

IN ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF CHANGE

THE WASHINGTON CENTENNIAL SUGGESTS COMPARISONS.

Some Idea of the Progress Which Has Occurred in the United States Since the Date of the Death of the Father of His Country.

In an article suggested by the recent centennial of the death of George Washington, a writer in the Chicago Times-Herald says:

If it is to be wondered at that New York city did not learn of Washington's death until five days after its occurrence, and he then sleeping his last sleep in the family tomb at Mt. Vernon, why is it not a matter for wonder also that at this time clocks had just been invented and the production of tinware in Connecticut was looked upon as a dubious enterprise?

The United States then—much smaller in area than it is now—was almost wholly agricultural. The pursuits of the people were primitive. Manufacturers were almost unheard of. The certainty that there would be a republic finally established was clouded by the strong public feeling that a limited monarchy would be better and safer. England maintained penal laws against the importation to this country of Arkwright machinery for use in cotton work. The first cotton-working machinery used in Rhode Island and Massachusetts was brought in surreptitiously. In some of the states work in glass, iron and paper had commenced, but the beginnings were small and the profits smaller.

URBAN GROWTH.
There were but four cities in the United States having a population of more than 10,000—Philadelphia, 42,000; New York, 23,000; Boston, 18,000; and Baltimore, 15,000. Indications were favorable to Boston remaining the metropolis of the land. The country west of the Allegheny mountains was given over to France and Spain, except as to the cession to Virginia, and it was doubtful if the same would ever be relinquished to the new nation. The present population of Greater New York and adjacent suburban communities is now three-quarters of what the population of the United States was when Washington died. Ohio and Illinois now contain more inhabitants than did the whole United States in 1795. The Philippine Islands, just come into possession of the United States in this year, 1899, contain nearly twice as many inhabitants as did the Union when congress assembled to mourn over the loss of the man from Virginia. The population of the Union has turned less or nearly fifty times in the 100 years under consideration.

The so-called large cities were simple collections of frame houses, having extensive lawns, wide verandas, no comforting heating accommodations, no internal water supply or toilet arrangements, sleeping rooms that were like barns in temperature, tables that groined with good things to eat.

Streets were narrow and practically kept as paths. They were unlighted, and the walks after dark were narrow and dangerous. Night watchmen patrolled the streets and called the hours, but police protection was not known. Fickett brigades acted when fire alarms were given. Cemeteries were laid out about the churches. Between Boston and New York a single stage ran once a week, and that was considered sufficient. Telegraph lines were unknown, and the steam railroad unheard of. When transportation was discussed it was solely in the light of canal construction. As indicative of what the trade situation was the following figures are given:

Imports	1790	1898
Exports	\$22,000,000	\$ 615,000,000
Revenues of the government:	2,000,000	1,210,000,000
Amount	1790	1898
Expenditures of the government:	\$5,000,000	\$405,300,000
Amount	1790	1898
	\$1,500,000	\$445,000,000

So slight were the receipts of the government, and so precarious its means of subsistence that Washington wrote, Sept. 14, 1793, as commander-in-chief of the army, to McHenry, secretary of war:

"I am resolved to draw nothing from the public but reimbursements of actual expenditures."
This then 100 years ago—now, for Secretary Gage estimates the needs of the government at \$631,000,000. Of this sum \$144,000,000 alone is needed for the army and navy pensions and for the maintenance of the war department, \$190,000,000.

PERSONAL WEALTH.

One is not apt in these days to remember that in this early period Washington made himself one of the largest land-holders in the country, nor that when he died he was worth over a half a million of dollars. Yet we find that he bequeathed to his heirs the following acreage, with values attached:

Acreage	Worth
300	\$ 6,000
2,451	24,510
855	7,000
2,236	44,720
571	11,420
240	3,600
400	4,000
1,119	2,238
400	20,000
5,744	57,440
25,341	253,410
1,115	3,225
224	1,940
1,000	6,000
5,061	15,213
5,000	10,000

Land in Washington worth \$19,132, and other lands not enumerated worth \$5,200. The total value of his estate was placed at \$243,000. The 300 acres of Virginia land, which he valued at \$5,666 in 1790, sold in 1850 for \$120,000, one evidence of the changes in value in that country he served so well.

Even the marriage of Washington was consistent with the thrifty habits that marked all his doings. The widow Custis added to his estate \$100,000, besides giving him a helpmeet just as prudent in her financial transactions as was he. After the marriage, and their settlement at Mount Vernon, "nine miles from any church" or social habitation, Washington gave himself wholly to tilling of the soil and quiet service in the Virginia legislature.

His commission bears date of June 19, 1776. He returned it to congress, Dec. 28, 1783, and became once more a private citizen. The tender to him of a crown, he to be king of the new government, met with angry retort and refusal. He was presiding officer of the federal convention which framed the

Constitution in 1787. He was elected president of the United States twice. He could have served a third term if he had desired. He retired from the presidency in 1797.

His life went on as the radiance of that of Napoleon dashed forth. The great outpouring of settlers from the Atlantic seaboard to the interior West was just beginning. Settlements in Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee were rising rapidly. Marietta and Cincinnati (at first a government fort) had been established. Settlers leaving Pittsburgh for the lower country traveled in bulletproof flatboats, for protection against the Indians. Going down stream, their boats floated. On the return oars were used. John Fitch was experimenting on what was soon the steamboat, but met with little encouragement.

FARM LANDS.
The farm lands under cultivation in the entire country were less than 10,000,000 acres, although that in corn now exceeds 80,000,000 acres, in wheat more than 25,000,000 acres, in wheat more than 40,000,000 acres. The annual wheat yield at the opening of the century was less than 2,000,000 bushels; it is now over 550,000,000 bushels. The cotton acreage was about 1,000,000 acres; it is now 21,000,000 and the annual value of the product about \$300,000,000.

Schools were few and books scarce. In fact, such books of value to be had were those carried away from foreign lands when emigrants fled to the colonies to escape persecution. Such poetry, prose and paintings as came forth were poor imitations of foreign standards. Only in theological documents and state papers did the thinkers of the United States take precedence at that time of all other nations. It is not a matter of national boasting, but of world-wide credit, freely given, that the state papers of Washington, Franklin, the Adamses, Hamilton, Jefferson, Madison, Jay and others contained a pure and vigorous English, a clearness of thought, a mastery of lucidity such as no documents of similar character in the world bore.

So, too, the theological discourses of Jonathan Edwards commanded for the same reason profound admiration, as did as well the oratory of Randolph, Henry and Fisher Ames. But school facilities were few and bare, and the accommodations most rude. The total value of all school property in the country in 1800 fell below \$1,500,000; the total school attendance was less than 600,000, and the teachers engaged in it were not over 30,000. At the present time the enrollment in the common schools exceeds 15,000,000, the average daily attendance 11,000,000 and the number of teachers 500,000.

The city of Chicago now employs more than half as many school teachers as there were in the United States in 1800, and the total value of the national common school property is \$200,000,000.

At this period the Spanish government had set up the claim that the Mississippi was an exclusive Spanish stream from its mouth up to the Yazoo, and that no American boat should be allowed to sail upon it. Singularly enough, the northern states were willing to allow this claim in return for a commercial treaty, but the southern states and western settlers protested angrily and threatened to quit the compact of the colonies. It was but four years after Washington's death that the United States made treaty with Spain securing common navigation of the Mississippi.

ADVENT OF NEW CENTURY.

With the advent of the new century appeared legislation creating the departments of state, of the treasury, of war, of justice and the postoffice. Acts were passed for the regulation of seamen, commerce, tonnage duties, light-house, intercourse with the Indians, territories, and the militia. A national capital was selected, a national bank chartered, the national debt funded. The first tariff act passed contained the principle of protection, injected by Hamilton, for the purpose of creating a class of manufacturers running through all the states, but dependent for their prosperity upon the new federal government and the tariff. This would be a force which would make strongly for the national government and against any attempt to secede.

But the political atmosphere was not clear nor wholesome. We find leading men accusing the establishment of the national capital on the Potomac as having been secured by corrupt means, and accusations of bribery were heard on every side. Later it was asserted that the English government corruptly interfered in American affairs and dictated who should be selected for our first representative at St. James. So also we find certain Americans accused of having sold themselves to the French government in order to aid in bringing about recognition of the new republic there, Washington being for neutral-ity.

France broke off all relations with us, commenced a naval war against her in which we were distinctly the victors. Napoleon made peace with us later, and it has never been broken since. Few will remember that at this time we had laws passed by congress which raised the number of years necessary for naturalization from five to fourteen; that the president could order out of the country for a period of two years any alien whom he might consider dangerous to our peace; that any foreign subject within the boundaries of the United States might be arrested by order of the president when we were at war with the power to which he claimed allegiance. Further, there was a law in existence which made it a crime, punishable with fine or imprisonment, for any one in print to ridicule or defame the president, the general government, or either branch of congress.

PLACE FOR DRYING CLOTHES.

Think, ye fashionable dames of today, of a national capital in 1800, in which the audience room was used by Mrs. President Adams as a place for drying clothes. Congressmen lodged wherever board could be found. Yellow fever drove the population of New York and Philadelphia into the country. Grass grew in the streets while they were away. The population of Ohio was 45,000, of Tennessee 106,000, of Kentucky 221,000.

The number of post offices was 903, miles of post routes 21,000 and the annual revenues \$231,000. The annual revenues of the post office are now \$95,000,000, and the number of pounds of second-class matter handled, 552,705,000. The miles of post routes now in existence are 496,948. The amount of mail now handled on railway trains exceeds 13,000,000 pieces annually. The acquisition of the Louisiana purchase and the opening of the immense domain of the West to the settlers was

about the last act which assured the permanency of the republic and left free the way for the marvelous prosperity following. The sewing machine did not exist, nor the steam road, nor a mile of railroad track, nor grain elevators, nor packing establishments, nor electric lights, nor pneumatic tubes, but the spirit of the people was sincere, their courage unquestioned, their faith in the God of the republic stern and unrelenting. How could they fail, led by Washington, by Jefferson, by Madison, by Randolph?

New York will celebrate the anniversary of Washington's death at old St. Paul's chapel, where the Sons of the Revolution and the Order of the Cincinnati will assemble. There, when in New York, Washington attended divine services. At Washington the Masonic fraternities, who have always claimed Washington as one of their number, will observe the anniversary. President McKinley will address them, and there will be a procession to Mount Vernon and the old tomb and salutes from cannon on land and water.

When he died memorials services were held in New York, Boston, Albany, Newport and Baltimore. Citizens of New York wore crepe on their arms for six weeks. Governor Morris delivered the funeral eulogy. No carts, carriages nor horseback riders were allowed in the streets through which the memorial procession passed. Alexander Hamilton marched behind eight cannon captured from England by Washington. John Jacob Astor was one of the leading Masons who marched. Twenty-four girls dressed in white scattered laurel leaves before the bier.

This for him of whom "Light Horse" Harry Lee said on December 25, 1790 at Philadelphia:

"First in war, first in peace and first in the hearts of his countrymen."

HOW JONES WON HIS BRIDE.

President McKinley Scores a Brilliant Success in Match Making.

President McKinley has a good deal of sentiment in his composition. He has shown a great interest in the love affairs of a young man from Ohio, and has taken a role in a romance which does credit both to his heart and his head, the Washington Post says. The young man referred to may be called Jones for purposes of identification, and he may be located at Cincinnati, although he has a different name and lives in a different place. Shortly before the inauguration Jones called upon the president at Canton to pay his respects, and to his embarrassment Major McKinley inquired how he was getting on with his love affair. Jones dodged the question, but the Major pinned him down, and finally extracted from his reluctant lips a confession that he had not been able to persuade the young lady in the case to accept his heart and hand, although he yet hoped to do so. Jones explained that his prospects were not very alluring, and that love in a cottage had no attractions for the young lady he desired for his wife.

"Do you think she would like to live abroad a little while?" asked the president.

"I wouldn't wonder," said Jones. "Although I have never discussed that subject with her, I imagine she is like most young ladies, and that she would enjoy seeing foreign lands."

"Well," said the president, "if you think it will do any good, you tell her that I will give you a consular appointment as a wedding present. Pick out eight or ten places in Europe that you think would suit her, and when I take up consular matters I will nominate you for one of them."

Jones thanked the president warmly, and has since notified him that he would be married early in June.

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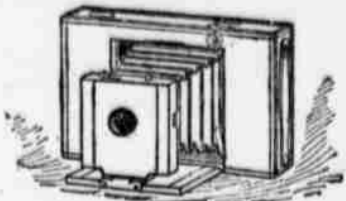
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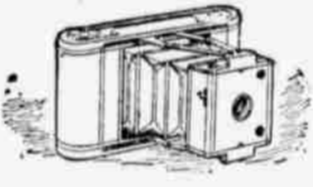
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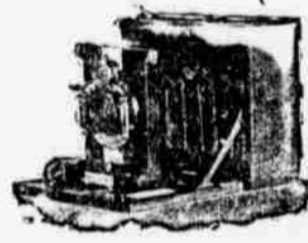
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