



NEW YORK STATE TWENTY-THREE MILLION DOLLAR CAPITOL BUILDING.

New York State's Big New Capitol Swindle.

It Has Cost \$22,250,000 to Date and Is Yet Far from Finished.

Albany Letter, in Times-Herald.

New York's state capitol building has cost more money than any other structure in America, and it is by no means finished yet.

This building, with its porticos, occupies an area of three acres. The national capitol building in Washington covers an area of four acres and cost only \$13,000,000.

Governor Black has announced his intention of pushing the work on the capitol and of having it finished before the term of his office expires.

A WASTE OF TIME. In fact, most of the people of New York who pay any attention whatever to the big "job" are reconciled to the chronic demands for more money for the work and have made up their minds to be robbed by the die-hard politicians.

The match for this capitol project cannot be found among the historic churches and palaces of Europe, and it is doubtful whether the tombs of the Rameses dynasty, constructed to preserve the memory of Egypt's kings, cost as much as it has cost the people of the Empire state to have a headquarters for their business.

BEGUN THIRTY YEARS AGO. The statehouse was begun in 1867. Since that time nine governors have sat in the chair of New York. Nine governors have attempted to do something with the incumber, and nine governors have failed.

Legislators have come to Albany full of enthusiastic purposes to "do something" and have left it hopeless and pushed in heart. Contractors have grown rich out of the enterprise, and have left great fortunes to their children. A generation has passed away, and no one knows today when or how the capitol will be finished, if ever.

FAR FROM COMPLETION. A good deal of work still remains to be done before the capitol can be considered in any sense completed. The beautiful western staircase, well advanced, has still to undergo much curving. The big eastern tower, with its base of brick, has only just been fairly begun.

PROLIFIC OF SCANDALS. The size and cost of capitol are not its sole claims to notoriety. No building in the country has been so prolific of scandals. From the very outset politics has figured largely in the construction of the building.

Occasionally the legislature ordered an investigation into the way in which the work was being pushed ahead, and then another scandal was almost sure to be added to the list of those with which the history of the building is checked.

Some years ago the discovery was made that the foundations of the great eastern staircase on the assembly side were settling. An examination disclosed the fact that an unequal distribution of weight had caused some of the enormous stones and pillars to crack. The defect was remedied by means of some delicate engineering work at a cost to the state of several hundred thousand dollars.

ASSEMBLY CEILING A FRAUD. When the assembly chamber was completed its ceiling was of sandstone, and four great pillars, four feet in diameter, sustained the largest gilded arch in the world, the keystone being fifty-six feet from the floor.

meter, sustained the largest gilded arch in the world, the keystone being fifty-six feet from the floor. The dimensions of the chamber are 84 by 100 feet. In order to keep the keystone securely in place it was weighted down with tons of stone, making the total weight of the ceiling something enormous.

PROMINENT MEN ACCUSED. The scandal that followed this exposure gave the politicians of both parties a great shaking-up. A protracted legislative inquiry disclosed the principals in the fraud. The speaker of the house, several members of the assembly, and a number of state department attaches were shown to have been more or less implicated in the job. Their only punishment was being retired to private life.

Strangely enough Great Britain raised no protest against this great blow to its power in Asia. The British lion allowed the Russian bear to take up his abode in China without so much as a roar. Taking advantage of China's weakness, resulting from the war with Japan, Russia relentlessly grasped at everything in sight and China without the firing of a gun.

THE FOUNDATION OF THE CAPITOL. The foundation of the capitol is a wonder in itself. It extends down to a depth of nearly 16 feet. The substructure extends down over 19 feet and contains 75,000 cubic feet of stone, while the brick walls, some of them 7 feet in thickness, contain 11,000,000 bricks. In the substructure are no less than 144 different apartments used for heating, storing and ventilating purposes.

CONQUERING THE ORIENT. Purposes of Russia in the Eastern World Are Subtly Being Carried Forward--An Interesting Article by Henry Norman.

Russia is a nation that moves in the dark. Its statesmen are crafty and persevering, accomplishing far more by diplomacy than they could by force of arms. Where Germany threatens, Russia cajoles, and its victim is often lullied into a sense of false security by the honeyed words of the Muscovite ambassadors.

After a while, the Russian schemes for increased domain at the expense of the British. Now Salisbury tamely submits to Russia's leadership in diplomatic affairs and raises no protest at the continued extension of the Russian domain in Asia or Europe.

tion of the Russian domain in Asia or Europe. Henry Norman, the English Radical, gives in the Contemporary Review a graphic account of the advantages that Russia has acquired within the past few years. By the czar's alliance with France, Russia has secured the aid of the French army and navy, and of the powers, and is supposed not to have given anything in return more valuable than a shadowy promise to aid France if the republic ever risks a war of revenge with Germany, which is also a great commercial rival of Russia.

SITUATION IN ASIA. But in Asia the situation is most alarming, viewed from English eyes. A few years ago England was aroused to a patriotic fury by the cry that Russia was at the gates of India. Yet today Muscovite engineers are building a railway straight to the city of Herat, which is the most important position from a strategic viewpoint on the frontiers of India.

That extraordinary instrument places the whole of China north and east of Peking, and Peking itself within Russian control. Russia is to gridiron it with railroads, dot it with fortresses and garrisons, make its best ports armed naval stations for her fleets. She is to have a practical monopoly of developing its trade, mines and agriculture, and it comprises some of the richest provinces of the whole empire.

Strangely enough Great Britain raised no protest against this great blow to its power in Asia. The British lion allowed the Russian bear to take up his abode in China without so much as a roar. Taking advantage of China's weakness, resulting from the war with Japan, Russia relentlessly grasped at everything in sight and China without the firing of a gun. So much has diplomacy accomplished for Russia. What limit would there be to its empire if a really great ruler should arise, another Peter the Great, to recognize its antiquated system of government and lead its united people against the nations of Western Europe?

AFTERNOON. Lookin' at the sunshine, Slan'n' on the wall, 'Way'n' to the shadders, 'Vv' the maples fall; Jest a lazy awayin', 'Kinner comin' to go, Where the sun 'n' shadders, 'Kinner comin' to go. Ain't a-thinkin' nothin', Jest a-layin' here, Soakin' in the gladness, 'Shakin' up the cheer, 'Wha's the use of 'em, 'Anythin' at all? 'D'rather watch the sunshine, 'Than the shadders fall, 'Thad Stevens Varnum, in The Clock-Book.

IT WAS ON. "Aha!" he laughed feebly as he rose from the morning paper. "The burglar shot at the man, whose life was saved by the bullet striking against a button of his clothes." "Well!" snapped his spouse, "what of that?" "What of that?" said he, as he felt his collar going up steadily to the nape of his neck. "Oh, nothing, except that the button must have been on." "Tid-Bits.

Personal Traits of President McKinley

An Insight Into the Character of the Man.

From the Washington Star.

Very little is known among the thousands of office seekers who flock to Washington about the personal characteristics of President McKinley. This is also true of hundreds of men in public life who have known McKinley for years. They have known him as a dignified, self-reliant, and a man of duty, resting upon his shoulders. They have not twinkle of humor in his eye and a good deal of it on his lips.

Secretary Porter has not yet begun to learn the man he stands in such close relations to. He knew little of McKinley until he was called to Canton and offered the position he now holds. Since he has been secretary to the president he has had few opportunities to find out the sunny side of the man who is admitted by political enemies to be a popular president personally. After that longer and closer acquaintance after some of the burdens of appointing Republicans to offices are laid aside, Mr. Porter will get a chance to study the man he is now serving.

A GREAT TEASER. After a while, when the horde of office seekers get all which is then in sight, and the disconsolate return mournfully to their homes, the president and his secretary will then be thrown together and they can talk about affairs less important than those of state. Then, if the president thinks that his secretary is not himself too dignified for that kind of fun, he will begin to tease the Connecticut man.

Those who have enjoyed the honor of being selected as the victim of an exciting story on the part of the president, say that the better he likes a man the harder he teases him. He never selects a subject on which his victim is too sensitive, but picks something which may be a little embarrassing to the young man who knows and loves the president and has found their love affairs with the charming sex touched upon at times, without references which were too personal. The story of the president's love affairs is a good deal of a joke, and such little things for merriment at their expense. Of course there has been little of this for some months, because of the multitude of duties devolving upon the president.

A SIMPLE STORY. A story which the president used to tell illustrates the character of his stories. He says he went to Oberlin, Ohio, several years ago to make an address. He stopped with Professor Monroe, the head of Oberlin college. He was a good fellow and a good natured man, and he had a keen sense of humor. What the story was is not recorded. The facts are that some one of the president's friends was telling a story after supper one night, when all were smoking. The story was so good that the president laughed almost immoderately. He continued to laugh and in trying to return his cigar to his mouth before his hilarity was over he put the wrong end between his lips. It didn't do much harm, but he had to stop his laughing for a few minutes.

THE GREAT RACE FOR GOVERNOR. The great race which McKinley made when he was elected governor of Ohio in 1891, the year after his defeat for congress, was full of amusing incidents, besides illustrating the shrewdness of the Republican managers and of the candidate himself. Expecting that the Democrats would make the fight on the tariff issue, the Republicans, on the same train, Neal was a Democratic manager of that campaign, and two years later was the Democratic opponent of Governor McKinley in the race for governor. Governor McKinley and Colonel Neal sat together on the train, and McKinley was booked to speak in Cincinnati that night, but was also to make a speech at Xenia on his way. When the train received Xenia a delegation of local Republicans boarded the train and proceeded to announce their programme.

They did not know Colonel Neal, and coyly talked along. "And, governor," said the leader, "we have paid five reached Xenia a delegation of local Democrats and are not known to rise and say they have always been Democrats, but are going to vote for you." Governor McKinley smiled, and then introduced them to Colonel Neal. The politicians were badly frightened. President McKinley is an fond of flowers as his wife. He loves to have them on his desk, and politicians who see him frequently notice a big bouquet of flowers. Every morning a man takes a waiter of cut flowers to the president's room and puts them on his desk. They are cut in the White House conservatory and consist of all kinds and varieties. The beautiful and the fragrant are mixed. The president likes fragrant flowers, but the beauty of some attract him,

his wishes that there should be any smoking in any of the rooms. A good many congressmen have been reminded of this wish of the president, and few lighted cigars are found among the visitors to the White House. A dozen men puffing at an equal number of cigars of various grades of tobacco in the room is sufficient cause to have the wood tabooed. Smoking is prohibited in the rooms and hallways adjoining the president's rooms.

ANOTHER OF HIS JOKES. In one of his campaigns for congress McKinley made, as was his custom, a tour of the counties of his district. All Ohio politicians know something of the creek-ribbed Democratic county of Holmes, the home of the Amish sect. Until last year it was never known to vary 100 votes in the Democratic majority it turned out. It was in this county that the Democratic politicians sold the country people tin snippers for \$1 each after the passage of the McKinley bill, and charged that the enormous increase was due to the high duties on tin. On his way to one of the almost solid Democratic towns in Holmes county to make a speech McKinley noticed, a long time before he got to the town, that the leading buildings were gaily decorated. Conspicuously displayed on one of the principal buildings was a big placard filled with words. His heart went out in satisfaction. He thought the town had been decorated in his honor, and that at least he was beginning to make an impression on the Democrats. Judge of the change in his sentiment when he got to the town and found on the placard something like this: "This town gave Foraker 13 votes in the last election. This time it will give McKinley but 2 votes." Notwithstanding this dire prediction McKinley made a good speech.

Of his power as a speaker it is recalled that when McKinley began his political career he could not speak extemporaneously. He had to write everything down. He was campaigning one time with a brilliant young fellow named Chance, a fellow Republican, and they were booked to speak at Navarre, a small town. Chance was a wit and a wag. He and McKinley started to Navarre in a buggy together. On their way Chance asked McKinley to let him look over his speech. Possessing a remarkable memory, Chance easily memorized the speech while going over it. The two men agreed that Chance should speak first that night, as McKinley had been in the habit of leading off. McKinley was almost paralyzed when Chance delivered his speech almost verbatim, making but few changes. When McKinley's time came to speak, he floundered around in helpless shape, and the Democrats present were tickled. As years rolled on McKinley began extemporaneously speaking, and is now fairly good in that line.

HOW HE GOT A VOTE. President McKinley is a shrewd man in a political fight. Those who think that Chairman Hanna exclusively furnished the generalship for the last campaign don't know McKinley. He was consulted on many things, and his judgment accepted. His success previous to receiving the Republican nomination for president was largely due to his own political foresight. In the campaign of 1890, when McKinley was beaten by 306 votes for congress, in a district which had been gerrymandered until it had nearly 9,000 Democratic majority, McKinley displayed wonderful generalship. Four days before the election McKinley and his managers knew how nearly every man in the district would vote. They saw the probability of defeat, but were plucky enough to put up the greatest fight known in the district. In figuring up the prospects McKinley decided that every vote was needed. Some one told him that one of his best friends, not absent on a bridal tour, would probably return if he (McKinley) sent a telegram to the fellow who had been married about a week, and was in New England with his bride. He had intended to be away a good while. McKinley sent him this telegram: "It is right to be married, and I congratulate you with all my heart, but every man owes a debt to his country. That debt can best be paid by voting as his conscience dictates on election day." The young friend returned in time to vote. This was long remembered by McKinley.

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