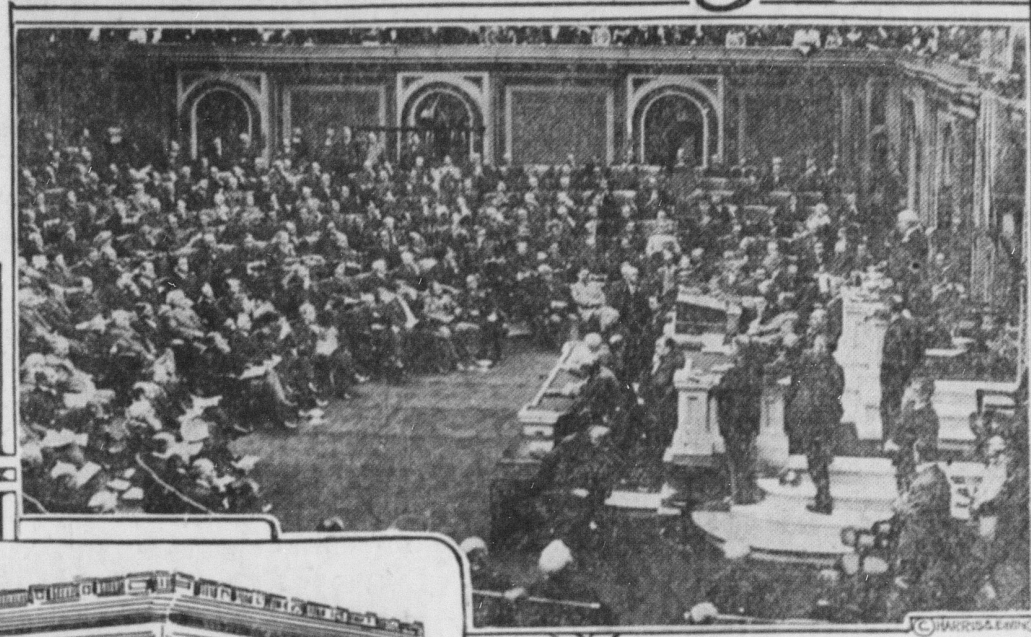


When Congress First Met in Washington



John Adams



A Recent Opening of Congress

The Capitol in 1800

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON



AS THE time draws near for the final session of the Seventy-second congress of the United States to convene in Washington, it is interesting to recall that the American congress met for the first time in the present National Capital just 132 years ago and there can be no more striking evidence of the growth and progress of this nation than a comparison of present-day Washington and the present magnificent structure which houses the legislative part of our government with the "new settlement" of Washington and the uncompleted structure which was the beginning of our National Capitol.

It will be remembered that the first Capital of the new nation, which came into being as the result of the Revolution, was New York city. There it was on April 16, 1789, that the first congress convened and the two houses, after completing their organization by electing John Langdon of New Hampshire as temporary president of the senate and Frederick A. Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania as speaker of the house, met in joint session to count the electoral votes cast in the several states a few weeks before and to proclaim officially the election of George Washington as President and John Adams as Vice President.

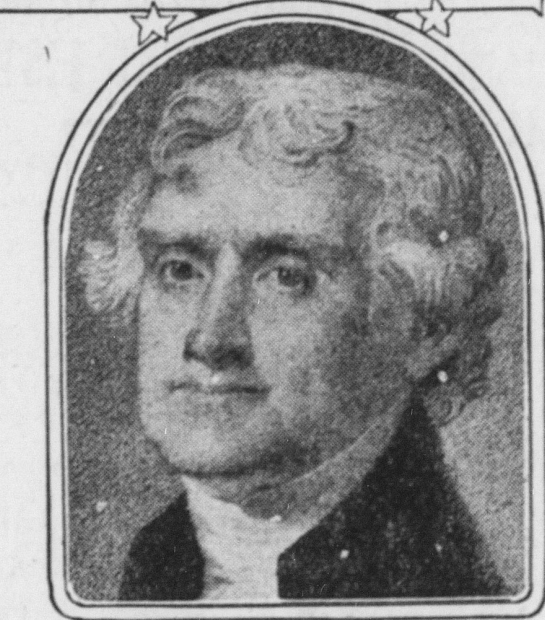
On July 9, 1790, congress passed an act for establishing a permanent seat of the federal government and this act provided for the selection by the President of "a district of territory," ten miles square, somewhere on the Potomac river, in the region beginning at the mouth of the eastern branch or Anacostia river and extending many miles to the northwest. The President was authorized to appoint three commissioners to "survey, define and limit" the district selected and, prior to December, 1800, they were required to provide in this district "suitable buildings for the accommodation of congress and of the President, and for the public offices of the government of the United States." For the purpose of defraying the expenses of the purchase of the land and the erection of the buildings, the President was "authorized and requested to accept grants of money." It was further provided that on the first Monday of December, 1790, the seat of government should be removed from New York to Philadelphia, where it was to remain until December, 1800, when it was to be transferred to the new Potomac district.

In accordance with this act President Washington in 1791 chose one county in Maryland and one in Virginia, with the Potomac river flowing between, for the site of the new National Capital which was to be known as the District of Columbia. At first this district was ten miles square or one hundred square miles and contained 64,000 acres of land, which was ceded to the federal government by the two states of Virginia and Maryland. But in 1846 all the land on the western side of the Potomac was ceded back to Virginia and as a result the District of Columbia since that time contains only 64 square miles.

As commissioners to "survey, define and limit" the district and to erect the "suitable buildings," Washington named Gen. Thomas Johnson, who had been his intimate friend during the Revolution, Dr. David Stuart of Virginia and Daniel Carroll, a member of that illustrious Maryland family. The commissioners decided that the federal city should be named the "City of Washington" in honor of the first President and the plan of the city was to be made by Maj. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the young French engineer and architect who had reconstructed the buildings in New York and Philadelphia used by congress.

In March, 1792, the commissioners advertised in the newspapers of Philadelphia, Boston and New York that they would give a lot in the city of Washington and \$500 to the person who should "produce to them the most approved plan for a capitol to be erected in the city of Washington." Sixteen plans were submitted in response to these advertisements but all were rejected because they did not meet the requirements. Then Stephen Hallett, a French architect of New York, submitted a plan which met with great favor and it seemed that he was about to be awarded the work.

But in the meantime William Thornton, a talented Englishman living in New York, who had a powerful friend in the person of Thomas Jefferson, then secretary of state, drew up an elaborate plan for the Capitol and submitted it to Jefferson, who laid it before Washington



Thomas Jefferson

with an enthusiastic endorsement. The President thought it admirable and said it combined "grandeur, simplicity and convenience." He wrote to the commissioners, requesting them to adopt Thornton's plan in preference to Hallett's, but charged them to do it "with delicacy." Immediately the commissioners informed Hallett of the change and upon his examination of Thornton's plan, the Frenchman declared that Thornton had stolen the idea from his (Hallett's) original designs.

The result was an acrimonious dispute between the two men which lasted for several months but in the end the commissioners accepted Thornton's plan and awarded him the first premium. As a sort of consolation prize, they gave Hallett a premium of \$250 and appointed him as one of the architects of the Capitol with an annual salary of \$2,000.

As supervising architect for the Capitol a talented young Irishman named James Hoban, whose plan for the "President's house" had already been accepted, was appointed and it was decided to construct the Capitol of Virginia sandstone, instead of brick as was first proposed, and the stone was obtained from a quarry on Aquia creek. On September 18, 1793, the cornerstone of the Capitol was laid and from that time on the work of construction was carried on energetically.

In the meantime congress was meeting in Philadelphia and had made an appropriation of \$46,923 "for the necessary expense of the removal" of the government to Washington. In June, 1800, all the records, papers, office furniture, etc., of the various federal departments were loaded on packet sloops at Philadelphia and dispatched for the new city on the banks of the Potomac. The officials and clerks, numbering in all not more than two hundred, went to Washington in lumbering stage coaches, arriving after a long, tiring journey of nearly a week.

Mrs. Adams, the wife of the Vice President, has left us a record of her adventures on that trip. She says: "After leaving Baltimore we wandered about for two hours without finding a guide or a path. Woods are all you can see from the time you leave Baltimore until you reach the city, which is so only in name. Here and there is a small hut, without a glass window, interspersed among the forests, through which you travel for miles without seeing a human being."

After enjoying the luxury of life in New York and Philadelphia most of the government officials looked with dismay upon this "wilderness city set in a mudhole almost equal to the great Serbonian bog," as one of them described the new Capital.

It was in such an environment as this that the Sixth congress began its second session on November 17, 1800, the first session held in the new Capital. The north wing of the Capitol, in which the session was held, was in a very incomplete condition, and both houses were crowded into narrow, badly arranged quarters.

On the opening day President John Adams appeared before a joint session of the two houses and made the following impressive address: "I congratulate the people of the United States on the assembling of congress at the permanent seat of their government; and I congratulate you, gentlemen, on the prospect of a residence not to be changed. Although there is cause to apprehend that accommodations are not now so complete as might be wished, yet there is great reason to believe that this inconvenience will cease with the present session."

"It would be unbecoming the representatives of this nation to assemble for the first time, in this solemn temple, without looking up to the Supreme Ruler of the universe, and imploring his blessing."

"May this territory be the residence of virtue and happiness! In this city may that piety and virtue, that wisdom and magnanimity, that constancy and self-government which adorned the great character whose name it bears be forever held in veneration! Here, and throughout our country, may simple manners, pure morals and true religion flourish forever!"

"It is with you, gentlemen, to consider whether the local powers over the District or Columbia, vested by the Constitution in the congress of the United States, shall be immediately exercised. If, in your opinion, this important trust ought now be executed, you cannot fail, while performing it, to take into view the future probable situation of the territory for the happiness of which you are about to provide. You will consider it as the capital of a great nation, advancing with unexampled rapidity in arts, in commerce, in wealth, and in population; and possessing within itself those energies and resources which, if not thrown away, or lamentably misdirected, will secure to it a long course of prosperity and self-government."

This first session of congress in the new Capitol was destined to witness some of the most exciting scenes in the history of the nation. Although the Federalists had a small majority in congress, it was evident that the political control of the country which they had had since constitutional government went into effect was fast slipping away from them. Adams' rigorous enforcement of the alien and sedition laws had driven many foreign-born citizens into the rising Democratic-Republican party. Then, too, there were other causes for bitterness which marked the doom of the once all-powerful Federalists, who had been in control of the government of the new nation continuously for eleven years.

The Presidential campaign of 1800 was an exciting one with John Adams as the Federalist candidate for re-election, running with Charles Cotesworth Pinckney as Vice President. Opposed to them on the Democratic-Republican ticket was Thomas Jefferson (then Vice President) for President and Aaron Burr for Vice President.

The election resulted in a victory for the Democratic-Republicans, who received 72 electoral votes to the Federalists' 65. The Constitution at that time provided for each Presidential elector to vote for two persons without designating which was to be President and which to be Vice President. The person receiving the highest number of votes was to be President and the next highest Vice President. (By an amendment to the Constitution in 1804, the electors are now required to vote separately for President and Vice President.)

When the electoral votes were cast it was found that the crafty political manipulation of Aaron Burr had resulted in a tie vote for himself and Jefferson, both being higher than the vote for Adams. So the election was thrown into the house of representatives. Amid the greatest excitement, the house began to ballot for a President on February 11, 1801. There were 106 members from 16 states and each state had one vote with the majority of the states necessary for a choice. The house sat with closed doors and balloting went on continuously day and night.

On the first ballot eight states voted for Jefferson and six for Burr. Two states, Vermont and Maryland, were divided and could not cast a vote. Ballot after ballot was taken with no change in the result. Finally on February 17 a break came and Jefferson was elected President by the votes of ten states.

During the balloting the excitement in the country was intense. Charges of all kinds flew thick and fast. It was charged by the Democratic-Republicans that the Federalists were voting for Burr to prevent an election until after March 4 when they would usurp the office of President by making Chief Justice Marshall of the Supreme court, President, thus establishing a Federalist limited monarchy. On the other hand the Federalists charged Jefferson with every sort of crime, asserted he was an infidel and spread the report that if he were elected the Bibles would be taken away from the people.

Finally the Federalist leader in the house, James A. Bayard of Delaware, got control of enough votes to be able to elect Jefferson or prolong the contest. So he made a deal with Jefferson, receiving from him the assurance that he would support the public credit, maintain the naval system and would not remove from public office certain minor officials on political grounds. In return for this, Bayard arranged for Vermont and Maryland to cast a unanimous vote and give the two necessary votes to Jefferson. Thus he was finally declared elected and his inauguration took place March 4, 1801, the first President to be inaugurated in the new Capital of the United States.

(© by Western Newspaper Union.)

Quicker Relief For Headaches



Because of Quick Dissolving Property BAYER ASPIRIN Starts "Taking Hold" 3 or 4 Minutes After Taking

Due to important, scientific developments in the world-famous BAYER laboratories, almost INSTANT relief from headaches, neuralgia and rheumatic pains is being afforded millions.

Because of a unique process in making and tableting, Genuine Bayer Aspirin is made to dissolve almost INSTANTLY in the stomach. Hence it starts to work almost instantly. And thus "takes hold" of the average pain or headache in as little as three or four minutes after taking. The fastest, safe relief, it is said, ever known for pain.

Remember, it is Genuine Bayer Aspirin which provides this unique, quick-acting property. So be sure you get the Real Article—GENUINE BAYER Aspirin when you buy. Naturally you want the fastest, possible relief—and that's the way to get it.

To identify the genuine, see that any box or bottle of aspirin you buy is clearly marked "Genuine Bayer Aspirin." And that any tablet you take is stamped clearly with the name "Bayer" in the form of a cross. Remember—Genuine Bayer Aspirin cannot harm the heart.

NO TABLETS ARE GENUINE BAYER ASPIRIN WITHOUT THIS CROSS

Copyright, 1932, The Bayer Co., Inc.

Electrical Wood Tester

The "electric eye," a robot which is helping man to solve problems of traffic, science and industry, has now been joined by "electric fingers." This apparatus works magic for the lumber dealer who wishes to know whether his wood is well seasoned. Inserted a fraction of an inch into a board, the electric fingers will announce on a dial the moisture content of the wood; the process takes only a few seconds, whereas older methods require a week to obtain the same information. The new instrument was developed by Dr. C. G. Suits of the General Electric research laboratory, and M. E. Dunlap of the United States forest products laboratory at Madison, Wis.

Don't Trifle With Coughs

Don't let them get a strange hold. Fight germs quickly. Creomulsion combines the 7 best helps known to modern science. Powerful but harmless. Pleasant to take. No narcotics. Your druggist will refund your money if any cough or cold no matter how long standing is not relieved by Creomulsion. (adv.)

What He Meant

A judge says, "Picnic parties are the biggest enemies of rural beauty." Litter-ally speaking, of course.

Her Position

"Has your wife learned to drive the car yet?" "Yes, in an advisory capacity."

The more innings a man has, the better he enjoys his outings.

Feminine Slant

"So your wife is going in for politics, eh?" said the neighbor. "Yes," sighed the meek one, "she's gone downtown now to get a new hat to throw into the ring."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

BLADDER TROUBLE

If your bladder is irritated, either because your urine is too acid or because inflammation is present, just try Gold Medal Haarleem Oil Capsules. This fine, old preparation has been used for this purpose for 227 years. That its popularity continues is the best proof that it works. But be sure you get GOLD MEDAL. Accept no substitute. 25c & 75c.

GOLD MEDAL HAARLEEM OIL CAPSULES

Righteous Protest

"The prisoner was furious when he was accused by opposing counsel of striking his wife with his fist." "What did he say?" "He kicked her with his foot."—Los Angeles Times.

Make \$25 to \$50 Weekly

By selling New York Stock Exchange securities locally for the largest exclusive Dealers in BUY AMERICA Investment Portfolios. Easy to sell. Liberal commissions. Complete sample kit with facsimile certificates and full instructions sent for \$1.00. Write FIRNIE SIMONS & CO., Inc., 521 Fifth Avenue, N.Y.

Enjoy the best in New York!

FINE ROOM \$2.00 = \$3.00 WITH BATH SINGLE = 3 DOUBLE

Delightful rooms, 100% location, delicious meals... Also a de luxe 3-Day (2-night) Trip including Room, Bath, Meals and Entertainment (famous motion picture theatre, sight-seeing, Chrysler Tower, cabaret) at only \$9.50 per person.

Hotel BRISTOL

129-135 West 48th Street New York City
A Hotel of Character and Distinction
Just East of Broadway

\$3 a day \$15 a week \$60 a month

These are the present rates now available at the Hotel Lincoln... 1400 ROOMS... Each equipped with BATH (Tub and Shower), RADIO, SERVIDOR.

A PERFECT NEW YORK HOME FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE CENTRAL LOCATION, NICE ENVIRONMENT PLUS MODERATE COST.

HOTEL LINCOLN
44th and 45th Streets at 8th Avenue
NEW YORK

