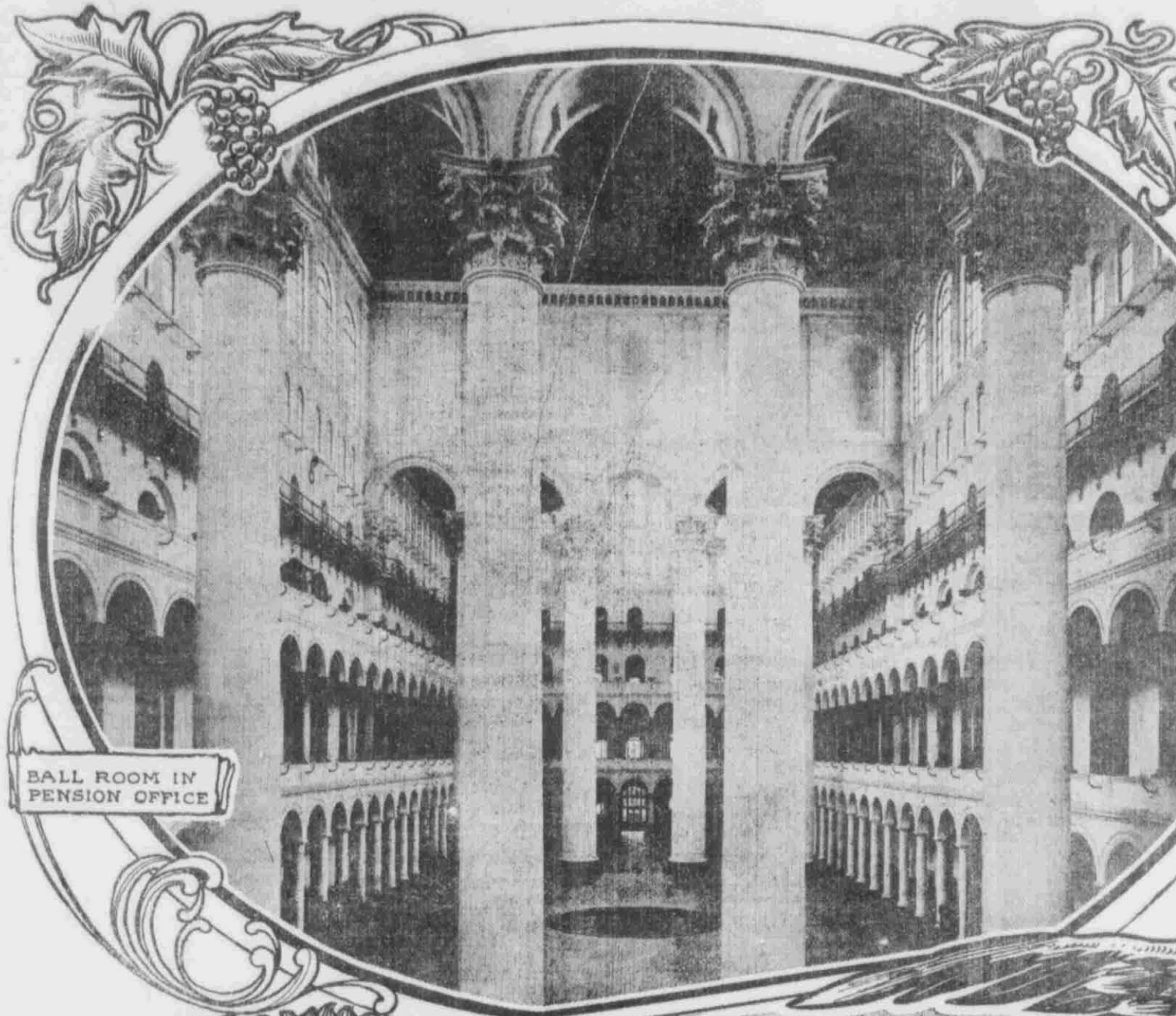


Inauguration of the Twenty-Seventh President of the United States

A FUNCTION WHICH HAS BEEN CUMULATIVE IN ITS IMPORTANCE AND IMPRESSIVENESS AND HAS NOW REACHED A POINT OF GREAT POMP AND CEREMONY



BALL ROOM IN PENSION OFFICE



PYLONS IN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE



PORTO RICAN TROOPS IN PARADE



DECORATIONS IN PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

PHOTO BY CLINE DINSTE WASH.



Tangier to the officers of the battleships was extremely gracious, and the sultan was honored when the ships gave him their salute.

Farewell at Gibraltar.

The scene of the departure from Gibraltar was worthy of a canvas. Starting on its return from a cruise of 45,000 miles, the fleet's bands played "Home, Sweet Home." At half past 8 o'clock the signal to unmoor was given. The great chimes holding the ships to the buoy were loosened, and by one o'clock the ships were held to their anchorage by one strand only. Admiral Sperry from the after bridge of the Connecticut directed the unmooring. The flag of the Georgia, the Nebraska, the New Jersey, the Rhode Island and the Virginia fluttered down from the masts after the ships passed the harbor and headed for the breakwater, the Georgia, with Lieutenant Commander George W. Kline on the bridge, in the lead. Rear Admiral Wainwright's division fell into formation and waited for the second and third groups. The second comprised the Vermont, which carried her fore the efficiency trophy. Then followed in the order named the Minnesota, the Kentucky, the Ohio and the Kearsarge. The third division was composed of the Wisconsin, the Kansas, the Louisiana, the Missouri and the Illinois. At last, the fleet's flagship, the Connecticut, brought up the rear.

Then there was a very pretty incident because it was contrary to custom. The Devonshire, flagship of Rear Admiral Sir George James Goodrich of the royal navy, admitted superintendent of Gibraltar, took her position at the entrance of the harbor and hoisted the American flag and saluted as the Connecticut passed out. The band on the Connecticut played the English anthem, and the band on the Devonshire played "The Star Spangled Banner." The respective engines were dipped. Rear Admiral Goodrich and Rear Admiral Latham, the latter of the Russian navy, signalled, "Goodby; pleasant voyage." Rear Admiral Sperry replied, "Thanks." Any one who saw this pretty exchange must have looked forward to see a time when these ships would ever be engaged in that for which they are constructed.

The Connecticut steamed ahead along the line and took her place at the head of the column. When the ships stretched out in the line they covered three miles and moved majestically to the south. The crowds on shore on the terraces, on the battlements and as far as the eyes could reach, waved hats and kerchiefs and sent cheer after cheer out to the sea long after the retreating battleships of the fleet had not beyond the reach of the shore.

Home Again

When the fleet was a thousand miles from the home coast it was met by Rear Admiral Sperry's division of the Atlantic fleet consisting of the battleships Maine, Mississippi, New Hampshire and Ohio and the scout cruisers Chicago, Minneapolis and Saginaw. The greeting was the sort that Americans and so brave men give. It was a splendid sight. The fleet was steady when the fleet reached the mouth of the Chesapeake from 12 to 100 feet long stream from the main track.

In Hampton Roads the companies were met by the fleet's flagship, who had given them their salute as they started around the globe Nov. 16, 1907.

MONTFORT HAINES.

WHEN William Howard Taft takes the oath of office in Washington Thursday, March 4, 1909, as it shall be administered by Chief Justice Fuller of the supreme court of the United States, he will be the twenty-seventh president of this country.

Should he succeed himself he would still be the twenty-seventh president. Only when an interregnum occurs, as in Mr. Cleveland's case, the returning chief magistrate takes the next number after his predecessor. He is numbered in such an event as a new president.

The exercises connected with the inauguration of Mr. Taft will be an amplification of those which have taken place every four years since James Monroe was inducted into office in 1817. Monroe was not the first president inaugurated, of course, but his inauguration was the first to take place in the open in Washington. The last outdoor display for an incoming president before the one in Monroe's honor was in Philadelphia in 1807, when John Adams was inaugurated with military ostentation.

In the very inception of the order there will be an innovation this year. President-elect Taft will be the guest of President Roosevelt at the White House for a day or two before the 4th of March. On the morning of the 4th they will proceed to the White House together and proceed to the capital in the same carriage. No matter what the weather, there will be an imposing escort. Army, navy militia and Porto Rican troops will be in line. And Pennsylvania avenue will be thronged from sidewalk to roof and appropriate footstomped. It has always been so, and it will continue to be so, with a few variations, down to the last available of recorded time. Both branches of congress will be busy up to noon. The outgoing president will hurry to his room in the senate and of the great building and sign the latest bills which have been passed. It is 11:45 o'clock a. m. in the hour fixed for the assistant sergeant at arms of the senate to swing the main door of the chamber and announce the chief justice and associate justices of the supreme court of the United States. The bench in its black

robes of office will enter and take seats provided well to the front. Next in the order named the sergeant at arms will proclaim the house of representatives, the ambassadors and ministers plenipotentiary to the United States, governors of states and territories, the admiral of the navy, chief of staff of the army and officers of the army and navy. This aggregation will fill the capacity of the handsome chamber. Before this the galleries will have been jammed. For color effect and splendor there is nothing to compare with the galleries of the United States senate on inauguration day.

Vice President-elect Sherman will be escorted to the rostrum, where he will take his seat to the left of Vice President Fairbanks. The herald at the main door will cry, "The president and the president-elect." The proclaimed, arm in arm, will walk down the center aisle of the chamber and take their seats on a leather covered sofa in front of the vice president's desk. After the inauguration of the president, the friend that the most trying ordeal of his life was when he sat on that senate sofa and faced the concentrated gaze of the crowd.

The last official act of Vice President Fairbanks will be to swear in his successor. The first official act of Vice President Sherman will be the hitting of the desk with the gavel. A few remarks may follow. Invocation by the chaplain is next. The vice president says immediately after, "The sergeant at arms will now proceed with the ceremonies." It is the privilege of the vice president to vary the phraseology but the words quoted have been spoken by most vice presidents.

To the East Front.

The procession from the senate to the east front of the capital is in the order named—marshal of the District of Columbia, marshal of the supreme court justice and associate justices of the supreme court, committee on arrangements, the president and president-elect, ambassadors and foreign dignitaries, the vice president and the ex-vice president, the senate and the house of representatives, guests of the galleries bring up the rear.

The crowd is never dignified. The crowd that emerges from the east entrance of the capital is no more orderly than the crowd in the street. With the

exception of the high officials, the emerging crowd resembles a pair of football teams in action. It is a wonder the moving picture man hasn't thought of it. Fortunately a way is cleared for the incoming and outgoing presidents, the supreme court and the families of the high functionaries. It is left to the incoming president to say when he will take the oath. The custom most usually observed is to take it before the delivery of the address. One president paused in the middle of his inaugural to take the oath and then finished. In taking the oath it is the custom to kiss the Bible. In some instances a passage has been marked by a minister, but this is a matter of sentiment.

Before the inaugural is finished there is always a scramble by the crowd to get away. The race is for the grand stand opposite the reviewing stand of the president. The ex-president does not return to the White House. In the case of ex-President Roosevelt he will go from the capital to the railroad station and board his train for New York. He will be at Oyster Bay while his successor is still reviewing the procession.

When the president returns to the White House he partakes of a hearty breakfast and then goes to the reviewing stand, accompanied by the vice president and the families of both and invited guests. The review is seldom over before dark. After the review the crowd breaks away in an unseemly manner for dinner; from dinner to the fireworks or the inaugural ball, or both.

Why the 4th of March?

Why, unless the 4th of March falls on Sunday, does the inauguration of a president occur on that date? Washington took the oath April 30. It had been determined that the electors should be chosen on the first Wednesday in January and that they should assemble for casting their votes on the first Wednesday in February and that all inaugurations should be on the first Wednesday in March. In the year when Washington became president that day fell on March 4. But Washington did not arrive on time, and the inauguration of his successor, James Monroe, occurred April 30. When his time expired he did not press the point; otherwise the inaugurations would have taken place

April 30. Vice President Adams reached New York in advance of the president, and he took his oath April 26.

Inaugurations of Other Days.

Jefferson was the first president inaugurated in Washington. For many years after, owing to a misapprehension, the story occurred on inauguration days that Jefferson rode to the capital on horseback, hitched his horse to the fence and, entering the capital, took the oath. The story went up of circulation a long time ago. It was too simple to live. Jefferson occupied a room in a house about a hundred yards from the capital. Some of his admirers arranged for a coach and four to convey him to the then unfinished building. If Jefferson in his great simplicity objected to this sort of display there is no record of the fact. On the contrary he seems to have been willing for it is related that he waited for the coach and four to come, but the coachman was dilatory, and after the coach had waited until the hour was up he went out and, accompanied by his friends, footed his way to the capital. So there was no inaugural display for him.

To return to the commonplace, the national capital habit began with Monroe. Jackson accentuated it. It has been growing ever since. With two exceptions the citizens of Washington on each succeeding inauguration have tried to outdo the former inauguration. The exception referred to occurred on the first inauguration of Lincoln and on the inauguration of Hayes. Threats of assassination in the case of Lincoln prevented any great display. A big lawsuit in which the right of Mr. Hayes to be sworn in was disputed in a specially organized commission. The commission did not give its decision in time to allow the people of Washington to indulge in the preparations which make Washington people a little happier every four years than any other people in the country.

While indulging in such numbers this is a good place to recall that the only president who ever rode on horseback to the capital was William Henry Harrison. A carriage was offered, but Harrison had a white horse of which he was very fond. Besides the stunt was a superb horseman. Van Buren was the first incoming president to ride in the same carriage to the capital with the

outgoing chief magistrate. Franklin Pierce was the only incoming president to stand in his carriage and bow to the people, right and left, while he was being conveyed to the capital. Only two outgoing presidents refused to accompany their successors. When Grant was inaugurated Johnson refused to go with him because the committee had arranged for two carriages—one for

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RETURN OF THE FLEET

Home Again After a Triumphant Girdling of the Globe

THE sixteen American battleships completing the Atlantic squadron are home again—time, 1 year and 66 days, distance 45,000 miles. The voyage included receptions in several foreign ports and excited the interest of the globe. South America, Australia, Japan, China, Ceylon, Egypt and the ports of the Mediterranean extended honors to the visiting fleet. Other maritime nations sent invitations which could not be accepted.

When the fleet left Hampton Roads Dec. 16, 1907, on its world circling cruise it comprised the Connecticut, Georgia, Nebraska, New Jersey Rhode Island, Virginia, Vermont, Minnesota, Kentucky, Ohio, Wisconsin, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Illinois and Kearsarge. It was under command of Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans. Its co-commander was Rear Admiral Charles S. Sperry, who remained in command. The Connecticut being the flagship during the remainder of the cruise, and the same battleships came home with Sperry on the bridge.

In the annals of battleship cruises there is nothing to compare with it. Numerically it beats all. In point of distance covered it has no equal. No other cruise in the record can be recalled. The discipline of the fleet was credit-

able at sea and on land. When the fleet forced its homeward bound pennants in Hampton Roads its condition was even better than when it turned its white prow toward Cape Horn.

But one incident marred the marvelous cruise. Captain Quilbrough returned restricted to his quarters. He was found guilty by court martial of being intoxicated at the dinner given by Minister Gummere at Tangier. He was sentenced to six months' suspension and will lose ten months in grade. But his record as a brave officer and a successful seaman will do much to mitigate this unfortunate affair. He was captain of the Georgia.

The story of the cruise is fresh in the minds of the American people. It was repeated from time to time as the battleships circled the globe. The honors heaped upon the commander and his officers and men in foreign ports will live as long as the American navy exists.

One notable event in the cruise is worth recalling in this connection. It was the run of 2,631 miles from Honolulu to Auckland without ceasing. It was the greatest run of the kind ever made by a large fleet. When the fleet arrived at Auckland it still had enough coal in its bunkers to last for another thousand miles.

When a division of the squadron was ordered to take relief to the sufferings of the recent earthquake the fleet was quickly dispatched for the world. That it was quickly dispatched was shown in many ways.

The dinner by Minister Gummere at