

# To Enlarge U. S. Capitol



By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

**T**HE Capitol at Washington, symbol as it is of the nation's growth, is soon to have an addition, according to present plans. Although the Capitol has passed through three major stages of expansion, it is not yet completed. To relieve the congested state of the quarters in which the government is called upon to transact its business at the present time and to give the Capitol better architectural balance with the present senate and house wings, a new wing is to be added to the central part of the east front.

The history of the Capitol goes back to the first administration of George Washington. In July, 1790, Washington signed a bill passed by the senate, definitely locating the Capitol on the Potomac river in the District of Columbia, which had been established under the eighth section and first article of the Constitution. The bill provided for the appointment by the President of three commissioners, who, under his direction, were to make a survey of a required territory and were empowered to purchase or receive by present such land as the President thought necessary for the use of the government.

The three commissioners selected by Washington were David Stuart of Virginia and Daniel Carroll and Thomas Johnson of Maryland. In order to give every architect in the country opportunity to offer a plan for the Capitol, Washington and the three commissioners wrote the following advertisement:

A premium of a lot in this city to be designated by impartial judges, and five hundred dollars, or a medal of that value at the option of the party, will be given by the commissioners of the Federal building to the person who before the 15th day of July, 1792, shall produce to them the most approved plan for a Capitol to be erected in this city; and two hundred and fifty dollars, or a medal, to the plan deemed next in merit to the one they shall adopt. The building to be of brick, and to contain the following apartments to wit: a conference room and a room for the representatives, sufficient to accommodate three hundred persons each; a lobby or anteroom to the latter; a senate room of 1200 square feet area; an ante-chamber; 12 rooms of 600 square feet each for committee rooms and clerks' offices. It will be a recommendation of any plan if the central part of it may be detached and erected for the present with the appearance of a complete whole, and be capable of admitting the additional parts in future, if they shall be wanted. Drawings will be expected of the ground plots, elevations of each front, and sections through the building in such directions as may be necessary to explain the internal structure; and an estimate of the cubic feet of brick work composing the whole mass of walls.

## Sold

A "swell-head" went to a fashionable artist to have his portrait painted. The fee was pretty stiff, and the likeness too true to be flattering. Not well pleased, the sitter demurred at the price.

"Well, you need not pay for it unless you want it," said the artist.

"Then you'll have it on your hands. How can you sell it if I refuse to have it?"

By 1843, however, it was discovered that the Capitol was already too small for the needs of the government, and congress passed a resolution providing for the enlargement of the building by the addition of a wing on the south side. Nothing was done about the matter until 1850, when Jefferson Davis, then a senator from Mississippi, requested an architect named Robert Mills to submit plans for the enlargement of the Capitol. Mills' specifications called for new wings on the north and south and a dome in the center of the original building. Davis succeeded in getting through the senate an appropriation of \$100,000 for each wing, but the house reduced it to \$50,000 for each and arranged for competitive bidding in the planning. The plans submitted by T. U. Walter of Philadelphia, which were especially favored by President Millard Fillmore, were finally selected.

It took more than six years for the completion of the work, and during that time it was discovered that the original appropriation of \$50,000 for each wing would be decidedly insufficient. In fact, the total cost was something over \$8,000,000. The new house wing was occupied for the first time December 16, 1857, but the senate did not move into its wing until January 4, 1859. Now, after seventy years, a new wing is to be added to the Capitol to give Brother Johnathan, the lusty young giant among nations, plenty of room in which to carry on his affairs of state.

The design by Doctor Thornton called for a domed rotunda, a portico and two wings. But funds were so scarce when the young government set out to build the Capitol, it was decided to erect only the north wing at first. It was this wing which was completed in 1800 and into which congress, the Supreme court and the library were moved. "The Oven," a

"As easily as I can paint a tall on it," said the artist, in a tone which brought out the checkbook like a flash. — Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

## To Preserve Ferns

There are at least two very satisfactory ways to preserve maidenhair ferns. One is to dip the ferns as soon as gathered in perfectly limpid gum water. This should be done carefully. After allowing them to drain for two or three minutes, arrange in a vase to

dry. Another very good way is to put the ferns, when first gathered, between two clean sheets of blotting paper. Lay between boards and press for a week or so.

## "Sneeze Gas"

The introduction of a small quantity of a recently discovered "sneeze gas" into illuminating gas is the suggestion of a prominent American gas expert, with a view to lessening the large number of suicides and accidental deaths by gas poisoning.

## Community Building

### Home Ownership Big Asset to Community

An essay prepared for the Indianapolis Real Estate board sets forth the following pertinent facts:

"Home ownership results in industry, contentment and interest in community affairs. The pride of owning a home is a big factor in making honest, responsible citizens, citizens who are interested in those things for the common good of all. Therefore, we have in every community, available to every citizen, schools, churches, social orders and various other instruments which foster sound intelligence and fellowship. Home ownership has been made possible for thousands of working men through the help of sound financial institutions and reliable real estate firms. We have more beautiful homes and more well-improved public parks and buildings than the average city of this size. The cost of living commodities is much lower than in most cities of this class, because of our nearness to a vast producing area and responsible business firms within our city who do not exact excessive profits and whose business is kept progressive by keen competition.

"All these things have attracted desirable people from far and near. Thousands have come here, found steady employment and established permanent homes. Therefore, in my opinion, Indianapolis has constantly grown in population, through sound financing, co-operation of its citizens for the common good of all, and wholesome living conditions, which breed contentment and industry."

### Rough-Leaved Trees

#### Unsuitable for City

Smooth-leaved trees, say experts, are the only ones that can live on city boulevards in this day of automobiles. Only those whose foliage is washed by rain and dusted off by the breeze, they believe, will thrive. They have found that the rough leaves of chestnuts and similar trees have their breathing-pores burned by sulphuric acid.

Sulphurous dust, says Professor Demorlaine of the French Agricultural Institute, is produced by the exhaust from automobiles. This, he says, becomes sulphuric acid in humid air and works into the pores of the leaves. Smooth leaves would be washed clean by occasional rains, or the dust would be blown off by winds before it could damage the trees.

### Housetop Important

That eminent authority Noah Webster, says that a roof is "the top of a house." He's right again. But there are housetops and housetops.

There's the roof that is for shelter alone—the drab roof that simply shuts out rain and snow. Its day is rapidly going, but there are still many of this species seen in most localities. Then there's the roof that, because of incorrectness of architectural lines and extreme inappropriateness of color, spoils the appearance of the house—worse. In fact, than the drab, neutral roof. And then there's the roof that affords maximum shelter and at the same time is an important architectural and decorative feature of the home—the ideal housetop.

### Route of Grewsome Memory

It is said that Oxford street, London, grew to be the greatest shopping center of the world because it was once the road that led to the Tyburn gallows. Tens of thousands of people streamed along Oxford street to see men and women hanged, and created opportunities for trade. The gallows is plainly marked in large scale old maps of London as a three-sided erection. It is supposed to have been made thus so that more than one criminal could be "turned off" at once. Quite close to the gallows also, just within Hyde park, one sees marked on the map: "The place where soldiers are shot," a striking commentary on the severe military code of centuries ago.

### "Best" Materials Pay

It happens in our best-regulated cities. . . . A building operation on one side of the street will fairly sprout "sold" signs overnight. . . . Across the way houses which seem to the casual observer like peas out of the same pod stand empty.

How does it happen? How can it happen? Is it all just luck? They may have used the same brick and stone and lumber; the same type roof and size of lot; and even a similar floor plan. But they differed on one all-important point—the loser made a mistake in the equipment he bought. His houses are built of "just as good" materials.

### Outdoor Good Manners

Pennsylvania has a law prohibiting the gathering of flowers, ferns, shrubs and trees along a private or public road and provides for a heavy fine and even imprisonment for violators. Recently a motorist stopped along a highway in Bucks county, says Nature Magazine, and started to help himself. A traffic officer put him under arrest and a justice of the peace backed up the officer with a \$50 fine. Nature Magazine is conducting the national outdoor good-manners campaign.

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### The White Man's Burden

That is the title of a famous poem written by Rudyard Kipling and first published in 1890. Each stanza of the poem begins with the line: "Take up the white man's burden." The phrase now refers to the supposed responsibility of the white race for the moral and physical welfare of all the dark races of the world.—Pathfinder Magazine.

### Long Terms of Service

When the John Cutler lodge, A. F. and A. M., was organized in 1859 at Abingdon, Mass., Erastus Nash was appointed treasurer, a position he filled for a period of 36 years. Following the elder Nash's death, his son, Alfred Nash, was chosen to fill the position. Mr. Nash is now completing his thirty-first year as the lodge treasurer.

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### Holds Somnolent Record

The record for continuous sleep is believed to be held by a land snail owned by Walter F. Webb of Rochester, N. Y. This little mollusk, says Science Service, has remained dormant for 30 years, with the exception of one summer when Mr. Webb gave it the right conditions for becoming active. This interlude occurred 20 years ago, so that the snail has now equaled the fabled record of Rip Van Winkle, and its owner says it appears to be able to continue dormancy for an indefinite period.

### Impure Blood Brings Age

Impurities seeping into the blood fluid from bad or excess food in the digestive tract are the real cause of "old age," according to Dr. Leonard Williams, British physician. They adulterate the "plasma"—the watery yellowish fluid in which the blood's red and white corpuscles float—and hinder its waste-removing duties, he says.

Light eating, short fasts and attention to food quality will help postpone old age, Doctor Williams asserts.—Popular Science Monthly.

## FIRE

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**Among the Missing**  
Sergeant—Well, madam, we'll do our best, but if your husband hasn't been heard from in twelve years—  
Wife—Oh, it's not him I'm worryin' about. What I want is the sample of the ribbon I sent him out to match.—London Passing Show.

**The Main Question**  
The Boy—Do you think we could live on two thousand a year?  
The Girl—P'raps; but who is going to give it to us?

**The Diplomat**  
Harold—Hurray! I put it over. I got your dad's consent!  
Doiress—How did you do it?  
Harold—I called him on the phone and asked. He said: "I don't know who you are—but it's O. K."

**The Real Trouble**  
Hub—I wish, my love, you wouldn't finish my sentences for me.  
Wife—You talk so slow, dear.  
Hub—That isn't the trouble—you listen altogether too fast.

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