Sixteenth and H streets, with the thought of leaving the executive and legislative departments to occupy the space of a future new capitol. The basement of the building was built, but its purpose failed of realization, as a second appropriation for the structure was vetoed by the governor in 1909.

Deferred Until 1919.

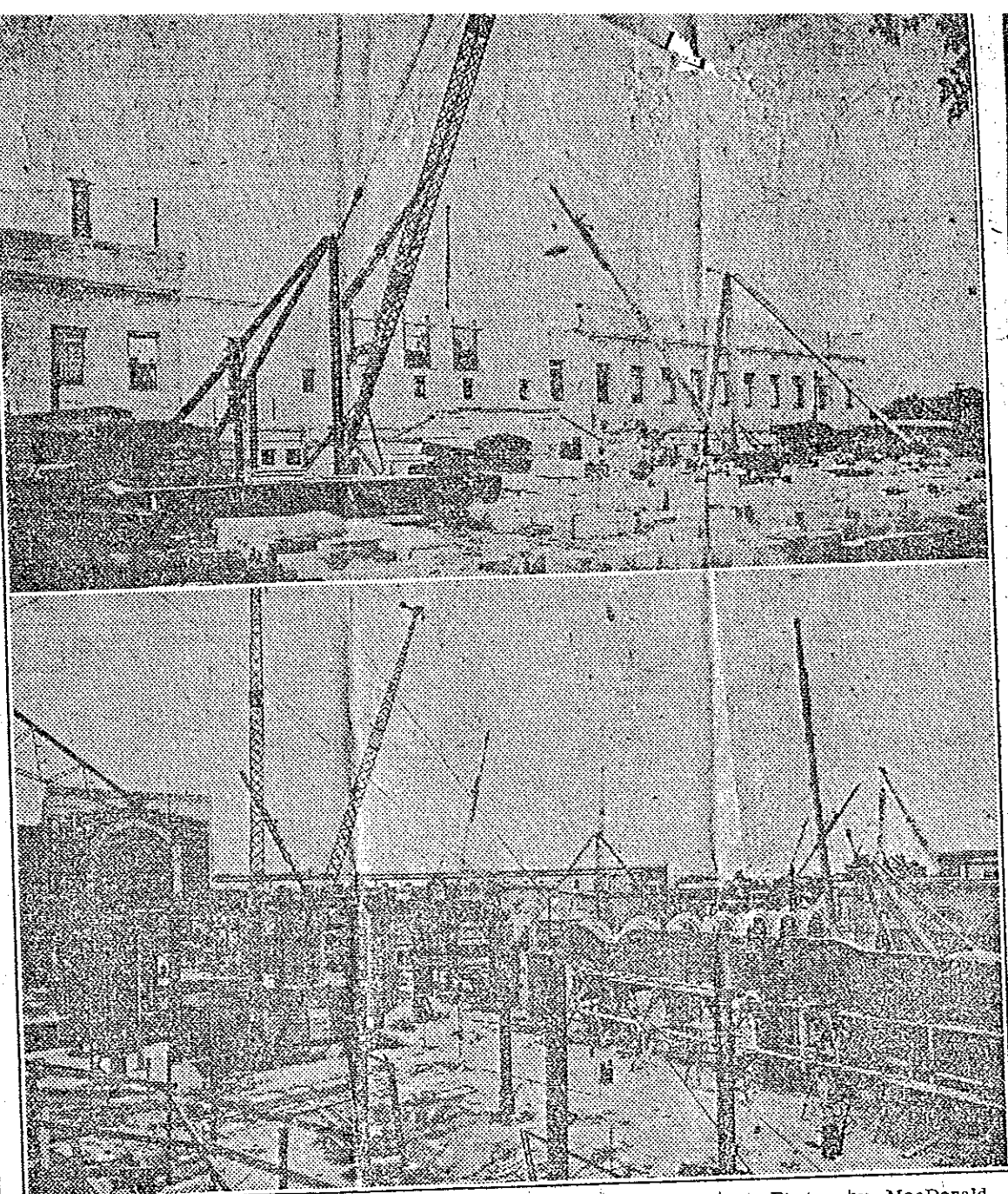
From various reasons, in spite of growing sentiment, the subject of a new building was deferred until the legislature session of 1919. In that session, the Mears-Tracewell bill appropriating the sum of \$5,000,000 to be raised by a special levy of 1 1/2 mills for six years was passed. It became effective when Governor McKelvie signed it February 20, 1919.

The first meeting of the capitol commission, then composed of Governor McKelvie, George E. Johnson, secretary of public works, and the three appointive members, whose personnel is the same, W. E. Hardy, Walter Head, Omaha, and W. H. Thompson, Grand Island, was held May 9, 1919.

Plans Are Chosen.

June 20, 1920, the jury of three architects met to look over the ten designs submitted for the new building, and two days later announcement was made that plans submitted by Bertram G. Goodhue had been chosen.

During the summer of 1921 a series of tests was made of the clay and sandstone formations underly-



—Photos by MacDonald.

The picture of the exterior shows the east wing of the capitol, where the house of representatives chamber is being constructed. It is planned to have this section enclosed and roughly finished early in January. Within the outer walls is a scene of intense activity and chaotic order, as this picture taken from the south shows. Giant steel and frame derricks carry huge beams and stones overhead while workmen labor beneath. The arched windows of the house chamber can be seen at the right.

ing Capitol square, to determine their weight-resisting powers. More complete tests were carried out during the early part of that winter, by excavating a large space east of the old building, and superimposing hundreds of tons of iron rails on small-sized bases.

Will Carry the Weight.

By these experiments, it was learned that the substrata underneath the site of the new building is sufficiently strong to bear up the weight of the building, with its tower more than 400 feet in height. It is said that the ground would carry New York's highest skyscraper.

In May, 1922, announcement was made that four years "is the period of time estimated by members of the Nebraska capitol commission required to construct the new state building." At that time, about a month after the ground breaking, a story in the Lincoln Star quoted one of the members as saying:

"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, 1927."

Three Years to Go.

Plans do go a-gley, for R. L. Cochran, secretary of the department of public works and present secretary of the commission, estimated last week that the capitol construction would not be complete until two years from next May, the date of the awarding of the final contract, or, the new capitol, with its decorations, will be in the process of building for almost the next three years, from the present time.

During March, 1922, trees on the old capitol grounds were cut down, and the stumps blasted. Ditches were dug and the circular track about the building was laid, the end of the switch on H street which has been used to transport material to and from the capitol. The building that had been Ne-

braska's capitol for forty years looked very old and denuded and lonely, with the sheltering trees gone and surrounded by ditches and tracks and steam shovels.

Award Foundation Contract.

The capitol commission met April 12, and opened bids for construction of the first foundation section, surrounding the old building. It awarded the contract to the lowest bidder, the W. J. Assenmacher company of Lincoln, for \$229,773. Excavating material was on the ground and work started during the latter part of April.

On Friday, April 14, 1922, the surveyors set a line of stakes, marked with small red flags, west across the north side of the capitol grounds. The following afternoon Governor Samuel R. McKelvie plowed a furrow of earth following the stakes during the official ground breaking ceremony for Nebraska's new capitol. The ceremonial took place northwest of the

(Continued on Page Four.)

and Governor McKelvie spoke. Representatives of various organizations were present on the platform to lay their offerings in the cornerstone.

Commander Owsley spread the mortar on the cornerstone of the new building. Governor McKelvie steered the cornerstone of the old building into place and spread the mortar. It rests just west of the stone for the present building.

During the year 1922, in addition to the ceremonies which marked the new building, definite work was accomplished. The excavation and foundations for the first section were made and placed between April and January. The first section comprises the outer square, of which each face is 437 feet long, including the terrace.

In the following year, the stone work was completed in the first section, and the entire section was roofed. It is that square, with the western opening through which the old capitol building was taken out, and the eastern one, which is now being filled with the house chamber, which is now in use for the offices and suites. In the same year of 1923, the sculpture on the capitol was begun.

The employees of the capitol found the year 1924 the most interesting one, because early in that year all offices were removed from the old state house to the new. The interior of the new building, that is, the first section, was completed, and, for working purposes, it became the new capitol. All departments of the state government were conducted from the new portion of the building, leaving the old one "an outgrown shell"—but not for long "by life's unresting sea."

Quite the most spectacular event of 1925 was the removal of the old capitol, hauled out bit by bit through the opening left on the west of the outer square for that purpose. During the same year, all the excavation was made for the second and third sections, the former the work of the present time, and the latter including the final contract. Last year also saw the greater part of the foundation work done for the same two sections.

During 1926, the foundations will be completed and the work above ground for the house of representatives wing will be as nearly as possible completed. The tower has been carried up as far as the central rotunda, and work on the foyer connecting the north and south wings is progressing. It is hoped that the house chamber and the rooms closely connected with it—reading rooms, lounges, cloak rooms—will be ready, if in a rough state, to care for the one branch of the legislature early in the new year.

Outline Plans for 1927.

At the present time, the plans for 1927 include the completion of the present construction, as the first thing. About May 1 the contract will be awarded for the remaining portions of the building, including the tower—the tower for which we have so long waited—and the senate chamber. The commission contemplates the final date of construction will be two years from the date of the final contract.

The contracts on the first construction amounted to \$2,564,867.91, and for the second construction to \$2,862,503.35. The total, \$5,427,376.26, does not represent moneys paid out but is the amount of contracts to date. It is estimated that the final cost of the new capitol building will be \$8,000,000, including the costs of heating and landscaping.

old building at corner of the new. Marshal Joffre of France distinguished guest at the exercises.

Work Officially Starts.

The first carload of dirt was taken down the H street railroad with the electric engine April 27, 1922. Work had officially begun on Nebraska's new capitol building.

Work proceeded steadily during the summer and early autumn, and four years after the close of the most sanguinary conflict the world has known, November 11, 1922, Nebraska laid the cornerstone for its new state house and dedicated the building to men and women of the state who fell in service. After a large parade from the business section, Alvin M. Owsley, national commander of the American legion,

CAPITOL COSTS HALF PAID OUT

Approximately Four and
One Half Million
Spent to Date.
Funds Adequate for
Completing Building
and Landscaping.

Approximately \$4,500,000, or half of the estimated cost of the completed building and its landscape setting, has been spent to date in the construction of Nebraska's new capitol. By the time the second, or interior, section is completed a year hence, the state will have paid out something like 6 1-4 millions of the total \$9,000,000 which has been provided to erect the structure.

This will leave 2 3-4 millions for the third section, which is to include the top 300 feet of the central tower and the west leg of the interior cross, and to pay for ground improvements and beautification and a heating plant. That sum, members of the capitol commission, say will be ample for the purposes indicated.

State Engineer Cochran, as secretary of the capitol commission, has prepared a summary setting forth the outlay incurred up to this time on different items of the project, and also for work that is under contract but not yet paid for. Everything is included in this resume except the expense of operating the railroad to Capitol square and a few other odds and ends.

First Part Cost \$2,566,000.

Exclusive of architectural salaries and costs, which are figured for the project as a whole, the first section of the new capitol, comprising the completed north and south wings now in use, represents an aggregate investment of \$2,566,749. All of this has been paid, except a small amount for sculptural work and carvings not yet finished.

Interior fittings and furnishings of the first section have been installed at a cost of \$33,019, while about \$32,000 is being and will be paid for mural decorations and lighting fixtures in both the first and second sections.

The expense of wrecking the old capitol and removing the debris was \$43,100, of which \$8,400 will be repaid by the state board of agriculture as its agreed share of the expense for transporting old materials to the state fair grounds, where they were dumped to fill up depressions.

Construction costs on the interior section thus far paid have reached \$1,434,727, which is less than half the total contract outlay for that section.

All but \$54,000 of architectural expense has already been paid. The expenditure under that heading now totals \$373,397 and will amount to \$427,597 when payment has been completed.

The Itemized Disbursements.

Below is an itemized list of the payments made by the capitol commission and amounts contracted for but not paid:

First section—Foundation and basement, W. J. Assenmacher Co., \$234,317; general construction, J. H. Wiese Co., \$1,391,533; plumbing and heating, Robert Parks Co., \$216,437; cut stone Indiana Limestone Co. and Henry Struble Cut Stone Co., \$43,934; elevator for governor's personal use, Otis Elevator Co., \$4,435; sculpture work and carving (incomplete,) \$20,000; total, \$2,566,749.

Furnishings and decorations—Linoleum \$23,477; window shades, \$7,495; bookshelves, \$7,524; lighting fixtures \$26,015; mural paintings, \$14,550; furniture and carpets, \$3,957; lighting fixtures for second section, \$18,000; mural paintings under contract, \$33,950; total, \$164,965.

Wrecking old building—Cost of demolition, \$31,700, less \$20,000 credit on material, leaving net cost, \$37,400; moving dirt to fair grounds \$14,000, of which \$5,600 is to be paid by the state board of agriculture, leaving net cost, \$8,400; total \$43,100.

Second Section Construction.

	Paid	Bal on Contr.
J. H. Wiese Co. general	\$ 751,935.20	\$1,192,066.87
Cut stone w'k	431,311.42	336,835.04
Schricker Electric Co.	35,559.80	11,330.20
State library elevator	4,000.00
B. Grunwald, plumbing	66,467.03	37,229.17
Newberg & Bookstrom, heating and ventilation	65,394.00	30,392.60
Extras—		
Court room No. 2	\$3,526.00
Air filters	7,299.40

Totals \$1,434,727.43 \$1,648,310.23
Grand total, second section, \$2,933,937.73.

Architectural Costs.

B. G. Goodhue	\$117,191.00
B. G. Goodhue associates	31,000.00
Preliminary competition	27,051.48
Thos. R. Kimball	5,268.90
Architectural costs	133,119.24
Meyer, Strong & Jones	17,969.50
Jarrett-Chambers Co.	15,263.47
Quantity Survey Co.	12,500.00
Foundation tests	7,324.46
Material tests	2,962.18

Total paid \$373,597.33
Architectural expenses to complete building, \$54,000.
Total architectural expenses \$427,597.33.

336, 45

Nebraska

#142

OVER \$4,000,000 PAID ON CAPITOL

BALANCE DUE MAKES TOTAL
OF \$6,285,000.

Third and Last Section Estimated to Cost About \$2,000,000, Coming Well Within \$9,000,000 Limit.

Nebraska's new capitol, now about half finished, has cost \$4,481,186, according to a statement by Secretary Cochran of the state department of public works, who is a member and also secretary of the capitol commission. This much has been paid. Contracts and claims incurred upon the first and second sections, which are not paid, total \$1,804,265, making the contracted cost of the first and second section \$6,285,452.

The cost of the first and second sections will thus be about \$3,000,000 each. The capitol commission has a levy sufficient to make a revenue of \$9,000,000, and the legislature assumed that this would be sufficient to complete the building. The capitol commission is unable to tell what the third section, consisting of the tower and senate chamber, will cost, but all members of that body are said to believe \$9,000,000 will complete the work.

Secretary Cochran is of the opinion the third section will cost about two-thirds as much as either the first or second section, or \$2,000,000. The commission upon completing the first and second will have \$2,714,548. This leaves \$2,000,000 for the third section and \$714,548 for furniture, a heating plant and grading and landscaping the grounds, items which the legislative enactment for a new building took into account.

Secretary Cochran has not included in his tabulations anything for the cost of the temporary railroad connecting with the Burlington road for the reason that accounts with the railroad company have not yet been settled.

In the amount paid the architectural expenses up to date have not been apportioned to the three constructions but are charged to the amount of \$373,597 to the first section. To complete the building the architectural expenses will be \$54,000 more, or a total of \$427,597 for the architects.

Expenses Paid.

The amounts paid out up to date are classified in this way:

First construction	\$2,546,742.92
Furnishing and decorations	83,013.82
Wrecking old building	43,109.00
Second construction	1,434,727.43
Architectural expenses	373,597.33

Total paid \$4,481,186.50

For moving dirt from the excavation of the capitol the commission is to receive a return of \$5,600 from the state fair board which re-

(Continued on Page Eight.)

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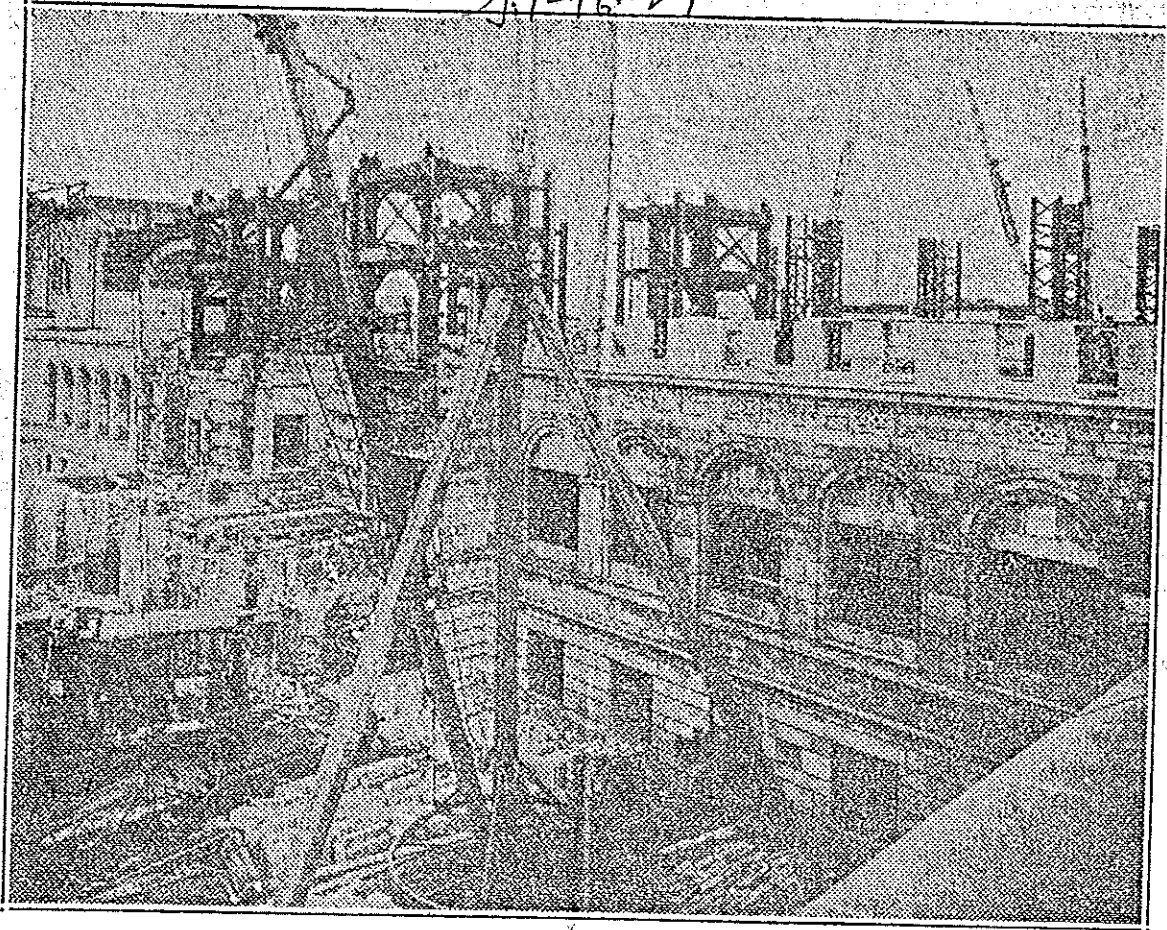
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#143

Steady effort brings
Nebraska Capital to with-
in two years of full
completion.

Steady Effort Brings Nebraska Capitol To Within Two Years of Full Completion

1-16-27



Nebraska often receives unfavorable publicity beyond the Mississippi river. Dwellers along the seaboard and inland for several hundred miles cling to their derisive ideas of the state of shallow water, ideas fostered in part by stories that grow in proportion to their distance from home.

However, regardless of the number of tales that are accepted as the raconteur's own truth, Nebraska's capitol does command respect in distant circles. Sincere interest is always displayed in the new structure, and many are the questions asked concerning its marked architectural features.

The huge gray stone building has been of absorbing interest to Nebraskans since that April day, 1922 when the first load of dirt from the excavation traveled down the H street railroad. To observers who understand little of the technical side of building it has seemed slow of growth, but, somehow, some way, almost without conscious knowledge of the passersby, a mammoth structure has grown around the spot where that first spadeful of dirt was removed.

The building took concrete form to us with the erection of the outer square, wherein are housed the executive and judicial offices, and for the time being, the legislative. It became the capitol when the north and south wings were occupied.

During the past year, manual ef-

fort has been concentrated on the house wing, which is located on the east side of the building. It was not ready for occupancy January 1, but, according to W. L. Younkin, superintendent of construction for the capitol commission and the architects, "a tremendous amount of work has been done on the capitol within the last year."

Since January of 1926 the foundations for the second section of the building, mainly comprising the house wing, and for the third section, the senate chamber and the long anticipated tower, were completed. About one-half this work was done in 1925 and the remainder of the construction was done last year.

The rough masonry and the steel work from the basement to the third floor have been completed during the year on the second section. The tower has been carried up as far as the central rotunda and the work on the foyer which is to connect the north and south wings is progressing. The stone work on this section has also been finished.

Plumbing fixtures and a rough heating system have been installed in the basement. In addition to those fixtures, a quantity of mechanical equipment has been put in place. This equipment includes, among other things, a ventilating system and pumps for water pressure.

The second section is not roofed, which will really carry the wing

—Photo by Macdonald.

up to the fourth floor level when that stage of construction is reached. According to Mr. Younkin, another year will elapse before the house wing is completed.

It is probable that bids for the third section of the building, including the senate wing and tower, will be received in the late spring or early summer. Another two years will undoubtedly elapse before it is possible to say that Nebraska's capital is really finished.

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#144

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1927.

NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL.

From the press of the American Institute of Architects at New York comes a new book, "The Architectural Sculpture of the State Capitol at Lincoln." It is a distinguished, a superlative specimen of book-making, one that would compel admiration on that score alone. When, in turning over the fine photographs of the capitol and its details, and reading the admirable text by C. H. Whitaker and Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, it is borne in upon a Nebraskan that all this magnificence of achievement in art—"one of the great buildings of all time"—really is here, is his, springing up miraculously on his own prairie, the realization is almost breath-taking.

In his opening paragraph Charles Harris Whitaker speaks of the capitol's "power and strength, its majesty of clean-lined solidity, its incomparable simplicity and its thrilling beauty."

Such a triumph of possession as this, the product of perhaps the most rarely endowed and daring architectural spirit that America has known, should do much to offset the reproach of Babbitry saddled upon the midwest by Sinclair Lewis. And not merely an example of great architecture is this new capitol of Nebraska; it is entirely novel architecture, inspired by and emblematic of the country it dominates—"an adventure in style," to use Dr. Alexander's apt phrase, and internationally so acclaimed.

In thinking to comment on a book of this nature one may be conscious of technical unpreparedness. Yet no sense of handicap can prevent the thrill of recognition with which we meet an inspiring approach to an inspiring theme and the triumphant embodiment of an inspiration. One may not know a pylon from a pediment, one may be insensitive to the varied "modes" in sculpture and architecture, and yet feel a lifting of the spirit in the presence of great accomplishment and of its fervent, beautifully offered chronicle.

In discussing the capitol and its history no chronicler for Nebraska would be justified in failing to recognize the fine unselfishness of the architects of the state in demanding a free and open competition that would insure the best results obtainable, regardless of everything else. Nor can it be forgotten that it was a Nebraskan, an eminent architect and man of vision, Thomas R. Kimball of Omaha, who devised the plan under which the competition materialized and wrote the program which, through its freedom from handicaps and inhibitions, secured the participation of Bertram Goodhue.

The unique relationship of Bertram Goodhue and his wonderful sculptor-associate, Lee Lawrie, merits the extended recognition the book at hand accords. It was a marvelous artistic understanding that existed between the two geniuses—perfect as few things may be perfect in this world. But there was another providential figure who entered into the combination—Dr. Alexander, who caught the spirit of the great scheme and became its best interpreter. With such a sympathetic co-worker as Lawrie, with such a savant as Dr. Alexander to invoke and interpret myth and symbolism of the plains and their early denizens, and with no fetters on the soaring fancy of the architect, what could have been more propitious to the realizing of Goodhue's majestic dream?

There were yet other elements helping to make possible this supreme achievement. There was the limitlessness of our prairie landscape, the very contours—or lack of contours—of the site. And there was the absence of that great band of self-accredited critics, whose presence on either coast has so far precluded any such architectural triumph in those parts—parts where salt water and so-called civilization might have been expected to foster rather than prevent.

East and West are so plainly written into the fabric of our new capitol as to proclaim the bappy union wherever one may turn. The solemn, stately, glorious majesty of the structure in mass; the simplicity of the parts and their perfect relationship with each other and the whole, all speak of Thebes, Karnak, the Parthenon, Poseidon. Yet it was out of the West also that the form came, expressive of the growth of a great state and of the immortal dignity of that industry which is still the chief calling of mankind. Of brown fields the capitol speaks, of ranging herds, of great prairies. It speaks the epic of the pioneer and of the plowshare. It speaks the history of the law, of man's struggles to mold and shape his life, to give it stability and security, to adorn it with beauty and serenity.

Goodhue, Lawrie, Alexander! Out of their meeting through and with Kimball has grown one of the great buildings of the ages—and it is Nebraska's!

As for the book that Mr. Whitaker has made—for he is the presiding genius of the press that issued the work—we wish that a copy might be put into the hands of every child in Nebraska, and into the hands of every man and woman whose contributions as taxes have gone and still are going toward paying the cost of their state capitol.

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Feb.
#145

Star. 8-15-27

SAY FIFTEENTH SHOULD BE OPEN

Plans Discussed at Meet-
ing Business Men
and Officials.

3-15-27
Connecting Avenue Be-
tween Capitol and
Campus Necessary.

Action toward the opening of Fifteenth street from the capitol to the university campus was taken at a meeting of business men of Lincoln with university regents, members of the capitol commission and the city council Tuesday noon at the chamber of commerce. Members of the Lancaster county legislative delegation and the board of education also attended.

Following addresses by representatives of the several groups the Lancaster county representatives in the legislature were asked in a resolution approving H. R. 595, to use their every effort to bring about passage of the bill. The measure authorizes the capitol commission to confer with the regents and city council toward the opening of Fifteenth street.

Among those who spoke were S. R. McKelvie, president of the chamber of commerce; John Ledwith, Judge W. H. Thompson, member of the capitol commission; Charles Stuart, president of the board of education, Dean Burnett, acting chancellor of the university and D. L. Erickson, city engineer.

Dean Burnett said that the entire campus expansion program hinges on the opening of Fifteenth street north from O. Unless this is done, he stated, the university can never go ahead with its plans to erect a monumental structure as has been contemplated. He added that it is the purpose to make the library this structure, and that it was believed the cost would approximate upwards of a million dollars.

M. I. Evinger of the university engineering department was of the same opinion as Dean Burnett. He had maps showing the proposed extension program and explained that they with others were made with the thought that there would be a thoroughfare leading from the campus to the capitol.

According to Judge Thompson the city should make arrangements to acquire the four half blocks facing Fifteenth street between K and M streets. When this is done, he declared, there will be something tangible for the commission to discuss and it will be possible to do something.

Pending the passage of the bill now before the legislature, it was agreed by the entire body, the three groups most vitally concerned should confer and decide upon a program for opening the street.

336.45

Feb.

#146

JOURNAL 3-30-27

SHALL NEVER BE ALIENATED.

Journal 3/30/27
The Nebraska constitution of 1876 provided that "The legislature shall never alienate the salt springs belonging to the state." Every constitution adopted by the state before or since has carried this exact wording.

An observing former citizen, returning after a short absence from the state, is impressed afresh with the possibilities of the salt lake and the desirability of making it a part of the city park system. The view of the changing sky line of Lincoln across this expanse of water he finds more attractive than anything the average city can offer.

When the state of Nebraska founded its new capital city and asked the public to come and buy lots here it was niggardly in setting aside land for public purposes. Streets of generous width were provided, but only four blocks were appropriated for a city park and only four for the university campus. Modern city planning and building had not been developed at that early day. Besides, the capital commissioners were obliged to operate without an appropriation, and it was necessary to turn every available acre of the site of the city into cash as soon as possible in order to erect the public buildings and set the government of the new state in operation.

The record of the state, to tell the truth, has not been wholly creditable in its treatment of the capital city. It invited people to come to Lincoln, to the bare prairie, and asked them to provide out of their own resources all of the facilities and embellishments required for the seat of state gov-

ernment. The bitterness of the fights between Omaha and Nebraska City over capital location made it impossible to start the infant city with a proper layette. Not until the inspired Goodhue produced a world building for the capitol did the people of the state begin to understand that Lincoln has been a state enterprise from the first and that Nebraska has some responsibility in the matter of a setting for this wonderful building.

When the commonwealth of Australia founded a new capital at Canberra, the city planners provided as a chief feature several large artificial lakes to serve as a setting for the government buildings.

Every constitution adopted by the state of Nebraska has forbidden the alienation of the salt springs owned by the state. No matter what has been done in the leasing of the saline lands north and west of Lincoln, the title remains in the state, and this makes it possible for Nebraska to do after sixty years what Australia is attempting at the very beginning of its work at Canberra.

The observations of this returned traveller read in connection with section twenty of article three of the constitutions of Nebraska open a train of fascinating and feasible possibilities.

336.45

Neb

#147

W. H. 4-4-27

Making Lincoln Beautiful. W. H.

The legislature and the people of Lincoln have agreed that Nebraska's new state capitol, already heralded as the world's most beautiful building, should have a setting of dignity. Lincoln is considering the zoning of the district around the capitol to prevent the near-at-hand erection of unsightly buildings, and proposes also to open an avenue from the north entrance, on Fifteenth street, to the enlarged campus of the state university.

This project will win a wide response from the people of the whole state of Nebraska. The city of Lincoln belongs to the state as a whole, rather than to the people of the capital. The university is there, the state house is there, and other state institutions are located in or near Lincoln, (not forgetting the penitentiary.) So despite the occasional tendency of Lincoln people to consider all of these institutions and the state that supports them, the property of Lincoln, the fact is that Lincoln is the city that belongs to the state.

From the beauty of the new capitol, and from the dignity of the university's physical plant, the state hopes for better things from its legislators and state officials, and a higher learning from its students and faculty at the university. From the governor on down, those who labor within the stately walls of the new capitol should find it difficult to be mean, or petty, or deceitful at their tasks. And those on the campus should find inspiration to more diligent search for Truth and Beauty because of the stately charm that is now found on and around the humbled walls of the old "U" hall.

336.45

Nebraska

#148

Journal 4-13-27

LEGISLATIVE HALL NOT LARGE ENOUGH

Journal 4/13/27
AT LEAST IF TRENMORE CONE
HAS RIGHT IDEA.

Presents Resolution Asking for
Joint Committee to Take It
up With Members of the
Capitol Commission.

Trenmore Cone, seconded by Representative Martin, introduced in the house Wednesday a resolution seeking appointment of a joint house and senate committee for the purpose of taking up with the state capitol commission the question of adequacy or inadequacy of the proposed new representative hall in the east wing of the new capitol.

The resolution was laid over one day under the rules and by request of the introducer. At noon, a majority of the members made something of a field study of the situation. Mr. Cone states that dimensions of the proposed hall are given as 48 by 70 feet or a total floor space of 3,360 square feet or but 360 square feet more than in the cramped temporary quarters. He objects to the proposed small galleries. Plans for the senate, he finds, are almost as much out of proportion. The resolution in part:

"The state of Nebraska is most generously contributing of its taxes for the construction of a new capitol, expressing its progress in beauty, grandeur and utility, in which its people and its future generations may well take pride, as well as winning the admiration of our sister commonwealths of this nation and the other nations of the earth.

"It has come to the attention of this house that the room designed and under construction as the future representative hall is by dimension 43x70 feet, or

a total floor space of 3,360 square feet, which is only 360 square feet more than the cramped quarters occupied by this body at this time in this hall. The proposed new representative hall is only two-thirds the dimension of the floor space of the representative hall in the old capitol, which was entirely inadequate for the needs of the state. The new hall contains but three small galleries with a seating capacity in the old hall of 500 people, which was entirely inadequate for the needs of the public. The actual floor space allotted to the seating of the 100 members in the new hall, exclusive of the speaker's and clerk's desk, is only 48 by 58 feet, and the blue prints in the state engineer's office show the members' equipment to be rows of benches similar to those occupied by us today with but little, if any more, space than we are occupying in this hall. The new proposed representative hall could not by any stretch of the imagination be any more than sufficient for the need of our present senate and its employees.

"Blue prints of the plans for the new senate chamber are not quite, but almost as much out of proportion for the senatorial needs of the state as is the new representative hall. It would seem that the new representative hall may be large enough to accommodate the state senate, and that the plans should be changed providing for an adequate representative hall in the west wing of the building.

"Therefore, be it resolved: that the capitol commission be most respectfully requested before it shall be everlastingly too late to cause the plans to be changed for the construction of the west wing which has not yet been contracted for, and to provide an adequate representative hall for the state's future needs as above partially suggested and, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted by the clerk of the house, to the president of the senate, and that the speaker of the house appoint a committee of three members of this body to confer with the capitol commission, urging the commission to correct what we believe to be a grievous mistake in the plans as set out above and, that this body invite the senate, should it concur in the thought expressed in this matter to our capitol commissions."

and receiving set accessories fell off. Shipments of receiving sets were valued at \$203,367, compared with \$17,910 in the same month last year. The value of flashlights exported jumped from \$16,433 in February, 1926 to \$202,606 in the same month this year. Shipments of telephone switchboards rose to \$127,870 as compared with \$8,468 last year.

336.45

Neb.

#149

Star 4-14-27

NO BUTCHERING OF CAPITOL PLAN.

All sort of fantastic ideas about changing the design of the new Nebraska capitol have been suggested from time to time. The latest is to turn the house chamber on the east side over to the state senate and provide a more commodious hall on the opposite side for the representative branch of the legislature. This, of course, could be done; but it would involve a very large additional expenditure for changing the plans, and in the end the revised arrangement might not be as good as the present one.

The house chamber as it now stands is ample in size for 100 men to meet and transact business in. There will be plenty of desk and seating space for each member, a central aisle of liberal width, and wide bays on three sides, with balconies overhead for spectators. The extra space on the sides can be used for extra seats when joint sessions with the senate are held.

Of course, the chamber is not a big public auditorium where large gatherings of a thousand or more people might be held. It was never intended to be. What the state needs is a room where the lawmakers may get close enough together to hear each other and give intelligent consideration to the public business. The trouble in the old capitol was that Representative hall spread out over so much territory that no body could hear what was going on. The same drawback would be experienced in any over-sized hall.

Every kind of convenience for the members has been provided in close proximity to the house chamber. There are a big locker room to accommodate 100 members, a postoffice room, a large lounging and smoking room, offices for the speaker and the chief clerk, convenient workrooms for employes, and two or three dozen committee rooms nearby. The secretary of state's office and the governor's office are only a few steps away. This is an important consideration, as many trips are made back and forth with bills and messages, between these offices and the house chamber, wherever it might be located.

If the house solons know when their branch of the legislature is well off, they will not throw away all these advantages in order to get a big hall where only those with the strongest lungs could make themselves heard.

336.45
Feb
#150

REPUBLICANS SIDE WITH COMMISSION

Run Over Cone Resolution and Question His Figures.

ANOTHER POLITICAL ISSUE

Majority Decides That Late Mr. Goodhue and Members of Capitol Commission Knew More Than Critics.

Fifty-four representatives, of which number, fifty are republicans, decided by record vote Thursday that the late Bertram G. Goodhue and members of the capitol commission knew more after long and careful study as to proper dimensions of legislative halls than Tremore Cone, thirty democrats and ten republicans who picked up the dimension racket only a day ago.

The vote on Cone's motion to adopt his resolution calling for appointment of a joint house and senate committee to investigate the proposed legislative quarters and to take the matter up with the capitol commission was defeated 54 to 40. The following republicans voted with Cone and his democratic following: Barbour, Barnett, Dreuesdow, Hallgren, Jackman, Lee, Peterson, Raasch, Singleton and Story. George O'Malley, minority floor leader, declined to throw in with Cone and voted with the republicans along with Ragan of Platte, Adams of Howard and White of Seward, all democrats.

The good faith of Cone in bring-

ing the matter to the attention of the legislature at this late hour was questioned. It remained for Jones, republican of Colfax, to hurl a cross fire of figures at Mr. Cone. The Jones figures were in conflict with those presented by the member from Douglas. Jones stated that while he could not give Cone's authority that his own figures were obtained direct from the capitol commission. These show a total floor area for the proposed representative hall in the east wing of the new capitol of 5,328 square feet. In contradiction to figures contained in the Cone resolution this total floor area indicates, according to the member from Colfax, 1,064 square feet of floor space in excess of the old capitol. This total, he said, includes spaces around the inside rail, but that inside the rail the total floor area is 3,120 feet, which allows a square space of seven feet, eight inches, for every member. Cone still maintained that his floor area figures were correct.

Cone in his argument for the resolution said that the proposed new house chamber will be inadequate for joint sessions and that it will be necessary for governors of the future to deliver inaugural addresses at the city auditorium as was the case this session. He said that political conventions properly should be held in legislative halls. He was reminded that the president of the United States does not deliver his inaugural address in congressional chambers, that even such quarters in the national capitol are inadequate to accommodate large crowds and that the inaugural is given from the steps of the capitol.

"The legislature has been in session three and one-half months. To me it is poor taste at this late hour for a member to come in with a

resolution of this kind, criticizing the capitol commission. A smaller gallery will tend to reduce the oratory and probably will look to better legislation."

McLellan of Hall declared that the state is not building legislative halls as great auditoriums. White of Garfield said:

Wildman of York said that no man could tell him that the architect and the commission didn't know their business.

"When Norris is elected governor and the legislative membership is reduced not only in number but to one house as he proposes", he said, "there will be entirely too much space for legislative sessions."

Martin, democrat of Clay, said that under desk arrangement which will be made for the new representative hall members will be cramped in quarters almost as small as at present. He referred to the size of the proposed new hall as a blunder. O'Gara, democrat of Cedar, recalled that in 1923 a special legislative investigating committee discovered that some stone of inferior quality had been placed in the capitol walls. This stone was rejected and much good accomplished.

Jackman, republican, admitted under questioning, that it is probably too late to make material changes in the proposed east wing. Regan, democrat of Platte, in voting against the resolution said that two members of the capitol commission had served in the legislature and that if the new representative hall is inadequate in size it will still be possible to change the plans for the west wing, the contract for which has not yet been let.

Journal 4-15-27

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Neb.

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The frame work of the capitol tower will go up under the present contract just high enough to cover the rotunda, which extends a little more than one hundred feet above the main floor. The rest of the tower, going nearly 300 feet higher, will be included in the next contract, which will be ready to let in the coming summer. Another year or a year and a half should see the steel up to its full height. People who come this way especially to see the capitol, often express surprise because the tower isn't there.

Journal 4/15/27
When the full height is reached an adequate picture can at last be made of the complete building. None have been made yet that begin to show the full beauty of the structure. The latest edition of the Brittanica mentions four "conspicuous examples" of public buildings erected in modern times. These are the London County Council building, the home of the London Port Authority, the Stockholm town hall and the Nebraska capitol, which is called "A new and inspiring solution of the state government building." The half tone going with this is disappointing because it was made from a drawing. It is hoped to have a real photograph by the time the next edition appears.

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#152

Journal 4-15-27

REPRESENTATIVE HALL.

Journal 4/15/27
It is perhaps true that the house did not take the question as to the size of the new hall of representatives seriously because it was offered by that persistent gad fly, Tremor Cone. That is no doubt a sufficient explanation of the refusal to consider what the state of Nebraska wants to do with this part of its new building. A question of policy is involved here, not the mere architectural problem of providing working room for 100 law makers. Is the hall to be built exclusively for the house of representatives, or should it be made large enough to accommodate joint sessions? Should there be ample lobby space and large galleries, or would it be better to make the room compact enough for the members to hear each other well, without the distractions of a large attendance of the general public? Clearly a problem of this kind is one for the legislature alone to settle. The architect and the members of the capitol commission would no doubt be thankful to have so important a decision made by the bodies using the legislative halls, and have it made while there is yet time to effect a readjustment if desired.

The summary rejection of the Cone resolution on the ground that the men who have planned the capitol have studied representative hall and known how large it ought to be is based on the theory that there is a standard size for such apartments. In point of fact the size depends on the use, and what the use is to be must be decided by the legislature itself. The hall of representatives in an incomplete form stands only a few rods from where the legislators have been in session all winter. Presumably all of the members who wished to do so have looked it over. The votes of a majority indicates that they favor the theory of a hall for consultation rather than for oratory to large gallery audiences.

If no further action is taken, that will stand as the official decision of the state. It will also be permanent unless action is taken in the present session. If it is found in the future to be a blunder, the blame must rest upon the house which received due notice of the situation and voted not to change the plans.

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#153

Star 4-24-27

A CIVIC CENTER IN LINCOLN

Passage of H. R. 595 in the closing hours of the Nebraska legislative session is of momentous importance to the people of Lincoln.

The bill provides the machinery to bring the question of development of Fifteenth street to a focus. Under its provisions, the engineering forces of the new state capitol commission, the board of regents of the University of Nebraska, and the city commission of Lincoln are empowered to make a survey of Fifteenth street, to prepare recommendations for improvement and development of the district, and to submit estimates of the costs.

Progress on construction of Nebraska's monumental capitol building, and expansion of the physical plant and campus of the University of Nebraska under the program which has been carried forward in the last fifteen years, make it highly important that some definite plan for the beautification of Fifteenth street shall be placed before the people of Lincoln. We have been talking it for many years. We have had uncrystallized plans for making Fifteenth the civic center of Nebraska's capital for more than a decade. We have delayed long enough if a proper setting is to be prepared for the new capitol and the University of Nebraska. Action must supersede words. Good intentions must be transformed into actual deeds. The capitol is gradually assuming the form which it had in the brain of the man who planned it. During the early summer bids will be received and the contract awarded for the tower, or third section of the building. Although final completion will depend largely upon the elements, it is probable the capitol will be finished in another two years.

Development of Fifteenth street cannot be accomplished within a few years. Even though a definite and comprehensive program be adopted, it will take years to mature it. The important thing at this time is to make a start. And there can be no beginning until the people of Lincoln come to an appreciation of their responsibilities in this matter.

The first fact which must be recognized is that it will cost the people of Lincoln a considerable sum of money to develop Fifteenth street.

Most of the burden will fall upon the shoulders of the taxpayers of this community. After the millions which have been spent upon the new capitol, and the huge sums which have been expended to build a great university, Lincoln cannot very well ask the taxpayers of the state to spend additional large sums for developing a civic center, which is to provide the setting for the state's seat of government and its greatest educational institution.

It is worth while remembering the creation of a Civic center will never be accomplished any more cheaply than it can today. It could have been completed ten years ago at a very much lower expense than now. Each year adds to the value of the land which it will be necessary to condemn. If we wait ten years, we will pay a great deal more than will be necessary now.

Under the provisions of this bill, it is to be hoped the engineering forces of these various governmental agencies shall formulate a program and submit it to the people of Lincoln for approval. It has the possibilities of making Nebraska's capitol one of the most talked of communities in the Central West. Generally it is agreed among architectural experts that Nebraska's new capitol is the most magnificent specimen of building which has been projected in America. When it is completed, it is certain to attract attention from coast to coast and from beyond the seas. Remarkable results have been achieved in beautifying the campus of the University of Nebraska. The changes which have taken place there since 1914 are most impressive. In the next decade it is reasonable to expect that the university, now one of the country's greatest educational institutions in point of enrollment, will likewise rank well to the top in physical plant. Connecting the capitol with the University of Nebraska is this development of Fifteenth street as a civic center. We repeat it has in it the potentialities of making Lincoln one of the most beautiful cities in the United States, and one which will linger long in the memories of those who honor us with a visit.

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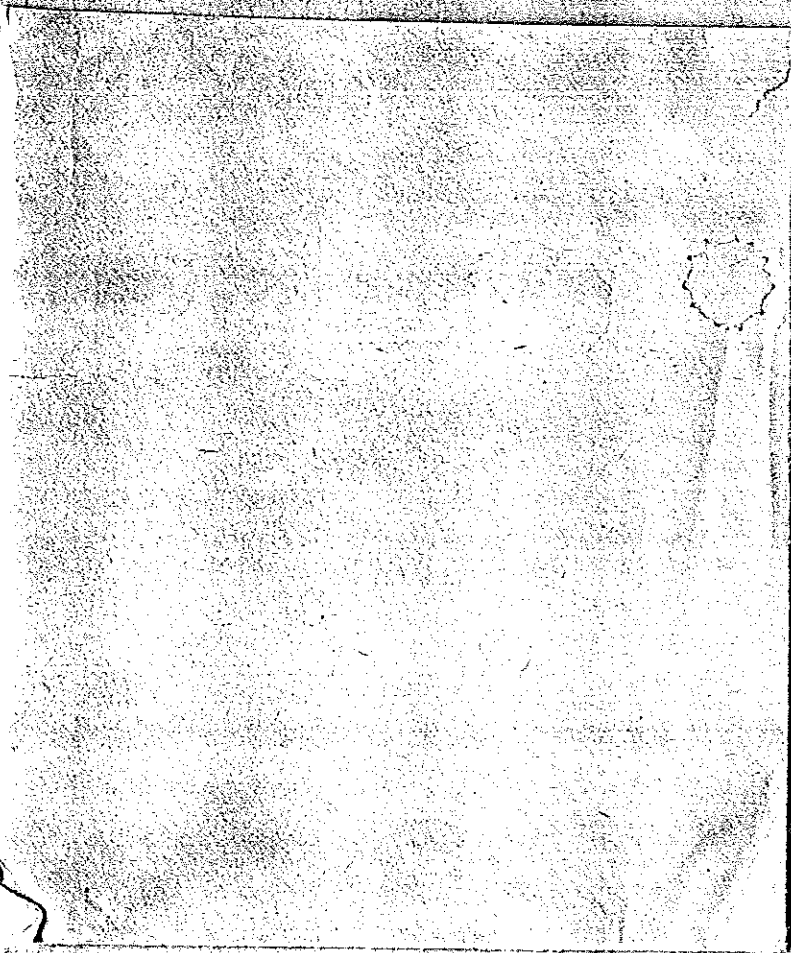
Feb.

#154

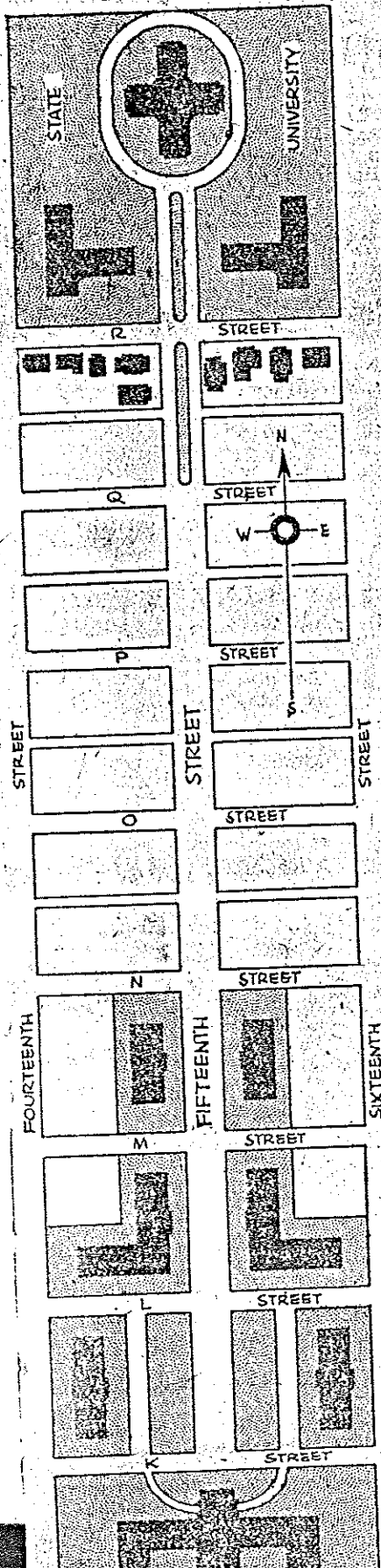
Capital

Journal 8-28-27

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.



Tentative Plan for Framing the New Capitol



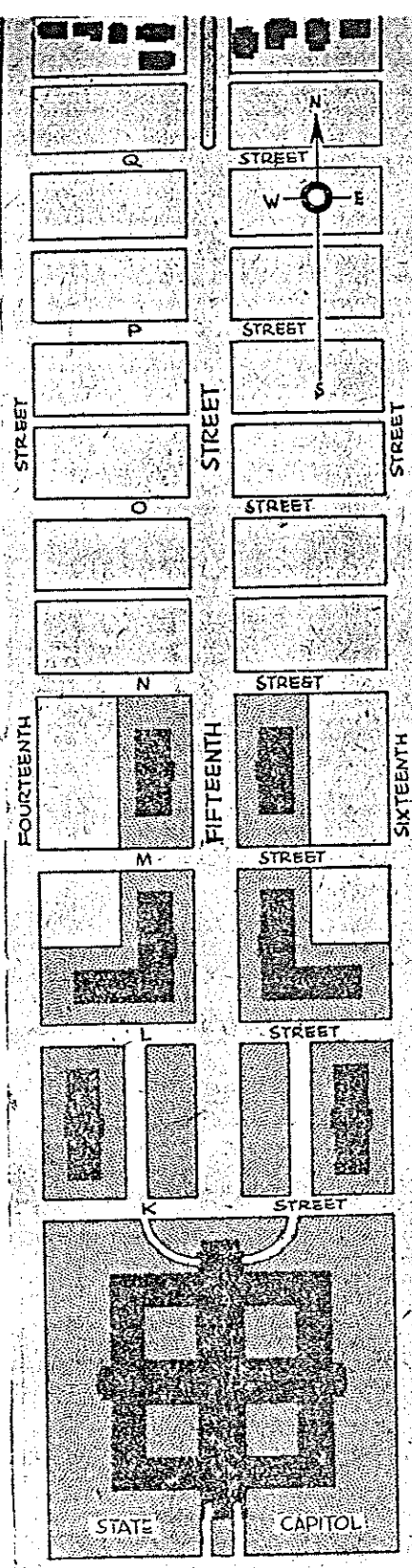
For several months the division on city planning of the Lincoln chamber of commerce has been considering different ideas for providing the new capitol with an appropriate setting. One of these contemplates the condemnation of six blocks of land immediately north of K street and creating a great civic center there. Another proposes opening the land between K and L streets to public use, widening North Fifteenth street, and placing a row of public buildings on each side of that thoroughfare.

One of the simplest of all of the proposals, drawn by Prof. M. I. Evinger of the state university, is roughly sketched here. It is simpler and less expensive than the others because it contemplates making North Fifteenth street only 120 feet wide from L street to the extension of the university campus on R street. Two blocks would be required for important public building, but these are not essential parts of the plan. The condemnation of half a block on each side of Fifteenth street between K and L would permit the necessary parts of the idea to be carried out. Between O street and R street another condemnation would be needed to carry North Fifteenth street thru for three blocks, at its full width of 120 feet.

The public buildings marked in black immediately north of the capitol may not be built for many years. The spaces are merely indicated as possible sites for an art hall, the state historical society museum, the city hall and court house, the proposed school administration building, and so forth. The Scottish Rite temple at Fifteenth and L streets is a monumental building already built, altho it is not exactly where the city planners would like to have it remain in perpetuity.

A rough guess as to the cost of these improvements makes the opening of the street from O to R cost about \$400,000, while the taking of the minimum amount of land required north of the capitol would cost about one-half as much. The greater part of the cost of this development will fall on the city of Lincoln.

The buildings blocked out



a row of public buildings on each side of that thoroughfare.

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The buildings blocked out north of R street are future university developments, the cross shaped structure at the upper part of the map being the future university library. The dwellings marked out on the south side of R street are fraternity houses. Some of them already stand there, in the zone marked out for such construction.

336.45 Neb

Journal 10-29-27

#155

STEPS ARE TAKEN FOR CAPITOL PLAN

Summit 10-29-27
OFFICIALS DISCUSS SETTING OF NEW STATE HOUSE.

Ground Improvements and City Beautification in Line With Permanent Layout Suggested Policy.

The first step toward a state capitol improvement district by the city of Lincoln, under an act of the legislature passed last spring for the purpose of affording a proper setting for the new capitol, was taken Friday afternoon when Mayor Hedge and the city commissioners, City Engineer Erickson and Assistant City Attorney Wilke met with Governor McMullen and other members of the capitol commission.

An informal discussion resulted in the appointment of a joint committee of capitol commissioners and representatives of the city and citizens of Lincoln. This committee comprises W. E. Hardy, and Roy Cochran of the capitol commission and Mayor Hedge, City Engineer Erickson and John E. Miller, former mayor of Lincoln, and Col. Frank D. Eager.

At the suggestion of Mr. Cochran the committee was appointed for the purpose of formulating some definite plan of proposed improvement of Fifteenth street as a setting for the capitol or for widening of other streets. It is proposed that improvement plans of this committee be first submitted to the capitol commissioner for adoption and later to the city commissioners of Lincoln for approval. The matter of financing improvements is a matter to be attended to later.

Must Have Definite Plans.

That some definite improvement plans should first be agreed upon became apparent in the general discussion. Under the act of the legislature authorizing the city to form an improvement district it is provided that neither the state, city, nor regents shall spend any money, but that plans with data and costs shall be submitted to subsequent legislature for that body's approval or rejection before any liability for the consummation of such plans shall be fixed.

There was some discussion, based partly upon suggested plans for improvement of Fifteenth street to connect the capitol grounds with the university campus, seven blocks north of the capi-

tol. These suggestions were prepared by the Goodhue associates, architects of the capitol. The proposed plans suggest the taking of two blocks of ground north of the capitol, the widening of Fifteenth street from 120 feet to 220 feet from K to N, the street from that point north to R street to be 120 feet wide, the two blocks north of the capitol to be used for park purposes and as settings for the Abraham Lincoln monument which is to be removed, and for soldier monuments proposed to be erected at some future time.

City Will Bear Share.

Mayor Hedge told the commission that the city of Lincoln has not one cent at this time for such a project, but that the city will bear its share of the cost of any improvement plan agreed upon. He expressed the hope that a proposition would be submitted to the people of Lincoln next spring that would give the city additional funds.

At mention of a division of costs of improvement Judge W. H. Thompson of the capitol commission, pioneer resident of Grand Island, suggested that the state had done much for Lincoln in locating a magnificent capitol here when it might have located it elsewhere, and while he believed the legislature would vote and the people approve a state appropriation for taking one or two blocks of additional ground north of the capitol, as one expressing an outside opinion, he thought the city of Lincoln should pay for widening its own streets, not only because of the added beauty but because of utility of a street now closed at Fifteenth and O.

Favor Immediate Purchase.

Judge Thompson was in favor of taking steps to immediately acquire at least one-half block on either side of Fifteenth street near the capitol, as the longer the delay the higher the price may be, and later acquire the entire two blocks north.

Expressions from Governor McMullen, W. E. Hardy and Walter W. Head, members of the capitol commission, were in favor of speedy acquirement of the entire two blocks north.

Mayor Hedge and some others of the city commission suggested that the opening of Fifteenth street to connect the capitol grounds and the university campus was pretty much a state proposition and ought to have liberal support from the state. All agreed that a proper approach or setting for the capitol is as important as the capitol itself.

Governor McMullen said he could present whatever was deemed proper to the legislature in his message as outgoing governor and the incoming governor might desire to cover the subject in his message to the legislature.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

336.45

Neb.

#156

12-3-27

CALL FOR FIGURES ON CAPITOL TOWER

12-3-27
Governor and Commissioners Set
January 31 as Date for Re-
ceiving Bids on the
Upper Tower.

The capitol commission decided Friday afternoon to call for bids for the construction of the tower of the new capitol, bids to be received Jan. 31. The tower above the rotunda is to constitute section three of the capitol, according to the action of the commission. Section four will include the senate chamber and all the superstructure west of the tower.

The cost of the tower above the completed rotunda to its full height, 407 feet above the ground, is estimated at \$750,000 or more. Secretary Cochran is of the opinion the commission will have \$1,500,000 available after paying for the second section now nearing completion. No estimate has been made of the cost of the fourth section and it is not to be included in the call for bids to be received Jan. 31. The commission hopes to have the tower built during the coming year.

Governor McMullen, Secretary Cochran, W. E. Hardy, Judge W. H. Thompson, Walter W. Head, members of the commission, and W. L. Younkin, assistant architect, attended the meeting.

Governor and Mrs. McMullen will give a public reception New Years day in the governor's suite in the new capitol. The rooms are being remodeled. Augustus Vincent Tack of New York, is decorating the large reception room and the governor's private office with mural paintings. Decorations, drapes, rugs and furnishings and furniture are to be installed in these rooms by Orchard & Wilhelm of Omaha.

336.45 Neb

8-12-4-27

#157

TAX FOR CAPITOL IS NOT SUFFICIENT

PRODUCES ONE MILLION LESS THAN ESTIMATE

Legislature Fixed \$9,000,000 as Limit—State Accountant Sommer Finds Levies Produce \$8,099,742

The capitol commission has received a report from State Accountant C. A. Sommer that forcibly recalls what the commission knew more than a year ago, that the legislative levy for a new capitol, which expires with the year 1928, will not raise the \$9,000,000 estimated by the legislature as the amount that would come into the treasury from the levies. The legislature also fixed \$9,000,000 as the limit of the cost of the capitol, furniture and heating plant and landscaping of grounds.

The state accountant shows by his report that the levies dating from the first in 1919 to the close of 1928 will produce a net sum of \$8,099,742. He places the resources of the capitol commission building fund at \$2,587,901, including the 1927 and 1928 taxes.

No analysis of these figures has been made by the commission, nor by the state accountant to show the amount needed to complete the capitol.

If the building can be built for \$9,000,000 another levy of \$1,000,000 will be asked of the next legislature. If it will cost \$10,000,000, including heating plant, furniture and landscaping, as some members of the commission contend, another levy of \$2,000,000 will be necessary because of the \$1,000,000 shortage in the \$9,000,000 estimated revenue and the over run of \$1,000,000 which some believe will be necessary before the building and grounds are completed.

May Run Short.

Taking the state accountant's estimated resources of \$2,587,901, the funds in sight from the present levies will be short. From this amount there is unpaid \$769,431 on the first and second sections.

It is estimated that the cost of the tower which is to be contracted for the last of January will be at least \$750,000, and possibly more, some putting it as high as \$1,000,000. At the lesser figure the tower and the amount unpaid on old contracts will total \$1,519,431. These items deducted from the resources would leave \$1,068,470 for the fourth section, which is to in-

(Continued on Page 14-A, Col. 1.)

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

clude the senate chamber and all superstructure west of the tower. No figures have been submitted by architects on the cost of section four. It may cost much more than \$2,000,000.

According to the state accountant's report warrants totaling \$5,496,203 have been issued on the capitol building fund up to Nov. 1, 1927. If to this is added \$769,431, now unpaid on the first and second sections the cost of the present construction when completed will be \$6,265,634.

Adding \$750,000 as a low estimate for the cost of the tower would make the three sections cost \$7,015,634. To come within the \$9,000,000 the total cost of the west wing or fourth section, and heating plant, furniture and landscaping would have to be limited to less than \$2,000,000. Section four will include the senate chamber.

Accountant's Report.

The state accountant's report to the capitol commission shows that the state treasurer has received for the capitol fund, \$6,678,650 and has paid warrants amounting to \$5,494,473, leaving cash in the capitol fund of \$1,184,176. The treasury receipts include \$26,310 for the capitol fund from "sales and refunds," not derived from taxation but made up largely of monthly payments from the Burlington road to the commission for work performed by the commission in hauling cars of freight from the railroad tracks to the capitol grounds. The accountant's report is in this form:

In response to your request, I beg to advise you that the Capitol building fund taxes levied or to be levied under the present law (including an estimate of the 1928 tax), total \$8,350,249.34, as shown on exhibit L. Deducting 3 percent for losses and collection fees leaves the amount net \$8,099,742.35. There has been collected to Nov. 1, 1927, 6,652,340.14

Leaving to be collected, including the 1928 tax \$1,447,402.31
Resources

I would place the resources of the capitol building fund as of Nov. 1, 1927, at \$2,587,901.15, as follows:

Nov. 1, 1927, cash in treasury	\$1,184,176.55
Less warrants outstanding	1,720.13
	\$1,182,447.52

1926 and prior taxes outstanding	104,371.31
Less 4 per cent to cover special losses from voided railroad and bank taxes	41,343.80
	62,322.91

1927 taxes levied but not collected	Net	670,320.70
1928 taxes to be levied, estimated	Net	672,210.00

Nov. 1, 1927, total resources	\$2,587,901.13
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Believes More to Come.

As to the 1926 and prior taxes outstanding, \$104,871.51, I believe the greater part of this will yet come in. The county treasurer's deduct a fee for collecting the taxes, which averages 2.25 percent. This leaves only 75 percent to cover losses, but indications are that this will fully cover ordinary losses and leave something to apply on the special losses thru voided bank and railroad taxes.

The people have paid their taxes well of late years; there is always a little interest coming in along with delinquent taxes paid, and additions to the tax list are made in many cases, after the footings of the tax list have been reported to the state auditor and charged against the county on the state tax ledgers. All of this helps to pay out. I have made a test check of a number of counties, and indications are that nearly 7 percent of the 1926 taxes are still uncollected. A good part of this will come in thru the real estate tax sales, held this month, and the proceeds will reach the state treasurer during December, 1927.

I have deducted 40 percent from the old outstanding, and this \$41,943.60 deducted, I believe will cover all additional items proving uncollectible since the beginning of the levy. This would make the amount charged off for losses and collection fees 2.8 percent, including voided bank and railroad taxes.

The 1927 taxes have been assessed, but since the tax lists are not delivered to the county treasurers until Nov. 1, none of the 1927 taxes can as yet have reached the state treasury. Thus, the whole 1927 levy is still to be received.

The 1928 taxes I have estimated on basis of an assessed valuation of \$3,150,000,000. This is an increase of some nine millions over the 1927 valuation. On account of better crops, there ought to be more grain and livestock on hand April 1 next. Also there will be additional real estate improvements, and I believe an increase of nine millions in the assessed valuation is conservative.

Warrant Account.

A tabulation of the warrants issued appears on exhibit 2 showing a grand total, up to Nov. 1, 1927, of \$5,596,203.11. Paid and cancelled up to Nov. 1, 1927, \$5,494,473.98. Leaving outstanding on Nov. 1, 1927, \$1,101,729.13.

Cash Account.

The total capitol building tax paid into the state treasury, up to Nov. 1, 1927, as shown on exhibit 1 \$6,552,340.14. Miscellaneous receipts as per exhibit 1 \$6,310.49.

Total receipts \$6,675,650.63
Warrants paid \$5,494,473.98

Nov. 1, 1927, cash in treasury \$1,184,176.65

Accountant Sommer also submits exhibits upon which his report is based showing the assessed value of property in the state for the years 1919 to and including 1927, the different capitol fund levies, the estimated gross receipts from these taxes, which total \$7,657,249, and the total receipts of the treasury up to June 30, 1927, which was \$6,652,340.

Mr. Sommer estimates the 1928 tax, based on a valuation of \$3,150,000 at 22 mills on the dollar valuation, at \$693,000. This, less 3 percent, to cover losses and collection fees, would be \$250,507, making the estimated gross tax since 1919 a total of \$8,099,742.

To the receipts of the treasury, \$6,552,340.14, he adds the following taxes to be received:

The 1926 and prior, outstanding, \$104,871.51; 1927 taxes to be collected, \$670,320.70; 1928 taxes, estimated, \$672,210, making total tax receipts \$8,099,742.35, instead of the \$9,000,000 estimated by the legislature.

Warrants Issued.

The accountant's report of warrants issued on the capitol fund and cash account is covered by this exhibit:

Oct. 1, 1919, to Nov. 30, 1920	43,586.31
Dec. 1, 1920, to June 30, 1921	6,214.83
July 1, 1921, to June 30, 1922	163,413.33
July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923	267,432.36
July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924	215,388.94
July 1, 1924, to June 30, 1925	655,158.57
July 1, 1925, to June 30, 1926	907,957.59
July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1927	110,079.69
July 1, 1927, to Oct. 31, 1927	437,354.52
Total warrants issued	\$5,496,203.11

Cash Account.	
Dec. 1, 1918, to Nov. 30, 1920	\$ 794,235.78
Dec. 1, 1920, to June 30, 1921	621,244.91
July 1, 1921, to June 30, 1922	903,128.65
July 1, 1922, to June 30, 1923	954,358.92
July 1, 1923, to June 30, 1924	925,195.31
July 1, 1924, to June 30, 1925	925,402.35
July 1, 1925, to June 30, 1926	739,353.90
July 1, 1926, to June 30, 1927	704,349.32
July 1, 1927, to Oct. 31, 1927	110,393.47
Total	\$6,675,650.63
Nov. 1, 1927, cash on hand	\$1,184,176.65
Total	\$6,675,650.63

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Neb

#159

5-12-5-27

FILLING UP THE NEW CAPITOL.

When plans for Nebraska's new capitol were decided upon a few years ago, it was said that the building would be large enough to provide ample capacity to take care of all needs of the state government for a century to come. The size of the structure, over 400 feet square, the main part containing two floors and basement, with a dozen additional floors to be located in the central tower, gave assurance of four or five times as much floor space as the old building afforded.

The capitol commission, however, failed to anticipate the mushroom increase in governmental activities and personnel which has taken place under what is known as the "civil administrative code." It did not foresee that the six newly created departments would spread out within a few years to such an extent that all available space in the lower floors of the new edifice would be needed to house their employes, office equipment, and records.

Today, only 5½ years since ground was broken for the building, it is evident that by the time of its completion all the rooms it contains will be required for the use of departments and bureaus now existing or which may be created in the meantime. One of the things about the code system is that a new bureau can be established at any time the governor and his aides see fit to call it into being; while those already in existence can be expanded indefinitely, since the law allows the governor and his secretaries to appoint any number of employes they may see fit, and to fix their salaries.

There is just one way for the people of Nebraska to head off this tendency to pyramid governmental costs and taxes. That is to abolish the system directly responsible for it.

As shown by figures published in The Sunday Star, the governor's six code departments spent \$282,293 during the first 4 months of the present biennium—from July 1 to October 31, inclusive—while in the same period 7 departments operated by elective state officers were administered for a total outlay of only \$81,015.

The above disbursements of the code departments did not include anything for state highway construction and maintenance; or for state aid bridges, which are paid for separately. They included no part of the cost of construction of the new capitol, for which a special fund is provided, expenditures in operating any of the state institutions. The money spent was simply what it cost to run the departments, pay salaries, buy stationery, supplies and furniture, and meet other running expenses.

Are the taxpayers of Nebraska likely to swallow any twaddle about "economy and efficiency" under the code, when its six departments cost 3½ times as much to run as the combined expenditures of the governor's own office and his law enforcement bureau, the secretary of state, auditor, treasurer, land commissioner, state superintendent, and attorney general?

Would it not be much better to get rid of this expensive machinery and put the state government back into the hands of officers elected by the people, who feel some responsibility to the people?

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

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#160

8-12-16-27

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

CHANDELIER FOR CAPITOL.

The chandelier which is soon to be suspended in the rotunda of the new capitol, will be a massive piece weighing 3,500 pounds and supporting 126 lights. The lights will be in three portions, some in a ball, others in a ring and the greater part in the main body of the chandelier. The lights in different parts may be controlled by switches. The weight will be supported by chains on a windlass 112 feet above the second floor. It will be much larger than the chandelier now hanging in the vestibule of the main entrance. Scaffolding in the memorial foyer has been removed and workmen are now laying a slate and marble floor. The first design laid is a sunburst, smaller and less elaborate than the one in the vestibule.

336.45 Neb

#161

FURNITURE FOR SUITE IS HERE

S-12-17-27
Furnishings Being In-
stalled in Executive
Offices at Capitol.

Governor's Rooms To Be Formally Opened New Year's.

Furniture, rugs and draperies for the governor's suite in the new Nebraska capitol, purchased by the capitol commission last July, are now being delivered and unpacked by workmen for the Orchard & Wilhelm Co., Omaha, which will receive \$83,000 for supplying these furnishings, and installing new woodwork, and refinishing floors, walls and ceilings in the different rooms.

Together with the mural paintings in the large reception room and the governor's private office, which are the work of Augustus V. Tack of New York and cost an additional \$63,000, the new appointments of the executive suite will be thrown open to public view for the first time at Governor McMullen's New Year reception. A general invitation has been extended by the governor to all the people of Nebraska welcoming them to this formal opening of his new establishment, said to be one of the most elaborate in any state edifice in the country.

The outfit of new furniture includes several pieces valued at \$1,000 or more each. Single chairs of the more ornate types cost from \$100 to \$205 apiece and upwards. Everything is of solid hand-carved walnut except the panelled surfaces of a few pieces, where wood of a special quality was used for veneer.

The only departure from walnut furniture throughout is the leather wastebaskets provided for two of the rooms.

Semi-Circular Council Table.

In the audience chamber at the west end of the suite, where the governor conducts public hearings and several of the state boards hold their sessions, there will be a large semi-circular table with seating space for seven persons. It resembles to some extent the seating arrangement for the supreme court.

At the middle of this table will be a highback chair, finished in antique Italian leather with a blue-green background, for the governor. There will be six "councillors' chairs" of similar design, but less elaborate, for other officials. A clerk's desk 5 by 2½ feet in dimensions and twenty-four arm chairs done in gold

S-12-17-27
NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

and blue-green finish, for the use of spectators, complete the equipment of this room.

The reception room, next to the east, will contain a console 6 feet long and sixteen "banquettes", or plush-upholstered seats with side arms but no backs, arranged singly and in twos and threes. There will also be a pair of bronze candlesticks.

In the Private Office.

Furniture for the governor's private office includes a table 8 by 3½ feet in size, two smaller tables, a wall table, and a small telephone table a bench 5 feet long with red velvet coverings a large hand-carved and finely upholstered high-backed chair and two Dante chairs, all with Italian antique leather finish four upholstered wall chairs and three easy chairs; a filing case; and a leather waste basket.

The secretary's room will have a desk 8 by 3 feet, a desk chair embossed in Spanish leather, two open back chairs, a highback chair, a console table, two benches each 8 feet long upholstered in antique green velvet, a work table, a filing case, and a waste basket.

Five rugs costing thousands of dollars in the aggregate are among the executive suite equipment. The governor's own room will have two of them, one 12 feet square, the other 12 by 10 feet. A larger one, 18 feet square, will cover the floor in the secretary's room; and the largest of all will be the one in the audience room, 18 by 30 feet. A small rug 3½ feet long and 23 inches wide will be placed in a passageway leading from the governor's room to the main corridor.

Curtains and other hangings to match will be placed in all the rooms, including wall panel draperies of velvet and other expensive materials.

Three of the rooms have large ornamental fireplaces, for each of which andirons, a fishback, and a poker have been bought for ornamental purposes, though it is doubtful if any of them will ever be put to practical use.

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#162

7-12-18-27

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

J. Hyde Sweet on the Nebraska Capitol

Nebraska City News-Press. Lew Shelly, curious-minded editor of Fairbury, wonders why a state capitol building which was to cost no more than five millions of dollars in 1920 will cost at least twice that sum when it is completed—if ever.

The Lincoln Journal, chief spokesman for the architectural error which is now slowly rearing itself on the saline flats of the capital, declares the cost is double the estimate because "the world gave the plan so much applause that three governors and four legislatures decided that it would be a good investment to go ahead even if the cost were doubled."

This argument, probably, is as good as any, and many an excuse has been pushed forward to appease the anger of the well known Nebraska taxpayer who looks with growing discontent on his annual tax receipt, the increase of which is mostly due to the insatiable appetite of the state government.

The fact of the matter is, of course, that whenever a state embarks on much a monumental enterprise as a capitol building (this is true elsewhere as well as in Nebraska) the costs run to about double the estimate and overreach by several millions what an individual would spend on a similar venture.

The state is an intangible, lazy, irresponsible cuss, as it were, with little regard for the spending of money, because the money doesn't come from the pants pockets of those who spend it. Were an individual to build a structure like the new capitol a hundred ways of cutting costs would have been discovered long before this, speed

would have been applied to the job and the man who "puts up the jack" would be sitting on the lid of his strong box watching the payroll and all the other tax-eating devices which the ultimate consumer as a part of government, must pay.

The "applause" of which the Journal speaks has not been so general or so vociferous as the newspaper so naively relates. Not all Lincoln newspapermen are in accord as to the appropriateness of the building, but being astute gentlemen and in touch with the local sentiment, they have said little for publication. State officials have not been unanimously approving, either, but they too, are gagged by the local artistic temperament that raves over the beauties of the building without really caring for its utility.

As for the taxpayers of Nebraska, the Uitlanders who must pay the bill, they seem to care little about it one way or another. Fortunately they were prepared for the "worset that is yet to come." History taught them long ago that when the state starts a job it's a long time ending and the bill of costs is usually from two to five times what the boosters declared would be the "outside figure."

Let the job go on, and as speedily as possible. The sooner it is finished and paid for the quicker will die the discontent. The tumult and the shouting of protest have come from a comparatively small group of persons, including outstate newspapermen, who count for little anyway except to pay their share of the treasury deficit and keep a Shut Mouth on such things as are of Material Benefit to the folks of the well known capital city.

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#163

S-12-24-27

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**Marsh Complains
Unable to Secure
Office Furniture**

S-12-24-27

Two oak desks have just been delivered at the office of Secretary of State Frank Marsh, being the first units of an outfit of temporary furniture which he asked for last June to place in the additional room of his suite, recently completed. Until the rest of the order is supplied, Marsh and his assistants can not move in nor make use of the room, although it has been ready otherwise for some time.

"I don't know why it is that my department has to wait six months or more to get some plain furniture that is badly needed, while a lot of fancy stuff costing thousands of dollars is being first installed for decorative purposes over in the executive suite," Mr. Marsh said. "If that's the best they can do under the code system of government, maybe it had better be abolished.

"I don't like to complain, but I do wish that the governor would hurry things along a little bit so that this office can get squared around to render to the people of Nebraska the service which they have a right to expect from it."

At present, the secretary of state's department is cooped up in two rooms, one of them a tiny private office where Marsh and two of his assistants work. Some of the code departments have eight or ten times as much office space.

336.45 **CAPITOL SUITE**
Nebraska **NOW FURNISHED**
#164

S-12-25-27

**Governor's Office Said to
Be Most Unique Room
in State.**

**Furniture Design Carries
Out Ornamentation
Scheme of Building.**

The governor's suite at the capitol, including the private office, the secretary's office, the reception room, and the hearing room, have a delightful old world atmosphere, gained through the new furnishings and hangings. Even as the architecture of the building is unusual, so do these four rooms have a unique charm of their own, fitting for the suite that is really the center of the state house, the offices which all visitors will wish to see.

Just as the furniture of the French empire recreated Egyptian furniture using Roman-Grecian ornamentation, so did the decorator design this new furniture for the suite using Italian and Spanish structures, embellished with Good-huesque ornamentations, such as are employed by the architect throughout the building. It is an entirely new furniture style, and makes the rooms unique in this state.

The center furnishing of the governor's private office is a massive walnut table, inlaid with rare and beautiful woods. For the governor is a high-backed, very large tooled leather chair, with the other chairs in the room of a comfortable lounge type, covered in brilliant blue Genoese velvet. Across the desk from the governor are two chairs such as Dante might have used.

A strong red velvet covered settee or bench copied from one in the town of old Toledo, Spain, tends to balance the brilliant blue in the chairs. The occasional pieces of furniture in the room carry out the idea of period furniture.

The walls are covered with loose hanging Arras of hand-loomed gray velvet, bordered with 12-inch bands of brilliant red and trimmed at the bottom with a foot deep fringe. A frieze, two feet deep, above the wall hanging surrounds the room, and the design is intricate, interesting, and colorful. The curtains are a continuance of the wall hangings and when drawn give the appearance of a solid hanging panelling, as they are not divided in the center in the modern fashion.

Woven In England.

The rug, woven in England, is more than an inch thick, with a ground color of Tete de Nigre, and a line of bright red appearing in the border. The overmantle, which might be studied for some time to appreciate its beauty and design, is also of inlay of rare woods of all parts of the world.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

S-12-25-27

As the room is divided by a colonnade, the ceiling is treated in two parts. Above the governor's desk are the murals, designed by Augustus Vincent Tack, who has done all the mural work for the capitol, which are brought into relief by black marble. The solid wood-beamed structure, done in bright colors, of the other portion of the room was executed by the Orchard and Wilhelm decorating staff.

Between the governor's office and the secretary's office is a long panelled passage. The office is wainscoted in solid hand carved walnut within three feet of the ceiling. The ceiling is of coffered, or square recessed design, having an all-over background ornament simulating wheat and corn.

The rug is of the same deep hand tufted type as in the governor's room, harmonizing with the colors of the room, but with a ground of King's blue. The furniture is of Italian structure, with the Good-huesque ornamentation, and the design is fitting to go with that of the private office. Two large benches, replicas of those in a famed villa of Verona, with velvet pads of color similar to the rug, are used against the wall. The curtains are of antique Brocatelle in a deep blue and walnut coloring.

In the reception room, velvet covered banquettes, similar to those in the Doges palace in Venice. The jade green damask curtains, hanging in one piece, are suspended in an early Italian lacing style. The light in the room is a soft flood from behind the wainscoting.

Like Palace Floor.

The floor is laid of hundreds of small tiles, following the design of a floor in the Davanzatti palace in Florence, Italy. The fireplace is furnished with huge black andirons, an iron fireback to match, and a large fork to turn the logs.

In the hearing room, the carpeting is the same as that of the secretary's room and the curtains are hung in the same manner as those in the reception room, but they are of wine colored velvet, rather than the bright damask. Above the mantle in the hearing room is a velvet panel with the seal of Nebraska embroidered in metal thread.

At one end of this room, a great niche reaches to the ceiling, and therein is a massive circular table and seven high back chairs, with the center, or governor's chair, being raised, as on a dais. An antique wine-colored hanging lines two-thirds of the niche. Two dozen chairs upholstered in tooled blue-green leather are arranged in semi-circular formation for the audience at hearings.

The furnishings and hangings cost \$83,000, and the murals for the two rooms, \$63,000, making a total of \$146,000.

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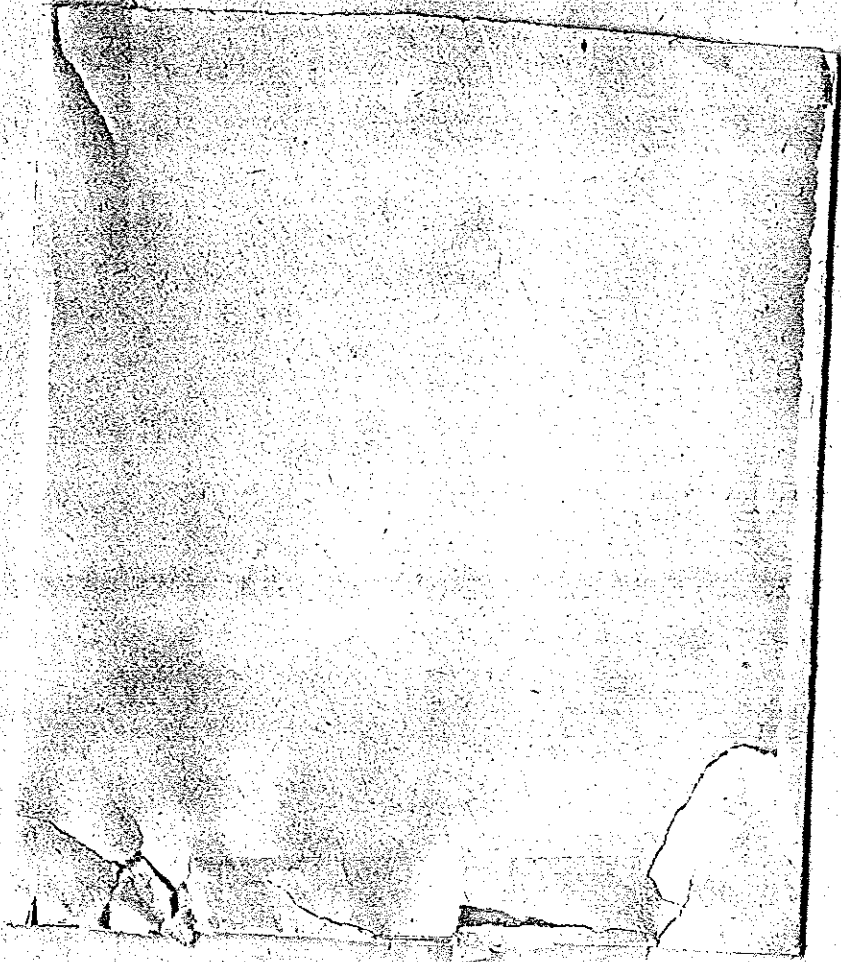
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#165

Mural Decorations
in Nebraska Capitol

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

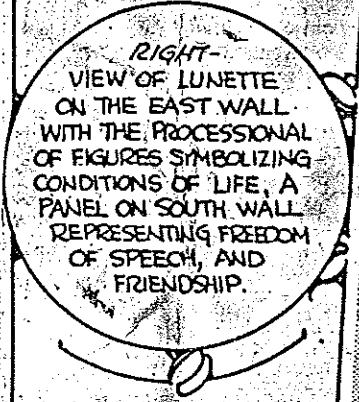


Muralist for Nebraska The Early Italians Did. Is One of the Unique Ro

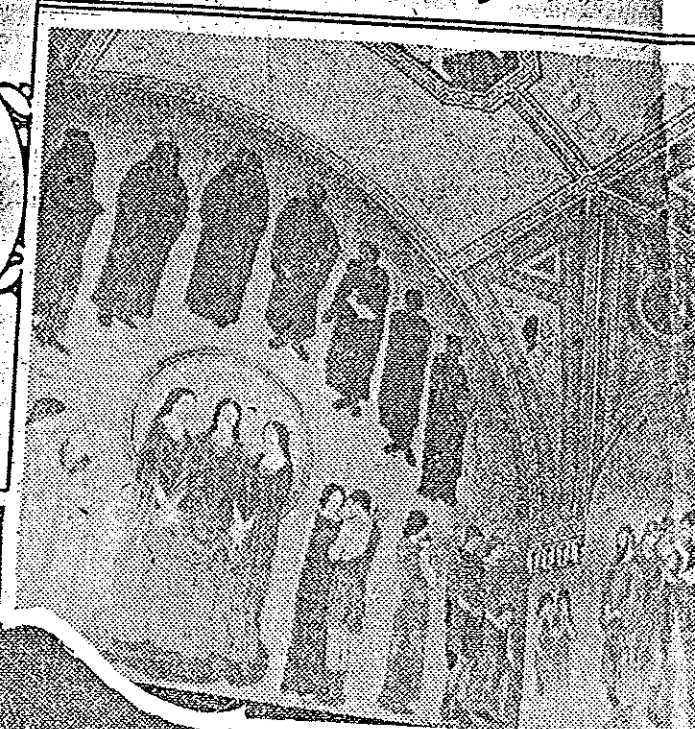


AUGUSTUS VINCENT TACK

Mural artist for Nebraska's magnificent new capitol
—TOWNSEND PORTRAIT.



RIGHT-VIEW OF LUNETTE ON THE EAST WALL WITH THE PROCESSIONAL OF FIGURES SYMBOLIZING CONDITIONS OF LIFE. A PANEL ON SOUTH WALL REPRESENTING FREEDOM OF SPEECH, AND FRIENDSHIP.



RIGHT-PART OF THE VAULT WITH VULCAN AND YOUNG MEN TRIBUTE; THE PRIMITIVE ELEMENTS OF THE FIRE HOOD, AND THE GUILLOCHE FRET ORNAMENTAL MOTIFS.

ON THE LEFT, A PART OF THE GROUP SYMBOLIZING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM; IN THE CENTER, THE RIGHT OF SUFFRAGE, AND ON THE RIGHT, THE STATE REPRESENTED AS THE DEFENDER OF THE HELPLESS.

BY LULU MAE COE.

When Augustus Vincent Tack, muralist for the capitol, completes the final waxing and rubbing of his work within the week, he will be finishing the work of three years, the preparation of more. Long hours of close concentration lie between the first thoughts and the last gesture.

Not only must he know the fundamentals of his own art. He must be conversant with history, literature, mythology, law, and science. He must be a man who can vision the whole through myriad parts, a person of broad sympathy and understanding.

Mr. Tack has done the decoration for the two rooms of the governor's suite to have murals, the reception room, the largest, and the private office. The former room is a barrel vault 26 feet high, 40 feet long, and 22 feet wide. It is medieval in character and is one which the architect, the late Bertram Goodhue, considered as successful in proportion as any he designed. A paneled walnut wainscot eight feet high surrounds the room.

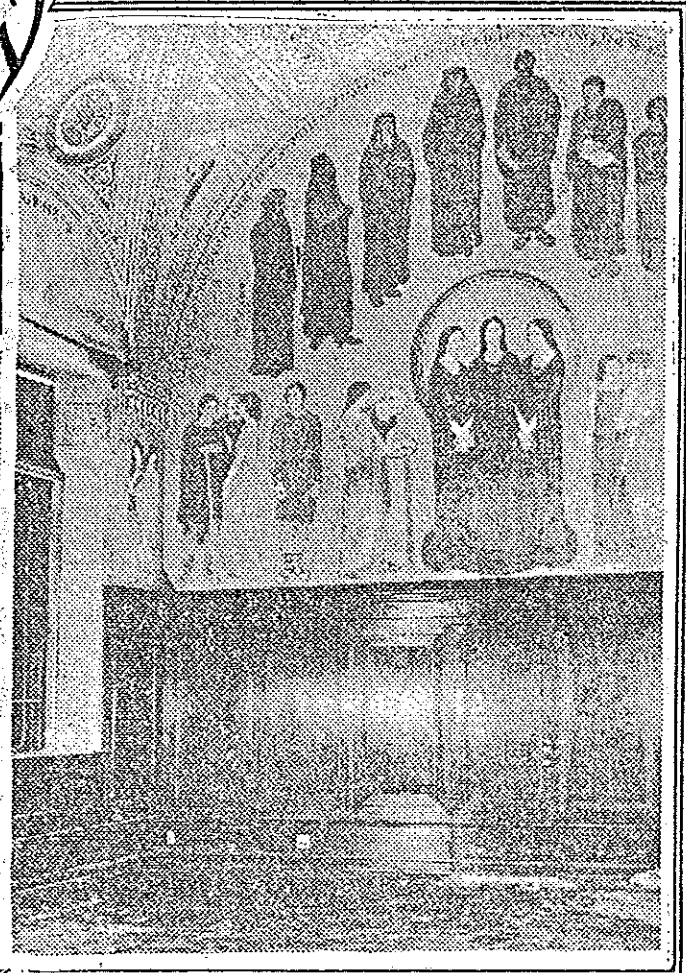
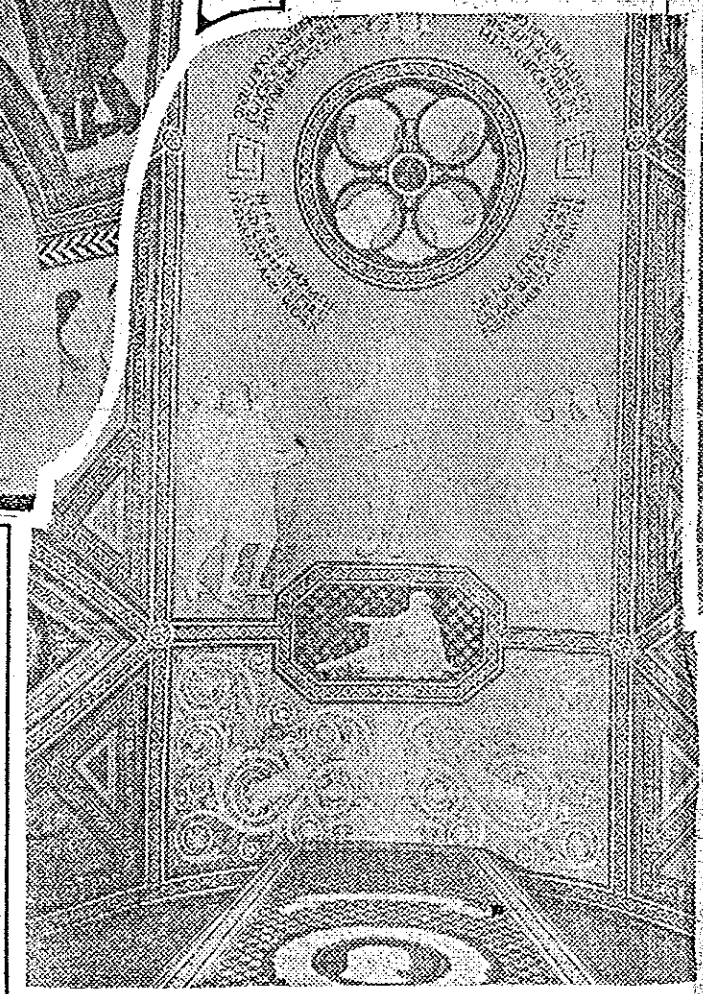
Without Raised Mouldings. The reception room is possibly the first painted room in this country, one without raised mouldings, allowing the muralist to be unhampered in his decorative design. All the architectural structure above the wainscot, the divisions and borders surrounding the panels, are painted as the muralist desires.

The floor is of red brick, oiled and rubbed, giving it somewhat the effect of the surface of polished chestnuts or rich enamel. The curtains, jade green damask, hang in one piece, rather than in the conventional manner of two divided in the center, and are attached to a wrought iron bar by twisted cords which form a decorative interlacing at the top. Low benches around the room and console table with two wrought iron candlesticks complete the furnishings.

State Capitol Has Decorated As and the Governor's Reception Room Rooms of This Country



PART OF
WITH
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EN PAYING
THE FOUR
ELEMENTS;
A SECTION
REPLACE
D THE
IF AND
MENTAL



PORTION OF THE EAST WALL AND CORNER
SHOWING "UNDERSTANDING", "JUSTICE", "MERCY"
AND SOME OF THE FIGURES REPRESENTING
LAW-GIVING NATIONS.



education is one thing. Above this group is the sentence, "Knowledge Has No Enemy, Save Ignorance."

Panels on Wall.

On the wall, separated by the only windows in the room, the three on the north, are four small panels, the two in the center representing the state as the guardian of the dignity of marriage and of the sacredness of motherhood. Two smaller panels, also repeated on the opposite wall, comprising the four corners of the room, contain groups of children, signifying that the four corners are upheld by its youth and that without youth there can be no future of the state.

The murals of the long wall opposite the windows symbolize the three guarantees of the state to its citizens, liberty of speech, liberty of divine worship and right of suffrage. In the center panel appears this sentence from the Book of Revelation, "The Voice of God Is As the Sound of Many Waters." The group comprising this panel is evidently listening to this great voice, each one hearing in his own way. In this group is the only

one piece, rather than in the conventional manner of two divided in the center, and are attached to a wrought iron bar by twisted cords which form a decorative interlacing at the top. Low benches around the room and console table with two wrought iron candlesticks complete the furnishings.

The room naturally divides itself into three parts, the side walls, upper and lower vaults. The latter are the pendentives formed by the penetrations. The idea of each area is symbolical, referring to the state, to its citizens, and to the fundamental activities of life.

Abstract Figures Used.

"The whole," Mr. Tack explains, "is an expression of abstract ideas by the use of abstract figures. These figures decorate the surface of the wall much in the way the Greeks employed the figure to decorate the surface of a vase. This principle is also followed by the Byzantines, the lineal descendants of the Greeks in many of their mosaic decorations from the sixth to the twelfth centuries.

"There is no particular light, or shade, no perspective, no scenery, no furniture or trappings. The figures are free against the wall, almost too dimensional, modeled just enough to make them comprehensible.

"I have tried to give it a spiritual quality, a sense of remoteness. I wanted to create an inspirational atmosphere."

The dominant tone in the room is gray, unifying it with blue forming a sweep across the room, from the axis of the east door, flanking that the pendentives, the blue fields of the vault, and finally the fireplace hood. Green is played against the blue. The other colors, the ivory, the rose, the purple, are accidental.

Lighter Colors Below.

On this gray, the treatment of the figures varies in the three divisions. Just as in nature, objects seen near to are lighter or darker in values, so in this first plan all the figures are lighter and darker than the field on which they appear and as in nature distant objects, as mountains, seen against the sky, seem darker in value, so the figures in the pendentives are darker than the ground on which they are painted, Mr. Tack explains. In the vault, the figures are lighter than the field on which they appear carrying out the analogy to nature, as when we look into the sky and see white clouds floating against the blue.

On the hood over the fireplace representing the state is a primitive pioneer head of a woman, done in 'grisaille,' and surrounded by an opulent wreath suggestive of prosperity and riches. This is surmounted by the motto, "Equality Before the Law." A diaper pattern in blue, gray, and gold covers the hood.

The mural on the left of the mantel suggests the state as the protector of the sick in its hospitals and of the helpless in its asylums. Above it is a motto from Seneca, "The World Had Perished Had Not Pity Set Bounds to Wrath." Balancing this on the other side of the fireplace is a panel representing the state as the provider of learning in its schools and universities, and this is symbolized by three figures representing philosophy, science and art, with a youth standing before them to make his choice of one or all. They hold a scarf which seems to unite them, indicating that

out youth there can be no future of the state.

The murals of the long wall opposite the windows symbolize the three guarantees of the state to its citizens, liberty of speech, liberty of divine worship and right of suffrage. In the center panel appears this sentence from the Book of Revelation, "The Voice of God is As the Sound of Many Waters." The group comprising this panel is evidently listening to this great voice, each one hearing in his own way. In this group is the only black figure in the room, which is also the only figure looking squarely into the room. It represents the voice of conscience, which each man recognizes, each man in the group hearing it in his own tongue, but all hearkening to the same voice.

To the left of this center is a group expressing the confusion and agitation resulting from liberty of speech. The panel on the right of the center expresses the idea of rights of suffrage, or free choice of government, with one figure offering the ballot box to the others.

Allegorical Group.

Opposite the fireplace, on the east wall, is an allegorical group, consisting of three figures representing the divine attributes of understanding, justice and mercy. The significance of the group is in the action of the hands, wherein the hands of Justice are stayed, not held, by Understanding and Mercy, conveying the thought that justice should be tempered by these two qualities.

On either side of this center are figures representing the various conditions of human life, such as youth, old age, young lovers, motherhood, the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak. They form part of a continuous procession, conveying the thought that all men are equal before the state. In other words, it emphasizes the meaning of the motto of the state, "Equality Before the Law," the motto on the fireplace opposite.

In the upper section of this lunette, the civilizations from which we have derived our culture and our codes of law are represented, and the eight figures symbolize the wisdom of the world. They include India, Babylonia, Judea, Aegyptus, Graecia, Roma, Gallia and Anglia, the Latin forms being used so that the France of Clovis and the England of Alfred the Great might be suggested. The fundamental principle of American liberty, "All Men Are Endowed by Their Creator With Certain Unalienable Rights, Among These Are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," caps the symbolism of the world's wisdom.

Express Citizenship Virtues.

The pendentives contain motives expressing the virtues of citizenship such as hospitality, friendship, charity and honesty, as well as solidarity, concord, labor and hope. In the soffits of the penetrations are six medallions surrounded by decorative borders, and they bear the names of six great citizens of the United States. In the place of honor is the name of Lincoln, for whom the capital of Nebraska is named. On the opposite wall is the name of Washington, on either side of whom are Hamilton and Jefferson, and on either side of Lincoln are Franklin and Marshall. The six, in Mr. Tack's estimation, are the most ideal types the United States has produced, and typify "What Is America?"

In the vault, two great ideas, industry and agriculture, are expressed, for upon them the safety and the progress of the state depend. The center of the vault is represented by the four primitive elements, earth, air, fire and water. These are enclosed in a decorative circle in the center of which is a square panel, the center in the circle

Murals in Governor's Office in New Cap



One group of paintings by America's eminent muralist, Augustus Vincent Tack, for the governor's reception room at the capitol, are shown above.

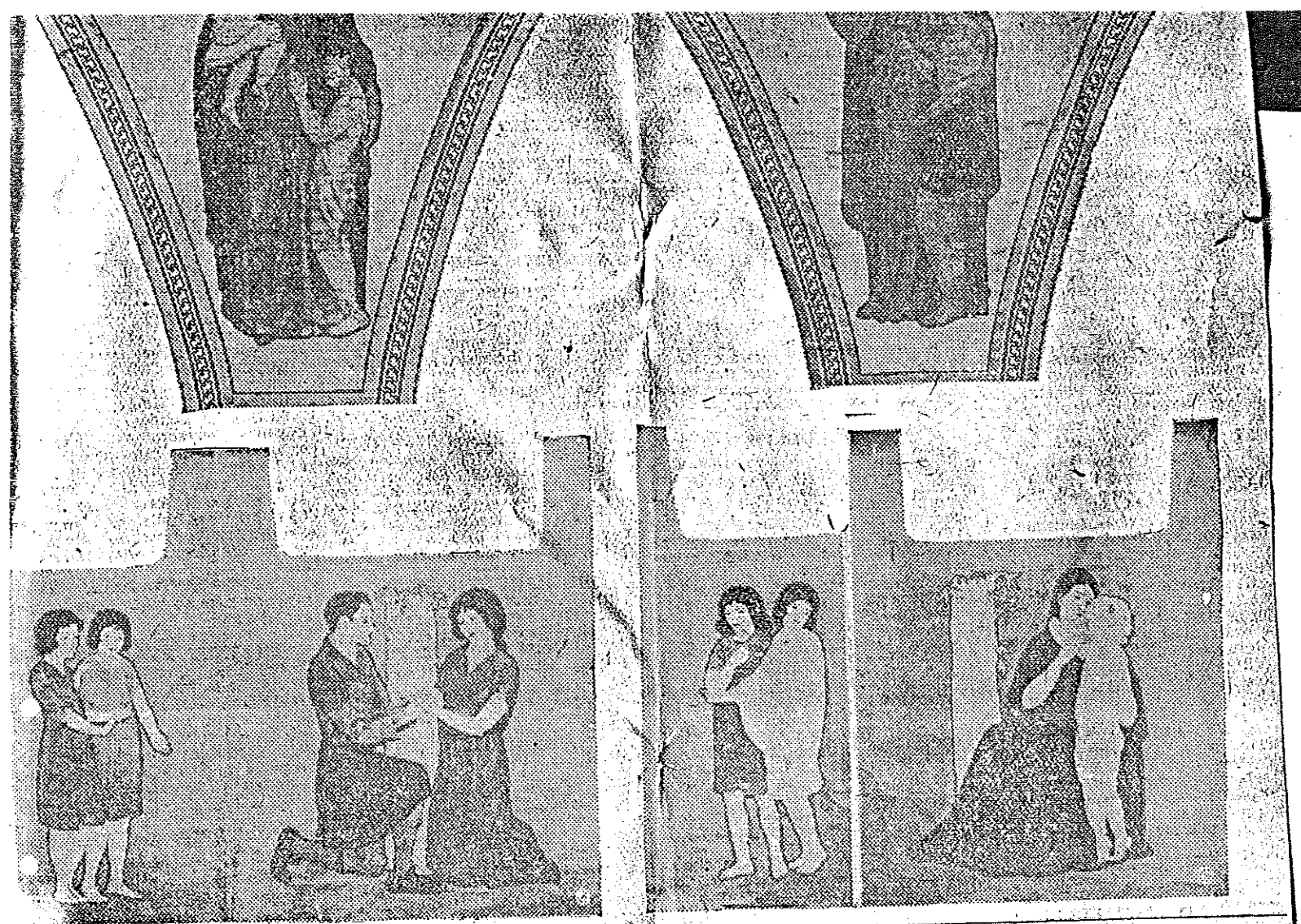
The oval panels of the upper row are on the south wall, and depict three guarantees of the state to its citizens, Liberty of Speech, Liberty of Divine Worship, and Rights of Suffrage. The smaller panels represent Mother and Children, and Wisdom Instructing Youth.

The pendentive motives express the virtues of citizenship, and the four of the second row are Hospitality, Friendship, Charity and Truthfulness.

In the lower row on the left is the panel symbolizing Dignity of Marriage and, on the right, the panel representing Sacredness of Motherhood. The two small murals are Childhood, of which a group is in each corner of the room.

Capitol Depict Three Constitutional Rights





four panels surrounded this circle. They are as follows:
 Earth nourisheth the seeds of life,
 She fostereth all that grow.

Walking we breath the pure air,
 Joyously for Heaven is our friend.

Gift of stream and cloud,
 Water is our refresher, our purifier.

In fire is energy and heat,
 In fire is light and work.

Two small panels appear in the vault in 'grisaille,' decorative painting in gray monochrome. One represents Fortune with the rewards of Life. The other represents the Hunter, signifying the quest of life, each one of us who goes forth seeking. At the extreme end of each side is a decorative representation of the tree of life, recalling to mind the words from Revelation: "On either side is the tree of life and the fruit of the tree is twelve and its leaves for the healing of the nations." This tree of life represents each generation coming to its fullness and from it the succeeding generation.

Tack is Represented.

The ornament which comprises the borders and separations of the panels consists simply of a guilloche and fret, both old ornamental motifs. The guilloche was discovered before the time of the early Egyptians.

Augustus V. Tack, who has done this room, unique in Nebraska, and who has worked out its symbolism has done many murals in the east and he is also a portrait painter of note. Mr. Tack did the murals for the legislative chamber of the new

parliament buildings in Manitoba, Canada, as well as in a number of churches, of which the murals in one of the chapels in the Church of St. Paul in New York, in the Church of St. James in South Deerfield, Mass., and an altar piece in Newport, R. I., are among the number. Upon the completion of the capitol work, he will begin work on three memorial panels for a Philadelphia church.

Mr. Tack has recently been awarded first prize for his painting shown in the Louisville, Ky., exhibit, and it was purchased by the Speed memorial for its permanent collec-

tion. He is represented in the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York City, the Cleveland Art museum, the Neward art museum and the Phillips Memorial gallery in Washington.

MURAL PAINTINGS FOR NEW CAPITOL

(Continued from Page One)

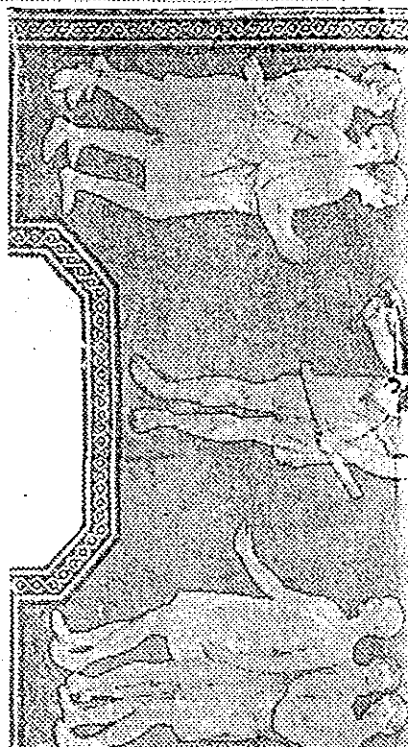
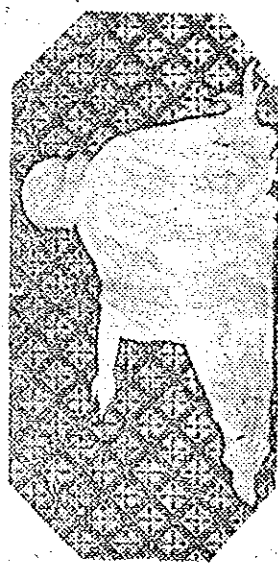
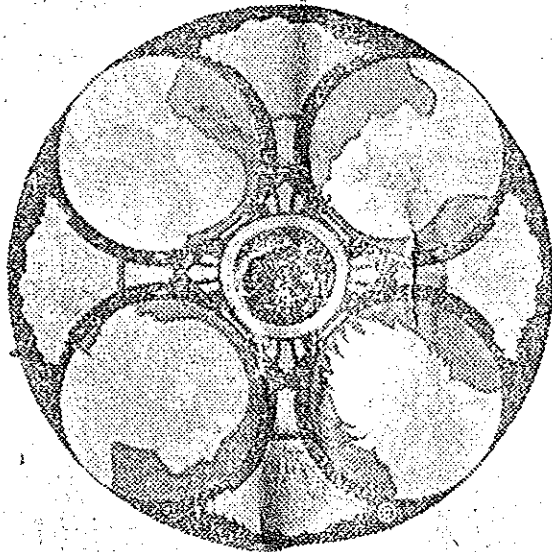
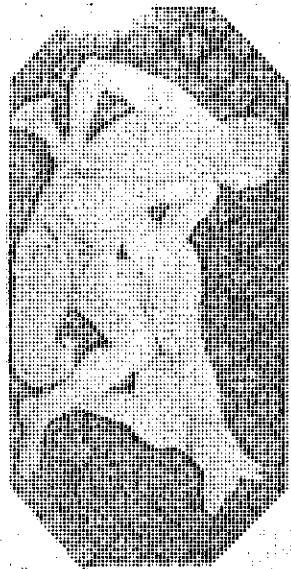
circle being an ancient symbol of time in eternity.

On the right of this center is Ceres, attended by her maidens, the symbol of the productivity and fertility of the earth. Balancing this figure is Vulcan, representing industry and activity of life. Young men pay tribute to him. On this side are Fire and Water, because they are the chief aids of industry. On the side of Ceres are earth and air, the soil and atmosphere which produce the great crops.

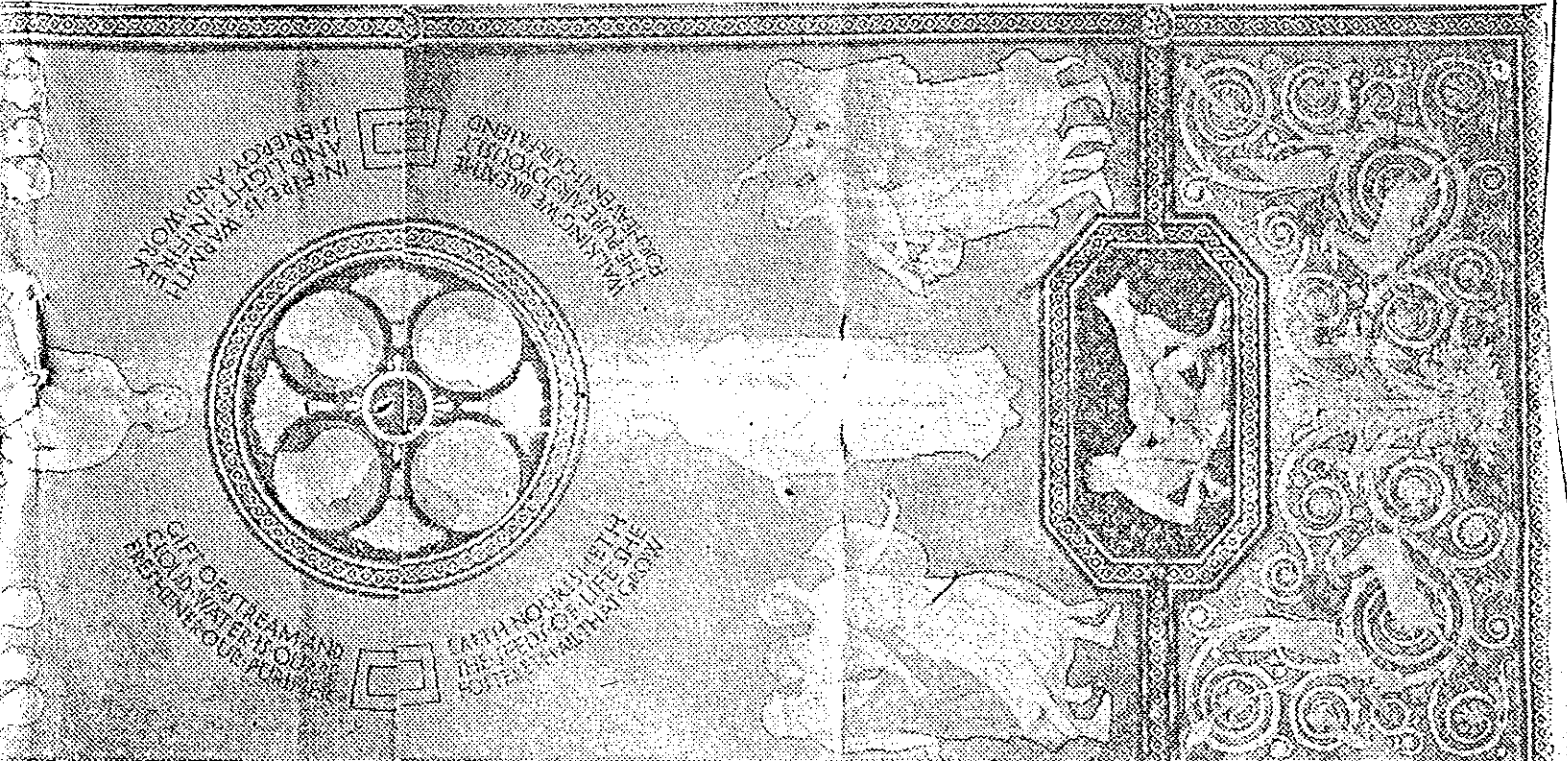
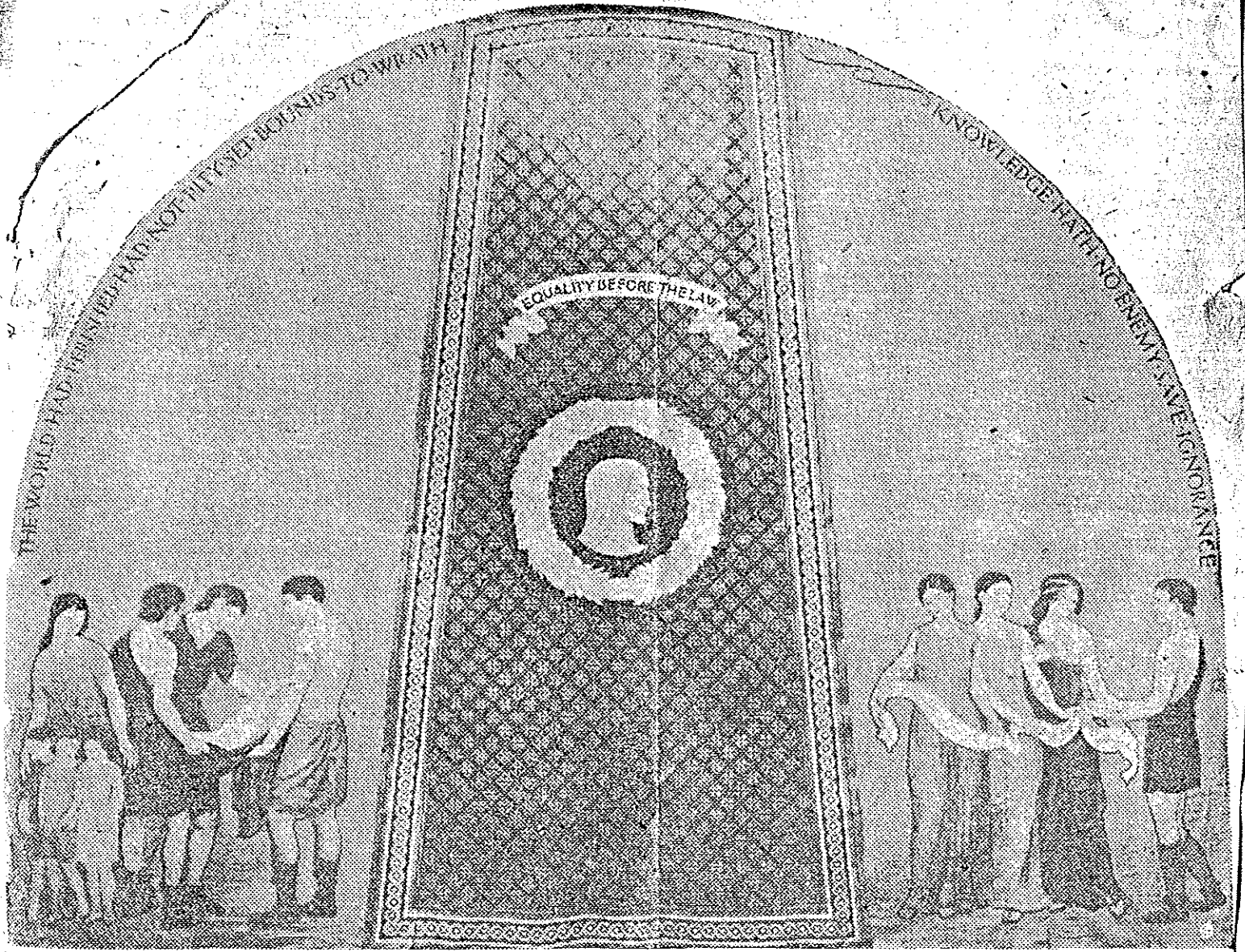
Panel in Vault.

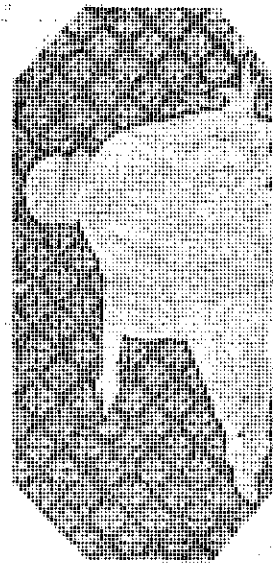
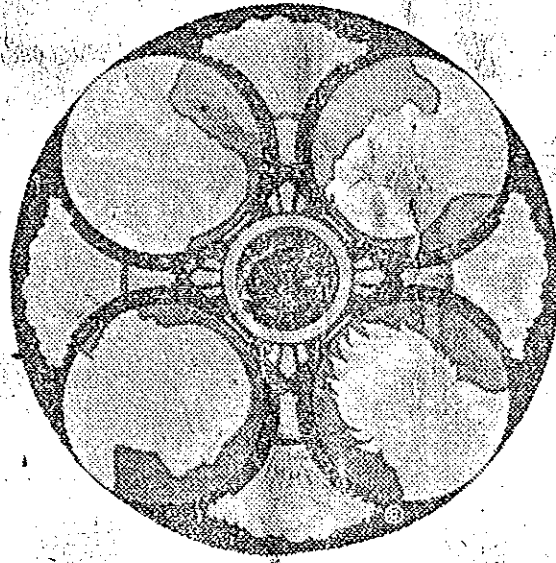
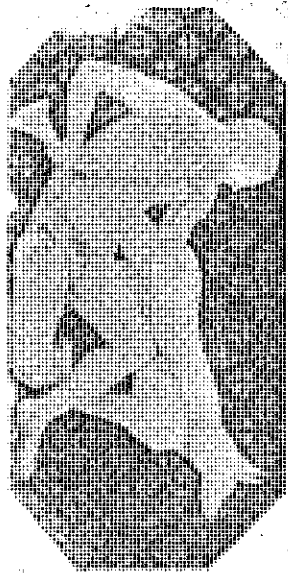
Apostrophes to these elements in

Enlightened Government Furnishes Theme



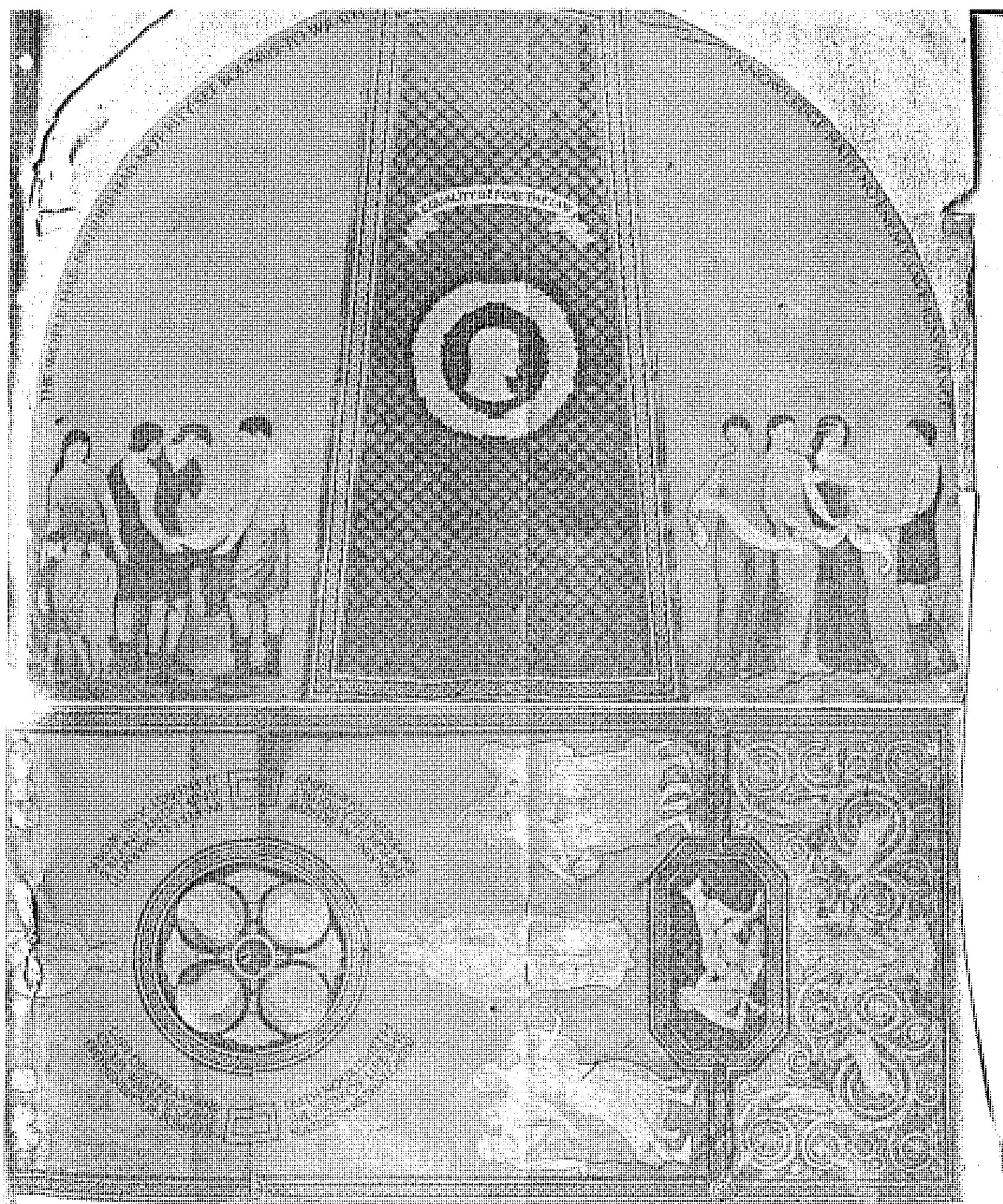
For Mural Paintings in Nebraska Capitol





In this group of decorative paintings by Augustus Vincent Tack, the muralist for the capitol, the lunette on the upper left shows, in the lower portion, the procession of various conditions of life, with Justice presided by Mercy and Understanding in the center, directly over the east door.

In the upper portion of the lunette are symbolized the civilizations from which we have derived our laws and culture. The center panel on the right is the fireplace hood, with its pioneer head and state motto, and on the left, the state is represented as the protector of the helpless.



is hospitable and enigmatic and on the right, as the provider of knowledge
 in schools and universities.
 On the lower left is a detail of the ceiling panel, with the Harpy,
 signifying the quest of life, on the left, and Fortuna, symbolizing the
 rewards, on the right, and the center of the vault, in the center, with

the representations of the four primitive elements, Earth, Air, Fire, and
 Water.
 The first panel above the length of the vault, with Vulcan, and
 his four sons on the left, the central panel, Ceres, with her maidens,
 the Hunter, and the tree of life, indication of each generation coming
 by its father and from it the succeeding generation.

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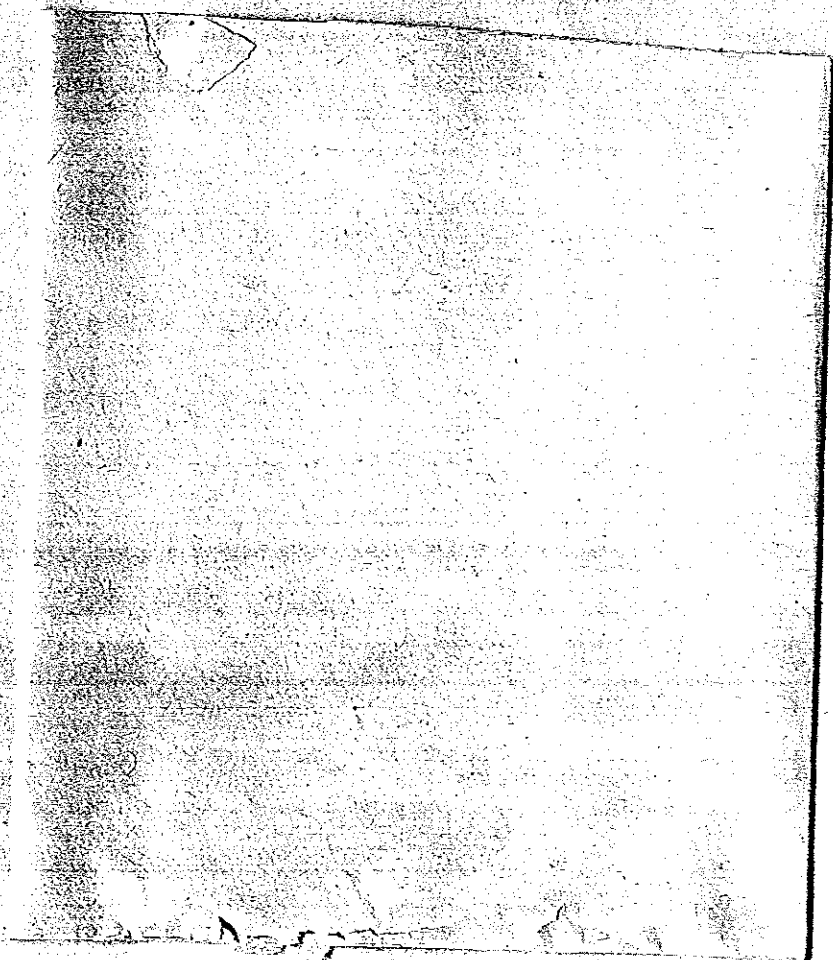
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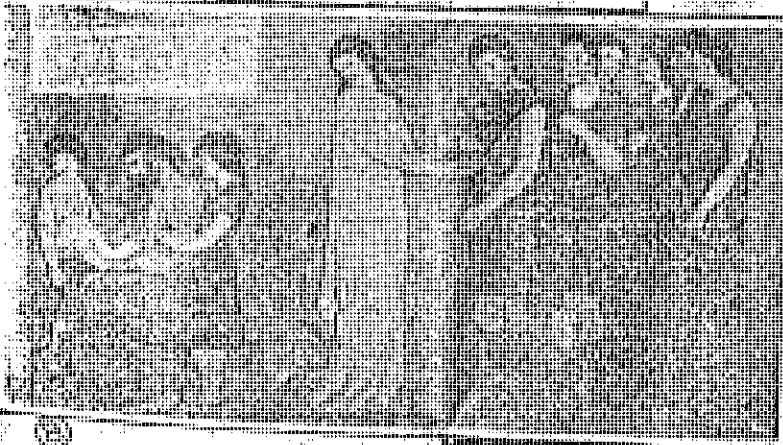
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Mural Decorations
in Capitol

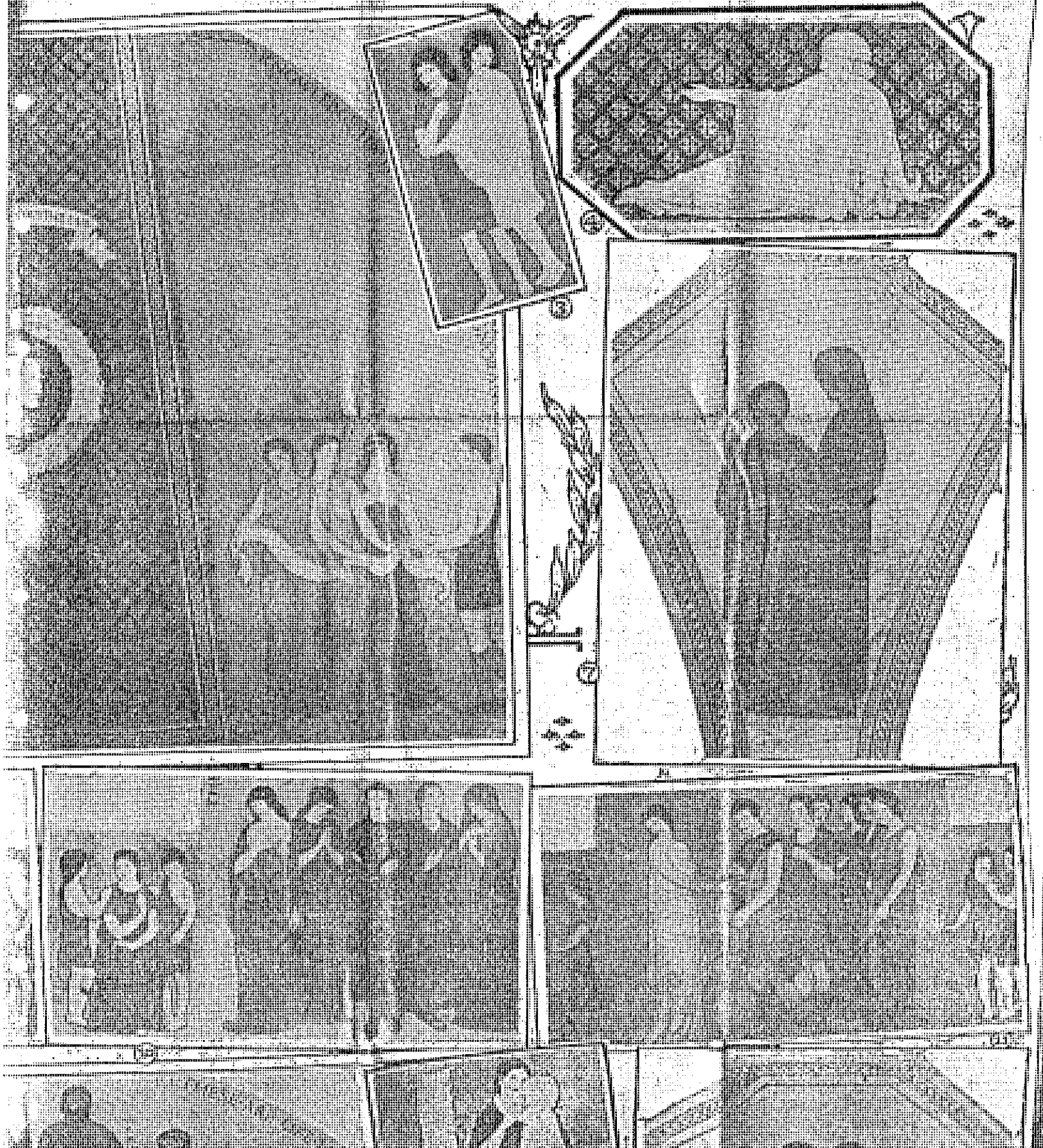
NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



Virtues of State and Vir Outlined on Walls of C

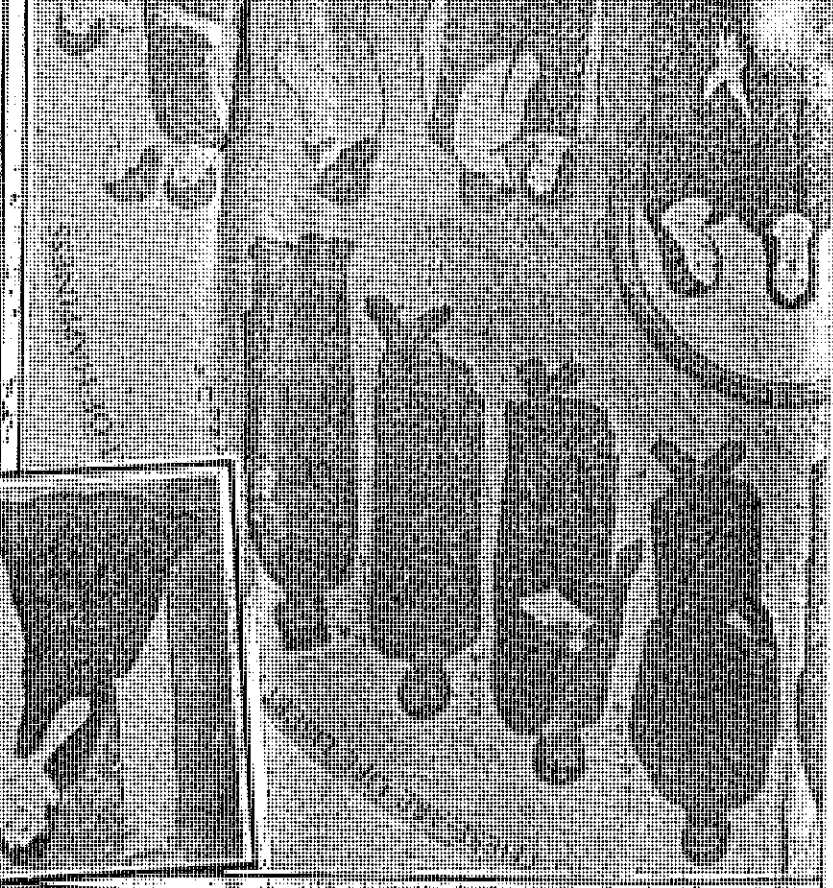


Statues of Citizenship Governor's Capitol Suite





The first of these is the...
The second of these is the...
The third of these is the...
The fourth of these is the...
The fifth of these is the...
The sixth of these is the...
The seventh of these is the...
The eighth of these is the...
The ninth of these is the...
The tenth of these is the...
The eleventh of these is the...
The twelfth of these is the...
The thirteenth of these is the...
The fourteenth of these is the...
The fifteenth of these is the...
The sixteenth of these is the...
The seventeenth of these is the...
The eighteenth of these is the...
The nineteenth of these is the...
The twentieth of these is the...
The twenty-first of these is the...
The twenty-second of these is the...
The twenty-third of these is the...
The twenty-fourth of these is the...
The twenty-fifth of these is the...
The twenty-sixth of these is the...
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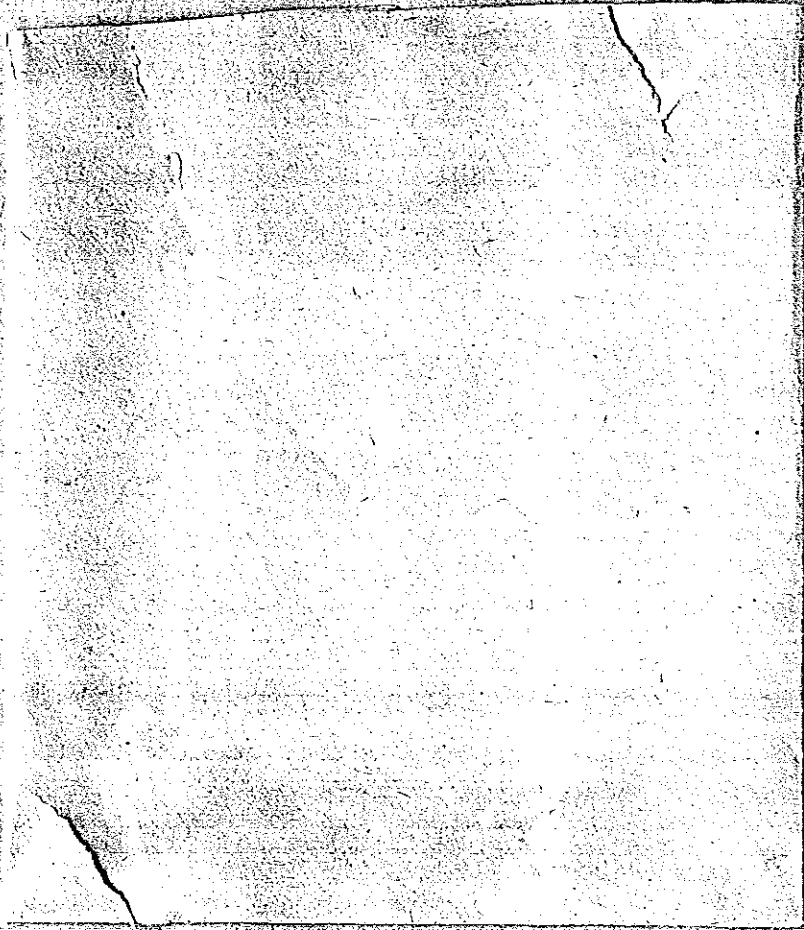
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Capitol Mural
Decorations

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.



Mural Decorations Portray A

Panels of Governor's Suite at New Capitol at Lincoln, the Work of Augustus Vincent Tack, Open to Public View First of Year

BY LEO J. RYAN.

A WEEK from today, on the first of the new year, in the new Nebraska capitol at Lincoln, the closely-locked doors of the governor's suite will open to present for public survey the final achievement of what Bertram G. Goodhue eight years ago planned to be the most beautiful room in the United States.

Governor and Mrs. McMullen will hold, during the afternoon, the first annual New Year's reception in the elaborate suite, and will present to the people of the state the architectural achievements of Architect Goodhue as finally completed by the hanging of the mural paintings of Augustus Vincent Tack of New York.

Over the vaulted ceilings and in the wall panels of the reception room of the suite will be shown the allegory of civilization, as seen through Nebraska eyes from the vantage point of 1928, in the Greek pictures by Mr. Tack. The murals which are hung on the walls and ceiling of this room have been several years in the making and will cost approximately 50 thousand dollars.

"The whole," says Mr. Tack, the artist, "is an expression of abstract ideas by the use of abstract figures. These figures decorate the surface of the wall much in the way the Greeks employed the figure to decorate the surface of a vase. This principle is also followed by the Byzantines, the lineal descendants of the Greeks, in many of their prosaic decorations from the sixth to the twelfth centuries.

EFFECT OF LIGHT AND SHADE.

"There is no particular light or shade—no perspective—no scenery—no furniture or trappings. The figures are free against the wall—almost too dimensional—modeled just enough to make them comprehensible."

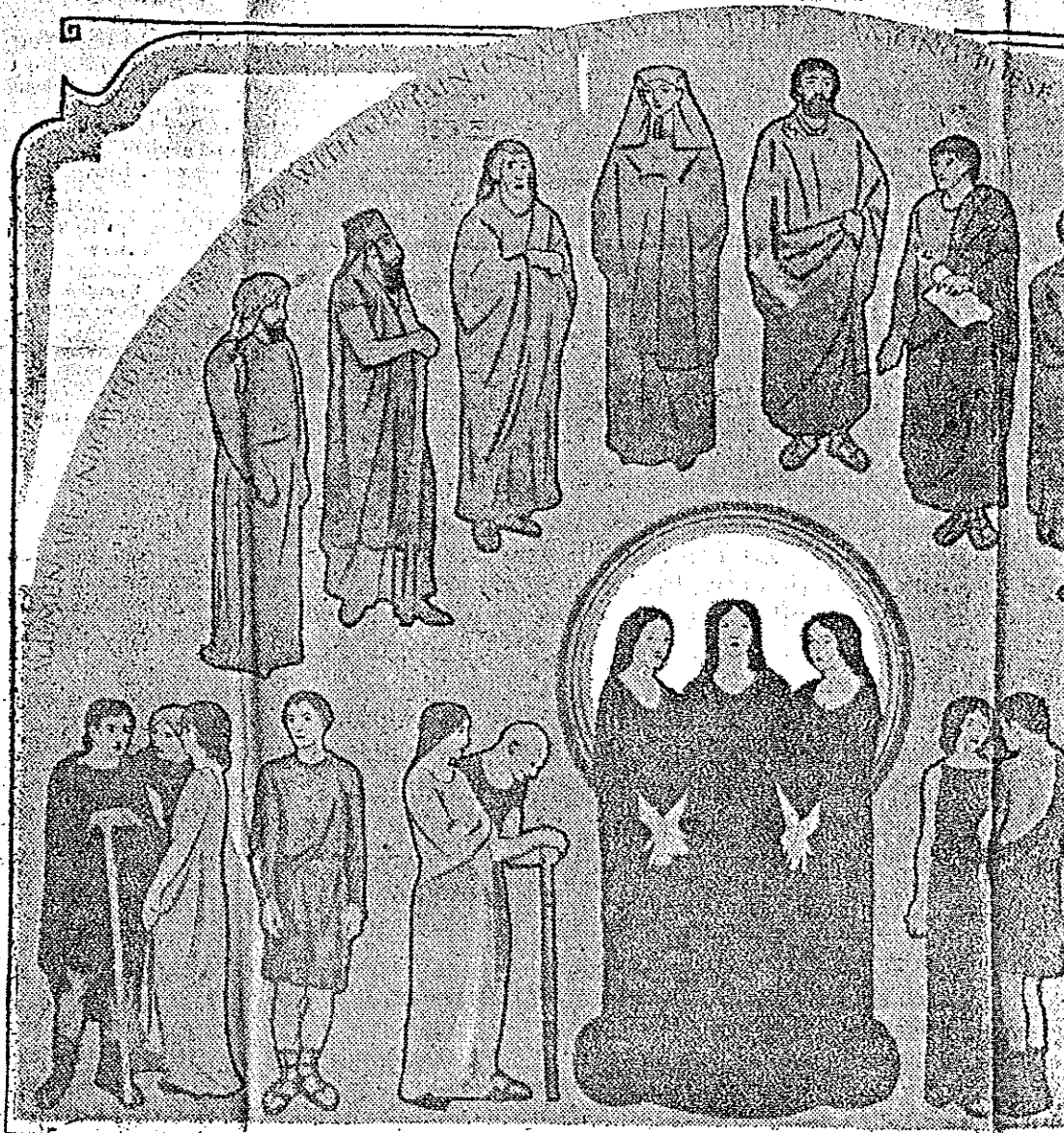
One of the principal achievements of the reception room of the suite, on which most of the murals are hung, is the mediaeval fireplace of which Mr. Goodhue was extremely proud. It is a large and high one, occupying a considerable part of one end of the room, and the hood tapers gradually entirely to the ceiling. On this tapering panel Mr. Tack has placed a cover of plain hue and gold on which is a single medallion, the head of a pioneer woman, surrounded by a round gold wreath which is suggestive of prosperity and riches. Above is the motto, "Equality Before the Law."

The rest of the room is thus described by Mr. Tack:

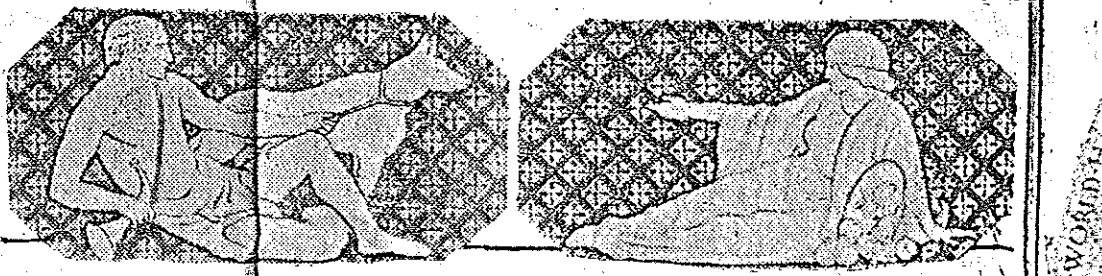
CURTAINS ARE OF JADE GREEN DAMASK.

The floor is of red brick, oiled and rubbed, having somewhat the effect of the surface of polished chestnuts or rich enamel. The curtains, jade green damask, banging in one piece, not in the conventional manner of two divided in the center, are attached to a wrought iron bar by twisted cords, which form a decorative interlacing at the top. The furniture consists of low benches which surround the room. There is one console table in the center of the long wall on which are two wrought iron candlesticks.

On the left of the mantel is represented the state as the protector of the sick in its hospitals, and of the helpless in its asylums, the



Above—Justice Stayed by Mercy and Understanding.
Below—Two ceiling panels. Figure of man, Figure of woman.



universities, and this is symbolized by three figures representing philosophy, science and art, and a youth stands before them to make his choice of one or all. They hold a scarf which seems to unite them indicating the idea that education is one. Over this group is the sentence, "Knowledge has no enemy, save ignorance."

FOUR SYMBOLIC PANELS ON WALLS.

On the wall separated by windows are four small panels, the two in the center representing the state, the guardian of the dignity of marriage, and of the sacredness of motherhood. The smaller panels which also are repeated on the opposite wall comprising the four corners

Liberty of speech, liberty of divine worship, the rights of suffrage. In the center panel appears the sentence from the book of Revelation—"The Voice of God is as the sound of many waters." The group comprising this panel is evidently listening to this Great Voice, each one hearing in his own way. To the left of this center is a group expressing the confusion and agitation resulting from liberty of speech. The panel on the right of the center expresses the idea of rights of suffrage, or free choice of government.

On the east wall opposite the fireplace is an allegorical group consisting of three figures representing the divine attributes of understanding, justice and mercy, directly over the door which leads into the governor's suite.

THE WORLD

Achievements of Civilization



Above—Dignity of Marriage. Freedom of Religious Worship. Below—The State The Provider of Learning in Its Schools and Universities. The State the Protector of the Helpless in its Hospitals and Asylums. All these decorations in the governor's room of the Nebraska Capitol are by Augustus Vincentack of New York.

either side of this center are figures representing the various conditions of human life, such as youth, old age, young lovers, the family, motherhood, the rich and poor, the strong and weak, and they all form part of a continuous procession, emphasizing the meaning of the motto of the state, "Equality Before the Law." In the upper section of this end wall the civilizations from which we have derived our culture and our codes of law, are represented. These are India, Babylonia, Judaea, Egypt, Greece, Rome, France and England, and above this group is one sentence from the Declaration of Independence, "All Men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness," this fundamental principle of American liberty thus capping the wisdom of the world.

EXTOL VIRTUES OF CITIZENSHIP.

The pendentives contain motives expressing the virtues of citizenship, such as hospitality, friendship, charity and honesty, also solidarity, concord, labor and hope. In the soffits of the penetrations are six medallions surrounded by decorative borders, and they bear the names of six great citizens of the United States. In the place of honor is the name of Lincoln for whom the capitol of Nebraska is named. On the opposite wall is the name of Washington, on either side of whom are Hamilton and Jefferson. On either side of Lincoln are Franklin and Marshall.

In the vault itself the ideas of agriculture and industry are expressed. The center of the vault is represented by the four primitive elements, earth, air, fire and water. These are enclosed in a decorative circle in the center of which is a square panel. This square in the circle is an ancient symbol of time in eternity. On the right of this center is Ceres, attended by her maidens, the symbol of productivity and fertility of the earth. Balancing this figure is Vulcan, who represents industry and the activity of life. Young men pay tribute to him. On this side are fire and water, because they are the chief aids of industry. On the side of Ceres are earth and air, the soil and atmosphere, which produce the great crops. Apostrophes to these elements in four panels surround this circle and they are as follows:

Earth nourisheth the seeds of life,
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Water is our refreshener, our purifier.

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QUEST AND REWARDS OF LIFE SYMBOLIZED.

Two small panels appear in the vault in "grisaille." One represents Fortune with the rewards of life. The other represents the Hunter, signifying the quest of life. At the extreme end on each side is a decorative representation of the tree of life, recalling to mind the words from the book of Revelation—"On either side is the tree of life and the fruit of the tree is 12 and its leaves for the healing of the nations." This tree of life represents each generation coming to its fullness and from it the succeeding generations

The ornament which comprises the borders and separations of the panels consists simply of a gilloche and fret. A uniform gray covers all the wall surfaces of the room, thus unifying it. The treatment of the figures on this gray varies in its three divisions. Just as in nature objects seen near to are lighter or darker in values, so in this first plane all the figures are lighter and darker than the field on which they appear.

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**Tack, Open to Public View
First of Year**

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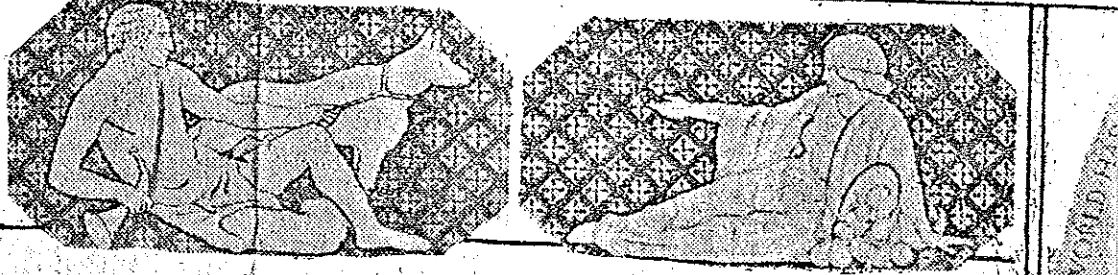
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On the left of the mantel is represented the state as the protector of the sick in its hospitals, and of the helpless in its asylums; the motto above this from Seneca—"The World which perished had not Pity set bounds to death." Balancing this on the other side of the mantel is represented the state as the provider of learning in its schools and uni-



Above—Justice Stayed by Mercy and Understanding.
Below—Two ceiling panels. Figure of man. Figure of woman.

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FOUR SYMBOLIC PANELS ON WALLS.

On the wall separated by windows are four small panels, the two in the center representing the state, the guardian of the dignity of marriage, and of the sacredness of motherhood. The smaller panels which also are repeated on the opposite wall, comprising the four corners of the room, contain groups of children and this signifying that the four corners are upheld by its youth, the future of the state.

On the long wall opposite the windows the three guarantees of the state to its citizens—

Liberty of speech, liberty of divine worship, the rights of suffrage. In the center panel appears the sentence from the book of Revelation—"The Voice of God is as the sound of many waters." The group comprising this panel is evidently listening to this Great Voice, each one hearing in his own way. To the left of this center is a group expressing the confusion and agitation resulting from liberty of speech. The panel on the right of the center expresses the idea of rights of suffrage, or free choice of government.

On the east wall opposite the fireplace is an allegorical group consisting of three figures representing the divine attributes of understanding, justice and mercy, directly over the door which leads into the governor's private rooms. The significance of the groups is in the action of the hands, wherein the hands of justice are stayed, not held by understanding and mercy, conveying the idea that justice should be tempered by these two qualities. On

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THOUSANDS VISIT EXECUTIVE SUITE

S-1-2-28

Nearly 11,000 Persons
Attend Governor's New
Year Reception.

Mural Paintings and Beautiful Furnishings Attract Many.

Interest in the mural paintings and other decorations and furnishings of the governor's suite in the new state capitol prompted approximately 11,000 persons to face sub-zero temperatures Sunday afternoon to attend the formal opening of the suite and the reception by Governor and Mrs. Adam McMullen.

People from many parts of the state, but mostly from Lincoln, began flocking to the capitol shortly after 1 o'clock and by 2:30 a line, four and five abreast, reached from the governor's office, where Mr. and Mrs. McMullen were receiving, through the office of Secretary Frank Johnson, the reception room, the hearing room, and out in the hall to the vestibule.

The desire of many persons to linger in the reception room and study the paintings which decorate the vaulted ceiling, forced the officers of the national guard, who were acting as guides, to urge them to keep moving. Those who arrived early had the opportunity to appreciate the decorations and furnishings, but those who came later in the afternoon were forced to make their inspection hurriedly.

Visit Senate Chamber.

Every person who passed through the governor's suite was greeted by Governor and Mrs. McMullen. Many merely introduced themselves, shook hands, and passed on, but there were numerous personal friends of the McMullens who sought to exchange greetings, but were forced to move on quickly as others crowded in from behind.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU.

After viewing the governor's suite, the visitors were given the opportunity to see the new senate chamber which was especially opened for the occasion. The work on the section which includes the senate chamber, and the central rotunda is not yet completed, and has been closed to the public at all times. In all probability, Sunday was the last opportunity the public will have to view this particularly interesting section of the capitol until it is completed.

The senate chamber was a close competitor of the governor's reception room for the admiring comments of the visitors. The lounge room for the legislators just east of the senate chamber was another new feature which drew considerable attention.

After viewing this part of the building, the visitors were directed through the Supreme court room and then down to the ground floor and around to the exit at the north side of the building.

The last of the visitors passed through the building shortly before 6 o'clock. The stream of people had been a continuous one from shortly after 1 o'clock until that time.

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Neb.

#169

S-1-2-28

CAPITOL SETTING GIVEN ATTENTION

S-1-2-28
State and City Consider
Ways Beautifying
District.

Removal Governor's Mansion Seven Blocks South Favored.

Now that the new Nebraska capitol is practically two-thirds complete and its more ornate features have been provided for, the general scheme for an appropriate setting for the edifice, to be provided jointly by the state and the city of Lincoln, will receive detailed attention in the near future.

The contemplated plans for parking two blocks immediately north of the capitol and developing a more elaborate approach from the north along Fifteenth street, which include also the ultimate opening of that thoroughfare through from O to R street, have been heretofore made public. Fifteenth is thus designed to become the axis of communication, as well as a somewhat pretentious boulevard, between the capitol and the enlarged state university campus.

In both directions from Capitol square, it is proposed that J street shall become another wide avenue leading westward to Ninth street and eastward at least to Thirty-third, and perhaps to the city limits. These improvements may be postponed until after the Fifteenth street project is completed; but considerable sentiment exists in Lincoln in favor of undertaking them simultaneously.

The most striking view of the capitol from any place in the city is said to be that obtained from the high ground at Twenty-seventh and J, looking west across the broad Antelope Valley. No tall or inharmonious buildings obstruct the field of vision there, and the elevation of the governmental structure above the foreground give it a stately effect, even without the tower.

Mansion Further Out.

While the beautification of the capitol district as a whole has not been worked out, one feature that has been considerably discussed is the removal of the governor's mansion from its present site at Fifteenth and H, just across the street from Capitol square, to a point seven blocks southward.

Fifteenth street is 120 feet wide and parked in the middle all the way south to A street, where it becomes narrower and takes a jog to one side. The proposal is to close Fifteenth at A and erect a pretentious new residence for the chief executive along the south side, so as to face directly north on Fifteenth.

There would thus be established

(Continued on page Twenty-two)

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU.

another radial route from the capitol to the mansion, with the two structures facing each other at a distance of something over half a mile, in the direction opposite to that of the university. The effect aimed at is similar to that at Washington, where the white house and the national capitol are connected by Pennsylvania avenue.

Erection of a new university library building is contemplated at the north end of Fifteenth, thus balancing up the termini of that thoroughfare at equal distances from the governmental structure.

Sell H Street Property.

The governor's mansion on H street would be sold and the proceeds applied on the new one at Fifteenth and A. Possibly some church or lodge organization might buy it as a site for its future home. The congregation of St. Mary's cathedral at the northeast corner of Fourteenth and K will be looking for another suitable location when its present site is taken over by the state as part of the area intended

for parking on the north side of Capitol square.

Expectations of the capitol commission and city officials are that the district surrounding the capitol will be improved considerably by the erection of a number of pretentious semi-public buildings within the next ten years or so. The state historical society owns half a block on Sixteenth, fronting toward Capitol square. The new Masonic temple is to go up at Sixteenth and L. The First Christian church has already built the first unit of a projected imposing edifice at Sixteenth and K.

336.45
Feb. #170

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

2-1-15-28

TOWER OF CAPITOL NEXT ON THE LIST

2-1-15-28
BIDS TO BE OPENED AT CLOSE
OF THE MONTH.

Entire Building Will Cost Nine
or Possibly Ten Million
Dollars by Time of
Completion.

The capitol commission spent \$1,157,757.77 on the new capitol during the year 1927, as evidenced by warrants drawn upon the capitol fund and presented to the state treasurer for payment. This makes a total expenditure of approximately \$5,969,000 up to Jan. 1 on the building since the first spade of earth was turned for the construction of a building that has already attracted world wide attention. The exact amount expended since then will be known when the commission completes recapitulation of its accounts. With claims not included in the December warrants and claims for work performed in January the total is approximately \$6,000,000.

The second section will be completed by the first of March, according to Superintendent John Fraser, of the Wiese company, contractors. The commission has advertised for bids on the tower construction to be opened Jan. 31. The contract for the west wing above the foundation, including the senate chamber, will be entered into later when the commission finds it advisable.

It is believed the tower construction will require two years, and the senate chamber wing another two years. This estimate of time is a mere guess as are estimates of the final cost of the capitol. Work on the tower can be commenced in the spring when the rotunda under it and other work now in progress is completed. The tower may go up

rapidly until the ornamental, "fussy" construction is reached near the top. There is much of this intricate stone work which will beautify the top portion of the tower and make it one of the most striking pieces of architecture about the whole building.

Levy Short of Estimate.

Before deciding upon calling for bids on the tower the commission, comprising Governor McMullen, W. E. Hardy, Walter W. Head, Judge W. H. Thompson and Secretary Cochran of the department of public works, called for a statement from the state auditor regarding the amount of money which will be raised by the present tax levy for the capitol. State Accountant Sommer presented a report which disclosed what the commission had for some time suspected, namely, that the legislature had overestimated the amount of funds which its levy would raise. The legislature believed it had adjusted the tax levy so that its limitation upon the cost of the capitol, heating plant, furniture and landscaping of the grounds at \$9,000,000 would not exceed the levy. The state accountant's report showed that the tax levies would produce about \$1,000,000 less than estimated by the legislature. He found the levy would raise net \$3,099,742, instead of \$9,000,000 when the levy ceases under the present law in 1928.

It is therefore likely the next legislature will be asked to provide an additional levy for another \$1,000,000 and as much more as may be needed to finish the building, pay for furniture, heating plant and cut down and landscape the grounds.

The legislature of 1925 amended the law by providing that the cost of the capitol, equipping, furnishing, purchase of right of way or site for a heating and power plant, and landscaping the grounds should not exceed \$9,000,000. Unofficial estimates now place the ultimate cost of the building alone at \$9,000,000 and another \$1,000,000 to pay for furniture and equipping, heating and power plant.

Guesses On Final Cost.

Estimates on the final cost in most cases are mere guesses. The commissioners made a careful estimate some months ago which showed that the cost of sections one and two would be \$6,886,433.61. The tower and the west wing are not contracted for. Some furniture has been bought. One estimate of the cost of the tower runs as low as \$750,000. Some believe the west wing can be built for this amount. Others place the cost for each of these sections at more than \$1,000,000. If the tower and west wing together run as high as \$2,250,000 and the commission's former estimate of \$6,886,433 for the first two sections proves correct, then the total cost of the building will overrun the \$9,000,000 mark by \$110,000 and there will be the cost of a heating and power plant, some furniture and all the landscaping of grounds to pay for.

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Some Preliminary Expenses.

The estimated cost of \$6,866,433 to finish the first and second sections include many items of expense outside of the bare building. The first section cost approximately \$2,567,468 and the second section which may be finished in March is likely to cost \$3,177,890, according to the last estimate of

the commission, making a total of \$5,745,358.

The wrecking of the old building cost \$34,700 and the moving of dirt to the state fair grounds to fill low lands cost \$14,942, a total of \$49,642 charged to these two items.

Miscellaneous expenses paid for total \$147,055. This is made up of \$15,738 paid for extras, \$29,884 paid for temporary heating plant for the capitol, \$14,868 for miscellaneous construction items, \$2,370 for accident expense, \$13,968 paid in cash on construction of the railroad from the Burlington yards seven blocks away from the capitol grounds, and \$70,199 for the operation of this railroad to haul material to and from the capitol.

Architectural costs included in the last estimate of expenses show \$378,942.95 paid and \$48,654.38 estimated to complete the first and second sections, making the architectural costs of these section \$427,597, estimated.

The architectural costs of \$427,597, estimated for the two sections, include \$152,691 paid to the Goodhue associates, architects, and \$44,500 still due them, and considerable sums paid to engineering firms, the cost of architectural competition to select plans and engineering tests of soil and other tests and estimating engineers.

The cost of inspection on the first two sections, now nearing completion, was \$49,962, including inspection and other work by the assistant architect who is serving as clerk of the works.

Furnishings and decorations paid for by the commission totaled \$92,718 in the commission's recent recapitulation or estimate of costs, including \$19,809 for linoleum, \$26,015 for light fixtures, \$25,250 paid for mural paintings with \$39,250 unpaid making a total of \$63,500 murals, with \$48,000 more to be paid for lighting fixtures.

Governor's Suite.

In addition to the \$63,500 for mural paintings by Augustus Vincent Tack in two rooms of the governor's suite the commission awarded a contract for \$83,057.01 to Orchard & Wilhelm of Omaha to do a large amount of remodeling the governor's suite as to floors, ceilings and wood and marble work and for furnishings, drapes, tapes, rugs and furniture making a total of \$146,557 as the cost of these alterations, murals and furnishings for the governor's suite. There is still due Mr. Tack about \$24,000 and due to Orchard & Wilhelm \$36,457. There was a little more than \$1,000,000 in the capitol fund the first of the year.

The memorial foyer, the rotunda and the house chamber which are still under construction, also the house lounge room, are of magnificent proportions and their architectural features leave a profound impression upon all visitors who are able to pass closed doors to view them.

J-1-18-28

#172

Lessons From Mr. Ray.

HUMBOLDT, Neb., Jan. 14.—To the Editor: In Sunday's Journal, I noticed a photograph reproduction of the interior of the governor's quarters in our new capitol. It is very pleasing to the eye, but any one who had participated in the distribution of Christmas charity and casually noticed the interior of those homes—and knowing how bare they are of the necessities and comforts of life, can hardly be expected to enthuse at the apparent grandeur shown in that photo, when he knows that each head of the family receiving charity had been compelled to donate his mite to satisfy the luxurious desire of the mighty. It seems to me there is something radically wrong somewhere—if there be such a thing as wrong in these modern times—we are not blaming our governor, he is only accepting the rooms as furnished by the state, as will all governors who follow him, but somewhere there is the responsibility of extravagant expenditure of money furnished by the taxpayers of this state. Some time during the first half of the last century a wonderful book was published—it was called Ray's Third Part of Arithmetic. I studied this book during the 70's, when I was a schoolboy, and thought the author to be the prince of puzzle-makers. There was method in the arrangement of the contents of this book. A few pages at the beginning were explanation of the writing and reading of numbers. It was called "Notation and Numeration." When we had acquired proficiency in writing and reading millions, billions, trillions, etc., we were allowed to advance.

I did not at that time see any use for such numbers, only for astronomers to measure the magnitude and distance of heavenly bodies, or to be used in showing the population of the earth or the amount in the United States treasury. It seemed the ordinary mortal would never need them.

I now see the wisdom in the halt, at those pages for the time has come when we must be able to read them in order to know the immensity of some of our public appropriations and expenditures. We had no kindergartens in those days and no intelligence tests with pegs and holes etc, were given. But as we had played some with the com-

binations of small numbers a rapid advancement was made in a fundamentals in written work.

But I strongly insist that outside of addition and multiplication it was all the "bunk"—that is to the common ordinary everyday man—for all we do is to add to or multi-

ply what has been given, to keep things going. Of course to the office holder and politician, division is necessary when it comes to apportioning the spoils or arranging the code. Mr. Ray thought it a good idea to test advancement. So an occasional page of mental gymnastics was inserted, called miscellaneous problems. At the end of the book we were placed on a real mental athletic field, with a hundred of those problems, and oh "what a grand and glorious feeling" when I said I got 'em every one—I know the old book clear thru.

Had Mr. Ray been prophetic and added one more—a modern puzzle—it probably would have caused softening of the brain, certainly it would have meant hardening of the heart. There was another little book, known as Ray's Elementary Algebra. We felt quite advanced when we tackled that. It showed us how to find the value of an unknown quantity. I thought I might manage x , y , z , to find the unknown value of the governor's apartment. But, all I had for a starter was my tax receipts, and there was no way to eliminate. So I gave up the algebra idea and simply made the equation. Let x equal expenditure. The fundamentals are deep enough for me.

Examining tax receipts, I find the last more than four times the amount of the same property ten years ago. Thank you Mr. Ray, for teaching me to multiply, and it is well that I can subtract that I may know how much poorer I am this year than I was last.

In a distant land across the sea stands the ruins of the Parthenon, beautiful for situation, on its foundation of marble upon the Acropolis near other structures once massive and beautiful. What does it signify in regard to the people who helped to rear these buildings—what difference does it make to people today, whether they were taxed to death when they were young or lived to a happy old age, or what a stronger nation did to them? Now they stand for tourists to scan and be ready to exclaim, "So this is Greece!" "Athens the eye of Greece, Mother of Arts and Eloquence," etc.

Nebraska too is building a monument for other generations to behold, and of which we may justly be proud today. The capitol—this we have undertaken, and must complete. But trust those in power will not allow grandeur to be paramount in its furnishing. It's walls are crying with eloquence, "Let my people live!" Nebraska wants her homes and prosperity. Don't burden us with more until we are out of this wilderness. O. T. LITTLE.

PETERSON IS FOR CITY BOND ISSUE

Financing Plan for Capitol Setting Proposed

by Attorney.

Favors Bonding Community For Cost Above Property Benefit.

C. Petrus Peterson addressed the city planning subdivision of the chamber of commerce Thursday noon on the subject of "Financing the Capitol Setting." Mr. Peterson declared that there are two reactions which always accompany any discussion of public expenditures. The social group divides and represents two different points of view, the one that thinks of taxes as money lost and the one that thinks of taxes as purchase money. The former always asks, is there any way to avoid spending tax money, while the other wants to know if it is good business to buy what taxes are to be used for.

The question of whether Lincoln should undertake the task of financing the capitol setting Mr. Peterson took for granted, in order to discuss how it is to be done.

"The question occurs," he stated, "how, shall the difference between the amount of special benefit to the property in the district and the total cost of the improvement be financed?"

Favors Issuing Bonds.

"One of the three sources of funds would have to be used: Current taxes, a special bond issue voted for that purpose, or the city's share bonds.

"While we, as a community, are quite definitely committed to a policy of cash payment from current revenue, sound financial policy rather dictates that permanent investments which are of such a character that they do not reoccur at regular periods or frequent intervals should be spread over a period of years rather than made a part of the current tax budget.

"If such improvements should be financed by a bond issue, on what basis should bonds be issued? The ordinary type of bond voted for a specific purpose is not fully adequate, since it is only at the completion of the work and the levying of special assessments that the amount needed to complete the financing can be determined.

Charter Amendment Required.

"To meet this situation, a type of bonds known as 'city's share bonds' have been developed. In effect, this city's share bond issue represents the judgment of the council as to division between general and community benefits and special benefits. When the city's share of the cost has been determined, bonds for that amount are issued

(Continued on Page Eleven.)

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

by the council under charter authority.

"Under our situation, this would require a charter amendment authorizing the council to issue bonds to cover the city's share in this type of municipal undertakings.

"The first requisite for carrying forward the program for a capitol setting is to apply to the cost thereof of the special benefits conferred on property in the vicinity. No one can ascertain with certainty either the cost of property to be acquired or the benefits conferred. I have spoken to several citizens about this plan, and what they have urged is that the community be not called upon to donate unearned increments of value to owners of property benefitted by the improvements, and that the balance of the cost, being in the nature of a permanent acquisition of property, should be spread over a period of years. The time suggested varies from ten to twenty years. My own judgment is that final maturity should be left to the council within a maximum of twenty years, bonds to be serially retired in equal parts annually during the period."

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#174

9-1-19-28

CITY SHARE BONDS A NEW SUGGESTION

~~9-1-19-28~~

C. Petrus Peterson Tells City Planners How Capitol Improvement Might Be Equitably Financed.

City's share bonds plus special assessments were suggested by C. Petrus Peterson as a means for financing the capitol equipment, in a talk before the city planning subdivision Thursday at the chamber of commerce. He said in part:

"In the process of municipal development, Lincoln has carried the special assessment theory to the full limit of its application, and it is evident that even where this plan is applicable, some municipal undertakings cannot be financed in their entirety by this method. Typical is the improvement of J street which Mr. Goodhue hoped would be made 120 feet wide from the capitol to the city limits. Such improvement would result in special benefit to the property adjacent, but not of sufficient amount, in all probability, to finance the project. The question occurs, how should the difference between the amount of special benefit to the property in the district, and the total cost of the improvement, be financed?"

"We have three sources at present—current taxes, special bond issue, or city's share bonds. This type of bond, development to meet just such situations, represents in effect the judgment of the council as to division between general community benefits and special benefits. Ordinary bonds voted for a specific purpose wouldn't be quite adequate, since it is only after completion of the work and levying of special assessments that the amount necessary to complete the work can be determined.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

"Under our situation, such an issue would require a charter amendment. I have discussed this plan with conservative and well informed citizens and so far the plan, after discussion, has proved acceptable. The time suggested varies from ten to twenty years, bonds to be retired annually in equal amounts. What those I have spoken to urge, is that the community be not called on to donate unearned increments of value to owners of property benefitted by the improvements."

One advantage of this plan over a number of years, Mr. Peterson said, was that with a levy, improvements couldn't begin until the money had been raised, whereas with a bond issue they could begin at once. Should the plan impress the city council favorably, it might be submitted to the voters at the next primary. Being a home rule matter, it wouldn't require any state legislation.

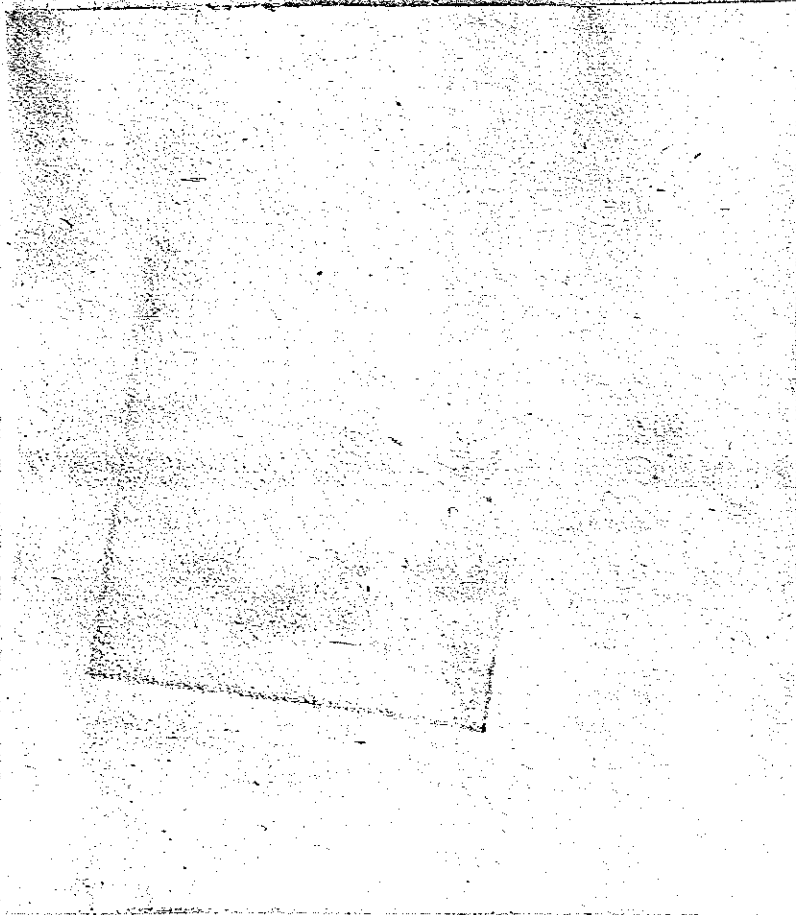
It was agreed to give the next session of the subdivision, two weeks hence, to discussion of the city's share bond plan, with Mr. Peterson and the council invited to be present.

Journal - Jan 22, '28

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Capitol Murals

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.



Restful and Art-Impressing Says Mrs. Killen of the Capitol Murals

J. Jan. 25, 1918

Restful and art-impressing are characterizations applied to the governor's reception room in the state capitol, by Mrs. William P. Killen of North Platte, artist-lecturer and world traveler, in her interpretation of the mural paintings by Augustus Vincent Tack in the room.

Mrs. Killen points out the fact that each group of figures is compact and conveys a distinct message to the observer. The absence of harsh lines, and the use solely of curving lines serves to emphasize the idea of ease and restfulness which is predominant in the room. The figures, clothed in the quaint garb of olden times, and the expressive faces, call to her mind the work of Michael Angelo. The faces are left unshaded, but the mood of the person is, without exception, made unmistakable to the on-looker.

On the south wall of the reception room are represented by groups of human figures, the three guarantees of the state to its citizens, freedom of speech, and of worship, and the rights of suffrage. In the center panel, depicting the freedom of worship, is the sentence from the Book of Revelation: "The Voice of God is as the sound of many waters." In the group of five figures, the face of each reveals intent listening. In the foreground is a young man, perplexity clearly written upon his face. There is but another man in the group, and three women, which fact suggests the present relation of the people to the church; there are more women than men in the church.

To the left of this group is one which Mrs. Killen has interpreted as allegorizing the freedom of speech. "There is the young man, with clenched hands, eager to tell his ideas to the world; another with a more serious outlook, more cautious in his ways. There is the trio evidently engaged in a discussion of the problem. Standing with his back to the other five men, yet a member of the same group, is the mature man, clothed to his feet, thinking, listening, but saying nothing. He represents the stability of thought in the state, she believes.

To the right of the central group is another picture the right of suffrage. It is significant that the ballot box is shown in the hands of a woman, whose face is turned away, indicating that the ballot is secret. Significant, too, is the fact that there is the same number of women as men in the group.

Two small groups alternating these three, show education in the home and in the school, is Mrs. Killen's interpretation. The one is a picture of a mother with her children; the other showing a child listening to the words spoken by the man holding the scroll.

"It is significant that pictures of children are placed in each of the four corners of the reception room, for the children are the pillars of the state; without them the state would fall," she said.

In the west wall is the great fireplace, simply decorated

stretched hands, is shown making his choice among the three arts, represented by figures, philosophy, science and art.

On the north wall are the two groups showing the state as the protector of the dignity of marriage and of the sacredness of motherhood. She believes that the state is represented in each picture, by a sturdy appearing column. The leaves, indicating growth, symbolizes the fruitfulness of the state. On the pendentives are depicted the virtues of man, hospitality, honesty, religion and the brotherhood of man.

In the soffits of the penetrations are six medallions inscribed with the names of six great American citizens. The name Lincoln has the place of honor in the middle soffit on the south wall and just above the picture illustrative of the attributes which have made Lincoln famous; religion and charity. The name of Franklin appears above the group representing the freedom of speech; that of Marshall above the group illustrating the right of suffrage. On the north wall are the names of Washington, Jefferson and Hamilton, suggesting respectively peace, happiness and prosperity.

The outstanding group of figures on the east wall, opposite to the fireplace, is the trio which Mrs. Killen interprets as representing justice tempered by mercy and by understanding, as indicated by the fact that the hands of justice are stayed, but not held by the hands of mercy and understanding. "The picture shows that justice, understanding and mercy are inseparably bound together, which is as it should be. The artist has hallowed justice and made it a thing to be held sacred. On either side of the predominating illustration are figures representing conditions of society—the social group, the workman, the old and the young, the lovers, the lone woman with her child, finally the family united."

Above this processional are eight figures representing the civilizations from which have developed our culture and our codes of law, India, Babylonia, Judea, Egypt, Greece, Rome, France and England. Each figure is clothed in the garb characteristic of its country. Over all is a sentence from the Declaration of Independence: "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The figures in all of these illustrations are pictured in garb of dark tones, all on an undecorated background of gray.

On the ceiling, however, the figures are attired in light costumes, which serve to give an impression of airiness. On the west end of the vault is Vulcan, which Mrs. Killen believes symbolizes industry and fortune, with young men paying tribute to him. On the other side is Ceres, symbol of productivity and fertility of the earth, with her handmaidens. In the center of the vault are represented in a circle, the four primitive elements,

the primitive implements of agriculture used during each season. On the south wall is the representation of spring, as symbolized by the old fashioned plow, and the single ox. The cultivation of the soil, suggested by the hoe, the shovel and the rake, represent summer on the west wall. The next season, autumn, is illustrated by the primitive wheat cradle and the scythe. Winter, the season of the completed harvest, is represented by the river god holding the horn of plenty. On the circular dome are four heads corresponding to the four seasons. The whole is united by a decorative design.

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In the west wall is the great fireplace, simply decorated. On the hood is the head of a pioneer mother. Her face is stern, expressive of perseverance—virtues of the pioneer—yet not lacking in the lines of refinement. A wreath suggesting wealth and prosperity encircles the figure, above which are the words, "Equality before the law."

To the left of the fireplace is shown the state in relation to the hospitals. Mrs. Killen's version is that the woman who is ill, is shown in the arms of men, signifying that the hospitals are mainly supported by the men, the taxpayers of the state. The children are pictures in the arms of their rightful protectors, women. On the right is illustrated the state as the provider of learning. The youth, with out-

fact that the hands of justice are stayed, but not held by the hands of mercy and understanding. "The picture shows that justice, understanding and mercy are inseparably bound together, which is as it should be. The artist has hallowed justice and made it a thing to be held sacred. On either side of the predominating illustration are figures representing conditions of society—the social group, the workman, the old and the young, the lovers, the lone woman with her child, finally the family united."

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Two small panels at the ends of the vault represent the hunter with his horn, signifying the quest of life, and fortune, with the rewards of life. At the extreme ends of the vault are trees of life, representing each generation coming to its fullness, which idea is symbolized in the pictures of tiny birds shown together with those of the peacock and the birds of paradise, she believes.

At the base of each pendentive are geometric representations in red, among which are lines indicating aspirations coming from an apex, the Indian symbols for trees; curving lines, the Indian symbols for rivers; lines slanting from opposite directions, but meeting at the center, the Indian indication of coming to and fro, and in this case, symbolizing coming to and from the state.

The walnut paneling is simple, in harmony with the mural paintings, and is finished with a border design of corn inlaid in the wood. The design, too, suggests that agriculture is the fundamental industry of Nebraska.

In the governor's private office, Mrs. Killen has interpreted the four lunettes as illustrating the four seasons, thru the medium of

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

**TO RECEIVE BIDS
CAPITOL TOWER**

**Six Contracts Will Be
Let For Construction
Memorial Shaft.**
S. Jan. 22, '28.
**Specifications Call for
Physical Protection of
Completed Portion.**

Physical protection for that portion of the new Nebraska capitol already completed or nearly so, against damage from falling blocks of stone or other heavy paraphernalia or material to be used in constructing the central tower 400 feet in height, is one of the requirements that the general contractor who will have charge of that project must meet.

Under specifications prepared by the capitol commission's architects and its building superintendent, W. L. Younkin, for the bids to be received and opened January 31 on the third (tower) section of the edifice, whoever gets the main contract will be called on to build a platform of strong timbers extending 20 feet outward in all directions from the lower part of the tower. This platform will be nearly 100 feet above the ground, on a level near the top of the present masonry structure.

Its floor will consist of two lay-

ers of planking, each 2 inches thick, laid crosswise of each other. They will be supported by huge beams laid upon the stone parapets and cross beams resting upon these.

The wooden deck surrounding the tower will not only serve as a shield for the building against flying missiles from above, but in the early stages of construction it will give ample working space for men employed on the job.

Six Contracts to Be Let.

Plans and specifications for erecting the great monumental shaft, 80 feet square, that will rear its head so far skyward as to constitute a visible landmark in all the country around Lincoln for a distance of many miles have been divided into six parts, or trades, and a separate contract is to be let for each one.

The whole cost of the tower, not counting its base already built, is estimated at \$1,000,000 or over.

For the first two sections of the capitol, including basement and superstructure, the commission split up the work into 16 different trades. In the third project, 10 of these are to be combined with the main construction contract. The consolidation takes in these features which have hitherto been handled as separate lines:

Foundation work (none to be done); cut stone; marble work; woodwork, plastering, roofing, painting and sheet metal, ornamental iron, metal windows and glazing, metal-covered doors.

Trades which remain distinct from the general contract and on which separate bids have been already asked are:

Structural steel, heating and ventilating, plumbing, electrical installation, elevators.

Big Tonnage of Steel Used.

The steel framework in the upper 300 feet of the tower will aggregate 1,200 to 1,500 tons in weight. That, however, constitutes only a minor part of all the steel going into the central structure. In the lower portion there is some 3,000 tons of very heavy pieces. It was installed within the masonry to carry the enormous weight of the rest of the tower. The brick and stone work in the lower part support themselves.

Under the dome at the top of the tower will be two big water tanks, each holding over 5,000 gallons, for emergency fire protection and also to supply pressure for the water system throughout the building. The regular city pressure in Lincoln is not sufficient to elevate water even as high as the base of the tower has already gone.

The pressure from the tanks will be about 200 pounds to the square inch when they are filled with the water. Two electric pumps in the basement will elevate the fluid from city pipes running into the building. Should they go out of commission from any cause, a third pump will automatically begin working whenever the pressure falls below 200 pounds.

(over)

#177

Ornamental Gilded Dome.

Golden-tinted tile will be used as exterior finish on the top of the dome surmounting the tower. These will be laid out in geometrical patterns on a scale large enough to make them visible from below.

There will be a bronze statue of a sower, symbolic of agriculture surmounting the dome. It will be 25 or 30 feet high and is estimated to cost \$32,000. A reservation of that amount is to be included with the main contract.

Memorial hall, a large chamber near the top of the tower, but underneath the dome, where state relics, trophies and other exhibits will be housed in an appropriate setting, is designed as an octagonal room with large bronze-grilled plate glass windows set 20 feet or so above the floor.

Six floors just below Memorial hall will be traversed vertically by continuous metal windows set with plate glass panes, extending about 110 feet from top to bottom. There will be five of these windows on each of the four tower faces.

Stairways will go up around Memorial hall, between its walls and the outer walls of the tower, leading to the dome. There will be glass floors in the landings of these flights, to admit light into the chamber from the mammoth outer windows.

Plans of the capitol include an elevator in each corner of the tower. Two of these will run up to Memorial hall, a distance of 264 feet from the basement, being equivalent to 17 floors, with an opening on each floor. The other two will stop two floors lower down, at a height of 231 feet above the basement level.

The elevators will be rather small in size, with capacity for seven or eight passengers each and a lifting capacity of 1,500 pounds. They will be operated by hand, but one of them will also be equipped with automatic control for the use of the state library if some of its bookstacks are located in the tower.

Doors on three of the elevator shafts will be 30 inches wide and 7 feet high. The fourth will have a 3-foot door on each landing especially for the purpose of handling large pieces of furniture.

Special Features in View.

In connection with bids on the third section, the capitol commission is also requesting alternative figures in the general contract for installing marble wainscoting all the way around the first and second floors of the building. Tiles will be of the Napoleon gray quality similar to that now seen in the south and east corridors. Furniture for the balcony in the house of representatives and for the platform in the same chamber is listed as another contract item, with \$12,000 allowance therefore. Another \$6,000 is specified for plaster walls in the present reading room of the state library.

The commission includes a reservation of \$6,000 for special hardware, to be furnished as directed by the architects, and \$800 for cut stone capitals on two interior columns hitherto installed.

336.45-

Neb.

#178

S-1-30-28

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

Seymour To Aid
Capitol Setting

S-1-30-28

George N. Seymour, former banker of Elgin and former member of the board of regents for the University of Nebraska, has been appointed by Governor McMullen as an additional member of the joint committee representing the capitol commission, the city of Lincoln, and the university, to consider the question of providing suitable approaches and environs for the new seat of government.

Mr. Seymour is said to have been the man who platted the enlarged university campus when it was in process of expansion, and the governor thinks his experience and ideas will be valuable in working out the scheme for improving the capitol district.

336.45

Neb.
#179

8-1-30-28

PLANNERS FAVOR CITY SHARE BONDS

8-1-30-28
Endorse Charter Amendment En-
abling All Lincoln to Bear
Part of Capitol Setting
Expense.

The city planning committees of the junior and senior divisions met together Monday at the chamber of commerce and after some discussion endorsed city share bonds as a method of financing the capitol setting and other permanent improvements. The plan was recapitulated briefly by C. Petrus Peterson, who presented it at length before the senior committee ten days ago. It provides that after benefits are assessed against property in the improvement district, the balance of the cost shall be met by issuing bonds for ten years or more. Several cities in this country are already employing the plan, and it is the same as small Nebraska towns use in financing sewer installation.

F. A. Good suggested that as long as it was known that the slack would be taken up anyway, there might be temptation to make the special assessment rather light. Mr. Peterson replied that the city council already had the power to widen North Fifteenth street for instance, at any time and go ahead and assess damages and condemn property. The fact that it hadn't done so was to him indication of the honesty and good faith of the city administration.

The difference between issuing city share bonds and the method at present employed is that the difference between the amount that can be assessed against property and the whole cost of the improvement, becomes in effect a judgment against the city which must be taken care of in the next annual budget, Mr. Peterson said.

"If this plan is adopted," said Stanley Maly, "Lincoln will for the first time have its financing on a sound business basis. Paying as we go is a nice theory, but any permanent improvement should be bonded so that posterity, that will benefit as much as the generation doing the improving, shall help pay for it. I don't know of any industry that enlarges its plant and pays the cost out of its net earnings. This is an eminently sound plan."

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

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#180

S-1-30-28

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

AMENDMENT TO CHARTER ASKED

S-1-30-28
Want Council to Submit
Capitol Setting Finance
Plan to Vote.

Bonding of Community to Pay Above Benefit Cost Is Plan.

Action contemplating a change in the charter that will permit the city council to issue bonds for the cost of improvement districts where the assessment of benefits does not meet the expense, was taken Monday at a noon luncheon of the city planning subdivision of the chamber of commerce. The subdivision approved a resolution recommending that the council submit such a proposal to the voters.

The action of the subdivision followed an address by City Attorney Peterson in which the explained the different ways a city may create improvement districts. He explained that under existing conditions improvement districts can be created, and property acquired by condemnation proceedings, but that there is no provision for paying any cost over and above special benefits that may accrue to the property.

The provisions of the proposed charter change would be applied only in improvement districts where it is necessary to acquire property. Approval of the amendment will open the way to creating the setting which has been promised the state for the new capitol. In this would be the widening and opening of Fifteenth street to the extended university campus, widening J street to the eastern city limits and also to the west.

Discussion of the plan brought out that it is being used by smaller cities of the state, and is in vogue in many of the larger cities of the country. The vote on the resolution approving the proposal was unanimous.

The meeting was attended by Mayor Hedge and members of the city council. The city planning subdivision of the junior division also was present. Frank D. Tomson, chairman, presided.

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#181

COMMISSION IS UNDECIDED ON TOWER CONTRACT

S-Febr 2, '28

Bids Will Require Outlay of Million and a Half.

Building the central tower of the new Nebraska capitol will run the cost of that structure, still uncompleted and without the setting that is planned for it, up above \$8,000,000, thus virtually exhausting the fund provided by the legislature for the entire edifice and its surroundings and auxiliaries.

The tower itself, on which bids were received by the commission last Tuesday, will require an outlay of approximately 1½ millions which is more than the capitol commission had estimated in advance.

Up to this time, the work done and contracted for on the first and second sections, together with architectural expense, furnishings and decorations, cost of wrecking the old building, and other items of expense, represents a combined expenditure of \$6,536,631.

To erect the fourth section, which will be the leg running from the center to the west side, including one of the legislative chambers, and complete the general architecture and sculptural features of the capitol will cost fully a million more, it is calculated.

There will still remain after that the purchase of furniture for all offices and departments, aside from those of the governor and the state superintendent which are already supplied; the beautification of the grounds; construction of a large heating plant some distance away and connecting it with the capitol by underground tubes; and the purchase and improvement of tracts of land to provide appropriate approaches to the new structure.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

Total Sum Needed \$10,000,000.

While the capitol commission has not yet given out any definite public estimate of how much money the whole project will require to carry it to completion, it is evident that the total will run up to about \$10,000,000.

Of that amount, something over \$8,000,000 is available from special tax levies authorized by the legislature starting in 1919 and continuing through the present year. The remainder must be provided for by another legislative act.

The capitol commission did not award any contracts at the time of opening the bids last Tuesday, but postponed action until 4 o'clock Thursday afternoon. The principal matter for it to decide is the main construction contract for the tower. Peter Kiewit's Sons of Omaha is the low bidder at \$1,049,000, compared with the \$1,062,000 proposition of the J. H. Wiese Co., also of Omaha, which built the first and second sections.

Because the Kiewit firm did not specify particular concerns from which it expects to buy special materials, such as bronze work, marble work, etc., and also for fear that its employment of non-union labor may cause complications and delays, the commission feels some hesitation about awarding it the contract, notwithstanding that it is known to be a responsible contractor and its bid is \$13,000 lower than that of the nearest competitor.

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#182

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

TOWER CONTRACT GOES TO KIEWITS

J. Febr 3, '28
CAPITOL BOARD ACCEPTS BID
OF \$1,049,000.

Omaha Steel Works, Grunewald,
Plumber of Omaha, and New-
berg & Bookstrom, Lin-
coln, Get Contracts.

The general contract for con-
structing the tower of the capitol
was awarded to Peter Kiewits Sons
of Omaha by the capitol commis-
sion Thursday evening after a ses-
sion lasting two and one-half hours.
This firm's bid was \$1,049,000,
while the next lowest bid by J. H.
Wiese company of Omaha, builder
of the first and second sections of
the capitol, was \$1,062,000.

Other contracts in addition were
awarded. The Omaha Steel Works,
whose bid was \$232,000 on struc-
tural steel, was given the contract.
The Kiewits firm had tied with a
separate bid on steel.

B. Grunewald of Omaha, whose
bid was \$40,750, was awarded the
contract for plumbing for the
tower.

Newberg & Bookstrom of Lin-
coln, whose bid was \$39,043 on
heating and ventilating was
awarded a contract. This firm
and Grunewald have been contrac-
tors on the first and second sec-
tions on plumbing and heating and
ventilating.

Bids on elevators and electric
work were deferred for further
consideration.

Bids on marble wainscoting for
the corridors in the first and sec-
ond floors of the present structure
were rejected. Three bids on
marble wainscoting were practi-
cally the same, being about \$49,000.

The bids on the general contract
for the tower, three in number, did

Continued on Page 2, Col. 2.

not differ more than 1 percent.
Alexander Beck of Omaha, high
bidder, had a price of \$1,157,000.
The capitol commission met at
Governor McMullen's private office
at 4 o'clock Thursday to consider
the bids that had been opened
Tuesday and laid over. W. E.
Hardy of Lincoln was absent. Gov-
ernor McMullen, Judge W. H.
Thompson, Walter W. Head of
Omaha and Secretary Roy Cochran
of the department of public works
were the members present. As-
sistant Architect W. L. Younkin
and O. H. Murray, the latter of
New York, representing Goodhue
associates, architects of the capi-
tol, were present. The board met in
executive session. It first called
for Mr. Wiese, then for Ralph and
Peter Kewits, and later sent out a
second call for the latter to
come in.

No Labor Discussion.

Secretary Cochran of the capitol
commission announced the awards
at 6:30 to a large crowd of hidders
and salesmen of building materials
that had gathered in the governor's
reception room.

Secretary Cochran said the com-
mission decided that the omission
of the names of firms who will fur-
nish material from the bid of Kie-
wits Sons was deemed covered by
the specifications which designate
the quality of material to be fur-
nished and by another provision
which states that subcontractors
shall be subject to the approval of
the architects and the commission.

Mr. Cochran said the matter of
union labor was not discussed on
Thursday by the commission. The
commission's specifications provide
that contractors shall give the pre-
ference to Nebraska labor.

At a meeting of the commission
Tuesday following the opening of
bids the bidders were asked con-
cerning labor, Mr. Kiewits stating
that his firm had an open shop and
Mr. Wiese stating that he had em-
ployed union labor on the capitol.

A third bid on structural steel
was by Paxton & Vierling of
Omaha, it being \$299,000, while the
lowest bid on this material was
\$232,000.

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Bids on electric work not yet disposed of by the commission are: Schricker Electrical company, Lincoln, \$14,398; E. T. Gregg, Lincoln, \$15,300; Frank C. Sutton, Lincoln, \$11,926. The commission found the total in the latter bid to be in the wrong place in the blank and the question of the intent of the bidder is to be settled.

The two bids on elevators to the top of the 400 foot tower still pending are: Otis Elevator company, Omaha, \$76,300; Montgomery Elevator company, Moline, Ill., \$71,484. The commission's records show

that the first and second sections of the capitol, now nearly completed, will cost \$6,686,000. The bids indicate that the tower will cost \$1,440,000. The senate wing will be contracted for later.

Governor McMullen has expressed hope that the tower may be finished this year. There is much ornamental work about the upper portion of the tower that may slow down the work. The second section is nearing completion but the contractor may not be able to close up the work before late in March.

J. H. Wiese company laid the corner stone of the new capitol more than five years ago, Nov. 11, 1922. The first spade of earth was turned over in the spring of 1922.

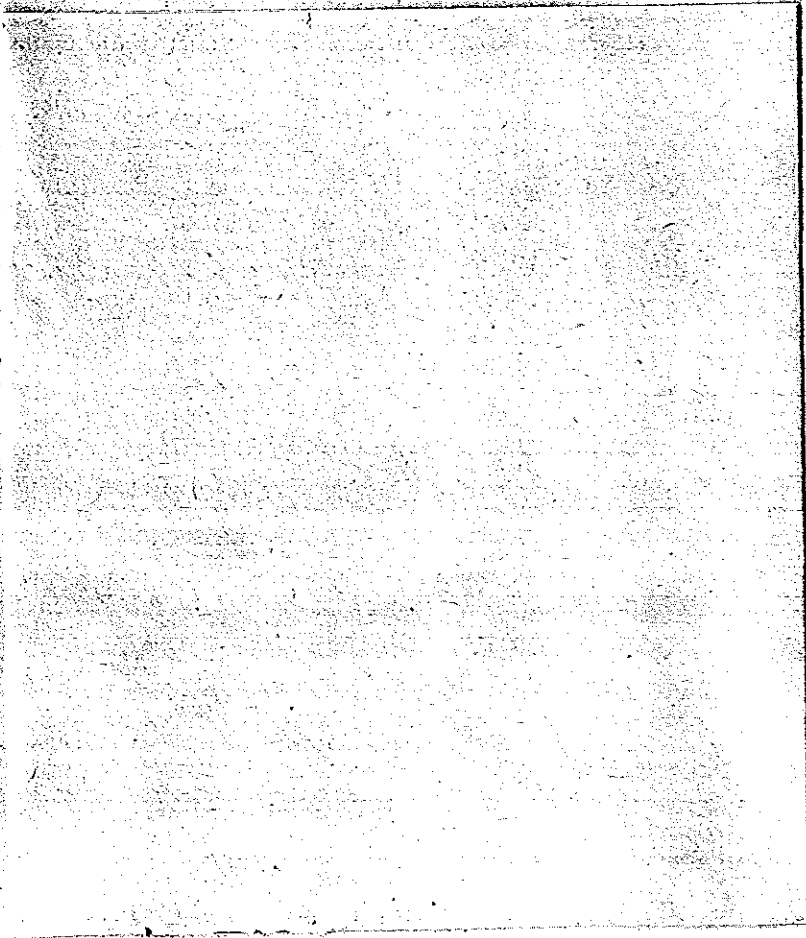
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#184

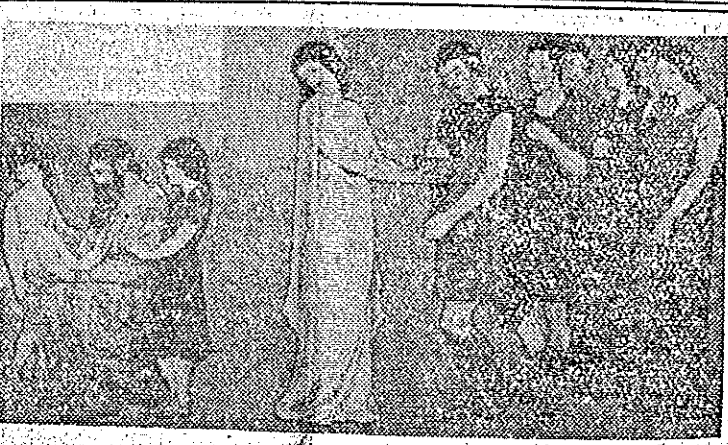
Grumman on Capitol
Decorations

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



TEST OF TIME REQUIRED

J- Febr 5 '28



It is not for critics of today, Prof. Paul H. Grumann told county superintendents in Lincoln last week, to decide absolutely upon the merits of works of art now in the making. Hundreds of years must pass, centuries of people must gaze upon them before their real value is ascertained. While praising Nebraska's new capitol and the paintings recently hung within he said that they could be matters of controversy for years to come, and that this is desirable.

There is a very widespread opinion, said Professor Grumann, that somewhere, remote from the great common run of men, there are specially gifted individuals who can very definitely tell us what is good and what is bad in art. Again and again visitors to our galleries preface their remarks to me by saying, "Now I do not know anything about art." This is most unfortunate, for art in the long run is not judged merely by experts, but it must be judged by the people for whom it has been produced. If there is any one interest in the whole of human life that must be democratic, it is art, so if our art critics are to give us a correct estimate of the state capitol and its decorations, that judgment will be correct if it is in agreement with the democratic view as it is tested in the years to come.

No individual today can tell us whether all this art that we have around us is good or bad. Time only can tell. If the speaker ventures an opinion it is simply because he has followed the planning and construction of the present building rather carefully, and has had some opportunity to see similar work, which may enable him to lay down certain principles which in the past have been used in determining what is good and bad in art.

Before attempting a discussion of the more immediate problem, a word or two should be said about the general architecture of the building. There is nothing radi-



—Photo by Campus Studio.
PROF. PAUL H. GRUMMANN.

cally new about the architecture of the state capitol. Any student of architecture will be able to point out great examples of architecture in the past that have utilized every style that can be found in the present buildings. This is neither censure nor half praise, for the wise artist is forever utilizing what the past has to give. There is such a clever combination here of the forms of the past, however; there is such a striking unity; there is such majestic simplicity, that this building, made up entirely of the elements of the past, strikes us as eternally new. As we look upon the building we feel that it has grown out of the very land itself. We have the sensation that it has stood here for generations, and yet we do not feel that it is out of harmony in the least with the spirit of our modern life. As I see it, it has that great characteristic of the highest art which makes it eternally venerable, yet eternally new. In no sense

of the word is it, nor will it be, out of date. No matter how great our advance in industry, art and science may be, in the future, we shall still feel that the exterior of this building with its exquisite proportions, its simplicity and majesty will be ever new to the coming generations of men.

I have said enough to make it entirely plain that I consider this building one of the very fortunate accidents that come in a long period of time to a community and state. The right man appeared at the right time with a very fortunate inspiration and did a very unusual thing. This does not mean that the capitol will not be a continued subject of controversy for many years to come. The most unfortunate thing that could happen to it would be to stifle honest criticism and to question the patriotism of anyone who should encourage the usual discussion. Only thru an honest weighing can the ultimate beauty of this structure be established.

The criticism that the general architecture of this building must face will fall along two lines: Is it suited to the purpose for which it is built? Can the business of the state be transacted expeditiously and wisely in this structure? This is the prime test of the building. No matter what its other beauties may be, if it is short in this respect, its architecture is inartistic. The question will also arise, is it suited to the general everyday demands? Have the prosaic problems of light and sanitation been solved in an enlightened manner by the architects? Only time and the general consensus of opinion can answer these questions with certainty.

As we proceed to the interior of the building it is necessary to recall the general idea of the architect. He would divide the building, roughly speaking, into two parts. On the one hand he would have corridors and vestibules of an artistic nature, adorned by mosaics and paintings, vulgarly known as the "show part" of the building.

In this part of the building he would include the governor's suite. The offices and connecting corridors of the building, however, would be frankly known as working quarters, not to be considered seriously from the artistic point of view. Here a question arises, and no doubt will lead to endless discussion in the future. The question will be: "Is an architect justified in dividing his building into two halves, one artistic and the other not so?" And the second question arises as to whether a thing is artistic at all if it is devised merely for show. Many artists will contend that true art would demand that a room or a corridor should be made to serve its purpose in the most satisfactory fashion without keeping in mind a secondary artistic appeal. It is already quite evident that after we pass from the main entrance into the connecting corridor, a certain feeling of disparity is in evidence, and the commission will probably be called upon to deal with just this problem in the future and harmonize to a greater extent the transition from the display part of the building to the working offices.

Here in the governor's room we are in a section that is frankly dedicated to what is conceived as the artistic part of the building. These decorations were planned and executed by Augustus Vincent Tack, an artist of unusually attractive personality, one whose brief stay in Lincoln endeared him to all of the persons with whom he came in contact, a man of singular personal charm, and a man thoroly devoted to his art. Before us we have the result of three years of incessant work by this man.

It is clear enough that we must be careful about snap judgment when we are in the presence of so great a problem. The controversy in regard to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel has raged for hundreds of years and is not entirely adjusted. Similarly, the present

Tributes to Will Owen Jones From Nebraska Newspapermen

The passing of Will Owen Jones, editor in chief of the State Journal, has brought from the Ne-

braska newspapermen a tribute before him, was a guide and an inspiration. From that early day until the last moment the Journal's

good work that is carried on at the state capital.

watched the work with pride. He has gone just as the full realization of this monumental enterprise is near at hand.

Mr. Jones lived a rich and useful life in the community and in the state. His passing leaves a vacancy on the newspaper for which he labored so many years which

TO DETERMINE REAL ART



room will be discussed as long as these paintings last. We may be in the presence of the greatest mural decorations in the world. To assert this dogmatically would be very foolish. To deny that they are important would be equally foolish. You will remember the very interesting experience that Nathaniel Hawthorne had when he visited St. Peter's church. His first reaction was that he said to the structure, "You are not so very large;" and after he had said this to the church, the church seemed to say to him, "Look at me." After this had been repeated a number of times, Hawthorne came to the conclusion that St. Peter's was very impressive indeed. Now this may be the experience of visitors to this room. Those who come to scoff may remain to pray. On the other hand I take it that you have not asked me to speak to you merely in terms of praise. I shall try to indicate that the center of discussion in the future days may be in regard to these paintings.

As we have already noted, the exterior of this building gives us the impression of being very old and very new. The question arises as to whether the same tests applied to the decorations of the governor's suite are valid. Do we feel that these figures, clad in medieval garments, give us the impression of art that appeals to the modern man, or is the idiom archaic to a very great extent? This question I am not able to answer dogmatically, but it certainly will be a center for discussion which the future and not we must decide. The artist has attempted to give us in the decorations on these walls a condensed history of civilization with special reference to the state of Nebraska. This is one of the most stupendous tasks that any human being could undertake, dangerous in the extreme. If I were to give you an hour's lecture on the history of civilization as it applies to this state, I should feel extremely cautious about the task, but there

would be no great danger, for my lecture would be a merely temporary affair. Or, I might write a book on the history of civilization with special reference to Nebraska and no great harm could be done even if my theories were incorrect, for anyone who did not like these theories could consign that book to the furnace without much difficulty. The question therefore arises, is it the part of wisdom to attempt such a problem in a set of mural decorations that are to stand here for hundreds of years? Is this an adequate interpretation of our civilization? Is it in accordance with the facts? If it seem so today, will it seem so in fifty years? Will it seem so one hundred years from today? These are extremely severe tests to apply to a work of art, but if we are facing great art, only severe tests can be utilized.

In the center of this ceiling we see groups of figures illustrating the four elements that, according to the Greeks, constituted all matter. To make the meaning of these groups clear, four inscriptions appear, characterizing earth, air, fire, and water. This takes us immediately into the field of controversy, for many artists and critics alike will contend that the labeling of art is of evil, that art should convey its message without labels, be they good or bad. On each side of this panel is a very conventional figure, one of a man with a dog, typifying the hunter; the other, fortune. Beyond these is the tree of life, which, as the artist told me, represents the eternal renewal of life itself from generation to generation. This ceiling is connected with the side walls by a number of pendentives, the subjects being taken out of the fulness of human life—Charity and Friendship. The ceiling, moreover, contains the names of six of the outstanding Americans; again a task not easily solved to the satisfaction of all time.

We shall begin our discussion of the side walls by a consideration of the west wall. Here the first thing that strikes the eyes is that

the whole plane has been broken up into three parts by treating the chimney in a manner totally unlike the other two sections. The beautiful mass of blue and gold separates the murals and we have a highly conventionalized portrait of the pioneer woman, bound up in a conventionalized wreath. On the right we see three figures representing art, science and philosophy, offering the scroll of knowledge to the youth. By means of these, the artist has tried to give us a conception of our educational development. It will be noted that education here is interpreted as the acquiring of knowledge, as the words that border the painting indicate: "Knowledge hath no enemy save ignorance."

On the left side we have a group that illustrates our charitable institutions. Here we have an interpretation of charity that lends help and assistance to the afflicted. Above it stands the motto: "The world had perished had not pity set bounds to wrath." The conception of charity here seems to be that human charity is a check on the wrath of God.

The north wall contains four small panels devoted to the state as the guardian of marriage and motherhood. There are also groups of children in the corners, carrying out the pretty idea that the child is the real pillar of the state. The south wall contains three groups portraying the idea of liberty of speech, the liberty of divine worship, and the rights of suffrage. But our chief attention is clearly directed to the great east wall. The very center, somewhat set off from all the rest, is occupied by three figures representing Justice tempered by Understanding and Mercy. This Justice is portrayed as interfering all of the characters on the lower tier. The question arises as to how these characters are related to Justice and whether the figures are arranged in accordance with good taste and good judgment. Has the artist made a mistake in allowing the figures on the right literally

to walk out of the picture? It is possible to defend this. Do these figures seem sufficiently concerned about Justice? Or, has the artist the definite idea that people do not concern themselves sufficiently with the force presented by the three individuals in the center?

Just above this group we find eight figures representing the various countries from which we of Nebraska have derived our culture: India, Babylonia, Judea, Egypt, Greece, Rome, France and England. The question arises as to whether this is a correct statement of the sources of our culture. Moreover, these figures are all clad in medieval garb, possibly giving us the idea that culture ceased to flow some time in the middle ages. It is not impossible that Scandinavia, Bohemia and Germany had some little influence in shaping the culture of Nebraska. Here again the question will arise as to the labels. Should the figures be so distinctly Greek or Egyptian as to make labels unnecessary, or would sufficiently distinctive rendering of the individual figures mar the unity of the wall? Bordering the painting again we have an inscription: "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. It is possible that the word "unalienable" could be spelled as it is, for Webster does allow that spelling, in the footnotes, but for over one hundred years we have used the word "inalienable" in this connection and it is to be hoped that our eastern friends will not accuse us of illiteracy on account of this bold spelling. This great east wall then contains three distinct ideas: the upper rim, unalienable rights, the second tier, the sources of our Nebraska civilization; the third tier, justice as it affects all strata and conditions of men. Critics will make this a center of discussion in the future, for the question will constantly arise as to whether one

Continued on Page 2-C.

Both Old and New Have a Place in Nebraska Items of Interest

On the one hand an original homestead still lived on, home-

Sherman precinct in 1884. The sod house still remains standing.

maker of Maskell has been following his trade which he learned in

more than half that time was its editor. His death Sunday will be felt as a distinct loss in every section of the state. A modest and retiring man, shunning rather than courted prominence, he was nevertheless one of the state's prominent Journal, his profession generally and upon himself, framed for him

It is not for critics of today, Prof. Paul H. Grumann told county superintendents in Lincoln last week, to decide absolutely upon the merits of works of art now in the making. Hundreds of years must pass, centuries of people must gaze upon them before their real value is ascertained. While praising Nebraska's new capitol and the paintings recently hung within he said that they would be matters of controversy for years to come, and that this is desirable.

There is a very widespread opinion, said Professor Grumann, that somewhere, remote from the great common run of men, there are specially gifted individuals who can very definitely tell us what is good and what is bad in art. Again and again visitors to our galleries prefix their remarks to me by saying, "Now I do not know anything about art." This is most unfortunate, for art in the long run is not judged merely by experts, but it must be judged by the people for whom it has been produced. If there is any one interest in the whole of human life that must be democratic, it is art, so if our art critics are to give us a correct estimate of the state capitol and its decorations, that judgment will be correct if it is in agreement with the democratic view as it is tested in the years to come.

No individual today can tell us whether all this art that we have around us is good or bad. Time only can tell. If the speaker ventures an opinion it is simply because he has followed the planning and construction of the present building, rather carefully, and has had some opportunity to see similar work, which may enable him to lay down certain principles which in the past have been used in determining what is good and bad in art.

Before attempting a discussion of the more immediate problem, a word or two should be said about the general architecture of the building. There is nothing radi-



—Photo by Campus Studio.
PROF. PAUL H. GRUMMANN.

cally new about the architecture of the state capitol. Any student of architecture will be able to point out great examples of architecture in the past that have utilized every style that can be found in the present building. This is neither censure nor half praise, for the wise artist is forever utilizing what the past has to give. There is such a clever combination here of the forms of the past, however; there is such a striking unity; there is such majestic simplicity, that this building, made up entirely of the elements of the past, strikes us as eternally new. As we look upon the building we feel that it has grown out of the very land itself. We have the sensation that it has stood here for generations, and yet we do not feel that it is out of harmony in the least with the spirit of our modern life. As I see it, it has that great characteristic of the highest art which makes it eternally venerable, yet eternally new. In no sense

of the word is it, nor will it be, out of date. No matter how great our advance in industry, art and science may be in the future, we shall still feel that the exterior of this building with its exquisite proportions, its simplicity and majesty will be ever new to the coming generations of men.

I have said enough to make it entirely plain that I consider this building one of the very fortunate accidents that come in a long period of time to a community and state. The right man appeared at the right time with a very fortunate inspiration and did a very unusual thing. This does not mean that the capitol will not be a continued subject of controversy for many years to come. The most unfortunate thing that could happen to it would be to stifle honest criticism and to question the patriotism of anyone who should encourage the usual discussion. Only thru an honest weighing can the ultimate beauty of this structure be established.

The criticism that the general architecture of this building must face will fall along two lines: Is it suited to the purpose for which it is built? Can the business of the state be transacted expeditiously and wisely in this structure? This is the prime test of the building. No matter what its other beauties may be, if it is short in this respect, its architecture is inartistic. The question will also arise, is it suited to the general everyday demands? Have the prosaic problems of light and sanitation been solved in an enlightened manner by the architects? Only time and the general consensus of opinion can answer these questions with certainty.

As we proceed to the interior of the building it is necessary to recall the general idea of the architect. He would divide the building, roughly speaking, into two parts. On the one hand he would have corridors and vestibules of an artistic nature, adorned by mosaics and paintings, vulgarly known as the "show part" of the building.

In this part of the building he would include the governor's suite. The offices and connecting corridors of the building, however, would be frankly known as working quarters, not to be considered seriously from the artistic point of view. Here a question arises, a no doubt will lead to endless discussion in the future. The question will be: "Is an architect justified in dividing his building into two halves, one artistic and the other not so?" And the second question arises as to whether anything is artistic at all if it is devised merely for show. Many artists will contend that true art would demand that a room or a corridor should be made to serve a purpose in the most satisfactory fashion without keeping in mind secondary artistic appeal. It is ready quite evident that after a pass from the main entrance in the connecting corridor, a certain feeling of disparity is in evidence and the commission will probably be called upon to deal with this problem in the future and harmonize to a greater extent the transition from the display part of the building to the working office.

Here in the governor's room we are in a section that is frankly dedicated to what is conceived as the artistic part of the building. These decorations were planned and executed by Augustus Vincent Tack, an artist of unusually attractive personality, one whose brief stay in Lincoln endeared him to all of the persons with whom he came in contact, a man of singular personal charm, and a man thoroughly devoted to his art. Before us we have the result of three years of incessant work by this man.

It is clear enough that we must be careful about snap judgments when we are in the presence of such a great a problem. The controversy in regard to the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel has raged for hundreds of years and is not entirely adjusted. Similarly, the present

Tributes to Will Owen Jones From Nebraska Newspapermen

The passing of Will Owen Jones, editor in chief of the State Journal, has brought from the Nebraska press hundreds of testimonials to his work. Lack of room prevents republication of many of them. Some of the earlier expressions from newspaper editors who

before him, was a guide and an inspiration. From that early day until the last moment the Journal's early standards were maintained. It must be kept clean. It was kept clean. Sensationalism could never find entrance to its columns. The public must be served with full-

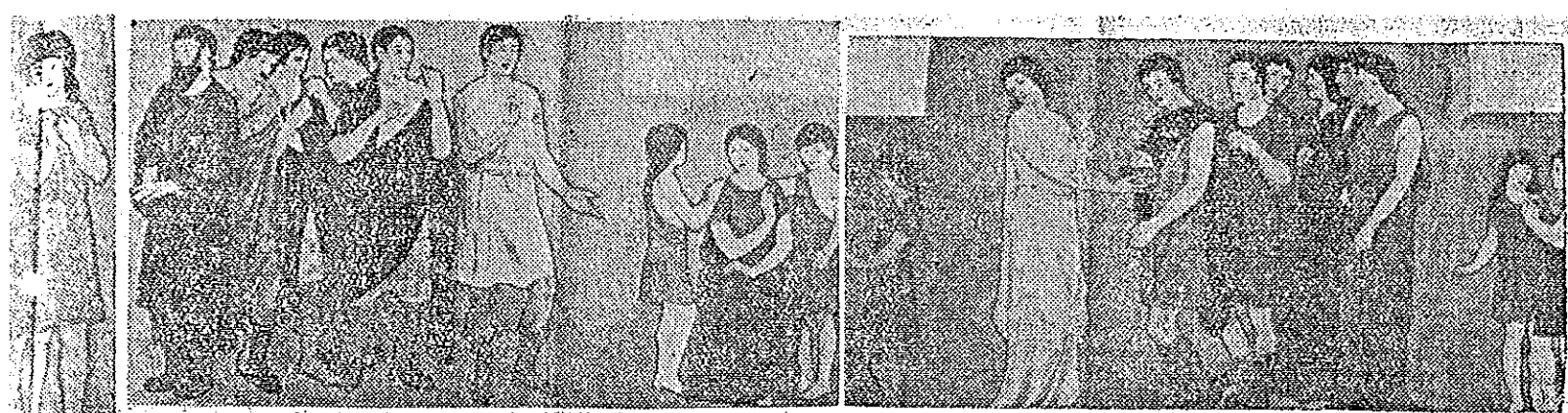
good work that is carried on at the state capital.

Lincoln Star: Will Owen Jones, for many years editor-in-chief of the Nebraska State Journal, to whom death came swiftly and un-

watched the work with pride. He has gone just as the full realization of this monumental enterprise is near at hand.

Mr. Jones lived a rich and useful life in the community and in the state. His passing leaves a vacancy on the newspaper for which he labored so many years which will be difficult to fill.

Grand Island Independent: The death of Will Owen Jones, editor of the Nebraska State Journal, while



room will be discussed as long as these paintings last. We may be in the presence of the greatest mural decorations in the world. To assert this dogmatically would be very foolish. To deny that they are important would be equally foolish. You will remember the very interesting experience that Nathaniel Hawthorne had when he visited St. Peter's church. His first reaction was that he said to the structure, "You are not so very large;" and after he had said this to the church, the church seemed to say to him, "Look at me." After this had been repeated a number of times, Hawthorne came to the conclusion that St. Peter's was very impressive indeed. Now this may be the experience of visitors to this room. Those who come to scoff may remain to pray. On the other hand I take it that you have not asked me to speak to you merely in terms of praise. I shall try to indicate that the center of discussion in the future days may be in regard to these paintings.

We have already noted, the color of this building gives us an impression of being very old and very new. The question arises as to whether the same tests applied to the decorations of the governor's suite are valid. Do we feel that these figures, clad in medieval garments, give us the impression of art that appeals to the modern man, or is the idiom archaic to a very great extent? This question I am not able to answer dogmatically, but it certainly will be a center for discussion which the future and not we must decide. The artist has attempted to give us in the decorations on these walls a condensed history of civilization with special reference to the state of Nebraska. This is one of the most stupendous tasks that any human being could undertake, dangerous in the extreme. If I were to give you an hour's lecture on the history of civilization as it applies to this state, I should feel extremely cautious about the task, but there

would be no great danger, for my lecture would be a merely temporary affair. Or, I might write a book on the history of civilization with special reference to Nebraska and no great harm could be done even if my theories were incorrect, for anyone who did not like these theories could consign that book to the furnace without much difficulty. The question therefore arises, is it the part of wisdom to attempt such a problem in a set of mural decorations that are to stand here for hundreds of years? Is this an adequate interpretation of our civilization? Is it in accordance with the facts? If it seem so today, will it seem so in fifty years? Will it seem so one hundred years from today? These are extremely severe tests to apply to a work of art, but if we are facing great art, only severe tests can be utilized.

In the center of this ceiling we see groups of figures illustrating the four elements that, according to the Greeks, constituted all matter. To make the meaning of these groups clear, four inscriptions appear, characterizing earth, air, fire, and water. This takes us immediately into the field of controversy, for many artists and critics alike will contend that the labeling of art is of evil; that art should convey its message without labels, be they good or bad. On each side of this panel is a very conventional figure, one of a man with a dog, typifying the hunter; the other, fortune. Beyond these is the tree of life, which, as the artist told me, represents the eternal renewal of life itself from generation to generation. This ceiling is connected with the side walls by a number of pendentives, the subjects being taken out of the fulness of human life—Charity and Friendship. The ceiling, moreover, contains the names of six of the outstanding Americans, again a task not easily solved to the satisfaction of all time.

We shall begin our discussion of the side walls by a consideration of the west wall. Here the first thing that strikes the eyes is that

the whole plane has been broken up into three parts by treating the chimney in a manner totally unlike the other two sections. The beautiful mass of blue and gold separates the murals and we have a highly conventionalized portrait of the pioneer woman, bound up in a conventionalized wreath. On the right we see three figures representing art, science and philosophy, offering the scroll of knowledge to the youth. By means of these, the artist has tried to give us a conception of our educational development. It will be noted that education here is interpreted as the acquiring of knowledge, as the words that border the painting indicate: "Knowledge hath no enemy save ignorance."

On the left side we have a group that illustrates our charitable institutions. Here we have an interpretation of charity that lends help and assistance to the afflicted. Above it stands the motto: "The world had perished had not pity set bounds to wrath." The conception of charity here seems to be that human charity is a check on the wrath of God.

The north wall contains four small panels devoted to the state as the guardian of marriage and motherhood. There are also groups of children in the corners, carrying out the pretty idea that the child is the real pillar of the state. The south wall contains three groups portraying the idea of liberty of speech, the liberty of divine worship, and the rights of suffrage. But our chief attention is clearly directed to the great east wall. The very center, somewhat set off from all the rest, is occupied by three figures representing Justice tempered by Understanding and Mercy. This Justice is portrayed as influencing all of the characters on the lower tier. The question arises as to how these characters are related to Justice and whether the figures are arranged in accordance with good taste and good judgment. Has the artist made a mistake in allowing the figures on the right literally

to walk out of the picture? It is possible to defend this. Do these figures seem sufficiently concerned about Justice? Or, has the artist the definite idea that people do not concern themselves sufficiently with the force presented by the three individuals in the center?

Just above this group we find eight figures representing the various countries from which we of Nebraska have derived our culture: India, Babylonia, Judea, Egypt, Greece, Rome, France and England. The question arises as to whether this is a correct statement of the sources of our culture. Moreover, these figures are all clad in medieval garb, possibly giving us the idea that culture ceased to flow some time in the middle ages. It is not impossible that Scandinavia, Bohemia and Germany had some little influence in shaping the culture of Nebraska. Here again the question will arise as to the labels. Should the figures be so distinctly Greek or Egyptian as to make labels unnecessary, or would sufficiently distinctive rendering of the individual figures mar the unity of the wall? Bordering the painting again we have an inscription: "All men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." It is possible that the word "unalienable" could be spelled as it is, for Webster does allow that spelling, in the footnotes, but for over one hundred years we have used the word "inalienable" in this connection and it is to be hoped that our eastern friends will not accuse us of illiteracy on account of this bold spelling. This great east wall then contains three distinct ideas: the upper rim, unalienable rights, the second tier, the sources of our Nebraska civilization; the third tier, justice as it affects all strata and conditions of men. Critics will make this a center of discussion in the future, for the question will constantly arise as to whether one

Continued on Page 2-C.

more than half that time was its editor. His death Sunday will be felt as a distinct loss in every section of the state. A modest and retiring man, shunning rather than courting prominence, he was nevertheless one of the state's prominent men. His profession generally and upon himself, framed for him an especial niche. His place in these ranks will not be easily filled; his own nook in the hearts of the newspaper colleagues who often sought his friendly counsel

Both Old and New Have a Place in Nebraska Items of Interest

On the one hand an original homestead still lived on, homestead sod house still standing, the old steam wagon which started bravely from Nebraska City to Denver; on the other a new silica mine, the need of a union bus depot at Nebraska City, somewhere

Sherman precinct in 1884. The sod house still remains standing, and is now a novelty in this locality. Walrus Tooth Cribbage Board. Hastings Tribune: Glenn J. Ratliff of this city has a unique crib-

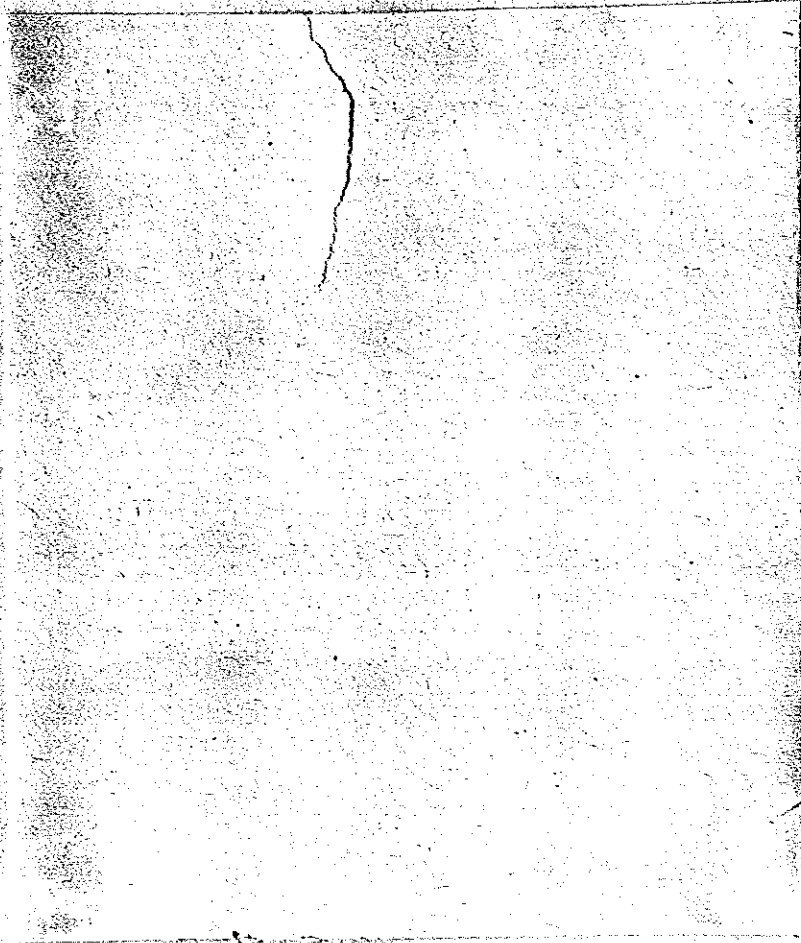
maker of Maskell has been following his trade which he learned in his native Norway for more than forty years. Mr. Lund was born near Trondhjem, Norway, in 1862. At that time Oslo was the nearest railroad point, and was about 200

Star Febr. 5, '28

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Nebraska Capitol.

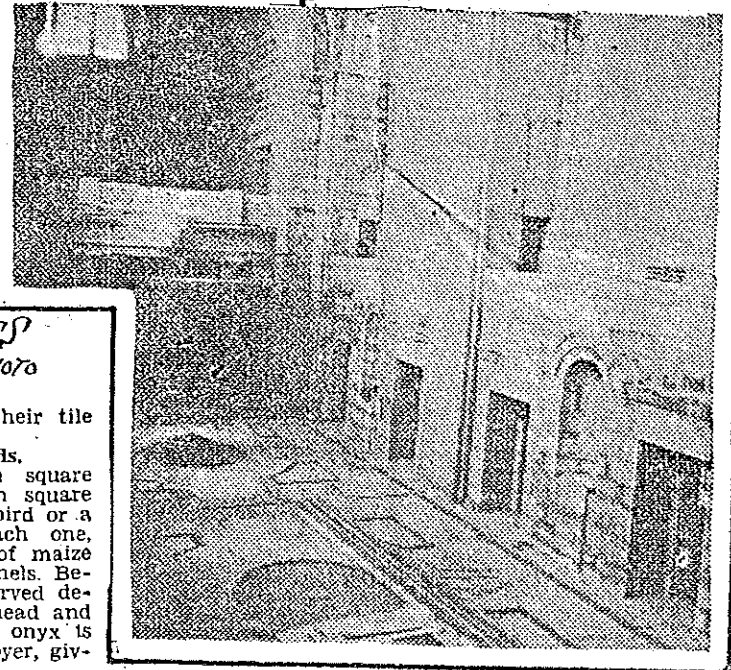
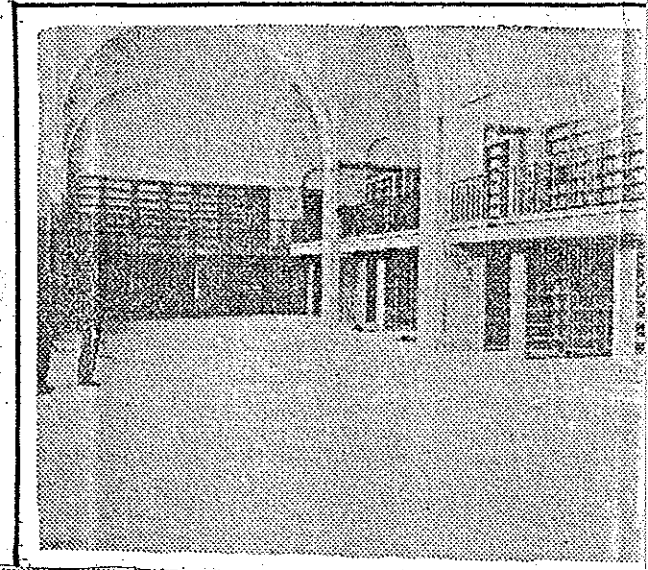
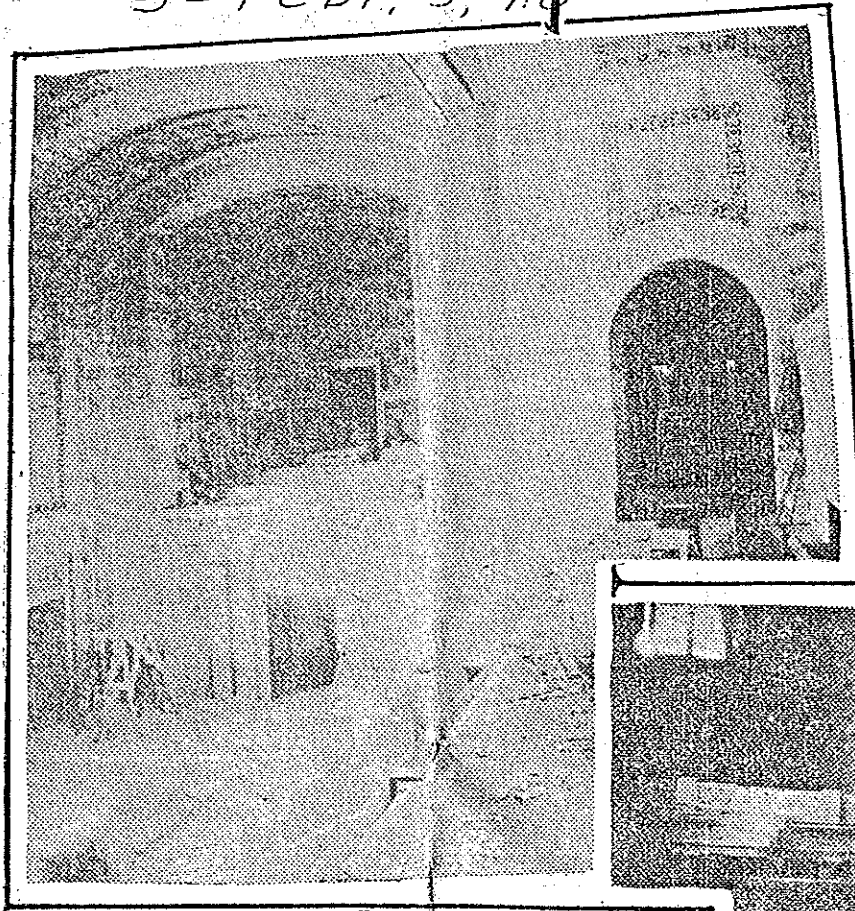
NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



Several of the Main Rooms Under Construction Nearing Completion, and their Beauty

S - Febr. 5, '28

MAIN ROOM OF NEBRASKA STATE LIBRARY



A GLIMPSE OF THE HOUSE GALLERIES - BUCKLIN PHOTO

ONE SIDE OF FOYER, SHOWING NICHE AND ONYX BALUSTRADE IN THE REAR - BUCKLIN PHOTO

BY LULU MAE COE.

of these balconies, with their tile floors.

Carved Buffalo Heads.

The onyx, set between square stone pillars is carved in square open work panels, with a bird or a buffalo head centering each one, and with formal designs of maize and stalks between the panels. Below the balustrade is a carved design of an Indian arrow head and dentil. The same kind of onyx is used in the grills of the foyer, giving a soft, subdued light.

Underneath the future dome of the rotunda is an inscription, done in carved gold lettering. Particu-

A clear head, a compass, and a blue print are necessary to find one's way adequately about the yet unfinished portions of the new capitol.

However, when the boards, wires, cleaning machines, hoists, nail kegs, pails, ladders and cement bags are taken away, Nebraskans will have the opportunity to see some very fine mosaic work and particularly interesting architecture.

At the present moment the sections under construction are decorated with large "No Admittance" signs, delicately balanced boards covering stone steps, and large areas of dust and dirt and powdered stone, with an occasional pigeon flying about to lend an out-of-door effect. In spite of its incomplete appearance, this part of the new state house is more nearly ready than appears to those peering through the dividing fence.

Foyer Is Show Place.

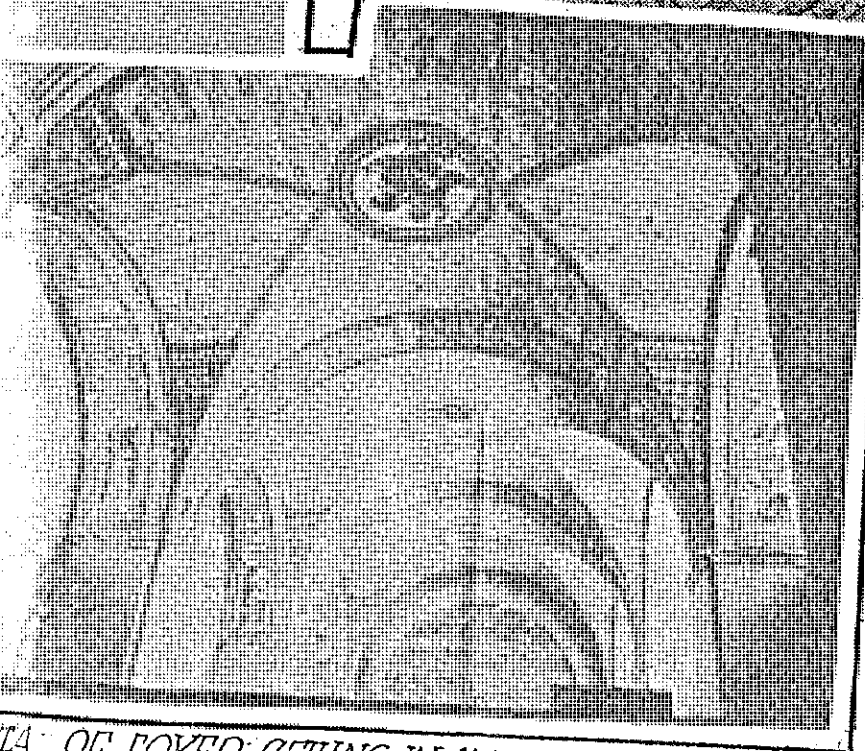
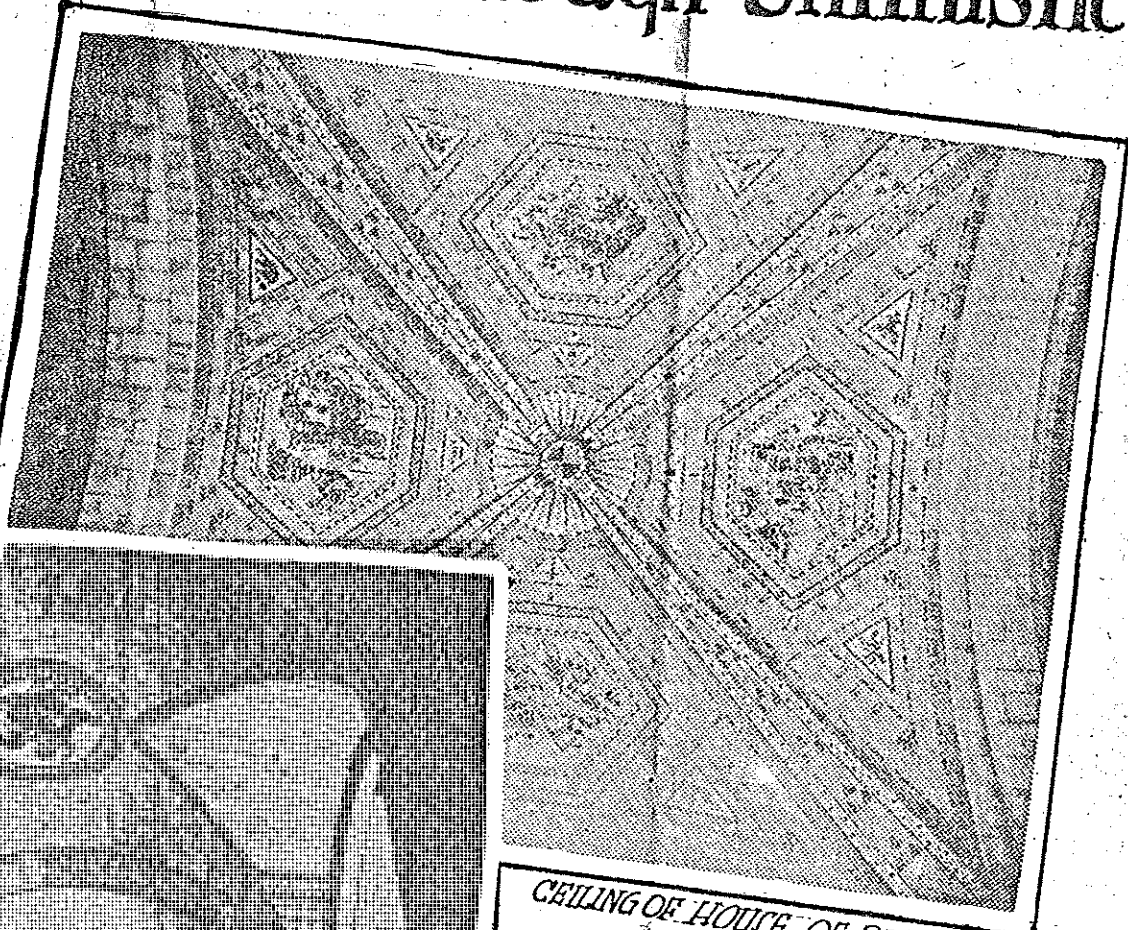
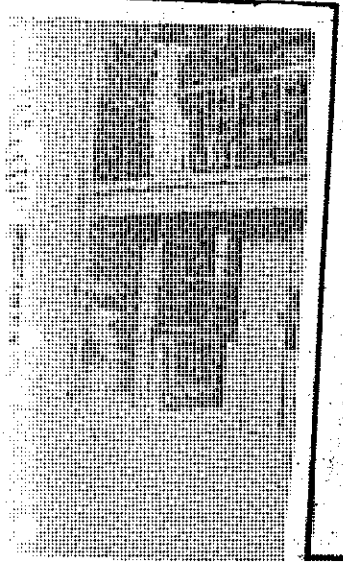
The chamber of the house of representatives, the foyer the rotunda, the second supreme court room, and the main room of the state library are fairly well along. Not tomorrow will they be thrown open to inspection, but, viewed from the point of the years of capitol construction the time is brief, until we'll all be walking about viewing the beauties made by man.

The foyer opening out of the north vestibule, and into the great

VIS

Construction at the Nebraska Capital are Progress is Evident Even Though Unfinished

LIBRARY - BUCKLIN PHOTO



CEILING OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
 CHAMBER. - BUCKLIN PHOTO

FOYER CEILING IN MOSAIC - BUCKLIN PHOTO

larily fitting is the thought, as the rotunda is in the exact center of the building, immediately below the tower. The inscription reads: "He who would duly inquire about the best form of the state ought first to determine which is the most eligible life. Men should not think it slavery to live according to the rule of the constitution for it is their salvation. Laws and constitutions spring from the moral dispositions of the members of the state. Law and order deliver the soul. A community like an individual has work to do."

In addition to the inevitable details of finishing the main work yet to be done in the house chamber is the laying of the floor. This room is located in the shadow of the eastern pavilion, and will seat 100 members when furnished. Galleries on three sides are supported by Red Arkansas fossil marble pillars, with capitals of Golden Travis from Utah. The walls are of Bedford stone and acoustic tile, with above the two promenades within the room, and from which entrance may be had from the right angle corridors. The quotation, the same as that on the hood of the fireplace in the governor's reception room, has been carved above the speaker's chair, "Equality Before the Law."

Indian Life Depicted.

While not so striking in color as the foyer mosaics, the

The chamber of the house of representatives, the foyer, the rotunda, the second supreme court room, and the main room of the state library are fairly well along. Not tomorrow will they be thrown open to inspection, but, viewed from the point of the years of capitol construction the time is brief, until we'll all be walking about viewing the beauties made by man.

The foyer opening out of the north vestibule, and into the great central rotunda, is one of the show places of the building. More than 100 feet in length, the vault is inlaid with mosaic in brilliant colors, and the whole forms a striking entrance into the rotunda.

The evolution of the world is depicted in the tile of the vestibule, foyer, rotunda and house. The vestibule represents nature, and the foyer history. The designs of the rotunda are planned with the state as the center, and the house chamber tells pictorially of the life of the Indian.

Divided Into Three Bays.

The foyer is divided by high arches into three sections or bays. The first represents traditions of the past, the central one, life of the present, and the third, ideals of the future, each a fundamental aspect of life. The wall panels in traditions of the past represent school and family, in life of the present, reflection and recreation, and in ideals of the future, reverence for truth and a sense of beauty.

For the family the figures of the home maker, the father and the mother are the symbols, and child and school are represented by teacher and pupil. As the symbols of recreation a boy tossing a ball and a girl holding a bouquet of flowers, have been used, and for the symbolism of the twin panel, reflection, the figures of a scientist and a scholar. Architect and artist represent a sense of beauty and a statesman and a philosopher are for reverence for truth. From the pillars to the arches are four other figures in tile, symbolic of law, labor, religion and public spirit.

The floor of the foyer is to be completed with tile motif. The niches in the walls are to be filled by the state, possibly with busts of prominent Nebraskans. Between the niches are low recessed green doors, which open out on to stone terraces, which will eventually overlook two courtyards of greensward, fountains and Grecian benches.

Balconies Overlook Rotunda.

Leading from the vestibule to the half balconies on each side of the foyer are narrow stone steps. The balconies offer excellent opportunity to view the tile work of the foyer vault of the corridor and give a glimpse into the heights of the rotunda. Other stone steps at the south of the balconies lead to the corridor, out of which the house galleries open.

Four balconies, of which one joins the foyer of balconies, overlook the rotunda. With but a partially finished floor and with the dome but a lattice work of timbers, the rotunda is yet majestic with its straight austere sweep of sharply rising walls. The huge pillars at the entrances are Breccia Armante marble, and the smaller ones at the top are Benjeau.

The four balconies, one at the rear of the main house gallery one opening out of the state library room, one offering a view from the future senate chamber, and the fourth, forming the bridge, have carved balustrades of Utah onyx, a shining cream and beige onyx which lends its own distinction to the building. An unusually fine view of the rotunda is afforded from any

may be seen from the right angle corridors. The quotation, the same as that on the hood of the fireplace in the governor's reception room, has been carved above the speaker's chair, "Equality Before the Law."

Indian Life Depicted.

While not so striking in color as the foyer mosaics, the ceiling and outline panels, over the speaker's rostrum and above each of the three galleries in the house of representatives chamber are very lovely. Blue, brown, and a lemon yellow are the predominating shades, with some red and green in the ceiling motifs.

The life of the red man is depicted in this room, as that of the white man will be told in the senate chamber. Four six-sided figures carry the main thoughts of Indian life, the hunt, warfare, agriculture, and the camp fire. Radiating from the crimson and blue central motif, suggestive of the Indian worship of the sun, is a formal motif, with smaller figures of Indian life and lore at definite intervals in the arcs. Animals, plants, and objects which they believed to have been animated by a more or less beneficent spirit together with some primitive symbols of their economic and aesthetic arts and industries, such as mortar and pestle, the iron cooking pot slung on three sticks, and similar symbols.

The representative's chamber reached on either side, by lofty foyers, which with their vaulted ceilings and gray walls make one of the most artistic sections of the new portion of the structure. They are plain, except for the beauty of the brick and stone construction, and they give a strangely medieval effect, and suggest entrance to a cathedral rather than to a legislative hall. Casement windows overlook a potential court yard.

Novel Hand Rails.

Various small rooms serving the chamber are in process of completion, such as telephone booths, press quarters, coat rooms, and a walnut finish is used in these. The committee rooms for the house are located on the first floor, reached with ease by a brass-railed stairway. Novel hand rails on the stairs leading from the house floor to the gallery are carved in the stone, so that the pedestrian is certain of a firm hold, unless the wall crumble beside him.

The Nebraska state library, the oldest public library in the state, has much larger quarters with the opening of its main room in the south middle part of the building on the third floor, corresponding to the upper portion of the foyer on the north. Stacks containing the books frequently in use, probably text books and supreme court reports, will be arranged in the alcoves of the new room.

On the balcony under the windows, the walls will be occupied by other stacks. Attic space, from which place some of these volumes will be taken, will be reserved for new purchases. In this room, tables and chairs will be placed in the center of the room in order to make those studying there in convenient proximity to the desired books.

Library of 90,000 Volumes.

This room is 104 feet long, 70 feet wide, and the ceiling is 33 feet high. The balcony is 21 feet wide, and the reading room is 32 by 41 and the ceiling is 20 feet, 6 inches high. Books have not been removed yet, as it is necessary first to measure the available footage, but the library now has 90,000 volumes, exclusive of decision reports of the Nebraska Supreme court, and Nebraska statutes and session laws, of which there are more than 35,000 volumes

on the shelves for sale or exchange.

The main library room is a cool looking place, with gray as its main color note. The room is paneled in St. Genevieve Rose marble as far as the arched ceiling, in mission plaster. The stacks are all in gray, and the room has the atmosphere of a quiet study spot.

Separated from the first Supreme court room by a single corridor is the second one, now nearly completed. It overlooks a court, with the bench at the north end. The room is paneled in walnut three-quarters of the way to the ceiling, and has a heavy beamed ceiling. The molding of the panels, the half-pillars, and the ceiling are done in a bright motif of red, gray, green, and yellow.

The corridors adjoining the main rooms of the new section and smaller auxiliary rooms are also being completed. The first floor corridor opening into the south entrance has been paneled with gray marble, the same as that in use on the part now used by the public, and the one at the side of the new court room has half pillars of marble extending to the vault, with decorative tile in the adjoining panels. The capitol now has an entrance on the east on the first floor, with the corridor extending west into the center of the building.

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#186

EARTH EVOLUTION IN CAPITOL FLOOR

J. Febr. 15, '28

Procession of Prehistoric Animals to Appear in Marble and Tile in Rotunda Floor.

A procession of prehistoric animals and modern animals will be imprinted in marble and tile upon the floor of the rotunda of the new capitol. The procession will follow a winding pathway or border, circling around four figures of the earth representing different stages of the world's development. Professor Barbour, noted geologist of the university and Professor Alexander who has furnished inscriptions for the new capitol, have worked together on the scheme. Artists and architects have completed the work and the floor will soon be laid.

The four stages of the earth will be represented by a different figure in each of four circles. The first will be the earth in its fire stage, the second the earth with its air, the third the water period and the fourth the land period. A border winding about each of these circles and meandering in graceful curve from one to another will be filled with figures of prehistoric animals. The winged animals will start from the figure of the earth representing air, the animals with fins will join the procession at the water earth and the animals having legs, including mammoth and mastodons will be as prominent as their size deserves in the procession away from the land earth and all will appear to move about a larger circle in the center of the floor in which the figure of the goddess of plenty will appear.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

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#187

SYMBOLISM SHOWN IN NEW CAPITOL

J-Febr. 26, '28

SPIRIT OF SOIL, VEGETATION AND ANIMAL LIFE.

Foyer and Rotunda Floors to Contain Mosaics Symbolic of Four Geological Ages of the Earth.

The work of filling in the floor of the memorial foyer of the capitol with mosaic designs will soon commence. The marble and tile for this purpose has been completed by the artist and manufacturer and the material is now in Washington ready for shipment. The material for the more imposing designs in the rotunda floor adjoining the foyer may be somewhat delayed.

Symbolism that runs thru the entire structure of the capitol, exterior and interior, will rule in the foyer as elsewhere. The floor of the foyer is to contain in marble mosaic the geometrical motive of the vestibule at the main entrance where there is a large sun and four planets. The floor is to contain three large panels representing the natural foundation of human life and the successive steps in creation following the cosmic symbols of the vestibule.

If the original plans are carried out the first design in the foyer floor will be a narrow panel representing creation, the figure of a man and woman and a child.

In the center of the three large panels is a circle in which there is to be a figure. The first at the north represents the spirit of soil, a primitive man wielding a stone ax and a stone drill.

The next panel contains a figure and scene representing the spirit of vegetation. Flora, the goddess of flowers and spring, surrounded by trees and plants.

The third circle will show the figure of a man and several wild animals representing the spirit of animal life and fosterer of animals.

Between the foyer and the rotunda there is a long narrow entrance panel showing the genius of creative energy, the figure of a man from whose hand there gleams flashes of lightning, representing lightning ruling the elements.

The rotunda floor is now ready for mosaics. These will represent the four geological ages with symbolic geni of fire, air, water and earth. Each element is represented by a figure in a circle placed on four sides of the rotunda with a larger circle in the center representing the earth as a life giver in the form of a figure seated upon the earth with a cornucopia at its feet, and distant planets shown in the sky.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU.

A border running clockwise connects the four smaller circles and the larger oval in the center. This border will contain the figures of prehistoric animals found in rock formations in Nebraska. Marine forms will surround the earth in its water form, the reptilian following and the bird forms of life in connection with the earth in its air form and the mammalian forms coming last around the figure representing soil.

The vaulted ceiling of the foyer is forty-seven feet high. It is now open to the view of visitors, but a temporary fence keeps them at a distance. There are three sybilline figures in art tile in the vault, the first on the north being the figure of "Traditions of the Past," with a tablet as a symbol. The next represents "Life of the Present," with thread and distaff as symbols. The third is "Ideals of the Future," with crystal as a symbol.

Window arches and other space in the ceiling contain figures of "The Teacher," "The Student," "The School," "The Law," represented by a white man, Indian and negro casting a ballot, "Religion," represented by a baptismal scene. Among the other figures is "Labor," represented by the figure of a farmer. "Homebuilders" are also represented in different forms.

The ceiling of the dome of the rotunda, 125 feet from the floor is now partially obscured by scaffolds which are being used by carvers who are working on the capitals of marble pillars seven feet tall forming a colonnade near the apex of the dome. The eight civic virtues, represented by rather fantastic figures on pedestals the figures clasping hands and forming a circle about the dome, are of art tile that reflects light and give the impression that they are transparent. The figures are labeled Temperance, Courage, Justice, Wisdom, Magnanimity, Faith, Hope and Charity.

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Journal Mar 8 '28

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

The first panel of mosaics for the floor of the memorial foyer of the capitol was completed Wednesday. It is of dark and light marble pieces one inch thick picturing creative genius in the form of a figure holding four reins which extend out into space, the other hand holding a whip from which lightning flashes play. The panel shows a sun, moon, comets, stars and planets, among them being Saturn with its rings. Borders and other panels symbolical of the spirit of soil, the spirit of vegetation and the spirit of animal life are now to be laid. A temporary floor may be laid in the representative hall for use of the house members next January when that body meets on New Year's day unless the capitol commission decides soon to permanently assign that hall to the use of the house instead of the senate. The permanent floor in this hall is to be of wood, but will contain conduits for an electrical voting system and suitable places for 100 desks for members. J. Mar 8, '28

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#189

CARVING CAPITOL WALLS

7-MAR-28-28

Eight Figures Representing Different Periods to Be Modeled

by Lee Lawrie.

Scaffolds are being built on four sides of the transept of the tower of the capitol for the use of carvers who are soon to begin the work of reproducing gigantic figures modeled by Lee Lawrie, New York, sculptor who designed the covered wagon and pioneers over the main entrance and other pieces about the capitol.

Eight buttresses, two on each of the four sides of the exterior of the lower tower which is called the transept, are to be carved into the form of figures about eighteen feet tall. The buttresses are of Bedford limestone, the same stone that forms the exterior walls of the building.

The eight figures originally chosen but which are subject to change represent the following periods:

Dawn of history, possibly by the figure of the poet Pentaour, an Egyptian scribe; cosmic tradition, by the prophet Ezekiel; birth of reason, by Socrates; reign of law, by the Roman emperor Marcus Aurellus; glorification of faith, by the apostle John; age of chivalry, by Louis IX; discovery of nature, by Isaac Newton; liberation of people, by Abraham Lincoln.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

Journal - March 18 '28

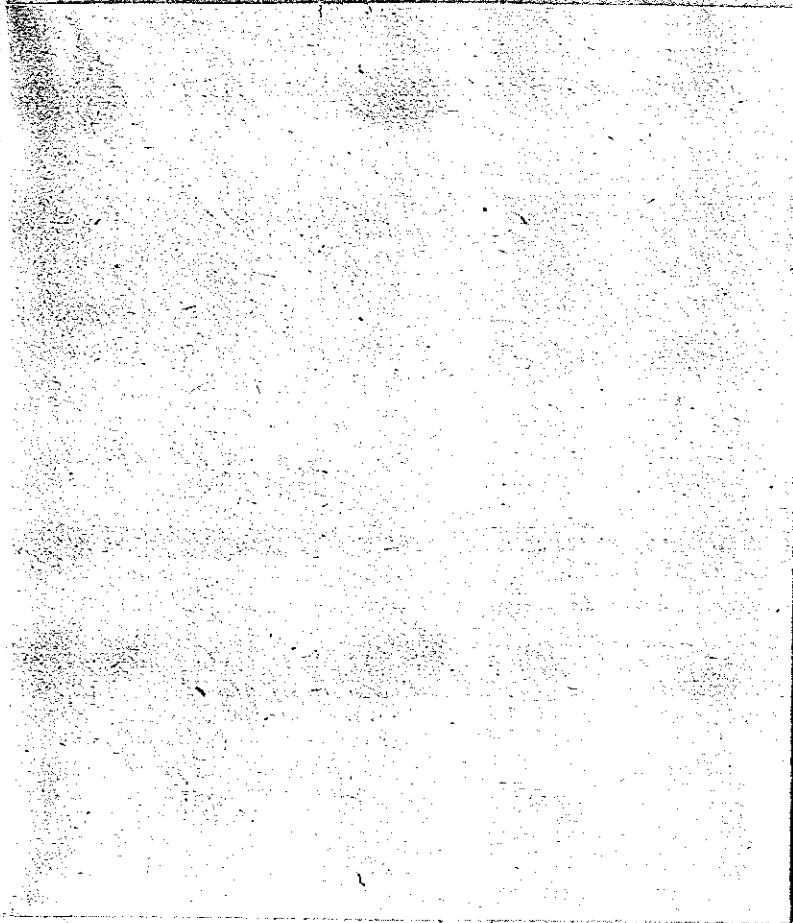
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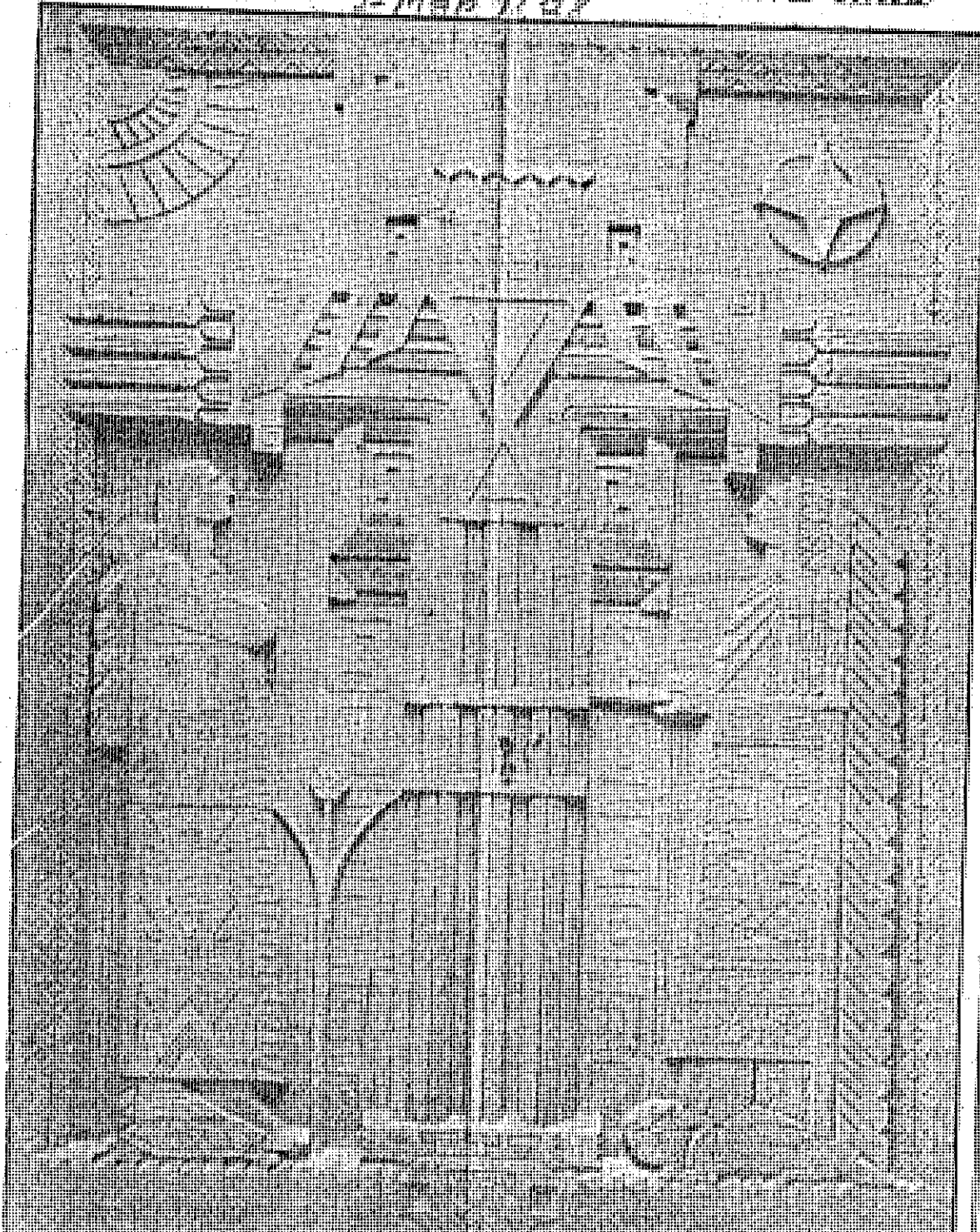
Legislative Hall in Capitol

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU



CARVED DOORS FOR LEGISLATIVE HALL

7-10-1917



Lee Lewis of New York, sculptor who has done notable work on the new capital of Nebraska, including the carved wagon and pioneers over the main entrance, has designed carved doors for representative hall, subject to approval by the capital commission. If the commission approves it is said the carving will be done by

Beula Lorenz of Lincoln, formerly of Boston. The doors are designed to be made of walnut, opening in the center, east of the rotunda. An Indian chief and an Indian woman with papoose upon her back, both robed in elaborate costumes of the first settlers of the country, are the central figures. Panels above a stone under which the figures are seated. Each of them, the star, crescent

and star are among the decorative designs to be carved. The woman's feet in resting upon a globe, symbol of the earth, and the man's feet in resting upon a fur-bearing animal. The ceiling decorations in representative hall by Miss M. Greth Moore, depict Indian life, and the proposed carving on the wooden doors designed by Lee Lewis will carry out this motif.

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU

SENATE'S CAPITOL INQUIRY IMMINENT

March 18, 29 Jan

RESOLUTION REWRITTEN IS PRESENTED.

Governor Weaver, New Chairman of Capitol Commission, Welcomes Investigation.

The senate received a report Monday afternoon from a special committee, comprising Randall of Douglas, Scott of Red Willow and Griswold of Sheridan, in the form of a resolution for an investigation of the capitol. The house has already appointed a committee comprising Essam of Gage, Johnson of Sheridan and Burr of Adams for a similar investigation by the house.

The capitol commission has invited such an investigation, Governor Weaver, the new chairman of the capitol commission favors it and the machinery is now almost set and ready. It will be the second of the kind, the first having been made by the legislature of 1923 when affairs of the commission were found in good condition. On that occasion, the investigation was started by George E. Johnson, state engineer who lost his place during the Bryan administration. Mr. Johnson is behind the present investigation in hope of some vindication of his first assault upon Goodhue, architect, now deceased, against whom his charges were mainly directed.

Governor Weaver said Monday he had received a request from the engineers club of Omaha asking him to appoint representatives of the American society of engineers and the American institute of architects to co-operate with the commission or any body investigating the capitol.

"That communication will be placed before the capitol commission at its meeting in Lincoln next Friday," said Governor Weaver. "No doubt the commission will have some communication to make public at that meeting. I am of the

Continued on Page 10.

opinion there should be the fullest investigation. I am sure the commission welcomes an investigation by the legislature or by any proper body and that it will give the investigators all information available."

When it was suggested that engineers expect the commission to employ engineers to investigate the commission, Governor Weaver said he had heard of no movement for the commission to investigate itself.

The Omaha World-Herald has employed to architects to examine the capitol. They are expected to arrive in Lincoln Monday afternoon.

Senate Resolution.

The senate resolution prepared for introduction makes no mention of co-operation with the house committee and the resolution adopted by the house makes no reference to joint action by the two branches of the legislature, but it is understood the two committees may eventually work together.

The house resolution is one prepared by George E. Johnson and recites charges against the commission and points out defects in the capitol as serious when in fact some of the defects are said to be very minor affairs, and all had been pointed out during the past few years by newspapers. The senate resolution introduced by Scott one week ago was a copy of the resolution in the house. The senate rejected this and also one by Griswold and appointed Randall, Scott and Griswold to draft another. These senators took Senator Randall's previously prepared resolution and it comes before the senate Monday afternoon. It may have to lie over one day unless the rules are suspended.

Senate resolution is now in this form:

Whereas certain reports have been made in the public press and elsewhere and circulated thruout the state, indicating the presence of defects in material and workmanship in the new state capitol and

Whereas wide circulation has been given to the question as to whether the construction of said building and the materials used therein measure up to the specifications embodied in the contracts entered into between the state's agents and the contractors, and

Whereas it has been stated that inferior workmanship and material have used in the construction of said building as a result of which some repairing and rebuilding will be es-

(over)

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essential in order to place said building in the proper condition, and

Whereas it is the sense of this body that in order to fully acquaint the public with the actual conditions, and to protect the interests of the public and to fix responsibility, if any, a thoro and complete investigation shall at once be conducted wherein a diligent and all embracing examination and study should be made of said building and all contracts, acts and doings of all persons whatsoever in connection therewith.

Therefore be it resolved that the president of the senate appoint from the senate a committee of three members who shall be clothed with full authority to immediately institute a rigid, impartial and exhaustive investigation into the condition of the said state capitol building; to examine, study and review all contracts, undertakings, and acts entered into by any and all persons whatsoever in connection with, or pertaining to, directly or indirectly, the construction of said building or any other matter relating thereto; and to subpoena and examine witnesses, books, documents and all other subjects of inquiry, and to do all things necessary for the proper prosecution of said investigation.

new world's greatest land monster lived in Argentina, but too early for primitive man to see it, in the opinion of scientists here. It was the Atlantosaurus, a giant lizard which stood fifteen to twenty feet high and was eighty to ninety-eight feet long, somewhat larger than the famous Arizona diplodocus whose skeleton is housed in the

Star - May 13, '28

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

Star THE CAPITOL SETTING. '28

John M. Alexander recently directed attention to the steps being taken by the city of Los Angeles to provide a proper setting for the magnificent new city hall, which has been completed there.

The building, a gigantic structure, closely resembles the Nebraska capitol in architectural design. It has the great tower rising for a considerable distance above the main building; its entrances are strikingly similar. It deviates in that there is a setback of offices, as a second section, rising to about half the height of the tower. Of beautiful white stone, and of most artistic design, the new building will be a splendid addition to Los Angeles.

Los Angeles is to be congratulated upon its foresight in planning a setting for the building. The building was constructed in a section of the city where real estate values were lower and yet it cost the citizens \$3,500,000 to acquire sufficient ground to provide the desired landscaping effects.

In another two years the Nebraska capitol, which is the outstanding building of its type, will be nearing completion. Now is the time that the citizens of Lincoln, particularly, should be giving attention to the problem of providing a setting for the capitol which show the building to best advantage. It can be put through at less cost now than at any future time. Land values are certain to increase in value with the passage of time. It is imperative that Lincoln should decide upon what steps will be taken in connection with the capitol setting. Delay only means that more buildings of costly construction will be built, and that values will continue to advance.

Star, Aug. 7, 1928

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

Work of Numbering Hundreds of Rooms In Capitol Starts

Because the new capitol of Nebraska covers about 180,000 square feet of ground space and has a correspondingly large number of rooms on each of its two office floors, the ordinary system of numbering rooms used in office and business structures has proved inadequate. It has been found necessary on that account to start the numbering on each floor with 1,000 or 2,000, instead of 100 and 200, as is customary elsewhere.

A decorator is now engaged in painting the numbers of office rooms occupied by Supreme court judges and their secretaries. These are on the second, or main floor in the southeast section of the building, and are being designated by numbers in the 2,200 series.

W. L. Younkin, construction superintendent for the capitol commission and the architects, explained the situation by saying that key records are kept by numbers for all doors in the capitol, both those opening into the corridors and those giving interior communication between the office rooms. Wardrobe and vault doors, and those of toilet rooms, have their own key numbers.

"We found by actual count that there are 239 key numbers for one quarter of the main floor," said Mr. Younkin. "That being the case, we had to start with a thousand numeral on each floor, in order to include everything."

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU,

Candidates for the state senate who expect to be elected are already taking an interest in the proposed meeting place of the next legislature. Members of the house are to meet in the hall originally planned for representative hall, which will be finished with the

exception of a permanent floor. The senate chamber is not yet contracted for and cannot be built until the capitol tower is finished. The senate may possibly be allowed to use courtroom No. 2, which is beautiful but small, or be given a large unassigned room on the first floor, directly beneath representative hall. Some prospective members of the senate have suggested a third location where there is plenty of room. They suggest the use of the spacious rotunda on the first floor. It is believed this space can be used as a senate chamber, with plenty of room for auditors to come and hear senatorial speeches and witness the proceedings, by simply partitioning off the three intersecting corridors, and putting in steam heat. The space is large enough for a mass meeting or public dance.

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NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

**ASKS FOR MORE
ROOM IN CAPITOL**

State Superintendent Taylor De-
sires Office Rooms Originally
Intended for His
Use.

State Superintendent Taylor appeared before the capitol commission Friday for the purpose of asking that body for more room in the capitol for his office force. All members of the capitol commission were present except Walter W. Head of Omaha. The matter presented by the state superintendent was referred to a committee.

Superintendent Taylor showed the commission that the board of control had obtained the use of rooms across the hall from the superintendent's suite which were originally intended for the state superintendent. The space originally planned for the superintendent's office were marked on blue prints "Com. of Pub. Inst." Commissioner is the term used for this office in New York where the capitol plans were developed. This abbreviation was intended for commissioner of public instruction, but it was interpreted "commissioners of state institutions," which was formerly the official name of the board of control, an office created by the legislature and all its officers are appointed by the governor.

The state superintendent is a constitutional officer elected on a non-political ticket. All such officers were to have rooms on the main floor of the capitol. When

Continued on Page 9.

the first section of the capitol was completed the state superintendent was not provided with rooms on the main floor. A protest was made by educational organizations and officials and the capitol commission divided the space in controversy between the board of control and the superintendent.

The personnel of the state superintendent's office consists of twenty-two regular employes, and often one to three extra clerks are hired for emergency work. The superintendent told the capitol commission the many conference are distracting to heads of his departments and typists and clerks with consequent interference in the accuracy and turn-off of work.

The state land commissioner

has four rooms on the main floor and six persons, the state treasurer four rooms and six persons, finance department six rooms and eight persons, the auditor's office four rooms and seven persons, the secretary of state five rooms and seven persons, the board of control four rooms and seven persons, the railway commission twelve rooms and one room downstairs and twenty persons, the state superintendent six rooms, three very small, and twenty-two persons.

Members of the board of control say they need more room, one for each of the three board members, and one for the secretary and enough for a force of clerks. They do not care where they obtain these rooms and are not objecting to removal to some other part of the building.

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#197

Star, Sept. 12, 1928

NEBRASKA'S OFFICIAL MUSHROOM BED.

Though the completed portion of the new state capitol contains three times as many office rooms and a correspondingly larger amount of working space than the old building which was used up to three and one-half years ago, the different departments of the state government have managed to occupy the additional space and some of them still complain of insufficient quarters.

The state superintendent's office is one of these. It now has fully twice as much space as it had in the old building; but the trouble seems to be that it also has about twice as many people on its administrative force as there used to be. To relieve the congestion, Superintendent Taylor is asking the capitol commission to assign his department more rooms.

When the Goodhue design for the capitol was adopted, it was anticipated that the edifice to be erected would be ample in size to house all activities of the state government "for a hundred years to come." It really seemed at that time that liberal provision was being made for future growth. The capitol commission had no idea that all the space would be grabbed and occupied the moment it was available, and that departments which formerly operated in modest suites of two or three rooms would expand and multiply so as to overflow the new structure before it was even finished.

The state superintendent's office seems to have

fared rather badly in the original distribution, getting less space in proportion to its personnel than some others, such as the Supreme court, the railway commission, the attorney general's office, and several of the code departments, which appear to have more than their absolute needs require. From that standpoint, Mr. Taylor's protest is justified.

The code departments occupy most of the space on the ground floor, and one of them, the finance department, regarded as "the governor's pet," which is virtually a fifth wheel on the governmental wagon, has a very commodious suite on the main floor above. All these administrative divisions, with the sole exception of the labor department, have grown like mushrooms since they were brought into existence in 1919.

The guaranty fund commission, created since construction of the new capitol began, has 10 rooms allotted to it—some of them equalling a small assembly hall in size—the suite recently having been enlarged.

It is quite evident, from the way things have been going, that many of the branches of the state government have been trying, first, to secure as much space for themselves in the capitol as possible, and, next, to fill up that space by adding more people to their staffs. There could be no better example of the way the bureaucratic system multiplies on itself than the great increase in activities and employes which has taken place since the code regime was fastened upon the state. If the capitol were twice as big as it is, the space would all be taken just the same.

This tendency is bound to continue, unless some radical action is taken to check it. If the people of Nebraska are interested in the matter sufficiently to make their votes count at the coming election, they will see that senators and representatives are elected to the legislature who will help to do a much-needed job of pruning on the governmental tree.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Star, Oct. 7, '28

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Three Domes, Placed One Above Another, to be Found in Tower Section of Nebraska's Capitol

When the tower section of the new Nebraska capitol, now under construction, is finished the edifice will possess at least one architectural distinction that is probably not matched by any other building in the world—that of having three spacious domes placed one above another in its central structure.

Such a conception would be impossible of achievement in any building other than the type selected for the new seat of government, with its tower rising 400 feet above the ground. The high altitude of

the middle section enabled the designer to carry out his striking idea of a trio of domes, the centers of which will be in one straight vertical line.

What may be termed the real dome is the one which will be visible from outside, surmounting the central tower. It will be 29 feet 4 inches in height and 51 feet 8 inches across, outside measurements. The apex will be 370 feet above the ground level, and the statue of a sower 30 feet in height symbolical of agriculture, will be placed on top, making the total height 400 feet.

Two Interior Domes.

Inside the building will be two other domes presenting artistic ornamental schemes. One of these over the central rotunda is now completed and has been highly praised by architectural connoisseurs as a masterpiece of decorative art.

Its base is 95 feet above the main floor of the building, or 115 feet above ground level. The height is 19 feet and the diameter across 38 feet, making the dome just half of the inside surface of a hollow sphere. A marble colonnade of 24 columns with carved capitals supports it. Figures of angels done in colored

(over)

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art tiling, which represent eight human virtues, are ranged about the center.

At a height of 295 feet from the ground, or 142 feet above the apex of the dome that crowns the rotunda, will be a somewhat larger one, but less pretentiously finished, which is to be the ceiling of Memorial hall. This concave structure will be 42½ feet in lateral diameter and 23 feet high. It will be in the shape of an octagon, matching the design of the chamber itself.

There will be no pictorial work on the surface of this dome, which will consist of tile in different colors with a marble frieze below. The center at the top will be done in gold with decorative tile bands running around it. The next section will be in light blue and gray, and below that variegated colors will be used.

Inner Face of Top Dome.

No attempt at ornamentation will be made on the lower, or inner, face of the dome at the top, the exterior of which will be finished in dull glazed tile of two hues—probably two shades of gold. The inside surface will be of plain structural tile.

No one will see this dome inside, except by climbing several flights of stairs above the top elevator landing. The elevators will run only to the floor on which Memorial hall is to be located. The highest point which spectators can attain by using the stairs will be 320 feet from the ground, on a floor just above the Memorial hall dome.

The outside dome will rest upon a carved limestone band 2 feet 8 inches high. This band in turn is to rise above a series of decorative panels 11 feet high in three hues of glazed tile. The panels begin at the top of the buttresses in the supporting column.

Glass Floors to Be Used.

On account of Memorial hall being enclosed by a double set of high walls, it will be necessary to use glass floors on two upper levels between these walls so that outside light can be admitted through windows in the upper half of the inner wall, which is to be constructed of marble.

Memorial hall will be enclosed by inner marble walls, set 2 feet 8 inches inside of the outer wall, the room being octagonal in shape, as hitherto stated. As the walls will rise about 25 feet high, this requires a special arrangement for admitting outside light.

Provision has been made therefor in the architectural plans by means of glass floors on two landings, one 13 feet above the other, through which light will come from the exterior openings and a row of casements in the inside wall. Six inside faces of the octagon will each have three narrow windows for this purpose, placed in their upper half. Each section of the glass floors will be 15 feet long. Heavy plate glass will be used, set in bronze frames.

Star, Oct. 21, '28

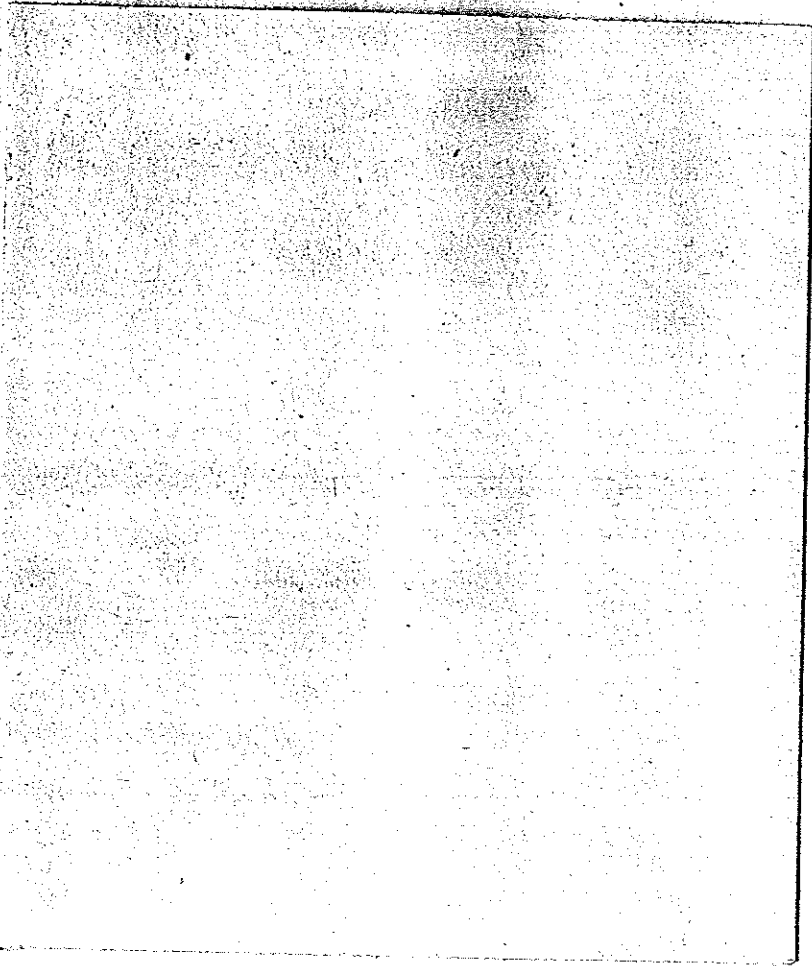
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The Soweron Capitol Tower

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.



Placing Fifteen Ton Statue of "The Sower" On Dome of Capitol Tower Will Be Real Task

Star, Oct. 27, 1928

By LULU MAE COE.

The state house tower has taken its place in society.

Bon mots on hair bows, duck dinners, and Al and Herb all lead back to the heaven-piercing tower on Nebraska's new capitol.

It's interior is a bit perplexing. What's what, and why, ask the curious. The curious on this question being everyone who tosses back his head to squint at the spire. Which is everybody.

The tower is certainly the center of the edifice, not only architecturally, but conversationally. It's kept us waiting six years and leaped in and out of conversation for that time, and now that it is here, in part at least, it doesn't seem to be explanatory. From the outside, it might just be a long finger of stone, with a sort of moral effect of keeping Lincoln gazing upward.

What's on the inside? Mainly space at the present moment. However, the general plans of the tower haven't been changed much since 1922, and there's a very definite arrangement of useful and ornamental rooms for the state house tower. It will be a year from February, 1929, before the architects and consultants and engineers and sculptors and painters and carpenters and masons and workmen cry "Finis," but construction has gone far enough now to gain a fragmentary knowledge of the finished finger.

On this Sunday morning, the steel work of the capitol is 250 feet off the ground, or on the level of the Memorial room. The stone has been laid half way between the tenth and eleventh floors, about 200 feet of it. The stone as it now appears is exactly half the completed height of the tower, including the figure topping it, or covers a little more than half of the tower ending in the dome.

For Offices.

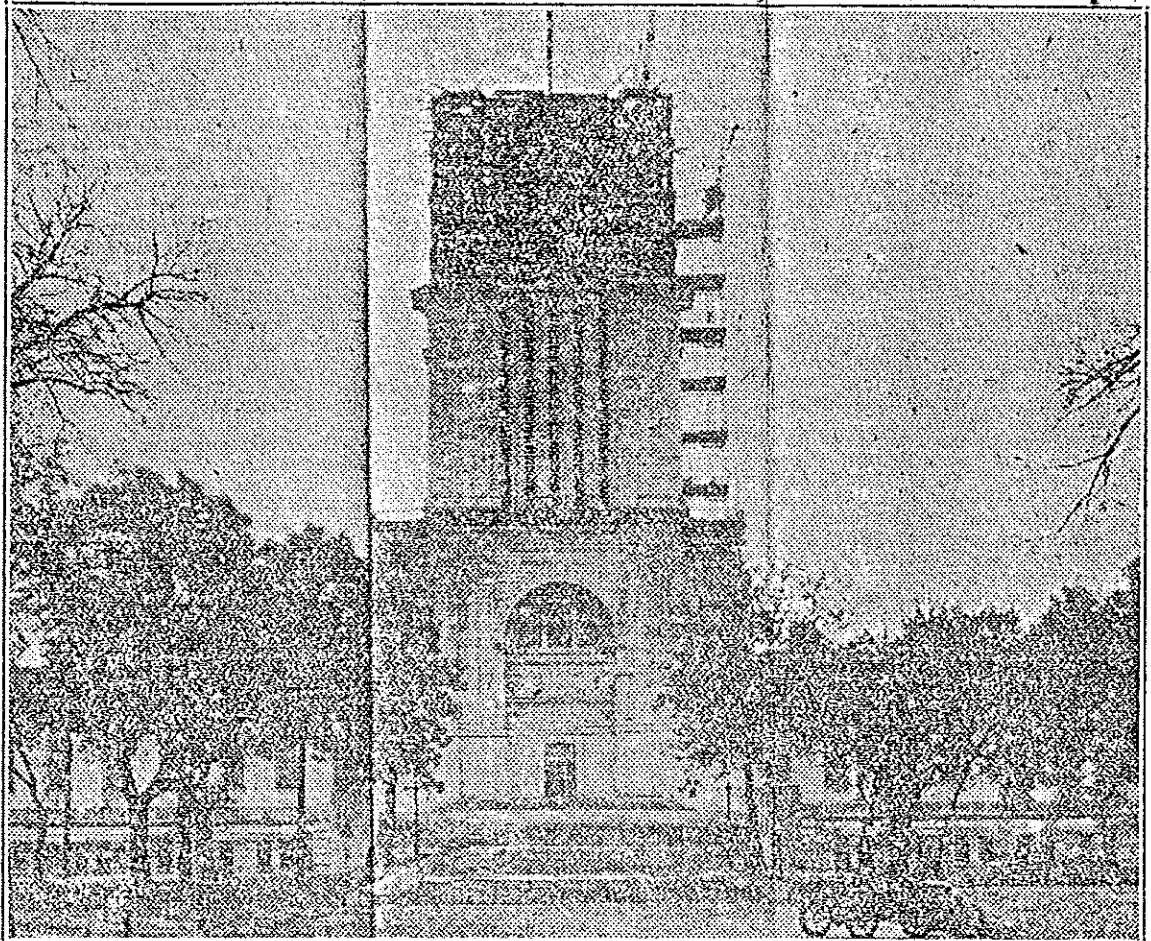
The first fourteen floors of the tower, the height of the present steel structure, are to be devoted to general offices of the state house. Arrangements to these rooms have not been made, and the floors are not to be partitioned until the engineer in charge knows the needs of the departments to be housed there. The fourteenth floor is the Memorial room for trophies of veterans and the floor immediately below is to be reserved for officers of patriotic organizations.

Nebraska's capitol tower has 160 feet more of height to be completed, measuring from the completed steel work. Of that 160 feet, 32 will be made by the figure of "The Sower," a bronze figure by Lee Laurie of New York City, now in model. The tower from the ground to the apex of the topmost dome will be 368 feet, and the final 32 feet will be added by the figure.

That figure is the keynote of the tower. Not only is it the tiptop of the structure, but its placing is to be an engineering feat. A fair portion of the work comes in the lifting its weight, about fifteen ton, which is to be done by a derrick. There can be no chance for the figure to swing, and it will be necessary to figure a means of raising it straight up from the ground.

Engineering Feat.

When it has gained the pinnacle.



Bucklin Photo.

A flat square for several years, Nebraska's new capitol has suddenly popped up in the middle and is on its way to being the tallest edifice of the prairies. The tower, long awaited and anticipated, is in the process of construction, and has reached the level of the Memorial room. At least fifteen months will elapse before the tower is completely finished, topping figures, domes, and all.

ready visible from Ashland, according to motorists returning from there. From Omaha, it will look like

a thin black blob, but it will nevertheless be the tower.

made to light the tower. Flood lights to light the shaft will be placed on the lower roofs.

Upon completion, plans will be

figure to swing, and it will be necessary to figure a means of raising it straight up from the ground.

Engineering Feat.

When it has gained the pinnacle, a framework will be awaiting it, to keep it in place while it is made fast. "The Sower" is to be attached to the steel framework of the tower making its arrangement an engineering rather than an aesthetic feat.

While only the Nebraska stars will be higher than "The Sower," and even though it rests on the very top of the tower, it is not the last thing to be completed. In fact, it is to look rather airy and lonesome for a time, as it will be standing on skeleton-like girders, rather than on the graceful lines of the dome. The two upper interior domes can not be completed until the derrick has been taken to the ground, and the derrick can not be taken from the dome level until the figure is in place.

The taking up of the ordinary tower materials is not an arduous task. The comparatively lighter materials, those that can be moved by hand, such as brick and stone, are raised on the elevators. The cranes take up the big steel girders.

Three Domes.

Nebraska's capitol has three domes, probably the only building in the world with such a distinction. One of them, the upper one, will be visible from the outside, the other two can be seen only by those who go within.

The dome over the central rotunda has been completed, a masterpiece of decorative art. Two hundred ninety-five feet from the ground, or 143 feet above the apex of the rotunda dome is a larger dome, that of Memorial hall. This structure will be 42½ feet in lateral diameter and 23 feet high. It is to be octagonal, the same design of the trophy room.

The real dome finishes the central tower, and will be 29 feet 4 inches in height and 51 feet 8 inches across, outside measurements. The apex is to be 368 feet above the ground level, with "The Sower" the crowning point.

It might be thought that the space between the two upper domes would be a place of tile and murals, but he who reasons in that fashion reasons erroneously. That space is a void, filled with water tanks for the building. The water system can not pump water to the height of the upper floors, and storage tanks, with the gravity system, will be put in the space between the domes.

Four Elevators.

Elevators will go to the fourteenth floor. The four lifts will be enclosed in turrets with flat pyramidal roofs of eight pyramids. There will be a balcony on the outside of the tower which can be reached from the Memorial room. To reach the top of the tower a circular stairway of about 100 steps leads around the inside walls of the tower upward from the Memorial room. This stairway will lead to the topmost gallery, 320 feet above the ground.

The first section of the tower of which the steel work is now in place, is a square. The memorial room, 65 feet high, is to be a setback octagonal structure. Surmounting all is the round dome.

Work on the tower will probably continue through the winter. In the six years history of the capitol, never more than thirty days have been lost for inclement weather, and it is thought not much more time will be taken out this winter. The higher altitude will make the cold keener, but probably not enough to delay the work unduly.

On a clear day it should be possible to see the tower of Nebraska's new capitol from Omaha. It is al-

World-Herald, Oct. 28, 1928

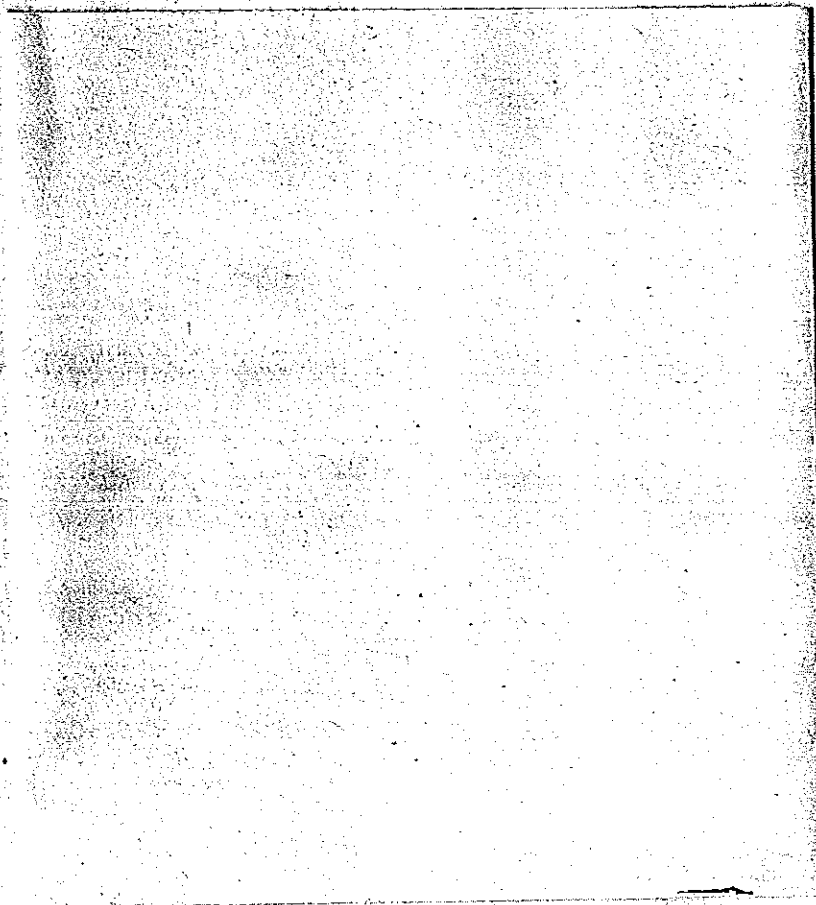
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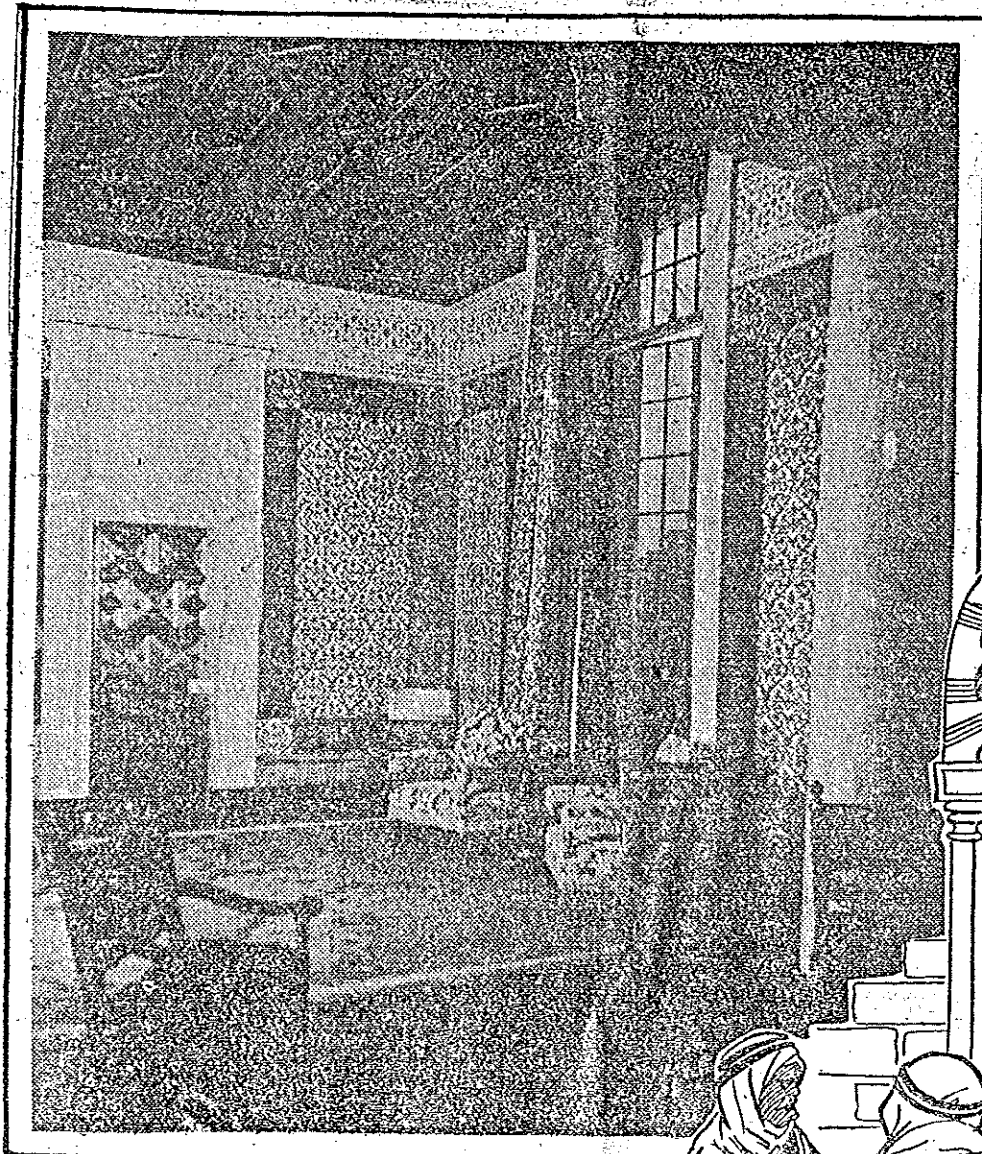
Governor's Office

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.



Harold
Oct. 4

Some Office,



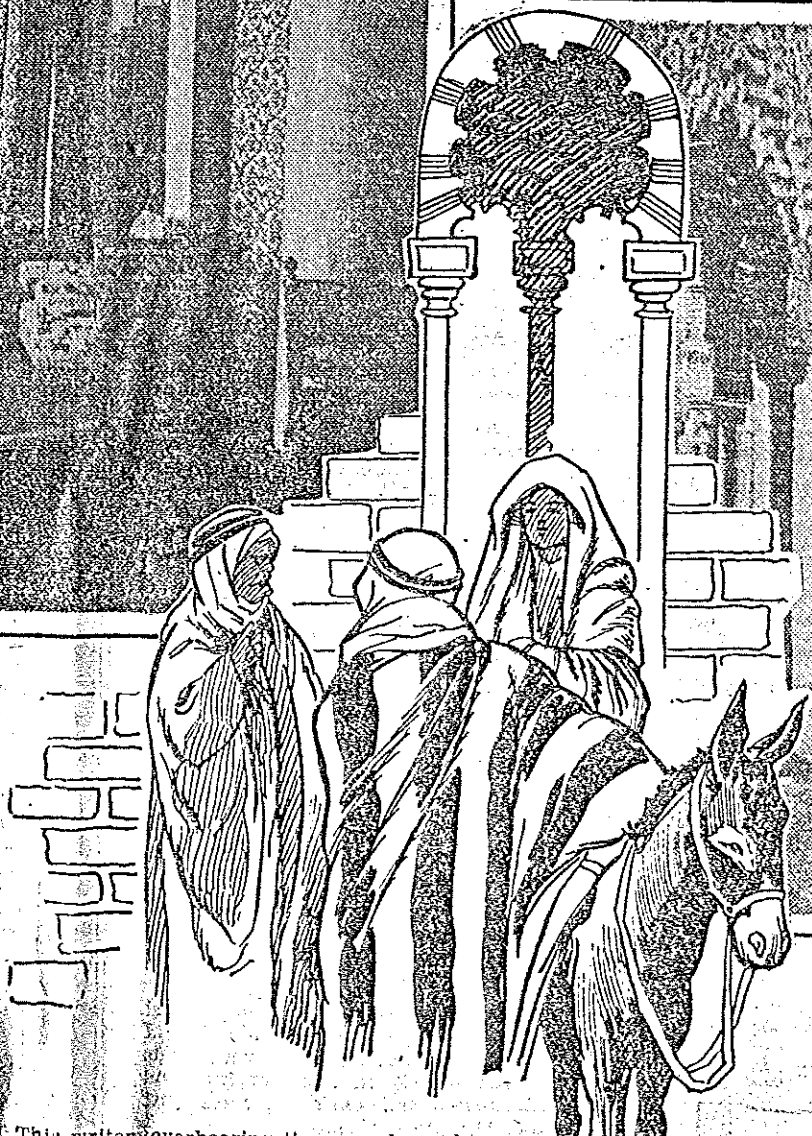
*'Tis Moorish,
Room or Suite
Red Plush, B
and Its Golde
All! You SH*

Portion of west room opening into gov-
ernor's office in new Nebraska capitol.

ONCE upon a time, nearly 150 years ago
now (Gosh! how time flies!) a fellow
named Bob Scuthey wrote a little poem
about a hundred yards long called "Roder-
lck" and in it he made the heroine say:

"Look here!" (she cried)
And drawing back, held forth her bloody
hands, . . .
'Tis Moorish!"

And right at this particular juncture is the
time to say to the reader that he is hereby
cordially invited to continue on with us for a
column or two in which he will hear all
about the art in the governor's private of-
fice in the new Nebraska capitol, but if he
feels a burning desire to just drop this paper



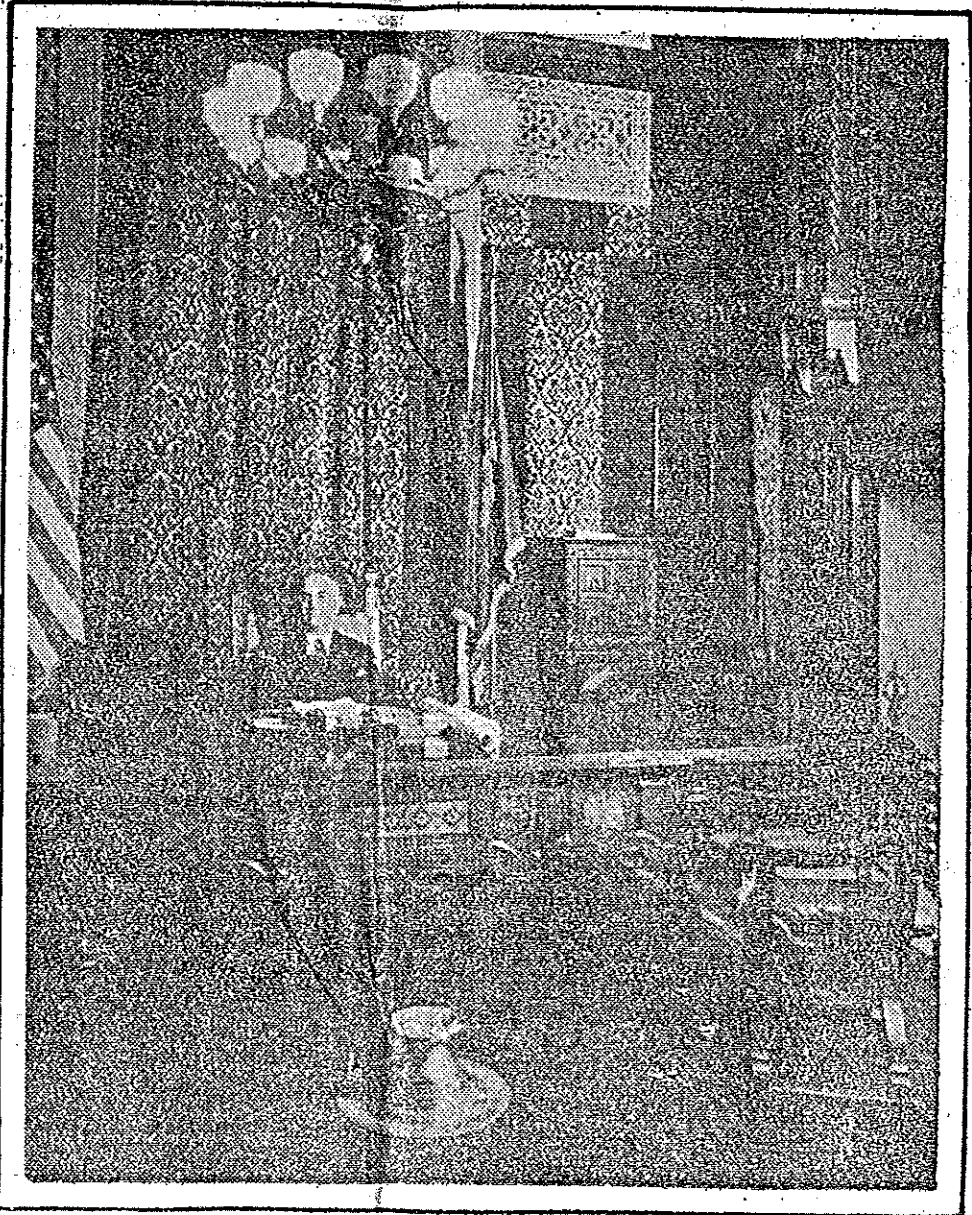
View of the
Alhambra,
most noted
example of
Moorish
architecture,
from which

This writer, overhearing the remark, could

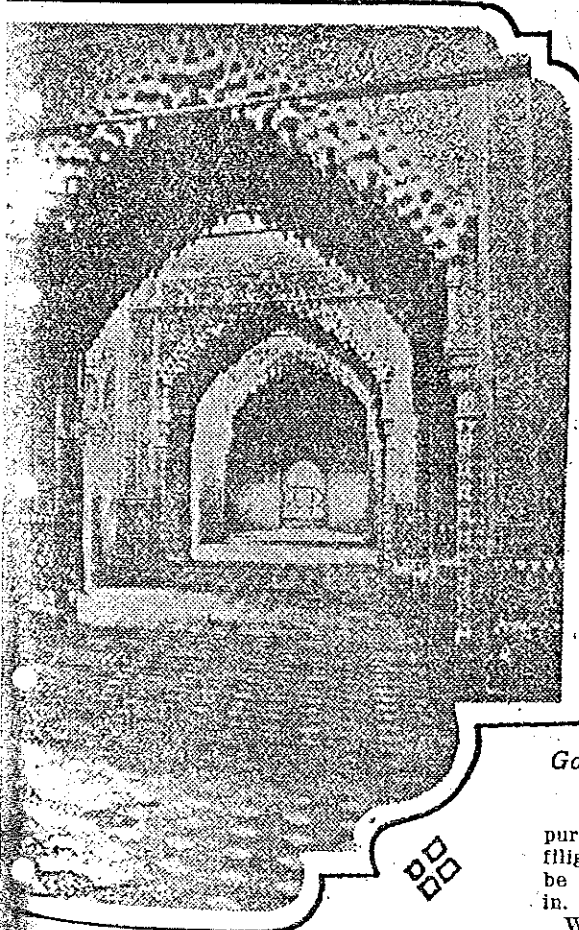
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78

Our Governor's!

*This de Luxe
ite, with Its
Black Marble
Spittoon and
could See It!*



*Governor McMullen at his desk in his splendiferous private office in the capitol.
Look in rotogravure section for color picture of this scene.*



purposes of this dissertation shall be called filigree work because "filigree" happens to be the only word we know that always fits in.

We have spoken of the shining cuspidor, except the golden spittoon, plated with gold, and said to have cost \$65. However, it is not the intent of this discussion to gravitate into commercialism. Today we speak of art. This cuspidor, however, does become important as the golden spittoon.

The fireplace, large and deep, is black Belgian marble, and that border is again bordered by a wider one of brown mottled Italian marble. Above the fireplace is a huge panel

wheat machine at Niagara Falls, designed to produce a breakfast food with the fruit already in it, but let's not be impressionistic. Let's say it was a cornucopia. Perhaps it represents what will happen if the democratic party gets into office.

On the south side is a very sturdy yeoman who appears to be entirely subduing a rather obsolete type of plow, drawn by a somewhat philosophic-appearing ox. This gentleman seems rather more Nordic than his red plush surroundings would appear to justify.

On the west side three gentlemen, wear-

the mat rests upon—and protects, one must suppose, from chance inept aim—a brown mat with a rose border, of a thickness of at least two inches. No mats, no padding beneath that rug! The soles sink into it at every step, as into a fresh fall of feathery down. Let Nordic supremacy beware when these thick Moorish carpetings come in! The soles of the Vikings did not learn their early virtues of piracy treading it.



Portion of west room opening into governor's office in new Nebraska capitol.

ONCE upon a time, nearly 150 years ago now (Gosh! how time flies!) a fellow named Bob Scuthey wrote a little poem about a hundred yards long called "Roderick" and in it he made the heroine say:

"Look here!" (she cried)
 And drawing back, held forth her bloody hands,
 'Tis Moorish!"

And right at this particular juncture is the time to say to the reader that he is hereby cordially invited to continue on with us for a column or two in which he will hear all about the art in the governor's private office in the new Nebraska capitol, but if he feels a burning desire to just drop this paper and read "Roderick" instead, there will be no hard feelings. If he chooses Roderick, however, we respectfully invite him to write and tell us how it ever came out anyway. We never could get farther than that place where the heroine held forth her bloody hands and said it was Moorish, and even then we are still far from certain just what it was that she said was Moorish. Which, of course, is a rather excruciating condition for one who would like to be well informed.

The new governor's office, we discovered is also Moorish! Well it is that the hates of a few centuries back are dead hates: or, by the sword of Allah! some new Roderick might arise and break the 65-dollar Golden Spittoon, and, with his carving knife of righteousness running red, slit the crimson velvet hangings which warm the walls from east and stern and from warp to woof—woof! woof! In which case the capitol commission would have to order some more household things at Orchard and Wilhelm's.

It was Governor M. Smith who made us really conscious of our art, as far as the governor's office is concerned. Governor Smith, leaning jauntily against the thousand-dollar (more or less) table or desk or whatever it is behind which Governor McMullen sits every day in his Alhambra chair, remarked "Gosh, governor you've certainly got a fancier office 'n I have. Mine looks like a truck-driver's office."



View of the Alhambra, most noted example of Moorish architecture, from which inspiration for the decoration of the governor's office was drawn.

This writer, overhearing the remark, could not but wonder what a truck driver's office is like, architecturally. We had never seen one. We didn't know that truck drivers had offices. But here was Governor Smith talking about truck drivers' offices, and he ought to know. He used to drive trucks, we recollected, or at least his father did.

So the motif, or style, of the New York executive office was truck driver. Then upon our none too alert mind burst the burning revelation—it was shameful as well as burning—that, if we were really put to it, we could certainly not give as clean-cut a definition of the style, or motif, in our governor's office, with its red plush, black marble and its golden spittoon.

SO WE BEGAN to study the matter. One morning, sitting there in one of those old Spanish chairs, backed with pliant and brown leather, hand-tooled with gold, like a copy of Thomas a Kempis bound by Riviere, our attention was called to the elaborate plaster work which forms the frame for the two massive, much-carved, doors in the governor's office, doors which must be exactly like that upon which Columbus knocked when the Prior let him in and set up the grape-juice and the biscuits.

"Dr. Barbour says that door-jamb design is Moorish," we were told. Now, Dr. Barbour is the very learned and hospitable paleontologist of the University of Nebraska and he has

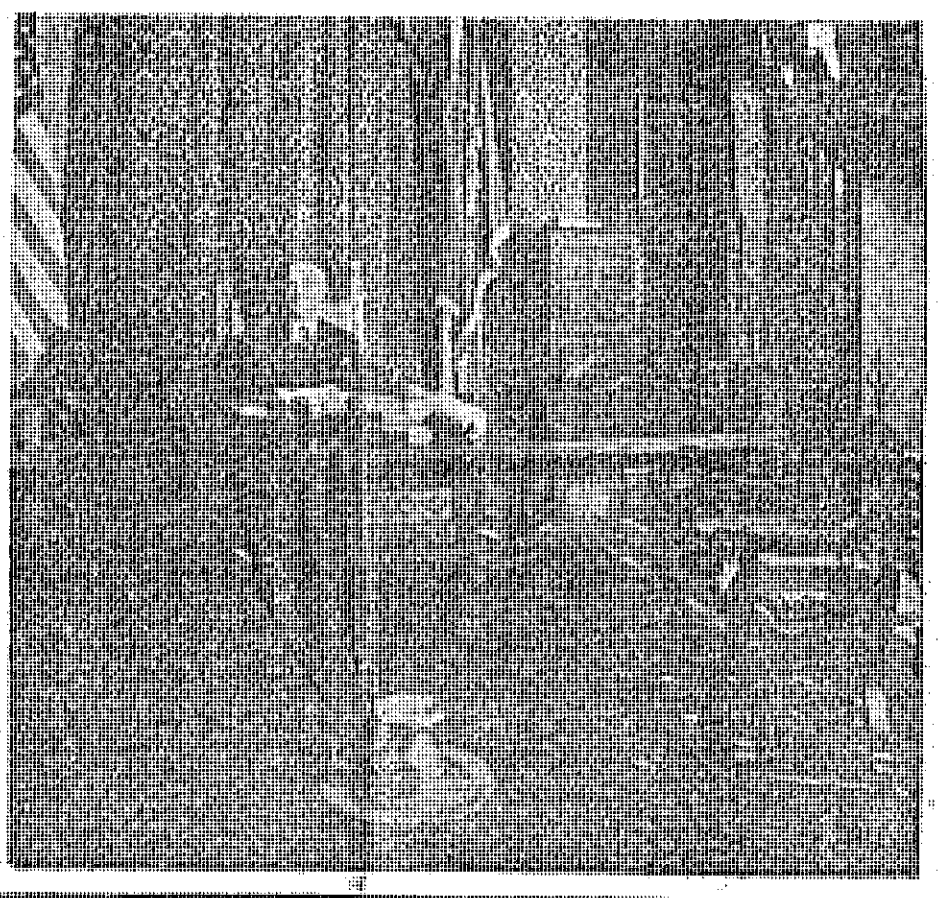
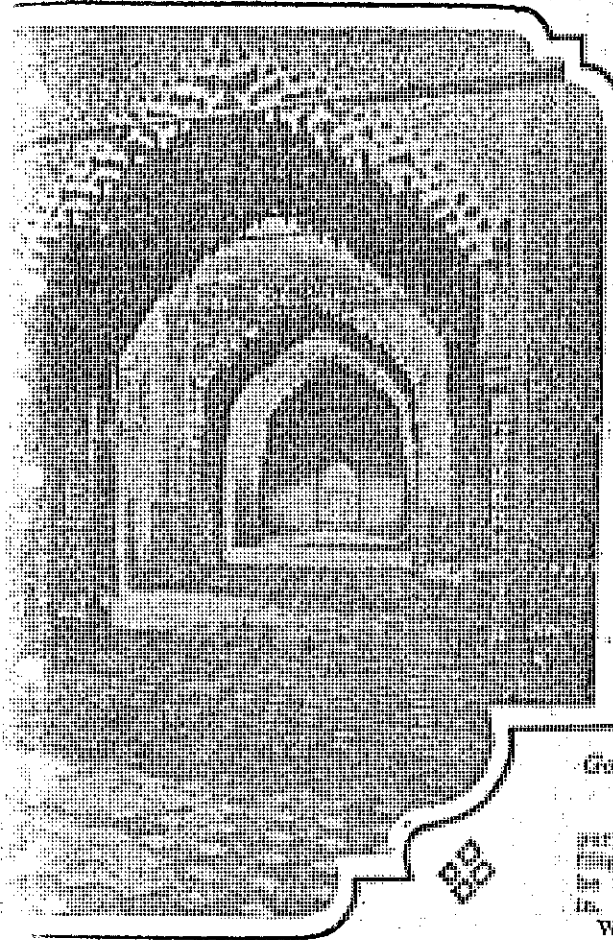
a lot of big Nebraska elephants in his new museum that everybody ought to see.

The word "Moorish" cleared the picture however, in a flash. We saw, not the governor's office, but the old Alhambra itself in the days of its real grandeur. There were the plush bangings completely covering the walls and the windows, warm, red, rich velvet borders at least a foot wide, enclosing elaborate plush serpentine designs in gray plush against a background of silver.

There was, also, the red plush divan. It is true, this divan was not quite the luxurious couch that the old oriental uses dictated, but it was a divan, in red plush, even though it was shaped more like a prisoner's bench in Newgate, perhaps hard and square and forbidding, like the offspring of Puritan handicraft genius, seduced into the warmer ways of the east. It is flat and untufted, this divan of the governor's, Cromwellian hobnails an inch square in the head, but for all that it is Moorish.

The golden spittoon, which cost \$65, rests upon a round black rubber mat in front of the governor's expansive walnut desk, and

*in Spilloon and
should See It!*



Governor McMillen at his desk in his splendid private office in the capitol.
Look in retrospective section for color picture of this scene.

purpose of this dissertation shall be called *Spilloon* because "Spilloon" happens to be the only word we know that always fits in.

We have spoken of the shining cuspidor, except the golden spittoon, plated with gold, and said to have cost \$65. However, it is not the intent of this discussion to gravitate into commercialism. Today we speak of art. This cuspidor, however, does become important as the golden spittoon.

The fireplace, large and deep, is black Belgian marble, and that border is again bordered by a wider one of brown mottled Italian marble. Above the fireplace is a huge panel of walnut, maple and other woods inlaid, which reminds one a little of a choir stall in an English cathedral; and just a little, also, of a bird-house. The panel is about six feet long by four feet high.

The white marble pillars, supporting a white marble beam large enough and strong enough to support the Douglas street bridge serve to draw the lines separating the alcove in which the governor's desk is delicately set from the rest of the room. The capitals of these pillars are carved with a scroll design set off by an exotic ear of corn.

IN THE DOME above the governor's desk is a set of murals representing the McNary-Haugen bill—or perhaps it is just agriculture—although the governor insists that agriculture is the McNary-Haugen bill or vice versa.

On one side two or three gentlemen, who seem poorly clad, are harvesting wheat with cradles. This is undoubtedly a clear-visioned prophecy of the abject state of servility and neglect into which this agricultural west is being driven by the republican party.

On the east side of the dome a bearded gentleman is holding forth a cornucopia into which, it seems, two comely and buxom maidens are about to pour baskets of fruit and bundles of wheat. We might be mistaken, however, what we took for the cornucopia might be a new hydro-electric shredded

wheat machine at Niagara Falls, designed to produce a breakfast food with the fruit already in it, but that's not an impracticality. Let's say it was a cornucopia. Perhaps it represents what will happen if the democratic party gets into office.

On the south side is a very sturdy yeoman who appears to be entirely subduing a rather obsolete type of plow, drawn by a somewhat philosophic-appearing ox. This gentleman seems rather more Nordic than his red plush surroundings would appear to justify.

On the west side three gentlemen, wearing hats like Jack in the story of Jack and the Beanstalk, are equipped with a rake, a hoe and a spade, respectively, and seem to be engaged in agriculture, although they might be fishing for blue-points in Chesapeake Bay.

The central figure in a decoration painted into the corners of this semidome, between the four panels, is a rather peculiar bird the name of which we don't know, never having seen one like it, and which a rather thorough search of our copy of "What Bird Is That?" presented to us once by that eminent ornithologist, Miles Greenleaf, does not seem to reveal. Perhaps it is a love bird, signifying both passion of the farmer for the soil and the pre-eminent pastime of the oriental folk whose arts of home decoration are to be found so prominently in the rest of the room.

Lastly, at the opposite end of the room, there are two tall lamps which present just that precise element of doubt which makes any study interesting, and also that harmonious combination of different precedents which is the spirit of all new forms of art. They stand upon tall, slender brass pedestals, well over six feet high, and are surmounted by inverted opaque glass bowls, in which are probably concealed Edison bulbs, although we didn't investigate as to that. They seemed to us to be a combination of the ideas of a huge mediaeval candlestick, an oriental brazier, and an American bird bath.

LEO J. RYAN.

the mat rests upon—and protects, one must suppose, from chance inexpert aim—a brown rug with a rose border, of a thickness of at least two inches. No mats, no padding beneath that rug! The soles sink into it at every step, as into a fresh fall of feathery snow. Let Nordic supremacy beware whenever these thick Moorish carpetings come in! The soles of the Vikings did not learn their hardy virtues of piracy treading things like that. Their stern philosophies were born of callouses upon the feet. No wonder the Moors went barefoot, and, like their cousins the Turks, learned to love rather than to write sagas and raid the seas!

IN THE WIDE border above the plush wall hanging in the office there are the following colors: Brick red, olive green, pea green, light blue, light brown and gray. Upon the beamed dark walnut ceiling, completely spotting it like the paint on a Sioux warrior's face, are the following colors, black, blue, gray, red, brown, green and silver.

In the front part of the office, before you get to the dome-surmounted semi-alcove in which the governor's desk itself is visible through two great white marble pillars, set upon black Belgian marble bases, are four Cogswell chairs, upholstered in deep blue and bright silver velour. Between two of them is a little walnut table with a border of inlaid wood around its top, a table like a tilting table, except that it doesn't tilt. There is nothing on the table but the thought was compelling that the capitol commission should by all means buy a hookah to place upon it.

The window seats are cushioned with deep red plush. The drapes on the windows are like the wall-hangings, red plush borders enclosing a gray and silver design which, for

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#202

Star, Oct 28, '28

PLAN FOR JOINT HEATING PLANT GIVEN APPROVAL

Star, Oct 28, '28
Capitol Commission Joins In Proposal of University Regents.

M'MULLEN READY TO REQUEST FUNDS

Engineers Say Half Million Dollar Project Will Save \$150,000.

Contingent upon approval of the next legislature and its appropriating about half a million dollars estimated as the cost of the project, a joint steam-heating plant to serve both the new state capitol and the various buildings on the University of Nebraska campus will be constructed in north Lincoln, adjacent to railroad trackage, by the capitol commission and the board of regents for the university, acting together.

The capitol commission, at a meeting Saturday in the governor's office, attended by all its members, gave its unanimous indorsement to the plan, which had previously been O. K.'d by the regents on September 29, when they passed the following resolution:

"Resolved that Governor McMullen be requested to include in his message to the next legislature a recommendation concerning the passing of a law that will create a joint commission, composed of the state capitol commission and the board of regents of the University of Nebraska, for the purpose of erecting one heating, lighting, and power plant designed to supply both the state capitol and the buildings of the University of Nebraska located at Lincoln.

"Estimates of the state engineer and of consulting engineers employed by the university show that the erection of such a combined plant will cost at least \$150,000 less than the building of two separate plants and that many thousand dollars will be saved each year to the taxpayers of the state through economies affected in the operation of one large plant in place of two smaller ones. The erection of one large plant will, also, furnish the college of engineering with better opportunities and facilities for re-

search work and for instruction of engineering students."

Will Ask for Funds.

Governor McMullen, who is chairman of the capitol commission, will carry out the recommendation of the two bodies by requesting the legislature to enact the bill giving them joint powers in the construction undertaking, and to provide the necessary funds for it outside of the regular appropriations for the university and the capitol. He will include in his provisional budget submitted to the legislature a financial item of that kind. His successor in the executive office will be asked to insert a similar item in the official budget to be prepared and submitted by the latter.

Some months ago, a special committee was named by the capitol commission to take up the question of a union heating plant with the regents of the university. W. E. Hardy and State Engineer Roy Cochran, members of this committee, were present at the September meeting when the regents acted favorably upon it.

While the resolution adopted by the regents and concurred in by the commission contemplates that the new plant shall furnish electric light and power, as well as steam heat, the capitol building and the governor's mansion just across the street from it will be given only heating service from it. They get their electricity from the new generating plant at the penitentiary, which was recently completed and has ample capacity to serve those two buildings along with four state institutions located in and near Lincoln.

Heat Piped to Capitol.

A double line of heavily insulated pipe, six inches in diameter will be laid on Fourteenth street from the university campus to the capitol, through which steam for heating it will be supplied from the joint plant. Two lines are necessary in order to obtain return circulation. The loss of heat in transmission will not run higher than 5 to 10 per cent, State Engineer Cochran and university engineers estimate; and they believe it will probably be not much, if any, in excess of the former figure.

At the time construction of the new Capitol began, the plan in view was to locate its heating plant in the vicinity of Seventh and J streets adjacent to the Burlington railroad yards, in order to get rid of the smoke on Capitol square and save cost of trucking the fuel.

However, when it developed that the state university would also need a new heating and electric plant to serve all the buildings on its enlarged campus, the suggestion that one plant be provided to accommodate both it and the capitol was made and met with general favor.

From the standpoint of the capitol commission, it will be just as economical and convenient to bring steam heat from a connection with the university heating system at Fourteenth and R as to get it from an independent plant of its own at Seventh and J. In each case, the distance is a little over half a mile.

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU.

(over)

University to Operate.

When the heating and electric plant is built, it will be operated by the university in connection with the college of mechanical engineering. The cost of operation so far as steam heat is concerned will be divided between the capitol and the university in proportion to the metered consumption of its output used by each. The entire expense of the electrical department, of course, will fall upon the university.

Inasmuch as the original cost, according to the plan in view, will be met by a flat appropriation from the state treasury, and will not entail any draft upon the regular funds of either the capitol commission or the regents' board, it is not necessary to work out any ratio of between them in that re-

Besides the estimated initial saving of \$150,000 through the building of one plant, instead of two, it is figured that the expense of operation will be cut down thereby at least \$10,000 to \$12,000 a year, in addition to which the state will save \$1,000 a year, more or less, in drayage charges for hauling coal, which would have to be paid if the capitol heating plant were to remain where it now is.

It is intended to locate the combined plant somewhere north of the university field house, where fuel can be delivered on track.

The instructional value to students of the university engineering college from having the plant near at hand will be considerable. On the other hand, the work done by students while pursuing their studies of dynamics and electricity will mean a considerable saving to the state in labor cost.

The Cost in Detail.

An itemized estimate of the required outlay for plant construction, submitted by university engineers and the state engineer, places the total amount at \$531,000. This expenditure will be supplemented by equipment and materials now on hand in the present university plant worth \$48,000.

Included in such available equipment are: One 800-horsepower boiler and stoker, \$30,000; two boiler feed pumps, \$2,500; one stack, \$1,500; one stoker, \$7,000; vacuum pumps, \$2,500; instruments, \$3,000; other salvage, \$2,000.

Equipment to be purchased and expense of reinstalling the old apparatus are figured as herewith:

3 boilers, each 800 h. p., and stoker	\$90,000
Building	125,000
One new stack	12,000
Moving old stack	3,000
Piping in plant	15,000
Coal and ash handling.....	21,000
Ash hoppers	8,000
Switchboard	6,000
Breaching	4,000
Soot blowers	2,000
Turbines	57,000
Cooling system	5,000
Force draft	4,000
Plumbing	1,000
Tunnel to present main.....	12,000
Tunnel to teachers' college and social science bldgs....	31,500
Boiler feeders	2,000
Crane	4,000
Pipe in tunnel and covering..	10,000
Covering of pipes in plant...	6,000
Installation, labor, etc.....	22,500
Arch'ts' and eng'rs' fees.....	25,000
5,515 feet conduit to capitol..	67,000

Total \$531,000

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#204

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU.

BRYAN SAYS REPUBLICANS 'WASTEFUL' AT LINCOLN

W. 2
Hits at Extravagance Shown in
Furnishing Governor's Office
in New Capitol.

Former Governor Bryan, addressing a group of Eleventh ward voters Friday night at 4807 Military avenue, charged the republican state administration with wasteful mismanagement in expenditures for the new capitol at Lincoln. He predicted further similar extravagances if a republican legislature and governor are elected next Tuesday.

"The democratic administration was keeping well within the five million dollar original appropriation for the building," he said. "After the republicans came into power, the building commission, headed by the governor, asked for and received from the legislature an additional three millions. Then the commission ordered 48 thousand dollars spent for decorating the ceiling of the governor's reception room and 78 thousand dollars for rugs and draperies in that one room. In keeping with these expenditures, they went out and bought a \$65 cuspidor that sets in front of the governor's desk.

"This program of extravagance means that more millions will be asked from the next legislature to complete the building, if the same party gets into office again."

"When I left office," he said, "employes on the payroll numbered 221. Now there are more than two thousand. There are so many that the republicans are afraid to allow taxpayers to know the exact number and no one is permitted to find out their salaries. That's the kind of a crowd you are dealing with."

Charles W. Poole, candidate for secretary of state, urged election of a state legislature and state officers to help the gubernatorial nominee put into effect the pledges of the democratic platform.

Star, November 13, 1928

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#205

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

CAPITOL SETTING NEEDS OUTLINED

Lincoln's Obligation is Stressed by Speakers Before Rotarians.

Putting Nebraska's capitol in a proper setting is an obligation on the people of Lincoln, and one that is going to cost money. How the city is to get that money was a problem that speakers Tuesday noon at the Rotary club luncheon in the Lincoln hotel tried to solve.

"We've got to have votes," was Mayor Heuge's succinct comment. "The only way to get them is to work for them, and vote for the matter yourselves the next time it comes up. Our city is incurring a deficit every day in things that should be done and are not."

The tentative program in the matter was outlined by W. E. Hardy of the capitol commission.

Opening Fifteenth street from R to N street, 125 feet wide, and from N street to the capitol, 250 feet wide; running J street east to the city limits 120 feet wide; and Fifteenth street south to the city limits 120 feet wide; and establishing a memorial park consisting of two blocks directly north of the capitol are the main features of the plan.

"We ought to plan for a doubled or trebled city," Mr. Hardy declared. "I believe this capitol will bring

more people to Lincoln than any other one thing. The architect Goodhue was not anxious to have a large expanse of ground around the building, but did desire long approaches, so that it might be seen from afar."

The capitol will be finished, he predicted, in three more years.

President Earl Campbell of the chamber of commerce said:

"I think we have delayed this improvement too long. The next legislature is going to ask us how we have fulfilled our promises. We must start to buy property. It will require a charter amendment to get the money. The council alone can't do it nor can any one organization. We must all work together."

Adrian Newens started the discussion and dwelt on Lincoln's obligation to provide an adequate setting for the \$11,000,000 state house that Nebraska is placing here. Lincoln is the host city, he said, and should not handicap the commission appointed to plan for these improvements. No matter what the scheme will cost, he said, Lincoln should be ready to back it.

President Frank Tomson of the Rotary club noted some of the improvements that have been made during his residence here and warned the club members there always is a tendency to consider a city finished while in fact it is in the midst of development.

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#206

Star, Nov. 18, 1928

NEBRASKA LEGISLATIVE
REFERENCE BUREAU

Star, Nov. 18, 1928
**THE CAPITOL
SURROUNDINGS.**

If the discussion which took place before the Lincoln Rotary club last Tuesday is the opening gun in the campaign to provide an adequate and proper surrounding for the new Nebraska state capitol, the people of this community are fortunate.

We have been delaying action in this important matter. It will be less than three years at the most before the final construction on the capitol will have been completed. Certainly this community does not propose to wait until long after the capitol is finished before it bestirs itself in drafting a program for increasing the impressiveness and the beauty of that monumental building. Every year that we delay increases the financial burden because the land which will be needed for this purpose is growing more valuable all of the time. It is going to be a big and an expensive job but it is one which must be tackled immediately.

In this connection Mayor Verne Hedge offered some excellent advice to the Rotarians. "We've got to have votes," the mayor said. "The only way to get them is to work for them, and vote for the program yourself the next time it comes up. Lincoln is incurring a deficit every day in things that should be done and are not." That is an admirable analysis by the head of the city government. Too frequently we live in the present and are blind to the future. We object to a heavy tax burden because it means an immediate sacrifice when we lose sight of the fact that in reality it is an investment which will return many times. In assuming this leadership Mayor Hedge is on the right track and he deserves the support and cooperation of citizens generally.

The plan of capitol development as outlined by Mr. W. E. Hardy of the commission is one of striking beauty.

Briefly it calls for the opening of Fifteenth street from R to N, 125 feet wide, and from N to the capitol 250 feet wide; running J street east to the city limits 120 feet wide and Fifteenth street south to the city limits 120 feet wide. The second part of it calls for establishment of a memorial park directly north of the capitol consisting of two city blocks.

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#207

It is difficult to visualize Lincoln if this plan were to be put into effect. There are no cities in the Middle West and very few in America which could boast of more imposing avenues. The national capitol, with its historic Pennsylvania avenue, at one end of which is the white house and its grounds and at the other the Congressional building, would be no more beautiful than Fifteenth, opening upon the grounds and buildings of the University of Nebraska at one terminus and the magnificent capitol at the other. Supplementing this the avenues leading east and west and south from the capitol would add a majesty to the setting and to the building itself fully in keeping with it.

The program is one beyond the reach of a timid people. It will be costly but in spite of the outlay which it will entail, we believe that it will pay splendidly in the end. The Nebraska capitol in itself may be expected to bring thousands of visitors to Lincoln each year. Place it in the projected setting and it will attract not only visitors but hundreds of home-seekers.

* * *

The people of Lincoln have much to be thankful for. There are few cities with more attractive business sections and more beautiful residential districts. Its park system is taking form splendidly through the initiative of some of its city officials and through the public-spiritedness of some of its influential citizens. Those who planned Lincoln had the foresight to provide wide streets. They could have been wider but they are better than are found in most American cities.

And yet there are many things which the founders of Lincoln could not foresee. One which became a matter of grave concern a few years ago was the campus of the University of Nebraska. When the institution was founded land was cheap. It could be had for little or nothing. If the growth and development of the University of Nebraska had been anticipated, it would have been possible to have set aside a full section of ground for its campus with but little more sacrifice than was required to secure the scant two blocks which comprised the original campus. Years later it became necessary for the legislature and the citizens of Lincoln to join hands to secure an additional four blocks of ground at an expense which was many times greater than it would have been had sufficient land been purchased in the first place.

That is the situation in respect to the setting for the new capitol. It should be projected with an eye to the future. It is not for the Lincoln of today, or ten years from today. It should be adequate and in keeping with the building twenty-five years from now and fifty years from now. Then there is every likelihood of Lincoln possessing a population of from 125,000 to 200,000 people. Many of us who are here now will not be here then but the finest monument which we can erect to ourselves is the reflection of the citizens of Lincoln of that day fifty years hence that we had the foresight and the vision to build in accordance with the highest standards of beauty and permanence.