

THE CENTENARY OF CONGRESS AT WASHINGTON.

THE second session of the Fifty-sixth congress, which opened on the first Monday of this month and expires on the 4th of March, 1901, will be notable, if for nothing else, as commemorating the one hundredth anniversary of that august body's sittings at Washington. As our national centennials are becoming every year more rare, and as this first assemblage at Washington exercised an important influence upon the country at large, it behooves us to cast a backward glance and review the beginnings of our continuous legislative life as a national entity.

It was in June, 1790, that the public offices were transferred from Philadelphia to Washington and opened there on the 15th of that month, but it was not until the 17th of November following that the little story with all the national archives on board having arrived,

atives that the senate are ready to meet them in their chamber for the purpose of receiving the communications of the president of the United States. The house of representatives having accordingly taken the seats assigned them, the president of the United States (John Adams) came into the senate chamber and addressed both houses of congress as follows:

Gentlemen of the senate and gentlemen of the house of representatives; immediately after the adjournment of congress at their last session in Philadelphia I had directions, in compliance with the laws, for the removal of the public offices, records and property. These directions have been executed, and the public officials have since resided and conducted the ordinary business of the government in this place.

"I congratulate the people of the

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."

that the first consul of France had received our envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary "with the respect due to their character," and other things of public moment at the time.

This first session of congress at Washington was not by any means its

seats of government of the United States. Going back to the earliest time at which separation from the mother country was agitated, a colonial congress met in New York in 1765. It was in 1774 that the first Continental congress met in Philadelphia, but the "ex-

tablishing the permanent seat of government of the United States, to which they desired the concurrence of the house. The bill was twice read and committed. July 6 objection was made to the bill because it was not known whether the place proposed was the

Our streets that were quite in a way to look clever
Will now be neglected and dusty as ever.
Again we must fret at the Dutchified gutters
And pavestone pavements which wear out our
travellers.
My master looks dull, and his spirits are sinking;
From morning till night he is snoring and thinking
ling;
Laments the expense of destroying the fort
And says one day they may die in a sort.
He hopes and he prays they may die in a stall
If they leave us in debt for Federal Hall.
In fact, he would rather saw timber or dig
Than see them removing to Congressburg,
Where the houses and kitchens are yet to be
framed.
The trees to be felled and the streets to be named.
As far back as 1783 a congressman
wrote to a friend: "Where will congress
establish their residence? Is a question
much agitated. It is a question of
great importance no less to the United
States in general than to the particular
state that may obtain the honor. It
seems the general voice of the people
that large cities are to be avoided. For
this opinion a variety of reasons are to
be assigned too obvious to need enu-
meration. A small state, nearly central,
ought to be preferred to an oblique
state either northward or southward,
and on this account New Jersey has
many voices. Whatever disadvantages
hereafter may mingle themselves with
the emoluments attending the permanent
residence of congress, it is not to be
doubted that the real estate in the
vicinity, and even throughout the state,
will instantaneously receive a great ad-
ditional value."

This prediction seems to have been
borne out by the rise in values in
Washington immediately after it was
laid out as a city. Though it was at
that time described as "a town without
houses and streets and the entire dis-
tance from the capitol to the White
House was a morass." In May, 1800,
there were 375 houses of brick and wood
up and being erected, lots southwest of
Massachusetts avenue were selling at
an average price of \$343 and northeast
at \$105, while lots bordering on navigable
waters went at \$12.71 per front foot.
The different states seemed to enter-
tain this opinion, for several of them
began to bid for the national capital.
New York offered to cede the town of
Kingston and Maryland the city of
Annapolis. "What think you," wrote a
virtuously indignant Philadelphia man
to a correspondent, "of this kind of auc-
tioning?"

By a resolution of congress copies of
the acts of the legislatures of New
York and Maryland were transmitted
to the executives of the respective
states, who were informed that the first
Monday in October, 1783, was assigned
"for taking said affairs into considera-
tion." This enterprising scheme pro-
voked proffers from several other
states, but it was afterward proposed
that "buildings for the use of congress
be erected on or near the banks of the
Delaware, provided a suitable district
can be secured on or near the banks of
said river for a federal town, and that
the right of soil and an exclusive or
such other jurisdiction as congress may
direct shall be vested in the United
States."

A long and tedious discussion follow-
ed, during which one proposition was
entertained which provided for two res-
idences of congress, one on the banks of
the Potomac and the other on the banks
of the Delaware, where they should
hold sessions alternately. It was in 1783
that a member of the house from Vir-
ginia offered the federal government a
ten square miles of territory or any
less quantity in any part of his state
which congress might choose and was
followed by a similar offer from Mary-
land. Finally, after a seven years'
struggle, on the 15th of July, 1790, Pres-
ident Washington approved and signed
the following bill: "Be it enacted, etc.,
that a district of territory not exceed-
ing ten miles square, to be located, as
hereinafter directed, on the river Poto-
mac, at some place between the mouths
of the Eastern Branch and Conoco-
cheague, be and the same is hereby ac-
cepted for the permanent seat of the
United States."

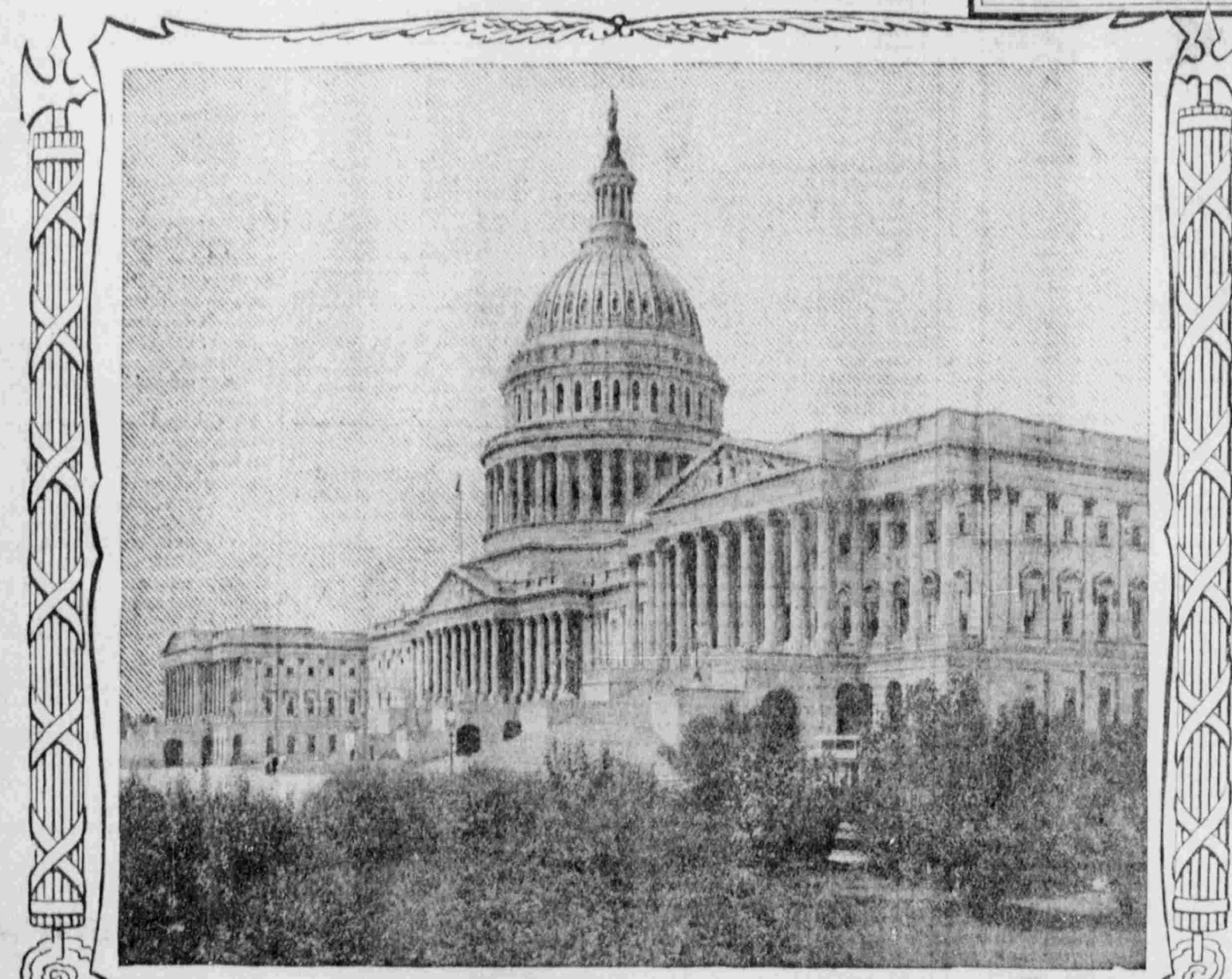
The cornerstone of the capitol build-
ing was laid with impressive cere-
monies by President Washington on the
15th of September, 1793, and all haste
was made to erect a suitable structure
for the housing of congress and the na-
tional official archives. The govern-
ment had held a great sale of lots in Oc-
tober, 1791, which speculators from all
over the country attended in crowds,
and prices ran high. From the revenues
thus obtained and with the money de-
rived from loans the White House was
started in October, 1792, and the capitol
the following year.
President Adams spoke feelingly
when he alluded to the abundant lack
of accommodations for the congress-
men, for had not his own wife called
Washington "a wilderness city" and
the executive mansion a barn unfit for
human habitation? Mr. John Cotton
Smith, a representative from President
Adams' own state of Massachusetts,
said he found only one wing of the capitol
constructed, and the White House
a mile distant, which "were shining
objects in contrast with the dismal
scenes around them." Without ade-
quate accommodations, having trav-
ersed the distance from their respective
homes by stagecoach or on horseback,
and with no means for social entertain-
ment, the congressmen of that first ses-
sion at Washington were indeed in a
dismal plight.

But they held an exciting session not-
withstanding, and there were several
men in attendance whose names are
still treasured by their country. One
of the most important things they did
was to decide the presidential election
when it was thrown into the house
owing to a tie between Jefferson and Burr.
The decision was in favor of Jefferson
on the 16th of February, 1801, and con-
sequently he was the first of our presi-
dents to be inaugurated at Washington.

The aspect of the capitol at that time
was far different from the picture it
presents today, for it was not until af-
ter many years that it took on its mag-
nificent proportions, with glorious dome
and noble legislative halls. The First
congress sat in what are now the su-
preme courtroom and law library, these
having been fitted up for the reception
of the senate and house respectively.
The enlargement and adornment of the
capitol have hardly kept pace with the
expansion of the country, but it is de-
clared to be one of the most beautiful
buildings in the world devoted to gov-
ernmental purposes.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

Syrdebe is the new material used as a
substitute for sugar in diabetes. Its
sweetening power is 550 times greater
than sugar.



THE NATIONAL CAPITOL IN 1900. PHOTO BY CLIMPEINST, WASHINGTON D.C.

In October, congress convened. Saturday, Nov. 23, it was ordered "that the secretary notify the house of represent-

United States on the assembling of con-
gress at the permanent seat of their
government, and I congratulate you,

He then went on to inform them that
a treaty of amity and commerce had
been concluded with the king of Prus-

first assembling as a body charged with
the making of national laws, for pre-
vious to that there had been several

THE MARQUIS OF SALISBURY.

The Man Who Has Just Begun His Fourth Term as Premier of Great Britain.

ROBERT ARTHUR TALBOT GASCOYNE CECIL, third marquis of Salisbury, was 70 years old on the 31 of last February and is yet hale and vigorous. As officially announced, his queen and sovereign has been pleased to appoint him for the fourth time prime minister of Great Britain and lord of the privy seal. Neither office carries a salary with it, the first being honorary and the last merely nominal, though legalizing Lord Salisbury's position in the cabinet and making his great services available in an advisory capacity. Owing to the state of his health, Salisbury no longer retains the office of secretary of state for foreign affairs, which he has hitherto held in conjunction with the premiership. This now devolves upon his coadjutor, the Marquis of Lansdowne.

As secretary of state for foreign affairs Lord Salisbury drew an annual salary of \$25,000, but he can easily dispense with this emolument, as his income from private sources is estimated at \$250,000 a year, and at his age retirement from public life would seem to be more advantageous than public employment.

But the Marquis of Salisbury comes of a long line of statesmen who have always held that their first allegiance is to the sovereign, beginning with the founder of the house more than 300 years ago, the famous Lord Burleigh, whose devotion to Queen Elizabeth re-
sounded to the glory of her reign. He and his son, the first Lord Robert Cecil, were contemporaries of those famous courtiers, Leicester, Essex and Raleigh, at least two of whom were rivals and went to the block as the direct or indirect result of their intrigues. Both were premiers, the first during the latter years of his life under Elizabeth, and the son under Elizabeth and King James. So serviceable did the king find Lord Robert, in fact, that he called him "my little beagle," from his success in ferreting out plots against his majesty.

It is no wonder that Queen Victoria should bestow her confidence upon one descended from an ancient aristocracy, who is and always has been a Tory of the Tories, conservative and careful. He early showed the traits of a statesman, but seemed to lack the wiles of the politician, having a blunt manner and a sharp tongue, which gave his remarks the stamp of honesty. Recent speeches of his, especially several during the latter stages of the Boer war, bore the aspect of recklessness and pes-

mism; but he is none the less one of the world's great diplomats. He sharply attacked Disraeli, it may be recalled, when he first stepped on the stage of public affairs and berated him unmercifully, but the latter turned aside his attacks with his imperturbable good humor, and in the end the two worked together for the success of the empire. When they came back from the congress of Berlin in 1878, both were the recipients of high honors. They were given the freedom of the city of London and afterward entertained at a grand banquet by the lord mayor. Salisbury was invested with the order of the Garter, and Beaconsfield was virtually offered whatever he would take.

Succeeding to the leadership of the house of lords after the death of Beaconsfield, the Marquis of Salisbury became the great conservative opponent of Mr. Gladstone, and when the latter was compelled to resign, in 1885, he was made premier for the first time. Again in 1894 he became prime minister, alternating with Gladstone and continuing in office till 1892, when the Grand Old Man succeeded him a second time. The elections of 1895 returned Salisbury again to the premiership, in which he has now been a fourth time confirmed by the latest official proclamation.

Without the brilliancy of Disraeli and less of a doctrinaire than Gladstone, Salisbury has pursued in diplomacy a middle course which has won him reputation abroad and confidence at home. He will probably retain the implicit trust of the queen to the end, for she regards him as a great bulwark of conservatism against the flood of liberalism, and as people in their old age are prone to follow in the ruts of custom there is no likelihood of change while these two hold the helm of empire.

In personal appearance the marquis is impressive, having a massive form and an intellectual face, with manners the perfection of kindly courtesy, as becomes one of his illustrious birth. He is genial as a host and charming in conversation, though his pessimistic speeches and satirical style of oratory have drawn upon him a comparison to "Prometheus tortured by the Radical vulture." He can well afford to retire from public life, and it must be from a strong sense of duty or love of power that he assumes again the thankless task of guiding Britain's destinies.

Hatfield House, Hertfordshire, the Marquis of Salisbury's residence (besides which, however, he has a castle, a

manor house, etc.), was built by Sir Robert Cecil between the years 1607 and 1611. It seems that his sovereign, King James I, coveted the "little beagle's"

revelry and feasting. Edward III's second son, William of Hatfield, was born here; King Henry VIII and Edward VI successively resided here,



house of Theobalds and proposed an exchange, which was promptly effected. The ancient palace of Hatfield did not suit Sir Robert, so he erected the great structure at present standing, which is considered a noble residence even in England. It is a fine specimen of Jacobean architecture, built of brick, in shape a parallelogram, with two ivy clad projecting wings and a tower above the central doorway, over which are the Cecil arms carved in stone. The exterior, magnificent as it is, gives no adequate conception of the treasures of art and carved woodwork within. The walls of the great marble dining room are paneled to a height of ten feet, with beautiful tapestries above and a splendid woodwork screen at one end, while the winter dining room is adorned with numerous portraits of the Cecils on the wainscoted walls.

Considerable resentment has been manifested by true Britons in the manner in which the Marquis of Salisbury has desecrated the ancient palace of Hatfield, built in the twelfth century. It still stands, but is used as a stable by its owner, and under its beautiful ceiling of chestnut wood, supported on curiously carved corbels, the Salisbury horses munch their fodder where ancient kings and queens gathered for

while King James I was the last monarch to choose Hatfield House as the abode of royalty.

In 1550, when the Princess Elizabeth

was 17 years old and eight years before she was crowned as queen, she was given the palace of Hatfield as a place of residence. In point of fact, she was



HATFIELD HOUSE AND ITS OWNER, LORD SALISBURY.

the prisoner of her amiable sister, "Bloody Mary," who was much of the time in doubt whether to release her or take off her head.

But he must be a man sure of his position and with unlimited wealth at his command who can convert into a stable a palace replete with traditions so dear to the English heart.

WALLACE WILCOXSON.

THE KING'S REVENGE.

A quaint little story is told of the late king of Italy and his dislike for music. The king and Queen Margherita lived in such harmony that they could afford to play small jokes upon each other without fear of misunderstanding. Of late years the queen found it necessary to wear glasses in order to read, but the sight of them so annoyed the king that he would say whenever she was about to put them on, "Margherita, put down those glasses!"

The queen did not obey on one occasion, and the king exclaimed: "Margherita, if you don't put down those glasses instantly I shall sing!"

Now, as the king had not the slightest ear for music and his wife had, this threat proved efficacious. The glasses were removed.

signer of the Declaration of Independence and the great American financier of the Revolutionary period.

There are 4,000,000 tons of stone in the pyramid of Cheops. It could be built for \$20,000,000.

Boots of elephant hide are worn only by the wealthiest of men, but the comfort and durability of such footwear are remarkable.

A French physician has announced that not only is yawning healthful, but

it should be resorted to artificially in case of sore throat.

German silver is not silver at all, but an alloy of various of the baser metals which was invented in China and used there for centuries.

The 4 cent stamp in the new series to be issued and sold next year in commemoration of the Pan-American exposition at Buffalo will have as its central picture a motor vehicle, representing the latest form of transportation.

to connect Billings and Great Falls, which are 200 miles apart. The power is to be supplied from generating stations on the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, and the line will be used principally for the transportation of coal, ores and heavy freight.

Half the human race die before they reach 70, and only one person in 1,000 reaches 80.

Fairmount park, Philadelphia, is to have a \$15,000 statue of Robert Morris,

organizations. The State Federation of Labor claims that Colorado is the best organized state in the Union.

There are now but four towns in Massachusetts in which there is no public library, and they are very small ones: Marlboro, Gay Head, Lakeville and Norwell. No other commonwealth in the Union can equal the Bay State's showing.

The longest electric railway in the world is to be built in Montana. It is

of waves has recently been tried at Havre. It is the invention of Baron d'Alcassandro, an Italian residing in Paris. The apparatus consists of a network of waterproofed hemp, 350 feet long by 50 feet broad, anchored on the surface of the water. It flattens out heavy waves and prevents them from breaking, after the manner of oil spread up on the sea.

One-fourth of the laboring population of Colorado is said to belong to labor

ABOUT COMMON THINGS.

An English manufacturer drives something of a trade in crows. They are real ones of solid gold, with cap of crimson velvet, incrustations of garnet, topaz and other kinds of cheap but showy stones, and are supplied to the kings of Africa, of whom there are several hundred, at a highly satisfactory return of ivory and other merchandise.

On clear nights a person with good

sight can see 2,000 stars. As but half of the celestial sphere is viewed, and as many stars near the horizon are obscured by the vapors of our atmosphere, the total number of stars visible with the naked eye is put at 5,000 certainly, and very likely as high as 8,000. The number the largest telescope brings into view is estimated at over 50,000,000.

A new plan for diminishing the force

of waves has recently been tried at Havre. It is the invention of Baron d'Alcassandro, an Italian residing in Paris. The apparatus consists of a network of waterproofed hemp, 350 feet long by 50 feet broad, anchored on the surface of the water. It flattens out heavy waves and prevents them from breaking, after the manner of oil spread up on the sea.

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