

THE NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM AT WASHINGTON

A MAJESTIC EDIFICE TO HOUSE THE NATION'S VAST AND GROWING COLLECTIONS

GROUND for the new National Museum at Washington, for which Congress at its last session voted an appropriation of three and a half million dollars, will be broken next spring.

The new home for the priceless and historic treasures which for a century have been gathered after earnest effort by the scientists of the United States will be erected on the broad boulevard which extends west from the Capitol to the spot where the splendid monument to Washington stands. The location will be in Smithsonian Park, south of the Smithsonian Institution, with which it doubtless will be connected by an underground tunnel. The principal public entrance to the new museum will be on B street, where Tenth street joins the park.

While the architectural features for the interior are subject to constant alteration, the general plan as at present mapped out will be followed. Complying with the request of Congress, the front of the building will be of granite and in style to harmonize with the Capitol and the White House. It will be a rectangular building, about 486 feet front by 345 feet deep and 80 feet in height. Designs call for four floors.

The first and second floors will carry the chief exhibits. Other quarters of the building have not been disposed of. Congress gave amply, that no feature of the museum might lack essentials to make it the first of its kind in the world. The directors will allow a comfortable space for exhibition purposes, while the laboratories and workrooms will be fitted with the most complete tools and apparatus money can buy. The equipment will be as rich as this vast collection of objects, pertaining to the history of man, of animals and of minerals, merits.

Small Beginnings.

The old quarters have always been cramped for space, permitting none too comfortable an inspection of these interesting relics by the public. Three and a half million dollars is an item out of proportion to the \$5,000 secured from Congress in 1840 to carry this work forward. It was at the time when the collections from the United States Exploring Expedition were received in Washington, and from that period down to this day, and largely since 1850, through the efforts of Spencer F. Baird, in that year appointed assistant secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, the results of many arduous researches and stirring expeditions will be found in the new museum.

It is quite obvious that mention can be made of only a few of the interesting objects that will be in the new museum. In the Department of Anthropology will be material pertaining to North American Indians, as well as Esquimaux. The collection will be unrivalled. It will include the portraits of Indians painted by George Catlin early last century. The collections of the Bureau of Ethnology and the government surveys on the west coast of the Pa-

KRIEHOFF



FRONT ELEVATION OF THE NEW MUSEUM BUILDING

The Hall of History will be as elaborate as the highest skill of the artisan can make it. Here will repose the furniture, porcelain, glassware and other articles from Mount Vernon, as well as the Martha Washington china, presented by Van Braam; a beautiful Neiderweller bowl, the personal gift of the Comte de Custine in 1792, and a nearly complete dinner service of china, decorated with the insignia of the Society of the Cincinnati. Besides this collection will be the tents, camp chest, field glass and writing case used by Washington during the War of the Revolution. Also miniature portraits of the General and Martha Washington, painted on wood, by the artist Trumbull.

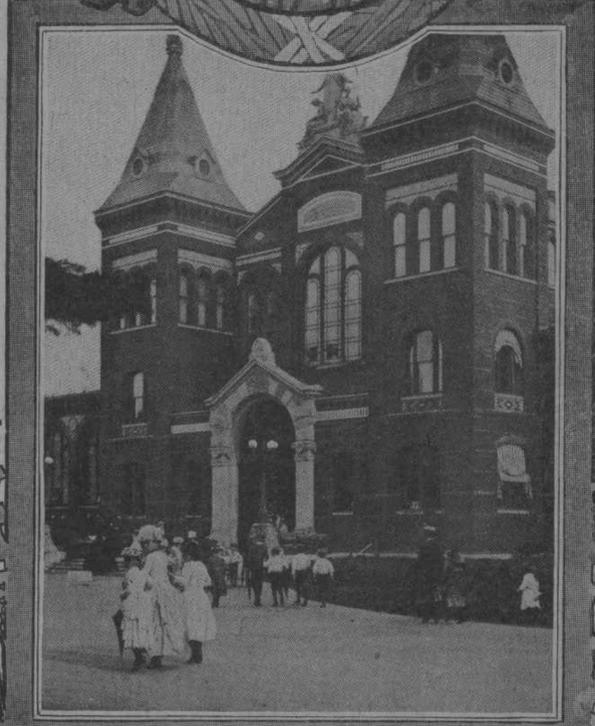
The Grant Memorials

In this same hall will be found the memorials of Grant—the saddle, sword, field glasses and other objects used by him during his military career. They include his commissions in the army, from lieutenant by brevet during the Mexican War, up through the several grades to general, and his certificate of President of the United States.

In the great cases will be found his handsomely mounted swords, gifts from monarchs and people of other lands, and the big gold medal with which he was honored by Congress for his services during the civil war. Many other gifts received by Grant during his tour of the world will be more interesting when properly displayed in this new museum.

An instructive historic treasure will be the Copp collection of household objects and wearing apparel, illustrating the home life of the New England colonists from 1635 to the period of the Revolution. The historic objects gathered under the auspices of the Societies of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Colonial Dames will be exhibited in this hall.

The Section of Transportation will be devoted to specimens collected by Dr. J. E. Watkins, illustrating the early history of steamboat and of railway transportation, including portions of the locomotive Stourbridge Lion, the first locomotive built for traffic on the Western Continent; also the original telegraph apparatus used by Henry



FRONT ENTRANCE TO THE PRESENT NATIONAL MUSEUM

development of electrical illumination, with specimens of the early lamps used by Edison and other inventors.

Biological Specimens.

The department of biology will be greatly enlarged. All of the type specimens of the species of mammals described by Baird in his work on North American mammals, as well as the interesting collections that have been made in recent years by Dr. E. A. Mearns, while serving as naturalist to the Mexican Boundary Commission, will be in this museum. The collections are not only rich in specimens of American mammals but also in those of other countries, for the remarkable animals collected by Dr.

W. L. Abbott in remote parts of Asia and Africa have been generously presented to the museum by that traveller.

Concerning the bird collection, Mr. Robert Ridgway, its curator, perhaps the foremost ornithologist in the United States, says that no collection of birds in the world compares with that of the United States National Museum in value or importance as a basis for scientific investigation already accomplished or yet to be done, since as many species as possible, with the facilities at hand, are represented by large series of specimens from all parts of their geographical range and of all variations dependent upon climate, sex, age or other circumstances.

The collection of birds' nests will be made an interesting feature of the new museum. It is very large, including many rarities, among which may be mentioned a single egg of the great auk, as well as the fossil egg of the epiorhis, the only specimen known to exist in the Western continent. Equally valuable is the collection of reptiles and batrachians, for, as the depository of the types of the species described by Baird, Girard, Kennicott, Cope and other distinguished herpetologists, it also will take first rank.

In the Fish World

As extensive as the collection of fresh water and littoral fishes of the United States is to-day, the department in the new building will accommodate them with more space and freedom. The collection of Alaskan fishes will be very large. It is not duplicated elsewhere. The collection of fishes from the Pacific, especially Japanese waters, made under the direction of President Jordan, of the Leland Stanford Junior University, will have their type representatives for the most part in the new museum as in the old.

The collection of mollusks will have the best series in the world, supplied with the fullest data of the land, fresh water, shore and deep sea mollusca of North America, the Arctic regions, the North Atlantic and Pacific, and the British Islands. In the total number of specimens, the collection is the largest in the world, including more than six hundred thousand specimens of dry shells and five thousand jars of alcoholic molluscan material.

The division of insects will form no small part of the new museum. It is under the direction to-day of Dr. L. O. Howard, an authority on economic entomology.

The department of geology will contain the fullest collections typical of the different formations, as well as series—more than three thousand in number—of building and ornamental stones collected by the tenth census. Also the series of iron ores—more

than two thousand hand specimens—also collected by that census. In the division of minerals will be the valuable Isaac Lea collection of gems and the Ledy collection of American minerals, as well as a full suite of American minerals. Also the meteoric collection of Charles U. Shepard, which, with additions, will constitute a collection in which 336 distinct falls are represented.

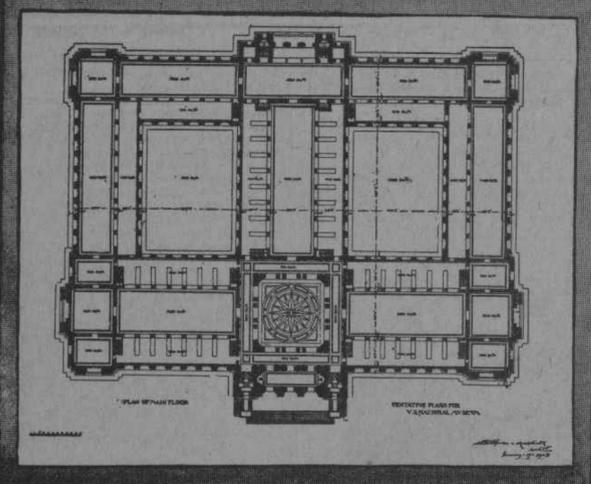
The collections in paleontology are very numerous and include the rare vertebrate fossils collected by Marsh and Cope.

As to the many other activities, such as the relation of the museum to the various exhibitions that have been held both in this country and abroad, there is unfortunately no space left in which to discuss such questions; nor yet can we consider, as would be interesting, the extensive correspondence that is carried on by the museum, for to its different officers are referred questions of all sorts from every part of the country, amounting during the course of a year to nearly ten thousand letters.

In this brief and necessarily sketchy account, however, enough has been shown to establish the fact that the museum does contain valuable collections, of which the nation should be justly proud. And it was therefore with much satisfaction that the scientific world has recognized the beneficent action taken by Congress in providing the means for the construction of a suitable building.



HALL OF AMERICAN HISTORY, PRESENT MUSEUM



GROUND PLAN OF MAIN FLOOR OF NEW U.S. NATIONAL MUSEUM BUILDING, TO BE BUILT AT ONCE.

cific Ocean in North America and in the Pueblo region of the Southwestern United States are to-day the most expensive ever assembled.

and Morse, as well as many specimens illustrating the building of the Atlantic cable, presented by the family of Cyrus W. Field. Included will be the series showing the de-

than two thousand hand specimens—also collected by that census. In the division of minerals will be the valuable Isaac Lea col-

world, and will be as well a most acceptable addition to the architecture of the newer and beautiful Washington.

First Duty of Military Attache Assigned to Duty Abroad Is to Marry a Rich Wife.

He Must Live Like a Traditional Lord and He Cannot Contract Debts.

“YOU will probably go broke, but if that happens the War Department will send you money enough to fetch you and your family home again.”

It was a high War Department official who made this remark only the other day, in conversation with a young army officer, who was on the point of going abroad as military attaché at a foreign capital.

It has come to be recognized in the military service of this country that certain assignments of duty which are easiest and most agreeable are held for wealthy officers exclusively. The poor man has no chance whatever to get them—not because of any prejudice on the part of the authorities, but for the reason that nobody who has not plenty of money can afford to accept an appointment of the kind.

These are the places of military attachés at Paris, Berlin and other European capitals. They are filled always by officers who have means of their own, by the help of which they are able to meet the obligations and perform the duties of a position practically impossible for a poor man. Representing, as they do, in a quasi-diplomatic sense, the war power of the United States, and obliged as they are to mix on intimate terms with great people, both socially and officially, they are required to spend money freely. Congress gives them nothing in the way of special allowance, and, aside from their regular pay, they must depend upon their own resources for making ends meet.



CAPT. ANDREW V. BREWSTER, MILITARY ATTACHE AT PEKING, CHINA.



CAPT. EDWARD D. CASSAT, MILITARY ATTACHE AT LONDON.



CAPT. WM. S. DIDDLE, MILITARY ATTACHE AT BERLIN.



CAPT. T. D. MOTT, MILITARY ATTACHE AT PARIS.

Posts Are Generally Held for Those Who Can Afford the Luxury.

Tokio, Peking, Havana, Caracas. Their business is to pick up all obtainable information of war matters, especially the latest ideas and improvements in guns, fortifications, equipments, means of transportation, supplies and strategic methods.

The notion that they act as spies in any sense is wholly erroneous. They are, strictly speaking, the guests of the sovereign of the country in which they are located, and it is taken for granted that they will not violate the ordinary rules of hospitality. They are not on the lookout to discover secrets, but are acquiring such hints in the art of war as are to be obtained openly by observation and with the approval of the government to which they are accredited.

Up to the present time the nations of Europe have looked upon the United States as practically a neutral Power, and on this account have been comparatively unreserved in giving information to us. It may be that in the future they will be less communicative, now that Uncle Sam has stepped into the arena of the world's politics. At almost no cost we have had the benefit of the knowledge gained through enormously expensive experiments made by others. We have gone, in other words, to a free school for war, and many of our most valuable lesson books have been written by our military attachés at Berlin, Paris and elsewhere.

comparative leisure and freedom from the ordinary irksome routine of a soldier's duty. The military attaché is a high flyer of fashion. He is frequently the guest of the sovereign, is entertained at court and is regarded as a personage of consequence. From a social point of view the opportunity he enjoys, together with his family, if he has any, is enviable. He is invited everywhere and is necessarily obliged to give frequent entertainments, particularly dinners. It is out of the question for him to live cheaply. He must rent a handsome house, or, if he prefers to put up at a hotel, must occupy an expensive suite of rooms.

He is obliged, in addition, to have an office, with a reception room attached, the latter being required by European etiquette. There must be a clerk to look after the office and attend to the routine business and his pay must likewise come out of the pocket of the attaché. A good deal of translating has to be done, and for this also the attaché must pay.

In short, he is obliged to live like a lord and is not permitted to run in debt. If he goes to the theatre he occupies a box. When he travels it must be as a person of distinction. He has to do a good deal of travelling in order to visit the arsenals, gun factories and other places where useful information is to be obtained. Necessarily he stops always at the best and most expensive hotels, and during the annual manoeuvres, which are conducted on an enormous scale, in imitation of real war, he must assume all the importance of a general in the field, with servants, orderlies and horses to accompany

him. On these occasions he is the guest of the sovereign, messes with the officers of the staff and places himself under obligations which can be liquidated only by liberal expenditure in one way or another.

Thus it comes about that the War Department, out of necessity merely, has adopted the policy of conferring these very attractive and desirable positions upon officers who have fortunes to back them. It is an understood thing that they are practically to pay their own expenses and to give Uncle Sam the benefit in the shape of information useful for war purposes. As a rule, it is the wives of our attachés abroad who furnish the money. Indeed, it may be said that the first important step toward becoming a military attaché is to marry a rich woman. The officer who marries money, as the phrase is, can bring to bear in Washington social influences which are likely to obtain for him the much prized assignment. At all events, that is

The General's Nose.

LIKE Cyrano de Bergerac, General B— of the regular army, was possessed of a nose which excited curiosity, if not comment, wherever he appeared. At one of the hops given at the post the dancers wore fancy dress and masks. The General's partner chanced to be a vivacious young thing who had never met him before. Nor was she any the wiser as to his identity when, following the custom at mask balls, he removed the covering from his face. His partner followed suit and her prattle ceased for a while. Then she remarked, reproachfully, "Oh, but it isn't fair. You haven't taken off your nose!"