

# THE CAPITAL CENTURY AGO

## CITY OF WASHINGTON IN ITS PICTURESQUE INFANCY.

First Congress to Meet in New Capital Found Little Except Mud and "Magnificent Distances"—Coming of President Adams and the Departments—Public and Private Accommodations Alike Wanting. Moore's Satire on "Modern Rome."

From the Washington Post. The "The spirit of independence which prompted the fathers of the republic to sever the political ties binding them to the mother country prompted them, no doubt, to go out into the wilderness to build a capital. The deeds which made the early history of our nation were not in the pursuit of precedent, but were precedent-making. When it was proposed, therefore, that in a virgin city the seat of government should be fixed, it was not a precedent for doing so. There was opposition to the project, it is true, but the opposition sprang from the cities already established, aspired to be the capital, and was in no wise due to the daring nature of the project. When the British troops marched out of Yorktown playing "The World Turned Upside Down," their music truthfully portrayed the spirit of the times. They were not great battles, as our idea of battles go today, that were fought by Washington and his ragged and oft-times hungry, but dauntless and patriotic followers, but in their revolutionary and far-reaching consequences they were the most stupendous in the history of the world. It was a time when old customs, old modes of thought, old institutions, and old ideals were falling shattered on every side, and it was taken as a matter of course, when no existing city seemed suitable for a capital, that the young republic should build a city to its liking.

EUROPE JEERED. Europe was ready with her jibe and sneer, and there were carping ones at home, who whined and grumbled, but the men who had given the world its greatest bill of human rights, and with the sword had made the world receive it, were not apt to be swayed by such petty chiding. They knew that forests would give way to the axe of the forester; that swamps and morasses and other obstacles could be overcome, and they set themselves to the task. The Washington of today is their enduring monument. "The Europe that sneered at the "wilderness capital" of the "buccolic republic" now comes to admire and marvel at its beauty; the city, for the founding of which the primeval forests were in places cut away, has, in a hundred years, grown in magnificence to be the pride and boast of Americans everywhere.

The constitution had given congress exclusive control over a district ten miles square, such as might be given to the nation by the states for the seat of Federal government. The next task was to locate this district. There was a squabble in the first congress among advocates of many different sites, notably those along the Delaware, Susquehanna and Potomac. Once both houses actually voted to locate the capital at Germantown, Pa., but reconsidered. New England members renounced the Potomac region as an unhealthy swamp. The southern members won out. The Potomac site was selected in 1790 by a majority of three votes in the house and two in the senate. Pennsylvania was honored by a grant of the temporary capital for ten years. President Washington was allowed to choose any spot within about 100 miles above the junction of the Potomac and its eastern branch. The father of his country arrived in Georgetown March 28, 1791, and the next day, with the three commissioners he had appointed to govern the district, together with two surveyors selected to lay it out, began to mark the bounds of the new city.

MAJ. L'ENFANT'S FIRST WORK. One of those surveyors was Major Pierre Charles L'Enfant, a French engineer. He drew a careful plan of the future city of Washington. This was accepted by the immortal George Washington in 1791. The city was not hampered by law in his government of the District of Columbia. He appointed his three commissioners, Messrs. Johnson, Stewart and Carroll, without the advice or consent of the senate. Another squabble had arisen over the name to be given the new capital

### A TRYING POSITION

"My position is a trying one" was the joking remark of the cloak model of a fashionable firm. But there is less jest than earnest in the statement. It is trying to be on the feet all day, to be reaching and stooping hour after hour from morn until night. And that is a very meager outline of a business woman's day. With many such women the ordinary strain of labor is intensified and aggravated by a diseased condition of the delicate organs, and they become victims of that terrible backache, or blinding headache, which is so common among business women. If you are bearing this burden, bear it no longer. For the backache, headache, nervousness and weakness which spring from a diseased condition of the womanly organs there is a sure cure in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Half a million women have been perfectly and permanently cured by this wonderful medicine. "My niece was troubled with female weakness for about four years before I asked for your advice," writes Mr. J. W. McGregor, of 623 St. and Princeton Ave., Chicago, Ill. "You advised her to take Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription which she did faithfully for nine months, and now we must acknowledge to you that she is a well-togeter. We cannot thank you enough for the cure."

Sick women can consult Dr. Pierce by letter free. Address, Buffalo, N. Y.

city. Some wished to call it "Washingtonville." The commissioners christened it the "City of Washington." An English letter writer thereupon accused President Washington of vanity. "As soon as he is defunct," said this critic, "the city, which is to be the boasted monument of his greatness, will also be defunct." The sixth congress adjourned in Philadelphia May 11, 1800, having directed that a second session begin in Washington November 17, of the same year. The executive and judicial departments thereupon began preparations for a general moving.

PRESIDENT ADAMS' ARRIVAL. He arrived in Georgetown, of which Washington was then a scattered suburb, on June 3, one week after he had started. At the boundary line of the District of Columbia he was met by "a large crowd of respectable citizens on horseback" and escorted into town, "where he was received with pleasure and veneration." "The military of the city of Washington and the marines stationed there manifested their respect by sixteen discharges of musketry and artillery," says an old chronicle. "The next day, at Union Tavern, Georgetown, he wrote a reply to the committee which had welcomed him. On June 5 he visited the unfinished house of representatives. On June 11 he was given a reception at Alexandria, and on June 14 departed for Massachusetts. It was not until autumn that the president and Mrs. Adams came to the new White House to live. They traveled very slowly by carriage from Philadelphia by way of Baltimore and then into Washington. Mrs. Abigail Adams, in November, 1800, made her informal entrance as "first lady of the land." She found the White House unfinished, although the cornerstone had been laid eight years before in the presence of George Washington. What there was of it stood on what was then called "F street ridge." The rain and snow falling upon this prominence divided, part running to the north, part to the south. The water thus drained formed a sort of creek, partly surrounding the president's grounds. The latter had not been finished. The first floor of the mansion was unfinished. The principal stairs were not up.

WHITE HOUSE HOUSEWARMING. Mrs. Adams' first "housewarming" in her new home was a practical rather than a ceremonial function. What wood she could get she burned to dry the plaster, yet damp, on the walls. The first public reception in the White House occurred on New Year's Day, 1801, and had to be held in a room on the second floor, in which later presidents received their business callers. The home life of the Adamases in the White House were very plain. The president's luncheons invariably consisted of oat-cake and lemonade. The family dinners were simple. Adams was so unassuming in his manners that Mistress Abigail occasionally saw fit to remind him, when he was free and familiar with the common people, that his behavior ill-fitted his high rank and dignified office. "The moving of the executive departments from Philadelphia began in May, 1800. The office furnishings and records came by water, the officials and employees by stage line or private equipage. It is said that "a single packet sloop brought all the office furniture of the departments, besides seven large boxes and five small ones, containing the archives." The president's cabinet then consisted of but five members. Working under these were but 132 employees. Uncle Sam paid all traveling expenses for these officials and clerks and their families.

EARLY DEPARTMENT BUILDINGS. These men, comprising the first civil service regime organized for the Washington departments, came hither imbued with the hope that the law authorizing their removal from the gay and bustling metropolis would, as was rumored, be repealed. They found only one department building erected. This was the old treasury, on the site of the south front of the present edifice. It was a plain, two-story brick of only thirty rooms. Oliver Wolcott, secretary of the treasury, arrived June 2 to occupy it. At the southwest corner of the white house grounds the "war office" was still in course of erection. This was similar to the treasury office in size and appearance, but not being ready for occupancy upon the arrival of Secretary of War Dexter, June 12, he and his department went into temporary lodgings in a three-story house on Pennsylvania avenue, above Twenty-first street, and opposite the hotel of William O'Neal, father of that Peggy O'Neal who gained fame in Jackson's administration. But the war department officials had barely settled down to work in these temporary headquarters when, in November, 1800, a fire broke out and destroyed a large part of their records. The following January a similar fire occurred in the treasury department. "The president was in line," recalled a citizen writing of this latter conflagration, "and was busy in aiding to pass the buckets to and from the burning building."

Rival politicians then, as now, were grasping at every straw. Adams' administration was accused of starting the two fires to destroy records of the alleged maladministration. The first postoffice department was opened in "Mr. Cracker's house," near Hodges' hotel, at what is now Seventh and E. When Abraham Bradley—acting for Postmaster General Habersham—opened his office there, only four rooms were plastered. The owner allowed Uncle Sam to expend half of the \$600 annual rental to make the building tenable. Attorney General Charles Lee, who left Philadelphia, May 28, then had no organized department of justice. He took lodging somewhere near the White House, as did also Secretary of State John Marshall—with only eight clerks—and Secretary of the Navy Stoddard—with sixteen clerks. Both of these latter cabinet members had arrived in June. This moving cost Uncle Sam, all told, less than \$40,000.

CAPITOL IN NOVEMBER, 1800. When congress began its sessions in Washington, November 17, 1800, it found the capitol building anything but an inspiring spectacle. Only the

northernmost of the old wings was finished, and that was badly constructed. The senate chamber was mostly of wood and plaster. The rotunda had not been built, though its foundations had been previously laid. The representatives were at first crowded into a room intended for the senate officials, but a temporary apartment, known as the "oven," was soon arranged for it in the south wing. The house in 1808 took possession of the chamber now known as "Stairway Hall." The senate held its first deliberations in its originally designated quarters, now occupied by the Supreme court of the United States. The complete plans for the then new capitol did not, of course, anticipate the great iron dome and the two imposing marble wings which grace the great edifice. Congress' first deliberations in Washington were quite as uninspiring as the unfinished edifice in which they were held. When called together, Nov. 17, the senate and house had to adjourn until the next day for want of a quorum, and the next day they adjourn from day to day until the 21st, when the necessary number appeared. Saturday, Nov. 22, President Adams visited the capitol and addressed the members of both houses gathered together in the senate chamber. Representatives in those days wore their hats during sessions. Ladies were excluded from the galleries.

PERQUISITES OF EARLY LEGISLATORS. Urns filled with Scotch snuff were placed in each house, and employees were charged with the duty of keeping them filled. In the senate and house were employed official "pen-makers," who mended the goose quills then in common use. There were also official sealers, intrusted with the sealing of letters and packages with red wax. The "stationery" furnished in both houses included "pen-knives, scissors, razors, pocket-books, kid gloves, pen-fumery, bears' grease, and an "innocent beverage called swichell," among whose ingredients were good French brandy and Jamaica rum. This was always charged to the stationery appropriation as "syrup." The members of congress were anything but pleased with their new abiding place. "The comparison they drew between this place and Philadelphia," says an old chronicler, "was by no means complimentary to us. In both there were but few places in the city suitable for members to board at. Some of them went to Georgetown and boarded at the Union Tavern, some stopped at the Six and Seven buildings, and others in part of the city where they could find accommodations. The discontent which prevailed among them was so great that it was feared that the seat of government would be removed from Washington. In fact, I believe the attempt was made, but fortunately failed."

### SALARIES LOW AND LIVING CHEAP.

The salary of a member of congress was then but \$5 a day. Of the houses it was written in 1801: "The few that have been let are at rents none under \$20 and \$300. Provisions are plenty, good enough, and cheaper than in Philadelphia. You can buy a peck of field strawberries for a five-penny loaf in garden at 12 cents a quart." "The Supreme court of the United States, seeing that no preparation had been made for it in Washington, continued to meet in its comfortable Philadelphia quarters until February 2, 1801. Its members, like those of congress, were obliged to begin their duties. Two adjournments had to be taken before there appeared, on February 4, a sufficient number to do business. The first meeting was held in the basement of the old capitol, in rooms provided for one of the senate committees. "The faster the population of Washington grew during this first eventful year, the more bitter and caustic became the invectives of her critics. "CITY OF MAGNIFICENT DISTANCES." Georgetown was called "a city of houses without streets." Washington, "a city of streets without houses." The Abbe Correa de Serra, Portuguese minister, was speaking in sarcasm when he called the new capital "a city of magnificent distances," now proudly applied. "Strangers, after visiting the offices of state, are apt to inquire for the city while in its very center," wrote C. W. Johnson, an English visitor. "Quail and other birds," said he, "are constantly shot within a hundred yards of the capitol during the sitting of the houses of congress." New York, Philadelphia, New England, and, indeed, even foreign newspapers, waxed facetious in their descriptions of the new seat of government. In fact, poor Washington was the laughing stock of the world. Tom Moore, just entering poetic fame, visited the city in 1801. His spectacle provoked this satire from his pen:

In fancy now beneath the twilight gloom,  
Come, let me lead thee o'er this modern Rom,  
Where trifles rule, where dusky Davids bow,  
And what was Gooze Creek is Tiber now.

This fanc'd metropolis, where fancy sees  
Squares in morasses, obelisks in trees;  
Which traveling fools and gazetteers adorn  
With staines unbuild and horres yet unborn.

### HUMORS OF A CAMPAIGN.

The Song Which Senator Carter Composed on Roosevelt's Tour. From the Washington Post. Senator Carter, of Montana, was talking with a number of his friends in his committee room yesterday, when they suddenly arose and in gleeful tones sang these words:  
The Irish and the Dutch—  
They don't amount to much—  
Then hark! for the Scandinavian.  
Senator Carter and his friends then laughed in chorus. The music and the words recalled the campaign trip of Theodore Roosevelt through the Northwest. Senator Carter was in the party, and so was Senator Nelson, of Minnesota, who is a Norwegian by birth. He is a delightful companion, full of good stories, thoughtful and courteous, and became, withal, such a favorite on the trip that Senator Carter was inspired to compose the explosive, if not elegant, verse.

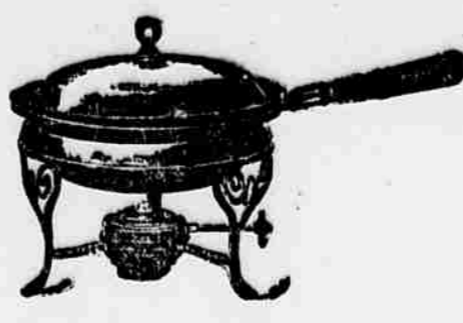
Carter's ancestors were Irish and Roosevelt, of course, gloried in his Dutch descent; but according to the verse  
The Irish and the Dutch—  
They don't amount to much.  
And so, all through the Northwestern tour, the Roosevelt party hurrahed for the Scandinavian, with the accent on the "an." Sometimes the jolly atmosphere would say "Scandhoovian," but that was when they felt particularly good after a hard day's work.

For a Cold in the Head  
Laxative Bromo-Quinine Tablets.

# THE MODERN HARDWARE STORE.

## Selecting Suitable Gifts

For your friends quite often proves a difficult task. If your thoughts lie in the direction of useful gifts, however, we are quite sure a visit to this modern store will help you out. Of one thing you are assured in purchasing here—the goods you obtain will be of first-class quality and such that you need not hesitate to offer to your best friend. As you look over the large collection of goods which we have gathered for holiday buyers, you'll find gifts suitable for every member of the family, and in such variety that choosing will be easy. Need we caution you about the late buyer? Simply say that now the stock is complete in every department and we can give better service than in the final rush.



**A Chafing Dish** Such as we sell makes a handsome gift for a lady. We've many neat patterns. From..... **\$3.75 to \$11**

Along the same line in Nickel-Plated Ware come Tea and Coffee Pots, Five O'clock Teas, Trays, Bread Boats, Etc.

The three-piece Tea Sets found here are worthy of special mention, made of copper, heavily plated—more durable than silverware and look nearly as well.



## Leather Traveling Cases.

Have been added to our line, containing all the articles necessary for one's comfort in traveling—Brushes, Combs, Scissors, Looking Glass, Etc. Price..... **\$1.50 to \$14**

We have also a nice assortment of Military Hair Brushes in genuine ebony and ebonized wooden handles—sterling silver mounted—The same as you would obtain at jewelry or notion stores for less money..... **\$2.50 to \$4.25**

## Cutlery Department.

There's a whole lot to be said about this branch of our business. Many new goods have been added to our large line of Table and Pocket Cutlery. Buyers here have nearly three hundred styles of Pocket Knives and Carving Sets to select from. Prices Range from 10c to \$17.50. Then, too, you'll find "Henckle's" well known "Twin Brand" goods here. Manicure and Sewing Sets, containing from 5 to 12 pieces. All come in neat cases and the goods are warranted. Prices commence at \$2.50 and end at \$25. In addition to this we've a full line of Scissors, plain and fancy, embroidery and all styles—every one guaranteed.

**The Gem Safety Razor** Was awarded first prize at the Paris Exposition. Hundreds of Scranton men are using the Gem Safety Razor. All are giving satisfaction. Razor Alone, \$2.00. Sets in Cases, containing Strop, Stropping Machine and extra blades, \$3.50 to \$17.00.

# Foote & Shear Company.

...THE...  
**...New Wyoming...**  
111 WYOMING AVENUE.

THIS Hotel is most centrally located, and contains all outside, well lighted rooms.

The bar is stocked with everything that can be found in any well conducted city hotel or cafe.

The dining room is in all probability the most popular noon day resort for Scranton's leading business men, and has become famous for good German cooking.

Dinner from 12 a. m. to 2 p. m. **25c**

Your Patronage is Respectfully Solicited

**The New Wyoming,**  
111 Wyoming Ave.  
Holznagel & Kinback.

**Your Coal Bill**  
Sperl Heaters reduce the coal bill one fourth to one half. The grate, boiler, fittings and magazine feed are constructed for fuel economy. With a **SPERL (Steam or Hot Water) HEATER** great heat is produced with a small amount of coal; automatic dampers regulate the heat and prevent sudden changes of temperature. It is an economy of both fuel and heat. One purchaser heated 13 large rooms from December 1 to April 1 with seven tons of chestnut coal. Send for booklet giving the experiences of other purchasers. THE SPERL HEATER CO., CARBONDALE, PA.

**Scranton Gas and Water Co.**  
**Hyde Park Gas Co.**  
OFFICE.  
115 Wyoming Avenue.  
Scranton, Pa.

**EMPTY HOUSES**  
CAN BE READILY FILLED IF ADVERTISED IN THE "FOR RENT" COLUMNS OF THE TRIBUNE