

CAPITOL'S CHANGES

Improvements Made in the Nation's Legislative Building—More Committee Rooms for Senate and House.

Washington, Dec. 14.—The closing session of the Fifty-sixth Congress is now fairly under way, and the senators and representatives are getting down to work with an apparent determination to clear or at least to dispose of the most important items of the unfinished business left over from the first session.

Senators and representatives alike are highly pleased over the changes and improvements that have been made in the Capitol building during the recess, which give each branch of Congress 14 additional committee rooms. They are likewise loud in their praises of Assistant Architect Woods and marvel that the work could have been done so thoroughly in so short a space of time. Toward the close of the last session a joint resolution was adopted which provided that "the rooms and space recently occupied by the Library of Congress in the Capitol building shall be divided into three stories, the third story of which shall be fitted up and used for a reference library for the Senate and House of Representatives and that portion of the other two stories north of a line drawn east and west through the center of the rotunda shall be used for such purpose as may be designated by the Senate of the United States and that portion of the first and second stories south of said line shall be used for such purpose as may be designated by the House of Representatives."

An indefinite appropriation was made by the resolution and no limit fixed on the expenditure, full discretion being lodged in the architect of the Capitol, Edward Clark. As soon as Mr. Clark received the authority of Congress for the work he turned the whole matter over to Elliott Wood, the assistant architect of the Capitol, who prepared the plans and supervised the work. All contracts were approved by the secretary of the interior and disbursements made through that office. The cost has been about \$200,000.

The work was begun on Aug. 20 and since been pushed vigorously day and night. At the outset a difficulty was encountered of quite a serious character. When the old structure was torn away and the foundation for the new work was about to be begun upon plans drawn for the occasion, it was found that the windows and doors of the old building were not "true." This necessitated changes in the working plans and considerable additional labor. Solid masonry was put in, about 300,000 bricks being used. There are 11,600 square feet of tiling in the work and 4,500 lineal feet of marble base. Altogether there are 28 apartments, occupying two floors, thus giving each body 14 additional committee rooms. Nearly all the rooms are light and airy and some of them of ample dimensions. Each apartment has a fireplace, with a marble mantel, American marble being used. The rooms will not be decorated until next summer, but are finished in white at this time. The woodwork in the doors is solid mahogany, and everything about the place is of the best quality.

The main entrance to the apartments is reached from the rotunda in the same way as the Library of Congress was formerly entered. The little lobby between the rotunda and the new committee rooms is highly ornamental. Two marble columns, with carved capitals, support a marble ceiling. The side walls are also of marble, and a marble balustrade surrounds the stairway leading to the lower floor.

Many improvements of a minor character have been made about the Capitol building. The room of the Senate committee on foreign relations has been redecorated in an elaborate manner and new furnishings put in to match the decorations. Green and gold work is the color scheme, and the effect is striking. The room of the House committee on foreign affairs has also been newly decorated, as well as some other of the committee rooms. Two new electric elevators have been placed in the House wing of the Capitol to replace the slow and cumbersome old machines. New tiling has been put in the basement floor of the old building, and the machinery of the ventilating plant has been completely overhauled. Altogether the congressional recess has been an exceedingly busy time for the architect's office.

Speaking of Capitol betterments, it may be noted that there is a strong sentiment in favor of improving and beautifying the rotunda. One suggestion is to line the walls with Siena marble similar to that used in the Library of Congress, as it is said that this would blend better with the colors of the rotunda and dome than anything else. The contemplated improvements would include a mosaic floor instead of the old granite slab, and the removal of the fluted columns around the walls, which now appear as if they were composed of plaster of paris. The beautiful entrance to the new committee rooms, consisting of marble columns with carved capitals and marble side walls and ceilings, serves to throw into unfavorable contrast the dingy rotunda, and many senators and representatives have commented upon it.

Another matter in connection with the Capitol building which concerns the representatives in Congress is what is to be done with the additional members of the House which it is supposed that the reapportionment bill will provide. There is apparently no way with the present accommodations to seat 23 additional members, and it is probable that there will be some radical changes in the hall of the House.

The reapportionment question, which comes to the front as a result of the increased population as shown by the twelfth census, is likely to precipitate a pretty lively fight in which the party lines will be sharply drawn. The forces of the minority will be marshaled by Congressman James D. Richardson, the Democratic leader of the House. Since the last session of Congress Mr. Richardson has, by the way, been the recipient of a new honor, one of which even his most pronounced political opponents freely recognize that he is entirely worthy. He is now one of the most exalted Masons in point of rank in the United States, being the sovereign grand commander of the southern grand lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, to which position he succeeds through the death of the late Grand Commander Thomas Hubbard Caswell, who died in California a few weeks ago. The officers of the Scottish Rite, unlike all others in Masonry, hold their rank and stations for life, and Mr. Richardson, who is lieutenant grand commander, becomes

in the order of succession the grand commander. In executive, diplomatic and even congressional circles there is just now not a little of speculation and comment as to what will be the outcome of the tangle in the Levant, which is brought into prominence by Turkey's rejection of a request for an exequatur for an American consul at Karpuz and the dispatch of the battleship Kentucky to Smyrna. The refusal to grant an exequatur is regarded by the United States legation at Constantinople as a violation of treaty rights. Consequently Dr. Thomas H. Norton, who was appointed some time ago by President McKinley to establish a consulate at Karpuz, has been directed to proceed to his post. He has been in Constantinople some time awaiting the issuance of his exequatur. The claim of the United States in his case is based upon a clause in the Turco-American treaty of 1830 which reads: "The United States may appoint their citizens to be consuls and vice consuls at the commercial places in the dominions of the

sublime porte where it shall be found needful to superintend the affairs of commerce. The sultan cannot refuse to make such appointments, and if he does so there is no commerce at all place in question, the same object being made to the establishment of a consulate at Karpuz. Furthermore, he claims that in final permission in the case of Karpuz was obtained under an implied understanding that the United States government would abandon its claim to a consulate at the other place. While it is admitted at Washington that there may have been foundation for this understanding, it is said that the British government has since established a consulate where one is now refused to us. As to the favored nation clause of the Turco-American treaty our government claims the same privileges as those accorded to Great Britain. The visit of the battleship Kentucky to Smyrna may relate to this matter as well as to the larger one of missionary indemnity. At all events the unfolding of the Turkish complications will be watched with keenest interest here.

EMPEROR WILLIAM VISITED PARIS.

He Saw the Exposition, but Disguised Himself to Do It.

William has visited the exhibition. It would not be too much to say that all France has been on the lookout for the famous secret visit he was to make to the exposition. He has made it. Under the watching eyes of the French war department and the German embassy, William II slipped into Paris, where he might have remained in secret but for the omniscience of M. Lepine, the prefect of police. "Here you are!" exclaimed the great policeman, tremendously disturbed at the thought of his responsibility, "and I must do the best I can for your imperial highness."

He did it. The story of the secret visit reads like a first-class detective story, with the emperor's mustache as the great disguise.

It is not out of idle vanity or mistaken aesthetics that the imperial William has cultivated so assiduously the high-lifted imperial mustache. A deep purpose lies concealed behind its waxing and its ironing. When the emperor goes to bed, with a broad silk band stretched tight across his upper lip in the uncomfortable way that the upturned mustache demands, he says to himself that it is not for nothing. The upturned mustache, which over shadows all his other features, is William the Second's private device for disguising his too-well-known person.

When the mustache points upward he is William, the kaiser, the dread war lord. When the mustache points downward—as it does now and again—he is William simply, William innocent, disguised, passing through the world unnoted and unknown. In Berlin they tell strange tales of that mustache and its power to change the face of him who wears it.

The emperor of Germany waxed his mustache to point downward at its most disgusting slant, dressed in tourist tweeds, took one companion with him and the train for Paris. There is no doubt that he passed the frontier as successfully as any private tourist. The military spies of France and Germany had no inkling of his purpose. It will be remembered, perhaps, that during two weeks in the middle of October he was supposed to be shooting "on his own lands," where it was not stated definitely. In reality he was in Paris for eight days. Echoes of the

visit are beginning now to be heard in the French press.

The emperor, accompanied by a trusted Berlin business man—a banker, and not a nobleman or an army officer—arrived in Paris early in the morning, on the through Paris-St. Petersburg express. The Berlin banker, who has Paris at his finger tips—took him immediately in an ordinary Paris cab picked up in front of the station, to a pied-a-terre apartment of his own in the sleepy Rue de l'Université, at its least aristocratic end.

The impatient emperor would have it that they must make their first visit to the exposition the same day. It was only a quarter of an hour's walk to the nearest gate. The visit was accomplished without incident. The emperor was enchanted. The next morning they received a visit from M. Lepine, prefect of the Paris police, in person. It was a great surprise for William II and his companion, the Berlin banker, who, in his despair at being discovered, was not sure that he ought not to commit suicide. The great police chief relieved their apprehensions. While he would not have been human not to triumph quietly in the perfection of his detective service, that, in 12 hours, had come on a diplomatic secret unknown to his country's own diplomats, he desired to show that in republican France an untitled prefect of police can also prove himself a prince. "Now that your imperial majesty is here," he said, "we must do the best we can for your imperial highness."

William II acquiesced grudgingly, and for a week three untiring policemen selected by M. Lepine performed their duty with perfect tact. In that time three Germans, two Frenchmen and one Russian were sent to the cooler to prevent their "chatting," they having recognized the august presence. Two others of higher social rank, both foreigners, were named "absolved."

It is said that M. Lepine took it on himself not to acquaint the president of the republic or his ministry with a fact which would bring them rather embarrassment than pleasure. They knew nothing of the visit, officially or unofficially.

How much worry even the most unofficial visit of a William II is capable of causing a French ministry may be imagined from the now well-known events of the emperor's trip to the exhibition of 1889. On that occasion he was not so free. True, the visit was a secret. The story goes that, in spite of the resentment caused in France shortly before that time by his celebrated Frankfurt discourse, William insisted on his visiting the exhibition of 1889. He communicated his desire to the French ambassador at Berlin, who, much troubled, at first counseled against it, and then begged that the thing be done with the most absolute secrecy.

The only persons in France made acquainted with the unwelcome facts were President Carnot, the ministers of foreign affairs and of war and the director of the surete generale, M. Caselles, today a state counselor. The high functionary designated a dozen special agents of the prefecture of police of Paris and his own staff to watch over the imperial visitor, whom they took turns in accompanying, six at a time, in his most insignificant movements.

In Germany the emperor confided his intentions to the captain of the Hohenzollern, to the grand chancellor of the empire and the emperor, and immediately started off with two friends and a valet.

During his four days' stay his greatest pleasure was to take a common street car, accompanied by one of his friends, and promising a large gratification to the "cabbie," attempt to evade the detectives. He never succeeded in doing it.

He had visited the exhibition three times. He had intended to stay ten days. On the fourth, however, an irresistible curiosity led him to stop his cab in the full Place de la Concorde before the Strauss statue, that pitiful memorial of the French nation mourning for her lost provinces, to which the faithful bring ever new funeral wreaths on anniversary days. Besides being in bad taste, this stopping before the statue was unwise. As William stuck his head out of the cab an unknown gentleman was seen to stare at him with surprise and insistence. The police escort observed the movement. One of them, standing behind the gentleman, overheard him telling a companion that he had recognized "his emperor."

The recognition was a fatal one, both to the emperor's trip and the strange gentleman's liberty of the moment. While William, much disturbed, hastened to prepare for his departure from Paris, the strange gentleman, who it turned out, was a Prussian army officer on leave, found himself conducted to the depot of the prefecture, there to be locked up twenty-four hours without explanation.

Returning to his capital by way of London, Hull and Norway, William tactfully confessed his mortal fear of being the center of a popular Parisian riot. On this occasion he has shown more nerve.

HUMOROUS

Indianapolis Press: The idler—How would you like to live a hundred years? The busy man—Id like to, but I am afraid I couldn't find the time.

Harper's Bazar: She—Just imagine! Suppose you were so immensely wealthy that you couldn't possibly spend your income. What would you do? He—Marry you.

Indianapolis Journal: Hostler—What was that man talking about? Livery Proprietor—He said he merely came in to ask if we were going to have any automobile sleighs to hire out.

St. Paul Dispatch: A tailor-made suit is sometimes followed by a lawyer-made suit, and this in turn by a non-suit.

Chicago News: He (time 11:45 p. m.)—Misery loves company, they say. She (suppressing a yawn)—Oh, I don't know.

Chicago Times-Herald: "Why have you given up practicing on the flute?" "I understand the man who moved into the flat directly across from ours used to be one of the best amateur boxers in the state."

King: At a certain review recently held, a pompous member of parliament found himself on the outskirts of a huge crowd. Being anxious to obtain a good view for himself and some ladies who accompanied him, and presuming he was well known, he tapped a burley cockney, who was taking a day off, on the shoulder and said in a peremptory tone, "Make way there."

"Who are yer pushin'?" replied the cockney. "Do you know who I am, sir?" said the indignant statesman. "I am a representative of the people."

"Garn! That ain't nothin'," growled the man. "We're the bloomin' people ourselves."

Philadelphia Record: "I understand your old pastor had to resign the first week after accepting that Pittsburgh call."

"Yes; he's back with us again. He made a bad break in his first sermon there."

"You don't say?"

"Yes; he preached on the text: 'Cleanliness is next to godliness.'"

Cleveland Plain Dealer: "I don't see how you can permit your Willie to play with that Donohue boy. He uses shocking language."

"Mercy! Is he playing with that little wretch?"

"Yes, they are just around the corner. I know you wouldn't want him contaminated."

"Contaminated? Why, the Donohue scamp has the whooping cough!"

Detroit Journal: At the asylum we were much depressed by what we saw. "A terrible fate, indeed!" he exclaimed.

"Less terrible, however," interposed a tall, distinguished looking maniac, "than a fete champetre! Oh, by all odds!"

Upon inquiry we learned that this man had become mad through being the husband of one socially ambitious.

Brooklyn Eagle: Aunt Geehaw—My! Think of that bank clerk stealin' \$700,000, Joshuaway!

Uncle Geehaw—Well, serves the bank right. I ought ter hev hed a cash register, like some of the Long Island grocery stores hev!

Chicago Post: The Chinese, it is said, discovered America in 499 A. D. Thank heaven, they lost it again.

Denver Times: "Your honor," said the clerk, "I have to report that the jury is hung."

"It's queer," mused the court, "how chance will sometimes execute a just sentence. Have the bodies cut down and removed, Mr. Clerk."

Washington Star: "This malefactor shall meet with exemplary punishment," said the Chinese official. "But you haven't begun to do anything with him yet."

"We are submitting him to the horrors of suspense. His shall be a lingering death. It shall linger for years and years."

Parke: "I told my wife she could sell, if she desired, the furniture that had become too bad for use."

Lane: "She was prompt to take the hint, was she?"

Parke (sadly): "Was she? There isn't a thing left."—Harper's Bazar.

Jimmy: "I hear yer an uncle, Billy?" Billy: "I'm two;—it wuz twins!"—Puck.

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We have these from 50c to \$15.00.

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BACK VOLUMES

—OF THE—

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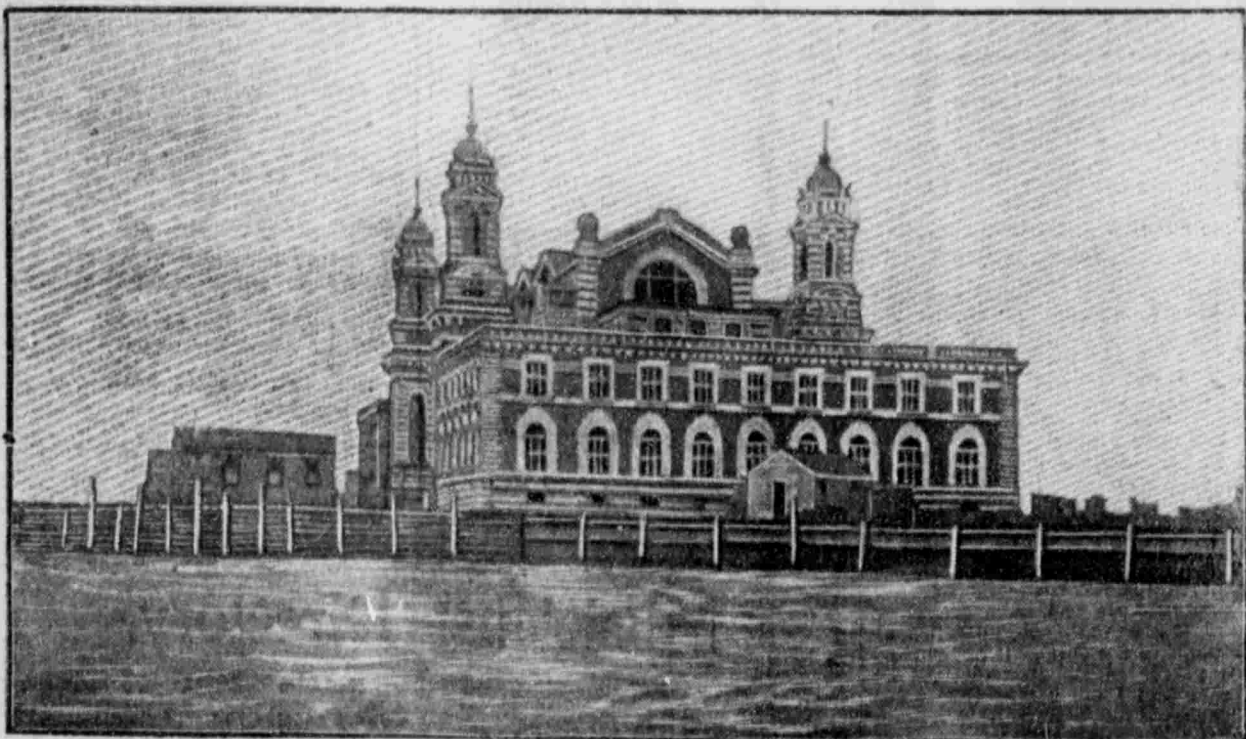
"THE RISE AND FALL OF NAUVOO"

Will be on sale by the DESERET NEWS on or about November 10, 1900.

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PAN-AMERICAN FAIR PROMISES A BIG SUCCESS.



Buffalo's big event probably will mark an epoch in the arts and sciences of the Twentieth Century. The buildings when finished will be magnificent specimens of architecture, and the other exhibits will be in keeping with the progress of the Western Hemisphere.