DESERET EVENING NEWS SATURDAY OCTOBER 20 1906

Man In

the

## J. Knox Taylor, Washington afford NE of the busiest men in

of the United States ing architect treasury. His fitle sounds rather for - undertaking, stupendous as it is. This midable, but it is actually far too short to express his real duty as sponsor for all public structures and the one skill- building projects for the government. ed man in the government service who has to keep in touch with every detail years, having received the appointment has to keep in touch with every detail of their construction and see to it that the proper material goes into them and of sixty applicants who were anxious the work meets the requirements. Do not imagine for a brief moment that this job leaves much time for outs'de diversion. Be it known also that these same government requirements are most rigid. Every stick and ters. For a salary of \$4,500 per an-every stone that goes into a public num he renders a service that no prievery stone that goes into a public structure must not only stand the test of the skilled mechanic's eye-which is undertake for more than ten times that usually a wide open one-but they

32

must also be found perfect by the experts at the government laboratories, So it happens that every minute of the night and day when a new build- have been conducted under the intelliing belonging to Uncle Sam is in process gent supervision of the public archi-of erection, no matter now slowly the tect, let it be remembered that when of erection, no matter how slowly the tect, let it be remembered that when work is going on, either Mr. Taylor or some subordinate for whose faithful-are completed the plaza east of the

with unflagging attention. session of congress-as if it had been south sides of this plaza will be bound-guilty of a sin of omission which it ed by the senate and house office buildruilty of a sin of omission which it is do you senate and noise onte build purposed to wipe out at a single ef-fort-the construction of about 200 The west is bounded by the imposing public buildings was authorized and upward of \$20,000,000 was appropriated front of which is to be extended in to that end. That sum and the \$50. marble at a cost of \$1,330,000. The eastern side of the plaza will be par-on buildings and bridges in and around thally filled by the splendid new library

Washington-none busier in responsibility which has been resting and still rests on the very capable shoulders of J. Knox Taylor. Mr. Taylor is well qualified for his has been made manifest by his pre-vious experience in handling big

in 1897. He was selected from a list to try their hand at the business. That Uncle Sam struck a bargain in the selection of Mr. Taylor has been proved to the satisfaction of all those who are supposed to understand such matvate architect of equal ability would

amount. As a partial showing of the improvements made in the national capital during the last few years, most of which ness he is responsible must watch it capitol will be almost inclosed by one with unfarging attention. During the closing days of the last buildings in the world. The north and



SUPERVISING ARCHITECT J. KNOX TAYLOR AT HIS DESK.

of congress, which has cost \$6,920,000. The other blocks of ground east of the capitol plaza will soon be occupied by a noble structure tar the supreme court. The capitol and its proposed extension, the senate and house office buildings and the library will repreent an expenditure by the government of \$32,500,000.

United States Treasury

Until a few years ago the government architect was required to make all the plans for public buildings. This was found to be a source of great publie dissatisfaction, And the outery against the practice of leaving everything to the taste and stchitectural preferences of a single individual was very general. By the provisions of the Tarsney act, which pecate a law in 1904, it is arranged that while the supervising architect shall have a general

competition between Architects of recognized merit. The treasury department, which is charged with the preharation of plans

and specifications for postoffices, custom houses and all other public buildment, has recently issued a call for a are classical modifications, hundred additional draftsmen in order to get out the plans for the 200 new buildings ordered by coheress at fis last session. The regular force of enrineers, draftsmen, computers, booknew recruits will add to Mr. Taylor's manifold distractions,

But he is not a man to be perturbed tural taste and understanding among over an increase of responsibility. His the people of the United States. ability to maintain a level head under

almost any ressure was one of the almost any presents was one of the points that led to his appointment as supervising architect. He had been employed in the office for two years. and quring that time had shown marked executive readiness. In the competition which the law requires before a new supervising architect can be appelated Mr. Taylor obtained a gen eral Average of only a little over 33 per cept. One applicant succeeded in gaining 90 per cent. When the decision was made, however, Mr. Tay-lor's experience was taken into the consideration, and the examining board, composed of leading architecta from all over the Union, reported in his fayor.

Since he took charge of the office every new public building has been of classical style of architecture. In pervision over both the blans and the this Course he has received the com-supervision over both the blans and the mengation of the best architects in the mendation in the best architects in the county. The history of public build-ings is the old world makes it certain that those built on classical lines have survised the criticisms of ages and

are bow as attractive as ever. Among all the public buildings in the United tom nouses and an entional govern- StateA those most generally admirad Mr. Taylor is an exceedingly modest man and is averse to publicity. He

will hot consent even to receive the praisA so manifestly due to him for the increased technical and artistic perkeepers, stenographers and other office fection which now marks the work on employees numbers about 200, and the public buildings. He prefers, he declares, to regard it as an evidence of the general advancement of architec.

CHANNING A. BARTOW.

