

978.2651

H62s

c.3

Nebraska State Capitol

Scrap Book No. 1

NEBRASKA STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL

LEGISLATIVE RECORDS STATE OF NEBRASKA

SESSION 1904

C. B. 4-28-92

978.2651  
H625  
C. B.

977  
H625

LINCOLN MONUMENT

TENNESSEE'S GIFT ARRIVES.

Two Blocks of Marble Await the Pleasure of the Governor.

The two blocks of marble which were donated by the people of Tennessee for the construction of a statue of Lincoln have arrived at last and judging from appearances the state has about as large an elephant on its hands as a certain oriental king is said to have had once upon a time.

The marble came yesterday morning. It consists of two large blocks weighing 22,305 and 22,206 pounds each. One is a rough block for the base, the other is more smooth, but is still unpolished. On one end of the stone is painted "John Currie, sculptor" in large letters. The opposite end bears "No absorption detected to a degree of accuracy of one part in 4,000, Charles Ferris, University of Tennessee."

One of the flat sides bears "Tennessee sends kindly greetings to her sister, Nebraska." The opposite side is embellished with a quadruplet by Godfrey. It is:

"As lasting as this rock, from which  
this statue shall appear,  
is Abra'm Lincoln's memory to  
Americans most dear.  
The hills shall waste away, the val-  
ley meet the plain,  
Yet Abraham Lincoln's memory and  
statue shall remain."

The stone was consigned to the state of Nebraska, care of John Currie. There was something like \$80 charges on it, but Agent Millar telegraphed an explanation of the circumstances to the officials of the road and the charges were cut off. Now Mr. Millar says that if the state sees fit to allow Mr. Currie to take the stone an order from the governor must be forthcoming before the delivery is made.

*State Journal*  
*July 1-1896*

## WILL REVIVE STATUE FUND.

Mayor Brown Will Continue Monument Campaign.

Mayor Brown has come to realize that his Abraham Lincoln statue fund, which he began last spring, is not growing very fast, and that the matter will have to be agitated somewhat if the money that is desired is raised any time soon. The mayor has therefore decided that he will put the matter before the people of the city again and give all that wish to a chance to subscribe to the fund. "There are a whole lot of the business men of the city who are willing to give something to the fund if the thing were brought to their attention," said the mayor. "So far I have not done any work on it at all. The subscription paper has been here at my desk, and I have not been out with it. I have spoken to a few men when they came into the office, and secured a few names in that way, but there has been no general solicitation."

*State Journal.*  
*Aug. 10, 1907*

## DONORS TO THE FUND.

### Lincoln Monument Subscriptions Reported by Addison Wait.

LINCOLN, Neb., Feb. 17.—To the Editor of the State Journal: The following subscriptions have been received in Lincoln in addition to those published Saturday the 13th inst. for the Lincoln monument fund. C. T. Boggs \$100; Hardy Furniture Co. \$50; Paul H. Holm \$25; Geo. W. Holmes \$25; A. C. Ricketts \$25; M. J. Aitkin \$10; Judge Lincoln Frost \$10; J. S. Baer \$10; J. W. McLeod \$10; E. C. Leigh \$10; Grace M. Wheeler \$10; J. W. Leckliter \$10; Geo. A. Burlinghoff \$10; H. H. Harley \$5; L. E. Hurtz \$5; Guernsey Jones \$5; A. D. Burr \$5; Mrs. C. L. Hill \$5; W. V. Hunt \$5; H. S. Norton \$5; Mrs. P. V. Vaughn \$5; Meriam Starrett \$5; Mrs. Verrella Humphrey \$5; C. O. Backdahl \$5; L. Westgate \$5; J. M. Buehner \$5; H. K. Wolf \$5; R. L. Jackson \$5; John Franklin \$5; John T. Davis \$5; A. W. Woodard \$5; Clara Lester \$5; R. E. Hall \$5; H. E. Barge \$3; J. O. Goodwin \$2; Mrs. H. A. Dewey \$2; L. E. Dewey \$2; J. W. Hamer \$2; Mary C. Buehner \$2; Geo. W. Isham \$2; C. E. Prevey \$2; A. L. Funk \$2; F. M. Young \$2; C. E. Shedd sr. \$2; L. E. Bowdish \$1; Mrs. N. Podra \$1; Wm. Render \$1; A. D. Gregg \$1; Stella Rice \$1; Dorothy Lee McCarty \$1; Adon Humphrey \$1; Mrs. Gertrude Davis \$1; John Kowclerski \$1; Mrs. Helen Uhlick \$1; Geo. W. Wiltse \$1; R. B. King \$1; C. E. Weeks \$1; W. M. Holbrook \$1; Irya E. Farnham \$1; Howard S. Brooks \$1; Isabell Neuell \$1; James A. Harvey \$1; E. Dunn \$1; Pearl Ritter \$1; Mrs. Clara Birch \$1; Benjamin T. Kess \$1; Gardner Moore \$1; P. J. Halderon \$1; G. A. Rawson, Bartley, Neb., \$1; Fred Riemer \$1; C. M. Laird \$1; Mrs. Nellie Cook \$1; M. Walt \$1; E. Mae Palmer \$1; L. H. Neff \$1; Mrs. L. Lemme \$1; Louise Lemme \$1; Owsly Wilson \$1; Mrs. R. M. Tobin \$1; Lorraine Pollett \$1; C. A. Riemers \$1; Will Forbes \$1; Paul H. Eaton 25 cents. Total \$468.25.

Subscriptions can be paid to the state treasurer at any time, who is treasurer of the monument association and a neat certificate of membership to the association will be issued by him.

ADDISON WAIT.

Corresponding Secretary.

*State Journal*  
*February 18, 1909.*

## WEST SIDE FOR THE STATUE

SCULPTOR AND COMMITTEE FAV-  
ORED THAT LOCATION.

## ARTIST FRENCH IN LINCOLN

Visited the Capitol Grounds Where  
Bronze Figure of the Great  
Emancipator Is to Be  
Placed.

Daniel Chester French, the New York sculptor who is to design a bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln for the capitol grounds, arrived in Lincoln yesterday, accompanied by his assistant, H. Bacon. Mr. French was met by F. M. Hall and escorted to the capitol, where the sculptor met several members of the state commission that selected him to design a memorial monument to Lincoln.

Governor Shallenberger, State Auditor Barton, Deputy Secretary of State A. Warr, Dr. H. B. Lowry and F. M. Hall, all members of the state commission, met Mr. French at the capitol grounds and conferred with him in regard to the proposed site of a heroic bronze statue of Lincoln with architectural accessories. Gen. Charles F. Manderson and Mr. Wattles, both of Omaha, and Secretary of State Junkin, also members of the commission, were not present.

Mr. French spent most of the day looking over the different portions of the four blocks that comprise the capitol grounds. After he had given his opinion a majority of the commission coincided with him in saying that the west side of the grounds ought to be chosen as the site for the monument. If this is done the driveway on the west will be entirely closed and vehicles approaching the state house must drive to the east side.

### Mr. Hall's Luncheon.

Frank M. Hall was the host at an impromptu luncheon given at noon yesterday in honor of Mr. French and Mr. Bacon. Twenty gentlemen sat down at a long table in the secretary's office. Mr. Bryan and Governor Shallenberger were present, together with a number of business and professional men who have been interested in the Lincoln monument from the beginning.

After the cigars had been passed Mr. Hall asked Mr. French to tell the gentlemen something about his plans and the manner in which a work of the kind contemplated here is executed. Mr. French responded by saying that he had not allowed himself to think about the character of the Lincoln he has been commissioned to create until he should see the site. It is desirable to approach the work with all of the surroundings of the statue in mind. It might seem a very simple matter, the placing of a statue on so large a plot of ground as the capitol square, but he had found it exceedingly difficult. The place naturally desired for the monument would be the north entrance to the grounds at Fifteenth and K streets, but this would not do unless the statue could face the south, as it is exceedingly desirable that the features be kept out of the shadow. But facing the statue to the south in that location would cause it to be approached from the rear when people entered the grounds from Fourteenth street, and that would not do, unless the whole work could be set outside the grounds and flanked by parking which would allow people to approach from the side. The southern entrance to the grounds was dismissed without discussion on account of the nearness of the heating plant. Mr. French said that the east or the west entrance would do, the statue looking down the street with the building as the background. As J street east of the capitol is very short and has been narrowed by the tendency of the property owners to put their sidewalks out into the street, it was recognized by everyone who heard the remarks of Mr. French that he considered the west entrance, Fourteenth and J streets, the best location unless some plans can be worked out for parking North Fifteenth street and placing the statue there, facing the capitol.

### Making a Statue.

In response to a request for information as to the process of making a statue Mr. French explained that his first work will be the preparation of a number of "sketches" done in clay about ten inches high. These are repeated until something is hit upon that the sculptor believes to meet the demands of the case. Then he makes a larger model, in clay, about one-third the size of the finished statue, and a plaster cast of this is shown the committee. If it is not approved the work is gone over again until the committee is satisfied or "until its patience wears out." After this model is accepted a full sized model is made and cast in plaster. This is sent to the foundry for the casting of the permanent bronze figure.

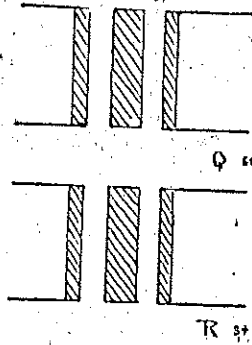
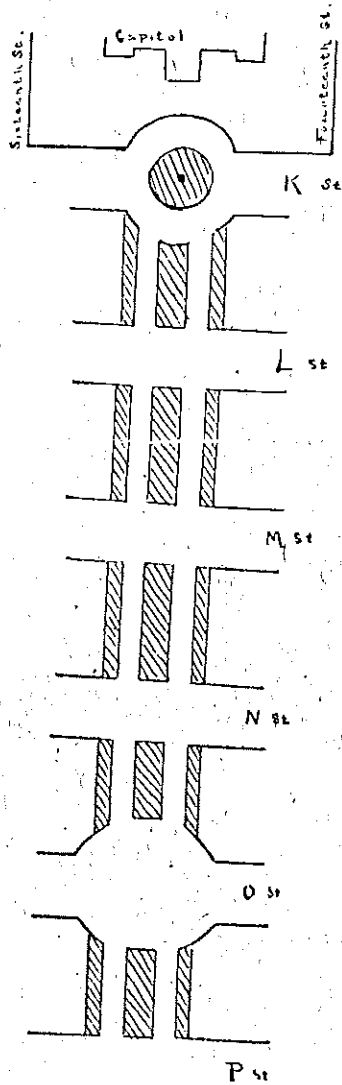
Requests for information as the time consumed in perfecting such a work caused Mr. French to make gestures of deprecation. No sculptor can agree

(over.)

to deliver a finished piece of work in any specified length of time. Inasmuch as the best part of a year is required for the completion of the work after the final design is completed, he was able to say that it would be impossible to produce an acceptable figure in less than two years. Much more time than that may be required.

**The Architectural Features.**

Mr. French was followed by his associate in the work, Mr. H. Bacon, of New York, who will have charge of the architectural accessories. Mr. Bacon is an architect who has worked with Mr. French and also with the late Augustus St. Gaudens in design-



**Extension of University Campus**

**North Fifteenth Street Looking toward Capitol.**

Rough draft of plan outlined by H. Bacon, the New York architect, for improving North Fifteenth street and providing a dignified entrance to the capitol. This plan contemplates widening Fifteenth street, parking it in the middle, and cutting it through to R street, there to meet the future extension of the university campus. This plan contemplates a middle parkway 75 feet in width, two paved streets 50 feet wide, each, and lawn spaces 25 feet wide on each side.

ing pedestals and other features. He was long in the office of McKim, Mead & White, the noted New York architects, and has a number of important public and private buildings to his credit since he has been working on his own account.

Mr. Bacon suggested that the statue would be well placed if it could be located at the intersection of Fifteenth and K streets, facing the capitol. To avoid the objections raised by Mr. French he would widen Fifteenth street and place a small park way partially around the monument. But regardless of the location of the new statue, Mr. Bacon saw a great opportunity for Lincoln to make itself a modern and beautiful avenue by widening Fifteenth street from the capitol to O street and then pushing it through to R street, there to become the chief entrance to the new portion of the university campus when it is extended as far east as Sixteenth street. Farsighted people say this extension must be made in time, and Mr. Bacon urged Lincoln to adopt a plan that will give it an avenue of remarkable beauty and utility. The statue of Lincoln would help the avenue, of course, but if it is located on the west of the building the arguments are still strong for carrying out this improvement.

Mr. French and Mr. Bacon were thanked for the interesting information they had given and for the valuable advice tendered for increasing the beauty of Lincoln.

*State Journal*  
Nov. 9, 1909



## THE LINCOLN MONUMENT

Mr. Waite Explains Its Scope and Purpose.

LINCOLN, Neb., March 13.—To The Editor of The State Journal: I note the suggestion of Father Murphy and others in recent issues of The Journal that the Lincoln monument ought to be an annex, auxiliary or accessory to the proposed state historical building. I certainly do not agree with them on this proposition. They do not seem to comprehend the idea that this is to be a work and structure of as much importance in itself, from an educational standpoint, as the historical building; that the magnitude, grandeur and majesty of the Lincoln statue in heroic size, with its artistic accessories, will occupy a place separate and distinct in character and conception from any other structure owned by the people of the state.

It will eclipse all others from an artistic point of view and in historical value unsurpassed, and will be the center of attraction when completed, at the state capitol. The original plans of erecting it on the state house grounds must be carried out. All money subscribed by private individuals to the amount of nearly \$8,000 and the appropriation of \$20,000 by the legislature has been secured with this understanding and the suggestion to change the location could not be committed with if feasible.

No enterprise undertaken by the people of the state has met with such universal approval and the fact that it was to be erected on the state house grounds and become the property of all the people of the state has added to the popularity of the movement, and it must not be dwarfed by making it a side show to some other undertaking. That there should be space set apart in the proposed historical building for Lincoln memorials and relics all will agree and it would be appropriate to add a bust of the martyred president to this collection, but to expend the amount contemplated for the proposed Lincoln memorial and statue on the state house grounds will require an enlarged idea of the whole proposition and could not be developed under the dome or roof of the historical building or any other building.

The most desirable thing at this time in connection with the monument enterprise is securing sufficient subscriptions to complete the fund of \$35,000 or \$40,000. If 100 of our prosperous and well-to-do citizens out over the state would pledge \$100 each the balance would be easy and what an uplift it would be to the patriotism of the state if this could be accomplished.

Who will rally to the support of Peter Jensen with his name at the head of the list for \$100 pledges outside of Lincoln? The city of Lincoln has pledged \$5,000 and will double that amount.

ADDISON WAIT,  
Corresponding Secretary.

*State Journal*  
*March 14, 1909*

**State House Brief:**

The contract for the architectural accessories of the Abraham Lincoln monument was awarded yesterday to Kimball Bros. of Lincoln, whose bid was \$7,000. A Chicago firm bid \$7,500. The contract was awarded at a meeting attended by Governor Aldrich, Attorney General Martin, Secretary of State Wall, Land Commissioner Cowles and P. M. Hall of Lincoln. The contractors agree to complete the work by May 1.

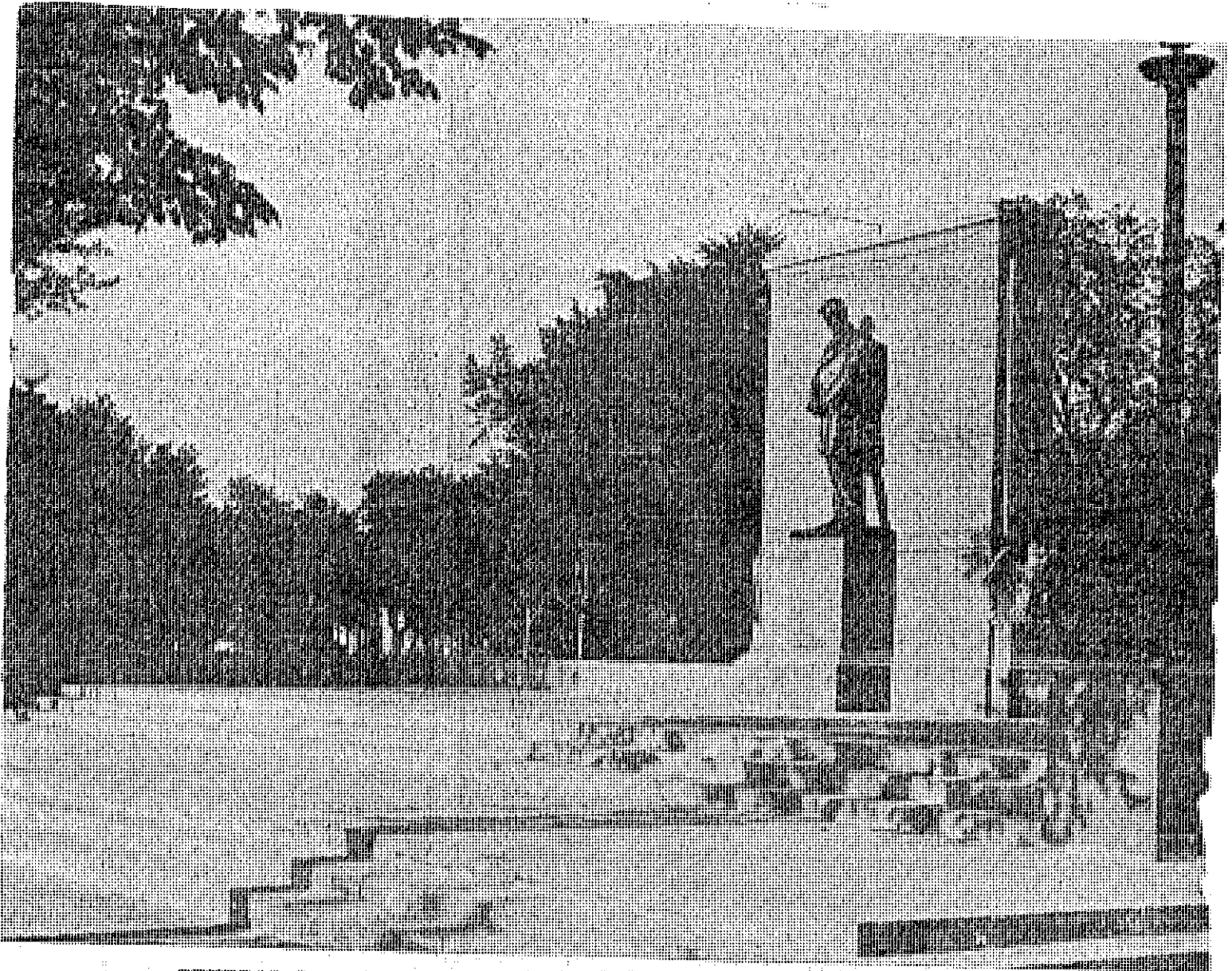
*State Journal*  
*Dec. 13, 1911*

Views of the Lincoln Monument

9-1-17 59

Which Will be Unveiled on

Monday Afternoon



GENERAL VIEW OF LINCOLN MONUMENT.

—Photo by Hindmarsh

First Photograph Taken of the Abraham Lincoln Monument With the Work Completed and the Figure in Place.

W.C.U.



—Photo by Hindmarsh.

A Near View of the Central Figure of the Lincoln Monument.

*Continued*

### PLATFORM PROGRAM.

Dedication of the Lincoln Monument at the State house grounds, beginning at 1 p. m., Monday, Sept. 2.  
Addison Wait, secretary of state, presiding.  
Music, patriotic airs, beginning at 1 o'clock p. m., State band, Prof. Hagenow, director.  
Invocation; I. F. Roach, pastor St. Paul's church.  
Chorus, "Hallelujah," Mr. Probasco, director, with State band.  
Introductory address, Gov. Chester H. Aldrich.  
Selection, State band.  
Address, Hon. William J. Bryan.  
Chorus, "America."

### EXERCISES AT MONUMENT.

Governor Chester H. Aldrich presiding.  
Music, Drum corps.  
Reading, Lincoln's Gettysburg address, Mrs. Bess Gearhart Morrison.  
Historical sketch of the enterprise, Addison Wait.  
Unveiling the statue, by veterans of the civil war, John Letton of Benedict and Jonathan Edwards of Omaha.  
Address, As a Work of Art, and the Sculptor, Frank M. Hall.

### HISTORICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE LINCOLN MONUMENT.

(By Albert Watkins.)

The dedication tomorrow of this work of art of high rank, which has sprung up here, an exotic on the unwonted and, in some sort, unprepared frontier of what the world calls culture and still of necessity given chiefly to the uncongential cultivation of hogs and corn—an enterprise, too, the creature of popular patronage—puts to us the question, what subtle conceit inspired, what forceful influence compassed this unique achievement? And what sentiments, in turn, does it inspire? Answer to the first query suffices also for the second.

#### The Monument Accounted For.

Poets strike deepest into truth; and, of our poets, Walt Whitman reached nearest to the heart of Nature, who holds the heart of truth; and so he best understood and expressed Lincoln, himself at bottom a poet, as his words traced on the monument disclose:

For him the old world molds aside she threw,

And choosing sweet clay from the breast Of the unexhausted west,  
With stuff untainted shaped a hero new.

His was no mountain peak of mind,

Broad prairie, rather, genial, level-lined,  
Fruitful and friendly for all human kind.

This suggestive answer of Whitman's to our wondering query is amplified in some heretofore published

words of mine. "He was raised in the very bosom of nature, and his responsive temperament answered to her every mood. The observation of Lamh that, "the solitude of childhood is not so much the mother of thought as it is the feeder of love, of silence and admiration," was exemplified in Lincoln. "Nature," says Chesterion, "has the power of convincing most poets of the essential worthiness of things," and in nature's embrace Lincoln was early impressed with the worth of men. But the popular adoration of this great, yet common man is not without mixture of vanity. The shrewd founder of institutional Christianity penetrated and utilized this human instinct:

"For we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels. \* \* \* For it became him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things \* \* \* to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings \* \* \* for which cause he is not ashamed to call them all brethren. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. "Lincoln did not go abroad clad in an old, shabby 'country' shawl, or perform his morning ablutions in the bucket of water on the open back stoop of the White house as a bid for heroworship, but therefore he thus the more effectively contributed toward winning it."

In short, in his idealized state, he is the second Man of Sorrows—in the popular regard, indeed, seems to be measurably displacing the first.

This, I think, explains the miracle and paradox—by the criterion of the ordinary evolution and manifestation of the athletic spirit—why the people of the state of Nebraska, still part and parcel of the "unexhausted west," have thus anticipated the regular order.

And so Douglas, legitimate political father of Nebraska—and of the whole vast original Nebraska country—logically, should have had the first turn in such a memorial. But logic commonly waits on love, and this popular response could not have been invoked for the prior claim of the doughty Douglas—now recognized, I believe, as the greatest parliamentary debater and leader the country has seen.

But, quickening the mystic bond of mutual sympathy, there is the still potent sentiment of section, of local loyalty. Lincoln was the first truly western president. All predecessors save

three, had been chosen from border Atlantic states; and even the excepted three were born and bred on the same extreme border. Two of them, Jackson and Folk, were residents of the border southern and slave state of Tennessee, at the time of their election, and the third, William Henry Harrison, though immediately of Ohio, true to his Virginia breeding, held slaves in the inhibited northwest territory. Lincoln, on the other hand, had been saturated with the northwestern spirit, his whole active life having been spent in the immediate valley of the Mississippi. Largely owing to his naive western freshness, his candidacy for the presidential nomination, as opposed to Seward's was regarded with traditional eastern contemptuousness; and even the delegates from Nebraska were so wedded to the eastern idol and ideal that they spared but a single vote from their total of six for the son of the west.

Subsidiary to this main stimulus are the considerations that the name Lincoln is a magical touchstone to the old soldier memory of the great war, his shocking murder, crowning the four crowded years of tragedy, and his immediate part in the organization of the first transcontinental railroad, which furnished the first substantial encouragement for the settling and development of this then ultima thule commonwealth. On the 17th of November, 1863, President Lincoln, by executive order, established the eastern initial point of the Union Pacific railway, "on the western boundary of Iowa, east and opposite to the east line of section 10, township 15, north, range 13, east of the sixth principal meridian, in the territory of Nebraska." An accommodating construction of the order and statute on which it was based, by the federal supreme court, under heavy pressure of both commercial conditions and political circumstances, virtually threw the terminus of the first continental railroad on the western side of the Missouri river, thereby underwriting the therefore dubious prospects of Omaha for metropolitan greatness.

That Lincoln is the namesake of the great president may well have been the strongest factor in bringing here this notable memorial. Though the name has by this time acquired a prescriptive right, the sentiment involved in this reason is rudely jarred when we recall that, to expedite lot-selling of the town site, the new capital, estab-

over,

lished by legislative fiat, chiefly as an adventurous real estate speculation, was called in the act by the hideous name, Capitol City, which was changed to Lincoln in the last stage with the sole and sinister purpose on the part of an Omaha opponent of removal, of obstructing the passage of the bill because the now almost hallowed name was so hateful to the "copperhead" promoters of the removal scheme.

#### Douglas and Lincoln.

Stephen A. Douglas was the mirror which first showed Lincoln to the world. Douglas, doubtless the greatest parliamentary debater and leader the country has known, when his prestige and power were in the full, procured the passage of the famous bill for the territorial organization of Nebraska. The incidental repeal in the act of the Missouri compromise, which had interdicted human slavery in the Nebraska country, was the call to Lincoln to come out of the political obscurity into which he had dropped discouraged, after an unsatisfactory term in the congress where Douglas was undisputed leader, and grapple with the formidable democratic leader in the famous joint debates of 1858. The superiority over his masterful antagonist, in moral fiber and intellectual power, which Lincoln disclosed in those contests paved his way to the presidency. With but little inaccuracy and indirection, then, we may say that Nebraska gave Lincoln to his country and to immortality. The trip-hammer Douglas was indubitably his superior in energy and executive capacity; and he was, moreover, as solicitous to preserve the Union as Lincoln was. His vastly wider experience in politics and better acquaintance with the inexorability and audacious temper of the south gave him a clearer insight into the imminent danger of disunion to which Lincoln seemed oblivious. In the debate at Ottawa Douglas prophetically declared: "I believe that this new doctrine (the delimitation and ultimate extinction of slavery) preached by Mr. Lincoln and his party will dissolve the union if it succeeds." On the other hand, at Alton Lincoln said: "There will soon be an end of it (slavery) and that end will be its ultimate extinction. This controversy will soon be settled, and it will be done peacefully, too. There will be no

war, no violence." And this on the very eve of the terrible vindication of Douglas' fear, and of Lincoln's blind sense of security.

But this is the crux which differentiates the characters of these rivals. As to the incident of human slavery involved in the question, Lincoln cared while Douglas avowedly did not care "whether slavery was voted up or voted down," where the Union was at stake. In the long run the man who cares distances the indifferent man, especially where injustice and oppression are involved. This alone might suffice to show why the Nebraska memorial to Lincoln precedes one to Douglas—which, nevertheless, should yet be forthcoming—though the Douglas force, against great opposition, gave her life, while in this struggle for western recognition Lincoln's part was, the rather, obstructive. Moreover, whatever of justice and sentiment, touching the black men, Douglas lacked, his swift, unequivocal and momentous stand on the side of the Union and at Lincoln's right hand, was full atonement, I think, for any disparity between his solicitude for the Union and his sympathy for the slaves. We see the diary of Gideon Wells shows that Lincoln towered above any and all of the members of his famous cabinet, both as to character and intellectual grasp, it also shows that he lacked the executive capacity in which Douglas excelled.

#### East Against West.

That the northeast obstructed territorial organization of Nebraska, for selfish consideration of the competition which would follow the resulting settlement of so vast a territory; and the southwest, because it wished to continue it as the perpetual dumping ground for its Indians, so that it took Douglas ten years to successfully gain the first step in the winning of the west, reminds us of the still persisting sectional question and that Illinois, as represented by her two great sons, was then of and for the west. The incident reminds us also that the northeast has ever since been recouping herself for the loss of her territorial and political supremacy by reprisals upon the Nebraska country through an unjust and oppressive system of taxation, against which there is an approximately east and west sectional

struggle in the pending political campaign.

"Oh, East is East, and West is West,  
And never the twain shall meet,  
Till Earth and Sky stand presently,  
At God's great judgment seat."

This west, however, is highly resolved not to wait the slow-grinding mills of the gods, but to take as short a cut to justice as remedial law may afford.

In the meantime, we welcome this appreciative propitiatory offering from a distinguished son of the east in the spirit in which we feel sure it was fashioned and bestowed. Always the west has ultimately physically overcome the at first dominating east and then revived and spiritually redeemed it. Redemption of our east from her present plight is indeed a mighty task; but by invoking the high and potent spirit of our Lincoln his "unexhausted west" may set itself hopefully to the herculean task.

#### The Merit of the Monument.

The reputation of the sculptor assures us that we have a statue worthy of its environment and of which the great west, which it symbolizes may be proud. Beyond this we must await the ultimate judgment of the people, the final or appellate judges of all art. Competent trained critics can only assist them in arriving at a valuation, as the attorneys on either side, by bringing out the strong and weak points of a cause, facilitate the findings of the court. But every man, naturally endowed with a sense of beauty and fitness, though without training, is a worthy critic and judge. Such may hold final judgment in abeyance until the wise men of the east have spoken—for there for yet a little while the skilled critics must abide.

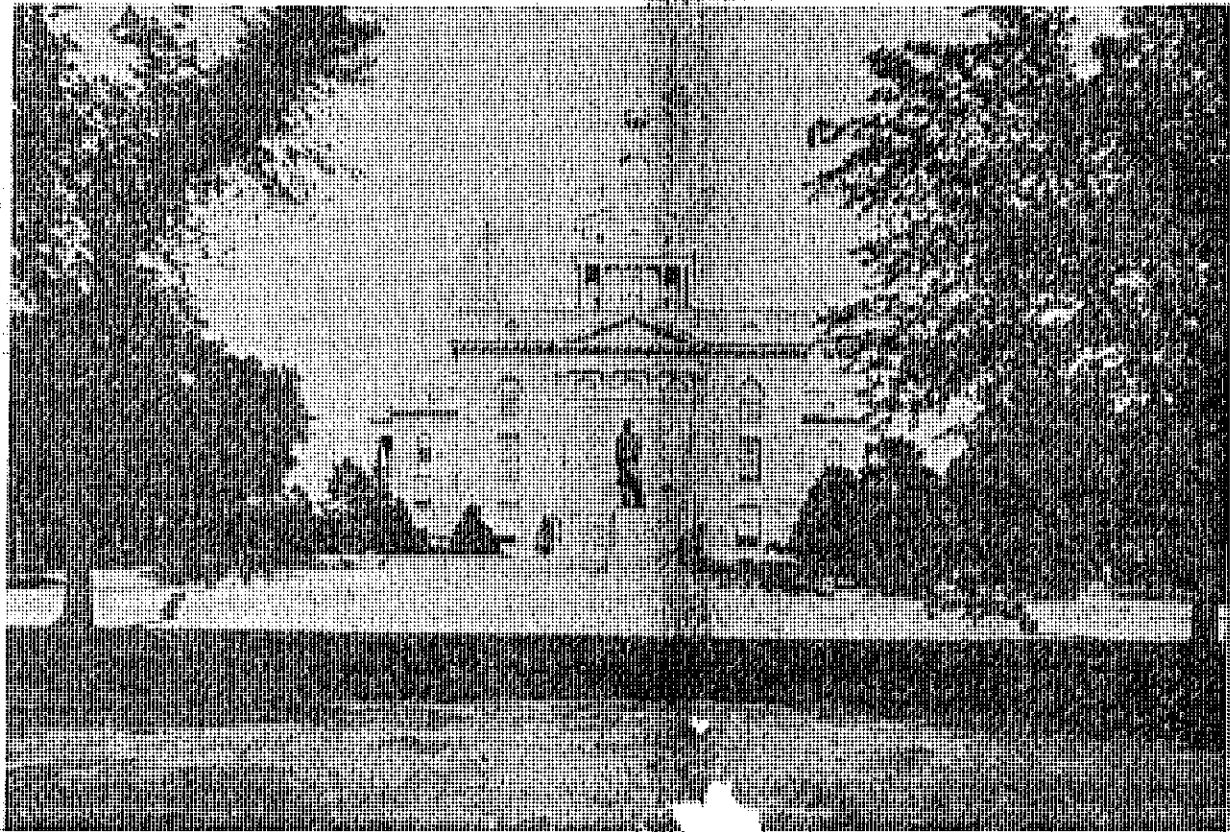
The best critique of Lincoln statues I have seen, which was published, I believe, before this one had been seen, declared that no adequate work of this kind had yet been accomplished. In particular, all attempts so far had failed to catch the homeliness and ruggedness of the true Lincoln. But he has been so far idealized by popular imagination that it becomes more and more difficult to divine the true Lincoln. Obviously, all but a little romanticism is too much for the true Lincoln, who, above all, was a true man.

*Continued*

In the meantime we may fight shy of the pretentious who have undue advantage in the west, still but little tutored in the more subtle secrets of art. The wily admonition of Weller sire to Weller son: "Beware of vidders," fits all but the cocksure—who are generally wrong and always hopeless.

ALBERT WATKINS.

*State Journal*  
*September 1, 1912.*



General View of Abraham Lincoln Monument, looking east from 14th and 15th Streets. This picture, taken from a distance, shows the background of the monument partly obscuring the view of the capitol.

## Dedication and Unveiling Ceremonies

### PLATFORM PROGRAM.

Dedication of the Lincoln Monument at the State House grounds, beginning at 1 p. m., today.  
 Addison Wait, secretary of state, presiding.  
 Music, patriotic airs, beginning at 1 o'clock p. m., State band, Prof. Hagenow, director.  
 Invocation, I. F. Roach, pastor St. Paul's church  
 Address of Welcome for the City, Mayor A. H. Armstrong.  
 Chorus, "Hallelujah," Mr. Probasco, director, with State band.  
 Introductory address, Gov. Chester H. Aldrich.  
 Selection, State band.  
 Address, Hon. William J. Bryan.  
 Chorus, "America."

### EXERCISES AT MONUMENT.

Governor Chester H. Aldrich presiding.  
 Music, Drum Corps.  
 Reading, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, Mrs. Bess Gearhart Morrison.  
 Historical sketch of the enterprise, Addison Wait.  
 Unveiling the statue, by veterans of the civil war, John Lett of Benedict and Jonathan Edwards of Omaha.  
 Address, As a Work of Art, and the Sculptor, Frank W. Hall.

*State Journal*  
 Sept. 2, 1912



## THE LINCOLN MONUMENT.

Yesterday Lincoln made the unveiling of the Lincoln monument in the capitol square the great feature of Labor day. The rain clouds hovered low and their weeping only added to the sad, sad face that greeted the immense crowd when the flag was drawn aside and the great artist's conception of Lincoln came to full view. The rain was forgotten in the desire to see and hear and join in the service. Mr. Bryan's address was in a serious vein and intensely interesting, and when he paused a moment to ask how many present had ever seen the martyred president, hundreds of hands went up, many of them the hands of old veterans of the civil war, most of them were, and why, because they came to Nebraska soon after the war and took up the soldiers' homesteads on the plains of Nebraska, and they still abide with us.—Aurora Advocate.

Commenting upon the train of thought suggested by the principal speakers at the unveiling of the Lincoln monument on the state house grounds Monday a writer today finds himself a generation too late to say anything new in praise of the one in whose memory it was erected. Already the greatest memorials possible to be erected by any people have been built in honor of the martyred president.

First engraved on tablets of love and memory is the keen appreciation and reverence held by every true American, qualities to be handed down generation after generation each enhancing the beauties as the years multiply.

Then in the history of the state of Nebraska with all of its legislative and legal proceedings, likewise educational landmarks set by the great state university, there will be associated the great name of Lincoln, a gift to his memory not underestimated by the donors.

Lastly come such memorials, due as they are to crumble with the centuries, as is in the power of the general public's giving through its state exchequer; a gift only too gladly made to the capital city by the state; a gift against which there was not one penurious objector throughout a great commonwealth of a million and a quarter inhabitants.—Kearney Hub.

*State Journal*  
*September 8, 1912.*

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right—let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith let us do our duty as we understand it."

—Lincoln.

**Mr. W. D. Lincoln, Superintendent of Transportation of the Union Pacific System and nephew of one of, if not the greatest and most loved man that history records, Abraham Lincoln, is one of the non-residents who are keeping their eyes on the growth and prosperity of the capital city of Nebraska. Mr. Lincoln is a purchaser of a Woods Brothers' 6% Convertible Real Estate Bond and he will soon become the owner of a piece of Lincoln real estate. In Mr. Lincoln's position—with his hand on the pulse of one of the greatest arteries of activity in the United States, the great Union Pacific Railroad—who is in a better position than he to judge where to make a profitable and safe investment?**

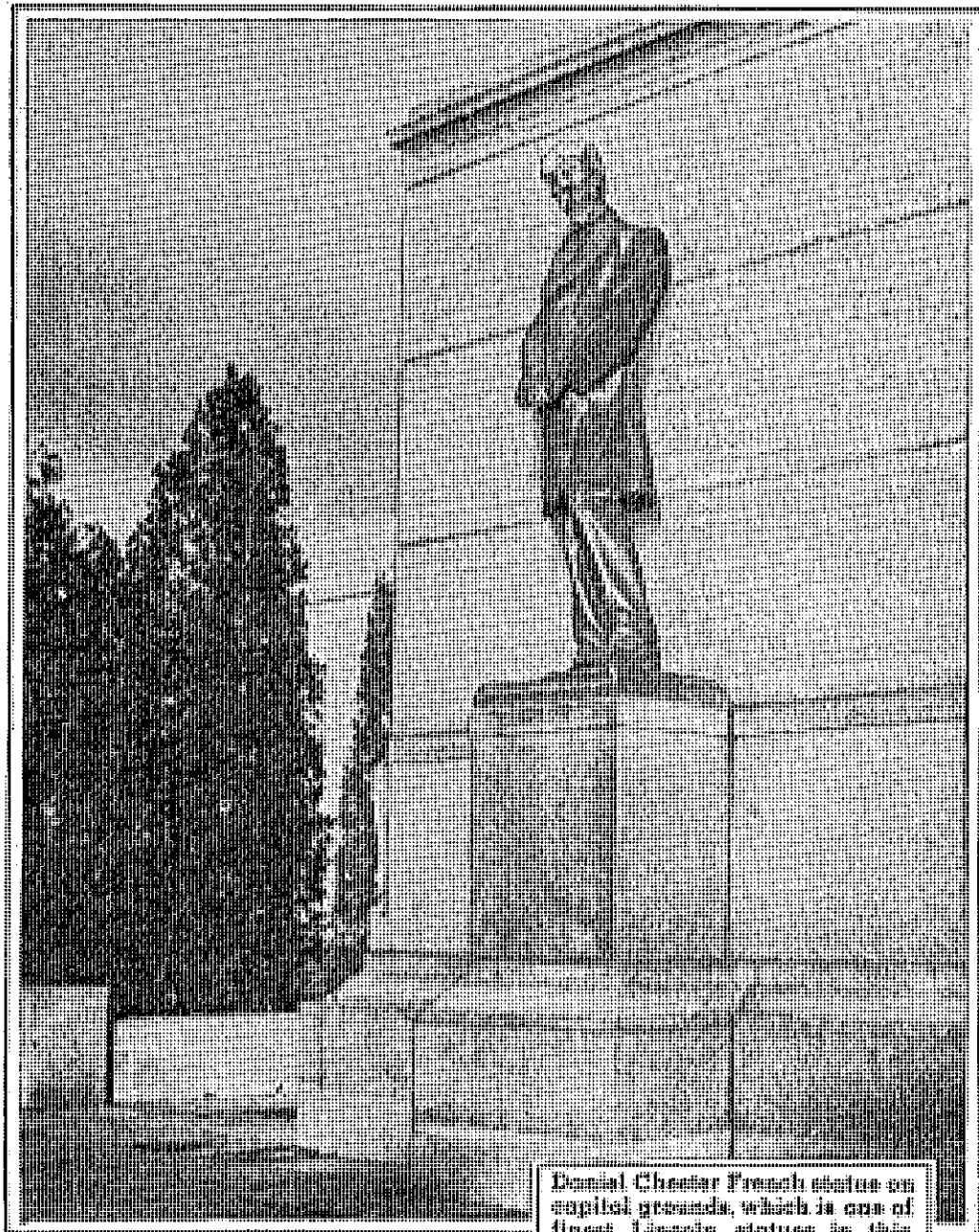


*State Journal  
April 30, 1916*



---

*State Journal. Feb. 12, 1939*



Daniel Chester French statue on  
capital grounds, which is one of  
finest Lincoln statues in this  
country.

*State Journal. Feb. 12, 1939.*

STATE CAPITOL

## THE CAPITAL QUESTION

### Nebraska and the Location of the Seat of Government at Lincoln.

Paper read before the State Historical Society, January 12, 1886, by C. H. Gere.

To found a city is a human ambition older than history. The name of the engineer that set the metes and bounds of the first block and street in Jerusalem or Athens or Philadelphia or Minneapolis may be obliterated by the tides of time, but his work endures to this day, and the man who would tamper with his records or shift his landmarks, is a miscreant by the unanimous voice of the nations. But there are other ambitions almost as exigent. Other than dreams of immortality nerves many a pioneer to make the fight for his rival site for the seat of government or a state or of a county, or for a railroad station. It is a dream of corner lots, of speculation, of bonds and mortgages and deeds and commissions and sudden wealth.

The transformation of a rough pebble to a diamond, of a fragrant dirty looking carbonate, trodden under foot by a hundred prospectors, to a button of shining metal, are realizations of the fairy tales of childhood, no more seductive to the hearsed son of the child, than the transformation of a square mile of wilderness, for the present dear enough at the cost of measuring it with compass and chain, by the breath of a law or an ordinance, into a realm worth a prince's portion.

Upon the area of a new commonwealth, therefore, are waged incessant contests. The larger armies fight for capital sites, lesser powers war for county seats, and finally small squads here and there struggle over the location of a postoffice or a sawmill, and wounds are given and received and graveyards filled with the politically slaughtered on the field or in the skirmish line, with as much recklessness as though the fate of administrations and the control of empires depended upon the issue.

The first governor of the territory of Nebraska was clothed with imperial powers by the organic act and the appointment of the president in the matter of setting up his official residence. Empowered to select the spot for the political center of his virgin domain, he wielded for a time in the minds of his fellow citizens the thunderbolt of Jove, and of Apollo. But guided the coursers

hardly had he arrived in October, 1854, at the old mission house at Bellevue, the site of the first white occupation of the territory, before he sickened, and in less than a week was dead. His last hours were troubled by the delegations on hand and forcing their way to his bedside, who came to urge the respective claims of Omaha, or Florence, or Plattsmouth or Nebraska City for the seat of government. Bellevue considered herself safe and the words of the dying Burt are often quoted by old citizens to this day as indicating that she would have won the crown had the governor lived long enough to issue the necessary proclamation.

His secretary of state, now his acting successor, Gov. Cuming, unembarrassed by the past, pledged to no one because no one had dreamed of his approaching greatness, had an embarrassment of riches in the shape of eligible sites offered him at once. Bellevue had perhaps the first claim, because she had the largest settlement and the greatest prestige. But all along the muddy banks of the Missouri above and below her, were other cities, mostly on paper, though some had arrived at the dignity of a few scattering log cabins and dugouts, that wrestled for the supremacy. Most of their inhabitants lived over in Iowa, but the fact that they intended to elect and did elect a goodly portion of the coming territorial legislature was a sufficient excuse for their pleading and they made the executive ears warm with their arguments.

By what pathways the acting governor was led to pitch the imperial tent upon the plateaux of Omaha it is not our province to inquire. If the statesmen of Kanessville, later Council Bluffs, had a hand in the matter, that city soon had reason to mourn that the nest of the new commonwealth was lined with plumage torn from her own breast. From its very cradle, her infant despoiled her of her commercial prestige and now scoffs at her maternal ancestor every time she glances across the four miles of dreary bottom that separates the waxing from the waning metropolis.

For the time being Omaha was the capital and the first legislature with ample power to endorse or cancel the governor's location was the next subject of the executive attention, and it was his chiefest care to fortify and defend Omaha. A pretended enumeration of the inhabitants of the territory was made in November, 1854, upon which the governor proceeded to base the representation of the members of the territorial council and house of representatives. Four counties were constructed out of the Platte, named Burt, Douglas, Washington and Dodge and were assigned to the South, Cass, Pierce, Forney and

Richardson. Douglas county extended to the Platte embracing what is now Sarpy, and Pierce and Forney stood for what are now the counties of Otoe and Nemaha.

To the counties north of the Platte were apportioned seven councilmen and fourteen representatives and to the southern counties were given six councilmen and twelve representatives. The enumeration made next year showed that the four northern counties contained 2,065 inhabitants and the four counties south of the Platte contained 2,944. Here was the beginning of the trouble, the inequitable apportionment of the legislative representation, by which the section of the state known thenceforth as the "South Platte" country was arbitrarily placed in the minority in each branch of the legislature, though greatly preponderating in population and wealth.

It is a matter of tradition that there was no definite eastern boundary of the territory during that first legislative election. The candidates were often residents of Iowa, who had claims on the other side of the great river whose name as well as birthright had been stolen by a lesser affluent of the Mississippi to the eastward, and were voted for in Pottawatomie and Mills and Fremont as well as in Washington, Douglas and Cass. Sometimes the electors would form a camp for polling purposes on Nebraska soil, but where this was inconvenient it is rumored that they transacted the necessary business without leaving their Iowa homes, and merely dated their papers from the new commonwealth.

The governor's location was not disputed by that body or the next. But when the third annual session of the territorial legislature opened in 1857 the trouble began immediately. The council still numbered seven from the north and six from the south while the house had been increased to thirty one members, sixteen from the north and fifteen from the south. Douglas county absorbed twelve of the sixteen north Platte members. But her delegation was divided against itself. The memory of the lost chances that had stricken Bellevue with dry rot and had blighted the budding hopes of the Florentines, rankled in the bosoms of two representatives, one of whom hailed from the southern and the other from the northern extremity of the county. Youthful politicians wear out their hearts with the vain imagining that "to get even" is the chiefest end of statesmanship and these united with the chafed warriors of the south in a raid on Omaha.

A bill was passed early in the session by both houses locating the seat of government "in the town of Douglas in the county of Lancaster." It was a curious prophecy of the event ten

over

years later. Stephen A. Douglas was then the rising star of the party that had been dominant for thirty-two out of the forty years last past. He was the idol of the democracy of the north and was exhausting the resources of an acute and fertile intellect in plans for conciliating his southern brethren without losing his hold upon the affections of the north. He was certain to be a candidate for president and if the party was united was certain of election. Three years later he and his cunningly devised statesmanship was swept away, his old townsman and hitherto almost unknown competitor had supplanted him as the great popular leader and ten years later gave the name to the capital of Nebraska.

Governor Izard, who had in the mean time relieved acting Governor Cumming of the burden of executive honors, promptly vetoed the bill. He explained in his message that it was a sudden movement of the enemies of Omaha, that the question had not been agitated by the people, that the alleged town of Douglas in the county of Lancaster was a mere figment of the legislative imagination, invented for the occasion, and that in its actual location in the county named was problematical, being as yet the football of factions within the faction that had passed the removal bill.

A year later, at the meeting of the fourth legislative assembly, the quarrel broke out afresh. Governor Izard had resigned, and Richardson, his successor, had not arrived and Secretary Cumming was again in the chair. Nine days prior to the expiration of that session, on the 7th of January, a bill was introduced for the removal of the capital to Florence. The various tactical obstructions in the reach of the minority, engineered by such rising young statesmen as Dr. Geo. L. Miller, president of the council, and A. J. Poppleton and J. Sterling Morton in the house made it impossible to accomplish the object without strategy. The strategy resorted to was simple but startling. On the morning of the 8th Mr. Donelan of Cass placidly rose in his place and moved that we do now adjourn to meet in Florence tomorrow morning at the usual hour. Speaker Decker, who was one of the renovers, put the question from the chair as though it was the most natural thing in the world to meet at Florence tomorrow morning, and the motion prevailed, and the speaker and all but thirteen members of the house picked up their hats and left the chamber. The thirteen held the fort, elected Morton speaker pro tem, and gallantly effected an adjournment to meet again on the morrow at the old stand.

A similar scene was transpiring in the council. Dr. Miller, in the chair, refused to put the motion to adjourn to Florence, and it was put by Reeves of

Otoe, declared carried, and eight councilmen stalked out into the cold world and prepared themselves for an eternal exodus to the village up the river. As to this emigration Douglas county was again divided against herself. Bowen and Allen, the one representing Florence and the other standing for that cruel Juno, Bellevue, whose lofty mind still revolved vengeance for the judgment of Paris and her injured beauty, were the leaders in the race, and behind the twain marched Bradford and Reeves of Otoe, Kirkpatrick of Cass, Safford of Dodge and Furnas of Nemaha.

Governor Richardson arrived about this time to find two capitals and two legislatures in full blast, and himself the unwilling arbitrator of the war. He promptly refused to recognize the Florence legislature, though it had the majority of both houses. The forty days limit of the session broke up both bodies, and they each adjourned, leaving the business of the session undone and the territory without a code of criminal law, and thus ended the first and last attempt recorded in history to attach the removal of a seat of government to a motion to adjourn until tomorrow morning.

The consequence was an extra session not long after in 1859, at which much business was done and in which Mr. Daily of Nemaha introduced a bill to abolish slavery in the territory, but during which the capital agitation slumbered and slept.

Then there was an interregnum. The civil war quenched sectional bickerings and the ambitions of leaders had objects more alluring than the founding of cities. But the war came to an end, and when the last territorial legislature of 1867 met, the old question of unfair apportionment came to the front again. The population of the South Platte section had increased until it was about double that of the counties north of the troublesome stream. But the superior tactics of the Douglas county leaders had held down its representation to such an extent that it had but seven of the thirteen councilmen and twenty-one of the thirty-seven representatives. Two threads of policy had intertwined to make the resistance to a reappointment, based upon actual population, sufficiently strong to overcome the justice supposed to be latent in the minds of statesmen.

The first was the fear entertained by Douglas county of the reopening of the capital agitation. The North Platte was now about a unit in favor of Omaha as against a southern competitor. The second was a political consideration. A reapportionment meant a cutting down of the representation from Otoe as well as Douglas counties, both democratic strongholds. These counties with the assistance of some lesser constituencies in the north of the

Platte which sent democratic delegations were able to hold a very even balance in the legislature against the republicans though the latter had an unquestionable majority in the territory. Now that statehood was imminent, and there were two United States senators to be elected by a state legislature soon to be called, in case President Johnson should succeed in his plan of defeating our admission under the enabling act of 1864, it was of immense importance to stave off a reapportionment.

Hence for capital reasons the republicans from the North Platte and the democrats from the South Platte worked in harmony with Douglas county members in preserving a basis of representation in its original injustice. The usual bill for a new apportionment had been introduced and passed the senate and came to the house, but the four votes from Otoe county being solid against it, it was sleeping the sleep of the just. In the speaker's chair was Wm. F. Chapin of Cass, an expert parliamentarian, cool, determined, watchful and untiring. The session was drawing to a close, and it was Saturday, the term expiring at 12 o'clock midnight on the following mornny, and as usual the results of the pretty much all the toil and perspiration of the forty days depended upon a ready and rapid dispatch of business during the remaining hours of the session.

There was something sinister in the air. It was whispered about that morning that the reapportionment bill had at last a majority in case Deweese of Richardson, who was absent on leave, should put in an appearance. A vote or two had been brought over from some of the northern districts remote from Omaha and anxious for republican domination. "Fuu" was therefore expected. It came very soon after the roll was called in the opening of the session. The credentials of D. M. Rolfe of Otoe, who had not been in attendance during the session but who was an anti-reapportionist, were called up, and it was moved that they be reported to a special committee. The ayes and nays were demanded. Pending roll call, it was moved that a call of the house be ordered. The call was ordered and the doors closed. All the members answered to their names but Deweese of Richardson and Dorsey of Washington. Then the other side made a motion that further proceedings under the call be dispersed with. The ayes and noes were demanded and there were seventeen ayes and sixteen noes. Speaker Chapin announced that he voted "no" and that being a tie, the motion was lost. An appeal was taken from the decision of the chair and the vote resulted in another tie, and the appeal was declared lost. The rule is that an

*Continued*

affirmative proposition cannot be carried by a tie vote, but that all questions are decided in the negative. The usual form of putting the question by a speaker is "Shall the decision of the chair stand as the judgment of the house?" The negative would be that it should not so stand. But in that case a decision of the chair is reversed by less than a majority of the members voting, which is of course absurd. It was a dead lock. The house still refused to suspend proceedings under the call, and there was no recourse, except by revolution. The result was a curious demonstration of the absurdity of manipulating a proposition by the use of misleading formulas so that the negative side of a question may appear to be the affirmative.

The hours passed, but "No Thoroughfare" was written on the faces of the reapportionists. They said that until they had some assurance that a reapportionment bill would be passed before the adjournment they would prevent the transaction of any more business. Secretly they expected Dewese, who was rumored to be well enough to attend, and they waited for his appearance. But he did not come. The doorkeeper and the sergeant at arms had orders to let no man out, and when the noontide passed and the shadows lengthened, the members sent for refreshments and lunched at their desks. The night came. Some of the refreshments had been of a very partisan character and there was blood on the horizon. Many became hilarious, and the lobby was exceedingly noisy. From hilarity to pugnacity is but a short step. Arms and munitions of war were smuggled in during the evening by the outside friends of both sides, and it was pretty confidently whispered about that the conclusion was to be tried by force of revolvers.

A little after 10 o'clock p. m. Augustus F. Harvey of Otoe rose and moved that Speaker Chapin be deposed and that Dan. S. Parmalee of Douglas be elected to fill the vacancy. He then put the question to a viva voce vote and declared the motion adopted and Mr. Parmalee elected speaker of the house. The stalwart form of Mr. Parmalee, the fighting man of the faction, immediately lifted himself from a desk near by and advanced toward the chair, backed up by Harvey and a procession of his friends. As he placed his foot upon the first step of the dais, Speaker Chapin suddenly unlimbered a Colt's navy duly cocked and warned him briefly to the effect that the Pythagorean proposition that two bodies could not occupy the same space at the same time was a rule of the house and would be enforced by the combined armament at the command of the proper presiding officer. Daniel paused upon the brink of fate and hesitated upon about his next step. To hesitate was to be lost. The speaker announced

that in accordance with the rules of the house in cases of great disorder, he declared the house adjourned until 9 o'clock Monday morning and sprang for the door. The Omaha lobby had promised faithfully when the crisis came to guard that door and permit no rebel from the South Platte to escape. The first man to reach the door was said to be Kelley of Platte who had joined the forces of the reapportionists, and it is a tradition that he leaped over the legislative stove to get there on time. The door was burst open and before the volunteer guard could recover its equilibrium the seceders had escaped and were out of the building scattering to the four quarters of the globe. But they had a rendezvous agreed upon in a secret place and in a half an hour they were safely entrenched and on guard against any sergeant-at-arms and posse that might be dispatched to return them to durance vile.

The Parmalee house immediately organized, admitted Rolfe of Otoe to full membership and proceeded to clear the docket of accumulated bills. Members of the lobby trooped in and voted the names of the absent and everything proceeded in an unanimous way that must have astonished the walls of the chamber if they had ears and memory. About dawn, however, the situation began to lose its rosate hue and an adjournment was had till Monday morning.

Before that time arrived the hopelessness of the situation dawned on both factions. They perceived that nothing whatever would come of the deadlock. Neither party had a quorum. Dewese of Richardson could not be brought in to cast his vote for reapportionment, and by common consent a peace was concluded and Monday was spent in an amicable settlement of the arrears of routine business.

But this episode created a sensation all over the state and intensified partisan and sectional feeling. The adjournment took place on the 18th of February, and two days later on the 20th, the state legislature chosen at the same time under the enabling act met at the call of Governor Saunders to accept or reject the "fundamental condition" insisted on by congress as a condition precedent to the admission of the state. The condition was that the word "white" in the constitution theretofore passed by the legislature and ratified by the people, should not be construed as debarring from the franchise any citizen of Nebraska on account of color or race.

The state legislature promptly ratified the "fundamental condition," and declared that white meant in their constitution any color whatever. Ten days later and the President's proclamation had been issued declaring Nebraska a state in the union. The

state officers were sworn in immediately after official notice had been given, and Governor Butler began at once to prepare his call for a special session of the legislature to put the machinery of state in motion.

It was insisted upon by the leaders of the republican party in the south and west that a reapportionment of member of the legislature should be one of the objects of legislation enumerated in the call. This was bitterly opposed by many republicans in Douglas and other northern counties. It was also asked, this time by democrats as well as republicans from Otoe as well as from Cass and Richardson and the south western counties, that a clause should be inserted making the location of the seat of government of the state one of the objects of the special session. The governor was averse to commencing his administration with a capital wrangle, but thought that it would be good policy to make use of the suggestion for the purpose of securing reapportionment without a repetition of the bitter struggle of the winter. He therefore opened negotiations with the Douglas county delegation to the coming legislature and promised them that he would leave out the capital question provided they would pledge themselves to sustain a reapportionment. They flatly refused. They claimed that the legislature could not constitutionally reapportion the representation until after the next census, and as for capital removal they were not brought up in the woods to be scared by an owl. The Otoe delegation however had changed its base. The senators had been elected and seated and political considerations had lost their force with the democrats in that county. They wanted the capital removed south of the Platte, and they promised if the governor would "put that in" they would march right up and vote for apportionment.

His excellency had gone too far to retreat, and when his call was issued it embraced both capital removal and reapportionment, having consulted a distinguished constitution constructor, Judge Jamison of Chicago, on the latter point and obtained an elaborate opinion that it was not only in the power of the legislature, but its bounden duty, under the constitution, to reapportion the representation at its first session.

The legislature met on the 18th of May and the lines were quickly drawn for the emergency. Reapportionment was a fixed fact, and after a few days spent in reconnoitering a solid majority in both houses seemed likely to agree upon a scheme for capital location. Mr. Harvey, who had led the assault upon reapportionment at the late session of the territorial legislature, was an active leader of his late antagonists for relocation. Party af-



affiliations were ruptured all along the line, and the new lines were formed on a sectional basis. The bill was prepared with deliberation, much caucassing being required before it would satisfy the various elements in the movement, and was introduced in both houses on the 4th of June. It was entitled "An act to provide for the location of the seat of government of the state of Nebraska, and for the erection of public buildings thereat." It named the governor, David Butler, the secretary of state, Thomas P. Kennard, and the auditor, John Gillespie, commissioners, who should select on or before July 15, a date changed by a supplementary bill to September 1, 1867, from lands belonging to the state lying within the county of Seward the south half of the counties of Saunders and Butler and that portion of Lancaster county lying north of the south line of township nine, a suitable site of not less than 40 acres lying in one body, for a town, to have the same survey, and named "Lincoln," and declared the same to permanent seat of government of the state.

The bill directed the commissioners after the site had been surveyed, to offer the lots in each alternate block for sale to the highest bidder after thirty days advertisement, having appraised the same, but that no lots should be sold for less than the appraised value. The first sale should be held for five successive days at Lincoln on the site after which sales should be opened for the same duration, first at Nebraska City and next at Omaha. If a sufficient number of lots should not by this time be disposed of to defray the expenses of the selection and survey and to erect a building as described in the bill, further sales might be advertised and held in Plattsmouth and Brownville. All moneys derived from these sales, which should be for cash, should be deposited in the state treasury and there held by the treasurer as a state building fund. From the proceeds of these sales the commissioners should proceed to advertise for plans and contracts and cause to be erected a building suitable for executive offices and the accommodation of the two houses of the legislature, that might be a part of a larger building to be completed in the future, the cost of which wing or part of a building, should not exceed fifty thousand dollars. The bill passed the senate on the 10th day of June. Those voting for it were Jesse T. Davis of Washington, James E. Doon and Lawson Sheldon of Cass, Oscar Holden of Johnson, Thos. J. Majors of Nemaha, Wm. A. Presson of Richardson and Mills S. Reeves and W. W. Wardell of Otoe. The noes were Harlan Baird of Dakota, Isaac S. Hascall and J. N. H. Patrick of Douglas, E. H. Rogers of Dodge and Frank K. Freeman of Lincoln.

The house passed the bill two days later, under suspension of the rules forwarding it to its third reading. As in the senate, so in the house, the opponents of the bill, resorted to strategy for stampeding the friends of the measure, and offered numerous amendments to locate the capitol or the university or the agricultural college at Nebraska City, or in the boundaries of Cass or Nemaha counties. But all amendments were steadily voted down by a solid phalanx. The gentlemen in the house voting "aye" on its final passage were David M. Anderson, John B. Bennet, Wm. M. Hicklin, Aug. F. Harvey and George W. Sroat of Otoe, J. R. Butler of Pawnee, John Cadman of Lancaster, E. L. Clark of Seward, W. F. Chapin, D. Cole, A. B. Fuller and Isaac Wiles of Cass, Geo. Crowe, Wm. Dailey, Louis Waldter and C. F. Haywood of Nemaha, J. M. Deweese, Gustavus Duerfeldt, T. J. Collius and J. T. Hoile of Richardson, Henry Morton of Dixon, Dean C. Stade and John A. Unthank of Washington, Oliver Townsend of Gage, and George P. Tucker of Johnson.—25.

The "noes" were O. W. Baltzley of Dakota, Henry Beebe of Dodge, Geo. N. Crawford and A. W. Trumble of Sarpy, Geo. W. Frost, Joel T. Griffin, Martin Dunham, J. M. Woolworth and Dan S. Parmelee of Douglas, and John A. Wallichs of Platte.—10.

It will be observed that several votes were cast for the bill from the northern counties. Tied up with the capitol removal was a bill engineered by the secretary of state Mr. Kennard, then a resident of Washington county, and Senator Davis, appropriating seventy-five sections of state internal improvement lands for the building of a railroad now a part of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley line, running from the river near Blair to Fremont. It was then called "The North Nebraska Air Line." Another measure was also attached to these two to make the syndicate solid in Nemaha, the only county that had sent up a remonstrance against the removal of the capital. It was a bill accepting for the state the tender of the Methodist Episcopal seminary at Peru for a state normal school, and donating twenty sections of state lands for the endowment of the same. The three bills and the re-apportionment bill received virtually the same support in both houses and all passed about the same time.

The plans of the capital movers so far had not met with the determined resistance that had been anticipated, although the parliamentarians from Douglas and other counties had exhausted the resources of ordinary tactics at the command of the minority. The fact was that for several months Omaha had been making such a rapid commercial growth, owing to the extension of the Union Pacific railroad to the frontier and the incoming of

the Chicago & Northwestern road, from central Iowa to Council Bluffs, that her businessmen had their hands full. Their ambitions had expanded. The capital question was dwarfed by the prospect of becoming in the near future a great commercial metropolis. Real estate was going up like a rocket. Capitalists were crowding in every day, and the faces of the new comers, seen on the streets greatly outnumbered the familiar physiognomies of the old settlers of 'fifty-four and 'sixty. What had Omaha to fear even if the Utopian scheme of founding a "city fifty miles from anywhere," as

they called it, should succeed? It was too far away from the Union Pacific and the Missouri to be of any importance. The lobby was therefore conspicuous for its absence. There was more money to be made in a day in trading lots and securing railroad contracts than in a month of wrestling with the fads of rural legislators. Just at that time, it is due to historical truthfulness to say that Omaha cared little for the questions that were taking up the attention of the law makers at the state house.

The departure of the capital commission to hunt a site for Lincoln was a subject of merriment to the newspapers of the old capital. Not until after much travelling to and fro, looking at sites through the length and breadth of the territory defined by the act, the commissioners on the 29th of July issued their order locating Lincoln in Lancaster county on and about the site of Lancaster, its county seat, and commenced to survey the same into blocks, lots, reservations, streets and alleys did the press of Omaha wake to the realities of the situation.

Then there was music in the air. The act provided that within ten days after its passage the commissioners should qualify and give bonds to be approved by a judge of the supreme court. The bonds were to be filed with the state treasurer. Now it had been ascertained that though the commissioners had sent in their bonds to the chief justice, and he had approved them in the stipulated time, they had not been filed with the treasurer inside of the ten days. It was announced therefore, that they had no authority to do anything under the law and that if they sold what purported to be lots in the town site of Lincoln, the treasurer, Hon. Augustus Kountz of Omaha, would receive the money and hold it for future disposition, but he wouldn't pay out any of it as a capital building fund. At any rate injunction would be applied for to prevent him. The announcement was calculated to discourage those intending to become purchasers of Lincoln lots. It did have a very depressing effect. The commissioners said that to be forewarned was to be forearmed, and as they had determined to avoid litigation and the possible ty-

*Continued*

ing up of the money until the meeting of the next legislature they should keep it in their own hands and pay it out without the intervention of the treasurer. This promise was faithfully kept. The next legislature formally legalized this and other departures from the strict letter of the law made by them in the pursuit of success, but for the time being it was a very serious embarrassment. //

The sale of lots opened on the new site in October. The commissioners were on the spot with quite a number of possible purchasers. The auctioneer was a handsome man and had a good voice. There was a band of music in attendance and it played as well as any band ought to play so far away from civilization. But not a bid could be coaxed from a single soul. The commissioners had decided, upon consideration, that they would not personally invest. It was deemed proper to observe the proprieties very strictly and to avoid future scandals, they would keep out. But this was a matter of suspicion to the crowd present. If the commissioners haven't enough confidence in the new city to purchase a residence or business lot, why should we venture any investment? Night came on and not a lot had been sold.

A council of war was summoned in the evening in the Donavan house, and the commissioners, and certain gentlemen from Nebraska City were in attendance. The Nebraska City capitalists said that the commissioners ought to bid on lots, and the commissioners said that the Nebraska City men who were so much responsible for the scheme ought to bid. Finally it was conceded that both ought to bid. The Nebraska City men formed a syndicate that agreed to bid the appraised value on every lot as it was offered and as much more in case of competition as they thought safe, until they had taken ten thousand dollars worth of lots. But there was a proviso that in case the sales did not amount in five days to twenty-five thousand dollars, including the syndicate's ten thousand, the whole business should be declared "off," the enterprise abandoned and no money be paid in. The commissioners also recinded their compact against becoming personal bidders, for they saw that matters were in a very precarious condition, and they had to imbue the people present with some confidence in Lincoln. The next day business began in earnest. When the five days had passed \$44,000 had been realized, and the prospects were considered certain for the erection of a capitol building. By the time the sales at Nebraska City and Omaha had been finished \$53,000 had been taken in, and no supplementary sales at Plattsmouth and Brownville were held, though comparatively few lots had been disposed of to realize the necessary amount.

Lancaster, the site of which had been swallowed up by Lincoln after the proprietors had decided it to the state in consideration of the location of the capital, was a hamlet of five dwellings, a part of one being used as a store, and the stone walls of a building commenced as a seminary by the Methodist church, but which had partly burned before completion and had been temporarily abandoned. The residents on the original plot of Lincoln were Captain W. T. Donovan, whose house stood on the corner of Ninth and Q, on the site now occupied by the Peoria house; Jacob Dawson, whose log dwelling was on the south side of O, between Seventh and Eighth, and who had commenced the foundations of a residence on the corner of Tenth and O, where the State National bank now stands; Milton Langdon, who lived in a small stone house east of Dawson's, between O and P; Luke Laverender, whose log cabin stood in Fourteenth, just south of O, and John McKesson, who was constructing a frame cottage two or three blocks north of the University. Scattered about just outside the city limits as then established, on premises that have since been brought in in the shape of additions, were the residences of Rev. J. M. Young, Wm. Guy, Phillip Hamrick, E. T. Hudson, E. Warnes and John Gifes. Between the date of the location and the first sale of lots a number of buildings were erected on the site, the owners taking their chances at the sales of securing their titles by purchase. There were two frame stores, one occupied by Pflug Brothers and another by Rich & Co., a law office by S. B. Gale, a shoe shop by Robert and John Monteith, a stone building, afterwards rented to the *Commonwealth*, the predecessor of THE STATE JOURNAL, by Jacob Drum, a hotel called the "Pioneer House," by Col. Donovan. These buildings were located on or in the vicinity of the public square and fixed the business center of Lincoln.

As soon as the sale was finished the commissioners proceeded to advertise for plans for a capitol building. John Morris was the successful architect and Joseph Ward secured the contract for its construction on his bid of forty-nine thousand dollars.

The excavation was commenced in November, and by the first of December of the following year, 1868, was sufficiently completed for occupancy and the governor issued his proclamation transferring the seat of government to Lincoln and for the removal of the state offices and archives to the new building. The first capitol was constructed of sandstone quarried at various points within Lancaster county, with a facing of magnesian limestone from a quarry near Beatrice. This stone was hauled the forty miles

over roads and bridges in part constructed by the contractor.

The considerations that led the commissioners to select Lincoln in preference to the sites offered at Ashland, Milford, Camden and other points, were, first, the fact that in the several preliminary surveys made from various points on the Missouri river from Plattsmouth down to Falls City, all had this place as a common point. It was the natural railroad center to all appearances for the large irregular parallelogram running west from the Missouri between the Platte on the north and the Kansas or Kaw on the south to the plains of eastern Colorado. The eastern portion of this parallelogram was even then alleged by enthusiastic Nebraskans, to be the garden spot of the continent. It has produced the largest average of corn to the acre of any equal and continuous area reported by our census gatherers. At that time though its capacity for corn was not fully appreciated, it was regarded as a wonderful wheat growing section. It has lost its prestige in spring wheat but it holds its own in corn, oats, grass and fruit, and is all that the fancy of the fathers of '67 painted it.

The second consideration was the proximity of the great salt basin in which all the salt springs of the state that gave promise of future importance were located. It was generally believed that the salt manufacture alone would build a stirring city. The third reason was that it was about as far from the Missouri river as it was advisable to go. To take it twenty miles further west would be to remove it from any immediate expectation of rail communication and so increase the expense of building, that it would be impossible to dispose of the lots or to erect a capitol with the proceeds within the two years, and hence the enterprise would fail. It was furthermore generally believed that the site selected was about midway between the western limit of arable land and that it would always be the center of population.

The legislature met in January '69 in the new capitol, approved the acts of the commissioners without very much criticism, provided for the erection of a State University and agricultural college on the site reserved, and for an insane hospital on state lands secured by the commission on Yankee Hill, and ordered the sale of the remaining lots and blocks belonging to the state to furnish the funds for such buildings in connection with certain lands available for the purpose. They also made appropriations amounting to about sixteen thousand dollars for completing the capitol building with a dome, and for defraying the expense of "extras" ordered by the commissioners on the state house to make it comfortable and

over

habitable. Several thousand dollars were used in grading the grounds, fencing the same, planting them with trees and erecting outbuildings. The total cost of the building, fittings and grounds is finally stated at \$83,000.

Under the various acts and appropriations of that legislature the sale of lots continued at intervals during '69 and '70. Three hundred and sixteen thousand dollars was the sum realized from these sales, making a sum total of about \$370,000 that the original site of Lincoln brought into the state. It was not a bad investment for young Nebraska, but its success as a real estate speculation was almost wholly due to the energy and pluck of the commissioners, that led them from time to time to overcome technical obstacles and defects in the law, and take desperate political and financial chances as the alternative of the ignominious failure of the schemes. They were applauded and honored in '69 and '70 but a reaction set in in '71 and they met a nemesis, that for a time threatened them not only with disgrace but absolute destruction.

But for three years <sup>these</sup> men played the star parts on the political stage in the infant state and they have left a monument to the efficiency of their work to their business sagacity and to their political courage that bids fair to be as enduring as history.

In its first year, Lincoln grew to be a village of about 800 inhabitants. In 1870 the census revealed a population of 2,400. In 1875 it was the second city in the state and numbered 7,300. In '80 it had 13,000 people and in 1885 it had reached and passed twenty thousand.

When it was surveyed the nearest railroad connecting with the eastern markets was at Omaha and St. Joseph, Missouri. In 1880 it had eight diverging lines to all points of the compass, and in 1890 it bids fair to have a round dozen spokes to its commercial wheel. In this remarkable progress, she is but an exemplar of her state and her people. A century of improvement in twenty years is the rule in Nebraska and has been from the day she took her place in the galaxy of the union.

*State Journal*  
*January 13, 1886.*

IN MEMORY OF WASHINGTON.

The stars and stripes will float over the state capitol today, which is the centenary of Washington's farewell address to the people of the United States, issued September 19, 1798. Members of the local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution requested the state authorities to display the flag and the request was granted. Daughters of the Revolution throughout the country are laboring to secure appropriate observance of the day. They desire that the day be marked by a universal display of the flag on all public and private buildings, that the importance of the day be placed before all patriotic organizations, presidents of colleges, superintendents of public schools, all institutions of learning, boards of trade and civil authorities, and also that the press be appealed to to republish Washington's address, to the end that it may reach the home of every citizen.

*State Journal*  
*Sept. 19, 1896*

## BOYS ON A TEAR.

### Seven Kick the Plastering Off the Dome of the Capitol.

Seven boys ranging in age from twelve to sixteen years, were arrested yesterday afternoon in the state capitol by the head janitor, W. P. Humphrie. Mr. Humphrie complained to the police that the boys were in the habit of climbing upstairs and kicking all the plastering off the ceiling. They did not stop at that, but adopted other measures to mar the appearance of the building. The boys gave their names at the station as George Bostater, Clyde Love, John Lewis, William Lindsay, Fred Beebe and John Miller.

*State Journal*  
*Jan. 28, 1897*

The rotunda of the state house has been a popular place during the past week. Nearly every visitor to the assembly feels it his or her duty to take a bird's eye view of Lincoln from this exalted position. As a result there is always someone up on the little platform during the day looking out over the city. The various departments come in for their share of visitors also and officials have many questions and inquiries to answer with regard to the striking points of the building and the grounds.

*State Journal*  
*Sept. 10, 1898*

## STATE HOUSE CRUMBLING

### Settling of Foundation Causes

#### Some Apprehension.

Land Commissioner Follmer was called to the east wing of the state house yesterday to prevent it from falling down. The trouble was found to exist in the oil inspector's office. That part of the building is built on a sand bed and soon after the big stone walls were constructed they sank three or four inches. The disjointed blocks of stone on the outside of the building show plainly where the sinking process took place. Recently a lady stenographer in the oil inspector's office noticed that her table was far from level. One end was so much lower than the other that she thought the castors had come off. It was discovered that the floor had sunk and thus caused the unevenness. An inspection of the wall showed a large crack through the plastering and paper. Another crack appeared at the junction of the ceiling and the east wall of the room. These evidences of further settling of the wall caused some apprehension but the walls are so thick that very little damage is looked for. No visible evidence of damage has been found in an adjoining office occupied by Superintendent Fowler where some damage was done years ago.

The old settlers who saw the building erected assert that a sand bed was found at considerable depth when an excavation was made for the foundation. To remedy the matter an arch was built in the foundation, but that plan did not succeed as well as was expected. What action if any is necessary has not been determined by the state officers.

*State Journal*  
*March 2, 1901*

The ruined-like appearance of the stone walks about the state house is being changed by the application of cement to the spaces between the flag stones. Dirt accumulated in the crevices and a fine crop of weeds grew up each year. All efforts to kill the grass and weeds proved a failure and now cement is being used. The dirt is first removed from the crevices and the cement is poured in and spread with trowels.

*State Journal*  
*June 8, 1901*



**Capitol as Lodging House.**

The state board of public lands and buildings has given Land Commissioner Eaton full power as custodian of the capitol. It is said the board will authorize Mr. Eaton to issue an order that none of the rooms in the building be used for sleeping rooms. Some employes have economized by carting beds into the state house. Gas has been used for both light and cooking purposes and the state has paid the bill. This is to be stopped.

H. L. Beeson, the janitor appointed by the governor, has been notified by the board of public lands and buildings of his reappointment and that he will be under the supervision of Land Commissioner Eaton.

*State Journal,  
Jan. 8, 1905.*

The steam heating plant at the state house yesterday during coldest weather of the season was operated with better results than was before known in the history of the state. The large legislative halls which are usually uncomfortable on extremely cold days were at the proper temperature. After the two houses adjourned a large number of the legislators spent the remainder of the day at work at their desks or in committee rooms. 1-26-05.

*State Journal  
Jan. 26, 1905*

## LOCKED IN CAPITOL DOME

**Two Sightseers Spend Anxious  
Hours Before Released.**

Locked in the dome of the capitol building late yesterday afternoon, E. C. Cederlof and a lady friend spent several hours before they were released. They climbed the long stairway to the top of the dome shortly before closing time and forgot that they had only a few minutes to make the trip. While they were still admiring the scenery the janitor locked the door at the bottom of the stairway, put the key in his pocket and went home. Then the couple tried to get out but they could neither force the door or attract the attention of anyone in the building. They went back to the top and by a vigorous use of their lungs made a passerby understand their plight.

This was at 6:45 o'clock after they had been prisoners considerably more than an hour. The man who heard them telephoned the police and after some time Sergeant McGuire located Major Moore, a janitor at the state house and he promised to release the couple. At 8:40 he reported to the police that he had just completed the job. He was unable to find the janitor to whom is entrusted the key to the dome, but with the help of the night watch they broke open the door. Mr. Cederlof says he works for Swift & Co., and was to have spent the evening with friends at the Commercial club.

*State Journal*  
*April 30, 1905*

## FEAR CAPITOL IS DOOMED

Old Residents Tell of Pit Under Its Foundation.

Several of the old residents of the city tell a story that throws light on the real cause of the sinking of the southeast corner of the east wing of the capitol building. It is argued that for the past ten or fifteen years this part of the capitol has been slowly sinking. Captain Baird tells an interesting story of the making of the first capitol. The original capitol building was erected in a large field on the spot where the center of the present capitol now stands. At that time building material was very expensive and the stone used in the construction of this building was hauled from Beatrice by teams. A few feet from where the building was being erected a sand pit was dug. The location of this spot is where the vault in the rooms of the superintendent of public instruction now stands.

Beneath the hard surface a fine sand that was used in the mortar was found. As the top was very hard, a hole only four feet across was dug until loose sand was struck, and then the excavation widened out into a great room beneath the ground, with the small mouth at the top. At first the sand was hoisted out of the pit with a windlass, horse power being used later.

Captain Baird said that the first man to die in Lincoln was killed in this sand pit, when the loose sand around the sides caved in, smothering him. The victim of the accident was Thomas Chesnut, who at that time was boarding with Mr. Baird. After the completion of the building the hole in the ground became a public dumping ground, rubbish of every description being thrown into it until it was filled.

C. B. Fox, who was foreman of the concrete work of the present building, completes the story. The original building was in use while the two wings of the present capitol were being added. The west wing was first built, and later the east wing. When the foundation was being laid for the east wing, a yielding piece of ground was discovered. This was the mouth of the sand pit that had been filled in with old rubbish. Old shoes, cans and the like were found here, and while the architect realized that this was filled ground, he did not suspect that it extended over any larger area than the small hole visible on the surface. The "neck of the jug" was bridged over with a firm arch, and the wing was completed.

The original capitol was then torn down and the middle section as it now stands was built. The foundation for the dome was built in four sections so that the different sections might have a chance to settle without damaging anything. This foundation was constructed so as to support forty-five thousand tons of stone, not including the iron work that completes the dome above the mason work. All of the sections soon settled on firm ground except the southeast section, which sank at two different times, dropping two inches each fall. It was necessary to straighten the floor beams after these drops, but nothing was thought of it, as it was supposed the section was on a softer piece of ground, little suspecting it was near a large filled area.

Mr. Fox cites this as being conclusive evidence that there was at one time a great sand pit where the building is now sinking. He believes that the tremendous weight upon the southeast section of the dome's foundation had crowded the solid ground into the great filled area, letting that section make such a perceptible drop. After the completion of the center part of the capitol, the two wings were joined and the building stands as it does today.

That part of the building that is now sinking is directly over this large sand pit, and it is supposed the weight has broken the sandstone layer so that the building is now resting on the filled ground. The building is suffering the greatest damage directly over the mouth of the "jug." Mr. Fox said that he was confident no other part of the building would be affected, and that the real danger was not at the base of the building but at the top, where the rafters and trusses are now being gradually pulled from place as the south side of the east wing drops.

The real danger is to be looked from the crashing in of these beams and trusses that form the roof of the house of representatives. Several years ago the top of this wing was seen to be widening and a great bolt was passed through the east end of the wing, to prevent its further widening. It is estimated that the southeast wing has dropped from six to eight inches. The great trusses forming the roof of that wing cannot have much more room to slide before they will slide off of their resting place.

*State Journal*  
*Feb. 24, 1907*

**State Capitol Building**

The state has installed a plant at the penitentiary capable of furnishing electricity to properly light the executive mansion, the orthopedic hospital, the home for the friendless, and the capitol grounds and building. Your attention is respectfully called to the remarks concerning this subject contained in the biennial report of the board of public lands and buildings. This subject requires immediate attention for if you deem it advisable to complete the wiring for the capitol building you will see the necessity of acting at once.

Your attention is also called to the necessity of properly repairing and improving some portions of the capitol, and more particularly the basement.

*Lincoln Star*  
*July 7, 1901.*

JULY 20, 1867.

Forty years ago today, in the log house of W. T. Donovan, in the old village of Lancaster, the capital commissioners of the state of Nebraska voted to establish the seat of government on the site of the present city of Lincoln. The act authorizing the removal of the capital from Omaha to a spot selected by the commissioners within a certain district within the counties of Lancaster, Seward, Saunders and Butler had been passed after a long and exciting fight in the legislature and had received the approval of the governor on June 14, 1867.

On July 18 the three commissioners, Governor Butler, Secretary Thomas P. Kenard and Auditor John Gillespie, accompanied by a surveyor, left Nebraska City in wagons for a personal inspection of the available sites. The official report of the commission describes the arrival at Lancaster on the evening of July 19, the examination of the rival sites of Lancaster and Saline City now known as Yankee Hill. On July 23 the party went down the Salt creek valley, visiting on the way a "very beautiful and level plateau" where Havelock now stands, and another site on an elevated table near Rock creek. Ashland was next examined and commented upon favorably. On July 25 the commissioners "traveled westerly over the old California trail, covering the Wahoo river" and going into Butler county and down to "Seward Center" and Milford, carefully noting the advantages of all possible sites for a city. The report continues:

On the 29th we made a more thorough examination of Yankee Hill and Lancaster and their surroundings. At the last named point the favorable impressions received at first sight, on the 19th, were confirmed. We found it gently undulating, its principal elevation being near the center of the proposed site, the village already established being in the midst of a considerable agricultural population, rich timber and water power available within short distances, the center of the great saline region within two miles; and, in addition to all other claims, the especial advantage was that the location was at the center of a circle of about 110 miles in diameter, along or near the circumference of which are the Kansas state line, directly south, and the important towns of Pawnee City, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth, Omaha, Fremont and Columbus.

"The state lands which we observed on our route were mainly away from considerable bodies of timber, or important water courses, and did not possess, to all appearances, any particular advantages, nor was the title of the state in them completed. \* \* Under these circumstances we entertained the proposition of the people residing in the vicinity of Lancaster offering to convey to the state in fee simple 800 acres on which it was proposed to erect the new town.

"In the afternoon of July 29 we assembled at the house of W. T. Donovan, of Lancaster, and after a comparison of notes and the discussion of advantages of the many points examined, proceeded to ballot for a choice.

"On the first ballot Lancaster received two votes and Ashland one. On the second vote Lancaster received the unanimous vote of the commissioners.

Having performed the business of the location of the seat of government, the commissioners returned to Omaha, leaving Mr. Harvey to do the surveying necessary to locate the depressions and elevations on the town site, preliminary to laying off the blocks, streets and reservations, and making a plat thereof. He completed that labor on the 12th of August, when he notified the commissioners, and they again assembled at Lancaster on the 13th of August. On the 14th the commissioners formally announced the founding of the town of Lincoln in a proclamation.

The town site was immediately surveyed and the sale of lots began on September 17. The commissioners met discouragements and opposition at every turn, but went ahead and carried out the spirit and letter of the law with extraordinary courage and efficiency. The story of the building of the first capitol and the removal of the offices from Omaha is one of the most interesting chapters in the entire history of Nebraska.

*H. A. Woods Collection*  
*State Journal*  
*July 29, 1907.*

## CEMENT DEFECTIVE

**Piece of State Work Has Been Found  
Faulty and Must Be Replaced  
By Contractors.**

Once again, a piece of state work done on the capitol grounds has been found faulty, which is getting to be the rule rather than the exception. This time, however, the material began to crumble so soon after completion of the job that the state will be able to force its replacement by the contractors before completing payment.

When the office for the state board of education in the southwest corner of the basement was fitted up, entrances were put in on both exterior sides. These were built of stone and supposed to be lined with cement. The "cement" portion has been cracking and crumbling in places, although it is hardly a month since the job was done. Pieces of the disintegrated structure are found to be about one-eighth of an inch thick and little, if any, harder than plastering.

The contract was let by the board of public lands and buildings, but most of the supervision in fitting up the quarters for the state board of education was left to its secretary, L. P. Ludden. He succeeded in getting the inside fairly well equipped, but was not enough of an expert on cement to secure the best results on the outside.

Notice has been given the cement contractor, that this work must be done over in a more substantial manner than it was the first time.

*State Journal*  
*May 28, 1911*

## PLAN FOR A NEW BUILDING

WOULD MOVE SUPREME COURT AND  
STATE LIBRARY.

### DEPARTMENTS NEED ROOM

Idea, if Carried Out, Would Relieve  
Present Difficulty and Would  
Provide Ample State  
Accommodations.

Lawmakers who participate in the next session of the state legislature will have a chance, in all probability, to appropriate money for the completion of the state historical society building located on the northeast corner of Sixteenth and H streets. Legislative candidates in this county are already outlining plans for carrying such a bill through the house and the senate, and state officials are considerably interested in the matter. Those in favor of making a fight for such an appropriation are confident that it can be passed.

The plan contemplates providing enough room in the new building for the state supreme court and the state library. This would alleviate the present crowded condition of the capitol building and would provide a means whereby the room gained through the removal of the two departments of the state could be put to the use of the other departments. The fire commission, the state railway commission, the physical valuation department, the attorney general's office, the library commission, the pure food commission and the insurance department of the state are at present occupying narrow quarters and more room for their work would be welcomed by all of the officials.

The additional room gained through the change would settle present problems very satisfactorily, in the opinion of several of the state officials, and the alteration could be effected with the expenditure of only a comparatively moderate amount of money. The plan is not a new one by any means, but has been advanced several times before with varying degrees of probable success. Meanwhile the needs have become sufficiently greater month by month until now it is said by officials that the state's lawmakers will have to make some provision for caring for their executive and judicial departments, as well as the state library, which has been growing at the rate of more than 4,000 volumes annually.

### State Officials Ponder.

State officials who have a tendency to look upon both the republican and the Taft republican state committees with more or less favor are beginning to wonder whether or not they will be called upon by both of the campaign organizations for contributions for the fall's activities. The problem is more or less serious with the officials, inasmuch as the assessments levied by the state committee under ordinary conditions do not fall under \$200. A doubling up of the charges, therefore, would leave the candidates with less than \$250 to spend in personal work, as they are supposed not to exceed \$650 under the provisions of the corrupt practices act. This amount most of them concede would be a mere bagatelle with such a sharp campaign in prospect, and they would either have to confine their personal labors to a narrow field or exceed the expense limit set by the state law.

One of the state officials who made the primary race for office declared yesterday that after he had filed his expense statement with the secretary of state, enough bills came in to aggregate more than \$200. His statement had included enough items of expense to nearly come up to the legal limit, so therefore the sum total of his campaign expenses exceeded the set amount by a considerable margin.

*State Journal*  
*Aug. 28, 1912*

**THIRTY YEARS AGO TODAY.**  
John S. Gregory was the successful bidder for the old capitol building. He was to pay the state \$300 and have all the material, moving it away at his own expense.

*State Journal*  
*June 3, 1913*



Occupants of offices in the attic of the state house have commenced to complain of heat. The office rooms are directly under a roof and some have no outside windows and most of them have openings in the roof covered with glass. When the offices were fitted up the ceiling was insulated with a composition and the architect who drew the plans said the rooms would not be hot in summer or cold in winter. They were warm enough in winter, but the occupants are positive that they will be hot in the summer.

*State Journal*  
*May 28, 1914*

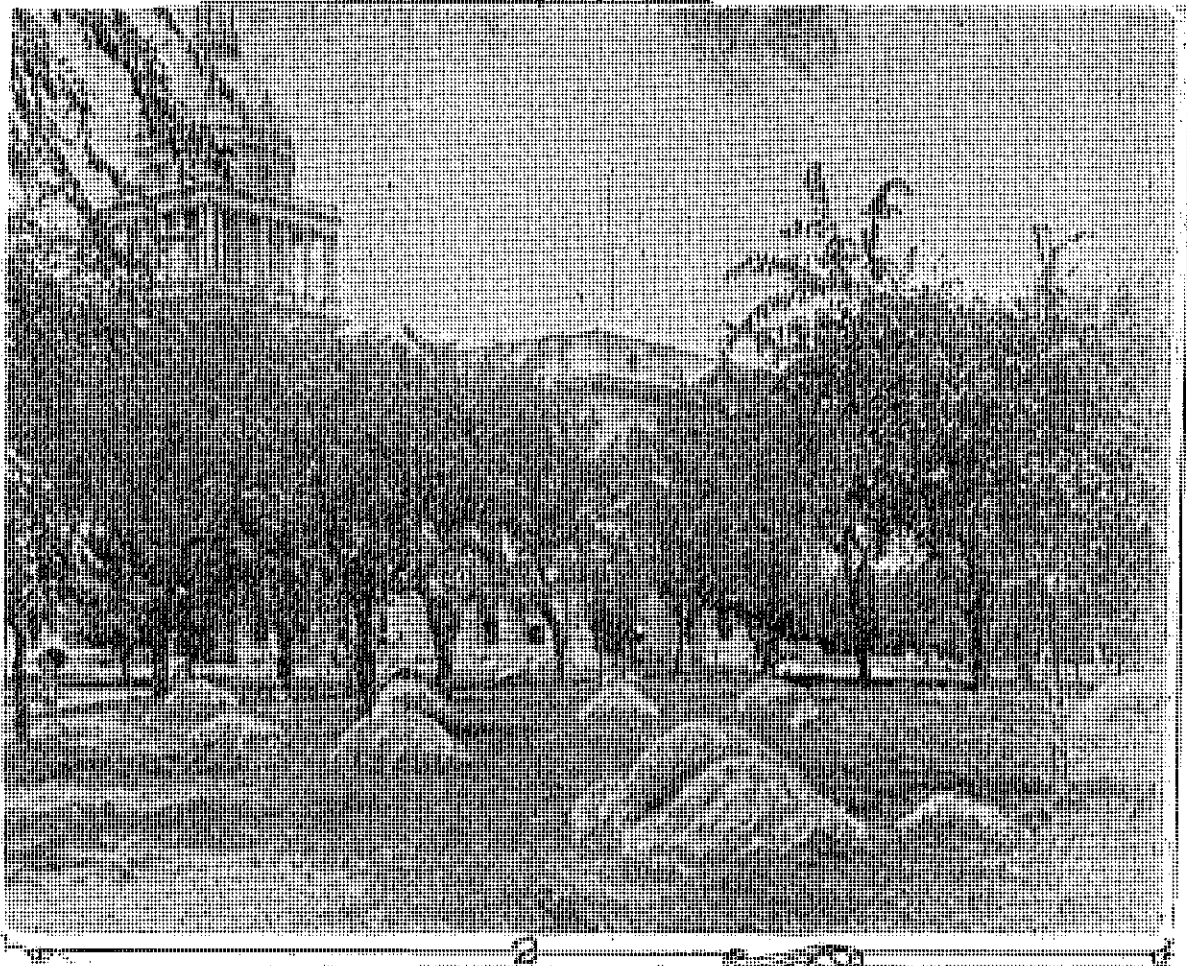
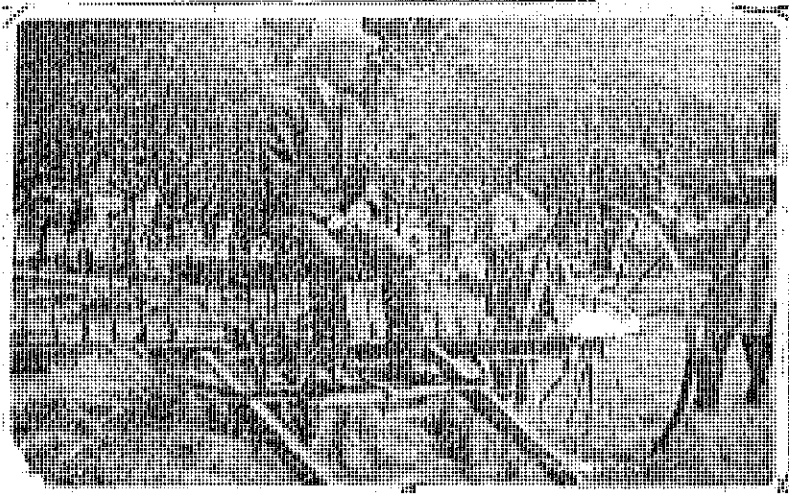
---

# Haymaking on the Capital Grounds

---

in Nebraska

---





No. 1.—Shows a hay rake and hay with Secretary of State Charles W. Pool sitting on the rake, right of Mr. Pool is State Treasurer G. E. Hall declining to buy a small wisp of hay held out in of Attorney General Willis E. Reed. Reason: It is dried blue grass and not desirable for fodd

No 2.—More hay on the state house grounds, the state house itself and some trees, the latter the growth of the hay. (Note. There is talk of the state officers cutting down the shade trees house, to improve the hay crop).

No 3.—Some more hay and more trees. This large shock of hay was overlooked, or the three shown in the following picture would have chosen it to roll in instead of a smaller one.

No. 4.—Three state officers who by statute have control of the grounds. They are resting shock of hay after arduous labors of the day. From left to right the officers are State Treas Secretary of State Charles W. Pool, Attorney General Willis E. Reed. (Note: The absence which are usually plowed about leased grounds in Nebraska is due to the fact that the state that the state house was not fireproof).

Nebraska, the home of W. J. Bryan, formerly a member of President Wilson's cabinet and the home of Senator Gilbert M. Hitchcock, boasts of the only state capitol grounds in the United States where hay is grown. In former years the blue grass was cut at regular intervals, but at the mere suggestion of Railway Commissioner T. L. Hall, brother of State Treasurer Hall, the grass was allowed to grow this year to demonstrate the railway commissioner's theory that dandelions can be exterminated by the slow but deadly choking grip of tall growing blue grass. Both the grass and dandelions appeared to enjoy it, also the janitors who used to have to cut the grass.

*State Journal*  
*July 25 - 1915*

**Planning New Capitol Building.**

Lincoln.—Erection of a new state capitol to be located at the Twenty-seventh street end of O street, the principal business thoroughfare here, is a plan outlined by the city plans commission for the ultimate beautification of Nebraska's capital city. A union station and other revolutionary changes were suggested to the city by that body.

*St. Calhoun Chronicle*

*Oct. 14, 1915*

## CAPITOL WALLS CRUMBLING

LABOR COMMISSIONER SAYS CON-  
DITION UNSAFE.

State Officers Will Ask Bids for  
Necessary Repairs to the  
West Wing.

The west wing of the Nebraska state capitol building, and especially the south portion of the same, is considered by Labor Commission Coffey to be in an extremely dangerous condition. In fact the official intimated that if it were within his power he might condemn it. For some time the first partition wall north of the south wall has been crumbling, falling piece by piece in the basement directly under the office of State Treasurer Hall. The attention of Mr. Coffey was called to the matter by janitors and investigation showed conditions to be alarming. This wall extends clear to the top of the building, supporting the floors and roof.

Mr. Coffey stated that it was his intention to call the attention of Governor Morehead and Secretary of State Pool to the matter during the day and he considered it imperative that some action be taken at once. He did so and the board will at once ask for bids for the necessary repairs.

Contrary to general opinion there is no person in the state authorized to condemn buildings aside from municipal authorities. Commissioner Coffey has been called recently to three different towns to inspect school houses supposed to be unsafe. He did not inform those calling him that he had no authority to condemn, but went ahead just as though he were clothed with such power. One building was found to be in bad condition and orders were given and carried out, putting it in good shape. In the other places the buildings were found to be all right.

What will be done should it be found advisable to vacate that part of the structure believed to be unsafe; is not known, as the statehouse is already crowded to the limit.

*State Journal*  
*Nov. 13, 1915*

The state house grounds and the dome of the capitol are no longer lighted at night. The grounds and dome will remain in darkness until the power plant at the penitentiary is enlarged. This work may not be completed for two or three months. The state at present is buying light for the interior of the state house, governor's mansion and orthopedic hospital, but the state board decided to do without light for the grounds and dome until the prison power plant is in condition to supply current.

*State Journal*  
*Dec. 15, 1915*

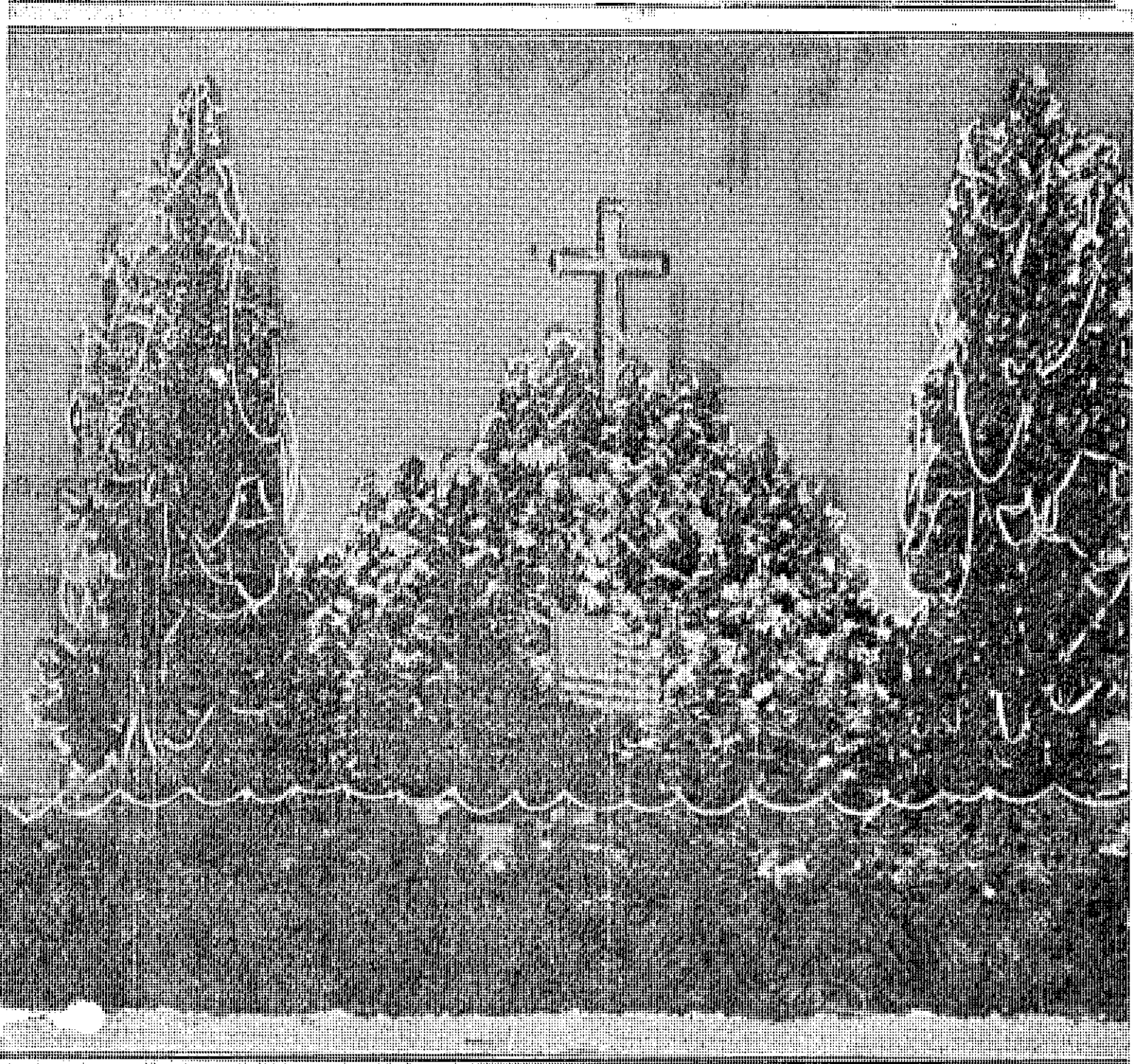
#### A NEW CAPITOL.

Grand Island Independent: Reports from Lincoln indicate that the west wing of the ancient state house is in bad condition, one of the walls crumbling. It is announced at the same time that plans are being perfected for a repairing or strengthening of the wall, such as, presumably, to make it safe. The fact again emphasizes the need of Nebraska for a new state house, and those in charge will, we believe, proceed inadvisedly, if any present plans are adopted looking to more than temporary relief and repair. The next legislature ought to be instructed by a vote of the people on this question, and that vote ought to be for a large, modern dignified state capitol.



Lincoln's Municipal Christmas Tree on the

State House Grounds



THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN AT THE STATE HOUSE GROUNDS AT 5:30 P. M. TODAY.



**T**HE STORY of the first Christmas tree is shrouded in mystery. It is known that the custom originated in Germany. Who first exploited the tree outside of Germany is unknown but the first Christmas tree that history tells about was one that was set up before King Henry VIII in England. The account as given in the history with its quaint spelling is:

"Agaynste the XIII daye, or the daye of the Epiphanie, at night before the banquet in the Hall of Richmonde, was a pageant devised like a mountayne glitteringe by night, as though it had bene all golde and set with stones; on the top of which mountayne was a tree of golde, the branches and bowes frised with glode, spredynge on every side over the mountayne with roses and pomegranettes. The wiche mountayne was with vices brought up towards the kyng; and out of the same came a ladye apparelled in cloath of golde, and the children of honor called the benchmen, which were fresh disguised, and danced a morice before the kyng; and that done, re-entered the mountayne; and then it was drawn backe, the wassail or banquet brought in, and so brake up the Christmas."

The first municipal Christmas tree was erected in Madison Square Garden, New York, three years ago. This idea of a community Christmas tree has swept over the country like a contagion, until now many cities and towns have annual municipal Christmas celebrations and municipal trees.

A great many Nebraska cities and towns have taken up this idea and this year several cities will have their own community celebrations. Lincoln kiddies will see their first municipal Christmas tree tonight, when the lights will be turned on to illuminate one of the finest community celebrations ever held in this country. Two trees have been erected on a platform on the north side of the capitol building near the Fifteenth street entrance. Back and between these two trees has been placed a great bank of evergreens to represent a mountain scene, rising as high as the balcony of the capitol. Above the bank of evergreens will be an illuminated cross. The American flag in electric lights will be in the center of the background and an electric star will hang in the center above the trees.

One hundred and seventy-five little trees were used in the decorations and thousands of electric lights, with tinsel and streamers will brighten the scene.

This picture does not show the trees on the state house grounds in all their beauty. It was taken before the decorators had completed their tasks, while workmen were still engaged in the arrangement of the scene for Lin-

coln's first municipal celebration, and while snow spotted the evergreens. The trees will be seen this evening in all the beauty of Christmas creation, made sparkingly beautiful under the effects of the artistic light arrangement, furnishing an appropriate setting for a Christmas celebration and program and an inspiration for Christmas sentiment.

Dr. H. P. Wekesser, chairman of the committee in charge of the festivities and to whose genius the plan is generally credited, said: "I saw the municipal tree in New York last year and Lincoln's celebration is superior."

Music for the occasion will be furnished by the First Regimental band under the direction of G. F. Thornburg and an immense chorus directed by Prof. Carl Steckelberg. The band will begin the program at 5:30 this afternoon and will play until 6 o'clock when the regular program will begin. A place has been reserved for the church choirs and the school children directly in front of the platform. Carols and hymns will be sung, and the words to the music will be projected on a screen so that the entire audience can join in. The evening's program follows:

- First Regimental band.
- Hymn, "Joy to the World."
- Carol, "While the Shepherds Watch Their Flocks."
- Prayer.
- Carol, "O, Little Town of Bethlehem."
- Carol, "Silent Night, Holy Night."
- Address, C. C. Quiggie.
- Carol, "Hark, the Herald Angles Sing, O, Come All Ye Faithful."
- Band music.

*State Journal*  
Dec. 25, 1915

# OLD STATE HOUSE SINKING

## ANOTHER DROP OF FRACTION OF AN INCH DISCOVERED.

### Recent Fissures Indicate That the Capitol is Continuing Its Downward Career.

One corner of the Nebraska state house has sunk a quarter of an inch some time during the past eight years when nobody was looking. As a result some occupants of the building are scared and others feel like joining hands around the building and singing "London's bridge is falling down, falling down." When Church Howe sounded his famous warning a quarter of a century ago in a republican state convention that "the old ship is leaking," those on board got busy out of an instinct of self preservation and manfully tried to stop the leaks, and they think they have succeeded, but no occupants of the capitol have been able to do a thing to stop the sinking of the old state house in the past forty years.

Soon after the state house was constructed it started to sink. At the present ratio it is estimated that in 17,000,000 years the building will be on the other side of the globe and will be used by the antipodes as a coop for Shanghai roosters. All the people in the state house can do is to sit quietly by and draw their salaries and pay it out for life insurance and let the old building sink.

The southeast corner of the east wing of the building shows evidence of a recent drop of at least a quarter of an inch, making that end of the structure a total of about nine and one half inches nearer the center of the earth and an equal distance farther from the sun when the sun is at meridian. The drooping, toboggan end of the state house in question is occupied by State Superintendent A. O. Thomas, but his weighty presence is not the cause of the sinking. The building commenced sliding into the earth long before Dr. Thomas was doctor of anything. The early inhabitants say the sinking is due to a sandy soft spot or the presence of an old hole in the ground where the foundation was laid, that the contractor tried to remedy the difficulty by making an arch in the foundation, but that this did not prevent the downward course on which the building appeared determined to take.

The members of the Nebraska house of representatives who meet biennially on the second floor of the shaky end of the building used to take pride in the fact that it was their end of the building that was being pressed into the earth they wondered why the lighter end in which the senate convenes did not tip up. Some say this gave rise to custom of calling the house the "legislature" and the complete ignoring of the senate as a part of the state government, except on occasion when the senate asserted its existence and passed a "very meritorious little measure" for the benefit of the "wets" or killed a bill intended to appease the "drys." The house used to investigate the avalanche like qualities of the east wing and it would get architects to report on how long the building is likely to stand, and after discussing them a few days would pigeonhole the reports.

Some proposed to build a new state house and are still proposing it, Lincoln people excepted. The movement for a new building is growing in strength throughout the state. Governor Morehead stands almost alone in opposition. He says the building is a dandy good building and that he and the other state officers have a blamed site better offices than they ever had when they were in Falls City or at their respective home towns.

Over the east basement door under State Superintendent Thomas' office a new crack in the stone and the parting of the cement mortar indicates a recent settling of at least a quarter of an inch. Near one of his south windows at the top of the foundation where the building sunk several inches many years ago is another new crack indicating a sinking of about one-quarter of an inch.

There are four large iron rods beneath the floor in the house of representatives and another large rod under the floor of the gallery in the house. These rods extend through the building north and south and have large plates fastened on the outside of the wall to keep the walls from falling outward. The floors and roof prevent the walls from leaning inward. Some profess to see evidence of the east wall bulging outward, but others say there has been no change, that the pointing or mortar has dropped from many joints and these openings resemble fresh breaks, but in reality are not breaks. The state engineer's department may be asked to make an investigation and report to the state board.

*State Journal  
July 20, 1916.*

## IS STATE CAPITOL UNSAFE

STATE ENGINEER IS MAKING OFFICIAL INVESTIGATION.

Postage Appropriation for Mailing Initiative Pamphlets to Voters Is Short.

Assistant State Engineer W. D. J. Steckelberg and his assistants yesterday scaled the walls of the east wing of the state house to ascertain the condition of the south walls and a portion of the east wall which years ago settled several inches. Five large iron rods hold the south wall from falling outward, but there is evidence of a recent settling of a quarter of an inch. This evidence and the fact that the south wall was found many years ago to lean outward has caused fresh interest in the condition of the entire wing.

Engineer Steckelberg will probably make known his findings today. More than nine years ago John M. McDonald an architect, filed a report with H. M. Eaton, then state land commissioner. This report was filed with the house of representatives by the house committee on public lands and buildings. Prior to that George A. Berlinghof, architect of Lincoln, had filed another report with Mr. Eaton.

The report of Mr. McDonald, so it stated, was practically the same as the report of Mr. Berlinghof. The report purports to give the condition of the walls, but says nothing about danger of their falling. He said that the south wall of the east wing and some of the east wall had settled from two to seven inches and that the south wall was out of plumb several inches, the exact distance not being given. He recommended the vacation of the offices in the east while repairs were being made, and said the work could be done for \$20,000. He recommended tearing down the defective walls, including the foundation, and the putting in of a new foundation and rebuilding the walls.

A bill, H. R. 539, appropriating \$20,000, evidently for this work, was introduced in the house in 1907, but was indefinitely postponed on recommendation of the house committee on public lands and buildings.

Some members believed the walls were in no danger of falling and killing people and being suspicious that the repairs were not necessary but we were intended to furnish an opportunity for the state board of public lands and buildings to spend some state money declined to support the bill. The judgment of the house in regard to immediate danger of falling walls appears to have been right, for the walls are still standing after the lapse of nearly ten years. The evidence of further settling of the walls has again caused fresh alarm. The report of the state engineer on the actual condition is awaited with eagerness by all who work within the supposed danger zone.

### McDonald's Report.

The report of Architect McDonald, dated February 6, 1907, filed in the house, said:

"On January 31, 1907, I made an examination of the east wing of the capitol building and found the conditions substantially as described by George A. Berlinghoff in his report to you of January 23, 1907. The south wall and a part of the east wall of this wing has settled irregularly from three to seven inches and is also out of plumb, overhanging several inches at the top, and while most of this settling occurred years ago, there is evidence of recent settling shown by fresh cracks on the outer wall and breaking of plaster in the office along the south side of the wing.

"In order to repair the building it will be necessary to vacate the offices, shove up the floors and roof, remove about seventy feet along the wall from top to bottom including the foundation, put in a secure foundation and rebuild the walls.

"The value of the above work, including the necessary repairs on the interior I would estimate at approximately \$20,000."

### Wanted to Gild the Dome.

The house had some rather ambitious ideas about what ought to be done to the state house, but they were not ideas that took root all at once. A committee comprising F. A. Marsh of Seward, E. O. White of Hall and C. R. Besse of Webster, recommended the expenditure of \$79,200 on the old building and grounds. The committee recommended nearly everything from \$8,000 worth of gold leaf to cover the capitol dome, to varnishing and painting the building inside and out, wherever there was wood or metal, at a cost of \$10,750. The committee's report included a recommendation for the rebuilding of the defective walls and foundation of the east wing at a cost of \$20,000, cement walks about the grounds at a cost of \$16,500, also \$5,000 for repapering all walls, \$6,000 for iron ceilings in the corridors of the three stories of the building, and a little item of \$10,570 for repairing plastering.

The dome of the state house is still ungilded, but a large part of the proposed cement walks were later put down from time to time, except on the outside of the lot line of the grounds,

*Owen*

## FRESH ALARM AT CAPITOL

### BROKEN WINDOW AND TREMOR BEING OF DEFECTIVE WING.

#### State Engineer Finds No Evidence of Recent Sinking of State House Walls.

State Engineer George E. Johnson and Assistant Engineer Steckelberg made another examination of the defective east wing of the state house Monday forenoon as a result of alarming rumors of the safety of the wing.

Measurements were made because of the report that a window glass in Adjutant General Hall's office on the third floor of the defective wing had been broken sometime between Saturday and Monday morning, presumably by the further settling of the foundation and walls.

Owen P. Stewart, assistant state superintendent, added to the alarm by saying he distinctly felt the building tremble last Thursday evening at half past seven when he was at work in the state superintendent's office. He went outside and examined the cracked foundation near the window where he works and it was his opinion that fresh cracks were plainly apparent. He said the building shook as if disturbed by a shock from an earthquake.

Engineer Johnson first examined the broken window in the office of the adjutant General. It is about fifteen feet from where the wall cracked several years ago when the building settled. The window sash he found to be loose with no apparent strain upon it. No cracks in the wall either outside or inside were found near the window. The heavy glass in the upper sash was split from top to bottom in the form of a pyramid, with the apex at the top of the sash. This pyramid was pushed outward at the top about two inches from the remainder of the glass. The break by some is believed to be the result of a sharp blow rather than from a settling of the building.

Engineer Johnson used a transit in taking elevations and found no additional settlement of the east wing walls since measurements made by himself and Assistant Engineer Steckelberg a few weeks ago. He found no evidence that the broken window was caused by a recent sinking of the walls. He will make further measurements to ascertain whether the south wall of the defective wing leans outward more than it did when he made a recent examination.

At that time the joist in the ceiling of representative hall projected over the top of the wall only four inches whereas they originally projected one foot over the top of the wall. Mr. Johnson said at that time there was no immediate danger of the wall leaning outward enough to cause it to fall, but said the danger was that the joist in the ceiling might slip off the top of the wall. This might carry the ceiling and floor of the hall to the floor of the first story. Mr. Johnson advised the state officers and a legislative committee there was no danger of the walls falling for several years, but he said he would make examinations from time to time prior to the meeting of the legislature next January so that the state board and committee of legislators appointed by Governor Morehead will be in a position to advise the legislature as to the exact condition of the building when the legislature convenes.

*State Journal*  
*September 12, 1916.*

## ANOTHER SCARE AT CAPITOL

FRESH BREAKS IN DEFECTIVE  
WALLS PROVE ERRONEOUS.

Broken Glass and Apparent Further  
Leaning of the Wall Are  
Explained.

Another scare was thrown into the people occupying the east wing of the state house, the defective portion of the capitol in which representative hall is situated and also the office rooms of State Superintendent Thomas.

A report was carried to Governor Morehead firstly, that a glass in one of the east windows of the state superintendent's office was cracked Friday night by the further settling of the walls and foundations; secondly, that the plumb line placed by the state engineer's office from roof to basement was found touching the south side of a two inch hole in the floor of the superintendent's office, instead of being in the center of the hole where it was when first suspended; thirdly, that the door in the east side of the basement under the state superintendent's office which opened freely Friday did not open readily Saturday. These reports were taken up in their order, with this result:

Firstly: The crack in the window proved to be a very old one, as plainly disclosed by dirt and discoloration of the edges of the cracked glass and chipped portions of the crack.

Secondly: The engineers or workmen who hung the plumb line discovered recently that the line was improperly placed on the start, that the line had caught on wires in wire lathing in a hole in the ceiling of representative hall. They readjusted the line and the correction showed that the hole in the state superintendent's office floor was out of line instead of the plumb line having moved with a southward motion of the wall.

Thirdly: Every one will have to take the word of a janitor that the door in the basement wall is now harder to open than it was Friday.

*State Journal*  
*October 1, 1916.*

## IS STATE HOUSE FALLING

Window Glass in Board of Control Breaks From Pressure.

A fresh alarm was spread at the state house Saturday morning when large window glass in the office of the state board of control cracked with a loud noise somewhat resembling the bursting of a bomb. The noise was heard by members of the board of control who were sitting near the window at the time the glass broke. The glass is supposed to have been cracked by a further settling of the east wing of the state house. This is the most recent evidence of the settling of the wing. In years past the settling made a big crack in the plastering in the board's office rooms, but for several several no change has been noted. The greater part of the settling shows on the south side of the wing. The board of control has office rooms on the north side of the wing in the east end.

When the crash came members of the house of representatives, directly above the board, were pledging their allegiance to the United States in the event of war with Germany. As the south and a portion of the east walls and floors in this wing were propped up with bridge timbers it is believed there is absolutely no danger of the floors of representative hall or other floors in the east wing dropping out of sight even if the south walls should fall outward. The south wall at the top of the wing is about seven inches out of plumb.

*State Journal*  
*Jan. 4, 1917*

## NEW WING FOR CAPITOL.

### House Committee Gives Final Approval of Levy.

The movement to secure a new capitol for Nebraska was given a decided boost Thursday afternoon when the house finance committee, as per its agreement reached Wednesday afternoon, voted seven to three, to report out the Richmond bill as amended. This amendment, as explained in Thursday morning's paper, provides that the special levy shall be two-thirds of a mill instead of 1-mill, as stated in the original bill, and shall extend over two years rather than five. The money thus derived will be used to erect a new east wing on the present building and also to pay for pencil sketches for a complete structure.

As finally agreed upon the bill creates a .67 mill levy. This was changed from a 2-3 mill in order to do away with the fraction. It was also agreed Thursday afternoon to include a clause to the effect that, if possible, provision be made in the proposed wing for fireproof rooms for the state library. The present danger of allowing the entire library to go up in smoke has been one of the reasons advanced for a new capitol.

*State Journal*  
*March 9, 1917*



The roof on the state house is to be painted and repaired. The work ordered done calls for the calking of cracks about the dome in the hope that rain water will cease to run in streams down walls and thru floors. Some of the \$85,000 appropriated by the legislature for repairs of the building will be spent on the roof. Four new down spouts are to be put in at a cost of \$100. A new holler for the capitol heating plant is to be installed at a cost of \$5,140. The state board has contracted for 200 tons of Pittsburgh nut coal at \$6.30 a ton. Carpenters are now building a "box stall" in one corner of the senate gallery. The box-like structure is to be an addition to the laboratory used by the state food commissioner. It will be connected with the laboratory by a hole punched in the wall of the senate chamber. This hole will be fitted with casing and a regular door such as is commonly used in houses. The addition will be made semi-shell proof on the sides projecting into the senate chamber to prevent members of the senate from suddenly removing it with explosives.

*Sta. Journal*  
*July 19, 1917*

The state will have to go in debt for a boiler to be installed in the state house heating plant. The legislature appropriated \$2,000 but the board finds it will have to pay \$3,800 more than was appropriated. As the old boiler is considered dangerous and unfit for use, the board of educational lands and funds will buy a new one and ask the dealer to await an appropriation for all above the \$2,000 appropriated at the last session of the legislature. The contract was first awarded to Cox-Underhill company, whose bid was \$5,140, but this company desired the board to increase this by adding interest on \$3,140 for the time that amount of the claim would remain unpaid. The board declined to do this. A. J. Weyant, who was a bidder, agreed to reduce his bid to \$5,850, by cutting off \$405 and the board awarded him the contract.

*State Journal*  
*July 20, 1917*

Nebraska should have a new capitol building, in place of the one it now has, symbolizing a monument of fraud after the manner and method prescribed by Boss Stout. The old trap is a disgrace to the fair name Nebraska.

Adams County  
Democrat  
Sept. 20, 1918

At the first meeting of the capitol commission it developed that Mr. Head, the member from Omaha, had been an enthusiast on the subject of state houses for a number of years. He told one of his colleagues that he had no idea why the governor had appointed him, but it happened that the selection fitted exactly into his strongest hobby. He has personally inspected with more or less minuteness thirty-seven different capitols. His colleagues were much pleased to learn that one of the commissioners is an expert on the question at the beginning of the job, as all of them hope to be before it is finished.

*State Journal*  
*May 13, 1919.*

# OLD AND NEW STATE HOUSE

MART HOWE TELLS WHY PRES-  
ENT CAPITOL SAGGED.

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

*H. H. Howe Collection*

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

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

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

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

"Boss" Stout Contractor.

"The present state house was built by "Boss" Stout, who many old politicians remember. A man by the name of Wilcox of St. Paul, Minn., was the architect. Mart Davy was the superintendent and C. B. Fox foreman. In 1885 I was bookkeeper in the office of commissioner of lands. I remained in this office until it changed heads, and

the center, or the main part was completed during the time I was there. Mr. Fox, who was foreman during the construction of the penitentiary and the present capitol, and I became close personal friends, and he is my authority about the east wing, and the cause of its settlement, so here is where the old sand pit comes in. When the excavation was made for the east wing, the men came on this old sand pit, but I am ahead of my story a little.

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

## The Wall Settled.

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

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

## Deep Driveways Filled.

"The capitol was now completed and under the contract the grounds must be cleared of all rubbish and the

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

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

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

*State Journal*  
*October 12, 1919.*

## NEW CAPITOL BADLY NEEDED

So State Officers Thought During  
the Pershing Reception.

State officers and others who attended the reception to General Pershing on Friday evening say that this affair demonstrated the need for a new capitol more than anything that has occurred for many years here. On account of the lack of proper facilities it was difficult to handle the crowds and complaint was made in consequence.

The announcement has been made that all state offices would open up during the reception, but state officials found themselves barred from entering their own offices and from leaving the state house when the trial of waiting to get into the reception room became too great for themselves or ladies who accompanied them.

One state officer complains that he and his wife were kept two hours in the east corridor, on the first floor where the crowd was herded in a hall fifty feet long. The people there were not permitted to go upstairs, to move beyond a fixed space in the corridor or to enter any office. A policeman stood at an office door and would not allow any one to enter. Boy scouts guarded this corridor and would not grant leave to any one to move forward or any other direction. The people were not allowed to go out of the building after they had expressed a desire to leave. They were told that they must stay and go thru the receiving line. The scouts and policemen said they had orders from which they would not budge.

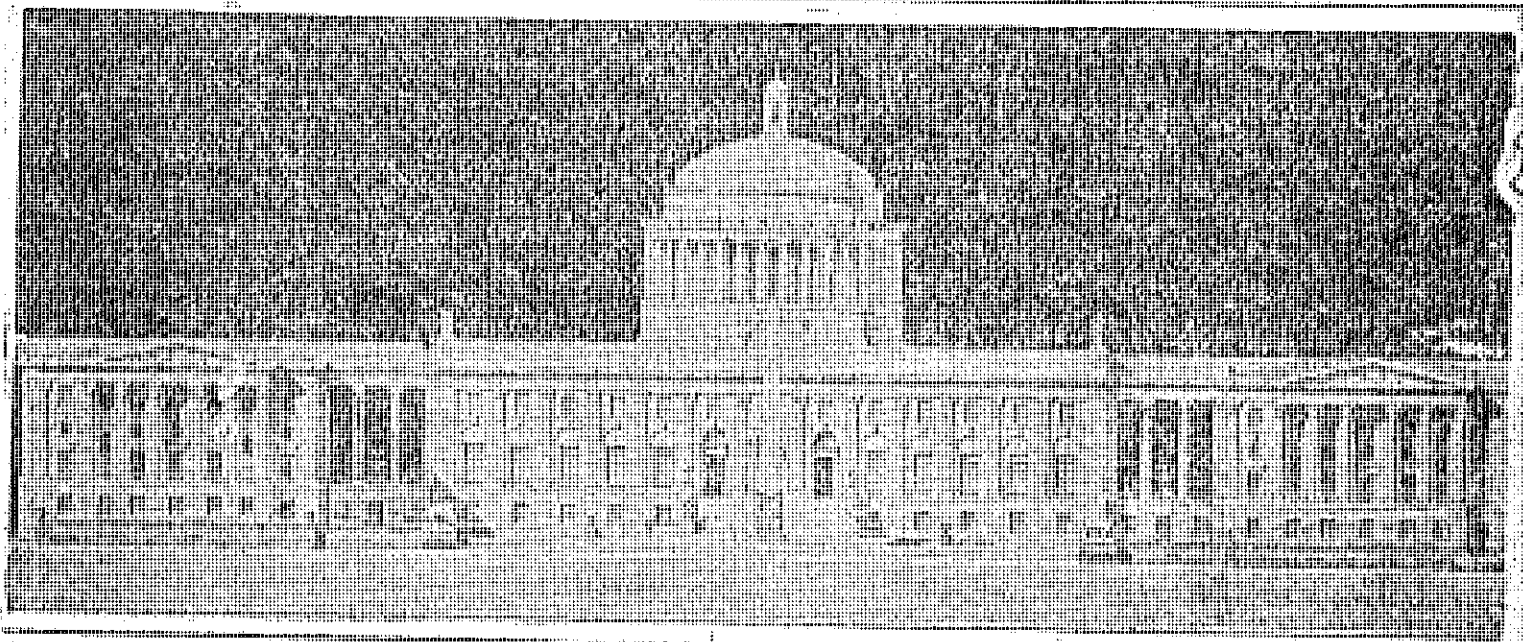
Lieutenant Governor P. A. Barrows, when forbidden to go to his own office to get his coat and hat flashed a big star. It showed that in the absence of Governor McKelvie he is the head of the state law enforcement department. The star got him thru to his own office. One newspaper man who was forbidden to leave the building was so eager to get a story to the telegraph office that he jumped out of a first story window and thus met a messenger who was to carry his story to a telegraph office. "The guards lectured us for crowding toward the reception hall stairway," said one state officer. "We told them if they would just let us out of the building we might relieve the pressure, but they hold us there for an hour and a half."

*State Journal*  
*Dec. 28, 1919*

# Plans for the Nebraska Cap

These front elevations of the proposed new capitol of Nebraska are here do not correspond to the arbitrary numbers borne by the rank or merit of design, but are used here solely for identifying the following architects:

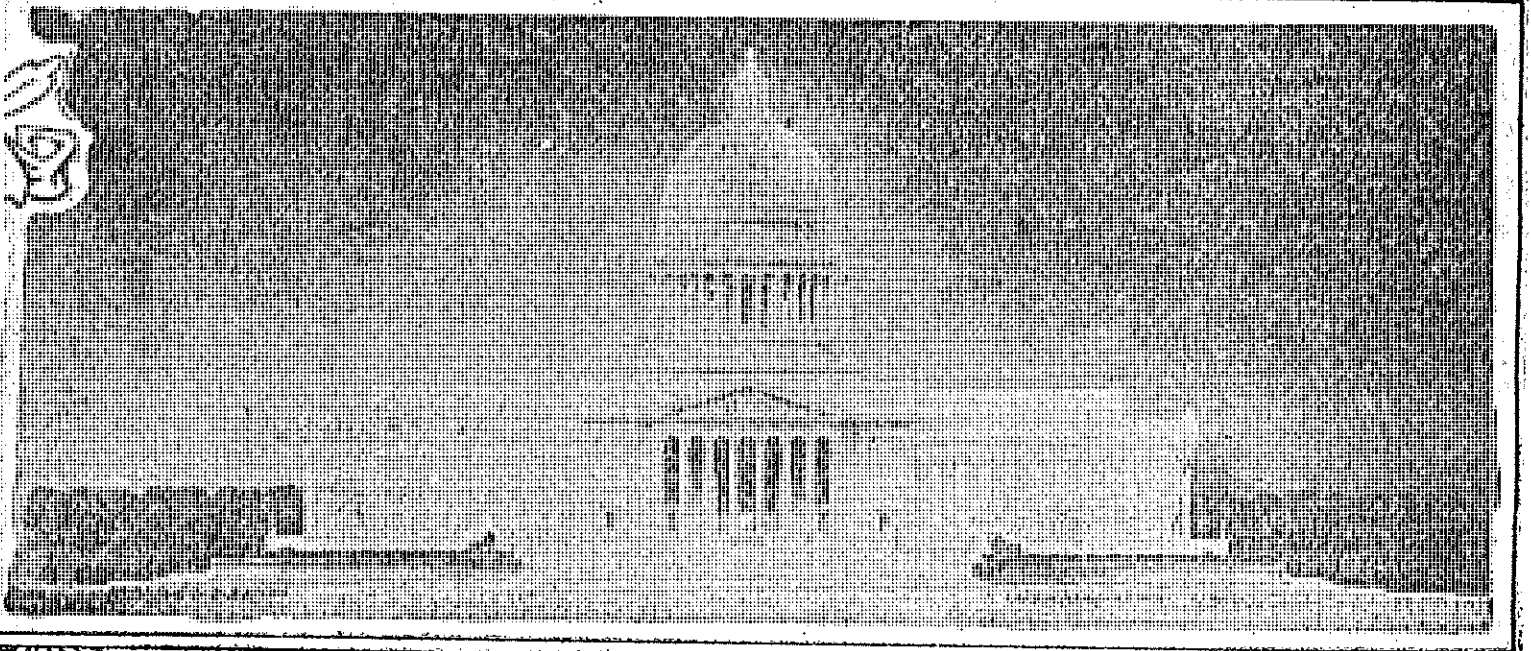
No. 1—McKim, Mead & White, New York. No. 2—W. G. B. Coningle, New York. No. 4—Paul P. Cret, Zantzinger, Borie & Caldwell, Omaha. No. 6—John Latenser & Sons, Omaha. No. 7—W. H. Cisco. No. 9—Tracey & Swartwout, New York.



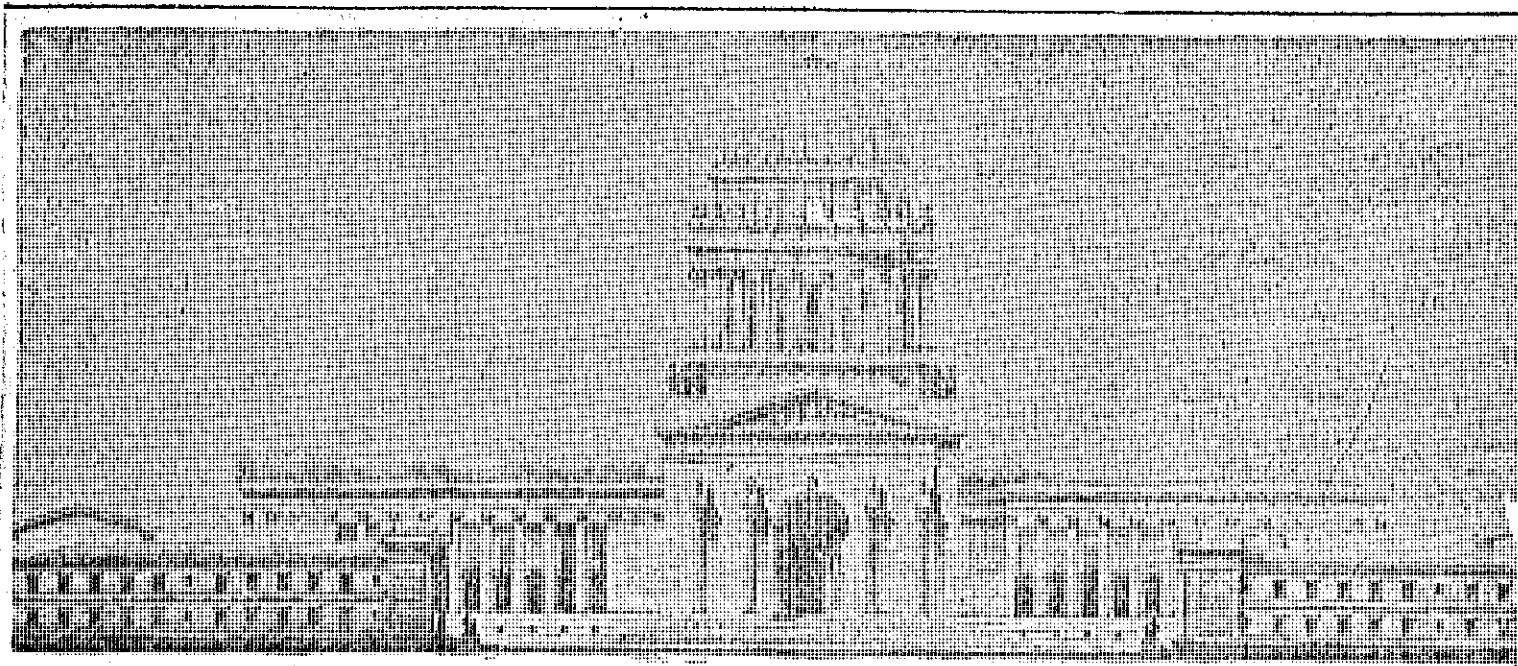
# itol Considered by the Jury

braska were designed by nine well known competitors to  
itol commission. The numbers on the illustrations shown  
e plans in the contest. The numbers have no reference to  
cation purposes. The designs above were prepared by the

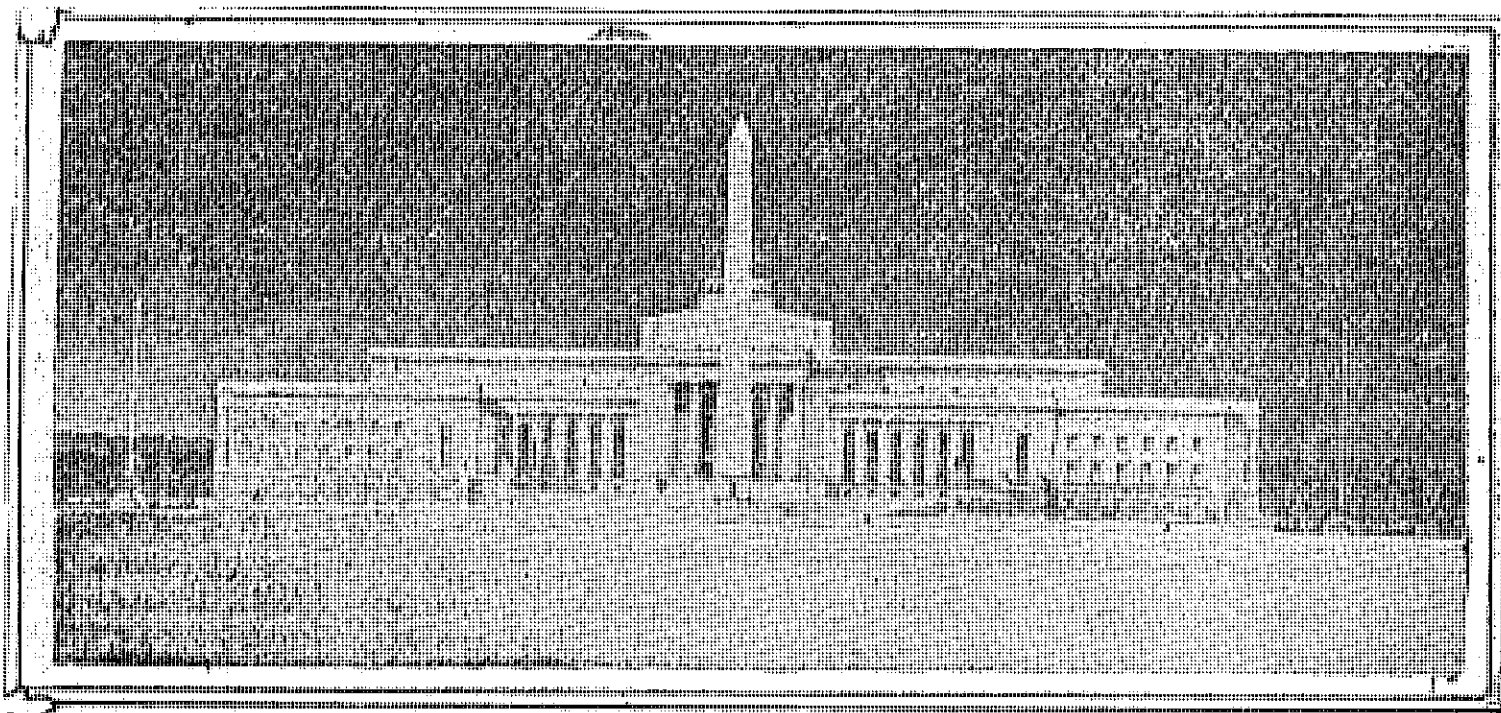
John Russell Pope, New York. No. 3—H. Van Buren Mag-  
& Medary, Philadelphia. No. 5—John and Alan MacDon-  
—Ellery Davis, Lincoln. No. 8—Bliss & Faville, San Fran-



*Continued*



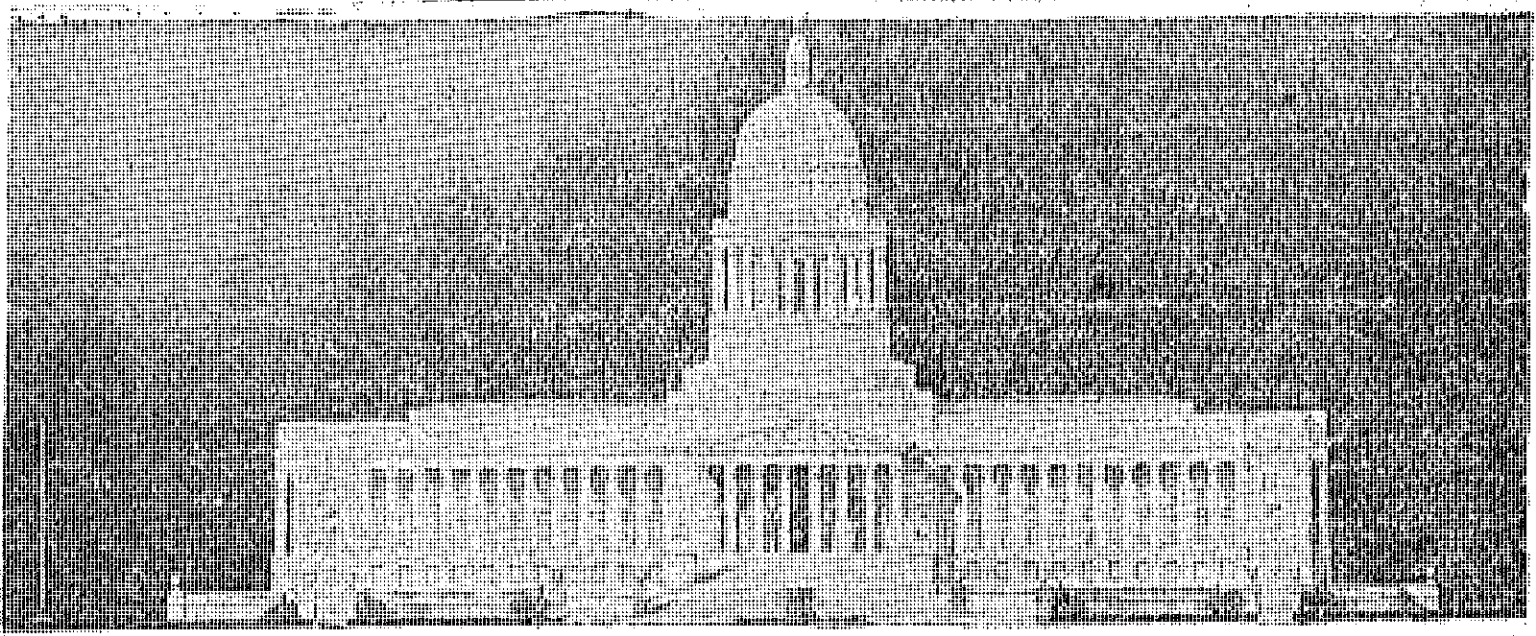
3



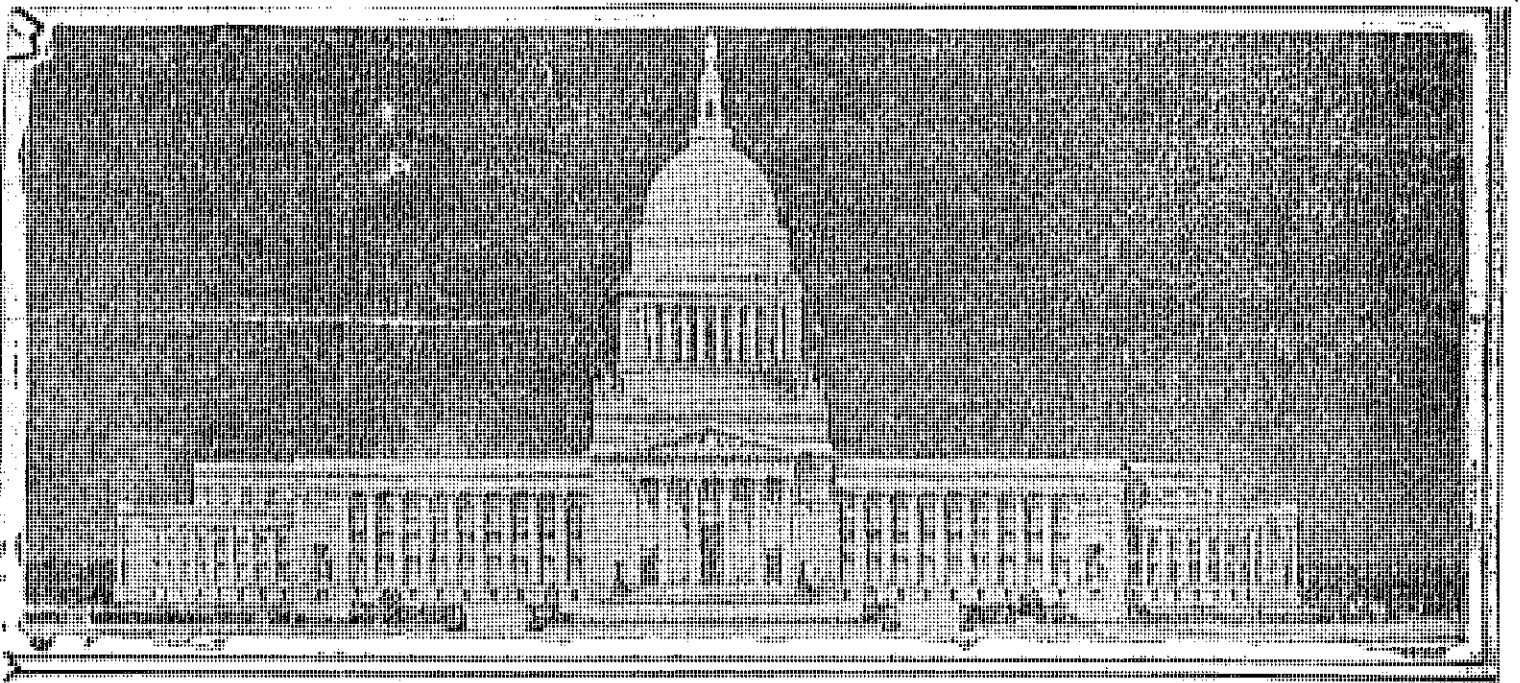
4

*Handwritten signature or text*



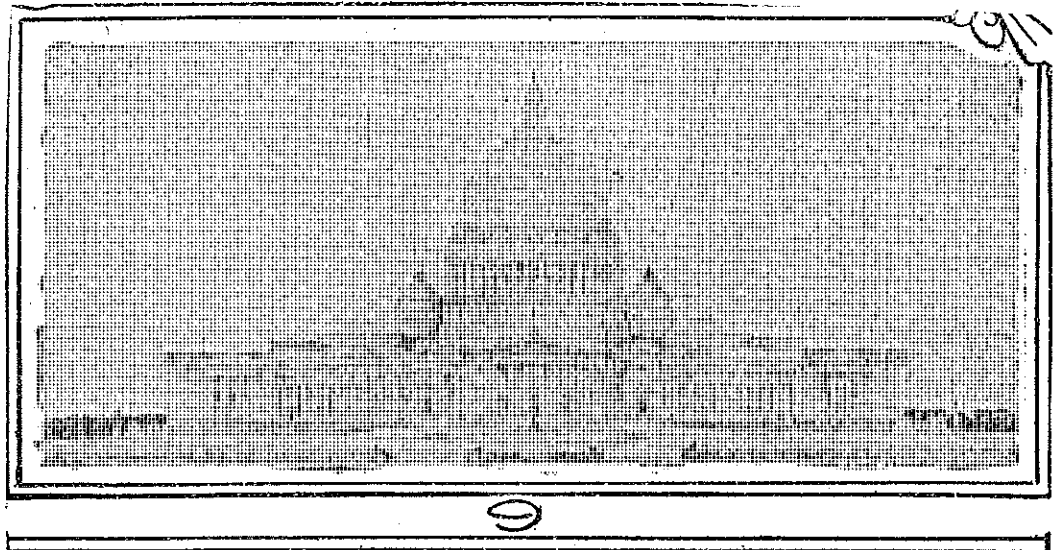
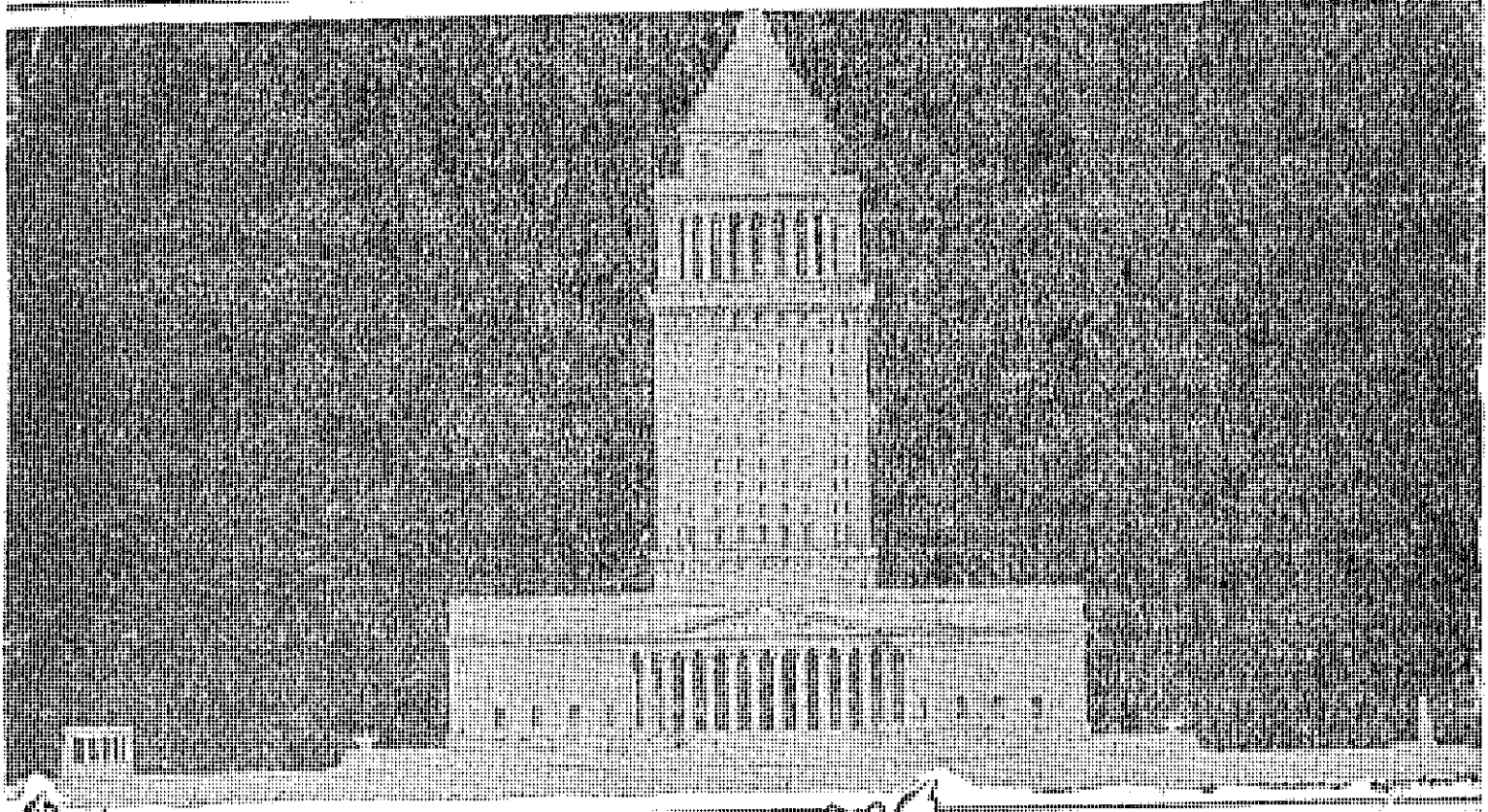


61



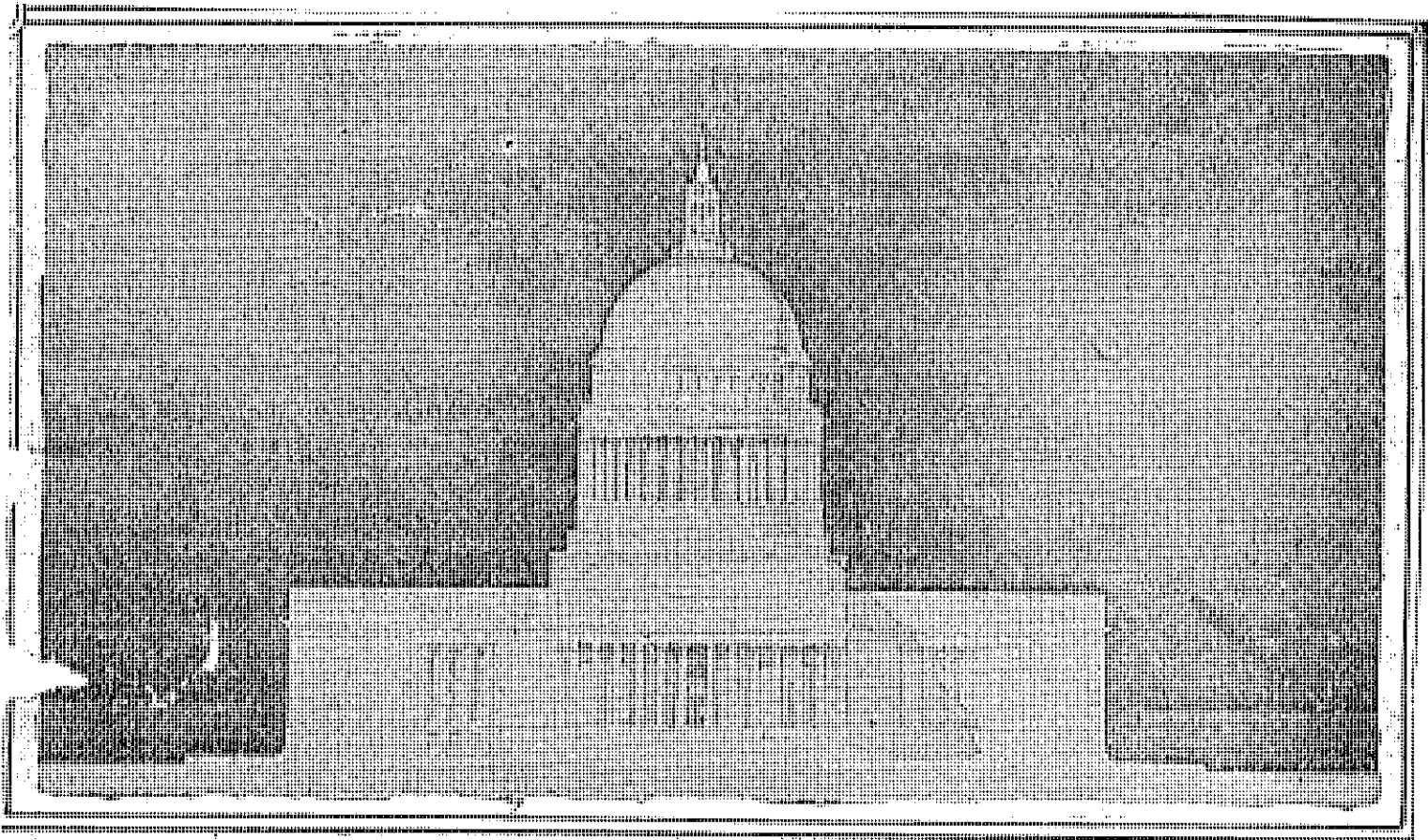
6

1924



9

*Continued*



8

*Estate Journal*  
*July 1920*

# Dr. Lowry Praises the Goodhue Plan of the State Capitol

LINCOLN, July 2.—To the Editor of The State Journal: Just now much interest is shown in our new capitol. This no doubt is largely due to the esthetic growth of our people, a growth that has been stimulated by the excellent art exhibitions that have been held here annually for the last quarter of a century, by the French statues and as well by a growing civic pride. This is doubtless a local manifestation of a world wide feeling for "the city beautiful" as the slogan both in Europe and America. This wide-spread awakening, this increased appreciation of the beautiful has found a lodgment in Lincoln and our citizens are on the lookout for any and every opportunity to enhance the city's attractiveness. This is indicated by the existence of a "city planning committee," by the attitude of our townspeople toward parks and streets, as well as the university's grounds and college housing.

Buildings may be put up mainly for use with but little thought of the artistic—a close inspection might reveal a few such in our own town or on the other hand, in their creation beauty may be the chief end to be attained as in the memorials of Lincoln and Grant or in a Greek temple. In my discussion of the new capitol I shall assume the utilitarian features to be adequate.

Have we been fortunate in the selection of Mr. Goodhue as our architect? Only great men produce great work, so far we are clearly on the right road but Mr. Pope is also a man of high professional standing and had he been chosen we would also have had a great man and we would have fared well. These two men, as indicated by the plans they submitted, stand for different ideas in the art world. One for progress the other for conservation. One is a progressive, the other a standard-bearer. One wants changes, the other clings to the old tried, the dictum, "you can't beat the Greeks," is true but irrelevant every civilization produces its own art, good or bad. Constable was not a better painter than Raphael but he was different. If he had worked in the style and spirit of the great master producing pictures of the same kind and just as good they would have counted for little, he would have added nothing to the progress of painting. He would only have done something astonishingly well that had been done in the same way and equally well before. But the father of modern landscape conceived a new idea of art and his influence on his profession has been profound and lasting. May I

venture one other illustration. If Ibsen had been a servile disciple of Sophocles or Shakespeare and had produced a companion piece to "Edipus the King" or to Hamlet, it would have been a wonderful achievement but not a contribution to the development of the drama for the old plays are out of joint with our times, while "The Doll's House," however inferior is of our own day. Mr. Pope's building is indeed beautiful and so far as I know above criticism, but it is conventional and not a contribution to the art of building, for there are many similar.

Mr. Goodhue's, however, is different, there being scarcely the faintest trace of Greek or Roman or Renaissance influence. It is new. It is a distinct contribution to the world's art. There is nothing like it and after its completion it would not be extravagant to expect its reproduction in every important illustrated magazine in the world. America will have produced something unique. It may suggest Egypt but Egypt has had nothing like it, it may suggest Spain, but Spain has nothing like it. It is more nearly related to the skyscraper and will be regarded as characteristically American, and American without being commercial but on the contrary distinctly cultural indicating our aspirations for spiritual development, a new mode of expressing our sense of the beautiful. Because of the foreign influence which pervades our literature and art there has been for a long time an occasional but persistent cry for an American art, American music, American drama and above all for the great American novel, but no distinctive school has been forthcoming. Now at last we have been given a distinctive national work should it not have a cordial welcome or at least an even chance to make its way.

The new edifice will dominate the town like the cathedral at Ely or the chateau at Chambord built in a great forest with walls that are rather plain till they get above the trees then there appears one of the wonders of artistic triumphs, a marvelous roof blossoms out that for miles around may be seen above the tree-tops. So the great tower of our capitol will dominate the town so that

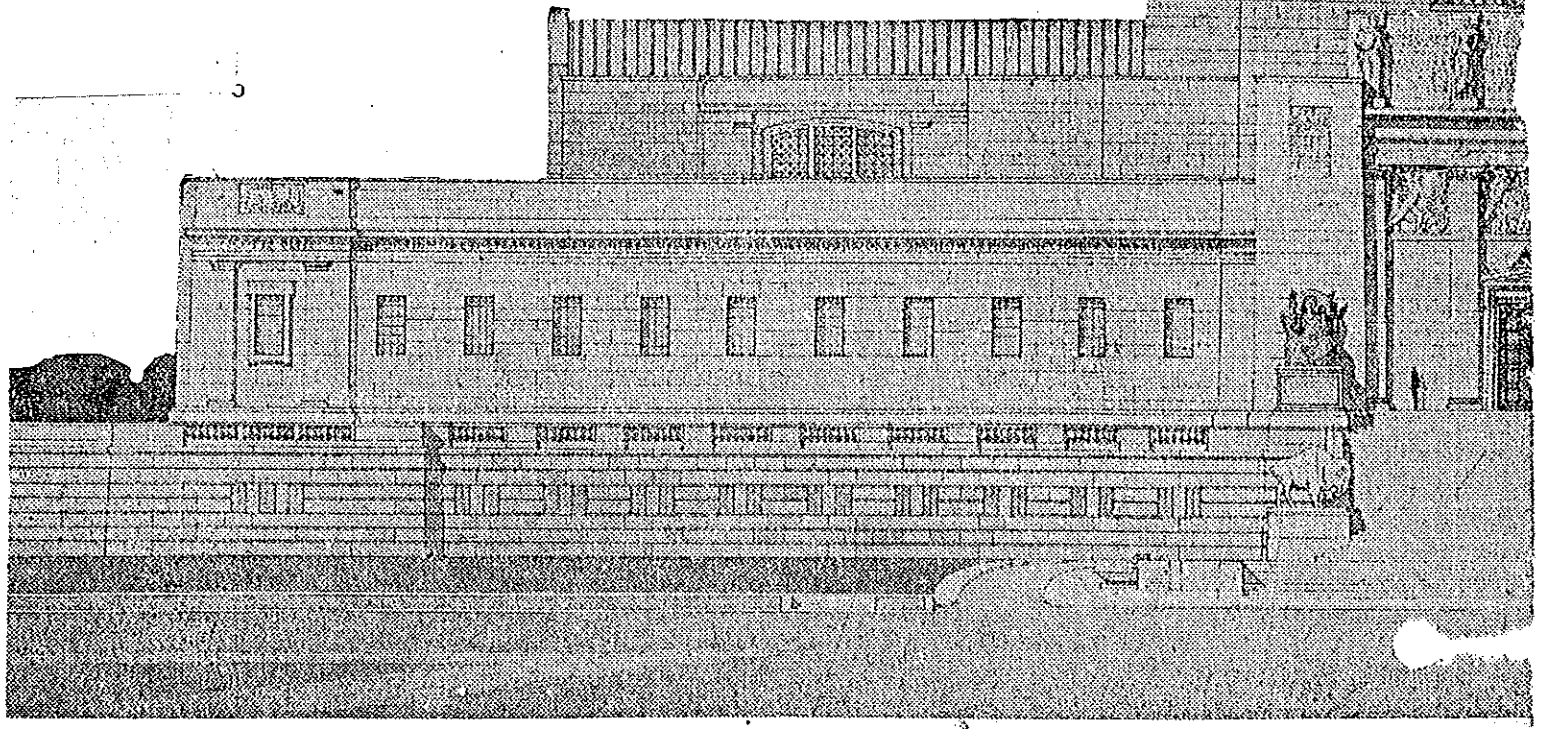
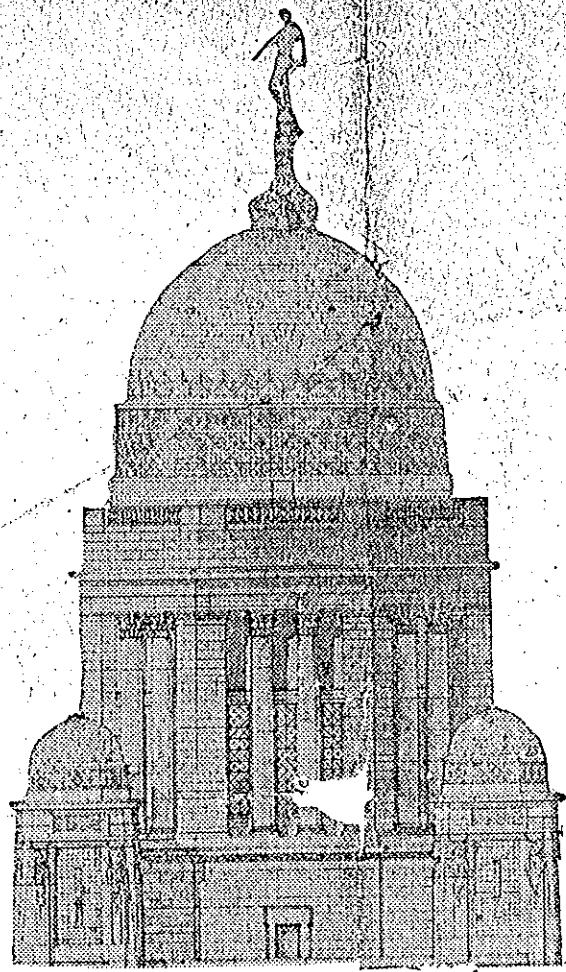
from every approach and from afar the attention will be gripped and the visitor will enter our city hat in hand feeling he is in a great presence. His frame of mind will be much like the person's who enters the Hotel des Invalides or the city built on seven hills.

In Mr. Pope's structure, the perfect proportions and beauty of line compel our admiration, and we love it for itself and our esteem is heightened by its family connections for have we not all been spellbound by the grandeur and majesty of St. Peters or St. Pauls or the capitol at Washington, all admittedly great. Why then should we not have some such structure. There is no answer except to those who believe in progress and want something new and characteristically national. To me the most wonderful architectural creation is a Gothic cathedral—such as Amiens with its incomparable facade, grand, mysterious and never ending but leaving much to the imagination, it makes an overwhelming appeal to one's sense of grandeur and beauty. Yet if I were to build a hundred churches I would not try to reproduce this one because it is not of our civilization.

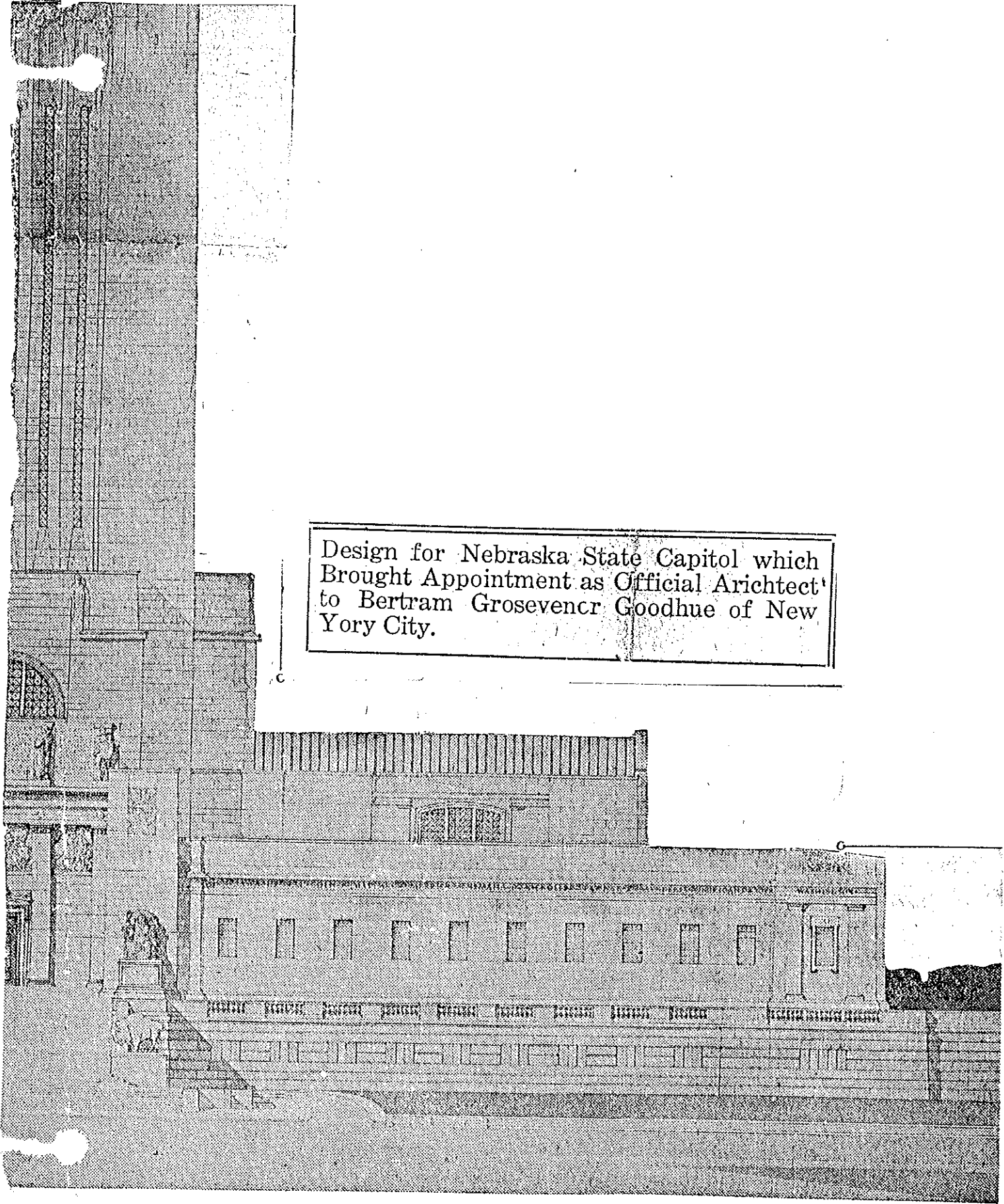
Judging from the spirit shown by the commission I think we are warranted in believing the architect will be given the greatest freedom, a most fortunate circumstance for this is as it should be the artist should not be hampered in any way. There is an eternal fitness about things which in art means unity and it should not be broken by an outsider. The masterpieces of all time have been the creation of one mind. Long said the Illiad was not written by Homer but by another man by the same name. Michael Angelo's dome, one of the greatest architectural triumphs, has been weakened in its effect by Pope Paul the fifth who lengthened the nave and changed the facade. Again Westminster abbey, the finest example of Gothic in England, has suffered by Sir Christopher Wren's meddling with its west tower and yet the builder of St. Pauls was a great architect. The obvious moral is: Let Mr. Goodhue build the capitol. Do not spoil a great and original conception.

H. B. LOWRY.

State Journal  
July 17 1920



Design for Nebraska State Capitol which  
Brought Appointment as Official Architect  
to Bertram Groseveer Goodhue of New  
Yory City.



# The Capitol Art Exhibit

How happy could I be with either,  
Were t'other dear charmer away!  
But while ye thus tease me together,  
To neither a word will I say.—Gay.  
When I undertake to tell the best I find I cannot,  
My tongue is ineffectual on its pivots,  
My breath will not be obedient to its organs,  
I become a dumb man.—Walt Witman.

I have called it an art exhibit advisedly; for despite its practical purpose, and primary at that, what collection of works of art specifically devoted to the production of beauty ever brought to Lincoln has been as finely, as highly artistic as this one or has so satisfied a great artist's definition, "Art is charm."

In the Journal of May 19, discussing "The function of Capitol Commissioners," I said: "Properly to balance our two conditions—the present demands of utility and the future relationship of the building—will require the genius of a great architect, which should have the fullest play practicable. Hence the less opinionated or prepossessed, and the more docile the commissioners are—beyond a clear conception of the general objective—the better." That first step has been very happily and creditably taken.

The plan on the merits of which a jury of eminent architects selected the man who conceived and created it as the architect of the capitol, is a distinct new departure, and if it is adopted Nebraska will certainly have the most distinguished state-house in the country, for some time at least, and I think also the most beautiful. But Nebraska has peculiarly lacked the derring-do spirit which gains distinction. Seemingly she has left to her naturally close cogener, Kansas, to do her bleeding for causes as well as her own pro rata share.

But I am willing to trust the unquestioned great capability of the architect with the benefit of any doubt that his departure is too daring—to play Ruth to Mr. Goodhue's benefit of any doubt that his departure as expressed in the quotation above. With the same confidence I shall hope for the best touching the dread relatively dull alternative.

For intrinsic exquisite beauty, I put the plan of the McKim firm first—that of the rudimentary dome. The jurymen, we are told, rated as second the Pope creation of the full dome type. Of all the domes that of the Harold Van Buren Magonigle plan, hung on the north side, is easily the most beautiful. There are many objections to the detached offices which look like screens. I doubt the legitimacy of the exception, but barring that, the building is more attractive than Pope's. But to add to the monotony of the "dome effect" would be but "an old, condemned, damnable error," when "we've a bagfull o' such."

ALBERT WATKINS.

State Journal  
July 4-1920

# Notable Competition for a Great Public Work

During the week the winning plans offered by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue in the Nebraska state capitol competition have been eagerly studied. No explanation has been received as yet by the architect concerning his plans, but some of the things that were at first cloudy are beginning to reveal themselves. For example, the basement story which was rather dim in the smaller cuts published last week, appears in the larger picture very clearly as a terrace, carrying an elevated sidewalk entirely around the building. This enlarges the basement considerably, making liberal provision there for service quarters, vaults, parking space and offices of a general nature.

The building covers a ground area of 400 feet square. The chief architectural feature is a tower 400 feet high so built that it can virtually all be used for storage space, library stack rooms and even offices.

The main floor contains the two legislative halls, a grand entrance and rotunda, two supreme court rooms, the state library offices and quarters for the state departments. Light is carried to

the interior of the building by four open courts, each eighty feet square, which reach from the roof line to the sod. These courts make all of the quarters in the building virtually outside offices. The legislative halls and the library and the grand main entrance are lighted by clear story windows in an extra story cruciform in shape which rises from the central portion of the building and starts the tower on its upward flight.

The building is so large that it is difficult to grasp all of its proportions. The height of the basement and main story is about sixty feet. The top of the cruciform roof extending above the main story, to form the upper part of the main state apartments, is but a few feet less than 100 feet from the ground.

The jurors took pains to call upon the people of Lincoln to prepare for the new capitol by opening and widening the streets in four directions from its central axes. The city council is at work on a zoning plan under which all construction within a certain distance of the grounds will conform in general with the capitol. Not in style necessarily, but in their general features.

The style of the design is not easily classified. It shows the influences of Mr. Goodhue's travels in Mexico and of his studies of Spanish and Egyptian sources. It is an ultra modern conception, so daring as to cause conservatives to pause and take a second look before they endorse it. The plan has been accepted heartily by nearly all of the students of art who have studied it. They hope that it will be built without nullifying reservations.

The competition which resulted in the selection of M. Goodhue is the first of the kind in the history of American architecture. It results in the choice of the architect, not in the selection of a plan. As soon as Mr. Goodhue can come to Lincoln an arrangement will be made for a restudy of the whole problem. Every possible defect in its scheme will be worked upon. When the commissioners are satisfied that they have the best possible building in sight they will order the architect to begin on the detailed drawings. It may take a year to complete them. It may be possible to start construction in another year, but this is not material.

It is considered fortunate that the outer part of the capitol can be built around the old structure, thus doing away with all rental problems during the period of construction. It is estimated that this will save the state about \$500,000 on this item alone. In the matter of cost, this accepted plan is the least expensive shown in the competition with a single exception. The expense of construction will be much less than in the case of a dome building.

*State Journal  
July 4, 1920*

## The Nebraska State Capitol

LINCOLN, July 2.—To the Editor of the State Journal: What are the feelings, the emotions aroused by the contemplation of the lines and surfaces of this beautiful work of art?

The massiveness of the structure—the breadth of its base, emphasized by its flat surfaces, square angles, and unbroken lines, and the superb height of its delicate yet impressive tower—makes one realize the smallness of the physical man.

Yet man made it, and in the creator is something greater than the created. The mind of man fashioned this pile of strength and beauty. Its very conception and production show a triumph of mind over matter.

And while the monument of this ago

shows to countless generations of the future the nobility of its form, discerning eyes that gaze on this memorial will seek to realize the inner spirit of the civilization of which this is but an outward expression.

The first and foremost principle of life expressed in this form and in these lines and surfaces is that of immortality. Over the main door could appropriately be written the triumphant words: "There is no death." It's a song of joy that these lines express. It is not the foreboding and sad tune of the flood-ridden pyramids. It's the song of certain knowledge of life after death. It's not the fate-fearing hope of the Egyptians. Nor is it the angelic dream of future bliss of the Tal Mahl. It is the melody of a

*State Journal  
July 4, 1920*



soul in conscious realization of attained story while on earth. His feet are firmly imbedded in the necessities of physical existence, but his soul lives in the clouds. The dome, the ego, the real man, looks down from his thought life in the skies and sees that his feet are swift to do the bidding of their lord and master.

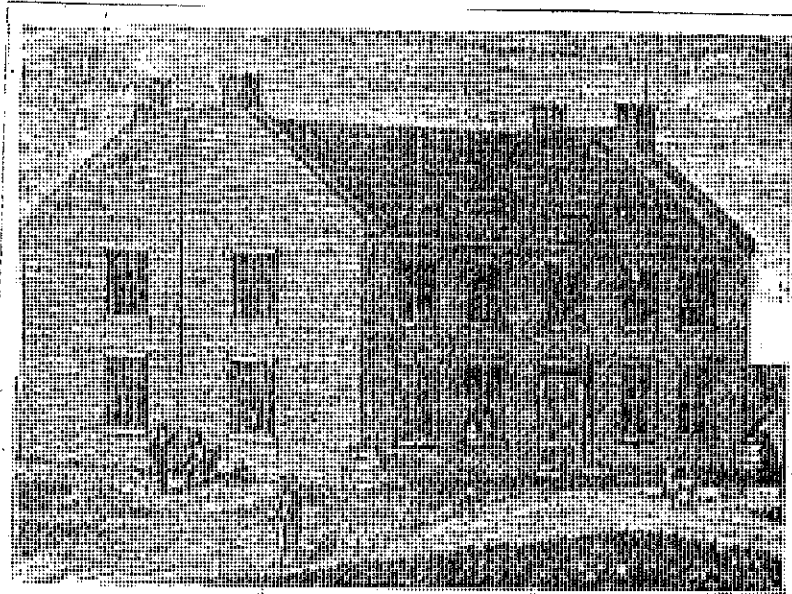
Other thoughts expressed are those of sacrifice, love, service and beauty. It is a poem of Love and Sacrifice, to change one syllable of which would destroy the beauty of the whole. It's a life rooted in the duties of every day life, its radiant soul flowering on the tranquil surface of a starlit sea.

FRED B. HUMPHREY.

C. J. Guenzel was among the visitors to representative hall Wednesday to see the ten famous sets of plans for a new capitol. Like many others he would like the capitol commission to adopt something distinctive, something different from the dome type of building, and he believes Mr Goodhue may have supplied this want in his proposed plan of a tower-dome surmounting a plain building. Being a very practical business man and a lover of duck shooting Mr. Guenzel, after looking at the drawings, proposed to apply for the privilege of spreading nets from the top of the 400 foot tower for the purpose of catching droves of wild geese and ducks. "I would use airplanes to drive the birds up to the nests," said Mr. Guenzel. "I figure that a bird flying 400 feet high is going to leave the state anyway, and it ought not to be a violation of the game laws to take birds that are sure to be killed in some other state before they get back on their way south."

*State Journal*  
*July 4 1920*

Nebraska Builds and Outgrows Three  
Capitols in Less than Three-quarters of a  
Century--Far Step from First Crude  
Structure to Magnificent New Statehouse



—Photo from Morton History of Nebraska.

**WHERE THE FIRST LEGISLATURE MET.**

"The brick building at Omaha City," erected by the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry Company, housed the first two legislatures, in 1855 and 1856.

*over.*

"Build thee more stately mansions,  
O my soul."

Oliver Wendell Holmes' famous line might well serve as one of the inscriptions on the capitol building. For the capitols of Nebraska form a chambered-nautilus series, progressing rapidly from humble and flimsy beginnings to the present inspiring project. Certainly to minds that are filled with the thought of it, the past appears very "low-vaulted" indeed. Incredible, that so much of grandeur and dignity could come in so short time from beginnings so sordid and inauspicious!

The story of the first short-lived capitol, as told in Mr. Albert Watkins' paper, "The How, Where and Why of the Nebraska Capitols and Capitals," filed this week in the governor's office, is not such as one would willingly revive except for the purposes of contrast. To the citizens of today, inheritors of the enlargement of the civic conscience which came with the beginning of the twentieth century, the chambered-nautilus chronicles of the early days seem inexpressibly lugubrious.

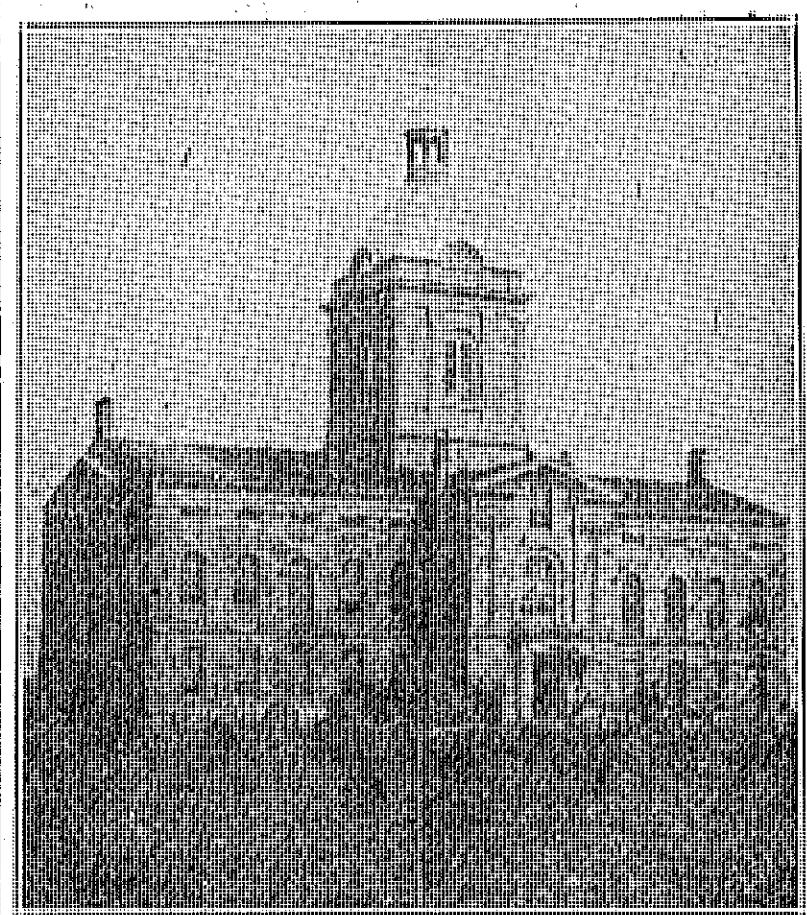
But to the lusty fathers of the state it was not so. Their doings abounded with energy and the joy of life, their brawls were joyous, and their very graft was gay.

In the halcyon days of carpetbagging which marked the beginnings of this state, a group of sturdy adventurers and promoters came from Council Bluffs and laid out the city of Omaha on a sand-bar by the side of the Missouri. They included a "Capitol Square" in their plans, and began the erection of a brick building to house the first territorial legislature and a hotel to shelter its members.

#### Faith in Future

This touching faith in the future of Omaha was backed up by works, and works so potent that they not only got the territorial capital, but even secured that Bellevue, their greatest rival, should not be represented at all in the first session of the legislature.

On January 16, 1855, the first territorial legislature, consisting of thirteen councillors and twenty-four representatives, met at "the brick building at Omaha City," which, by the way, had been financed by the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry company. That morning the streets



—Photo loaned by State Historical Society.

#### THE FIRST STATE CAPITOL.

This promising but ill-fated first capitol of Nebraska as a state, built at the present site in Lincoln and completed in 1870, led a precarious existence for a dozen years until it was replaced by the present less perishable structure.

of the town were filled with disappointed townsite owners armed with hatchets and pistols wrapped in Indian blankets, who had come to Omaha with the idea of breaking up the legislature. However, Acting Governor Cuming got the session into full swing before the disturbers realized what was happening, and their nerve failed them, so that the demonstration did not take place.

This building was located on lot 7, block 124, in the plot of the town. Its site fronts east on Ninth street between Douglas and Farnam. The

Bellevue "Palladium" gives a description of it, a little tinged with the green hue of sour grapes, but probably correct enough in the main.

"The building in which the session is to be held is a plain, substantial brick edifice, which we would judge was about thirty or forty-five feet building is on the east side, into a hall, from which the various state apartments above and below are reached.

#### Building Too Small

"As you enter the hall from below the representatives rooms will be

*Continued*

found on the left, and the governor's apartments on the right. A winding staircase leads to the hall above, at the head of which on the left you enter the council chamber, and the committee rooms on the right. The building is neat and substantial, but altogether too small for the purpose designed.

"The desks for the representatives and councilmen are designed to accommodate two members, each having a tall drawer to himself and a plain Windsor chair for a seat. The furniture, including the secretaries' and speakers' desks, is of the plainest, and yet well suited to the purpose for which it was designed.

"The size of the legislative rooms is so small that but few spectators can gain admittance at one time.

"We were struck by the singularity of the taste displayed in the curtain furniture of the different rooms, which consisted of two folds of plain calico, the one green and the other red, which we took to be symbolic of jealousy and war; which monsters, we fear, will make their appearance before right is enthroned and peace established."

#### The First Capitol

The first real capitol of the territory was located at Omaha on Capitol hill where the Omaha high school now stands. On March 3, 1855, the Congress of the United States appropriated \$50,000 for building it. A rather imposing plan was drawn for it, and on November 29, 1855, the contract was let to a Council Bluffs firm, Boyce and Armstrong. Of these, George C. Bevey was a practical builder; George Armstrong was latter mayor of Omaha.

In an evil hour, the Congress had intrusted the management of the fund to the Governor, M. W. Lizard, a well-meaning and pleasant person, but incompetent. He kept no accounts, and he succeeded in disposing of the whole fund and running the state about \$8,000 into debt in building no more than a cellar and first story.

When this was discovered, in 1857, the territory buzzed with rage. The panic of that year had left nearly everyone penniless, and it was certain that the treasury could not make good the deficit. Finally the city of Omaha came to the rescue. It issued script to the amount of \$60,000, underwritten by various citizens and secured by certain real estate, including a lien on the capitol building and square. But when it was discovered that the city of Omaha had acquired a legal right to turn the legislature out of house and home if it should choose, such a storm of protest arose that the citizens patri-

otically deeded the building to the state.

The plans had called for a stately colonnade to surround the building but the fund ran short and only a part of the columns were ever set in place. These were made of inferior material and the most of them were sent toppling by the first violent thunderstorm that came along. A member of the third legislature disconsolately pictures the new state house as "a magnificent cellar surrounded by portions of brick walls and surrounded by numerous isolated, unfinished, dreary-looking columns." The latter, however, were soon removed as dangerous to life and limb, and sold for scrap iron.

Notwithstanding its flimsy construction, this building housed not only the territorial legislatures, but after the capital had been wrested away from Omaha to be set down in what was then the middle of nowhere, on Salt Creek basin where Lincoln now stands, it offered a somewhat rickety shelter to the first state legislature until their new home was ready for them, January 7, 1869. It was then donated to the city of Omaha for educational purposes.

But its life was destined to be short. In 1869, eleven years after its completion, G. P. Randall, a Chicago architect, pronounced it unsafe, and in June, 1870, its remains were removed.

#### The Second Capitol

Omaha had no sooner secured the capitol than the populous South Platte district, moved by ambition and a thirst for revenge, determined to get it away again at all costs. It took them twelve years to do it, and was the cause of more than one fist fight in the legislative halls. It was the influence of Nebraska City that brought the capitol to Lancaster County. That enterprising town realized it stood no chance to secure the capitol itself, and it hoped to profit by trade with the new city as Council Bluffs had hoped to profit by trade with Omaha, a piece of shortsightedness for which it also has suffered as Council Bluffs has suffered.

The commissioners who picked the present site were Thomas P. Kenard, John Gillespie and James Sweet, with the assistance of Governor Butler. When the lots surrounding the square were offered at auction, a two-days rain was dampening the spirits of the gathering, and so little confidence was felt in the enterprise that no bids were made for the lots until the commissioners themselves, after a conversation together, set the ball rolling by bidding up the lots. A fairly well supported tradition has always claimed that they had made a pact not to be held

by their bids unless the enterprise caught fire. However, with this assistance the bidding began, and the new capitol was assured.

#### Native Rock Used

Great plans were made for the capitol building. The absence of a railroad as well as the necessities of the promoters made it desirable to use native rock, and the reports of the day wax enthusiastic about the stone quarries of the neighborhood. A contemporary account describes the structure, whose outer walls were built of "a kind of magnesian limestone, very beautiful, easily wrought, and excellent building material, brought from Beatrice, a distance of forty miles. The inner walls are of brown sandstone. Of this there are immense quarries within three miles of Lincoln. The builder, Mr. Ward, is enthusiastic in his appreciation of the stone. He says it is the same rock that is in such high favor in New York city, where brownstone fronts are the synonym of aristocratic grandeur."

But alas for the best-laid schemes of mice and men! It proved that the "beautiful magnesian limestone" had the uncomfortable property of crumbling under the influence of frost, while the "New York brownstone," which was nothing more than Dakota sandstone, rotted into sand on contact with moist air.

In 1873 the Nebraska City press, beginning to regret the action of their representatives in raising up a rival in the new capital city, argues for removal on the ground that it will cost the state no financial loss since "the university will fall down next year anyhow; the capitol should be donated to Lincoln—the lower part for a livery stable, the upper part for a block house—the upper windows would make good porches. The penitentiary after Boss Stout takes out the windows, will make a first class ruin."

In 1875, six years after the building was completed in January, 1869, it was necessary to warn the honorable senators and representatives not to applaud one another's speeches, as to do so might cause the building to fall down.

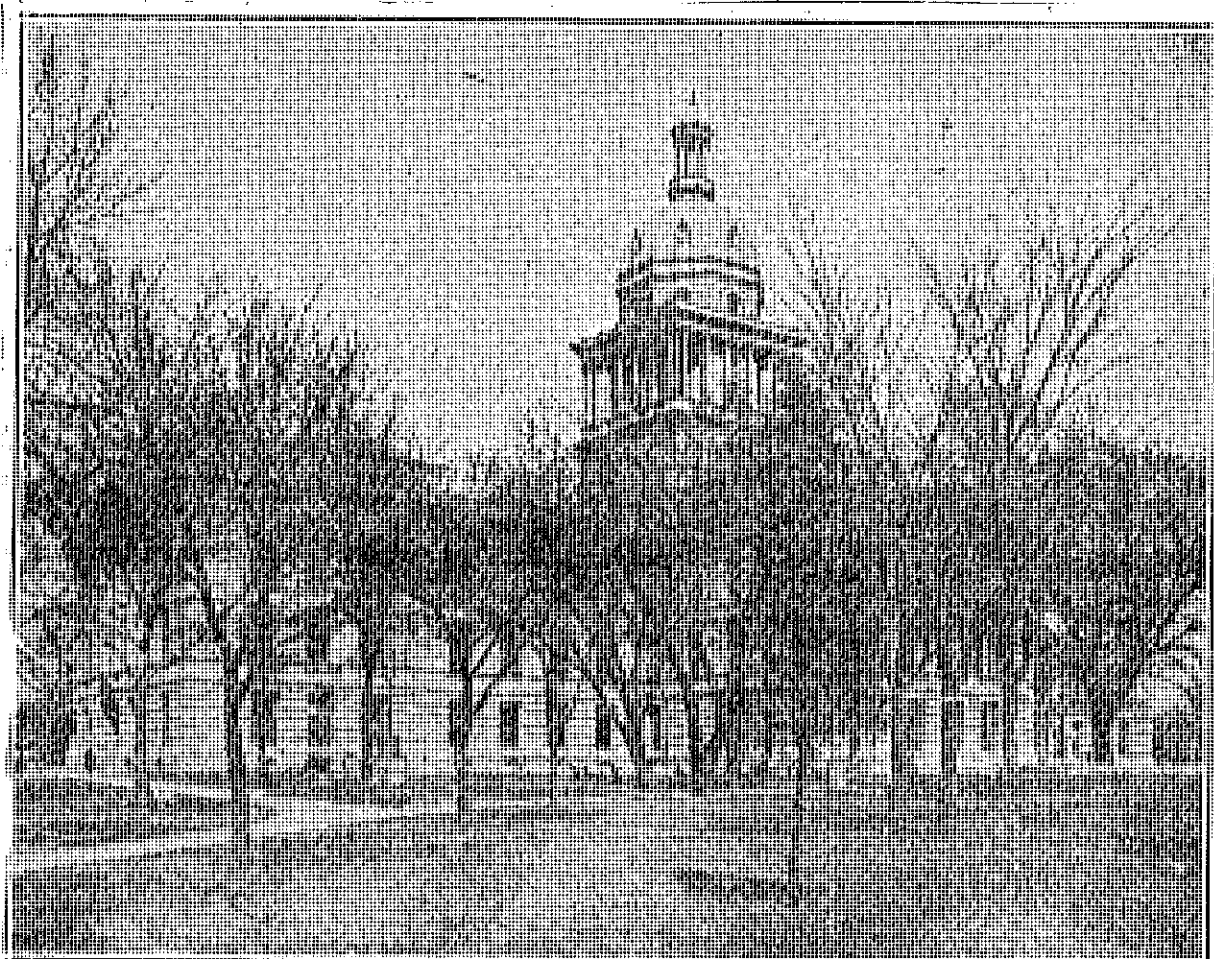
Yet, fragile as the structure was, it endured until 1881, when, the west wing of the present building having been completed, a start was made upon the remainder of the building.

#### The Present Building

With the existing structure, our feet were once more upon terra firma, firm, at least by comparison with what had gone before.

In 1879 the legislature, moved by the obvious fear of having the house of the government collapse about their ears, appropriated \$75,000 to construct the west wing of the present building, "said wing not to ex-

D.V.C.



—Photo by MacDonald.

### THE THIRD STATE CAPITOL.

Second of the state capitols, third of the Nebraska capitols, this familiar and graceful building will soon follow its predecessors into the limbo of history to be replaced by a far grander structure. Completed in 1883, it has already stood more than three times as long as any of its forerunners. The old cry of "unsafe" has been raised against it once or twice; but after all, the reason it must go is because the state has outgrown it.

ceed in cost \$75,000, and to be built in conjunction with and so built that it can be used in connection with the present capitol building, and so constructed that it may eventually form a part of what may eventually be a symmetrical capitol building for the State of Nebraska." In 1881 the legislature made another appropriation of \$100,000 for the east wing.

The west wing was ready for the senate to occupy on May 10, 1882, and the east wing by December 1, 1882. The total cost of the capitol including the central section with the dome, was \$691,428.80; and of the paving, walk and drives was \$68,085.

Even this building, however, was not finished without some scandal. People thought it strange that while

the bid of Robert D. Silver for the east wing of the capitol was \$86,400, and the bid of W. H. B. Stout was \$96,800, the contract was awarded with very little discussion to the highest bidder, although Silver was known to be a capable builder. Silver sued the state for a forced award, but lost his case.

#### New Building Dignified

However, the building was graceful in shape and dignified in proportions, and vastly better built than anything that had gone before it. For forty years it has housed the government, a life more than three times as long as any of its predecessors enjoyed, and it is finally being superseded because the state has outgrown it. In 1911, to be sure, the old cry that

the "capitol was unsafe" was sounded as an excuse for a determined effort to get the seat of government away from Lincoln. The movement was started by the ambitious towns along the Platte, warmly upheld by Omaha, and supported by the wet element in the state by way of punishing Lincoln for its adventure with prohibition. This was the last of the capitol removal agitations which had stirred up the state at frequent intervals ever since its founding.

When the recent capitol appropriation bill was passed, nothing was more astonishing to those who followed the history of such legislation in this state that the utter peace and harmony with which it was passed. There was no effort to remove the

*Continued*

capital from Lincoln, and the members from Douglas county, representing Omaha, formerly Lincoln's deadliest enemy, were among the most active in the effort, to pass the bill. Apparently the day of the sectional strife and jealousies which once disfigured our annals is over, and the time has come when all parts of the state can work together for its honor.

*Lincoln Star*  
*May 7, 1922.*

# Nebraska's New \$5,000,000 State Capitol Will Exemplify Architectural Progress of World

BY E. E. WOLFE

Nebraska will give to the world, in its new five-million-dollar capitol building now in course of construction, a new and distinctive type of architecture carrying out a twentieth century conception by one of the country's foremost building designers.

Rearing its monumental pile 400 feet above the ground surface, with a 19-foot figure of "The Sower" surmounting it, the central tower of this magnificent structure will overlook the city of Lincoln, its suburbs, and a section of Nebraska's vast agricultural domain extending 25 to 40 miles in every direction. From the top dome, a fertile farming region of 3,000 square miles dotted with a hundred cities and towns, will be brought into view.

Seen from distant points, the tower built of white stone, with its bell-shaped cross of gold, will stand as a majestic symbol of Nebraska's prestige and dignity, the stalwart character of her people, the wealth-producing resources of her fields and factories, and the leadership she has attained in education.

The capitol is modeled in the form of a square, 437 feet on each of its sides at the base. The tower is also square, 80 feet each way, but has a round dome.

## Combines Practical and Monumental

Though planned on a scale of stateliness and imposing effect, utility features and space economy have not been sacrificed in the new Nebraska capitol. Its main floor alone will house both branches of the legislature, the governor's suite nearly all the other executive state offices, the supreme court, and the legislative reference bureau, still leaving space for a great, vaulted corridor and central rotunda, and for four large open courts, each 100 by 87 feet in size, to admit light and air from all directions.

Below the tower, the general contour of the building will be that of a series of steps or terraces downward and outward in four directions. The first of these steps is a projection from the tower around its base. Next comes a cross-shaped section rising from the main structure and extending half-way out from the tower to the four points of the compass. The third step comprises the main floor, 385 feet long each way, which is the second floor of the edifice. The ground floor extends out some 25 feet beyond on all sides.

Capitol square itself, 700 feet square, will be a fifth step in the general terrace scheme. The sidewalk areas surrounding it will be set out almost to street level, and retaining walls will be built inside them about 4½ feet high, with a space of 140 feet between these walls and the capitol building.

It is the architect's idea to have the grounds planted in small shrubbery, so that the building will always stand out in profile from top to base, no matter on which side one approaches it.

## Height Equals Breadth

Roughly speaking, the height of the tower is equivalent to the longitudinal distance along one side of the capitol on the ground. It will constitute a landmark of commanding proportions, rising like a small mountain peak above the broad agricultural plateau of eastern Nebraska.

Architecturally, it marks a new era in the science of man's structural handiworks and brings to this state the distinction of originating a type of edifice which will attract visitors from all parts of the world.

As the Alhambra of Spain, the Taj Mahal of India, the Kremlin of Moscow, Notre Dame cathedral of Paris, London's Westminster Abbey, and New York's skyscrapers embody the genius of the world's great builders in different ages, so the Nebraska state capitol will be recognized as a creation which stands in a class by itself. The design has already received national and international attention among architects.

Its proportions are such as to meet all anticipated needs of the state government for a century to come. If, however, the expansion of activities should be more rapid than is calculated, future requirements can be met by the erection of nearby office buildings. The architectural plan of the capitol itself would not permit additions to be made without destroying its nobility of form.

## Elaborate Setting for Edifice

In connection with the capitol project, improvements are contemplated which will insure harmonious surroundings for the seat of government. These include the widening of Fifteenth street to the north from 120 feet to 200 feet and opening it northward from O street to R, where it is expected the University of Nebraska will construct a building to face the capitol, after extending its

campus eastward.

A broad avenue more than half a mile long would thus be formed, capable of beautification along lines similar to those which have made the Champs Elysees of Paris a world-famous boulevard. At a midway point on the avenue the future civic center of Lincoln may be established and suitable buildings erected.

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

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

Old flagstone walks around Capitol square are to be taken up and replaced leading from K, Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets up to the north, west and east entrances. New cement walks will take their place on the sides of the square. The diagonal walks across the grounds will be moved.

## Splendid Interior Features

Magnificent hallways, a spacious and beautiful rotunda, with the apex of its dome ceiling 105 feet above the floor, exquisite mural paintings and designs in ornamental tiling for walls and ceilings, a large collection of statuary, and other artistic decorative effects, will be seen throughout the building when it is completed.

One of the striking details of the plan is a memorial hall at the top of the square tower. This chamber will be circular and 60 feet in diameter. Its ceiling will be the top of the dome, 50 feet overhead in the center. The walls will be solid to a height of 15 feet, above the floor, with long, narrow windows of art glass extending upward from that point a distance of 25 feet, on all sides. This is to be the display room for historical exhibits, relics and other articles of public interest.

Somewhere in the capitol—perhaps on the main floor, but possibly in the memorial chamber—will be an imposing marble slab engraved with the names of Nebraska soldiers.

WCC

Sailors and marines who gave up their lives in the service of their country during the world war. This feature is provided for by the legislative act of 1919 appropriating \$5,000,000 for the capitol construction.

#### Entrance from Three Sides

The main entrance to the capitol will be on the north, looking down Fifteenth street, which may be renamed as Pershing avenue. This doorway, admitting to the vestibule and foyer on the main, or second, floor, will be reached by a broad flight of steps. Other public ingresses will be provided on the east and west.

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

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

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

A bas-relief group showing "Migration of the Pioneers" will appear lower down and just over the doors.

#### Historical and Biblical Figures

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

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

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

Twelve other bas-relief panels will be placed over corner pavilions around the building, illustrative of ancient, medieval and modern events connected with the development of popular government. Among these will be: The Roman senate; the doge

and the council of Venice; meeting of the French états general, preceding the revolution; and William Penn negotiating with American Indians.

At the east entrance, above high arched windows, bas-relief friezes will depict the proclamation of emancipation by Lincoln, Moses with the tables of the law, the judgment of Solomon, secession of the Roman plebs, and other great events in world history.

#### American Forefathers Portrayed

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

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

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

Twenty-four engaged figures, with shields to typify the various occupations practiced in the early days of Nebraska, will look down from the four faces of the tower near the top. The farmer with his plow, a stage driver with his whip, a carpenter and saw, a blacksmith and horseshoe, a farmer's wife and a loaf of bread, and an Indian with a tomahawk are some of them.

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

#### Hall of Fame Planned

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

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

An open view will be had through all three of these great chambers and on to the supreme court room

at the far end of the building. The main vista will thus embrace a distance of 225 feet. It will be lighted from great arched windows on what would be the third story level in a capitol building of the ordinary type.

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

#### Luxurious Legislative Halls

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

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

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

Committee rooms for the senate and house are located on the ground floor, conveniently reached by stairways. There are also some rooms on the main floor which might be utilized for senate committees, but none available for house use.

The main supreme court chamber, 30 by 45 feet, is reached at the south end of the central corridor. Another courtroom, 25 by 38, is separated from it by a transverse hallway. Consultation rooms adjoin both, while nearby offices and workrooms are provided for ten judges and their stenographers. The supreme court clerk's office is also conveniently located.

#### Elegant Suite for Governor

Apartments designed for the governor occupy a space 148 feet long, varying in width from 22 to 41 feet, on the north front of the building and east of the main entrance. The governor's own private office is at the northeast corner, 16 by 35 feet in size. Next to it is his secretary's office and employes' workroom, 24 by 22; then the reception room, 24 by 41, and a hearing room, 24 by 36.

Particular attention has been given to the interior details of this suite, which will be of extreme elegance.

*Continued*



The lower part of the wall to a height of 8 feet or more will be hardwood panels, and above these, walls and gracefully arched ceiling will be decorated with elaborate paintings.

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

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

Public rest rooms and toilets for both sexes will be scattered throughout the building on both floors.

#### Ample Space for Library.

For the famous state library of Nebraska, whose contents are valued at more than half a million dollars, spacious quarters have been set aside in the south middle part of the building on the third floor, which corresponds to the upper portion of the foyer in the north section. A big reading room will look out on the south side. The library proper will have four large offsets connected by wide arches. Rich paintings will adorn the walls and ceilings.

A gallery will run around on all sides. The supreme court reporter and his assistants will have two large rooms adjoining the library. Space for more than 25,000 volumes will be available in the library rooms, and for 50,000 to 60,000 in stackrooms in the tower. Glass floors will be installed every seven feet for the book stacks, set in a continuous steel framework.

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

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

#### Modern Elevator Service.

Four passenger elevators, placed in the corners of the tower, will

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

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

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

The building will be heated by washed air passing through steam-heated pipe coils and then forced by electric fans into distributing tubes. Legislative chambers, committee rooms, and offices will be

on one system, which can be shut off when the legislature is not in session. Another system will supply the governor's suite, the supreme court rooms, library, judges' and clerk's offices. In the summer, unheated washed air will serve to cool the interior temperature.

The fans and air washers will be in a large room in the basement. There, also, will be two big refrigeration rooms. Most of the basement space will be used as storage rooms and vaults.

#### Heating Plants at a Distance

There will be no heating plant on Capitol square, but steam will be piped from a distance, either from a plant constructed by the state itself or railroad trackage, or by the Lincoln Traction Co. from its plant if the state desires to contract with it. This will eliminate smoke and cinders from the immediate vicinity of the capitol.

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

Owing to the great weight of the tower, it will have a solid concrete base, approximately 85 feet square, resting directly on the sandstone some 20 feet below the basement floor. Piers 20 feet square will be placed in each corner, above this base.

#### Main Edifice 60 Feet High

Main walls of the capitol will reach an exterior height of about 60 feet above surface at the corners. The cross-shaped central projection above the main roof will

carry that part of the building 30 feet higher.

The structure will be as nearly fireproof as any erected by man. No inflammable material of any kind will be used in the basement and the ground floor. All window frames will be of steel. Wooden floors and panelwork, and possibly, doors, will be utilized on the main floor, but all other construction material will be of fire-resistant quality.

White or cream-colored stone will be used in the building, but no selection of particular stone has been made as yet. Marble, granite and limestone are available from various sources. The capitol commission will accept none that does not meet standard chemical and mechanical tests to insure its strength and durability.

*Lincoln Star*  
*May 7, 1922.*

# New Capitol Fruit of Quarter of Century of Dreaming of Those Who Planned Monument for State's Progress

BY E. E. WOLFE.

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

Nebraska's new capitol building, on which construction work recently began, is the fruit of a quarter century of dreaming by men and women of the state whose vision looked ahead to the time when a monument should be erected to the growth and progress of a great agricultural empire, to its educational leadership, and to its civic and industrial development.

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

## Could Not Foresee State's Growth.

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

The new seat of government will realize the dreams of the second generation in Nebraska and constitute a lasting memorial to the first

half century of its progress and development. It is planned on a scope commensurate to the expected future advancement of the state for a hundred or two hundred years.

As long ago as the latter '90's, when the west was recovering from several years of hard times and business depression, following an earlier "boom," the forward-looking citizens of Nebraska began to think and talk about the need for a state edifice of suitable design and adequate proportions to typify the majesty and dignity of the growing commonwealth.

## Historical Building Fizzled.

The first concrete step toward providing a new home for the governmental activities was not taken until 1907, when the legislature appropriated \$25,000 for starting construction of a building on the half block of ground acquired by the state historical society at Sixteenth and H streets, just east of Capitol square.

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

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

The basement still presents a rather squalid spectacle on the corner opposite Capitol square, and presents a problem which will require attention when the matter of beautifying the vicinity to harmonize with the new capitol is taken up.

## Hindered by Removalists.

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

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

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

When the next legislature convened in 1913, its attention was mainly engrossed by the university removal contest, in which the house and the senate were at loggerheads with one another. Again, the capitol project failed of realization, though popular approval of it had been made manifest.

## "Economy" An Obstacle.

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

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

The sum of \$65,000 was provided instead for alterations and partial reconstruction of the old capitol, but state officials who knew the conditions at first hand declined to spend more than a small part of the money, believing that to do so would be virtually throwing it away, and about \$60,000 of it remained in the state treasury.

Thus, from one cause and another, the new capitol undertaking had been put off again and again through a long period of years, in the face of a steadily increasing sentiment for it. An example of this sentiment was furnished in 1917, when the Chamber of Commerce at Rushville, together with the potato growers' and cattlemen's organizations, wired their representative at Lincoln to have the legislature appropriate for the capitol and "charge it to Sheridan county," if it thought the state couldn't pay the cost.

6000

### Project Approved at Last.

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

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

In a fine spirit the legislature met this sentiment. It passed the Mears-Tracowell bill appropriating the sum of \$5,000,000 to be raised by a special levy of 1 1-2 mills for a period of six years by more than two-thirds majority in each chamber. The bill carried the emergency clause and became effective when Governor McKelvie signed it on February 20, 1919.

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

### Commission Organizes.

The first meeting of the capitol commission took place on May 9, 1919. As provided by the bill creating it, Governor McKelvie assumed the duties of chairman and Public Works Secretary George E. Johnson those of secretary. Mr. Hardy was elected vice chairman.

At a subsequent meeting, on June 24, 1919, the commission selected Thomas R. Kimball of Omaha as its advisory architect and fixed his compensation at \$2,000. Mr. Kimball was at one time president of the American Institute of Architects.

A general plan of competition by which certain architects were invited to submit designs for the new capitol was adopted by the committee upon Mr. Kimball's recommendation. Three Nebraska architects were chosen in a preliminary contest open to the members of the profession generally in this state. These and seven others, selected from among the best architects in the United States, were asked to submit plans in the final competition.

Each of the ten competitors except the one whose design should be accepted, received \$2,000 for his effort. The commission employed three other architects from other states to act as jury in examining the plans and designating the one they deemed best. Members of the

jury were also paid \$2,000 each and their expenses.

### Designs Submitted Incognito

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

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

On June 24, 1920, the jury met at Lincoln to look over the designs before making its award. It spent two days considering them and on June 26 announced its decision in favor of the plans submitted by Bertram G. Goodhue of New York. This selection was confirmed by the capitol commission, and Mr. Goodhue thereupon became the designing and supervising architect for Nebraska's new capitol.

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

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

### Original Plans on Exhibition

In order that the people of Nebraska might have an opportunity to see the various architectural designs, several of which were deemed to possess remarkable beauty and strength of conception, the entire collection was placed on exhibition at Representative hall in the present capitol building. After being viewed there by hundreds of persons, they were taken to Omaha and submitted to public inspection in that city.

Subsequently, they formed a striking exhibit at the state fair in 1920, where thousands of visitors from all parts of the state saw them. The plans were eventually returned to the architects who furnished them.

Before arranging the competition, members of the capitol commission had made a tour and visited three of the finest state capitols in the country—those of Minnesota at St. Paul, Wisconsin at Madison and Missouri at Jefferson City. Some

of the members had seen other state and national capitols during their previous travels.

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

### Foundation Tests Made

During the summer of 1921 a series of tests was made on the clay and sandstone formations underlying Capitol square, to determine their weight-resisting powers. More complete tests were carried out during the early part of last winter, by excavating a large space east of the present building and superimposing hundreds of tons of iron rails on small-sized bases.

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

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

In order to expedite construction of the new capitol and secure the removal of dirt and the delivery of materials at the lowest cost, a line of electric railway was laid on H street, over which cars are hauled from the railroad yards to the building site and distributed as needed over a system of switch tracks on the grounds.

*Lincoln Star*  
*May 7, 1922.*

# A Professional View of the Goodhue Plan for the Capitol

CHICAGO, April 10.—I wonder if the good, hardy, progressive people of your commonwealth have any adequate realization of how fortunate they are in the outcome of the competitions which at the same time gave them an architect and a basic design for their projected state capitol. I can hardly realize it myself—it almost seems as if one of my dreams has come true, or as near my dream as it well could be and I with no tangible part of its creation. My direct connection with the project in its inception was in the relation I sustained as professional juror acting with Nebraska's broad-minded and far seeing capitol commission in the preliminary competition for the selection of three Nebraska architects to participate in the final competition.

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

I was pleased at the outcome of the final competition and so expressed myself to the governor, to other members of the commission and to their professional adviser who has so ably conducted the competition. My sole disappointment in the results of the final competition lay in the seeming evidence that one whose mind grasped and solved so brilliantly the greater problem should have been fettered by the conventions of ancient architectural forms. But upon seeing the drawings you have so kindly sent to me, I realize that I feared foolishly and that the original competition drawings were under stress of time limitations or, as they may have been made, as a concession to a technical jury. Mr. Goodhue had no means of gauging the breadth of mind of the capitol commission as I had. In my work with them I found them quite amen-

Irving K. Pond of Chicago, who so strongly endorses the Goodhue plan for the Nebraska capitol, is an architect and author of wide reputation. His buildings are notable, his contributions to the literature of architecture are highly regarded, and his leadership in the profession is quite generally conceded. Mr. Pond has written the following article in response to a request for his opinion on the manner in which Mr. Goodhue has developed his original theme.

able to the appeal of beauty and practicability, though clad in unconventional raiment.

Every step made in the process of developing the design to the present stage has been in the direction of breaking the shackles and freeing the spirit. Mr. Goodhue has been aided in this, very evidently, by the study he had put upon amore recent competition; a competition which, with all due respect to the counter pronouncement of a professional jury, I am of the firm opinion that he fairly won. However, Nebraska has not suffered by rather has gain immeasurably by the study put upon what Missouri has lost. I congratulate Nebraska upon choosing her architect for the great work and letting him strike out into the path of aesthetic freedom—yes even of abetting him in the move.

For the timid I may say this is not the first capitol without a dome. There are several examples of domeless capitols even in the United States. No dome covered the capitol of Rome "in the high and palmy state;" not even in the highest and palmiest state. The dome originally was a mortuary, then a religious expression; then an expression of ecclesiastical authority and domination. Lord only knows how it gained standing as an expression of civic authority in the country where church and state are, let us hope, forever politically and governmentally divorced. The cupola as Mr. Goodhue has used it to crown his state house tower gives a sense of completion to the individual structure rather than a sense of dominating the surrounding community to the heights, not that it may crouch under the domination of authority but that it may luxuriate and expand in the sunlight and pure air of liberty under the law. If Nebraska ever regrets this proffered expression in

architecture of her free and expanding spirit it will be when that spirit has degenerately succumbed to lower ideals—the which we hope will never be.

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

*Lincoln Star*  
*Nov 7, 1922.*

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

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

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

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

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

#### Ancient Types Disregarded.

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

"Aside from the rotunda, memorial hall, and all specified requirements, and quite exclusive of all corridors, staircases, and toilets, the design provides 85,000 square feet of directly lighted floor space.

"Throughout the building's interior arrangements, the authors have striven to achieve the greatest degree of directness, compactness, and economy, consistent with convenience and dignity. If actually built, they are convinced it would prove no labyrinth to the unfamiliar visitor and that this none too common—though surely desirable—end has been attained not only without sacrificing, but actually increasing, its monumental quality.

#### Suitable for all Seasons.

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

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

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

#### Design Praised by Jury.

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

"The design of the winner shows the greatest utility of any of the plans; it shows him to be able to design a monument worthy of Nebraska and capable of giving the fullest consideration as to proper expenditure. While he sacrificed nothing in area, utility, and beauty, he

has been able to produce a building less than 75 per cent of the ground size of the average building in this competition. He has produced for this space a building as free from binding traditions as it is from prejudice.

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

"A point worthy of the highest consideration in connection with this program is the proposed extension of Fifteenth street further north, and the widening of J street east and west. In our opinion, if your capitol building should prove to be a successful architectural monument, which our judgment leads us to expect, then it will be all the more important that these street extensions and widenings should be made."

## Four Years to Complete Work of Construction

Four years is the period of time estimated by members of the Nebraska capitol commission required to construct the new state building. They hope to have it completed and ready for occupancy, including the central tower, by the end of 1925. Allowing for contingencies which may arise to delay operations, the building will undoubtedly be finished by January 1, 1927.

In order that new quarters may be provided for the various governmental departments before the old edifice is vacated, the outer part of the new capitol will be erected first. This will leave the old state house standing until a section of the new one is built all around it. When the offices and the state library have been moved, the old structure will then be torn down and the inner part of the new one put up. The tower 400 feet in height will come last.

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

### Wait on Next Legislature,

One more legislative session, during the first three and a half months of 1928, will be held in the ancient halls. After the legislature adjourns demolition of the east and west wings will begin. As fast as space becomes available in the new outer structure to house the different offices, they will move and the tearing down of the old edifice will proceed. Special contracts will be

let for scrapping the old capitol and salvaging the materials. This will be done ahead of time so as to rush the work.

In the meantime, the capitol commission will have awarded contracts for construction of the interior section of the new capitol, and its tower. The plan is to inaugurate this part of the project by the latter part of 1923. Members of the commission believe that during the remainder of that season and in 1924, the central edifice can be completed, or at least made ready for the use of the legislature which is to meet in January, 1926.

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

### Cornerstone Laying Next Fall.

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

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

While it has taken nearly three years to get ready for actual construction work on the new capitol, the state profits from the delay through greatly decreased costs of building materials and labor.

*Incessant Star*  
*May 7, 1922.*

# Fourth Nebraska Capitol is Emblematic of Statewide Amity While its Predecessors Were Born of Bitter Strife

BY ALBERT WATKINS.

As historian of the Nebraska State Historical Society, I contributed a comprehensive history of the making and unmaking of Nebraska capitols and capitols in the ceremony of board of sessions which resigned. The breaking ground for the new statehouse on April 15, 1922. I here undertake the difficult task of condensing the story within the practical limits of a newspaper article with the least impairment.

Thought and action have never before been so independent of the past as now, yet interest in the past is now more general and keen than ever before. This beginning of the most pretentious of all of the commonwealth's capitols increases greatly our interest in other similar experiments, and the hope that holding the lamp up to them may in some sort guide and restrain our feet from their many mistakes and misfortunes, still further justifies my task.

## Nebraska's Stressful Beginning.

That the fierce sectional strife over the spread or restriction of the southern slavocracy should have been the midwife of far frontier Nebraska's territorial birth, seems a truth stranger than fiction. It was due to the fact that Missouri, naturally half slave and half free, was admitted to the union as a slave state, in 1821, but on the notorious compromise concession that slavery should be restricted to the Louisiana territory north of latitude 36 degrees and 30 minutes—the westward extension of the southern boundary of Missouri. The not wholly, nor mainly selfish sop which Stephen A. Douglas, chairman of the senate committee on territories and the most powerful parliamentary leader of that time, threw to the slavocracy in the repeal of the compromise, to preclude its opposition to his prodigious policy of redeeming that vast empire from its condemnation by the northeast and southwest as a perpetual dumping ground for their Indians, precipitated secession and the civil war. The opening for anti-slavery organization caused by the repeal lured Lincoln from his hiding, but these two greatest leaders of that particular time heroically "clasped hands across the bloody chasm" to save the union from the disruption which they, principally perhaps, though unwittingly, had caused.

## The Nebraska Country.

It was at first intended to include only the territory opposite Missouri and Iowa (extending westward to the Rocky mountains, the western boundary of the Purchase) in the Territory of Nebraska. This section came to be called The Nebraska Country

in the early forties, after the original American name of the river which bisected it. Notwithstanding that the Arkansas is much longer, the Nebraska came to be considered the most important tributary of the Missouri because its valley afforded the most important highway in the country—at first to the great fur fields and afterward for the colonization of Oregon and to the gold fields of California. It was because this contact and grip had become continental in the meantime that all the rest of the Purchase northward, was finally included in the original bill for organizing The Nebraska Country.

The main motive for slipping a wafer between Kansas and Nebraska, as Douglas put it, was the desire of Illinois and Iowa interests to control the territory opposite them free from Missouri meddling. In accordance with this policy, our trunk railroads to the Missouri river were already projected, some of them under construction, incidentally this division fitted into Missouri's desire to extend slavery into Kansas. Though natural conditions precluded this project through fear on one hand and hope on the other, Kansas chose to bleed about it throughout her territorial period of six years and a half. But though there was no slavery issue in Nebraska, the natural division of the nearly impassable Platte kept up sectional strife for twenty-five years. This chronic disorder was most manifest in the fights for the sectional location of the capital.

Francis Burt, the first governor, an amiable and virtuous South Carolina carpetbagger, intended to call the first session of the territorial assembly to meet in the spacious home of the Presbyterian mission at Bellevue, but his sudden death two days after his arrival, eased by the hardships of his long journey, turned the capital question into a horse of another color. Thoma B. Cuming, of Keokuk, Ia., succeeded Burt, as acting governor. He was predisposed toward the interest of Omaha and had the complete courage of his conviction. Consequently he called the first session of the assembly to meet in that hamlet, in the only brick building, which had been constructed on a good guess by the Council Bluffs and Nebraska Ferry company. A secondary cause of the chronic sectional disorder in Nebraska arose from the fact that until the time of its political organization it had been set apart as Indian country from which white settlers were precluded. So they came in with a rush and largely bent on mere land speculation. In contrast to this disorder breeding condition, each of the neighboring territories

started with a considerable number of fairly stable settlers, who therefore proceeded with less disorder than Nebraska. The process of establishing the government therefore was mainly managed by the two opposite and contiguous counties of Iowa — Pottawottamie and Mills—with headquarters, respectively, at Council Bluffs and Glenwood. All of the fourteen men who professed to represent the claims of Plattsmouth for the capital, resided at Glenwood, but they were easily persuaded to desert to the banner of Omaha, which was constituted the permanent capital by that first assembly. The session of the first two assemblies were held in this privately owned building; the third in Root and Henf's block, commonly called "Pioneer Block," situated on the north side of Farnam street between Eleventh and Twelfth.

## Capitol I.

On the 3rd of March, 1855, fifty thousand dollars was appropriated by the federal congress for the erection of public buildings in the territory. The expenditure of the appropriation was confided to the second governor, Mark W. Izard, who miscalculated so lavishly that it was all spent on the basement of the first story. Omaha being alike exhausted—in part owing to the business convulsions of 1857—felt bound to continue the construction by the issue of "scrip" to the amount of \$60,000. When it was found that the city had pledged the "Capitol Square and the building thereon" to secure the scrip, public opinion, expressed in a roar, persuaded the city to give a deed of trust of the property, "for the use and purposes of the capitol of the territory, and the state of Nebraska when it may become such." But the day after this amende honorable, a majority of each house voted to withdraw from the seat of government and go on with the session at Lorence, where a bill relocating the capital was passed. The commissioners named in the bill chose a site for the new capital city, which they named Neapolis, overlooking the Platte river, three miles northeast of the present town of Cedar Bluffs. But this scheme, after it was fairly started, was called off by the conservative influence of Governor William A. Richardson.

In a protest against expending any more public money on the building, the third legislative assembly described its condition; "... the whole of the appropriation was speedily expended in the construction of a magnificent cellar, surmounted by portions of brick walls and surrounded by numerous isolated, un-

finished, dreary looking columns . . . This not fully finished capitol housed the government until its successor at Lincoln, was ready for occupancy in December, 1868.

#### Capitol II.

The act of July 14, 1867, for the removal of the capital to Lincoln, was carried out as a land trade. Though the act authorized the commissioners to take over public land for the site of the town, they traded with interested owners of contiguous land, and other speculators, for eight hundred acres of the site, and added 160 acres of saline lands. In final desperation the original advertising name, "Capitol City," was traded off for "Lincoln," by the Omaha floor leader of the senate, in the hope that the copperhead members from Otoe county would not swallow that disgusting dish of crow; but they avidly took the dose and then consistently financed the unique enterprise. The second capitol was badly built with stone for the outer course brought on wagons from a quarry near Beatrice. The inner course was the utterly unfit brown sandstone from the quarries near Cardwell's Branch, about three miles southwest of the city. The only plausible reason for using this stone is that the private owners of the quarries had the private ear of the capitol commissioners. It was disastrously used for the foundation of the university building against the protest of the builder, Robert D. Silver, that it was unfit.

The tumble-down condition of capitol II was one of the reasons for the nearly successful attempts by the legislature of 1873 and 1875 to remove the capital from Lincoln. They failed through the incapacity of the principal proposed beneficiaries to unite upon a location. Columbus and Kearney, the chief competitors, killed each other, but Lincoln adroitly lynched the killing by indirect and direct bribery.

The practical quietus was put upon removal in the appropriation of \$75,000 by the legislature of 1879, to construct the first west-wing of the present capitol. The legislature of 1881 extended the time for the construction of the west wing to September 1, 1882, and appropriated \$100,000 for building the east wing. The west wing was ready for occupancy by the senate at the special session beginning May 10, 1882. The east wing was occupied for the first time by the house of representatives at the session which convened January 2, 1883. This legislature authorized the board of public lands and buildings to demolish the old capitol and the construction in its place of the central part at a cost not exceeding \$450,000. The total cost of the present capitol was \$691,428.80. This building was not bungled as badly as its predecessors, though it was badly

built of second class stone from quarries not far from the mouth of the Platte river.

#### Capitol IV.

In his inaugural message, January 9, 1919, Governor McKelvie sounded the traditional note. "...the building of a new capitol is a matter that cannot be much deferred, not only is the present capitol a discredit to the state but it is inadequate to house the state government and is actually unsafe for occupancy." House roll 3, introduced January 13, provided a tax of one mill for the construction of the proposed capitol and its equipment. As the bill finally passed the house by a vote of 93 to 2 it provided for the levy of a mill and a half for six years and that not exceeding five million dollars be expended on the building alone. The senate passed the bill without change with only two negative votes. A motion in the house to submit the question of the place where the proposed capitol should be located was lost 18 to 75. A motion in the senate that none of the provisions of the act should be enforced until submitted to a vote of the people was lost 12 to 21. The bill was signed by the governor on the 20th of February.

The bill provided for a capitol commission of five members; two of them of New York, two of Philadelphia of the state board of irrigation, highways and drainage, ex officio, and three other residents of the state to be appointed by the governor. William E. Hardy, of Lincoln; Walter W. Head, of Omaha; and William H. Thompson of Grand Island were appointed commissioners on the 21st of February, 1919.

Ten eminent architects, four of them of New York, two of Philadelphia, one of San Francisco, two of Omaha and one of Lincoln submitted competitive plans for the capitol. A jury comprising three other architects, namely, Waddy B. Wood of Washington, James Bamble Rogers of New York, and Willis Polk of San Francisco, selected the plans presented by Bertram G. Goodhue, of New York on the 26th of June, 1920. The first contract for the construction of the capitol was made April 12, 1922 and accordingly work on the foundation is now going on.

The ceremony of breaking ground for the capitol, on April 15, 1922, was witnessed by an enthusiastic multitude of citizens from all over the state. It was distinguished by the participation of Marshal Joffre, the great French general. Governor McKelvie made a brief introductory address and then held the plow for the opening of the ground. This history of the capitals and capitols of Nebraska was presented as feature of the program.

#### "Happy Harmony."

The steady expedition progress of the capitol bill through its successive stages is, it seems to me, the most felicitous feature of the very important enterprise. The traditional sectional lion and lamb had many times lain down together, but almost always the lamb of the hour inside the lion of the hour. The "happy harmony" (General Grant's deathbed felicitation over the reunion of the separated sections of the country) of the capitol incident is so clear as to need no interpretative comment. The old lion and lamb lie down dead together. Most significantly, perhaps, Omaha and Lincoln have at last learned the most important lesson of civic as well as individual experience—to live and let live, perceiving that their interests are so bent as to be largely, if not mainly mutual, in the removal struggle of 1867, Doctor George L. Miller's Omaha Herald urged this attitude substantially.

The members from Douglas county pushed the capitol project with pleasurable pride and anticipation, and such was the general spirit of the legislature. There was little log-rolling for the measure, and the Lancaster members had merely to play the part of adjusters of various and divergent interests to promote their principal design. In his address at the formal opening of the state university, J. Sterling Merton, with keen prophetic insight, emphasized the declaration—his main conception—"This is the people's school." So almost all hands now rise to the sentiment. "This is the state's capital city." It is, in particular now seen that the seat of government and the most truly state school run well together and are perhaps the principal factors of the ideal capital city. And notwithstanding the peculiarly factitious start of Lincoln, it is now seen that capitals are not made but mainly grow, and that the present capital's relatively long life has firmly fixed its foundations and so raised its superstructure that a convenient season for considering its abandonment for an alternative crude beginning, is very far, if not infinitely distant. In the meantime, the prospective improvement of travel will decrease or minimize the distance from the center. Lincoln is situated forty-six miles from the southern boundary of the state and fifty-six miles from the eastern boundary. The capital of Wisconsin is only forty-one miles from the southern state boundary, though it is approximately central east and west. Just like Nebraska, capital removal was always with the Badger state, until the burning of the state house in 1904 forced the final issue, and settled it by an appropriation for the magnificent new one. But while the chronic quarrel in Nebraska died out in less than sixty years,

*Continued*



The starting of work on the new capitol has recalled the fact that the seat of the state government was at Omaha in territorial days. Governor David Butler approved an act June 1, 1867 which resulted in its removal from Omaha to Lincoln. 5-11-22.

*Nebraska Tribune*  
*May 11, 1922*

Excavation work for the foundation of Nebraska's new capitol started last week, a caterpillar truck drawing a large steamshovel into the furrow plowed by Governor McKelvie nearly two weeks ago.

*Nebraska Tribune*  
*May 11, 1922*

# SHOULD DO HONOR TO THE ARCHITECT

Reader Wants the Space Around  
the Capitol Named Good-  
hue Circle in His  
Honor.

LINCOLN, Neb., June 22.—To the Editor: If it is necessary to rename the streets, the subject should be approached prayerfully and deliberately; and only after all interested have been afforded an opportunity to be heard, should there be a change.

I submit the following suggestions, together with the reasons that seem to justify by conclusions.

In the first place I would select the new capitol as a central point of divergence. Such additional real estate as will be acquired adjacent to the permanent site, should be landscaped into a plot, entirely surrounding the capitol, and be known as "Goodhue Circle." What more appropriate appreciation, state and civic, could be accorded the memory of the great architect and artist, that gave us the magnificent pile; whose fame even now in its uncompleted state, has sped around the world.

From the capitol north, on Fifteenth street, which will terminate at the university campus, have a stately "mall" flanked as the years go by, by new civic and like edifices. Name this "Pershing Mall," or "Place." A reason for so honoring General Pershing should not be necessary. The Lincoln statue, now facing west, should be placed at the north of the proposed "Goodhue Circle," facing north.

To the east, J street, centering in the capitol site, should be parked its entire length, and named "Wilson Avenue or Drive." The eminence to the extreme east, could at some future date be crowned with a suitable memorial to those who made the great sacrifice in the late war, and with whose history, posterity will inevitably link Woodrow Wilson's name.

"O" street should be left as it is, or named "Lincoln Boulevard," what name more appropriate if a change is necessary. Vine street is already a name, why seek another.

J. F. BOYTON.

*State Journal*  
*June 22, 1923.*

# GOLD LEAF FOR CAPITOL CARVING

Background of Lowrie's Pioneers  
to Be Gilded to Bring Out the  
Lines of the Master-  
piece.

The work of gilding the background of the Lee Lowrie sculptured story of the pioneers over the main entrance of the new capitol was commenced Tuesday. Workmen began sizing the stone that forms the background to this piece. Later gold leaf is to be applied to the cut-in portions of the stone. It is to be done at a cost of only \$150 to the state. It was recommended by Mr. Lowrie in the belief that the lines of the carved figures would stand out more prominently than they do now. The covered wagon and oxen and the five figures that appear in the piece constitute a masterpiece in the estimation of critics. As the group is sheltered by a heavy archway the carvings have not weathered as rapidly as was hoped for and the lines do not show to the best advantage. It is believed by the sculptor that gold leaf upon the background will remedy this.

The elder man in the group has been commented upon more than any other figure because the man is depicted as holding in front of his body a forked branch of a tree or shrub in his hands. Some who have studied this believe it is to represent a divining rod used often by pioneers and by some "water witches" in the present age to locate water.

The capitol commission concluded its meeting Tuesday without taking action upon plans for furniture for the governor's suite and three rooms of the supreme court. Changes are likely to be made in the designs presented to the commission for adoption. No date has been set for filing bids. It has been estimated that the furniture needed will cost less than \$50,000.

*State Journal*  
*Sept. 1, 1923.*



**AUGUSTUS VINCENT TACK**

New York artist who has been selected by the capitol commission to design and execute mural paintings for the governor's reception room in the new capitol. He was recommended to the commission by the late Bertram G. Goodhue, who designed the capitol. Mr. Tack says he appreciates the honor of aiding in decorating what he believes will be the most beautiful room in the world. His paintings will be finished within two years. They will be in oil upon linen cloth.

## MURALS IN THE CAPITOL

### Creations of Augustus Vincent Tack for the Governor's Reception Room.

Virtues of the human race will be exemplified in mural decorations which will adorn the governor's reception room of Nebraska's new \$9,000,000 statehouse.

Augustus Vincent Tack, New York artist, has in mind the wish of the late Bertram G. Goodhue, architect, who designed both the capitol and grounds, that the governor's official room be made "the most beautiful room in the world."

The side and end walls will express the virtues of the state. The end wall at which is the fireplace will represent the state as the provider of learning in its universities and schools and on the left as the protector of the sick and help-

less in its hospitals and asylums. The opposite wall will represent the idea of equality before the law in which will be seen all sorts of men. In this panel the law itself is represented by the seven ancients of the law, who stand as judges before the procession of human beings.

This same processional passes around the whole first plane of the decoration and is divided into three groups. These represent the liberty of speech, liberty of religious observance and liberty of the electorate or political freedom.

Opposite these panels will be balancing groups expressive of contentment and happiness, symbolizing prosperity.

In the next section are represented the virtues of citizenship—Courage, magnanimity, perseverance, vision, enterprise, hospitality, understanding and righteousness.

The ceiling proper represents the virtues of life. This is divided into seven panels. In one of these will be agriculture in the person of Ceres. She is attended by the favoring winds which bring the rains and produce abundant crops. Opposite this panel and balancing it, is represented industry in the person of Vulcan. Between these panels is a circular panel in which a figure representing life giving energy, like a sun in the center of the universe.

At the extreme end of the ceiling panels is a representation of the tree of life, signifying the successive generations of men.

*State Journal*  
*March 6-1924*  
*Date and paper*  
*unbeknownst.*

### Replace Capitol Trees

Replacing 125 scarlet oaks in the parkways opposite the state capitol, was under way Thursday by employes of the park department. The trees being taken out were killed by the heat last summer, notwithstanding they were watered almost every other day, according to Chet Ager, park executive. A number of the benches in Antelope park are being painted white as an experiment, according to Commissioner Oberlies, head of the park department, preparatory to the opening soon of the summer band concerts. If they get dirty too easily, he said, "we will have to go back to the prevailing green."

*State Journal*  
*Feb. 25, 1925*

## Cupola of Old Dome Is Gone

*May 1 - 1925 Star*

The last sheet metal column was removed Friday morning from the circle which formed the cupola of the dome of the old capitol building, where many thousands of people have climbed in the past to view the city of Lincoln and its environs from a height of over 150 feet. This left the steel framework of the dome proper, from which the copper roofing had been removed, as the next part of the structure to be demolished.

While the big derrick with its 100-foot steel arm is bringing down the dome, piece by piece, crews of workmen are busy on the roof of the main building tearing out stones and cornices and sending them down to be loaded on waiting flat cars, or piled up until full cargoes of such material have accumulated.

Carpenters are busy in the interior of the old edifice tearing out beams, joists, walls and floors, and sliding the timbers and boards out through the window openings.

*Lincoln Star  
May 1 - 1925*

## REMOVE GRANITE PILLARS

Columns on North Side of Old  
Capitol Withstood Many Ora-  
torical Attacks.

The last car load of granite pillars from the north side of the old capitol was hauled to the stadium Wednesday. Six similar columns from the south entrance will be taken down Thursday. The twelve columns with capitals and bases are to be stored under the stadium until the university regents determine the use to which they shall be put. Each column contains three sections of polished granite.

Governor Boyd stood between the pillars on the south side of the capitol in 1892 after he had been reinstated in office by order of the supreme court of the United States. From that position he delivered an address to his political friends. Upon his return from a journey around the world W. J. Bryan delivered an address from between the pillars at the north entrance. Many famous men have delivered addresses from platforms built far below the portico upon which the pillars stood. For nearly forty years these stones have withstood all sorts of oratorical bombardment without cracking.

*State Journal  
May 1 - 1925*

## PILLARS TO COME DOWN

WRECKERS BEGIN ON PORTALS  
OF OLD CAPITOL.

Polished Granite Columns Re-  
served for University—Esti-  
mated Weight of One Sec-  
tion 7,900 Pounds.

Wreckers of the old capitol at noon Friday had removed all but one of the eight one-ton iron pillars forming the framework of the lantern of the dome. When the last of these is taken down the work of cutting the framework of the dome proper with acetylene gas torches and the removal of the frame in small sections will progress more rapidly.

Two of three railroad cars on each of two sides of the old building are constantly on hand for loading with stone from the cornices and walls. The work of loading large granite columns at the north and south entrances of the old building will be started Friday afternoon. The columns on the north entrance will be the first to be taken down. These handsome polished granite columns with bases and capitals have been reserved for the use of the University of Nebraska. They are to be hauled by railroad cars to the university unloading track near the stadium. The university is to carry them by truck to some part of the grounds where they may be used in the future, possibly in a building.

Each column of granite is in three sections. The largest section is about seven feet long and will constitute the largest and heaviest stones in the old building. Some are six feet nine inches long and three feet in diameter. As granite weighs 180 pounds to the cubic foot it is estimated one section weighs 7,900 pounds. Limestone weighs 156 pounds to the cubic foot. The largest limestones in the old structure are over the corners of the cornice overhauling these granite pillars.

Newberg & Bookstrom of Lincoln who have the contract for supplying section two of the new capitol with heating and ventilation apparatus filed a bond Friday with the capitol commission in the sum of \$96,126, that being the amount of

their bid. This bond and the bond of the Struble Cut Stone company for \$598,345, were prepared by the O. W. Palm Insurance agency of Lincoln, representing the United States Fidelity & Guaranty company of Baltimore. The same agency expects to prepare the bond of the Wiese Co., general contractors, for \$1,915,400. These bonds are all reinsured among several other insurance companies. The capitol commission prescribes the form of the bonds and approves them after conferring with the attorney general.

*State Journal*  
*May 1-1925*

# 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 Seville." 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 column 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

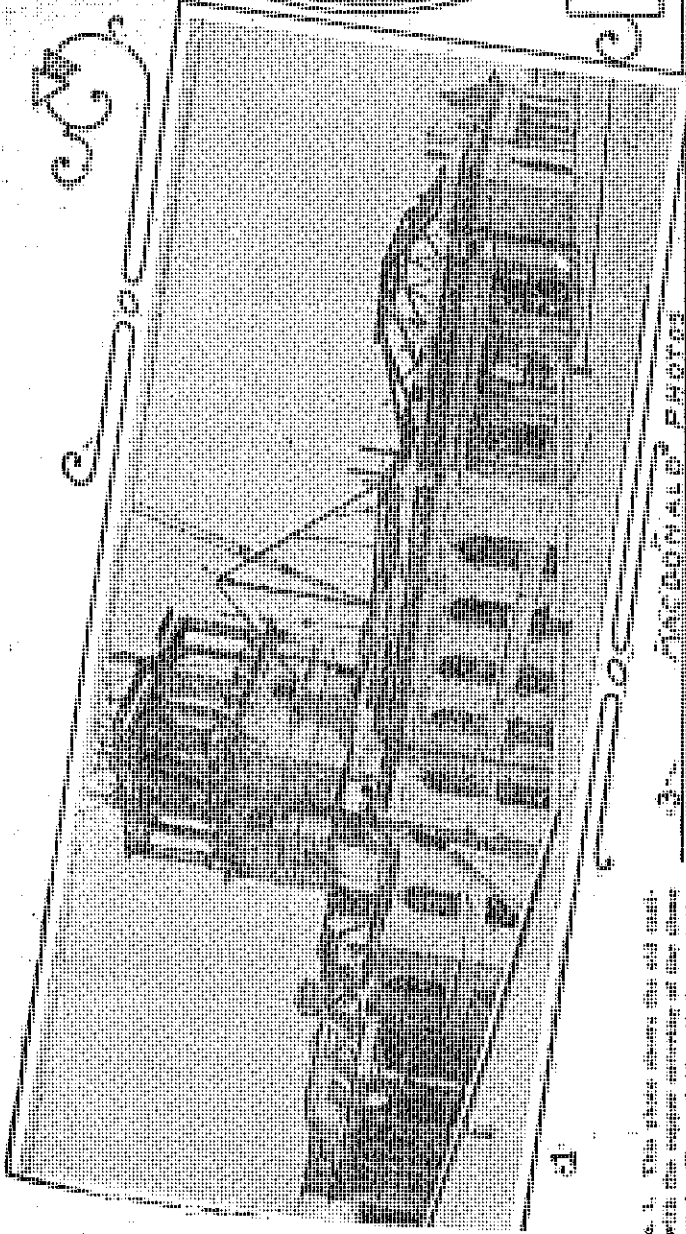
stones had been removed and the capitals lifted off, the top section of each pillar was lifted by two little steel pins inserted in the original holes at the top. The pins were attached to the pulleys of the derrick's boom.

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 bed of the floor, the pulley of the derrick allowing it to descend as slowly as the operator desired.

*State Journal*  
*May 1925*



# Wrecking the Old Capitol to Make Way for the New

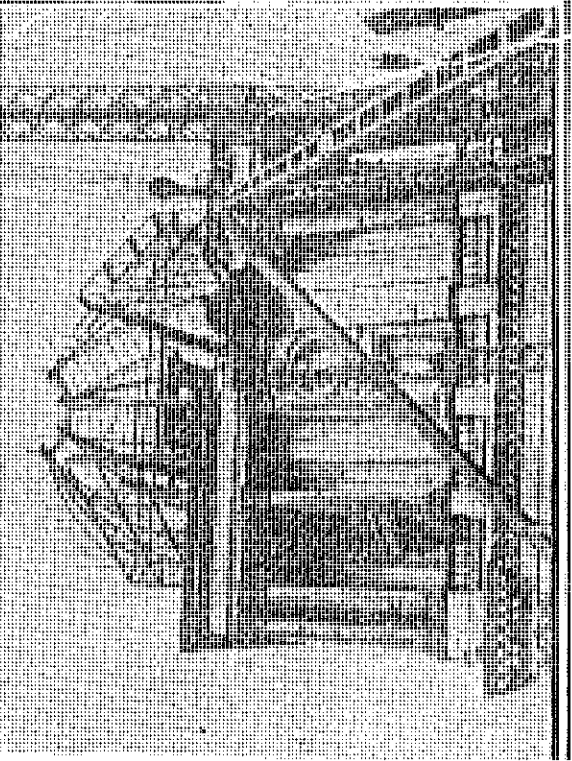
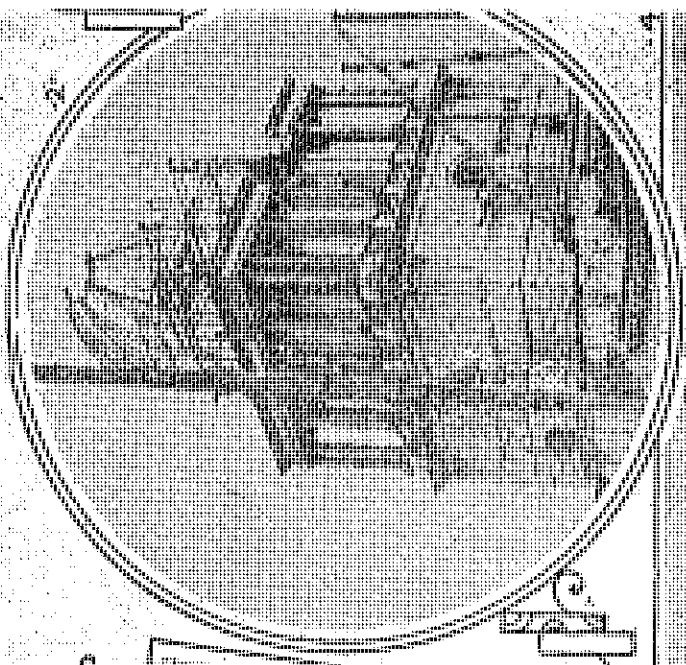


No. 1. This photo shows the old Capitol with the upper portion of the dome removed. Heavy brick pillars at the right support the roof of the ornate chamber. The walls of an attic forming the fourth floor at the top of the tower have been removed. The entire building had been shrouded in smoke. This picture was taken from the roof of the new building which stands in the foreground.

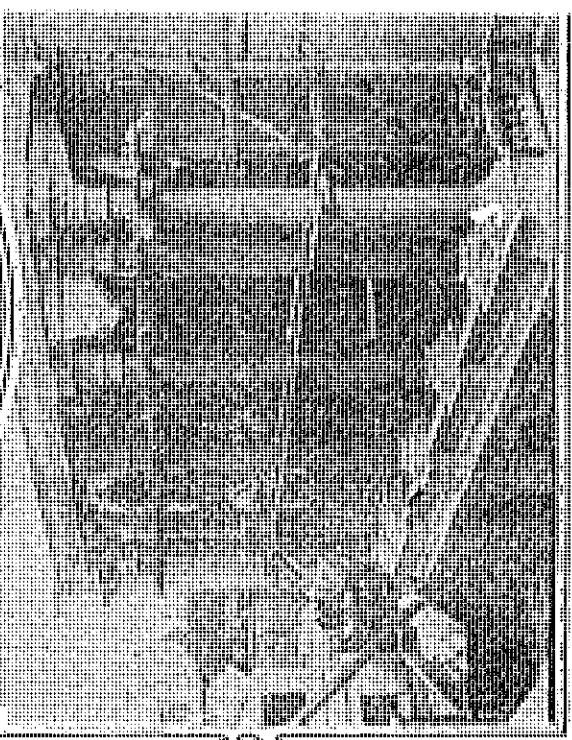
No. 2. The tower of the old Capitol is being removed. The tower is being demolished with a flying jib crane. It is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. Part of the frame had been removed.

No. 3. The steel frame of the dome is being removed. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome.

No. 4. The steel frame of the dome is being removed. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome.



3. The steel frame of the dome is being removed. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome.



4. The steel frame of the dome is being removed. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome. The steel frame is being hoisted to the top of the steel frame of the dome.

## Rats Face Housing Problem As Old Capitol Disappears; Some Find Abode In New Edifice

Rats that have heretofore infested the old capitol building in large numbers are beginning to leave it and seek other places of habitation. As the walls of the ancient structure shrink day by day in the tearing down operations, and with old rock, brick, mortar and debris being torn out and hauled away in freight cars, the rats are evidently becoming aware that their home is marked for destruction and that it is incumbent upon them to find new living quarters.

Means of subsistence for the animals are lacking since the old state house was abandoned, and even if the wrecking of the edifice did not make it necessary for them to vacate they would have to do so in order to establish new bases of supplies. Formerly, the rats picked up a good living from waste and scraps accumulated in the capitol restaurant, or from the remains of lunches brought by employes and eaten on the premises, supplemented by foraging outside.

Nobody knows just what the rodent population in the old capitol was, but members of the janitor force think there must be at least 75 or 100 of them, counting young ones, and perhaps a larger number. All of them now have the moving problem forced upon them, and where there are babies to be looked after it will tax the ingenuity of the parent rats to find suitable domiciles and get their young ones safely transferred, among the masses of materials tumbling about them.

### New Capitol Invaded.

A few of the more foresighted creatures have already taken up their abode in the exterior portion of the new capitol, recently com-

pleted and occupied. One big fellow was seen Monday forenoon running around in a storage room on the ground floor of the south wing. How the rats got in nobody knows. It would be impossible for them to gnaw their way through the thick walls of steel concrete and masonry. They must have found entrance through a door inadvertently left open at times, on the side next to the structure now being demolished.

Steps will be taken immediately to kill off every rodent in the new building and to see that no more come in. This means that the rest of the animals left homeless by the razing of the old capitol will have to go elsewhere, if they escape alive. Without much doubt, the homes, apartment houses, and fraternity and sorority houses which surround Capitol square will attract them, unless the occupants take precautions to keep them out.

### Disquieting to Residents.

This is not a comforting prospect for people living in the vicinity of the capitol, and it is expected that requests will be made to the state authorities to have poison put out for the rodents where they now are. Some success was realized in combatting them by that means before the old capitol was abandoned, after cats had been tried and failed to do the business. Of late, however, the rats have been increasing in numbers, owing to their great fecundity in the mating season.

Sewer and drainage pipes leading from the old capitol, no longer in use, may furnish an avenue of escape for some of the rats. Indeed, it is probable that many of them have already departed through such routes.

*Lincoln Star*  
*May 25, 1925*

## FIRST VICTIM



WALTER S. CONDON.

Employee of a company engaged in the work of wrecking the old capitol building who met instant death Tuesday afternoon at about 5 o'clock when a rock, which was being hoisted by a derrick slipped from its sling and fell upon him. Mr. Condon was thirty years old and a resident of Havelock. He was formerly employed in the shops at Havelock. According to his brother, Thomas L. Condon, Mr. Condon had been planning to seek other work, believing the work at the capitol dangerous. He had been more worried than usual lately and had said that he would quit as soon as he could find other work, Mrs. Condon said.

*Evening State Journal*  
*June 17, 1925*

# FALLING STONE KILLS WORKMAN AT OLD CAPITOL

(Continued From Page One.)

away and Condon looked up as the stone struck them.

The derrick was swinging the stone in an arc of about 75 feet, lifting them about 20 feet to load them upon cars. They are suspended from about a 50 foot length of cable at the end of the derrick arm, one of the foremen explained, and it would be impossible for the men under it to be entirely safe if a stone were to fall unless they were more than 10 feet to the side.

The hooks cannot be tripped in the air, Fraser said. The practice has been to lower the stone into the car and then release the irons.

Thomas Ridds, 1542 P street, is the foreman under whom the men were working. Four of his men, Foreman Ridds said, Condon, Cameron, Hanson and Carl Weddle were loading scrap metal. He left them temporarily for another gang when he was about 50 feet from them the accident occurred.

**Injured Man Describes Accident.** Cameron was unnerved after his escape from death, but about 7:30 he was calm and gave his account of the event.

"We both looked up when we heard the first warning," said Cameron. "It looked to be tightly gripped, but we weren't to stand under it anyway. I started one way you see and he went the other."

There his memory of the tragedy was gone. Cameron did not remember being knocked down or being picked up by his fellow workmen. He was taken immediately to the sanitarium in an automobile and his wife notified of his injury.

## Second Tragedy In Family.

The shock was doubly hard for Mrs. Condon to bear, this being the second violent death to occur in the family within the last two years. Two years ago their small child was scalded to death when he fell into a tub of boiling water.

The family resided on a farm near Aurora, Neb., until last fall. Then they came to Havelock for the winter, where Mr. Condon obtained employment in the Burlington shops. This spring Mr. Condon went back to Aurora and sold his property and decided to remain at Havelock. When the forces were cut down at the shops this spring he was one of the men to be laid off.

Shortly afterward he obtained work at the capitol.

For the last two weeks he had been planning to seek other employment having felt that the work was dangerous, his brother Thomas I. Condon said.

During the last couple of days he had been more worried than usual, Mrs. Condon said, and several times indicated that he would give up the work as soon as he could find other employment.

Besides his wife and son, he is survived by a father, C. B. Condon of Aurora, five brothers, T. I. Condon, foreman in the Havelock shops, N. W. Condon of Fairmont, V. L. Condon of Exeter, G. H. Condon and M. C. Condon of Aurora and six sisters, Mrs. Joseph Johnson of Aurora, Mrs. Theodoro Fenster of Hampton, Mrs. Joseph Fritz of Aurora, Mrs. Roy Peck of Eldorado, Mrs. Harry Thomas of Seattle, Washington and Mrs. George Bushell of Long Beach, California.

*For complete article*

*see  
Lincoln Star*

*June 17, 1925*

# Five More Days and Razing of Old Nebraska Capitol Will Be Complete

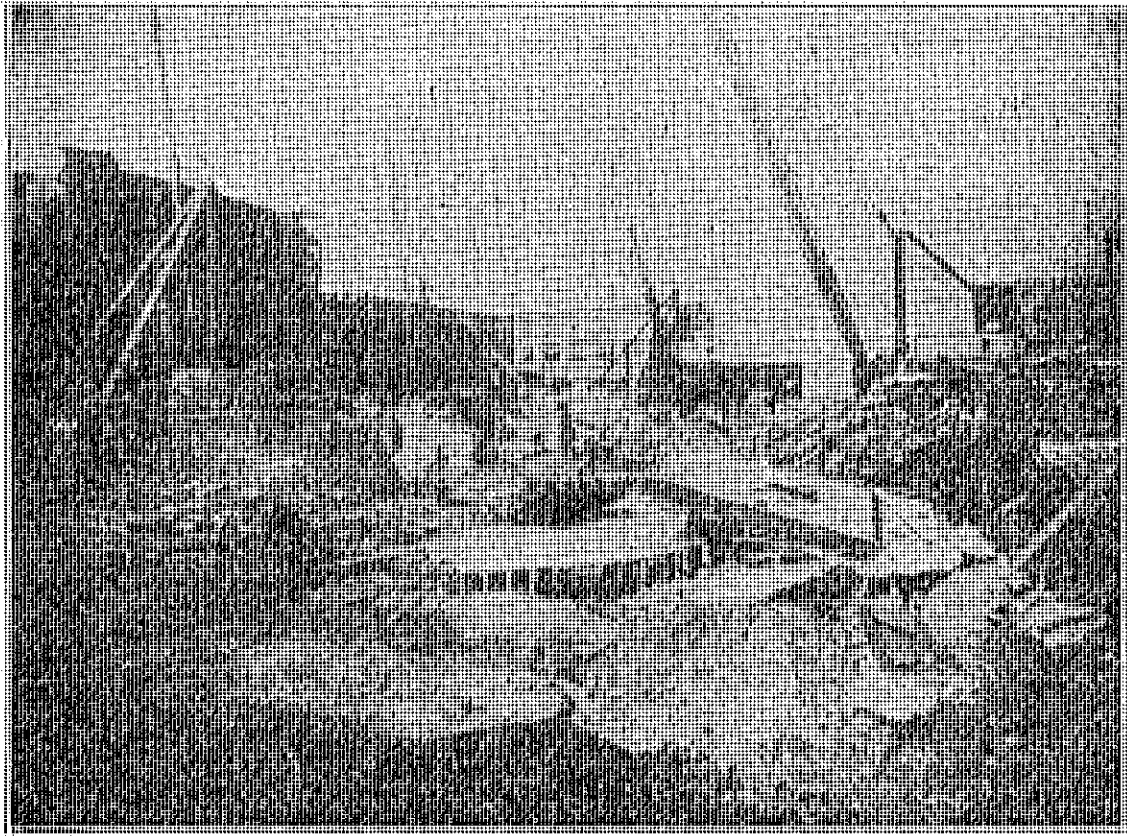


Photo by MacDonald.

The area once occupied by the old capitol resembles the aftermath of a combined earthquake and cyclone, but it is a scene of orderly disorder. Each man and machine knows his and its exact duties and the process of destruction is nearly completed. With the exception of the tragic death of one workman, it has been an uneventful razing and presented no surprises when the actual work was under way.

Tolling, lowering derricks, leaning down to little men like huge mammoths peering in curiosity at pygmies some day to be more powerful than they, swinging their burdens tauntingly over the soft heads of shuffling men in the depths.

White ruins, smothered under the thick gray dust, spattered with the red of brick powder, like a man left alone to die, to watch his own life blood sinking into the dust, from whence he came.

Naked arms of beams stretched upward as if in supplication of curses upon these who have left them exposed to the glances of the careless populace.

A chaos of shrieks, of wails, of groans, of shouting men lifting their puny voices against the shrill notes of mechanism.

It is ruin. It is in Lincoln today.

Yet it seems reincarnation.

As the horns of the motor car die, as the tall white walls of the building slip into vagueness, as the yellow houses and the grocers' carts and the street cars pass into undefined space, reincarnation comes.

The little men tolling in the depths of a former basement, the heaps of brick and stone and mortar, the shrieks of machines pass out of today and yesterday becomes the present.

It becomes construction, not destruction.

As these men toll, so might have other men in ancient Egypt have tolled. As they run about in the depths, watched by the inquiring throng, so might other men of a dynasty long dead have moved about, intent on their little labors. They were more powerful, those men who used their man power to

haul great stones up inclines. Their mechanical help came from their sweating bodies and bursting arms. Their urge was the lash of the taskmaster, the dead body of a fellow workman shoved out of the way as he fell in the train.

As they struggled and labored to build a Cheops or a Chephren, so these men struggle to tear down the work of other men that the west may raise its epitome of power and greatness.

The two are not analogous, for one is construction and one destruction, one is yesterday and one today, one is antiquity, one is progress.

#### Passing of Old Means Rebirth.

But as the men—it is ever men, bolts and screws and bars have not taken the place of blood and brains and sinew—guide the so much stronger monsters of steel and iron, their blue suits and the white ruins and the panting engines are misted over, and instead there are the slaves of Egypt, the man pulleys, and the once white tiled pyramids glistening under an Egyptian sun.

Hidden behind huge signs of denial, thrust between two walls, is the epic scene of which a modern Homer might sing.

It's only the passing of the old capitol. It's only the tearing down of so much brick and stone. It's only the razing of another building, a building Nebraska was willing should be thrown into the dust bin.

In flat figures and yardage and percentage and trackage, it is an ordinary enough process.

"Not much interesting in tearing down an old building," said one of the workmen.

But it is an epic of stone and steel to those who do not live so close to it, whose minds are forever incapable of grasping stress and strain, calculus and chemistry, the hydraulics and hydrology.

Figures are figures, however, and even ancient Egypt plotted and planned before it began its time defying labor.

Between the south and the north portions of the new capitol lies space now, with only a mixture of stone, brick, debris, mortar, broken boards, pipes, rocks, dirt and men to tell that a former pride of Nebraska's heart stood there. The center portion measures 90 by 180 feet and the two wing portions 90 by 112 feet.

Men and derricks have been working for seventy days that a "more stately mansion" might rise there to tower high, showing that the state reaches heavenward for its spirituality, and be sunk deep, to tell that its wealth comes from the ground. Five more days of labor, and the old capitol will be scattered in a half dozen different places and only a yawning, vacant hole, like a grinning toothless mouth will remain.

#### 60 Carloads Yet Remain.

In the ten days more than two months that have been occupied in

razing the old structure, 875 cars of material have gone creaking and groaning down the tracks of the only state owned railroad in the country. About 50 more cars yet remain to be removed.

Stone, brick, and debris have constituted the loads of two trains of five cars each that have tooted up and down H street for the past two months, and debris is the greatest of these. Broken bricks, chipped stone, cement flooring, mortar, boards have constituted the largest portions of the remains of the old building.

Some of the best stone has been taken to the penitentiary for use in construction. Some has been sold to the Burlington for its use. About 60 per cent of the wreckage has been taken to the fair grounds for filling purposes.

About 75 or 80 men have been employed in tearing down the building and they have been ably assisted by five derricks. The largest steel derricks can carry a safe load of thirty tons and the smaller ones wooden ones can swing 10 tons about with safety. During the process of destruction, about 47,000 tons of material has been moved and about 2,500 tons yet remain. Some of the heaviest stones to move were in the cornice and weight six tons each.

The beams and the cross bars in the dome were burned apart, but blasting has been a favorite sport for a goodly portion of the old capitol. All of the tower piers were dynamited. Each pier had an area of 150 square feet and between one pound and one-half pounds of dynamite was used on each pier.

After plans had been made for the razing, definite positions were assigned to each derrick, so that five could operate at one time. One derrick was placed in each court and each one had a defined area in which it worked. The fifth was in the center and all the material gathered was placed in one court, where the derrick was placed to allow for dumping.

*Lincoln Star  
July 19-1925*

# 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 '80s, 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, continuing

for the next four years the special levy that had run for six years under the terms of the original act.

## Historic and Symbolic Features.

In its general design—that of a huge square with a cross in the middle and a tower 400 feet high and 80 feet square rising from the center—the new Nebraska capitol will suggest the strength, hardihood and rugged qualities of the pioneers who came here in the early days and laid the foundations of the state. The tower will be visible in some directions 35 to 40 miles away, thus making the edifice an impressive landmark for the surrounding agricultural region.

Above the main entrance of the building is a group carved on the stone surface which portrays the "progress of the pioneers." Carvings of buffaloes adorn the walls enclosing the flight of steps which lead from the ground level to the entrance. Large figures of Justice, Wisdom, Power and Mercy, with an appropriate inscription, look down from the high battlement above the entrance.

A multitude of other relief decorations, some allegorical and others of historical personages, are cut into the exterior stonework on different fronts of the capitol. There will be numerous pieces of sculpture and other figures inside. The main

passageway from the north entrance to the central rotunda will be of mammoth proportions and splendidly finished in decorative mosaics, tiling and other special work.

On the top floor of the high tower there will be a great memorial hall, where historic exhibits, relics and mementoes will be displayed. A tablet containing the names of Nebraska soldiers and sailors who made the supreme sacrifice in the world war is to be installed.

*State Journal*  
Aug. 30, 1925

# WORK ON BIG TOWER BEGINS

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 160-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.

*State Journal*  
*Sept. 25, 1925.*



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 minute's construction, but those who design dream far beyond the day's output of brick and stone.

Miss Hildreth Meiere 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 Meiere 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 will tell pictorially of the red man, and in the senate of the white 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 rotunda, will be divided by high arches 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 leading 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."

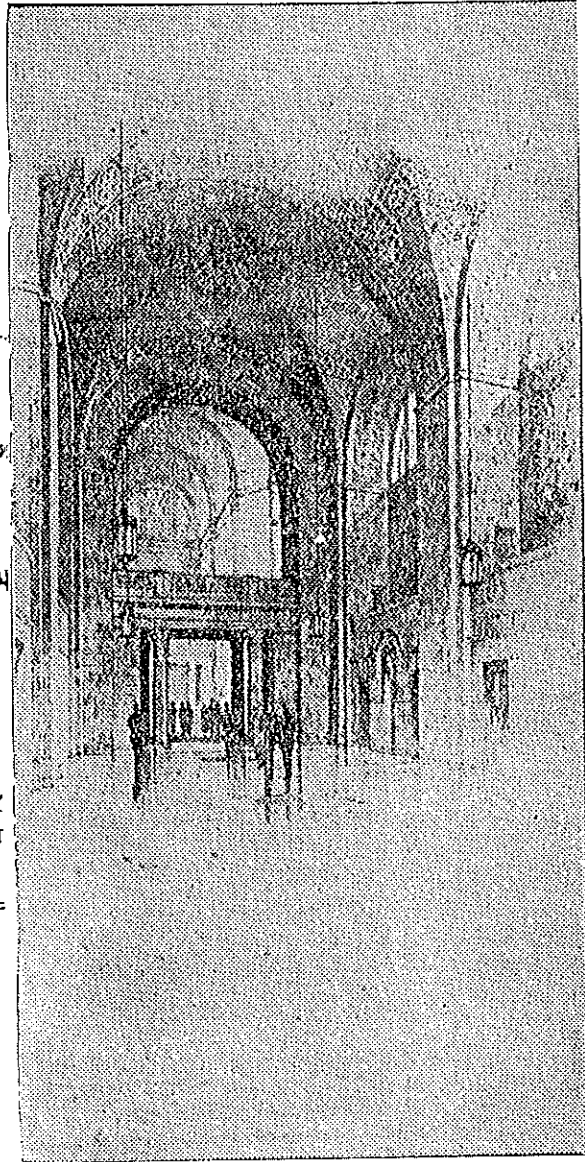
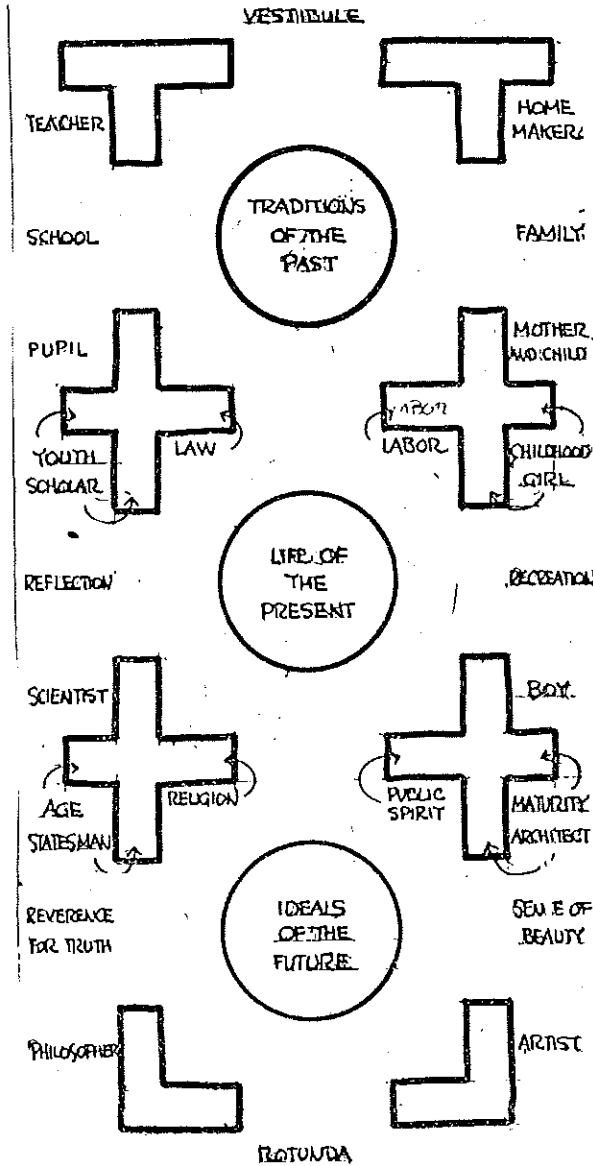
Family will be symbolized by tiled figures of the home maker, the father, and of mother and child and school, by teacher and pupil.

As the symbols of recreation a boy, perhaps playing ball, and a girl, with a garland of flowers, have been suggested, and for the symbolism of the twin panel, reflection, figures of scientist and scholar will probably be used. Architect and artist have been suggested as the symbols of sense of beauty, and statesman and philosopher for reverence for truth.

From the pillars to the arches will be four other figures in tile,

*State Journal*  
*Oct. 4, 1925.*

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



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 symbolical 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 Hil-dred Meiere.

symbolle 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 opposite labor and law, the latter two opposite public spirit and religion, 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 outspread 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 the light of virtue.

As the domed ceiling of the rotunda will be 110 feet above the floor at its center—more than twice the height of the vestibule ceiling,—the filling 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 figures, and immediately beneath the quotations three mural paintings. The floor, the design for which has not been accepted by the com-

mission, has been planned to represent the gift of life. A circular design, the earth, is planned as a modified mosaic, surrounded by a procession of animals, typifying the 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.

*State Journal*  
*Oct. 4, 1925*

## Excavation For Second Section Nearly Complete

Only a few more carloads of earth remain to be taken out in order to complete the excavation for the basement of the interior section of the new Nebraska capitol. The recent wet weather did not stop the operation of the mechanical digger, and now there is little more for it to do. Most of the dirt that will be taken out from this time on is to be first excavated by hand spades and hauled up by windlasses from pits where concrete piers will go. After it is piled up, the machine will elevate it to flat cars on the tracks above the pit.

Twelve hundred carloads of the earth will have been removed from the site of the second section when the excavating is finished. The average carload is 22 cubic yards, and the total will exceed 25,000 cubic yards. All the dirt has been hauled to the state fair grounds and been dumped there to fill up low spaces. The cost of this will be \$10,000 to \$12,000 of which 60 per cent will be paid by the capitol commission and 40 per cent by the state fair board.

Three of the huge holes for the piers that will support the 400-foot tower are now dug out to the bottom, and the fourth is almost down to bedrock. Concrete is now being poured into the first of these excavations. Each of the holes, 32 feet square, will contain an inner pier 21 feet square and three outer ones of smaller size.

*Lincoln Star*  
*Oct. 9, 1925*

# Expected July Will See Central Frame Of New Capitol Completed to the Roof

It is slow, painstaking work, this building business, even in this age of speed and efficiency, and it is especially so when the structure being erected is among the greatest in the nation and designed to stand for a century or more. For nearly five years the people of Nebraska have eagerly watched their new state capitol take on the appearance of the magnificent building which Bertam G. Goodhue, architect, visioned and designed.

The first section is now complete, so far as it can be at present, and has been in use for nearly a year. Last April the razing of the old building was begun to make way for the construction of the second or interior section.

## Great Hole is Dug.

The excavation for the second section was started during the latter part of July. Since that time thousands of tons of earth have been removed and a great hole dug, the area equal to that which the old capitol occupied and which would hold about one-fourth the material of which the old building is made if it were dumped into it.

All this has been done in slightly more than six months, yet to the average observer it may appear that little headway has been made toward the completion of the second section. In eagerness time passes slowly and great things often appear small. But to the skilled eye of Jack Frazier, chief engineer in charge of the construction for J. H. Wiese company of Omaha the progress thus far has been unusually satisfactory. All work up to the present time has been completed in scheduled time and some phases of it are actually ahead of the time he had estimated that it would be finished.

## Tower Piers Almost Done.

The laying of the great steel piers which will support the gigantic tower is more than eighty per cent complete. Two of these pier holes have been filled with concrete and the others will be within a week or two. At the same time the concrete foundations for the wings and walls are being laid. These foundations will be completed during November, Mr. Frazier believes. Then the work of the outer walls of the basement will be started. As these walls go up the steel super-structure will be built in. The first tier, which will form part of the roof of the basement

and the supporting structure, will be built as the walls reach the proper height. Then will follow the building of the remaining part of the super-structure, bringing the skeleton up to the level of the completed section. It is hoped that this steel work will be completed by next June or July.

When the weather opens up next spring sufficient to allow the work to go on in full swing, the cut stone work will be started. It is hoped that this may be by the middle of March, Mr. Frazier said.

## West Wing Will Be Last.

This second section when completed will include the east, north and south wings, joining the outer square with the central tower. The tower will be built after the second section has been completed. The west wing will be left until last in order that the materials for the other sections may be hauled in through the space it will occupy. The part of the tower included in this second section will reach up only to the height of the central rotunda or about the level of that part of the building which is now completed. The east wing will be far enough along, it is hoped, to provide a place for the legislature to meet a year from January. The rotunda beneath the central tower, with its domed ceiling 110 feet above the tiled floor, will be twice the height of the vestibule at the north entrance. The north wing, to be built in this section, will form the foyer, leading from the vestibule to the rotunda, and through to the south side of the square. The section will not be entirely completed until sometime in 1927.

## Rushes Concrete Work

Just at present Mr. Frazier is pushing the work to complete the concrete footings and foundations before winter sets in in earnest. Cold freezing weather brings added difficulties in concrete and masonry work. Precautions must be taken to prevent the concrete from freezing before it sets thoroughly. However, all plans have been made for the winter and work will continue except for the few unusually cold and stormy days which are to be expected.

A steam heating plant will be installed in the center pit where the materials are stored. A boiler with perforated pipes will be used. The pipes will run through the thousands of tons of gravel, keeping it in condition for use. Six or seven thousand tons of gravel will be stored up in this pit for use during the winter. This storage is neces-

(over)

sary, because it is practically impossible to obtain shipments from the pits during the winter months.

**Heaters Under Canvas.**

Another scheme will be used in the protection of the freshly laid concrete of the walls. In extremely cold weather canvas will cover the concrete and coke burning heaters

will be placed underneath it. This will keep the temperature around the concrete up to the proper degree and will prevent the concrete from freezing before it sets. In less severe weather straw packing will be used for protection.

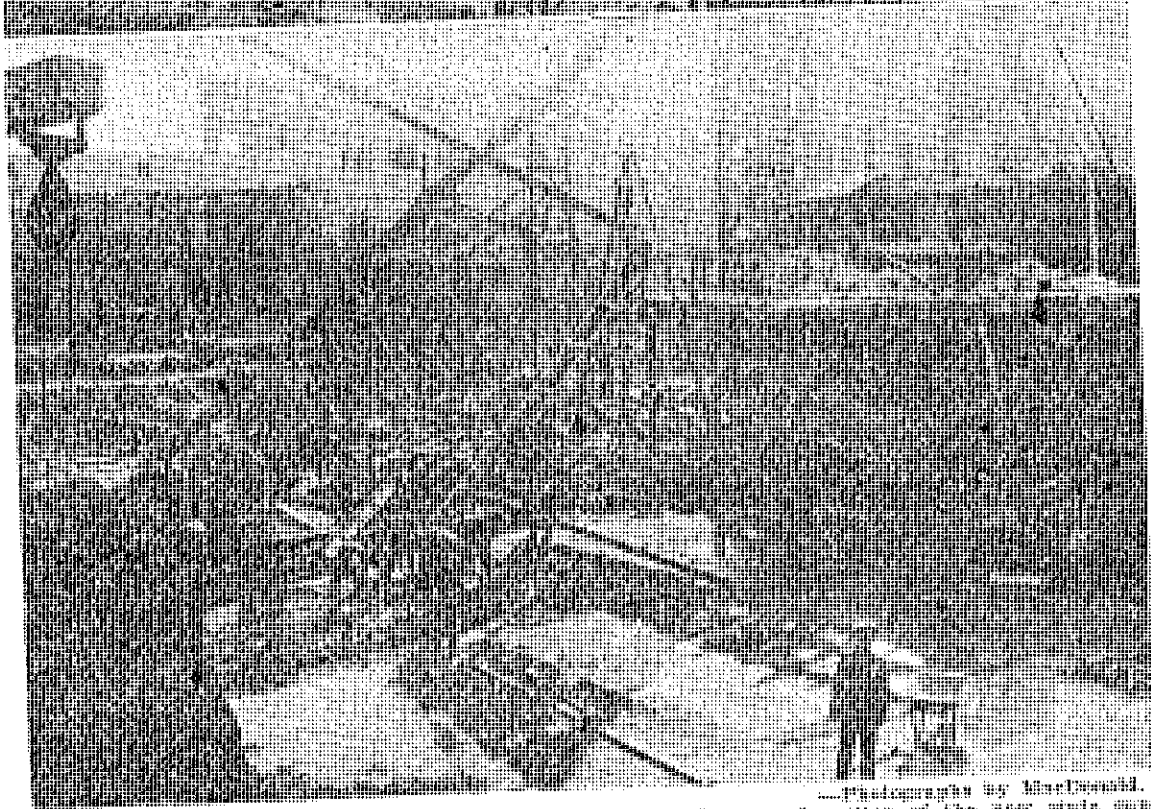
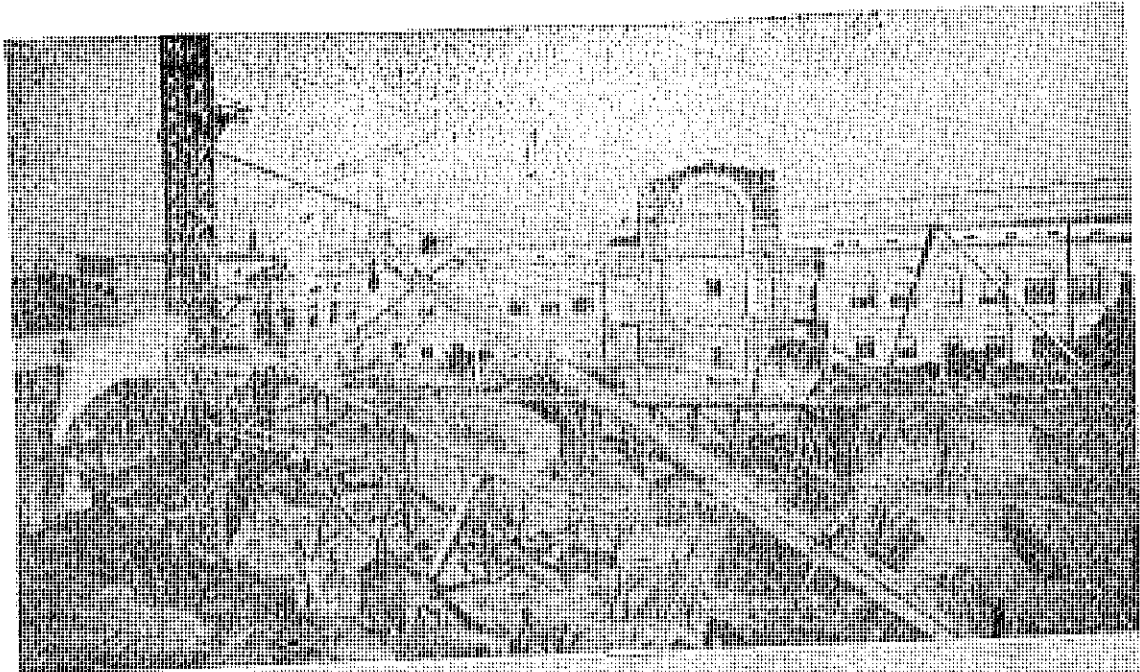
Another interesting and important part of the construction of

the outer basement walls and the floors is the water proofing. Complete proof against leakage of water from the outside into the basement is accomplished by placing a layer of pitch and felt waterproof material between the outer layers of concrete and the main wall or floor.

*Lincoln Star*  
*Oct. 25, 1925*

The sculpture on the Nebraska capitol receives complimentary attention in the "School History of the American People," an unusually attractive looking text book written by Dr. Charles L. Robbins, professor of education in the University of Iowa. Mr. Lawrie's panel of the pioneers is not only used as an illustration but the members of the group, the covered wagon, the oxen, the dog and the human figures, are separated and used as a running decoration across the top of the front and back covers. The figures are more striking when separated in this way than when they are crowded together in the space that was assigned to Mr. Lawrie over the main entrance.

*State Journal*  
*Oct. 30, 1925*



Photographs by MacDonaid.

The upper photo is a view of the entire excavation for the second section of the new state capitol as it is seen from the south side of the square. In the center of the excavation may be seen two of the giant concrete piers which have been built up from a sandstone base and which will support the central tower. At the left is the excavating machine at work on the third pier hole. The high tower has been constructed for use in pouring the concrete foundations. The concrete is hoisted up this tower to a trough. Through that trough it runs down to where it is laid for the foundation. Tracks have been laid along the north and south sides of the excavation, on which cars are run to haul out the excavated earth and to bring in materials.

The lower photo is a closeup view of the foundation work. The picture was taken from the west side of the excavation. In the background may be seen the first foundations in their recess of being laid.

*State Journal. Oct. 25, 1925*



# Virtues of State and Virtues of Citizenship Outlined on Walls of Governor's Capitol Suit

—Decorations by Augustus Vincent Tack.

THE governor's suite in the Nebraska state capitol consists of four rooms, the more important of which are the governor's reception room and his private office. The others are the hearing room and governor's secretary's office. The largest is the reception room. This and the governor's private office are the only ones with mural decorations.

The reception room has a barrel vault 26 feet high, 40 feet long and 22 feet wide. There are three penetrations in the vault. The room is lighted on one side by three windows. At one end is a fireplace with hood extending to the ceiling. It is medieval in character and is one which the architect, Bertram Goodhue, considered as successful in proportion as any he had designed. A paneled walnut wainscot 8 feet high surrounds the room. There are no raised moldings. All the architectural structure above the wainscot, the divisions and borders surrounding the panels are painted. This is possibly the first room in the United States to be done in this manner.

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, hanging 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.

#### Description of the Wall Paintings in the Reception Room.

The room, naturally divides itself into three parts. The side walls, upper and lower vaults. The latter being the pendentives formed by the penetrations. The ideas expressed in these three areas refer to the state, to its citizens and to the fundamental activities of life.

On the hood over the fireplace representing the state is a primitive pioneer head of a woman, done in "grasaille" surrounded by an opulent wreath suggestive of prosperity and riches. This is surmounted by the motto "Equality Before the Law." A diaper pattern covers this hood in blue gray and gold. On the left of this mantel is represented the state as protector of the sick in its hospitals and of the helpless in its asylums. The motto above this is from Seneca—"The world had perished had not pity set bounds to wrath." Balancing this on the other side of the mantel is represented the state as the provider of learning in its schools and 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." 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. Two 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.

*over*

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 room. 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 idea 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, 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, Judea, 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.

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 the pendentives are darker than the ground on which they are painted. In the vault the figures are lighter than the field on which they appear, carrying out the analogy to nature, when we look into the sky and see white clouds floating against the blue.

The whole is an expression of abstract 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.

*Continued*

The significance of the group is 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 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,  
She fostereth all that grow.

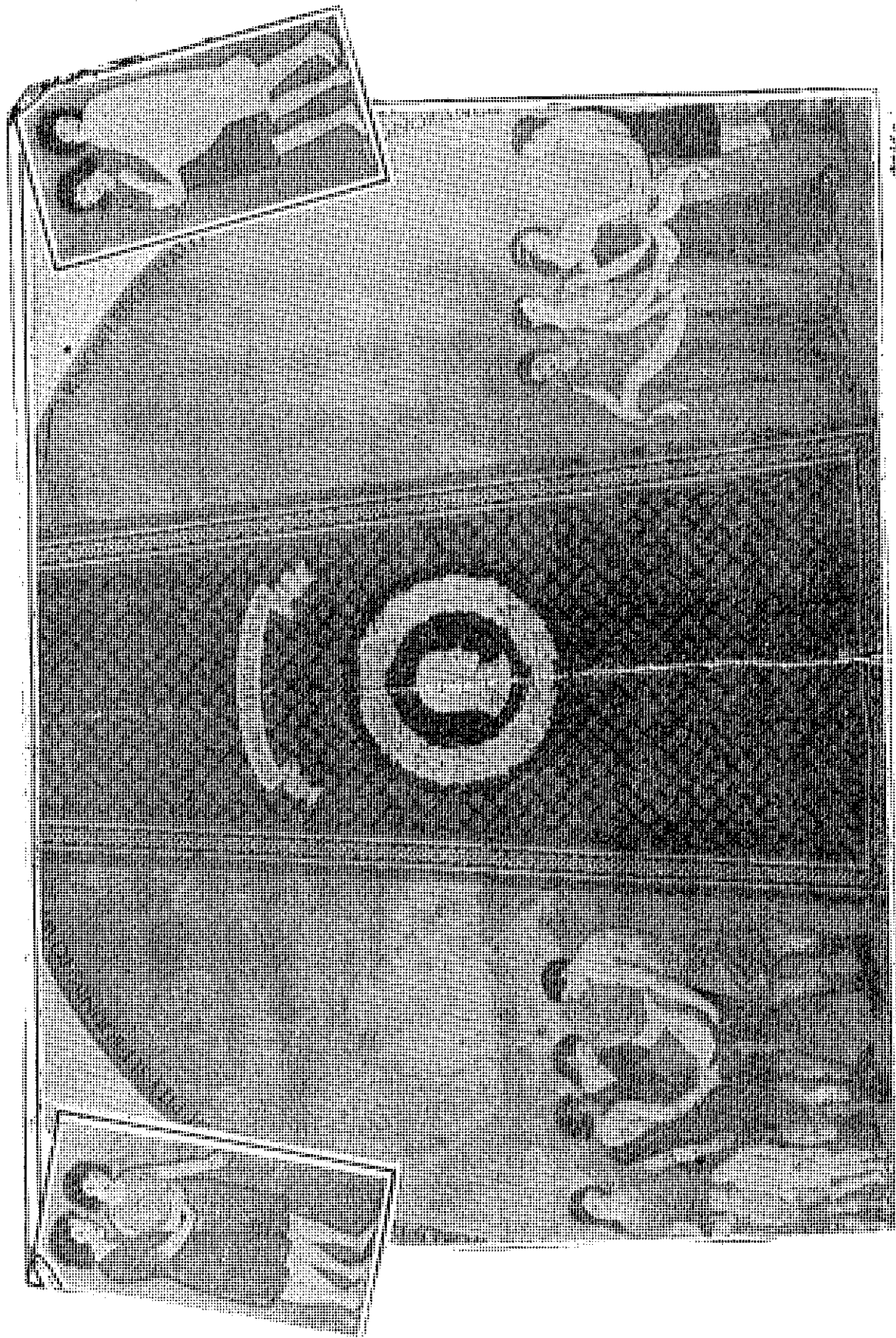
Walking we breathe the pure air,  
Joyously for Heaven is our friend.

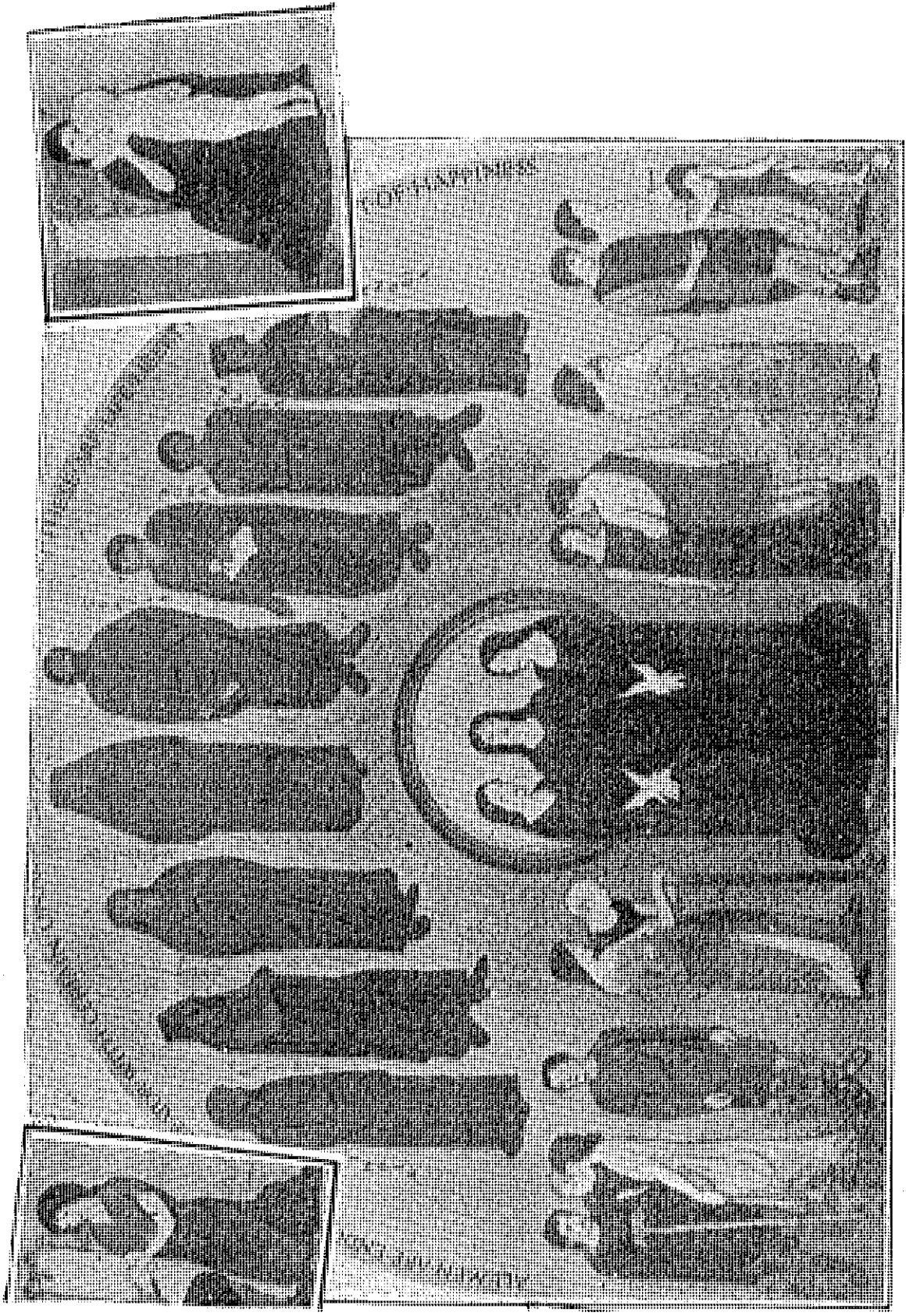
Gift of stream and cloud,  
Water is our refreshener, our purifier.

In fire is energy and heat,  
In fire is light and work.

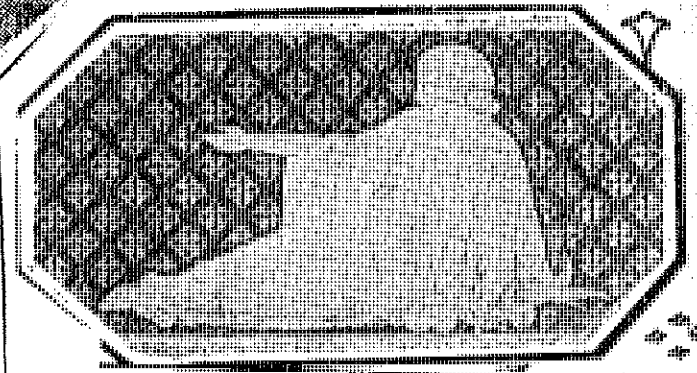
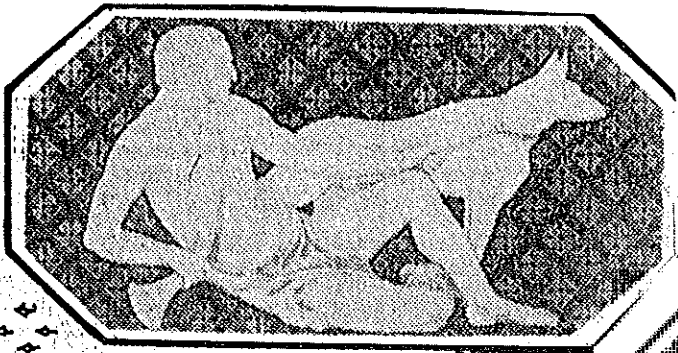
Two small panels appear in the vault in "grisaille." One represents fortune with the rewards of life. The other represents the hunter, signifying the quest of life. At the extreme end on each side is a decorative representation of the tree of life, recalling to mind the words from the Book of Revelation—"On either side is the tree of life and the fruit of the tree is 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.

The ornament which comprises the borders and separations of the panels consists simply of a guilloche 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 value, so in this first plane all the figures are lighter and darker than the field on which they appear and as in nature distant objects such as mountains seen against the sky seem darker in value so the figures





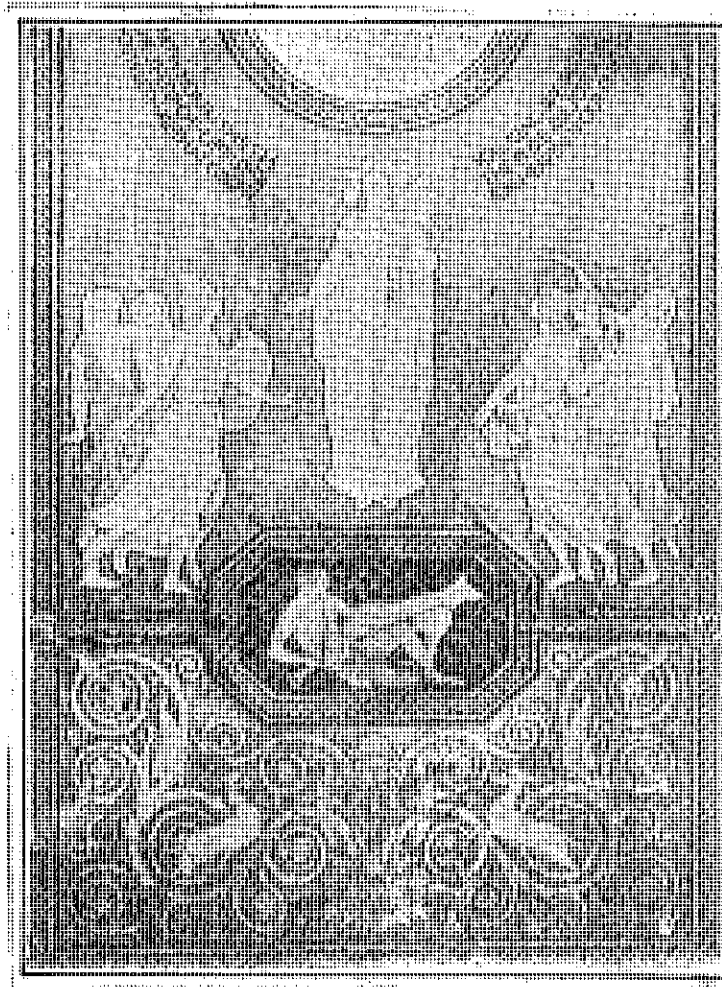
*Continued*



1000.



*Continued*



*Late Journal*  
*December 25, 1927.*

The opening of corridors in the unfinished portion of the capitol was discussed at a meeting of the capitol commission Thursday. Governor McMullen, State Engineer Cochran and Judge Thompson were members present. Recent closing of corridors by order of the contractor who has not turned the unfinished portions over to the state has caused many complaints from visitors and occupants of the building who are forced to walk a distance of nine blocks within the walls of the building to make a round trip from one office to certain other offices. The commission left the matter to the governor for final decision. It was stated that the central corridor on the second floor could not be opened in less than one month but that possibly the two corridors on the first floor and the east corridor on the second floor might be opened in less time. The mosaics for the floor of the rotunda may be delayed and if so that portion of the center may be fenced so that people may walk around the central portion of the second floor corridor.

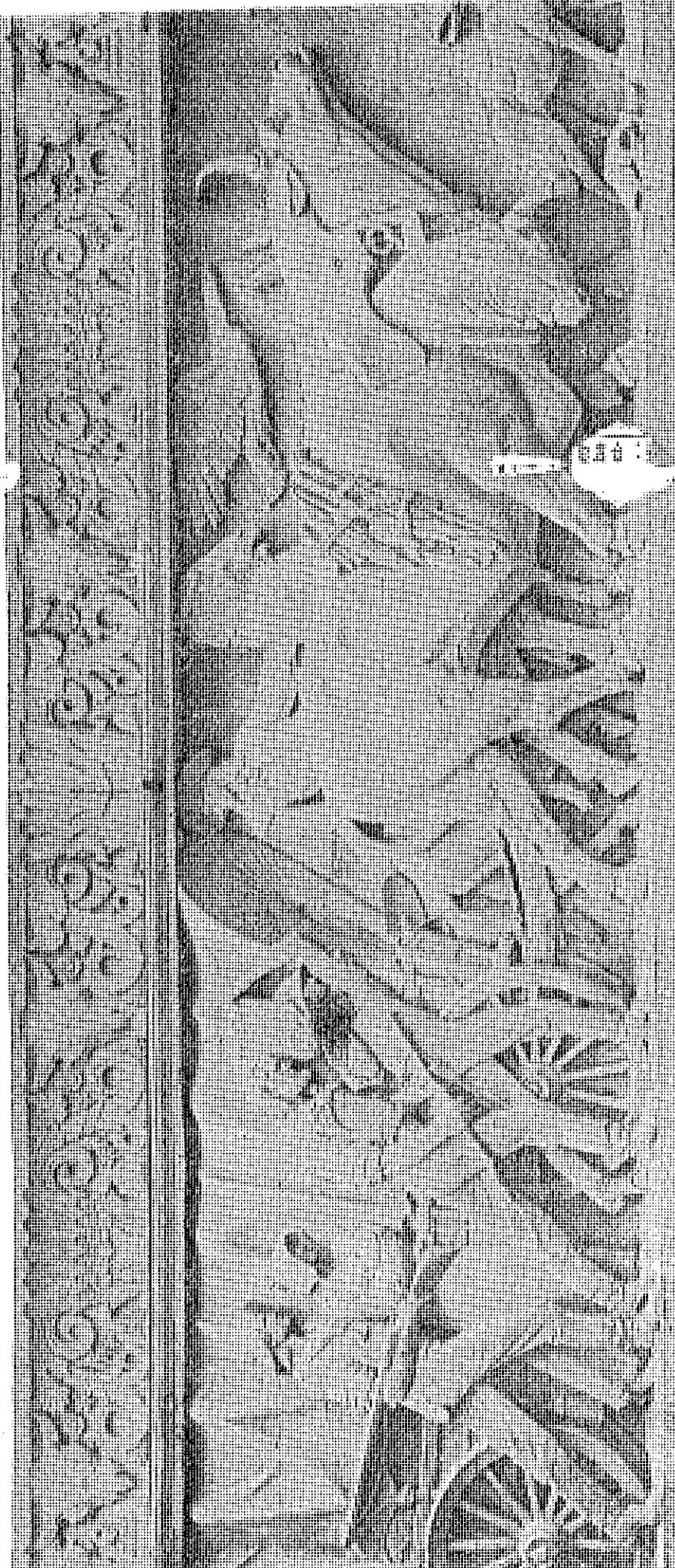
*State Journal*  
*March 30, 1928*



All doors in the capitol bldg  
numbered. As soon as the task is  
completed a directory of the building  
will be published. Guides start tours  
thru the building at 10 a. m., 2 p.  
m., 3:15 p. m., and 4:30 p. m. On  
Sundays and holidays guides are  
available only a part of the after-  
noon. Special arrangements will be  
made for the accommodations of  
parties of visitors.

Hebron Journal  
July 26, 1928

“The Panel of the Pioneers” by Lee Lawrie Now to Be Seen Over the Main Entrance to the Nebraska Capitol



most important of the stone" on the new Nebraska was exposed to public the past week. It of the "Panel of the march of the march of the state settlers into

with a yoke of oxen, a very old fashioned covered wagon, a scout on horseback and four pioneers trudging by the side of the wagon. The group is preceded by a dog locking back to see that the procession is moving. The panel, twenty-

five feet long and seven feet high, is immediately above the main door on the north or main front of the capitol. While this is the first time the completed work has been shown to the public, the art critics have been studying photographs of this

model for more than a year. Three years ago the first sketches were made and presented to Nebraska people for criticism. Mr. Lawrie was told that his original figures were too old and too much bent over with toll for Nebraska people, who usually came to

the prairies with their heads erect and hope in their eyes. He modified his sketches to meet this objection. He also made the face of the scout a portrait of W. F. Cody. He did not see fit to modernize the wagon or the ox bow, or to remove from the shoulders of the young

men the basket which is usually be carried for an that manner. There a ters. The artists ag a powerful piece of w tion, expressing the movement of a virile i uate the wilderness.

*The paper is late*

Twenty-four cubic yards of concrete are being poured into piers for the new capitol every hour the mixing plant is operated. Pouring of concrete for the big piers which will support the 400-foot tower in the center of the building will be commenced before the close of this week. Piers for the senate chamber, extending twenty feet below ground in the basement excavation, have nearly all been poured. One and one-half minute is required to mix a batch of concrete containing one cubic yard, which is the capacity of the bucket. One-half minute to fill and one-half minute to dump a batch is usually required. Two batches in five minutes, each containing one cubic yard, can be mixed and poured, thru spouts from a temporary wooden tower which serves as an elevator. The power digger used for excavating earth has now marooned upon a mound of earth north side east of the cent that position it must com work of excavating.

*State Journal*  
*Oct. 16, 1928*

### Our Wonderful Capitol Building

It is sure going to be a triumph of architecture. That 400-foot tower is going to loom up like a headlight in the dark. Its spacious corridors will made wonderful promenades for admiring thousands who stroll through them. But in figuring out architectural beauty and mural decorations and \$65 cuspidores and mosaic designs in the tiled floors, somebody forgot to provide adequate quarters for the senate and the house of representatives. The senate of 33 members and a larger number of employes will have to do business in a room smaller than the governor's reception room, and the house of representatives with 100 members and at least an equal number of employes will have to get along with a room that would be cramped quarters for the senate. The easy taxpayers who have already paid \$10,000,000 for a \$5,000,000 capitol may not have any right to watch their legislative employes transact business. All they have to do is put up the money to pay the bills. What business, anyhow, have the taxpayers loafing around that \$10,000,000 building? Some of them might actually expectorate in one of those \$65 cuspidores, and their rough shoes would scuff up the \$10,000 rugs and scratch the beautiful mosaic designs laid in the tiled floors. We suggest to the Capitol Commission that it issue a rule similar to that enforced by our Mohammedan friends upon all who enter a mosque—that all shoes be left on the outside of the \$5,000,000 capitol that has already cost \$10,000,000, and isn't finished yet.

*State Journal*  
*Oct. 16, 1928*

# NEBRASKA CAPITOL IS RANKED FIRST BY ART JUDGES

Lincoln — Nebraska's new capitol has been ranked by the Palos Verdes art jury, sitting at Palos Verdes, Calif., as the first among ten "greatest examples of American architecture," according to a recent news dispatch.

The nomination is made by Henry Phillip Staats, architect and author of a book on California architecture.

The art jury will determine from architects, sculptors, painters and other artists the greatest examples of creative work in the United States. Date construction will have no bearing on the findings of the jury. Everything that comes before it, dating from the first settlements in America, will be considered.

The list of architectural achievements is as follows:

- Nebraska state capitol, Lincoln.
- Liberty Memorial, Kansas City.
- Los Angeles public library.
- Woolworth building, New York.
- Medical center group, New York.
- St. Bartholomew's church, New York.
- Shelton Hotel, New York.
- American Telephone building, New York.
- Telephone building, San Francisco.
- American Radiator building, New York.

*Crawford Tribune*  
*Jan. 25, 1929*

## WON'T FAW DOWN AN' GO BOOM!

New Capitol in No Danger of Col-  
lapsing, But Is Has  
Minor Defects

Don't get excited. Nebraska's new \$5,000,000 capitol that has already cost \$10,000,000 and is not yet completed, is in no danger of collapsing. An Omaha daily newspaper of a decidedly bilious hue is throwing a lot of fits about cracked stones and inferior material, but it is still safe to wander through the corridors.

No one has the least suspicion that any member of the capitol commission has been guilty of graft. They may have overlooked a few defects in material while they were in search of the artistic and the symbolical, but that is all—which is enough. While the commissioners were seeking the symbolical and ascertaining the artistic, some contractor may have slipped in a little inferior material. But what of it, so long as the symbols are secured and the artistic ascertained?

A committee from the legislature will investigate the charges made by the Omaha newspaper. That ought to settle it. If there is anything wrong the legislature will correct it, from barring a newspaper reporter for telling the truth to looking for cracks in those \$10,000,000 walls.

That 400 foot tower is in no danger of toppling. It will never look like the famous tower at Pisa. "The Sower" on the peak of the tower will go right on posing, even if he never sows a seed. He, too, is symbolical, even if he does lack a heckuvalot of being artistic.

*Hastings Democrat.*  
*March, 14, 1929*

**Work On Capitol Being Investigated**

Lincoln—Action looking toward a legislative inquiry into the condition of stonework and mortar in the outside walls of the new capitol and the protective stone balustrade around the terrace on the second floor, and to determine whether the work done upon the completed first and second sections was in accordance with specifications, was taken in both branches of the Nebraska lawmaking assembly recently.

*Loomis Sentinel*  
*March 28, 1929*

A prominent Omaha architect

says the cracks in the capitol are due to the weather and that no defects in construction will be found.

*Loomis Sentinel*  
*March 28, 1929*

# CAPITOL MISTAKES COST HUGE AMOUNT

## Engineer Johnson and Reporter Carey File Charges of Defects in New Building

LINCOLN, Neb., Apr. 3—(U.P.)—Charges that the capitol commission defrauded the state of thousands of dollars by acceptance of cheaper material in the construction of the capitol building than that paid for by the state were filed today with the joint legislative investigating committee by George E. Johnson, former state engineer.

The commission is accused of squandering more than \$1,000,000.

Fred Carey, reporter for the Omaha Bee-News, which printed articles promoting the legislative investigation of the alleged defects in construction of the building, also filed a complaint, setting forth a list of alleged defects in construction.

Johnson filed charges six years ago against Architect Bertram G. Goodhue, now deceased. His charges today stated that the capitol commission as it existed at the close of 1923 defrauded the state. His charges touch upon later commissions in that settlements of claims mentioned by him were effected by the commission during Governor McMullen's administration.

### Johnson Makes Charges.

Charles W. Bryan was governor and chairman of the commission in 1923 and 1924. Johnson declares in his charges that he "resigned" his position as member of the commission under the Bryan administration.

Mr. Mayer of the architect's office and also representative of the Indiana Quarries Company; representatives of the Henry Struble Stone Company and William Younkin, clerk of the works, are the persons who entered into the conspiracy to defraud the state by agreeing, furnishing, erecting and certifying for payment a cheaper grade of stone than the state had purchased, Johnson charges.

The commission of 1923 also employed Mayer after it was learned that the conspiracy existed and had forced contractors to return part of the money to the state, Johnson said.

### Use Inferior Stone.

The commission also knowingly accepted inferior stone in the walls, in the state library and squandered more than \$1,000,000 in accepting Gustivino tile without competition when it was known this material cost the state from eight to nine times as much as other materials used in federal and state buildings.

*Hastings Daily  
Tribune  
April 3, 1929*



## COST OF CAPITOL.

A poignancy from which to recoil comes in the testimony of F. L. Mayers before the joint legislative committee investigating defects of the state capitol. The associates of the building's architect, Bertram Goodhue, Mr. Mayers testified, will always believe that the insinuation of wrong doing in connection with Nebraska's capitol broke the heart of the architect, and resulted in his death.

That is an unpleasant suggestion. There are many who believe and have said that the Nebraska capitol is an imposing and beautiful structure, distinguished with a contribution of something new in architecture. It is an exceedingly disturbing suggestion that comes from Mr. Mayers—that the building is at the cost of the life of the man who conceived it. Such a cost is too much for even a building of distinction. It seems to be in the order of things, however, that the birth of ideas of distinction is at the cost of pain, and sometimes death.

If final judgment proves to be that Nebraska's capitol is the embodiment of both beauty and a new conception, it will follow that it could be conceived only by a man apart in creative imagination and execution, a man who, as suggested in Senator Sandall's question, was more the artist than the business man. If the clashes during the life of the architect were indeed the clashes between the artist and the business man, then it becomes probable, as his associate testifies, that the artist died in the conflict, and from the blows of the conflict. Similar with another artist, a "fiery particle, killed by an article."

The killing of a workman at his work is all too common, and always tragic but how much more overwhelming that slower devitalizing process, long drawn out, that would precede

the death of an artist from the doubting of both the integrity of his character and the sureness of his art!

Do they still exist—sensitive folks, so constituted that they can conceive a new form for a massive building, symbolic of its purpose, as well as of its territory and its people? And are they subject to death from a broken heart, when persons of lesser mould say plainly, "your object is to steal, and your so-called art blundering nonsense?" We are as a rule regaled with tales of graft and grabbing, and in our own transactions we feel that we must be on guard. The world comes to seem to be an unfortunate place for an artist to find himself alive in, and most of us no doubt come to believe that art is in reality only a euphonious term denoting some kind of subtle graft.

It is impossible to feel aggrieved with the news that Harry F. Sinclair must leave luxury for ninety days to live in what is said will be the simplicity and restraint of a prison, but one does recoil from the possibility that perhaps the man who designed one's state capitol, suffered the painful death of heart break.

There was a London editor who said scathing things about a production of Mark Twain that he rejected. The humorist was able to say: "It was not much of a pearl, but such as it was I evidently threw it in the wrong trough." It is a relief when the criticised artist is able to artistically call his critic swine.

We wish that Bertram Goodhue had been able to apply his art to a retort to his critics rather than to be told years afterward that he died of a broken heart. That is disturbing testimony given before the senate by Mr. Mayers. For now whenever Nebraskans gaze at their capitol, they will never be quite sure that the structure does not represent a tragedy more monumental than itself.

*Shastings Daily Tribune*

*April 17, 1905*

Work on the turrets of the capitol tower proceeds slowly because they contain four times as much material as ordinary wall, and the construction is intricate and slow. When they are completed the remainder of the stone work on the steel skeleton can be placed rapidly, and it may not be long until the tower is ready for installing the figure of "The Sower" on the extreme top. It will be a feat of engineering to raise this figure to its place. There is much speculation as to how it will be done.

*State Journal*  
*April 20, 1929*

## NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL

Comment regarding the new Nebraska capitol has been much in evidence over the state recently, much being said for and against the manner in which the building was constructed.

In this connection, it might be interesting to notice what one of the foremost sculptors of the country, Lee Lawrie of New York City, has to say about the Nebraska capitol. His statement regarding it has not been given much publicity in the state, as it was made at a considerable distance from Nebraska and did not come to the attention of newspaper folks here.

According to Mr. Lawrie, who is certainly competent to judge, the Nebraska capitol is one of the outstanding examples of American architecture in the country today. In making that statement, Mr. Lawrie means that it is a structure which is a pure conception in architecture, not a copy, and that it has no ancient, mediaeval or modern precedent. While it partakes of all the better features of other styles of architecture, it is a creation of its own type. The two other outstanding examples of American architecture referred to by Mr. Lawrie and McGonigle's Kansas City Liberty Memorial and Medary's Singing Tower erected for Edward W. Bok at Lake Wales, Florida.

No matter what criticism may be made of the manner in which Nebraska's capitol was constructed, it is high praise to have it classed as such a notable piece of work.

*Cedar County News.*  
*May 2, 1927*

At last I have seen the Nebraska state capitol," writes Dr. Burris Jenkins of Kansas City, after a visit to Lincoln. The exclamation proclaims that Dr. Jenkins saw a structure of which he had heard much. He was impressed with the capitol as a distinctive structure, and with the fact that it was built without bonds. "Those Cornhuskers are certainly business men. And they are artistic, too. The mural paintings and inside decorations are a revelation." The minister's words reveal his reaction to Nebraska's controverted building. A Nebraska editor looked at the same structure and to him it appeared as a "glorified silo." And the editor's words too reveal as distinct a reaction as those of Dr. Jenkins'. The editor, by the use of "glorified," acknowledges an artistic effort was made, and in seeing the result a "silo" he proclaims his estimate of the failure in attaining the artistic result. Apparently, however, the lines of the capitol are winning an ever increasing number of admirers. Frequently it stirs men to original expression, and that proclaims its distinction. Some see silos, some see an outline of imposing dignity. The building puts itself and men in the balance at the same time.

*Hastings Tribune*  
*May 14, 1929*

## QUESTION PUZZLES

LINCOLN, May 29—(U.P.)—Whether to hold "open house" at the new state capitol on Sundays and holidays is a question bothering Dan Swanson, commissioner of public lands and buildings. Swanson, who will soon become custodian of the capitol, has been besieged with requests to keep the building open on those days for visitors but he has not decided whether to accede to the demand.

If keeping the building open will entail a very large increase in expense, Swanson is certain that it will be closed. Governor Weaver vetoed an item of \$20,000 for maintenance of the capitol and only \$50,000 is left in the fund. Swanson has found that expenses in past administrations have exceeded \$60,000.

During McMullen's administration, the building was kept closed on all other than working days. When Weaver became chief executive, however, the old order was changed, and guides were provided to take visitors through the building on holidays and Sundays.

*Hastings  
Tribune  
May 29, 1929*

# CAPITOL REPORT IN GOVERNOR'S HANDS

Easton, Minority Member Insists on Probe of the Contractor's Bond

## AFFAIR PROBABLY CLOSED

Lincoln, Neb.—Representative Earl Hasselbalch of St. Edwards, secretary of the committee investigating charges against the capitol commission, presented the committee's report to Governor Weaver Wednesday afternoon. Accompanying the report was a letter from the committee referring the governor the Sinclair and Flack letters regarding an alleged remote connection of Walter Head member of the capitol commission, with the writing of bonds for the capitol contractors, for whatever action he cares to take. The letter which was published at the time the committee completed its report, gives reasons why the committee refused to reopen the investigation to hear a matter not included in the charges before it when the investigation was started.

Representative Hasselbalch explained to the governor the nature of the committee report, a document which the governor had not had time to read in the newspapers.

Governor Weaver also received the minority report of Senator Harry K. Easton of Omaha, member of the investigating committee Wednesday afternoon. Both reports are to be studied by the governor before he makes a decision regarding Senator Easton's request that he investigate the matter of the furnishing of bonds for the capitol contractors. Senator Easton's statement in his report that it will cost \$100,000 to repair the terrace was rejected by the other five legislators as being a grossly exaggerated estimate. He is also at variance with other committeemen in his assertion regarding the inferiority of material that had been allowed to enter into the building and in his recommendation that the attorney general should investigate the use of material and sue to collect from those responsible.

Falls City News  
June 7, 1929

Everybody is glad that a calm has come in the state capitol disturbance that was started several months ago and which for a time created a turbulent condition in the minds of the people of Nebraska. The storm broke when the writer for one of the Hearst newspapers claimed to have discovered a multitude of flaws and bad workmanship in the new building and

broadcasted the inference that the state had become a victim to the devices of negligent boards, profit hunting contractors and incompetent supervision. Since that time several architects and builders of national reputation have viewed and inspected the building with the finding that it is one of the very finest structures in America. The finding of the commission chosen to inspect the building officially is in the same terms, and all the men who come under suspicion are now exonerated and the public mind is more at ease. After the expenditure of ten million dollars and ten years of time in the building of the capitol, it would have been a great tragedy to learn that we had only a carelessly constructed shell for our effort—but this is not the case, and experts are of the opinion that this building will be serving the state for many generations hence, when the memory of those who criticised it will have been forgotten. And that's long enough for any of us who are here now!

Aurora News  
June 14, 1929

It has been decided to install marble wainscoting in all of the capital corridors. It is impossible to keep the present finish clean.

Schuyler Sun  
June 20, 1929

With the exception of a few minor defects, which in no way will affect the soundness of the structure, the legislative capitol investigating committee found little in the building to criticize in its final report which was made public recently. As to the administration of the capitol commission, which was brought under fire as a result of charges made by George E. Johnson, former state engineer, and Fred Carey of the Omaha Bee-News, the committee finds that it has not been guilty of any fraud, conspiracy, or willful neglect of duty, and that all charges in that respect are totally unsupported by evidence.

Elm Creek  
Beacon  
June 21, 1929



## Nebraska's Capitol A Wonder Building

Nebraska's new capitol building has been the center of comment and interest the past several years and more especially the past few months since it became the target at which was fired all the ammunition of critics who by word of mouth and pen sought to discourage the people of the state into the belief that they had paid ten million dollars for a building that was all ready for the wrecking crew. Not long ago the writer, with other newspaper men, visited the capitol building and took some time in looking over the spots and parts of the building that were given the most publicity in the assault of the critics.

There are some evidences of the use of materials that should not have gone into this structure. There is no doubt about that—and there was probably a mistake made in the drainage plan of some of the terraces. There are to be found some pieces of defective and badly worn tiling in the main lobby, and at least two of the granite pillars are defective. But these things represent only the smallest fraction of one percent of the total structure, and it is believed that all of these can be remedied. It is certain that most of them can be. People who have only read of this building and have not seen it can have no adequate idea of the immensity of the structure and the millions of separate pieces that have gone into it. Workmen have been on the job of building it for nine years, and the job is not yet done. We all know that Nebraska did not need a ten million dollar capitol building, but now that we are to have it, it is better far to know just what we have done and some of the things that our taxes have bought. A writer in the World-Herald magazine describes just a few of the wonders of this marvel of architecture and we here give it, knowing that it will be of interest to all of our readers, whether they have seen the building or not.

Nebraska's new 10 million dollar capitol is known the world over for its beautiful architecture, marvelous murals, and the rarity of its marbles, medallions and artistic sculpture; but very few persons know that mechanically and electrically it is the last word in building genius.

These mechanical features are of little consequence to the casual capitol visitor, not because the beauty surrounding them overshadows the possibilities of utility and convenience, but because 600 thousand dollars worth of extensive equipment is submerged 30 feet below street level in the cavernous depths under the huge building.

Within the statehouse are mechanical features that would evoke the admiration of the most fastidious hotel owner or office-building engineer, according to William L. Younkin, superintendent of construction. There is an air-washing machine through which every breath that enters the great rooms of the building through the ventilating system is induced through shafts, sent into cylindrical washers and then distributed.

With the aid of a "sound wave" alarm system it will be impossible for anyone to force entrance into any of the building's storage vaults. This contrivance, one of few in use in the nation, safeguards millions of securities by means of a microphone suspended from the ceiling in each depository. The slightest sound or scrape of a foot on the floor immediately vibrates upon the sensitive "mike" and the alarm is broadcast throughout the building.

Utility has even been incorporated in the more than 20 miles of piping throughout the building by which water, steam, gas and sewage is handled, for each pipe has a distinctive coating of color to designate its service. To supplement the city water system massive pumps have been installed as an additional safeguard against fire and to force streams of water to the four hundred foot tower.

(over)

An electric vacuum cleaning system functions throughout a maze of machinery in the subterranean passages, and with connections on each floor the process of cleaning is reduced to the minimum.

In contemplation of the day when the extensive cafeteria and cafe service for workers at the capitol will be completed and in operation, an elaborate refrigeration system is installed in another basement recess, affording equipment for the manufacture of ice. The same system now supplies the building with circulating ice water.

In addition to these mechanical matters, Nebraska's capitol when completed will use each day an amount of electricity equal to that required in the operation of a city of five thousand population. Much of this current will be utilized in operation of the six elevators, four of which will run more than three hundred feet up into the tower. One of the largest chandeliers in the world now hangs in the main rotunda of the building on the second floor.

*Aurora News*  
*June 21, 1929*

Capitol Probe Cost State \$2,379

Lincoln—Investigation of charges against the capitol commission cost the state \$2,379 it was shown when the vouchers were filed with state auditor Johnson. The total appropriation for this purpose was \$2,500. Vouchers filed included one for \$924.11, presented by Prof. A. H. Kimball, of Ames, Ia., who was called to study the building from the engineering standpoint. Lester M. Buckley of Lincoln, presented a claim for \$652.50 for auditing the accounts of the commission.

Beaver Crossing  
Times  
Sept. 25, 1929

## THE NEBRASKA CAPITOL

(Nebraska State Journal)

S. E. Boys, one of the thousands of tourists who crossed Nebraska and who visited the capitol at Lincoln, stopped long enough to write two columns to his home paper, the Daily Pilot, at Plymouth, Ind., extolling the state from one end to another, but centering upon the capitol, and not forgetting the university which he said produces the noted Cornhusker football teams. Aside from a minute description of the capitol he writes:

Nebraska is building what I believe will be considered the most marvelous statehouse in the United States. She began it in 1922 and it will not be completed until 1932. It will cost \$10,000,000. I tried to find out how the statesmen of Nebraska, her governors and other leaders ever got up the courage to vote \$10,000,000 for the building of a statehouse in this dominantly agricultural state.

If any Indiana governor and assembly ever tried to do such a thing, I told them, they would be called the greatest grafters and spoilsmen on earth and it would make campaign thunder for the opposition for forty years, if indeed, someone or more were not sent to jail on suspicion. Yet here you Ne-

*The Friend Sentinel*  
*Aug. 29, 1929.*

### Thousands See Capitol Fair Week

Lincoln—The popularity of Nebraska's capitol building is evident in the fact that 42,000 people viewed the building during the days of the state fair, according to the estimates made by five guards.

Out of this number, a total of 6,000 registered in the guest book which showed 467 Nebraska towns represented, 92 Nebraska counties, 36 states and the District of Columbia, and five foreign countries.

Kansas led the list of out-of-state visitors with more than 300 coming from that state. Iowa was a close second, with Missouri third and Illinois fourth.

Fourteen people from five foreign countries were represented as follows: Canada, four; Germany, three; England, two; Scotland, two; Honolulu, two; France, one.

*Shelby Sun*  
*Sept. 26, 1927*

## AIDS TO ARTISTS

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 3—U.P.—Those who go spitting their way through Nebraska's \$10,000,000 capitol building today had as targets 18 brass spittoons conveniently placed on the main floor of the building.

State Land Commissioner Swanson, legal custodian of the building, had the cuspidors placed on the main floor to aid the janitors in cleaning up.

Two of the bright spittoons are near the Mosaic floor panel representing "the genius of creative energy — controlling the elements." And spittoons flank the Mosaic representations of "The Spirit of Air," and "The Spirit of Water."

*Hastings  
Tribune  
Oct. 3, 1929.*

## FINAL WORK ON CAPITOL TOWER

Dome 400 Feet High Gets  
Finishing Touches—An-  
other Contract in April

LINCOLN, NEB.—(UP)—The end of a seven-year period of building the capitol building is in prospect. The final contract for the structure is expected to be let in April, Roy Cochran, secretary of the capitol commission, announces. This contract will amount to approximately \$900,000 and will include contracts for landscaping and completion of the building wall that has been left unbuilt in order to remove the debris from erecting the tower.

Since April 15, 1922, when the ground was broken, work has been underway on the construction of the capitol. As the work proceeded on a "pay-as-you-go" plan, construction was not rapid.

Final work is being done on the 400 foot tower and the 32 foot statute of The Reaper, to go atop the tower, will be put in place this winter.

*Petersburg Index  
Oct. 25, 1929*

Just how far Nebraska has progressed in the 75 years that have elapsed since it became a territory may be had from the fact that the first territorial capital building, erected at Omaha was 33x75 feet in size two stories high and cost \$3,000, while the present state capitol building, 400x400 feet, with a tower 400 feet high, will cost when completed \$10,000,000. Nebraska's first capitol was erected by the Council Bluffs & Nebraska Ferry Co., an Iowa corporation. Iowa men claimed to be responsible for organizing the territory, and having erected the capitol "without cost to the government," claimed the right to locate the territorial capitol. Governor Cuming, acknowledging the claim of the Iowans, called the first territorial legislature to assemble in Omaha at 10 o'clock a. m., January 16, 1885.

*Schuyler Sun*  
*Oct. 31, 1929*

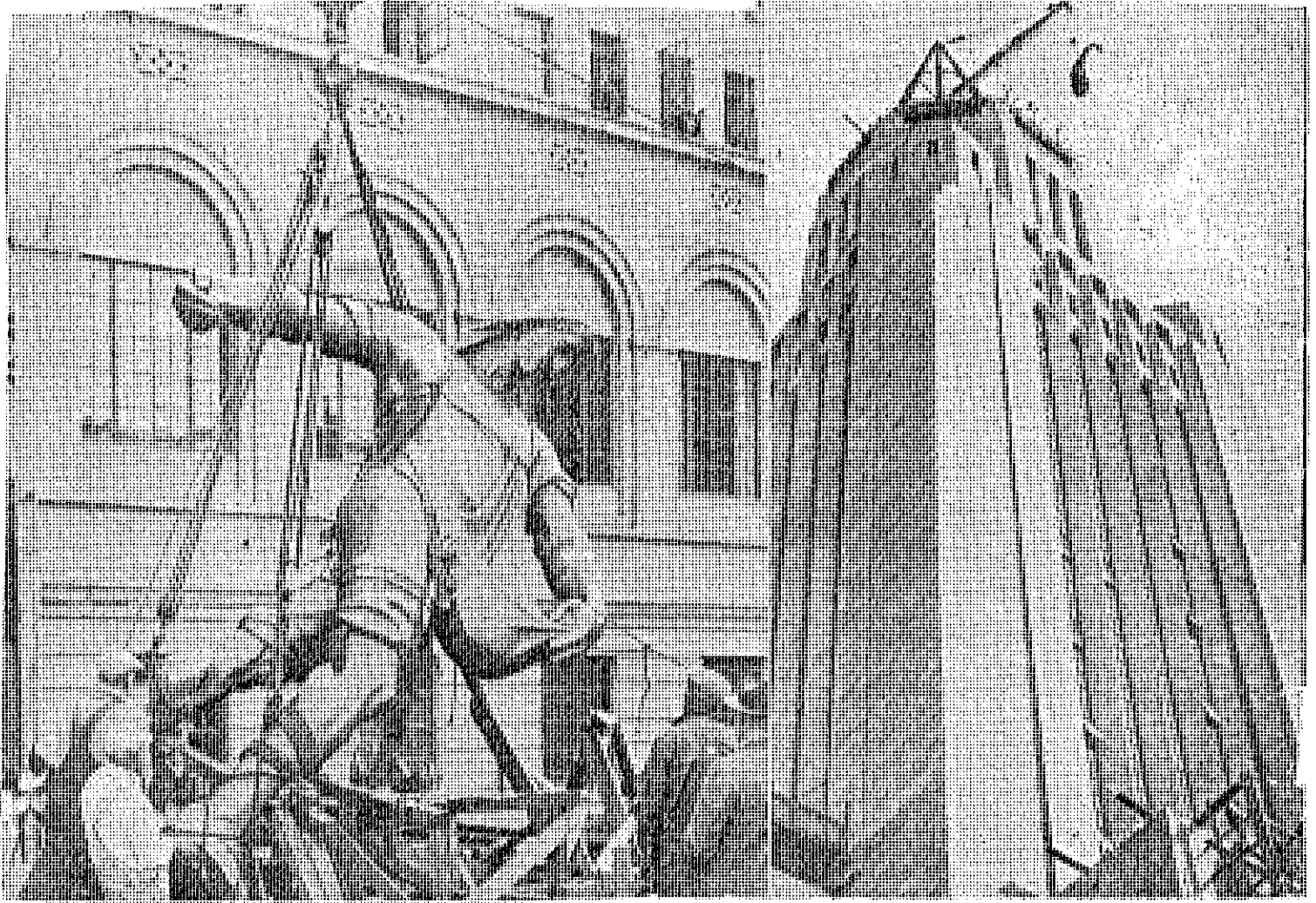
\*\*\*\*  
Fireproof doors have been substituted for wooden doors on the two small rooms just inside the capitol vestibule. One is used for a cigar stand, the other for janitor's equipment.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Dakota County  
Herald  
Nov. 7, 1929

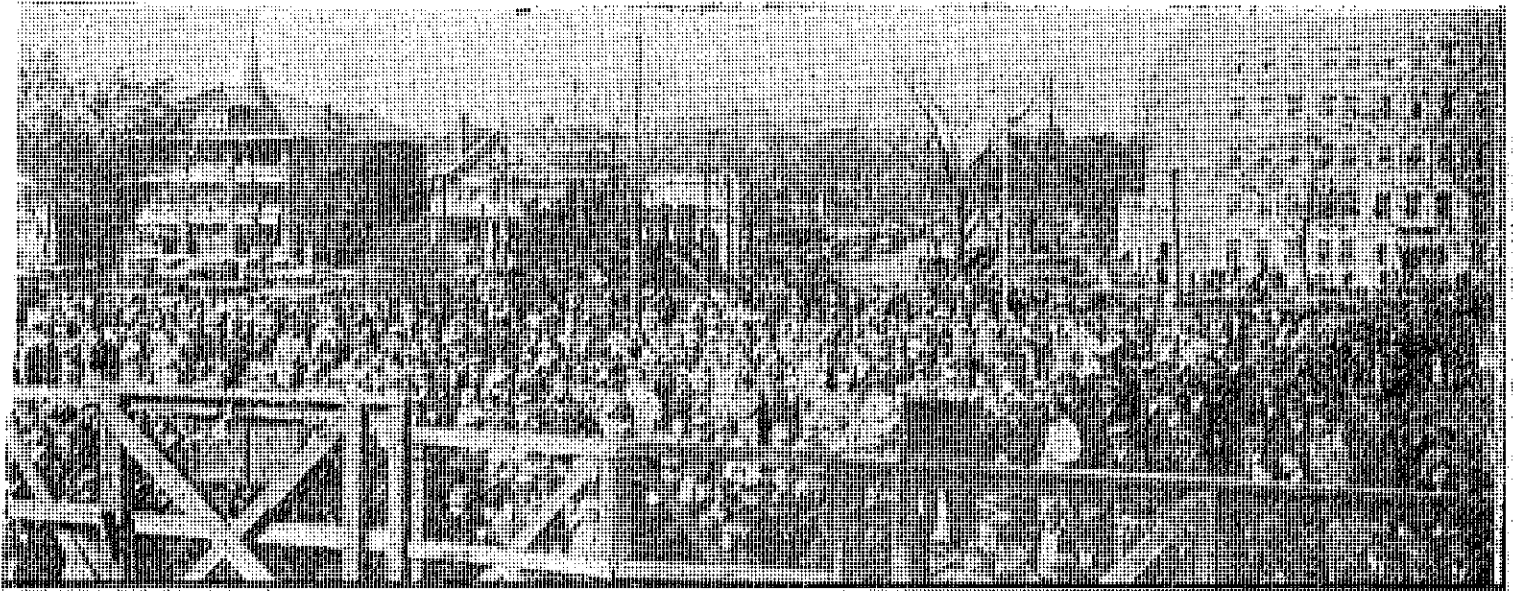
\*\*\*\*\*  
Workmen are now engaged in putting in place the tile ceiling in the dome of memorial hall in the capitol tower.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Dakota County  
Herald  
Nov. 7, 1929.





*Continued*



—Photos by Associated.

The giant statue was raised to the tower top Thursday morning as thousands looked on from many vantage points. "Lady-like, Pete," yelled the foreman on the ground, meaning "be gentle." And the crane operator, 400 feet in the air, carefully lifted the statue from the framework in which it was shipped, and shifted it to an upright position, as shown in upper left. The photo at the upper right gives an idea of the figure's size in proportion to the tower itself. Here it is dangling from the derrick boom just before it was swung around to rest on a temporary scaffold. Below is part of the crowd that watched the proceedings. They were kept back from the scene of action by a wire enclosure. Hundreds of others swarmed at the windows of capitol offices, perched on the roof, and lined roofs of buildings downtown.

*Evening State Journal*  
*April 24, 1930.*

The dome of the capitol tower will be covered with brilliant gold tile. Around the base of the dome will be a border of gold, red, and two shades of blue. Each side of the tower, near the top, will be decorated with idealistic figures of the American Eagle in blue, red, yellow and gold tile. This figure has been dubbed the "Thunder Bird."

*Minitare Free Press*  
*May 29, 1930*

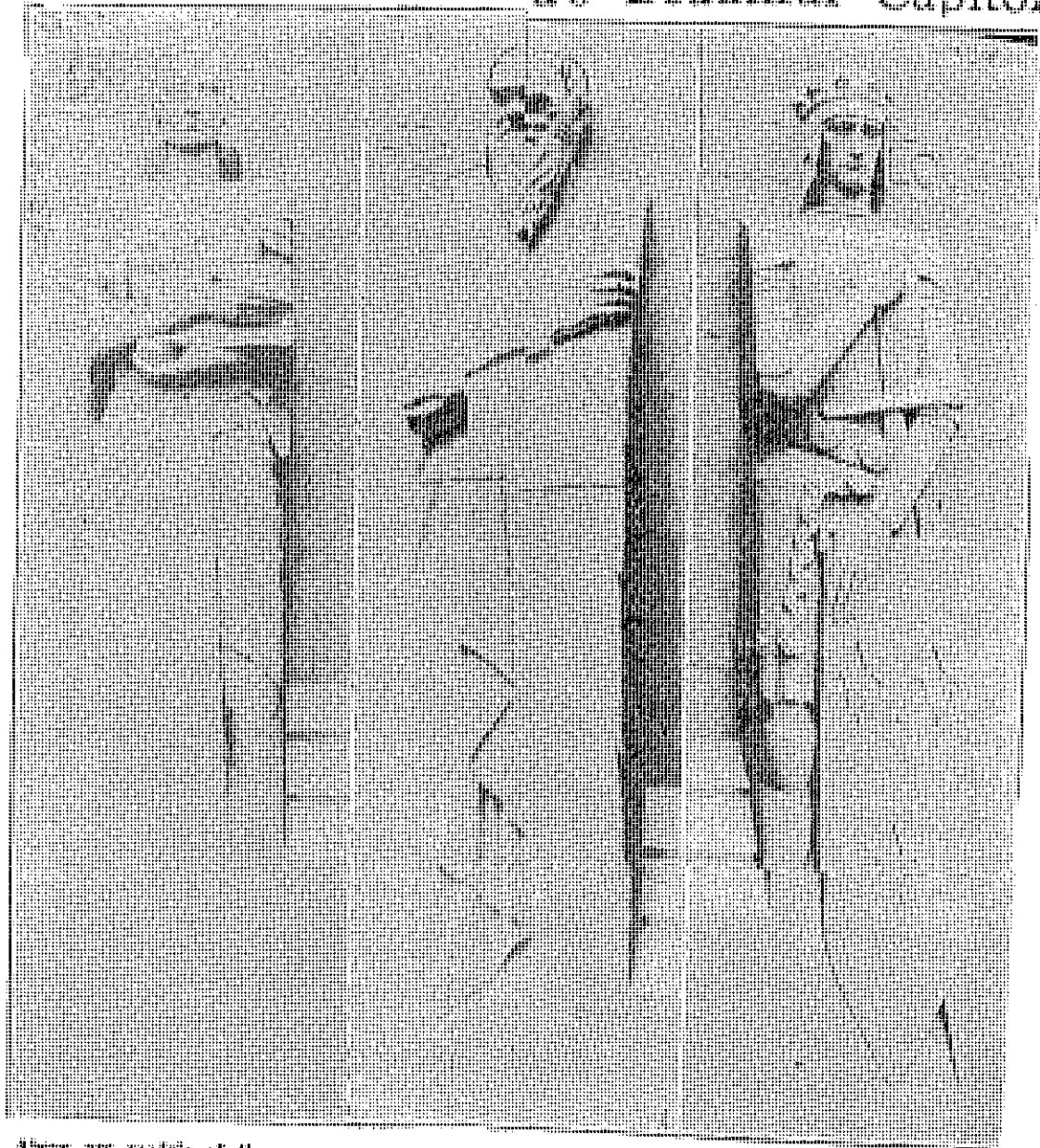
The steel derrick, which performed its last service for the new capitol when it lifted "The Sower" into position, has been lowered to the ground and "The Sower" stands in undisputed power over the tower of the capitol. Smaller hoisting devices will be used to lift the balance of material to complete the tower.

*Minitare Free Press*  
*May 29, 1930*

A small fire on the scaffolding surrounding the capitol dome caused excitement recently. It was caused by a hot soldering iron. At that time the work being done on the dome was supported by a maze of interior woodwork. Had the fire penetrated to that it might have caused considerable damage. It might even have resulted in the dropping of the Sower from his lofty perch. The dome is now fully enclosed, and supported by key-stones, so there is no further need for the wooden support.

Newman Grove  
Reporter  
June 25, 1930

# Models Completed of New Sculptures By Lee Lawrie For Base of Tower of Nebraska's Beautiful Capitol



These are models of three new sculptures by Lee Lawrie for the tower transepts of the Nebraska state capitol. They represent, from left to right: "The Dawn of History," showing Pentaour, the poet of Egypt; "The Birth of Reason," with Socrates, the Greek philosopher, and "The Age of Chivalry," pictured by Louis IX, or Saint Louis.

(over)

**Capitol Award Thursday.**

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 11 (P).—The state capitol commission will meet Thursday to make the formal award of contracts to successful bidders on its recent 90 thousand dollar letting for purchase of furniture, drapes and tapestries for the new building.

*World-Herald*  
*Jan. 12, 1932.*

# Nebraska Capitol Nears Completion

## On Tenth Anniversary of Ground-breaking

BY JOHN EDWARDS.

TEN YEARS AGO this week, on April 15, 1922, Samuel R. McKelvie, then governor of Nebraska, formally broke sod for the Nebraska state capitol when he plowed a furrow across the capitol grounds. In full view of 5,000 laughing, cheering spectators, among them the late Marshall Joffre of France, hero of the Marne and guest of honor at the ground-breaking ceremonies, the chief executive threw the lines over his shoulder, clucked to his team of gray horses and, seizing the handles of the plow, cut a furrow for thirty feet at the northeast corner of the grounds.

A decade has passed, and where the events of that warm Saturday afternoon occurred, Nebraska's capitol has risen almost to completion. Dominating the heart of Lincoln, its soaring tower a beautiful and inspiring sight for miles around, the capitol during this time has won not only the affection of people in Lincoln and Nebraska, but has captured the admiration of the world for its unique artistic and utilitarian qualities.

#### Loadstone for Visitors.

Thousands from every American state and all corners of the earth have visited the capitol in ever-increasing numbers as its north portal, vaulted corridors and richly decorated chambers have been

thrown open in succession. It is believed that 500,000 people will visit the building this year.

One question raised by many of these visitors, particularly by Nebraskans, is: "When will the capitol be complete?" The answer is that structurally it will be finished within six months.

The fourth and last section of the building, the west wing, will be finished in August. Since construction on this section began eighteen months ago, contractors and subcontractors have been working steadily. A visitor to the building any week day will see marble-setters, carpenters, plasterers, painters, masons, electricians, plumbers and numerous other tradesmen busily engaged in their sundry tasks.

#### Install House Ceiling.

The house of representatives chamber in this wing is a great hall seventy feet wide and seventy-two feet long, with a floor space of forty-eight by seventy-two feet for seating the 100 members of the house. The speaker's platform occupies an eleven-foot recess under a tile mosaic arch in the west end of the hall. Public entrance is from the central rotunda at the east end. Lateral overhead galleries eleven feet deep run the entire length of the chamber, while a rear gallery is sixteen by twenty-four feet in size. Total seating capacity will be for 300 persons. The chamber is rich in marble, with columns, piers and floors representing quarries in Belgium, France, Italy, Minnesota and Utah.

Except for its huge walnut beamed ceiling, the chamber is now nearly complete. Installation of the ceiling was begun three weeks ago and will require another month for completion. Its chief decorative feature will be a three-foot walnut frieze encircling the room, on which is to be painted in gold leaf the story of the white man's entry into the great plains, from the gold-seeking expedition of the Spanish adventurer, Coronado, to the home-seeking emigrations of the homesteaders, who turned the virgin prairies into cultivated fields.

The house and senate chambers, in their symbological relationship to the remainder of the capitol, repre-

sent the two races that have brought their cultures to the plains and further developed them here—the red and white races. The senate chamber in the east wing portrays the aboriginal Indian life, while the duty of the house chamber is to portray the coming of the white man to the plains in the various periods of settlement.

#### Miss Meiere to Come Here.

Hildreth Meiere, New York artist who achieved international recognition for her tile mosaic ceilings and marble mosaic floors in the capitol, is to paint the frieze in the house chamber. She prepared sketches last fall in collaboration with Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly of the University of Nebraska, who as it is well known, directed the symbolical scheme for the entire building. Miss Meiere is expected to arrive in Lincoln the second week in May to commence the work which probably will keep her here a month.

While she is painting the frieze, decorators will be working on the remainder of the house ceiling, as well as the beamed ceiling in the house lounge in the west portal of the capitol. Installation of the lounge ceiling, begun three weeks ago at the same time as the house ceiling, will be finished this week. It is of California redwood and American black walnut.

In June when these decorators are completing their work, shipments of furniture for the legislative halls and for many of the office rooms will begin to arrive. This is the furniture for which the capitol commission awarded contracts in December. It is to be stored temporarily in the house chamber, which will serve as a distribution point from where the furniture will be taken to the various offices.

#### Tapestries Woven Abroad.

Late in the summer, carpets for the legislative halls and rugs for the Supreme court chambers and office rooms will arrive. Draperies will follow shortly, but the tapestries for the house, senate and Supreme court probably will not reach the capitol before January 1. The two companies which were awarded contracts for these tapestries are believed to be having them woven in Europe.

Coincident with the activities within the walls of the building, there will be considerable activity on the grounds. Grading operations, begun last September, will be resumed in the near future. The work is being slightly delayed, however, for graders cannot commence their work until the railroad line on the capitol square is removed. And the railroad will not be removed until a dozen or more carloads of granite, limestone and cement for the approaches, driveways and sidewalks are brought there.

At completion of the grading and stone and concrete work, which should be about July 15, plumbers will install the sprinkler system, telephone linemen will remove the poles on the capitol square and

electricians will install the street lamps posts. These are to be fifteen-foot bronze fixtures, with double lanterns, in a design in harmony with the architecture of the building. Contracts for these lamp posts, as well as for all lighting fixtures in the west wing, will be awarded Friday, tenth anniversary of groundbreaking, when the capitol commission meets for the first time in several months.

#### May Delay Landscaping.

Whether actual landscaping of the grounds will be done late this summer or deferred until the spring of 1933 has not been determined. Lack of funds to maintain the grounds until an appropriation is made by the 1933 legislature might hold up plans until next spring. Funds allotted the department of public lands and buildings for the maintenance of the capitol are unusually small, and whether the department would be able to take over the maintenance of the grounds until additional funds are provided, is not known.

One of the most important tasks confronting the capitol commission is the awarding of contracts for murals for the corridors and Memorial hall in the tower. Probably about four artists will be chosen to do the work—one for the three murals in the vestibule, another for the six in the foyer, a third for the three large paintings in the rotunda and a fourth for the eight small ones in Memorial hall.

Considerable thought is being given to the selection of the most capable artists to do this work. The first step was made several months ago when Thomas R. Kimball, noted Omaha architect and author of the original competition program under which the capitol itself materialized, was asked to make a study of American mural artists. After exhaustive research, Mr. Kimball submitted a list of America's foremost muralists to the capitol commission, with suggestions as to how a selection should be made. Letters to these artists, to determine whether they desire to be considered when the commissions for murals are awarded, were mailed recently.

#### Many "Odds and Ends."

Completing the west wing, furnishing the office rooms, landscaping the grounds and selecting the mural artists—these are the major unfinished items at the capitol. But, in addition, there are innumerable little "odds and ends" to be given attention.

Paramount among these is flood-lighting the tower, which will be done some time in the fall. Another item is the installation of the bronze entrance doors, which, it is understood, are being cast at the present time. They probably will arrive in Lincoln within a month or two.

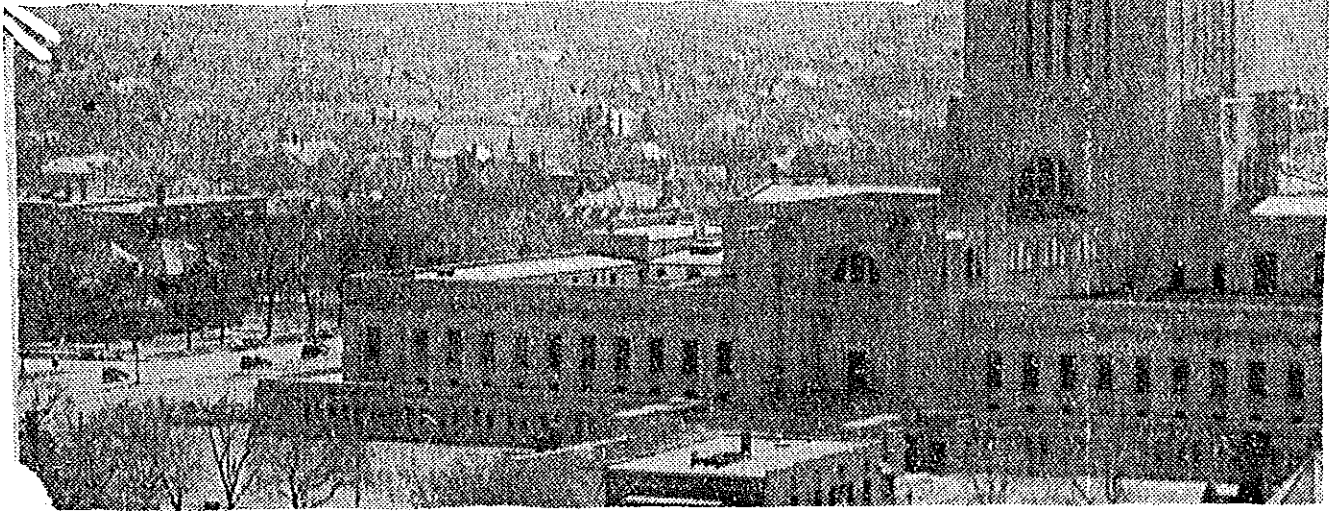
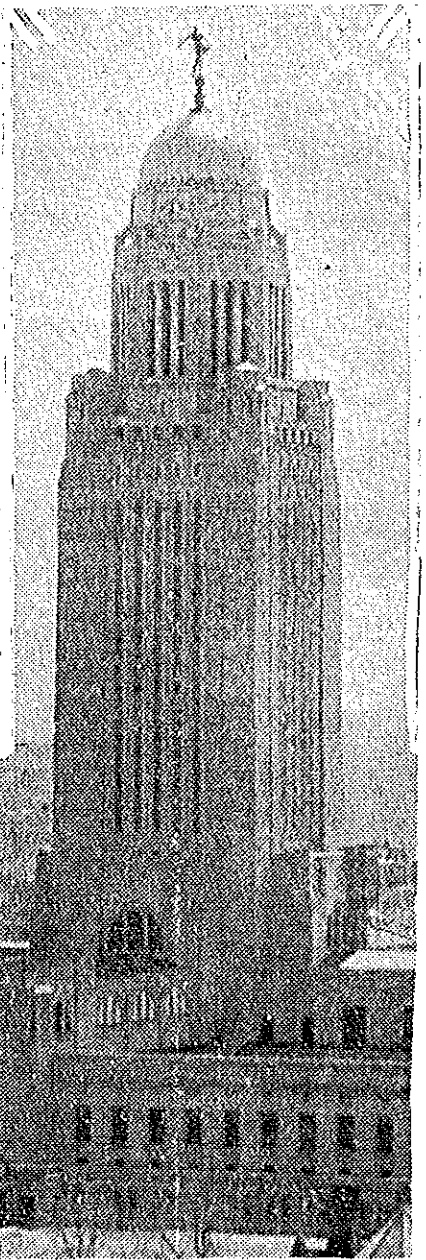
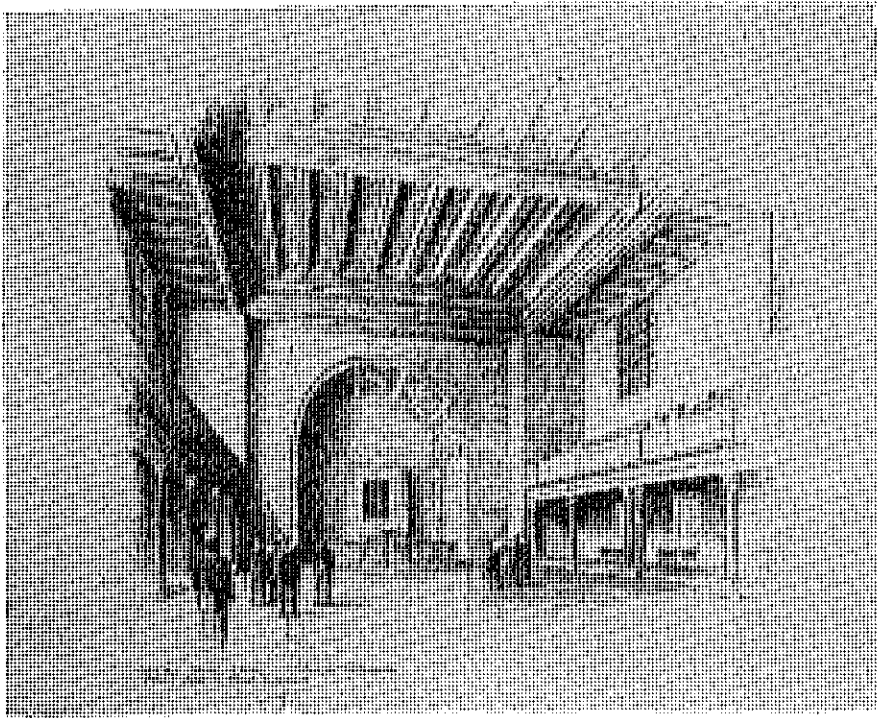
The sculptural embellishment of the exterior is still incomplete. For eight years work has progressed regularly on the carving, yet today there still remains to be executed into the building five bas-reliefs

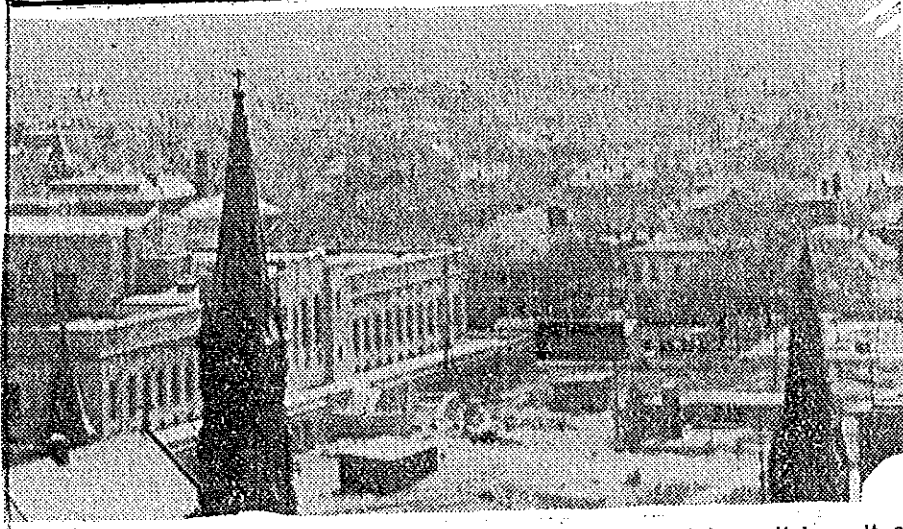
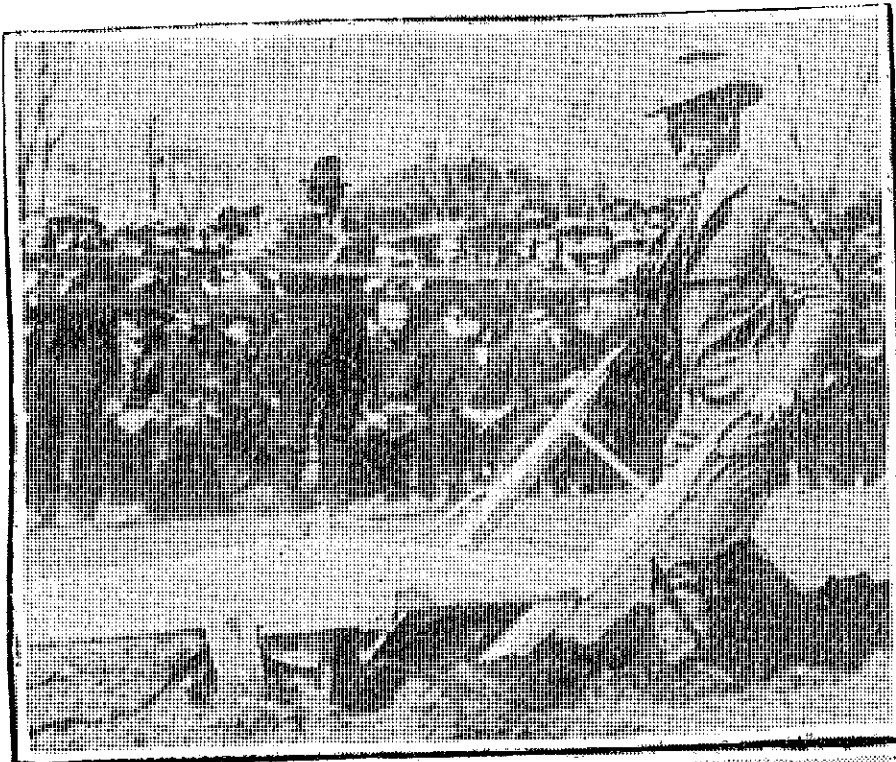


and five half-figures at both the east and west entrances; another engaged figure on the west face of the tower; a few small carvings in the house chamber and house lounge, and the bas-relief panel honoring the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the architect, to adorn the southeast splay in the rotunda.

Although the capitol structurally will soon be complete, it will be eighteen months, or maybe two years, before all the sculptures for the building will be finished, or before the mural paintings for the corridors will be in place.

*State Journal*  
*April 10, 1932*





The Nebraska state capitol, as it appears ten years after ground was broken on April 15, 1922, is shown above in a picture taken last week from the Sharp building. Inset at the left is an architect's sketch of the new house of representatives chamber, now being completed in the west wing of the building. Inset at right is S. R. McKelvie, who, as governor of Nebraska, formally broke sod for the state house a decade ago by plowing a furrow across the capitol grounds.

The capitol photo is by John Edwards, and the two inset pictures by courtesy of the capitol commission.

*State Journal*  
April 10-1932

The construction company, which was recently awarded the contract for sodding eight acres of the capital grounds, will commence work soon. The contract was awarded for \$5,100 or about one and one-half cents per square foot.

*Scribner Rustler*  
*May 26, 1932.*

Sod which will soon cover eight acres of the capital grounds is obtained from land two miles east and three miles south of Walton on the highway, which is an extension of Van Dorn street running east of Lincoln. It is blue grass sod and the roots are said to be growing under a copious supply of water which the state is furnishing thru a hose and hydrant system on the capitol grounds. The first dressed stone for covering the concrete core to form a low wall for the new walk at the east approach to the capitol arrived Saturday.

*State Journal*  
*July 4, 1932.*

**INSTALL MAIL CHUTE.**

A mail chute in the state capitol, installed to serve the first and second floors, will be put into service immediately. Postmaster Gillaspie has notified the custodian of the building. The postoffice in the capitol is not yet occupied or being used, although completed and ready for service.

*Lincoln Star*  
*Sept. 20, 1933.*

## Artist Says Nebraska Capitol Culmination Modern Era In Art

One of America's most noted mural artists, Eugene Francis Savage, of Ossining, N. Y., who is being considered by the capitol commission as one of the prospective muralists for the Nebraska capitol, stopped off in Lincoln quite unexpectedly Thursday morning to visit the building.

Mr. Savage, who is professor of painting and design at Yale university, and mural decorator of the Elks' National memorial in Chicago, was returning from Los Angeles, where he served as chairman of the jury on painting of the international art section of the Tenth Olympiad.

### Ranks With Empire State.

"It reminds me of everything I ever liked in art," Mr. Savage commented as he inspected the capitol with W. E. Hardy, vice chairman of the capitol commission, W. L. Younklin, superintendent of construction, and a reporter of The Star. "In my own opinion the Nebraska capitol and the Empire State building of New York represent the culmination of the modern era in art. I don't know what other building can be ranked with them unless it is Goodhue's library in Los Angeles."

His knowledge of the capitol, he explained, had come from photographic studies of the building, and from contacts with the late Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue, the architect, whom he knew very well. He also is acquainted with the other artists of the building, Lee Lawrie, the sculptor; Hildred Meiere, the mosaic artists, and Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, who prepared the symbolical program.

In the work of each artist he showed a tremendous interest, and made frequent comments in praise of various parts of the building. Of murals already in the capitol, he was high in his praise of Augustus Vincent Tack's work in the governor's reception room and private office, which he said, "fulfilled their purpose excellently." He did not care for "The Spirit of the Prairie," which Elizabeth Dolan did in the state library.

Although cautious about criticizing the building, he later ventured to declare that "it was a n' stake

to bring such a naturalistic painting into the building. It is very nice work, but a little out of place here. I believe all mural work would be better today, if artists would do strictly wall decorations, and not make their murals appear like views through a window."

### People Human Here.

Commenting on Lincoln and Nebraska, Mr. Savage declared that people "are really human here," and when informed that the \$10,000,000

(Continued on Page Seven.)

capitol is being built on a pay-as-you-go plan, added that "they apparently are smart, too."

As an artist, Mr. Savage is known to many Lincoln people. An exhibition of paintings by his Yale students was shown at the Nebraska art exhibit in Morrill hall last February, and in the spring the University of Nebraska school of fine arts purchased one of his paintings, "Triumphant Spring." One of his best known paintings is of interest to many Nebraskans, "Arbor Days," which is on permanent exhibition in the Chicago Art institute.

Although the capitol commission has made no definite plans in its selection of mural artists for the capitol, it is probable that several noted painters will be represented in the building. Mr. Savage is one of a number who are being considered.

Mr. Savage left Lincoln Thursday afternoon, returning to New York, where he is to prepare sketches for murals for the new Roosevelt memorial there.

*Lincoln Star*  
*Aug. 11, 1932*

# STATE CAPITOL COST TOTALS \$9,675,000

## Practically All Contracts Now Made and Work Is Nearing Completion.

The Nebraska capitol which experts assert stands at the head or next in rank with new buildings which will mark the greatest architectural period in history, is the great attraction for visitors the year through, and especially for the home folks during state fair week. Visitors from all states and many foreign countries have viewed its corridors, rotundas and taken the elevator ride to near the topmost point of the tower, which with the figure of "The Sower" on the dome reached a height of 400 feet.

The west section, containing representative hall for the lower house of the legislature, is nearing completion and the grounds have been covered with green blue grass sod and now present a beautiful landscape. The last section will be completed long before the close of the year. All contracts of importance have been let and the building is being paid for as expenditures are incurred on the pay as you go principle. No planting will be done on the grounds this year. Its plainness has so appealed to the capitol commission that this body may decide not to plant at all. Stone and concrete work on walks and approaches and driveways is still in progress and nearing completion. The plaza eight feet square in front of the main entrance steps is yet to be covered with even smooth but unpolished granite.

Expenditures upon the capitol have been rather light since the first of the year, being confined to the west section and grounds, some for fixtures within. Only \$270,233 in state warrants were issued from January 1 to July 1 for capitol construction. The levy .11 of a mill, for capitol construction, expires with this year.

Nebraska people will be interested in the total costs of the building they have erected upon the plans. The most recent summary of expenditures, April 1, showed the total payments on the building, to have been \$9,189,875.36, less \$36,746.33 credits from sales and refunds, making total payments at that time, \$9,153,129.03. At that time the amount under contract and unpaid was \$512,430.06, making the total paid and encumbered less credits, \$9,665,559.09.

Since then contracts totaling \$10,000 have been let, such as \$2,835 for linoleum for the west section, \$2,200 for window shades for the same section, and a little more than \$5,000 for sodding the eight acres around the building, at about one cent a square foot.

Visitors to the capitol often ask concerning costs of furnishing, fixtures, hangings, mural paintings. The records of the commission show a total of \$584,654 for these purposes, including light fixtures, office vault fixtures, shelving and equipment for the state treasurer's burglar proof vault.

The last section to be completed, the west wing, containing representative hall and large halls for exhibition of state historical society material, is known as the fourth section. The tower is called the third section. The outer rim of the 432 foot square is known as section one, and the portion of the building inside the outer walls and under the tower is the second section.

The cost of murals, furniture, window shades, lighting fixtures, linoleum, furniture for the supreme court and some vault fixtures, furniture in the governor's suite and similar expense incurred for equipping the first three sections, totals \$359,716. The furniture and furnishings in the governor's suite are listed at \$88,202 and for the Supreme court section, \$18,599.

Furniture for the fourth section, including representative hall, cost \$118,088.94, as follows:

Omaha Fixture & Supply Co., furniture .....	\$ 9,403.15
Latsch Bros., furniture..	15,082.16
Orchard & Wilhelm Co., floor covering and furn..	52,333.10
George Bros., furniture..	1,320.00
Carson Pirlie Scott Co., furniture and tapestries	19,981.85
Davidson Co., floor covering .....	9,748.20
Rudge & Guenzel, draperies .....	10,220.48
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$118,088.94</b>

The landscaping which is just being completed, not including \$5,000 to the Olson Construction Co. for sod, is listed as follows under contract:

Peter Klewits Sons Co., cut stone and granite..	\$ 50,316.00
Metz Construction Co., concrete .....	25,900.00
Abel Construction Co., excavating and grading	
Newberg & Bookstrom, grounds .....	9,875.00
drainage and sprinkler	9,989.00
Schrecker Elec. Co., electrical work .....	2,794.50
<b>Total contract .....</b>	<b>\$108,847.50</b>

The accounting April 1 showed a total of \$453,053 architectural expenses, material and foundation tests, competition, and special engineers upon the entire capitol. The capitol commission's expenses

(over)



since the inception of the work ten years ago, has been \$34,813.

The total cost of inspection, the cost of the clerk of the works, who is assistant architect and the office force employed by him, has been \$103,557.

Among extra construction were changes in the terrace costing \$51,718 and other extras bring the total up to \$88,333.

The joint heating plant on the university grounds cost the capitol commission for its share \$227,363.

The railroad line laid by the capitol commission from railroad yards to the capitol for transporting material and for electric lines cost the commission \$33,285.03, but it received a credit of \$10,031.46 for shipments. The total cost of operation of the railroad line was \$113,859.

The cost of wrecking the old capitol and moving dirt to the fair grounds was \$43,665.

The commission incurred an expense of \$2,995 on account of an accident to George W. Baney, for which it received credit for that amount. It also paid \$7,096.43 for maintenance of the first section and \$7,096 was paid out by the commission for maintenance of the second and third sections.

*State Journal*  
*Aug. 28, 1932*

# STORIES OF OLD CAPITOL

## DOES CONVICT GET BURIED UNDER ITS SOIL?

Louis P. Faulhaber Says Such  
Was Current Rumor—Ed Mun-  
son Tells of the Man  
Killed in 1868.

"A man was killed by a cave-in of sand right over there by the southeast corner, when the first capitol was built," said Ed Munson, one of a crowd watching a power shovel excavate earth for the second section of the new capitol. "His body was recovered and properly buried. That was in 1868 when the first building on this site was being built. All I know about it was what I heard my father say when I was a boy. There was a large sand pit there. Sand for commercial purposes was scarce then, tho there appeared to be a lot of it everywhere. People had to go to the Platte river for sand. Some was taken out of Middle Salt creek near town.

"A layer of white sand probably twenty feet below the surface was found in this capitol site. It was directly above the yellow sand rock that lies everywhere under Lincoln. The pit on the capitol grounds was worked for sand for the building of the first capitol here. It became so deep and extended so far under the earth covering that men refused to work in it.

"A young man recently from Illinois volunteered to work for the contractor. The earth fell in upon him and when he was uncovered he was dead. He had \$1,100 in his pocket. He was a Mason and members of that organization took charge of the body. The Masonic records in Lincoln ought to show who he was, if they were preserved."

### Stories Differ Slightly.

"I heard it a little different," said Louis P. Faulhaber, now carpenter and repair man at the capitol. "It was said the man had come to haul sand away, that a team was seen standing about the pit and examination disclosed that the owner had been smothered to death by a cave-in of sand. I know

the pit was one from which people got sand for building purposes, and it was the cause of the sinking of the foundation of the second capitol at the southeast corner. I heard at the time the contractor, "Boss" Stout, tried to prevent future sinking by arching the foundation at that corner. These arches were found when the foundations were torn out last week to make room for the new building.

"It was rumored that a convict was killed by another cave-in at that spot when the second building was being built and that his body was never recovered. If that is true maybe the excavation for this new building will disclose human bones. At the time this story of the convict was circulated in Lincoln prison labor was being used by the capitol contractor. The whole works were enclosed behind a high stockade and the public was not admitted. The secrecy that surrounded the work possibly lent color to any sort of a rumor that might be circulated."

The old sand pit is supposed to have been located on the edge of what will be one of the open courts within the walls of the new building. These courts, four in number, will not be excavated, and for this reason Mr. Faulhaber's legend of the convict buried on the capitol grounds may not be verified by the finding of human remains in the soil. If any man lies there it will not be long until grass and flowers will grow over it and fountains will play there.

*State Journal*  
July 24, 1925

## SOME TREES SET ON NEW CAPITOL LAWN

Silver Fir, Colorado Green Spruce, Red Cedar and American Elms.

Tree planting on the capitol grounds is now half finished altho the capitol commission's contract with nurseries does not call for completion until April 1. J. J. Lydick of Burt county, who is not a nurseryman but who grew the stately firs now planted at the north and south entrances and those of the same variety along the walls of the capitol, spent a day or two looking over the planting as done by the contractor. He said the firs were grown from seed planted in 1911 or 1912. They are from seventeen to twenty-one feet tall. The seed came from Colorado.

The firs are to be trimmed on their outer surface with shears which will smooth down their symmetrical, open pyramidal crowns. These firs are of the balsam fir type of the pine family.

In his handbook of Nebraska trees, native and introduced species, printed by authority of the state, Prof. Raymond J. Pool, chairman of the department of botany, University of Nebraska, after describing the balsam fir says:

"Another fir tree that is commonly planted in this state is the silver fir, abies concolor, of the Rocky mountains and westward. The pale blue or grayish leaves, which are 2 to 3 inches long, serve to help distinguish this tree from the eastern balsam fir. In general the firs may be distinguished from the spruces, with which may people confuse them, by the flattish leaves, smooth twigs, and erect cones. Spruce leaves are four sided, the twigs are very rough after the leaves fall and the cones are pendulous."

Professor Pool says the balsam fir does not occur naturally in Nebraska, but is quite commonly planted as an ornamental, being substituted sometimes unknowingly for spruce for such purposes.

Spruce of the Colorado green variety are being planted near the base of the capitol walls. These have already been trimmed into globe shape. No blue spruce is to be planted. Tall cone shaped red cedars planted at the rear of the Lincoln monument are being given a fresh trimming by an expert. The red cedar or red juniper, says Professor Pool, is one of the most valuable trees of the United States because of the value of the wood and the uses of the species for landscape decoration. It is one of the four native Nebraska conifer trees.

Pool says it should not be planted near an apple orchard because of a certain rust fungus which alternates between the cedar and apple trees and often does great damage to the latter. He says it stands pruning without injury and may be trimmed into fantastic shapes. It is very hardy in this region and should be planted more widely as an ornamental, he says.

Concerning the American or white elm being planted on the capitol lawn, Pool says it is a famous and highly prized tree. It has extended entirely across the state from the forests of Iowa and Missouri. It grows rapidly and is an ideal park and street tree, one of the most beautiful of all American trees. It is one of the historic American trees as is typified in the Washington elm in Cambridge, Mass., and the William Penn elm in Philadelphia which was 233 years old when blown down in 1810.

*State Journal*  
*February 13, 1934*

The Nebraska capitol was pronounced the finest building he had ever seen by Walter Hamly, prominent citizen of Port Alberrie, B. C., who was a visitor Thursday. Mr. Hamly, his wife and driver, were in company with Mrs. J. H. Rudeman and daughter and H. H. Russell and wife of Union, whom they are visiting and with whom they will make a two months' eastern trip.

*State Journal*  
*July 12, 1934.*

## NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL IS PRAISED AS 'HIGH PEAK IN ARCHITECTURAL PROGRESS;' MAGAZINE DEVOTES WHOLE NUMBER TO IT

A review of the Nebraska state capitol as marking a "high peak in architectural progress" appears in the October issue of American Architect, published in New York City, first copies of which have been received in Lincoln. The entire number of the magazine is devoted to the capitol.

More than a hundred illustrations appear in the magazine, including seventy photographs by Samuel H. Gottscho, architectural photographer of Jamaica, N. Y. Four of these were reproduced in full colors.

Reproductions of early sketches of the building, pictures of models for some of the sculptures, besides several plates of plans and elevations of chief interest to architects and engineers also appear in the magazine.

Special articles on the capitol were contributed by seven writers, the first being a general discussion of the capitol and its architectural design by Charles Harris Whitaker, one of the leading architectural commentators in America. Mr. Whitaker, for many years editor of the Journal of the American Institute of Architects, edited the Goodhue memorial volume, privately published in 1925 in memory of the late architect of the capitol.

Other articles on the capitol as they appear in American Architect follow:

"Highlights on the Capitol's History," by John Edwards, chief of guides at the capitol, and formerly on the staff of The Sunday Journal and Star.

"A Record of Successful Experiments," by Harry F. Cunningham, who for several years after Mr. Goodhue's death was employed as chief draughtsman of the Goodhue firm. From 1929 until last spring he was head of the school of architecture at the University of Nebraska, and is now practicing architecture in Washington, D. C.

"Symbolism and Inscriptions," by Hartley Burr Alexander, formerly head of the department of philosophy at the University of Nebraska and now of Scripps college, Claremont, Calif. Dr. Alexander, who wrote the symbolical scheme for the capitol and selected most of the inscriptions, founded a new profession, says the American Architect, "as a co-ordinator of decorative design, inscriptions and symbolism."

"Not in the Specifications," by Oscar H. Murray, a member of the New York firm of Mayers, Murray & Phillip, successors to Goodhue.

"An Outline of Mechanical Service Equipment," by Meyer, Strong & Jones, of New York City, consulting engineers.

"The Story of the Capitol's Construction," by Emile H. Fraeger, of New York City, structural engineer for the project.

Cover design for the special number is a colored block print of the capitol and surrounding buildings and residences by Ernest Born, prominent illustrator. The print was made from an aerial photograph of the capitol taken by John Edwards.

As an introduction to the issue, the American Architect published the following short editorial inside its front cover:

"Some little while ago there appeared on this page a saying to the effect that progress is a blind succession of events fully exposed only thru the agency of a capable interpreter. This issue of American Architect is proof of that contention. The Nebraska state capitol is much more than an excellent example of unusual monumental design or even a symbol of democratic government. It marks an important period in the history of building progress. In many ways the architectural genius of Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue dramatized in this design a peak in the history of building accomplishment. As a break from the precedent of tradition the Nebraska state capitol did much to advance a new and more virile architectural philosophy. From the engineering standpoint the building embodies the cumulative results of American energy, inventive skill and organizing ability; and from all combined points of view it stands as a remarkable interpretation of innumerable events that have shaped the progress of American art, industry and democratic government. For any one of these reasons American Architect might be proud to publish the Nebraska state capitol. In combination they make an entire issue necessary to present exclusively a most outstanding example of architectural progress."

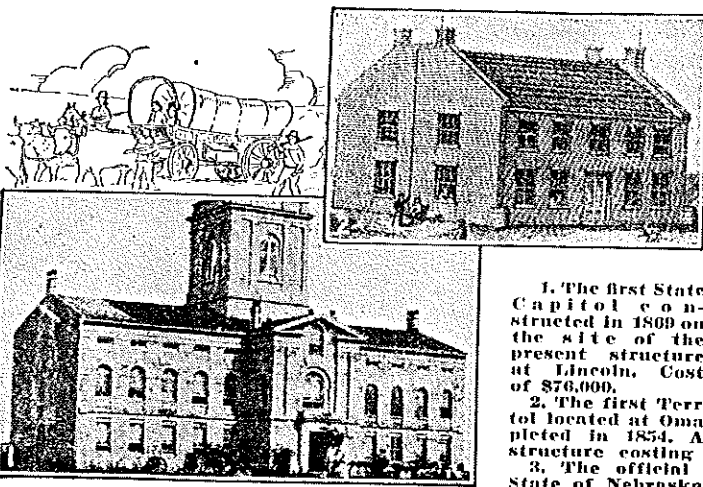
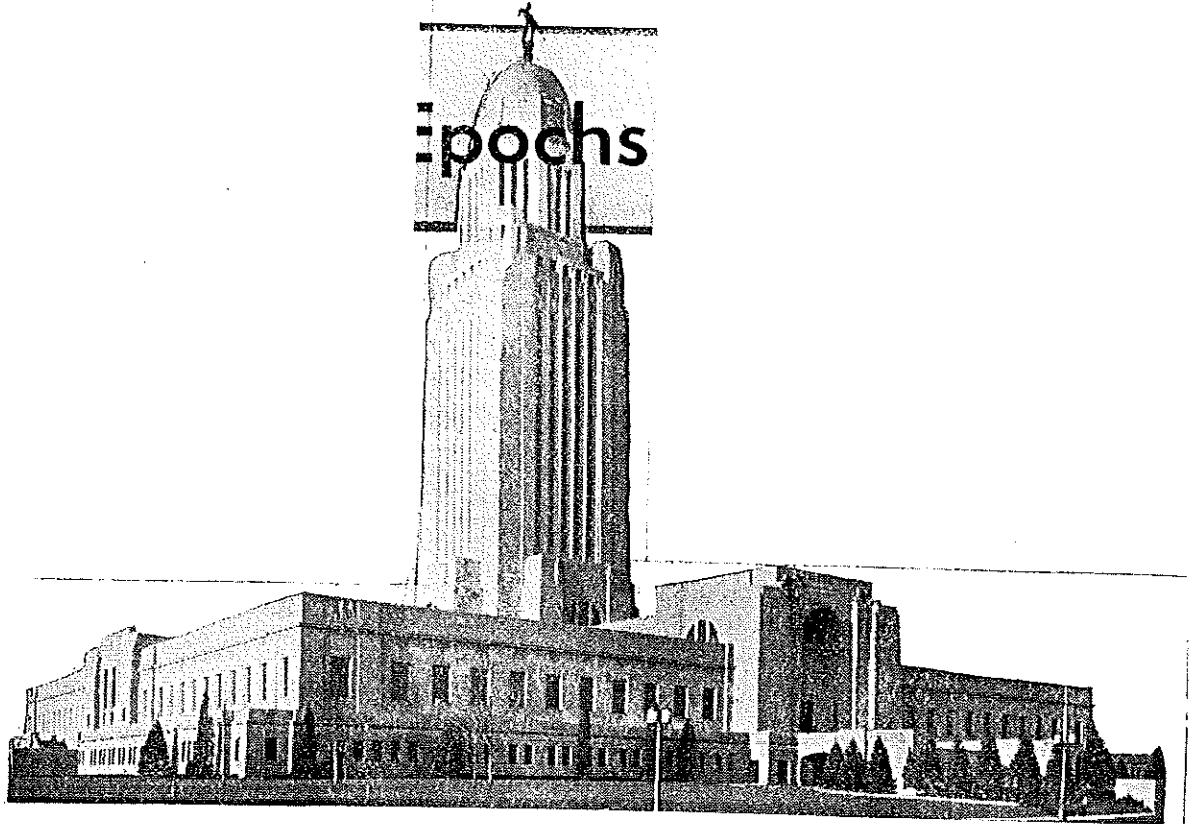
*Over*

Nebraskan who have admired the richly decorated rooms of the governor's suite will perhaps be surprised to learn that the editors of American Architect, like many other critics, do not feel that they are as architecturally important as other sections of the building. A view of the governor's reception room is the only photograph taken in the governor's suite. There are a number of pictures, however, of such other chambers as the senate and house chambers, the senate lounge, the two supreme court chambers, and the lawyer's consultation room.

American Architect decided to devote this issue to the Capitol following a visit of its editor, Benjamin F. Betts, to Lincoln and the capitol last winter.

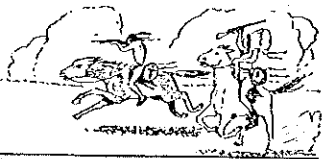
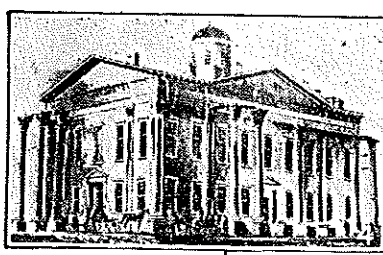
*State Journal*  
*Oct. 21, 1934*

# Epochs

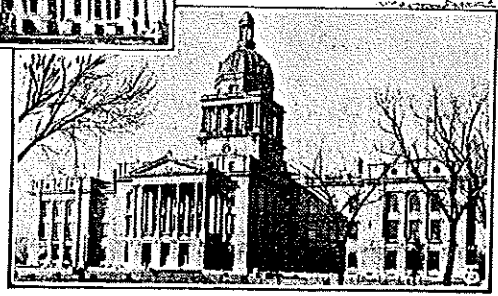


1. The first State Capitol constructed in 1809 on the site of the present structure at Lincoln. Cost of \$76,000.
2. The first Territorial Capitol located at Omaha and completed in 1854. A two story structure costing \$3,000.
3. The official seal of the State of Nebraska.

*Nebraska Farmer*  
*Dec. 8. 1934*



4. Second Territorial Capitol. Completed in 1858 at Omaha. Cost of \$130,000.
  5. Second State Capitol built in 1888 on the site of the present Capitol. Cost \$601,000.
- Above is shown the present Nebraska Capitol.



—Photos Courtesy of Nebraska State Historical Society.

***Ceilings Of First  
Floor Offices At  
Capitol Leak Again***

New leaks have lately appeared in the ceilings of several first floor offices in the capitol which are under the terrace running around the outside of the second floor. The terrace floor was taken up and relaid with asphaltic joints several years ago, but evidently the trouble was not entirely cured.

Water from Sunday night's rain penetrated the ceiling of State Insurance Director Moose's private office and was still dripping on the floor Monday morning. This was one of the places that had leaked before the repair work was done on the terrace.

*Lincoln, Star  
March 5, 1935*



## Walker Urges Mid-Western Murals For Proper Completion of Capitol

"The art and structure of the Nebraska state capitol is remarkable, through the way that living things have been worked into useful design," Maynard Walker, vice president of the Ferargil art galleries, New York City, told 200 persons at Morrill hall Sunday afternoon. His talk was the third of a series sponsored by the Nebraska Art association.

"It is truly one of the grandest structures in the United States, and I only hope that the project can be completed with murals of the same general type," he said. "meaning murals so typical of this mid-western region, that can only be done properly by Thomas Benton, John Steuart Curry, or Grant Wood, the artists of Missouri, Kansas and Iowa."

### Nebraskan Needed.

Mr. Walker described the three as the most prominent artists in America, artists who have unconsciously brought about the evolution of regional art. "All we need now is some one from Nebraska to make it a quartet."

"Grant Wood is an exponent of the regional art movement," Mr. Walker added, "for he has sought

to build regional interest through competition, and establishing art centers in the various sections," he declared.

### Values Grow.

"Arnold Comes of Age," an early Wood painting purchased by the Nebraska Art association several years ago for \$300, is now worth "four or five" times that amount, he told the group. It has been hanging in an exhibition in Chicago during the past month, and will be included in the New York showing.

"Pictures should be seen and not heard," Mr. Walker advised, adding that the trouble is that there has been something fundamentally wrong in our education, "we have not been trained to see them, but to hear things about them."

Mrs. Elizabeth Tuttle Holsman of Chicago, sister of Mrs. George L. Towne, was announced as the speaker for the next Sunday.

Five members of the board of directors of the association were named preceding the meeting, as follows: Mrs. Harry K. Grainger, Dean Fred Upson, Dr. E. H. Barbour, Dr. J. E. M. Thomson and Mrs. Frank Bochmer.

*Lincoln Star. Nov. 18, 1935*

## *Jibes Rewarded; Capitol Lawn Toolhouse Gone*

The wee house on the capitol lawn, against which so many legislative and newspaper campaigns have been directed of late, is gone. The state highway department Thursday descended on the tiny little tool domicile with workmen and trucks and carted it away to oblivion—in other words the material yard at Sixth and South streets.

The unpainted shack has been nestling just south of Abraham Lincoln's statue for nearly two years and since the carving work was completed last winter has served little purpose other than to house tools. But finally the wars against it by its enemies bore fruit and it is gone—unmourned and unsung.

*Lincoln Star*  
*June 11, 1935*

## Swanson Allots Office Space On Ninth Floor

Office space on the ninth floor of the capitol tower, vacated a few days ago by the state historical society, is being divided by Land Commissioner Leo Swanson, between the federal-state vocational education bureau and the state pardon board's probation force.

Partitions are being put up to separate the quarters of the two departments. The vocational education bureau includes 16 persons, while there are about half a dozen working for the pardon board. Each organization will get one private office for its executive head.

*Lincoln, Star*  
*Aug. 3, 1931*

## TREES ABOUT CAPITOL.

One hundred and nineteen trees, mostly firs and red cedars, with some elms, sugar maples, pin oaks spruce and a few red oaks now grace the capitol lawn, having been set out within the past week or so. The contract made by the capitol commission calls for planting 163 trees, so there remain only forty-four trees to plant under the present contract. Ernst Herminghaus, the commission's landscape engineer, said the group of red cedars back of the Lincoln monument is to comprise eleven trees on each side at the rear and nine in a small semicircle of sod at the immediate rear of the monument, making a total of thirty-one cedars. Nearly all the trees planted have already been trimmed and shaped by expert pruners. Contract for shrubs on the lawn near the capitol and in the four courts has not been awarded.

*Lincoln Star*  
*April 26, 1936.*

## Capitol Doors To Be Locked On Fourth

Not only will offices at the capitol be closed all day Saturday, but Land Commissioner Leo Swanson, custodian of the building, will give the caretaking employes a Fourth of July holiday and the front doors of the edifice will not be opened. 6-30-36

Lincoln Star  
June 30, 1936  
11

## Mrs. Roosevelt Says She'll Never Forget Nebraska's Capitol

ABOARD ROOSEVELT TRAIN,  
Enroute to Wichita, Kas., Oct. 13  
—(AP)—Mrs. Franklin D. Roose-  
velt today analyzed her impres-  
sions of this campaign trip and  
concluded:

"One can't help but compare  
one's impressions of people—and,  
on the whole, I get a feeling to-  
day of a more thoughtful, more  
mature people."

"Much of America I know  
purely by being driven through  
its streets and seeing the state  
buildings," she said. "... But  
after many trips, cities begin to  
have certain distinguishing fea-  
tures you always look forward to  
—such as the drive on the bluff  
along the top of the river in  
Paul.

"I had never seen the capitol  
in Lincoln before, but I will  
never forget it as it stands out in  
the city as such a dominating  
thing."

*Lincoln Star*  
*Oct. 13, 1936*

## Swanson Calls Halt To Practice Of Sleeping On State Capitol Lawn

There will be no more sleeping on the state house grounds on hot nights, or other kinds of nights, according to orders issued by State Land Commissioner Leo Swanson, who, under a law passed by the last legislature became custodian of the lawn and grounds, as well as the building, on July 1.

Swanson, in his statement, said that no doubt some people in the vicinity of the capitol have enjoyed a measure of relief on hot nights by sleeping on the lawn, while on the other hand many others have abused the privilege

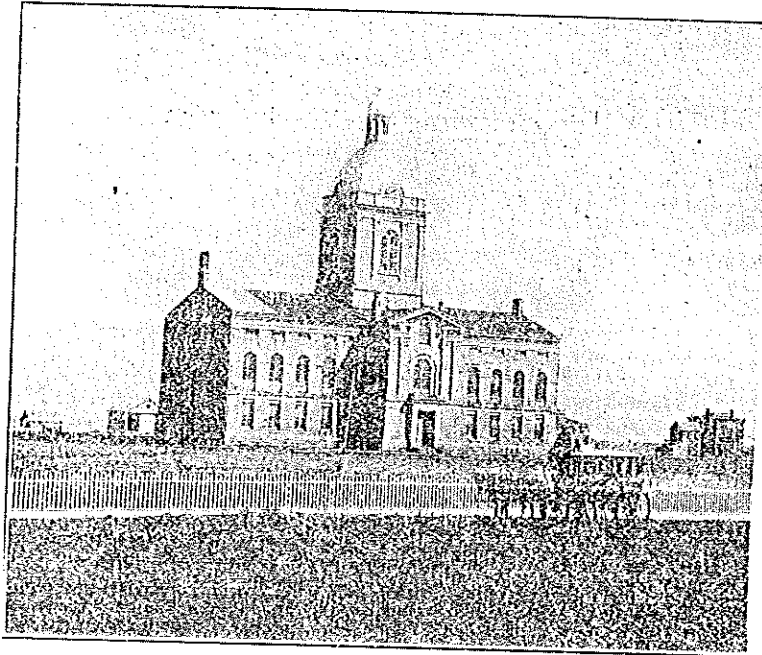
and have been an annoyance to the neighborhood.

Swanson explained it is costing the taxpayers \$6,000 each year to maintain the grounds, and that in addition to injuring the lawn, state house janitors have been kept busy each morning following a hot night, picking up empty beer cans, newspapers and other rubbish.

He said that he will depend upon his own force to do the policing of the grounds unless it gets beyond their power to enforce his ruling.

*Lincoln Star, July 1, 1937*

## *First State Capitol at Lincoln*



—Nebraska State Historical Society.  
The above is a picture of Nebraska's first state capitol after statehood, the contract for its construction having been let in 1868. The cone shaped top of the tower has rested on the roof of a Seward county barn since about 1883, when the first capitol building was demolished to make room for the second capitol. The round ball, just a dot in the picture, at the top of the cone, is in the possession of the State Historical Society. A news story on this page of the Independent gives further information.

*Seward Independent.*  
*Sept. 7, 1937*



## Top of First Capitol Tower In Seward Co.

Adorns Roof Of Barn Where It  
Has Rested For More Than  
Fifty Years.

The metal cone shaped top of the first state capitol building in Nebraska after statehood is in Seward county, and adorns the roof of a barn on a farm owned by Harry Westerhoff, a mile west and three-quarters of a mile north of Garland. It has presumably been there since about 1883. The farm is occupied by Mr. Westerhoff's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Mathes. Mr. Westerhoff lives a mile east from the place. The fact that the historic piece of decorative art is in this community has never been generally known.

Judge T. L. Norval, John C. Oaks and the Independent editor drove to the farm Sunday, to obtain such information as was available about it. Mrs. Mathes directed the party to her father, Mr. Westerhoff, who has owned the place since 1928. The land is described as the south half of the south-west quarter of section 32, and is in the south-west part of A precinct.

The abstract in the possession of Mr. Westerhoff shows that the land was homesteaded by Jos. H. Silvers, who received his patent from the government Jan. 15, 1873. The document was signed by President U. S. Grant. Jos. Silvers transferred title to his wife, Isabelle Silvers, in 1906, and in 1908 the latter transferred it to a son, Geo. A. Silvers, from whom Mr. Westerhoff purchased the land.

Mr. Westerhoff learned from Geo. A. Silvers that the latter's father, the original homesteader, purchased the piece of ornament at the time the first capitol was demolished, hauled it to his farm, and installed it on top of his barn.

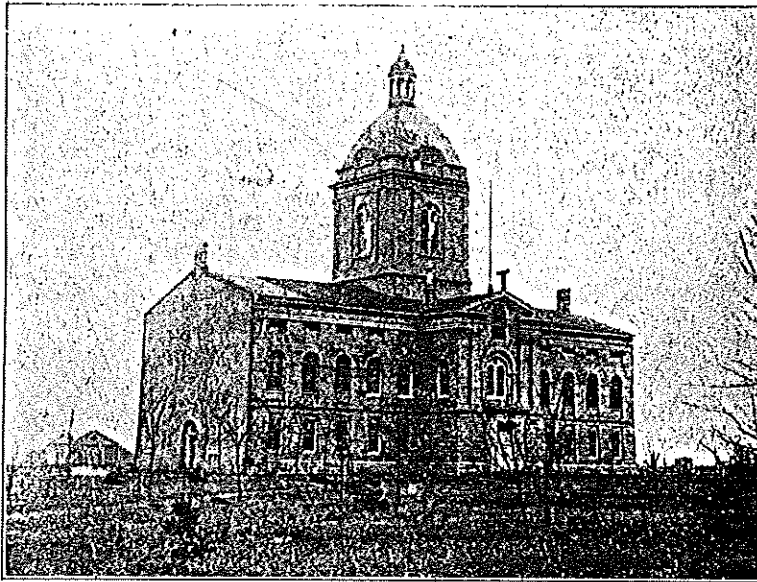
An old History of Nebraska, issued in 1882, states that the contract for the construction of the first capitol was let in 1868 to Joseph Ward of Chicago for \$49,000.

From the Nebraska Blue Book it is learned that the west wing thereto was built in 1879, and the east wing in 1881. Robert D. Silver was an unsuccessful bidder for the construction of the east wing, but whether he was a relative of Jos. H. Silvers is not known. In 1883 the legislature authorized the destruction of the main part of the first capitol so that the construction of the main part of the second capitol might be commenced, and it is presumed Jos. Silvers acquired the ornament about that time. W. H. B. Stout had the contract for the east wing of the first capitol, and he also obtained the contract for the construction of the second capitol. The present capitol was provided for by an act of the legislature of 1919. It cost \$10,000,000, and was paid for during the course of its construction from a special tax levy. The statue of "The Sower" occupies the position on the top of the tower of the present capitol that was occupied by the ornament at the top of the first capitol, but which has graced the roof of the old Silvers barn all these years.

In 1879 Judge Norval served as a member of the state senate, the session being held in the first capitol building at Lincoln.

*Seward Independent.*  
*Sept. 7, 1937*

## FIRST NEBRASKA STATE CAPITOL



Courtesy of the Nebraska State Historical Society

The Territory of Nebraska was created in 1854 with a territorial capitol at Omaha. It was soon suggested that Nebraska might as well become a state and elect its own governor and send senators and congressmen to Washington. The question came to a vote in 1860, and was defeated 2094 to 2372 because people felt that the expense of a state government would make taxes too heavy. The question came up again in 1866. The republican party favored statehood, the democratic party was opposed, and the final vote was 3938 in favor of and 3838 against statehood. President Andrew Johnson issued a proclamation making Nebraska a state on March 1, 1867. Lincoln was made the capital city by the legislature of 1866. The first state capitol, shown in the above picture, was built in 1869 and served until the second was constructed in 1888. The present state capitol is our third, and construction on it started in 1922.

*Howell Journal*  
*aug. 13 - 1937*

## SWANSON IS READY WITH MOVING PLANS

### Capitol Custodian Directs Changes in Occupancy of Rooms.

Back from a long trip in western Nebraska on business connected with school land leases, Land Commissioner Swanson, who also doubles as capitol custodian, started in motion his plans for redistribution of office quarters in the statehouse. He has been compelled to revise his program for shifting about of offices as a result of the legislative council's refusal to give up more than two of its four rooms on the ground floor.

The commissioner's present schedule calls for the transfer of:

The state board of control from the eighth floor of the tower to the state assistance department's quarters on the first floor.

The state assistance department to the space now occupied by the Nebraska compensation court and the child welfare bureau and two of the legislative council's rooms, all on first floor.

The compensation court to the eighth floor.

The child welfare bureau from the northwest corner of the first floor to the southwest corner, using part of the agriculture department's present quarters.

Originally, Swanson intended to move the board of control into the compensation courtrooms and shift the latter agency into the entire space occupied by the legislative council. The plans, however, were halted by the council's protest.

The commissioner said considerable construction work, mostly partitions, would be necessary to move the board of control into the assistance quarters. The board, he said, has agreed to bear the cost.

*Journal-Star*  
*Jan. 24, 1938.*

Nebraska has had five capitol  
buildings.

*Journal Star*  
*Jan. 30. 1938*

123

# BIRTHDAY OF MARTYRED PRESIDENT RECALLS LEGISLATIVE DEBATE ON NEBRASKA CONTRIBUTION TO LINCOLN MEMORIAL AT SPRINGFIELD

ON A mid-January Sunday, tales from the first legislature to meet in Lincoln were recalled in this section.

One of the incidents of that session of 1869 concerned an appropriation toward a fund to erect a Lincoln monument at Springfield, Ill.

Isham Reavis, who represented Nemaha county in the senate at the time, was one of the active supporters of the original bill, which provided for \$1,000 to aid in the construction of the monument. His grandson, Senator Joseph Reavis is a member of the unicameral, both serving the same district, but with seventy years separating their labors.

David D. Reavis, son of Isham Reavis and a Falls City business man, lawyer, and historian, adds to the story of the Lincoln monument, details particularly appropriate on Lincoln's birthday.

## Story Told.

The story, as given is told by D. D. Reavis.

As mentioned in the article of January 15, amendments to reduce the amount of money from \$1,000 to \$300 and then to \$500, at which figure the act was finally passed and approved February 15, 1869, was not the only amendment proposed to that bill. Senator Thomas J. Majors, senator from Nemaha county, proposed an amendment to strike out the words, "Lincoln Association" and insert the words, "Nebraska Soldiers' Association." This amendment produced a lively and acrimonious debate.

Believing the speech of Isham Reavis after these long years will be illustrative of the early feeling in the hearts of the people of Nebraska for Abraham Lincoln I will quote briefly from his address: "Mr. Chairman. I regret exceedingly that the gentleman from Nemaha county has seen fit to offer this amendment. In my judgment nothing could be more ill-timed and out of place than a proposition of this character. His explanation may be satisfactory to the members of this floor who have heard it; but sir, there are those outside of these walls who will doubt while the gentleman protests. The bill under consideration appropriates—should it become a law — \$1,000 to aid an association of very respectable individuals in building a monument over the grave of Abraham Lincoln. The gentleman moved to strike out "Lincoln Association" and insert "Nebraska Soldiers' Association." The amendment, if adopted, will destroy the bill and combat a measure that commends itself to the heart of every patriot in this broad land of ours. It will do more. If persisted in it will compel senators to discriminate between the soldiers who have fallen in battle and our good old president who was murdered in Washington. Sir, I do not want the time ever to come when I shall be compelled either as a legislator or otherwise to make such discrimination. I would rear a monument to the memory of each, tall enough to be seen over the hill-tops of the centuries. I am at a loss to know why the gentleman offers the amendment. Does he think the fallen heroes of the rebellion are in danger of being forgotten? If he does I am bound to believe he has less confidence in the people, to say nothing of the

survivors of the 600 bloody battle fields of the slavery war, than I had supposed him to possess. The soldiers—God bless them—will take care of the memory of their lost comrades, whether they receive assistance from associations or legislatures or not.

Monumental piles are but the physical manifestation of the love we bear, the departed who sleep beneath, and shall it be said of Nebraska that she had not love enough in her young heart to place a slab in the marble edifice that is to sometime stand a ghostly sentinel by the side of the great patriot's grave, while time shall grow old with the centuries? For myself I desire to appropriate money enough for the purpose mentioned in the bill to give Nebraska—the youngest member of the federal family—a respectable position in this magnificent and praiseworthy enterprise. The gentleman need have no fears that the fallen soldiers of Nebraska will receive less attention on account of this bill. Sir, they are being attended to by those that "drank from the same canteen"—by those that loved them in life—that loved them in death and who revere the lofty patriotism that impelled them to take up arms in the defense of the best government that was ever made."

Nearly fourteen years after that legislature adjourned, Mr. Reavis was in Springfield, and while there went out to Oakridge cemetery to visit the tomb of Mr. Lincoln. When he met the custodian, J. C. Power, he remarked, "I had the honor to help appropriate \$500 from my state to assist in building this beautiful structure."

"Then you are from Nevada I presume."

"No, I am from Nebraska."

"We never got any money from Nebraska," was the reply.

"Are you certain of that?"

"I am!"—The only state to give us \$500 was Nevada."

In answer to that information Mr. Reavis assured the custodian that there was something wrong for he was certain the appropriation was made. When he returned home he examined the Session Laws of 1869 and found the act had been passed and approved as he had remembered it. Without waiting to hear from Mr. Power he wrote to the auditor of the state to ask what had become of the appropriation. In due time he received his reply saying it had never been drawn against but had lapsed back into the treasury. So he notified Mr. Power accordingly. He was told by that gentleman that the association was as much in need of money they as it ever had been and it would be greatly pleased if the legislature would reappropriate the money.

This was in the fall of 1882 and a new legislature would be elected in November. Mr. Reavis then wrote Mr. Power to have the association certify the fact of its needs of the money with matter of detail and he would see what could be done. He wrote a letter to C. H. Gere, an associate member in the legislature of 1869, giving him all the facts of his strange discovery and asking that he recommend a reappropriation of money. He did so, and the legislature met in 1883.

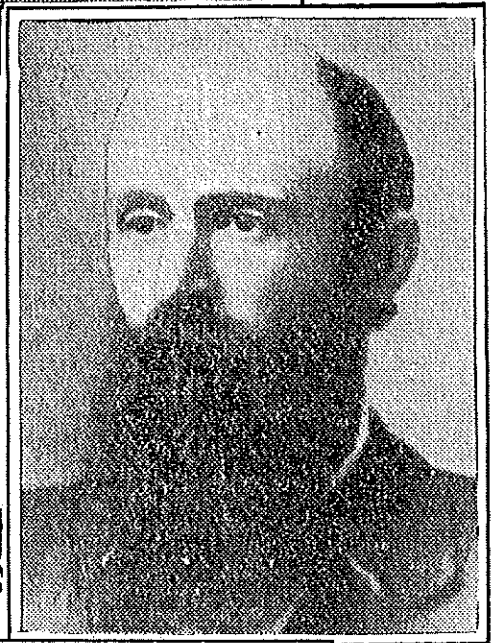
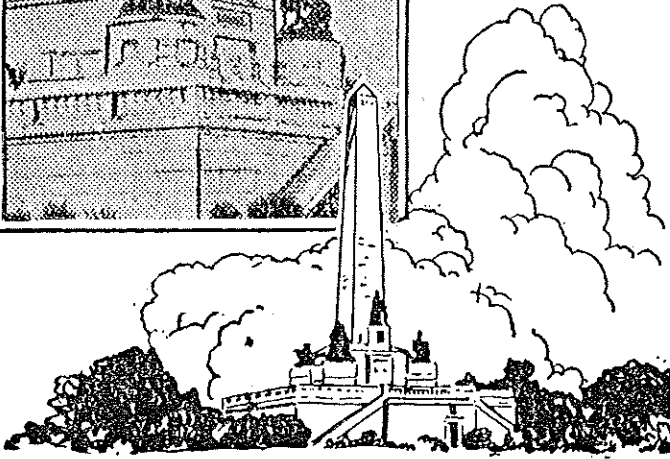
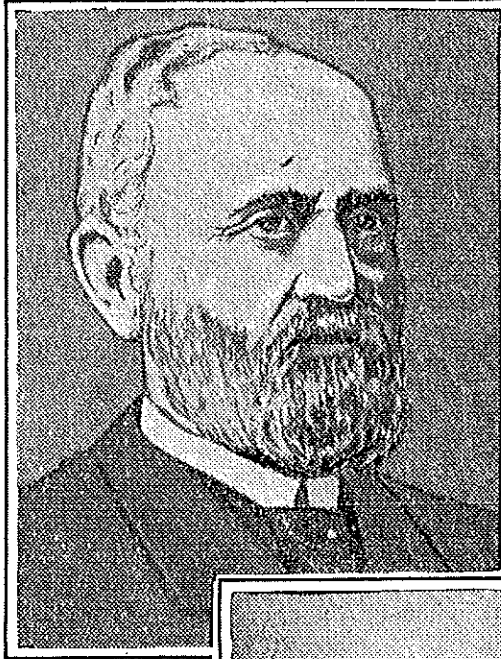
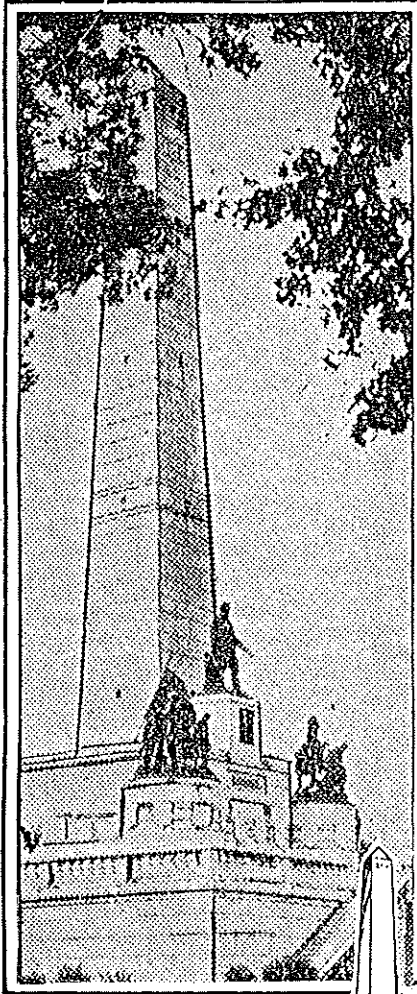
Mr. Reavis prepared a bill proceeding by a preamble reciting a history of the matter and R. E. Grinstead, a member of the house from Richardson county, introduced it and it was promptly passed. Governor Dawes in the

(Continued on Page Two)

State Journal  
Feb. 12, 1939.  
(incomplete.)

PHOTOS COURTESY STATE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Senator Isham Reavis



Exterior view of the impressive  
tomb of Abraham Lincoln at  
Springfield, Ill.

Governor James W. Dawes

*State Journal. Feb. 12, 1939.*

### ALARM SET OFF.

Attendants at the state capitol and residents near there were startled shortly after 10 p. m. Wednesday when the burglar alarm in the state treasurer's vault and the banking department began ringing. The alarm was apparently set off by some defect in the alarm itself or by the vault being shut improperly, it was said, as a check showed nothing wrong. Altho the alarm sometimes starts ringing in the daytime, this was the first time in two years it has done so at night, an attendant said.

*Lincoln Star*  
*July 11, 1935*



# NEBRASKA'S CAPITOL WELL WATERPROOFED

**Custodian Swanson Has Used  
16 Barrels at Cost of  
\$1.60 a Gallon.**

Because Leo N. Swanson, state land commissioner and custodian of the capitol, has plastered the capitol with sixteen barrels of waterproofing at a cost of \$1,408, or \$1.60 a gallon, democratic occupants of the building have set up a suppressed howl. The wail is almost as loud as when Harry P. Conklin of Scottsbluff, land commissioner for two years back in 1931, bought fifty or more barrels of liquid soap and some floor wax at a good round price. William B. Price, then democratic auditor, since deceased, showed democratic aversion to the soap and said he did not object to a reasonable amount but did not sanction the purchase of what he termed "enough to wash the decks of a battleship" and refused to approve the price marked on the bill.

Now that Land Commissioner Swanson, the only republican office holder in the capitol is trying to protect the other democratic officials, not from use of soap, but from contamination with their pet aversion, water, the present state auditor, William H. Price, himself a democrat, offers no objection but on the contrary has approved Swanson's claim for the waterproofing. The stuff which Swanson buys to keep democrats dry on the outside is bought at Gering, from the Hydrozo Product company, J. E. Blackman, proprietor. "They had a hard time selling me," said Swanson, "but I tried it and took it. No, I won't have the agency for its sale and I haven't received any commission. But I was told if I sold any outside of the capitol they would give me a commission. I haven't sold any yet, but I will recommend it highly to any one."

Swanson bought four barrels April 21 for \$352 and liked it so well he doubled the order May 12, paying \$704 for eight barrels, and then bought four more barrels Aug. 23 for \$352, making a total of \$1,408 up to that time. He liked it so well that he insisted on it being used to spread on the inside walls of the capitol attic which is being fitted up for the unemployment compensation division at

federal expense. The private contractor did not care to use the "hydrozo," but Swanson insisted and when the federal government would not pay the expense Swanson furnished the waterproofing himself and paid for it out of capitol maintenance funds. Paint was applied to the interior walls after the waterproofing was put on. "I don't know what the stuff is," said Swanson. "No, I don't think it is paraffin nor asphalt. It's transparent. It's saved the state thousands of dollars already."

Swanson explains he has used the waterproofing on the clay tile forming the surface of the terrace over the "leanto" around the capitol where leaks have caused offices below it untold trouble for years, and by taking up the tile and using other ingredients such as asphalt and then the new waterproofing all the leaks were stopped. He has put a coat of it a distance of six inches on the bottom of the stone balustrade around the terrace and while the waterproofing leaves the tile and stone dark and muddy and the product is carried by feet of pedestrians to the stone walks adjoining the tile and gives it a mussy appearance he said that "is only dirt and it will wear off."

Swanson has also used the waterproofing on stucco inside a parapet outside the building at the base of the tower and brick floor adjacent. He says it fills the crack in the stucco and keeps out water and allows the stucco to contract and expand in hot and cold weather. "I am going to paint the vaulted brick ceiling of the driveway under the steps leading to the main entrance to keep out moisture," said Swanson.

*State Journal  
September 1, 1937.*

## CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS.

Mindful of the proverbial inconsequence of newspaper editorial opinions, I truly compliment those of the Journal in avowing that they often lead or drive me to an opposite attitude. The Journal's confident conclusion on the 13th instant that because one of the Nebraska commissioners had inspected thirty-seven state capitols he is an expert in the art of building capitols and its consequent felicitations for everybody concerned, is a case in kind.

Now a certain, and certainly not prodigal sum has been appropriated for the construction of a suitable building. The problem is to decide what is a suitable building, and it presents two principal considerations. One of them is whether the character of the capitol shall be determined mainly, or largely by regarding it as the monumental centerpiece with ultimate adjunct buildings, differentiated by their primarily utilitarian purpose and style, and to be supplied from time to time as increasing functions of the state government may require. I will cite two apt instances. Not long ago I saw an official statement that the Wisconsin capitol, just then finished and which cost, before the high scale of prices had set in, seven million dollars, was overcrowded. Iowa has adopted this plan or policy and accordingly increased the grounds of its capitol to very large dimensions—some seventy-three acres.

Properly to balance our two conditions—the present demands of utility and the future relationship of the building—will require the genius of a great architect, which should have the fullest play practicable. Hence the less opinionated or prepossessed and the more docile the commissioners are—beyond a clear conception of the general objective—the better. Owing to closely pressed blinders which intensely specialized life forces upon us, the layman, and in particular the absorbed business man, is likely to see little outside his specialty tho he look never so far on occasion. Some safety lies in the assurance of holy writ that "God gave them eyes that they should see." Safety even from evil designers, if such there be, for it is also written, "Can a devil open the eyes of the blind."

Journalists now mostly say the last and the best word. So Galsworthy speaks thru one of the brightest of them: "Nothing is nicer than darkness. . . because you can only see the way you must go instead of a hundred and fifty ways you might." Decently to manage an important university or college requires great specialized experience and knowledge.

Therefore the very best perfunctory "governing board" is that one which governs least—which just has the gumption to buy a big governor for the institution and let him and his trained faculty do most all the rest.

If follows, it would seem, that the best local architect for the purpose to be found, say in Omaha or Lincoln, should be employed as superintendent—as interpreter between the commissioners and the main architect. But that is a detail.

ALBERT WATKINS