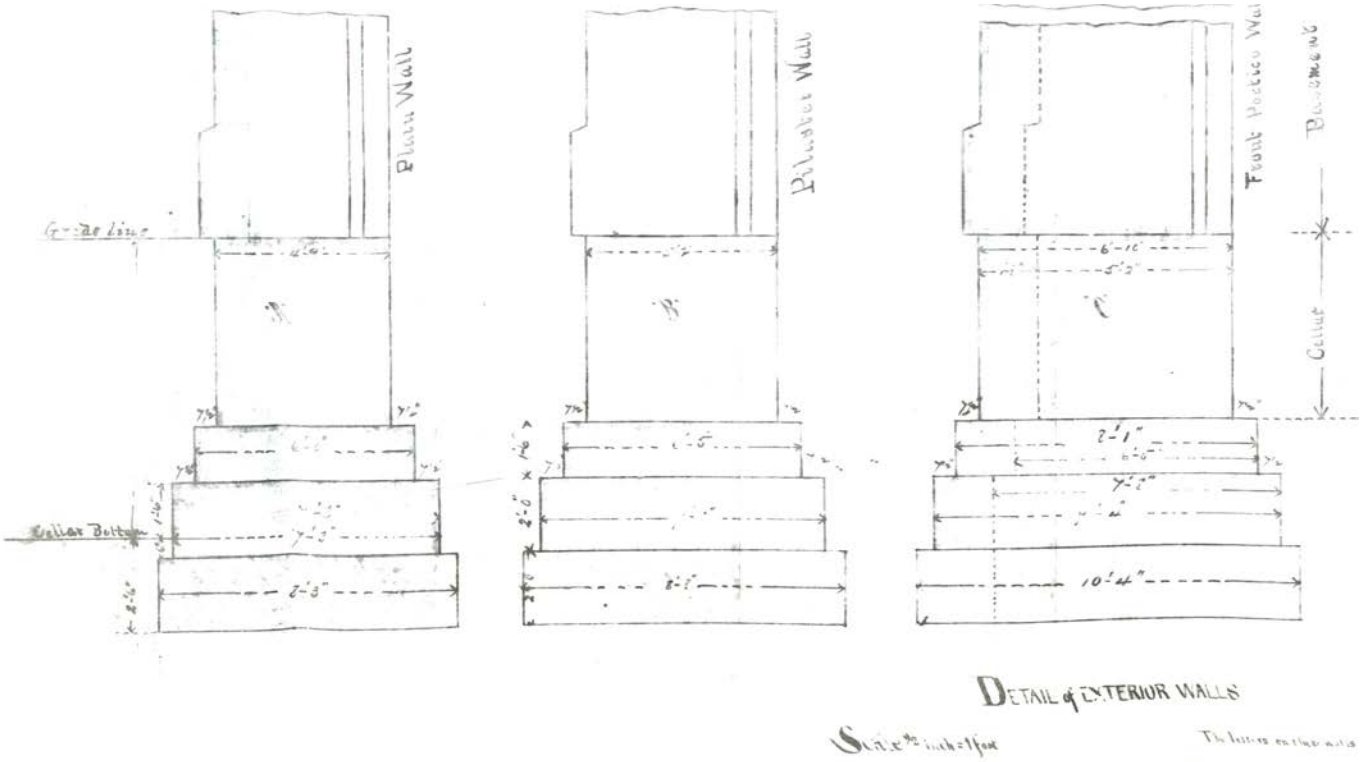
Constructing

the

Iowa State Capitol

Part One: Foundation

Part Two: Completing Construction



Wilson Alexander Scott

1818 - 1859

In 1854, the 5th General Assembly decreed a location “within two miles of the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines River.” The exact spot was chosen when Wilson Alexander Scott gave the state nine and one-half acres where the Capitol now stands.

Constructing
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Iowa State Capitol

Part One: Foundation

Contents

PART ONE: FOUNDATION

PREFACE 1

CHAPTER ONE: Beginnings 3

CHAPTER TWO: Acts and Resolutions..... 9

CHAPTER THREE: Newspapers.....17

CHAPTER FOUR: Proceedings at the Laying of the Cornerstone 35

PART TWO: COMPLETING CONSTRUCTION

CHAPTER FIVE: Foundation..... 63

CHAPTER SIX: Biennial Report of the Capitol Commissioners 81

CHAPTER SEVEN: John A. Kasson Report 139

PREFACE

IOWA TERRITORY

Iowa was a part of the Louisiana Territory, renamed the Missouri Territory in 1812. Iowa was subsequently a part of the Michigan Territory and the Wisconsin Territory. In 1838, the Iowa Territory was formed, made up of the area that would become the state of Iowa, most of Minnesota, and portions of North and South Dakota.

In 1836, this building served as the first meeting place of the Legislature of the Wisconsin Territory, a region that included the future state of Iowa. Belmont, Wisconsin.

FOUR CAPITAL CITIES AND SEVEN CAPITOLS

Belmont, Wisconsin, was the first capital of the Wisconsin Territory. Major Jerry Smith, a member of the Wisconsin Territorial Legislature representing DesMoines County, offered to build a "suitable" building for the Legislature to meet if they agreed to move the territorial capital to Burlington.

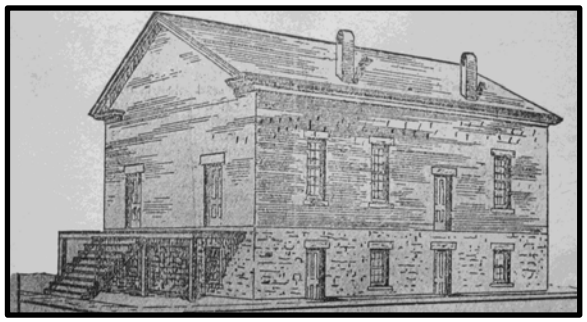
Artist sketch of the building (Burlington, Iowa), built by Jeremiah Smith to house the Legislature in 1837. When this building burned down, the Legislature was moved to Zion Methodist Church.

In 1837, Major Smith built a two-story frame building, 40x70 feet. The House of Representatives occupied one floor, and the Council occupied the other.

The building was described as having an inside staircase with a railing separating the "chambers" from the lobby.

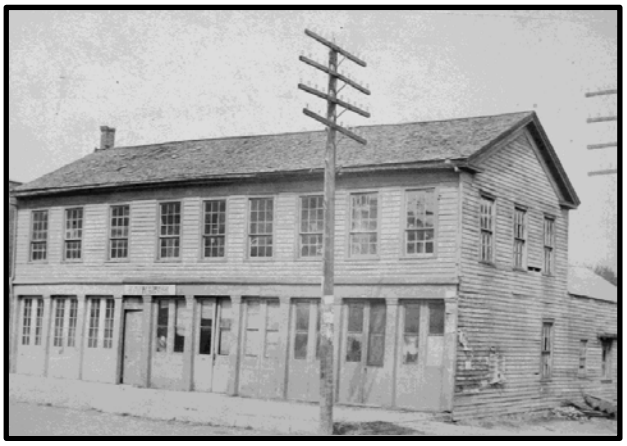
Major Smith's structure burned down on December 12, 1837.

Temporary quarters for the Legislature were in the Zion Church in Burlington The 26 members of the House occupied the first floor and the 13 members of the Council occupied the basement. The Council moved out of the basement for the next legislative session and used space in the Catholic Church. This move was necessitated because of the damp conditions in the basement of the Old Zion Church.



Artist sketch of the Old Zion Methodist Church (Burlington, Iowa), where the Legislature of the Iowa Territory began meeting in 1838.

A joint resolution was passed in the first session of the Iowa Territorial Legislature to locate a permanent seat of government. The town of Iowa City was created, surveyed, and laid out as the permanent territorial capital of Iowa. Work began on the stone Capitol but did not conclude quickly. The Territorial Legislature was anxious to move to Iowa City. An Act was passed in 1841, officially moving the seat of government if a building was furnished without cost to the Territory. Walter Butler provided just such a building. It was a two-story frame building, about 30x60 feet. The Legislature used this structure for one year before moving into an unfinished stone Capitol.



Following an 1841 proclamation that moved the territorial capital from Burlington to Iowa City, this building—the old Butler Hotel—was used as temporary headquarters of the Iowa Territorial Legislature while a new Capitol was constructed.
Iowa City, Iowa.

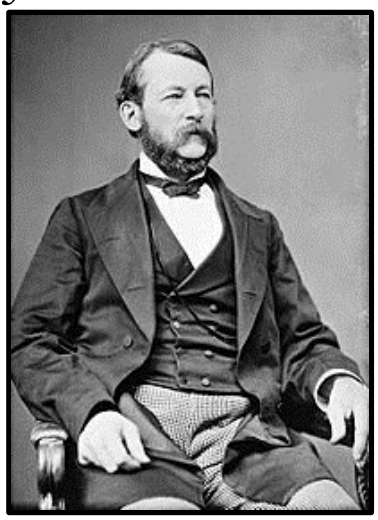
Iowa's first Capitol building. The "Old Capitol" was the center of government during the last sessions of the Iowa Territorial Legislature and through the early years of statehood, 1846-1857.
Iowa City, Iowa.

The Territorial Legislature continued to meet in the stone Capitol, and this structure remained the Capitol for more than a decade after Iowa became a state. From 1846 to 1857, Iowa City remained the seat of government for the state of Iowa. In 1857, as populations moved west, so did Iowa's capital. In 1858, the Legislature moved into another temporary structure in the new capital of Iowa—Des Moines. The brick Capitol repeated the process for a third time. It was built by citizens and given to the state as a means of locating the seat of government long before a permanent structure could be provided.

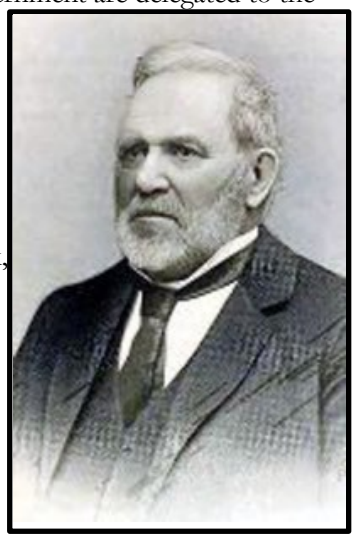
After the center of state government moved from Iowa City to Des Moines in 1857, this building was used as the state Capitol building from 1858-1884.

CHAPTER ONE
Beginnings

John A. Kasson, an Iowa political leader who served in Congress, an Assistant United States Post Master General, and a foreign diplomat—along with Robert S. Finkbine, overcame determined resistance and tremendous obstacles in the fight for a new Iowa Statehouse. Because of the federal nature of the United States Constitution, powers not enumerated in that document for the national government are delegated to the individual states. For that reason, some believe state legislatures and the capitols in which they convene operate in a vacuum where the laws enacted affect only the citizens of each state. Not so! For example, on April 13,1870, two legislatures, 1,100 miles apart, enacted laws that affected scores of people in the present and far into the future. On that day, in Albany, New York, the State Assembly approved an Act that incorporated the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The State of New York enjoyed growth and prominence, and its influence was being felt both nationwide and worldwide. That very same day, in the frontier state of Iowa, the Legislature in joint convention in Des Moines, approved an Act for the construction of a new Capitol. Both enactments in both states would have far-reaching effects for more than just their own citizens.



John A. Kasson



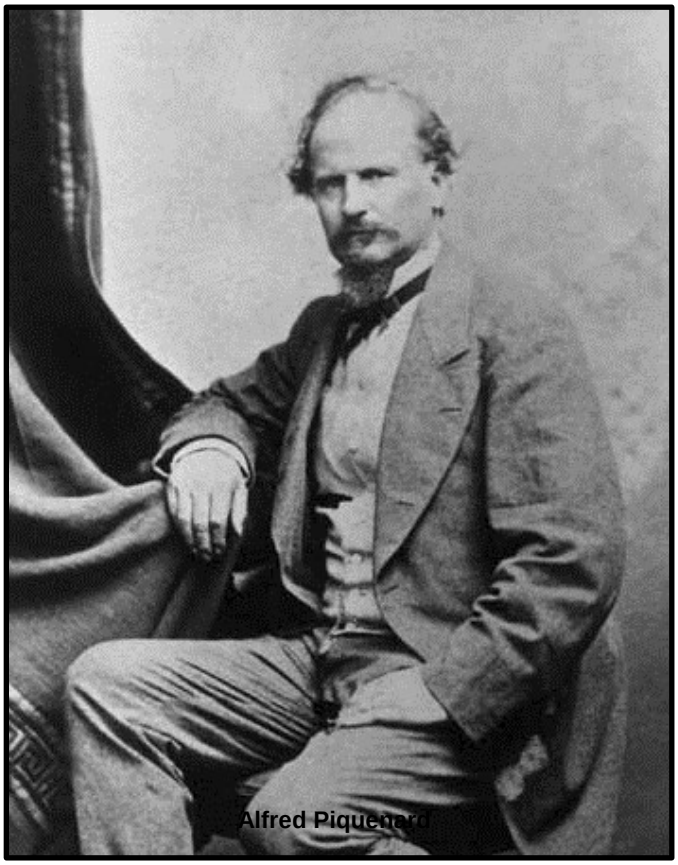
Robert S. Finkbine

Today the Metropolitan Museum of Art is one of the world's great storehouses of art and attracts millions of visitors each year. Likewise, the Iowa Capitol yearly attracts thousands of visitors from all over the world who marvel at the architecture and the art therein. Those 1870 enactments had repercussions that affect us still today.

Iowa Governor Samuel Merrill oversaw a commission of eight members chosen in joint convention by the Legislature. With the advice of a competent architect, the commission was to select a building plan from those submitted or a combination of those plans. The commissioners received $5 per day plus travel expenses.

According to the Capitol Commission minutes, "The building was to be constructed of the best material, made fireproof, warmed and ventilated in the most approved manner. It must provide suitable legislative halls, rooms for purposes of the State Government. It must be erected on the ground held for that purpose, and its cost limited to one million, five hundred thousand dollars."

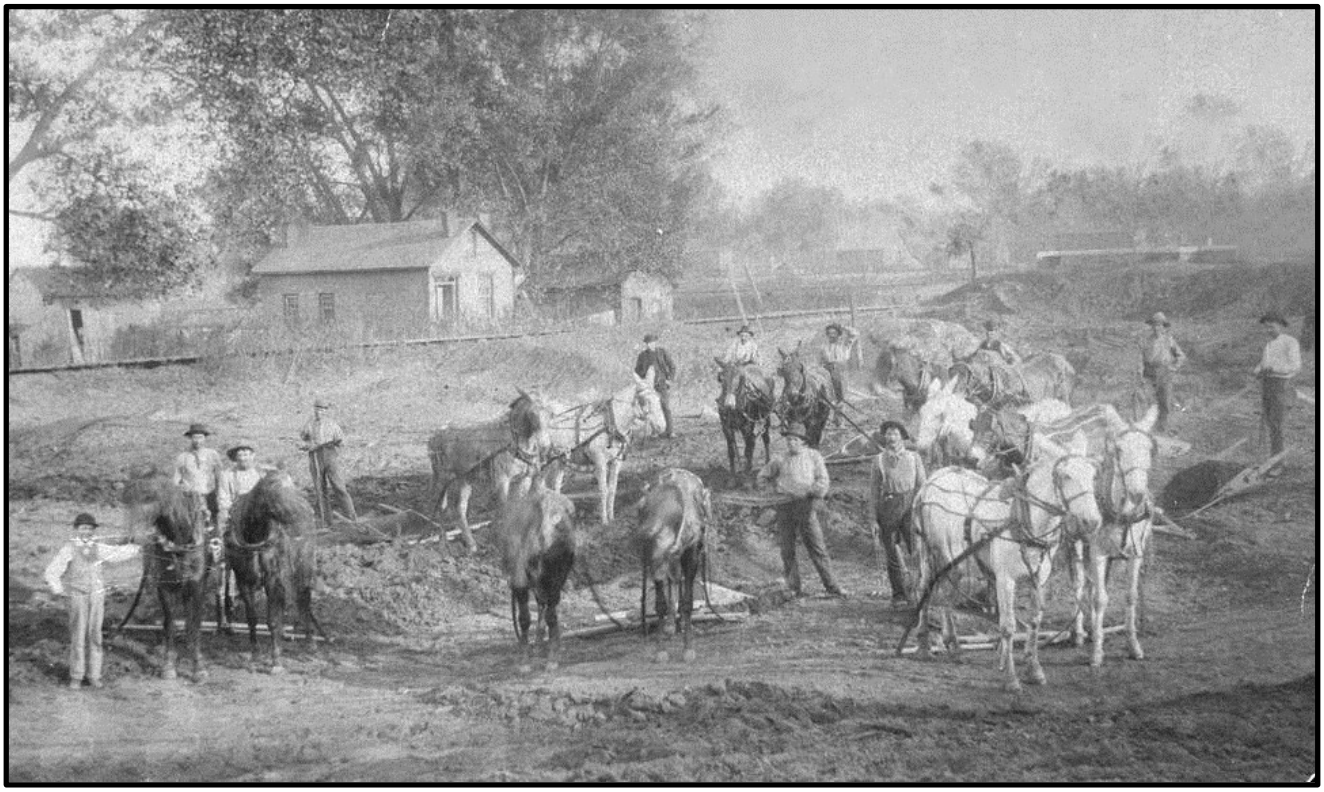
Plans submitted for the new building came from Edward Clark (resident architect of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C.), William W. Boyington (architect of Terrace Hill, Iowa's Governor's Mansion), William Foster, J. C. Farrand, E. Jennison, and Alfred Piquenard. In its initial vote, the Capitol Commission chose Mr. Clark to be the architect. Upon reflection of his other duties, Mr. Clark declined the invitation and instead became a consultant for the commissioners.



After numerous informal ballots, Mr. Piquenard finally led with four votes while the remaining four votes split among the other applicants. On October 6, 1870, Mr. Piquenard was elected architect of the new Iowa Capitol, garnering six of the nine votes cast. He was to be paid $3,600 per year. Mr. Piquenard was also the architect for the new Capitol that was to be built in Springfield, Illinois.

On the seventeenth ballot, with a 4-2 vote, the commissioners appointed Mr. James Appleyard of Detroit, Michigan, as Superintendent. The other candidate was Mr. Finkbine. Mr. Appleyard accepted the job on July 21, 1871. By December 1871, it was clear Mr. Appleyard could not remain as Superintendent because of his conflicting commitments in Michigan. In January 1872, Mr. Finkbine was appointed to succeed him and was formally elected to the post in 1873.

After much disagreement over the choice of a quarry, and much public criticism, the commissioners adopted a limestone found in a hill west of Des Moines. This they did without investigation as to its extent or any test of its



Workers begin the excavation of the basement, 1871.

durability. That quarry failed to furnish stone of suitable dimensions, and the commissioners decided upon stone from Rock Creek in Van Buren County.

Work began and was pushed rapidly during the summer and fall of 1871, and on November 23, 1871, the cornerstone was laid with appropriate ceremony. The cornerstone included the names of the commissioners and the architects carved on the western face, and on the south, "A.D. 1871." A prairie boulder seven feet long, three feet wide, and three feet thick, the cornerstone contained 40 articles. Among them: a United States flag; a copy of the Declaration of Independence; a copy of the Holy Bible; $40.50 worth of gold, silver, copper, and nickel coins; a record of the premiums awarded at the eighteenth Iowa State Fair; a pamphlet discussing the merits of Iowa building stone; the autographs of state officials; a book titled, *Laws and Instructions Relating to the Duties of County Surveyor*; astronomical calculations for 1871 and 1872; a map showing the extent of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871; a membership list of the Monroe Coronet Band; a pamphlet titled, "Iowa, the Home for Immigrants," in English, German, Holland, Danish, and Swedish languages; Washington's Farewell Address; a copy of the joint resolution to amend the U.S. Constitution to abolish slavery; Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation; lists of Iowa officers and soldiers who served in the war to the suppression of the rebellion: Governor Merrill's Thanksgiving Proclamation of 1871: and a map of Polk County.

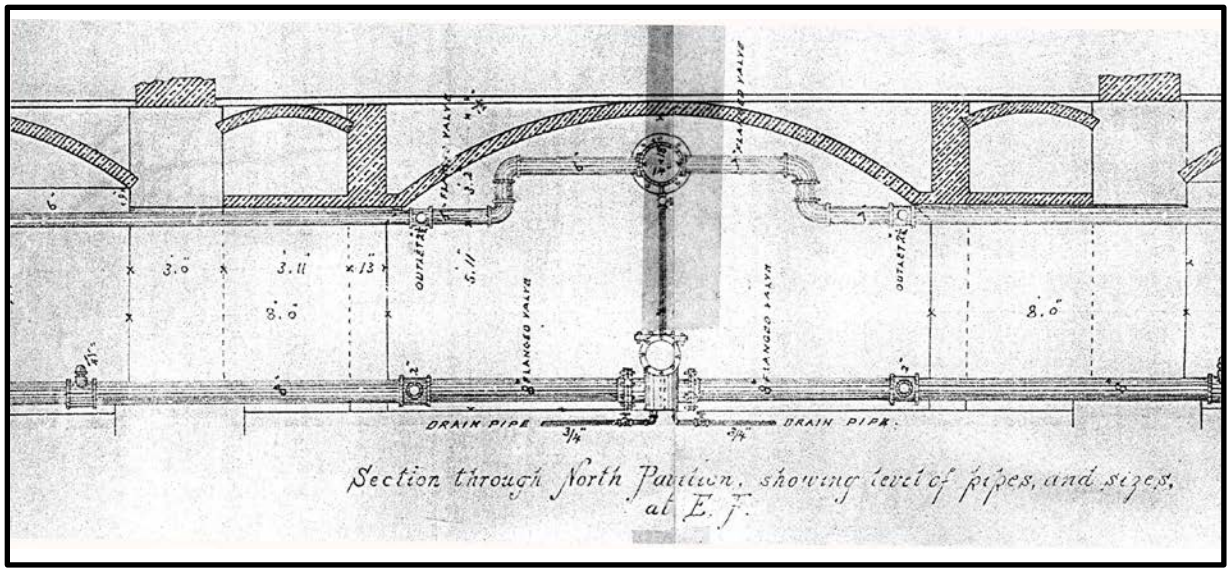
Workers continue to dig the basement and place stone walls.

At the time of the laying of the cornerstone, three-fifths of the cellar was complete. The stone had been quarried late in the fall and put in the wall full of moisture (quarry sap). The severely cold winter weather soon cracked much of the stone.

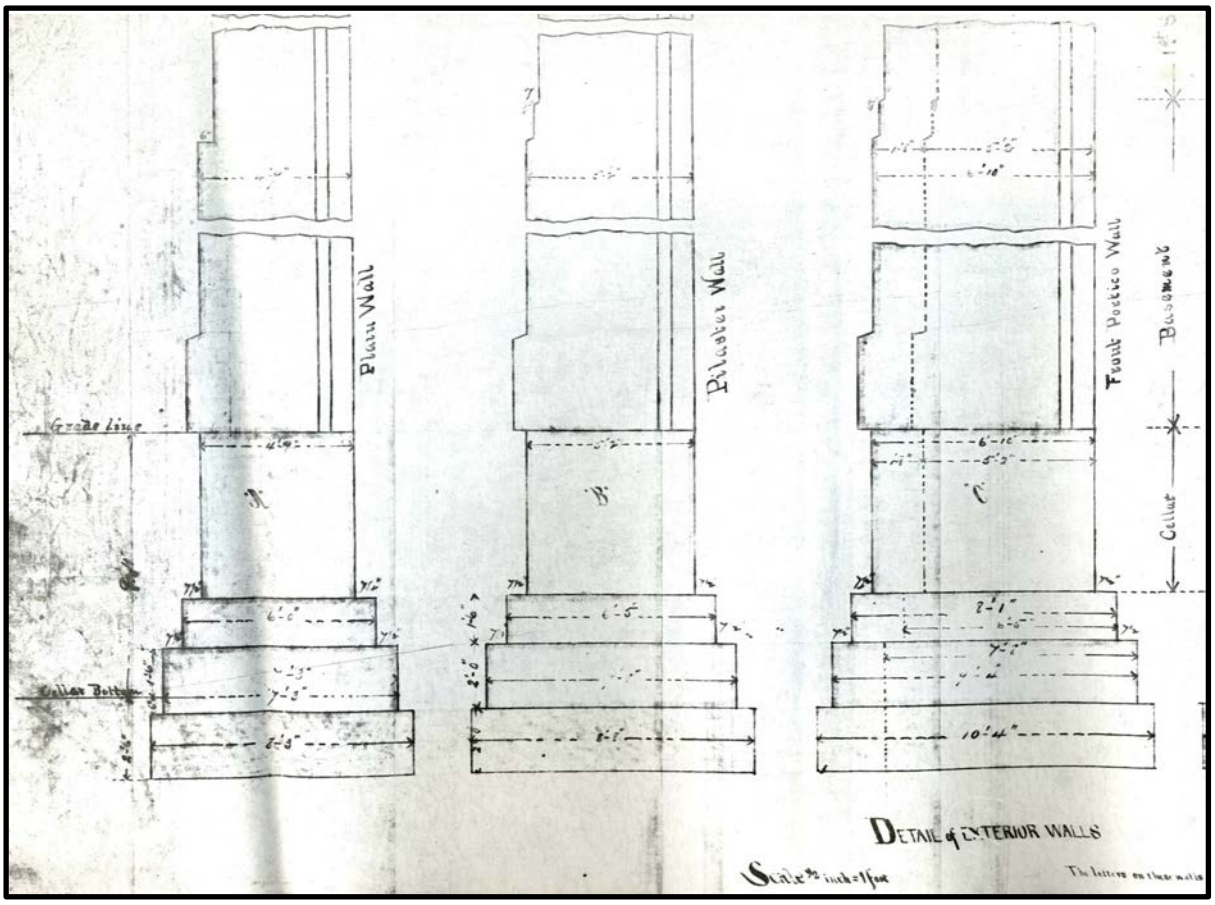
An investigation ensued. The commissioners closing report recommended that "the next Commission be limited to three members with each political party represented, and that they should be appointed for the time occupied in building the Capitol. They should be paid a salary that would justify them in giving full-time to the discharge of their duties during continuance of the work."

In 1872, a four-man commission representing each political party, with the Governor as an ex officio member, was selected, and the term of office extended to the completion of the building. Each commissioner's salary was $5 a day not to exceed $300 a month. They were given an annual appropriation of $125,000 for the new building. After careful consideration, it was decided that the entire walls above the concrete foundation must come out. The cost to the state was over $52,000. As Mr. Finkbine said, "The cost would soon be forgotten, but a defective foundation would ever remain a source of regret and would prove to be unsafe for a foundation of a massive structure designed to endure a thousand years."

In 1873, the General Assembly directed all inscriptions of names, dates, and figures erased from the cornerstone and only "IOWA" and "1873" to be inscribed. The cornerstone was relaid on September 29, 1873. The box containing documents, together with an additional box containing a copy of the report of the joint committee of the Fourteenth General Assembly appointed to examine the material used, the work done on the foundations of the new Capitol, and a copy of the Acts and resolutions of the Fourteenth General Assembly were placed in position before resetting the new cornerstone.



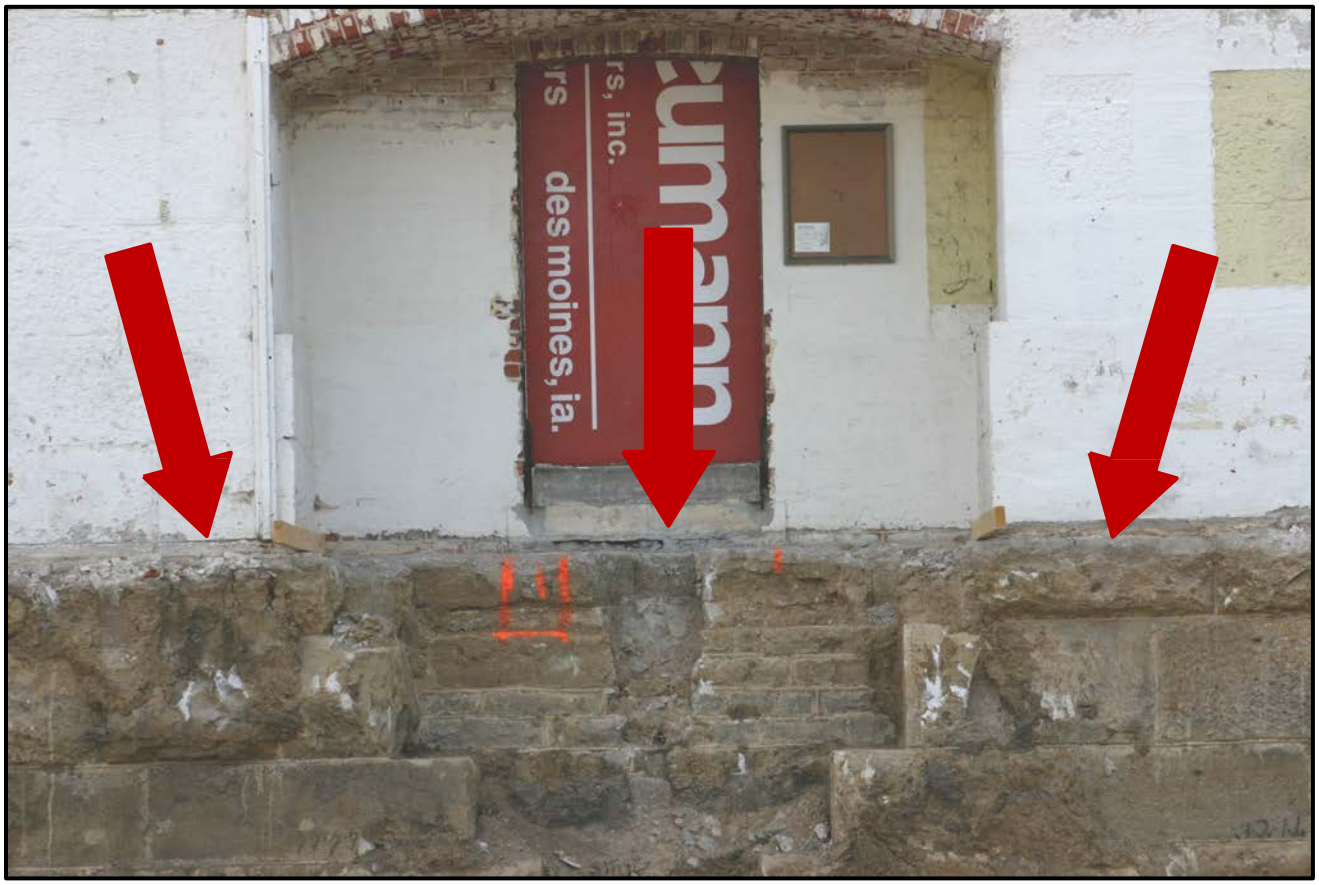
Section through the North Pavilion, detailing pipe levels and sizes



Exterior walls and dimensions in basement

The east side of the Capitol looking north during renovation in 2008. The foundation stone is clearly visible after removing the east steps.

The east side of the Capitol after steps were removed clearly shows the foundation stone.



A close-up picture of the east side of the Capitol after steps were removed clearly show the foundation stone.

CHAPTER TWO

Acts and Resolutions

ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

PASSED AT THE

REGULAR SESSION

OF THE

THIRTEENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

OF THE

STATE OF IOWA,

BEGUN JANUARY 10, AND ENDED APRIL 13, 1870.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

DES MOINES:
F. M. MILLS, STATE PRINTER.
1870.

CHAPTER 110.

NEW CAPITOL BUILDING.

AN ACT to Provide a State Capitol. APRIL 13.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That there is hereby established a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Governor, who shall be *ex-officio* president of the Board, and six other commissioners who shall be chosen by the Senate and House of Representatives in joint convention, and whose terms of office shall continue for two years from the date of their election and until their successors shall be elected and qualified, unless sooner removed from office as hereinafter provided; which Board shall be charged with the execution of the provisions of this act, and each member of which, excepting the Governor, shall give bonds to the State in the sum of fifty thousand dollars for the honest and faithful performance of his duties as such commissioner; and the majority of said Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and said bonds shall be deposited with, and kept by, the Secretary of State. Each commissioner shall also keep and sign the oath prescribed by section 2180 of the Revision of 1860, which shall be filed with and kept by the Auditor of State. In addition to the Commissioners provided for in this act, Gen. G. M. Dodge, of Pottawattamie county, and Hon. James F. Wilson, of Jefferson county, are hereby appointed commissioners from the State at large, who shall hold their office for the term of two years, and until their successors are elected and qualified. Their duties shall be such as are imposed upon the other Commissioners, and they shall in all respects be subject to the same requirements herein made of the other Commissioners, except in the manner of their election.

Board of commissioners established; Governor president.

How composed: election.

Duty.

Bond.

Quorum.

Bonds filed.

Oath of Office.

Rev., §2180.

Two commissioners appointed; duties and requirements.

SEC. 2. Whenever it shall appear to the Governor, and to a majority of the Census Board, that either of said Commissioners has been guilty of any malfeasance in office to the detriment of the State, it shall be the duty of the Governor to remove him from his office by written order, setting forth the reasons for such removal, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and by him notified to each member of said Board; and in case of any vacancy so created, or accruing by reason of death, removal from the State, or resignation, it shall be the duty of the Governor to nominate and appoint another Commissioner in his place, who shall hold his office until the election of his successor in the manner herein provided,

Removal of Commissioners for malfeasance.

Vacancy provided for.

and the Commissioners authorized by this act, except the Governor, shall each receive, as their only compensation, five dollars per day while employed in the discharge of their duties, and their actual traveling expenses.

Compensation of Commissioners.

SEC. 3. That said Board shall, with the assistance of a competent and impartial superintendent, whoshall be an architect to be employed by them, who shall be a resident of this State, if a suitable person can be obtained, select and determine upon one of the plans for a capitol selected by the Census Board, pursuant to the act passed by the last General Assembly, approved April 6th, 1868, or upon some modification thereof, the cost of which shall not exceed the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars, and shall then proceed with the work in the manner herein provided, and subject to the limitations following, namely:—

Qualifications of superintendent.

Board to select plan; maximum cost.

First—No contract shall be made, the amount of which shall bind the State beyond the sums at the time appropriated by law for such object.

No contract beyond appropriation.

Second—All contracts for material and labor shall be in writing, and shall be signed by the contractor and by the President of the Board; and no contract to an amount exceeding one thousand dollars shall be made without prior advertisement for thirty days in at least four daily papers in this State, setting forth the materials and labor wanted, and the time at which bids will be received and opened and all contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, and all bills shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, together with such bonds as the Commissioners may require for the due performance of the same.

Formalities to be observed in making contracts.

Third—In all cases where there are bidders and materials from this State, the preference shall be given, the quality and terms being equally favorable, to the bidders and materials within this State.

Preference to this State.

Fourth—The Board shall keep a full and complete record of all their orders, contracts, and doings in the premises, and shall have full power to appoint and discharge at their discretion, a superintendent, whose duty it shall be to superintend the work on said building, which said superintendent shall receive, as his only compensation, such sum as said Board may fix. Said Board may appoint from their own number an executive committee of three, and may delegate to them authority to do such things as the Board, at its regular sessions, may direct.

Record.

Appointment, duty, and compensation of the superintendent.

Executive committee.

Fifth—All meetings of the Board shall be at Des Moines, and shall be held as often as once in three months, and more frequently if the same be found necessary, and be assembled on call of the President of the Board.

Meetings.

SEC. 4. All payments shall be made by warrants issued by the Auditor upon certificate of the amount due given by the superintendent and countersigned by the President of the Board, and shall be paid in the name of the

How payments shall be made.

person to whom such payment is originally due; and no payment shall be made except for service then actually rendered or materials delivered.

SEC. 5. The building herein provided for shall be constructed of the best materials, and shall be fire-proof, shall be heated and ventilated in the most approved manner; shall contain suitable legislative halls; rooms for the judiciary; for executive offices; for the library; for the committees; for the archives and collections of the State Agricultural Society; and for all purposes of the State Government; and shall be erected on the ground held by the State for that purpose; and the work shall be prosecuted without unnecessary delay; and there is hereby appropriated for this object the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

Building, how to be constructed; and where to be erected. $150,000 appropriated.

SEC. 6. No money hereby appropriated shall be paid out until the Census Board shall certify to the Treasurer of State that the resources of the treasury without increasing the rate of taxation are sufficient to meet the proposed disbursement after other appropriations are allowed.

No money to be paid till when.

SEC. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Des Moines Bulletin and Iowa State Register, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

Taking effect.

Approved, April 13, 1870.

I hereby certify that the foregoing act was published in the *Daily Iowa State Register*, April 14, 1870, and in the *Des Moines Daily Bulletin*, April 15, 1870.

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary of State.*

For further reading on the Biennial Reports of the Capitol Commission:

First Biennial Report of the Board of Capitol Commissioners to the Governor of Iowa, January 1, 1872

Second Biennial Report of the Board of Capitol Commissioners to the Governor of Iowa, January 1, 1874

Third Biennial Report of the Board of Capitol Commissioners to the Governor of Iowa, November 30, 1875

SENATE FILE NO. 72.

A BILL

FOR AN ACT TO PROVIDE A STATE CAPITOL.

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa,* That there is hereby
2 established a board of commissioners, consisting of the Governor, who shall be *ex-officio* president of the
3 board, and six other commissioners who shall be chosen by the Senate and House of Representatives in
4 joint convention, and whose terms of office shall continue for two years from the date of their election
5 and until their successors shall be elected and qualified, unless sooner removed from office as hereinafter
6 provided; which board shall be charged with the execution of the provisions of this act, and each mem-
7 ber of which, excepting the Governor, shall give bond to the State in the sum of fifty thousand dollars
8 for the honest and faithful performance of his duties as such commissioner; and the majority of said
9 board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and said bonds shall be deposited with,
10 and kept by the Secretary of State. Each commissioner shall also keep and sign the oath prescribed by
11 section 2180 of the revision of 1860, which shall be filed with and kept by the auditor of State.

SEC. 2. Whenever it shall appear to the Governor, and to a majority of the Census Board, that either
2 of said commissioners has been guilty of any malfeasance in office to the detriment of the State, it shall
3 be the duty of the Governor to remove him from his office by written order, setting forth the reasons
4 for such removal, to be filed in the office of the Secretary of State, and by him notified to each member
5 of said board, and in case of any vacancy so created, or accruing by reason of death, removal from the
6 State, or resignation, it shall be the duty of the Governor to nominate and appoint another commissioner
7 in his place, who shall hold his office until the election of his successsor in the manner herein provided,
8 and the commissioners authorized by this act, except the Governor, shall each receive, as their only
9 compensation, five dollars per day while employed in the discharge of their duties, and their actual trav-
10 eling expenses.

SEC. 3. That said board shall, with the assistance of a competent and impartial superintendent, who
2 shall be an architect to be employed by them, select and determine upon one of the plans for a capitol
3 selected by the Census Board pursuant to the act passed by the last General Assembly, approved April
4 6, 1868, or upon some modification thereof, the cost of which shall not exceed the sum of one million
5 five hundred thousand dollars, and shall then proceed with the work in the manner herein provided, and
6 subject so the limitations following, namely:

First.—No contract shall be made, the amount of which shall bind the State beyond the sums at the time appropriated by law for such object.

Second.—All contracts for material and labor shall be in writing, and shall be signed by the contractor and by the President of the Board; and no contract to an amount exceeding one thousand dollars shall be made without prior advertisement for thirty days in at least four daily papers of this State, setting forth the materials and labor wanted, and the time at which bids will be received and opened, and all contracts shall be awarded to the lowest responsible bidder, and all bills shall be filed in the office of the Secretary of State,together with such bonds as the commissioners may require for the due performance of the same.

Third.—In all cases where there are bidders and materials from this State and from other States, the preference shall be given, the quality and terms being equally favorable, to the bidders and materials within this State.

Fourth.—The board shall keep a full and complete record of all their orders contracts and doings in the premises, and shall have full power to appoint and discharge at their discretion, a superintendent, whose duty it shall be to superintend the work on said building, which said superintendent shall receive, as his only compensation, such sum as said board may fix. Said board may appoint from their own number an executive committee of three, and may delegate to them authority to do such things as the board, at its regular sessions may direct.

Fifth.—All meetings of the board shall be at Des Moines, and shall be held as often as once in three months, and more frequently if the same be found necessary, and be assembled on call of the President of the board.

SEC. 4. All payments shall be made by warrants issued by the auditor upon certificate of amount due given by the superintendent and countersigned by the president of the board, and shall be paid in the name of the person to whom such payment is originally due; and no payment shall be made except for service then actually rendered or materials delivered.

SEC. 5. The building herein provided for shall be constructed of the best materials, and shall be fire-proof, shall be heated and ventilated in the most approved manner, shall contain suitable legislative halls, rooms for the judiciary, for executive offices, for the library, for the committees, for the archives and collections of the State agricultural society, and for all purposes of the State government; and shall be erected on the ground held by the State for that purpose, and the work shall be prosecuted without unnecessary delay; and there is hereby appropriated for this object the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars.

SEC. 6. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the Des Moines Bulletin and Iowa State Register, newspapers published at Des Moines, Iowa.

CHAPTER THREE

Newspapers

The Cedar Rapids Times.

Thursday, February 16, 1871

STONE FOR THE CAPITOL

Under the above caption there has been quite a spirited discussion going on for some time among several prominent journals of the State, concerning the quality of the Orford quarries stone recommended for the building of the State Capitol by Prof. Hinrichs, and accepted by the Commissioners. We have read these discussions carefully and are unwillingly forced to come to the conclusion that there is something the matter and that if it is not securely watched and honestly cared for, there is danger that our State Capitol, to cost a million of dollars, will be placed upon a foundation anything but suitable to it. We say we fear danger in this matter, and for these reasons: In the first place the stone from the Orford quarries, recommended by Prof. Hinricks as the best in the State for building purposes, and on his recommendation accepted by the commissioners, is thus spoken of by Prof. White: "In Tama County the oolitic member is well exposed at several places where it is quarried and used for the manufacture of lime of excellent quality. It has been proposed to manufacture this oolitic stone into table-tops &c., but tho' it may be made to receive a fair polish, and its oolitic structure gives it considerable beauty, it is feared the well-known tendency of all oolitic limestone to become fragmentary, will be found to render it worthless for such purposes. However, that near Orford, or Indiantown promises to prove more valuable for such uses." It will thus be seen that Prof White testifies that the tendency of this stone, as a class, to become fragmentary, unfits it for even being used for table tops &c, and only admits the possibility of this special quarry, the Orford, proving useful even, for such purposes.

In speaking further of this oolitic lime stone, as shown in the quarries near Burlington the Prof. says: "Upon exposure to the atmosphere and frost, it sooner or later crumbles to pieces, and must be replaced by more durable stone." The above extracts are from Prof. White's forth-coming report of the Geology of Iowa, were made by him as State Geologist, and have not been given nor prepared by him with any reference to the stone for the capitol. This being the case, we think it but due to the interest of the people of Iowa that the Capitol Commissioners have some defference to his opinion in this matter. But we have still further scientific testimony in regard to this stone. Prof. A. H. Worthen, assistant to Prof. Hall when State Geologist, in speaking of this kind of stone says: "It is not reliable building material, as it yields readily to the action of frost, and consequently should not be used where durability is required."

This is scientific testimony, given by scientific men employed by the State for this purpose, and as such, is most certainly worthy of consideration. But in addition to this, we ifnd other important testimony,

which we may term semi-scientific. It is that of Prof. L. F. Parker, of the State University, recently of Iowa College at Grinnell. When at Grinnell the Prof. built a house, and obtained the foundation for it from the Orford quarry, giving orders when he went for the stone to give him the best, as he wanted it for a foundation. This was only five years ago, and now, concerning his foundation he says: "By the action of the frost the whole outer surface has scaled off and fallen to the ground, so that no mark of a cutting tool can be found, and at the foot of the wall is a line of debris which has fallen from the surface of the stone," and adds that if any one were to offer him a foundation of that stone free of charge, he would not accept it. He would consider a brick wall far better." Col. Dewey says, Prof Parker says that his stone was not taken out of the quarry in question. It may be true he did not get it out of the identical hole to which the contract has been awarded, but he did obtain it from Orford, and from the same vein as the one in question.

In addition to this, we are credibly informed by men of undoubted veracity, that in several instances where this stone has been used for foundations it had to be removed in a sort time and replaced by something more durable. Since this matter has come before the public, we have ourselves examined specimens of this oolitic limestone from the immediate vicinity of the quarry favored with the contract, and it is identical with it, as all the oolitic formations in Tama and Marshall counties can be shown by undoubted authority to be.

While we make no claims to science in geology, we do claim that when we see stone crumble as this does after an exposure of less than two years, we cannot avoid the conviction that it is not suitable for building purposes. The Orford stone when first taken out is, to all appearances, hard and durable, but we have seen it so much disintegrated by exposure, that you could pick off the surface with your nails, and pulverize it between your fingers. We have no desire to impeach Prof. Hinrich's testimony in this matter, nor to call in question the good intentions of the Commissioners, as, for ought we know, this stone may have stood the scientific tests applied by the Professor, and, acting up on his scientific decision the Commissioners may have accepted it, but from the foregoing adverse testimony, together with the practical experience with this stone, of men of unquestionable judgement, as also what we have seen ourself, we are inclined to the opinion that there may be some mistake in the matter, and that now is the time to investigate it thoroughly. We have no "axe to grind," in this quest of "stone for the Capitol," nor have we any stone quarry ourself, nor in our locality which we desire to see immortalized by being placed in the Capitol of the State, but we have an interest in the expenditure of the public funds, and do not desire to see a Capitol building costing the people of Iowa a million of dollars placed upon an insecure foundation. We have good stone in Iowa for building purposes, as the stone in the old Capitol at Iowa City, which has stood for more than 25 years fully demonstrates. This stone Prof. Hinrich condemns by classing it with a worthless stone, thus

giving us additional reason for fearing that he has made a mistake. If he has made this mistake, no amount of promiscuous testimony and isolated affidavits will be able to sustain him against the experience and observation of thousands of citizens for more than a quarter of a century. Be this as it may, this is a matter of too great importance to the people of Iowa to be passed over without further investigation by those whose business it is to see that justice is done, and if the Committee are the honest and upright men we take them to be, and worthy of the confidence reposed in them by the people of the State, they will see to it that a full, fair and impartial investigation is had. The differences of opinion on this Orford stone question seems to be between Science on one side, in the opinion of Prof. Hinrich in favor of it, and Science and Experience on the other side, in the opinions of Professors White and Worthen, the experience of Prof. Parker and others. If the Commissioners desire further testimony on this matter, we can furnish them with the names of good reliable men who have lived in the vicinity of the Orford quarries from the earliest settlement of the country—men who are well and prominently known throughout the State, who will give their testimony against them. Evidence need not be wanting when desired. Governor Merrill, as one of the Commissioners, and Chief Executive of the State, cannot afford to permit himself to be a party to quietly passing this matter over. Let the investigation be made, the complaints against this stone listened to, its quality fully and satisfactorily determined: then if it proves to be what is claimed for it, use it and the people will be satisfied; if it does not, reject it. Nothing less than this will satisfy the people, and nothing should.

The Cedar Rapids Times.

Thursday, March 16, 1871

THAT CAPITOL STONE BUSINESS.

Our readers who feel but little interest in our public affairs, at least so far as the building of a new State House is concerned, may think we are giving this Capitol Stone question more attention than it is deserving of. But the facts in the case are, that so far as the expenditure of the public funds is concerned this State House matter is one of the most important now before the people of Iowa. Its construction will involve the expenditure of a great many tens of thousands of dollars, perhaps run up into the millions before it is completed, therefore the question of the kind of foundation up on which such a costly public edifice is placed is a very important one. As we have before stated, the contract for the stone for the foundation was awarded to the Orford quarries, this stone being selected by Prof. Hinrich as the best in the State for the purpose. The question of the reliability and general good qualities of this stone has been fully and freely discussed by the press throughout the State, and thus far the balance of testimony seems to be against the stone. We have thus far given the testimony for and against it, and in view of the serious doubts entertained in regard to the good qualities of the stone in question, I have asked in the name of the people of Iowa that the Commissioners give the matter a fair and impartial public investigation, taking testimony for and against it and thus decide the question fairly, and satisfy the public mind.—This has not yet been done, nor have we yet heard of any move in that direction. We therefore deem it our duty to enlighten the public farther upon this subject, and for this purpose publish the following from the Iowa City *Republican* of the last week, leaving our readers to form their own opinions and draw their own conclusions in regard to the Orford stone.

We have received Prof. Hinrichs' long promised report upon the Stones of Iowa, which was to silence all cavil about the Orford oolites, and put their questioners to shame. We have looked over this report with some care and fail to see that even this report itself, taking it as unquestionable in all its deductions, gives sufficient guarantee of those stone to warrant their use in a position of such importance.

* * * *

On page 24 the professor says, "Organic matter will also slowly oxidize. The carbonic acid resulgint accelerates the diesolution of the building stones. Hence organic matter is an objectionable constituent of building stone."

On page 35, speaking of these Orford stone, or No. 26 as they are designated, the Professor says: "The amount of organic matter still in this stone is quite remarkable." To be sure he further says there is not enough to seriously injure the stone; but taking his premises we cannot

reach his conclusions. This organic matter, be so deleterious, and these stones containing a remarkable amount of it, we are unable to see how it can fail to injure the stone. If not, how much would be required of this "objectionable constituent" to injure a stone? If a remarkable amount is not sufficient we think it had better not been mentioned at all.

On page 37 he says: "It is a fact well known in those counries where oolite is exclusively found and used as a building stone that oolites differ in their qualities even more than other stones. This is especially noticeable at Oxford, England, where buildings erected of good and bad oolites, all from quarries near Oxford, stand close together."

The appearance of two oolites may be the same, precisely as the appearance of two sand stones may be alike, and yet either two may be altogether different in durability."

Here is certainly enough to condemn those stone. The oolites are so variable and uncertain that good and bad may be mixed in the same vicinity, and have the same appearance. How then is it possible to know whether the one or the other is obtained? Each block cannot be submitted to his tests. There is too much danger here. He urges the greatest care in selection of these stone are used, but how can care determine the "good" from the "bad," while they have the same appearance? It is demonstrated beyond question that very many stones from those quarries have utterly failed. Suppose it is also proved that they have stood in other localities, it but proves there are "bad" as well as "good" oolites there, and as they have the same appearance it will be only luck and chance whether they get the one or the other, and they would be very sure to get them "badly" mixed, to the ruin of the foundation. Such uncertain stones will never do for such a work.

Prof. Hinrichs says in his introduction that he has good reasons for believing that his tests show what would be the action of the atmosphere for centuries, yet he regrets that he had not longer time in which to continue them, in which case he says he might have rejected more specimens. He further says his system of tests is a theory of his own. Now let us admit to the fullest extent its ingenuity and plausibility, we ask is the untested theory of any man living a sufficient basis for that Capitol to rest upon. The idea is preposterous. The tests of Prof. Hinrichs are of great value as assisting in the solution of the stone question, but we cannot think them safe to rely upon. But taking his report alone as the basis it does not warrant the use of the Orford oolites, as we think any man of candor and impartiality must admit. The Commissioners cannot afford to put stone in that foundation of a doubtful character. They must not only clear their own minds of doubt in reference to the stone used, but the minds of the public at large, or the money to carry forward the work will not be forthcoming. The people of Iowa will never consent to pour out their money by millions to erect a structure upon a foundation of which they have serious doubts. These Commissioners can drive through over all evidence and all remonstrance, but they have no power to compel the ratification of their work, and the further expenditure of vast sums of money upon their oolitic foundation.

The Waterloo Courier.

Thursday, May 18, 1871

The Capitol Commissioners met at Des Moines last week, and awarded the contract for the foundation stone of the new State House to Tuttle & Robertson, of Des Moines. The quarry from which it was taken is in the southern part of Dallas county, near the line of the C. R. I. & P. R. R. It is a ferruginous argilace (or clayoy) limestone. In the report of the Committee of examination, it is placed, in reference to durability, among the second best in a total of eight. Its specific gravity is 2.66, weighting 166 pounds to the cubic foot, being among the heaviest in the list. It is marked as being "hard, compact, crystalline." The contract price averages $10.25 per cubic yard. The price of the Orford stone, which it was at first intended should be used, averaged about $15 per cubic yard.

Jackson Sentinel.

Thursday, December 7, 1871

MORE STEALING FROM THE IOWA TAXPAYERS.

From the Keokuk Constitution.

The legislature of this state will soon assemble; and already it is announced in the Des Moines city papers that the contractors for furnishing the stone to build the new state house intend to make application to the legislature for a donation of at least fifty thousand dollars of the people's money. They allege that they have only furnished the state one-half of the stone the contract calls for, and that they have already lost twenty-five thousand dollars upon the amount delivered, and will lose twenty-five thousand more upon the balance of the stone they are required to furnish under the contract. They will, therefore, ask the legislature to make them a donation of fifty thousand in addition to the price they contracted to furnish the stone for.

We never entertained any doubt about the building of the new state house affording an opportunity for a gigantic steal—nor that the opportunity would be taken advantage of by a "ring" to fill their pockets with the people's money through the many "ways that are dark and tricks that are vain," with which radicals are so familiar—but we hardly expected the game would commence so early; and upon an appropriation of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars which the legislature appropriated two years ago as a greenback nest egg only, to which subsequent

legislatures were expected to lay several millions of the same sort.

In the name of the taxpayers of the state and especially of this county, we enter our protest against this first proposed steal of fifty thousand dollars. It is no valid excuse for the legislature to give the stone contractors fifty thousand dollars or any other sum of the people's money—because, as they allege, they will lose fifty thousand dollars upon their contract to furnish the stone for the foundation of the new state house. They made the contract with their eyes open and upon a bid in competition with others for the job. It would be a gross fraud upon the state for the legislature to make good to the contractors their loss if they actually sustained any—out of the state treasury. They obtained the contract over other bidders by offering to furnish the stone at a less price than their competitors for the job offered to furnish it for.

If parties are permitted to obtain contracts for public work by underbidding—offering to do work for a less price than it can be done for without loss to the contractors and the legislature afterwards steps in and donates to them all the money they claim to have lost—or actually lost—what chance have any honest contractors who expect to perform their contract with the state without extra allowance, to compete with the bogus ones who undertake to do the work at a less price than it is worth upon the understanding or expectation that their loss, with a profit added, will be given them afterwards by the taxpayers representatives in the state legislature.

Again, this time of asking the legislature to appropriate money to make good losses alleged to have been sustained by contractors for public work is the opening wedge into the public work is the opening wedge into the public treasury by the introduction of gigantic corruption in the legislature.

It is one of the schemes so often resorted to, in these latter days, to purchase corrupt members of legislative bodies with the public money by petitioning for a large sum and agreeing to divide the amount between the petitioners and the scoundrels whose votes are purchased in favor of the appropriation. The legislature ought not to vote a single dollar to the stone contractors above the sum they contracted to furnish the stone for, no matter how much they lose or pretend to have lost on the job.

OUR NEW CAPITOL

The speech-making, poetizing, and junketing overlaying the corner-stone of the new capitol building having subsided, it is perhaps a good item to talk a little about the cost of that structure.

As a preliminary item, however, we submit the following from the republican state platform of 1869, and ask how it sounds to those members of the Assembly of 1870, who voted for building a capitol which will cost from three to five millions of dollars:

"Resolved, That the means now in the state treasury, and which may become available, ought to be used for the purpose of defraying the necessary expenditures for the state government, economically administered, and for no other purpose; and no state taxes, or only the minimum absolutely required,

should be levied or collected until such means are exhausted, to the end that the burden of taxation may be made as light as possible."

As it also now appears that the legislature will probably be asked to make some additional appropriations this winter, we copy from the *Sioux City Journal*, which says:

"The contractors for the statehouse foundation at Des Moines have started the usual dodge resorted to by those who take contracts for the erection of public buildings. They say they are losing money on their contract, and propose to try and get the legislature to reimburse them. The Gate City sounds the alarm, and says the people should 'spot' every member of the legislature who supports such a proposition. We hope it will receive no favor in the legislature or out of. It would be simply a premium on swindling—a bonus to ring speculation. It would be an outrage on the people of Iowa. Did one ever hear of contractors for state or national work, no matter how inordinate their profit, ever paying over to the state or government any part of their games? Never. But if they don't make as much out of their work as they expected, they invariably expect the public treasury to make up the deficiency. It is time to make an ___ to this business. We hope the legislature will not allow the losing contractors one cent."

It is to be hoped that the members from this county will act with those who are opposed to swindling and corruption, and prevent any such scheme from succeeding.

CHARITON LEADER

1874

Here's a conundrum from the *State Record:* "Why is the Anti-Monopoly party like the New State capitol? Answer—It commenced building with rotten Stone in the foundation" – [Patriot.

Bully! Now we've got one: "Why is the New State capitol building, with it's rotten foundation, just like Governor Stone? Answer—Because it had a bad beginning. The father of both of them being the rotten Radical party of Iowa went on to now bid fair, under the guise of prudent guardians, to become an honor to the State. We call you.

BURLINGTON HAWK-EYE.

1871

The corner stone of the new State House at Des Moines will be laid this week. The inscription will be cut on a panel six by two feet, raised on the face of the granite, and will be as follows:

CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS.

Governor, Samuel Merrill.

S. G. Stein,	J. N. Dowey,
J. O. Crosby	G. M. Dodge,
J. S. Dawson,	W. L. Joy,
J. F. Wilson,	Charles Dudley

Cochrane & Piquenard, Architects.

On the end panel will be the date of the laying of the corner stone.

BURLINGTON HAWK-EYE.

November 25, 1871

LAYING THE CORNER STONE OF THE NEW STATE HOUSE.

The Introductory Address of Hon. J. F. Wilson—Poem by Captain Hardy—Gov. Merrill's Address.

According to previous announcement the corner stone of the new Capitol at Des Moines was laid on Thursday, the 23d inst. The procession was under the direction of Gen. N. B. Baker, and was made up of a large number of carriages, containing officers of the State government, members of the Legislature, prominent citizens and various societies. On account of the inclemency of the weather, the addresses were delivered in the Hall of Representatives of the old Capitol. The first was the INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS OF HON. J. F. WILSON.

Mr. Wilson spoke as follows:

FELLOW CITIZENS: --On the 13th day of April, 1870, the people of Iowa, through their Representatives, decided that a new-Capitol should be erected, of dimensions and character better adapted to the growth and necessity of the commonwealth. Forthe purpose of executing the work, Commissioners were appointed, who in due time proceeded to discharge the duties of the trust imposed upon them. Their first important duty was the adaption of a plan for the building, combining in all its details, the requisite conveniences, as well as taste of architectural design adopting it to the refinements of the age, and the legislative, executive and judicial wants of the State.

By a prior law of the State this beautiful and commanding eminence overlooking the fair young city of Des Moines, and the valley of the river from which it takes its name, had been designated as the site of the edifice to be devoted to the future legislative and official uses of Iowa. There, about one year ago the work of excavation commenced, and on the 17th day of August, 1871, the first stone in the foundation was put in its place, on a bed of concrete masonry two feet in thickness. To-day the greater portion of the foundation walls are laid to the height of ten feet above the Concrete.

We are now convened to consecrate this noble enterprise of our State with ceremonies befitting its magnitude and importance. –Sixteen years ago this, the building in which we are assembled, was erected to supply the wants of a population of less than *six hundred thousand.* Since then Iowa has advanced to a population of more than a *million and a quarter* of souls, and it is but meet and proper that she should rear on this proud capitol Hill an edifice which shall be the pride of her future millions, and worthy of the wise sons and, it may be, daughters who shall enact her future laws, and control her future destinies.

The Dubuque Herald.

November 26, 1871

Laying the Corner Stone of the New Capitol.

Des Moines, Nov. 23.

The laying of the corner stone is a good thing, and an old thing, but when it comes to that sort of thing while the thermometer is marking close about zero, it is certainly not a pleasant or agreeable occupation to participants or witnesses. A goodly number of persons are now satisfied of the fact—have learned something to-day. Had the weather been ordinarily pleasant, the attendance upon the ceremonies would have been larger and considering the intense cold it can be considered very fair. There were quite a number of distinguished gentlemen present, ex-Governor, judges, state officials, members of general assemblies, etc. Of ex-Governor Lowe was the only one present, while the ex-Lieutenant Governors showed Faville, Eastman, and Gae. The Governor and Lieuteuant Governor elect, Carpenter and Bulis, were also present. With these were a score or more of members, ex-members and members elect of the assembly, too many to give their names.

According to programme the procession was to have formed at 10 o'clock, but it was after eleven before Gen. Baker commenced getting parties into line. The carriages, some two or three dozen, were then filed at the Savery House, and escorted by the zooaves with a brass band and followed by the Sons of Liberty and mechanic's societies, and citizens generally, the line of march was taken to the capitol. On account of the cold, the speaking, etc., was done in the hall of the house in the old capitol. The hall was densely packed in a short time.

After an excellent prayer by Rev. T. Rice, of this city, a brief introductory address was read by Hon. James F. Wilean, on behalf of the board of commissioners.

Governor Merrill then came forward and read the oration of the day. It was a somewhat lengthy document, principally historical. I send you a copy herewith which you can publish if you deem it of interest to the readers of the HEARLD. There are some very good things in it.

After this an ode to liberty, written by Capt. A. S. Hurdy, one of the professors in Iowa college, was announced as in the hands of J. B. Grinnell. J. B. mounted the stand, made an apology for the absence of the poet, and said he would read the last stanza. He commenced so well the audience insisted on his reading the whole. This he did, and did well. Here it is:

POEM.

Out of ice dawn with fair swift feet,
Waited of men with hope and tears,
Wrapped about with a glory meet
For the long expected one of years,

Cometh the prophesied of seers.
Splendor of love is on her eyes—
Splendor of strength in arm and limb—
Splendor of truth that halo-wise
Lighteth the glad earth's distant rim,
Making a glory in the skies.

She who was a dream of dreams,
Behold a cry hath smote her ears!
Lo! she that hath promised redeems,
That thy heart wax not heavy with fears,
O man, nor thine eyelids with tears.

Sweetness of springs and sounds thereof,
So is her voice to them that wait,
Sweetness of pity born of love—
Yes! Thunder of wrath to them that hate
And fetter the rights of man's estate.

Lo! Where her sandaled feet are come,
Life is quickened of dust long dead,
A voice leaps forth from lips long dumb,
A crown is set on the vailed head.

Swifter than birds on wide arm wings,
Up from their homes by plain and sea,
Mightier than the seed of kings,
Gathers the army of men made free,
Sons and daughters of liberty.

Swift are their hands to do her will,
Strong are the knotted arms and bar,
From rage that stings and hates that kill
And subtle weaving of toilers' snare,
To save her, fairest of earth's most fair.

And through the breadth of her domain,
Near stream that foams and sea that shines,
In lap of hills and bosom of plain,
Wrought of the riches of earth's mines
Rise dome and pillar of her shrines.

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Many a leaf the Summers have shed,
Many a bud has blossomed and blown,
Many a day the sun has led
'Round the wide world's changing zone,
Since first her glory earthward shone.

And shifting of battle the world has seen,
And steam of horses and gleam of spears,
And blooming of meadows fair, made green

With blood of men and women's tears,
Ere the cry of triumph smote her ears.

And one whose blood was freely poured,
Whose strong young wrath was as a crown,
Quick to draw from its sheath the sword
And last to lay its warm blade down
Goes back to its yellow fields and brown.

And here twixt suns that rise and set,
Twixt river and river, sea and sea,
Will we build thee a shrine, he said, where yet
Our children's children shall worship thee
As their fathers have, O Liberty!

Here where with stealthy eye and feet
The Indian crept on the trail of war;
Let its white walls stand, a symbol meet
Of the tablets pure of peace and law,
Till the world is dead and time grown hoar.

And freedom shall be its corner stone.
And truth the pillars that tall and fair
Rise stately about the great white throne
Where Justice sits to guard her own,
The solemn breathing of a prayer.

Secretary Fulton then read a list of articles to be deposited in the stone.

Now came in a past that not was laid down in the programme. Hon. John A. Kasson arose and in a neat speech presented the governor a silver trowel in behalf architects and a sliver mounted mallet from the superintendent. John got in his speech, if his enemies didn't like it, and the governor briefly returned his thanks.

An adjournment was then made to the new capitol, where the ceremonies were very brief. The box was fitted in the stone, and the grand cornerstone, with its engraved name holsted in its place. The governor pronounced it well done. Dr. Rice delivered the benediction, the

cannon was fired, the crowd dispersed, and thus ended the celebration of the laying of the corner stone of the new capitol.

The commissioners have decided to stop work for the winter, on account of the cold and its effect on the stone. It also reported they have decided to dispense altogether with the services of the superintendent, because of a discovery—that he is a democrat! It is really too bad that a democrat should have anything to do with this building—beyond paying his taxes.

A "grand state ball" is in progress this evening at the Savery House.

INTROUDUCTORY ADDRESS BY HON. JAS. F. WILSON.

Fellow Citizens: --On the 13th of April 1870, the people of Iowa, through their representatives, decided that a new Capitol should be erected, of dimensions and character better adapt to the growth and necessities of the Commonwealth. For the purpose of executing the work, commissioners were appointed, who in due time proceeded to discharge the duties of the trust imposed upon them. Their first important duty was the adoption of a plan for the building, combining in all its details, the requisite conveniences, as well as taste of architectural design, adapting it to the requirements of the age, and the legislative, executive, and judicial wants of the State.

By a prior law of this State the beautiful and commanding eminence, over-looking the fair young city of Des Moines, and the valley of the river from which it takes its name, had been designated as the site of the edifice to be devoted to the future legislature and official uses of Iowa. Then about one year ago the work of excavation commenced, and on the 1st day of August 1871, the first stone on the foundation was put in its place, on a bed of concrete masonry two feet in thickness. To-day the greater portion of the foundation walls are laid, to the height of ten feet above the concrete.

We are now convened to consecrate this noble enterprise of our State with ceremonies befitting its magnitude and importance. Fifteen years ago this old capitol, the building in which we are assembled, was erected to supply the wants of a population less than 60,000. Since then Iowa has advanced to a population of more than a million and a quarter of souls, and it is but proper that she should rear on this proud capitol hill an edifice which shall be the pride of her future millions, and, worthy of the wise sons, and it may be daughters, who shall enact the future laws, and control her future destinies.

The Dubuque Herald.

Wednesday Morning, April 3, 1872

FROM THE CAPITAL.

The New Capitol–Report of Commissioners–Investigation–Bad Job of Whitewashing–Evident Purpose of the Committee–Responsibility of Commissioners For the Frauds–The Des Moines Ring's Interst–Facts in Reference to Contracts for Rotten Stone, &c.

Special Correspondence of the Dubuque Herald.
Des Moines, April 1

The capitol commissioners, in their report, declare that "while quality of the work done is first class, the cost has fallen far below the estimate." The general opinion here is that the estimates must have been unconscionably high, and that the capitol commissioners are excessively ignorant of the qualities of "first class" work. This is, taking it for granted that they wrote their first biennial report in sincerity.

The readers of the Herald have already been informed of the fact of the appointment of a committee of investigation, by the general assembly, in this capitol business, and of the facts leading thereto. I have been careful to reserve statement of the rumors floating on the air here, and of facts known to many, if not all of the citizens of Des Moines, regarding the frauds of the new capitol management, until the official investigation should be completed, believing that it must in some measure expose the incompetency, if it be incompetency, and the corruption, of that management. But the investigation has been concluded, and the report of the committee proves that it has resulted in nothing better than a coat of badly mixed whitewash to the rotten foundation walls of the new capitol—that evidently being its only purpose. The exposure to the people must be made through the press, and should be made at once.

In the senate February 27th, and in the house March 1st, the following concurrent resolutions were passed.

WHEREAS, It is reported extensively throughout the state, that the quality of the material used and provided for the construction of the foundation walls of the new capitol building, and the workmanship on said foundation are inferior, and unsuitable for a building of the character contemplated by the act authorizing the construction of a new capitol building, and

WHEREAS, It is desirable that the people of the state, and the general assembly should be fully informed as to the character and quality of the material used, or workmanship performed in and about the construction of, or materials furnished for said foundation walls of said building; therefore

Resolved, By the senate, the house of representative concurring, that a committee of five, two on the part of the senate, and three on the part of the house of representatives, be appointed, whose duty it shall be to inquire into the quality of the materials used and furnished for use for the foundation walls of the new capitol building, and to inquire into the character and quality of the work done in, on and about said foundation walls, and to report to this general assembly as soon as practicable the result of their investigations.

Resolved, That said committee, when appointed, and organized, be and are hereby authorized and empowered to send for persons and papers, to assist and give them information of the matters herein before referred to.

President Bulis announced senators Dysart and Gault, and Speaker Wilson announced Messrs, Leahy, Davis and Paul, as members of the committee.

In the senate March 12th, and in the house March 13th, the following were passed.

WHEREAS, The powers given the special committee to examine and report, with reference to the material and workmanship of the foundation of the new capitol building, so far only as has been laid up; therefore be it

Resolved, That the committee have full power

to send for persons and papers.

March 16th Mr. Paul was excused from the committee, being so ill that he has not since been able to attend the sessions of the assembly, and Mr. Maxwell was appointed in his place. By the removal of Mr. Paul from the committee but one democrat was left upon it, and in his removal the best man to secure a searching and thoroughly honest investigation was taken from the committee.

It will be observed that in the resolutions the authority of the committee was not, in terms, broad enough to cover anything beyond an investigation of the character and quality of materials used and provided for the foundation walls, and yet it was generally understood that the investigation might go beyond this limit. Did the members of the committee so understand?

I find that one of the questions put to Gov. Merrill, who had been ex-officio president of the board of commissioners was: "Do you know of any of the commissioners who have been interested in the contracts?" I find that James Dawson, one of the commissioners, was interrogated closely in reference to resolutions adopted by the board, with an apparent desire to ascertain the secret motives of the commissioners in taking certain action relative to contracts; also as to his compensation while acting as commissioner. I further find that the committee spent a great deal of time with Charles Dudley, another commissioner, in drawing out of him details of his quarrel with the local superintendent, Appleyard, and in ascertaining just how Appleyard came to be elected. I find again that the committee enquired very particularly of O. H. P. Scott, the stone contractor, into the manner of his obtaining the contract, into the causes for his having instituted injunction proceedings against the board at one time, and as to whether he has received any pecuniary consideration for withdrawing that injunction suit. In fact, through fifty-five printed pages of printed pages of testimony I find very little space devoted to ascertaining the workmanship of the foundation walls, and the quality of material procured for, and placed in them, but an abundance of pettifogging to draw out excuses for the commissioners for having notoriously failed in the performance of their duties, if not for deliberate frauds upon the state. Again I ask, did the committee enquiry as to the quality of material in the foundation walls of the capital and the character of workmanship? If so, why did it not confine itself to that enquiry, and if not, why did it not prosecute the investigation to ascertain facts which would enlighten the public, and not content itself with chaff to blind the public? Witnesses called by the committee offered testimony showing intentional and concealed frauds in the construction of the walls. The committee refused to receive it. One witness, a mason who had been employed on the work, offered to point out to the committee, places in the walls where outside and inner courses had been laid up, and the space between filled with earth. His offer was refused and ordered expunged from the report of the testimony. It was a matter of public notoriety that men here, some of them members of the legislature, had knowledge of facts which would establish beyond question the fact that some of the commissioners have pecuniary profited out of the undeniable frauds perpetrated in this new capitol business. The committee decided that its authority was limited to the enquiry as to material and workmanship of the foundation walls! Without pursuing this branch of the subject further, I think it is tolerably clear that the committee readily and cheerfully exceeded the pretended limits of its authority, in search of whitewashing material, but was extremely solicitous to be tethered when there was a prospect that the real facts of fraud and the responsibility of commissioners for them, might come to official light.

The attempt to keep back facts of the fraud has been successful. The mission for whitewash, however, has not been fruitful. In plain view in a wall in which only one-half is open to inspection, the committee has found ninety-three stones defective—many of them absolutely rotten and running out of the foundation walls of a capitol which is to cost not less than two millions of the people's money like so much mud, under the influence of these spring suns. This is not all of the rottenness, however, of this new capitol business. Who is responsible?

As to the commissioners, Governor Merrill's responsibility is variously estimated. Some affirm that he has had a willing and industrious hand in the frauds, while others claim that he was the easy, but ignorant, victim of the more

three positions: disgraceful incompetency, criminal ignorance or criminal participation—and the ex-governor may choose of them for himself, at present.

Gen. Dodge paid very little attention to the business of his commissionership. He was busy with milroads, busy with the arrangements for the Allison primaries, and busy with everything except the discharge of the duty which he assumed when he accepted an election as capitol commissioner.

James F. Wilson has been charged by the Burlington Hawkeye with corrupt action as a commissioner, but I hesitate to believe its charge. He has been so pre-occupied with expectancy of vice -presidential honors that he has not given a thought to his duty as a capitol commissioner. He was one of the distinguished partisan politicians elected to throw a halo of respectability around the partisan meanness of the election of other commissioners. That he failed in that was not his fault, and even if it were the people could more readily forgive it than the other fault of having wholly neglected his duty to them.

James Dawson appears on the record to have been faithful among the faithless. He is a practical stone mason, and in that respect, certainly, the most competent man of the board. He protested repeatedly against the frauds being perpetrated in material and workmanship, and had he known the graver frauds and corruptions would doubtless have protested more earnestly against them. He endeavored to secure a report by the board reciting what he rather mildly termed the mistakes of the management and had the report written and the most of it in type. The majority ordered it expunged, and twenty pages were thus suppressed.

S.G. Stein and William L. Joy are also said to be fair men, but they evidently had little to do in the management. James O. Crosby, Charles Dudley and John N. Dewey were the other members of the board.

In a letter written some weeks ago, I gave some facts partially showing the character of Dudley's connection with the capitol friends. A few, of many other facts may be stated to illustrate the fact that from the first a ring was formed in the board to run the capitol business, and to this ring may be traced directly the responsibility for the frauds.

Let it first be understood that there is something more than a suspicion that a Des Moines ring existed before the appropriation bill was passed by the 13th general assembly. This bill was passed by the influence of the men in this ring, and by the use of their money. It would not be difficult to name the men who handled this money, nor those to whom it was offered for votes, nor those who received it for their votes. John A. Kasson worked earnestly and effectually to secure the passage of the bill, but the Des Moines ring, composed of the anti-Kasson clique, stepped in and snatched from him the substantial fruits of his labors. He was building himself up for a congressional candidacy. The ring had a candidate against him, and had mercenary members to be satisfied. So it happened that, when the appropriation bill had been passed by Kasson's labors, he was thrown overboard by the ring, a partisan commission was elected against his protest, and thenceforth the capitol influence was wielded in the interest of Frank Palmer. The ring had also expended money. Kasson worked for votes for the bill—the ring supplemented his labors with the purchase of votes and the payment of lobby expenses, and of the dining and wining of the 13th general assembly. This money was not considered a permanent investment by any means- It is stated, up on authority which I cannot doubt, that from the profits of contracts a percentage was to be paid to reimburse the ring for these expenditures, amounting to about $15,000. How much has been realized from this percentage I cannot say, but the figures showing the expenditures of the commissioners during the past two years, when compared with the work actually accomplished, leave a margin broad enough to cover the entire amount of the Des Moines ring's claim.

The first contract, known as the oolite contract, was let in the interest of the Des Moines ring, represented in the board by Commissioner Dewey.

The records of the board as well as the testimony taken by the investigating committee, show that it was finally broken up by the board, not because of any fault in the material which was to be furnished under it. Mr. Dawson had resisted the making of that contract, but was overruled. There were interests involved in it to procure the writing of letters to him by men in his own county, in which he was promised substantial rewards if he

would withdraw his opposition. He refused these offers and consistently continued his opposition. Dudley and Crosby, after the contract had been made, found themselves ignored by the Dewey ring. They therefore joined Dawson in his opposition to the contract, and this is the secret of the final failure of the Oolite contract. Dudley and Crosby organized a ring of their own then, and came to the surface in the letting of the Farmington contract. O. H. P. Scott, the Oolite contractor had been violent in his denunciation of Dudley before, but now became his fast friend and backer, explaining his change of heart by saying that he had found out how to use Dudley and was going to use him. Just how he did use him the foundation walls of the new capitol show. How much he paid for the use, Dudley can rise to explain. As the stone arrived from the Farmington quarry it was found to be deficient in every respect. The local superintendent, Mr. Appleyard, began to reject it. A meeting of the board was called, and it changed the specifications so as to let the stone in. Mr. Appleyard still rejected stone. The work was at last summarily stopped, Appleyard was dismissed, and eight car loads of stone last reject by him were returned to the capitol grounds and unloaded.

I have given but the barest detail of facts illustrating the corruption and fraud of this capitol management. I might write much more of facts unquestionably established and reports strongly sustained by evidence. All might have come to the knowledge of the investigating committee if it had desired it.

The work so far done on the new capitol is so far from being "first class" that it is a palpable fraud, and the cots, though the work had been "first class," has been extravagantly light.

CHAPTER FOUR

Proceedings at the Laying of the Cornerstone

ADDRESS

BY

HIS EXCELLENCY, SAMUEL MERRILL,

GOVERNOR OF IOWA.

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the end of the first third of a century of the political existence of Iowa, and as the first quarter of a century since its admission into the Union draws to a close, the State undertakes, for the first time from its own resources, the erection of a capitol building. Thirty-three years ago, the twelfth day of this month, the First Legislative Assembly convened at the town of Burlington and commenced the work of law-making for the sparse settlements along the Mississippi, then dignified by the name of the Territory of Iowa. This, however, was not the first legislative body that had convened within what are now the limits of the State of Iowa. One year before, in the same town of Burlington, the Legislative Assembly of Wisconsin had held its second annual session. Prior to this time, Iowa had been subject to many successive jurisdictions.

Far back in American history this fair land had been taken possession of by La Salle, for his master, Louis XIV. of France. Eight years before, in 1673, white men, in the persons of the adventurous Joliet and his companion, the enthusiastic Marquette, had for the first time trod the soil of Iowa, near the mouth of its great river, that flows here at our feet. In 1697, at the peace of Ryswick, all Europe acknowledged the claim of France to the Valley of the Mississippi, thus conceding to it

the most magnificent domain up to that time held by any European power. Subsequent attempts of other nations to colonize this extensive territory failed, and in the language of our great historian, "France obtained, under Providence, the guardianship of Iowa, not, as is proved for his own benefit, but rather as the trustee for the infant nation by which it was one day to be inhabited." The vastness of the territory thus claimed by France may be judged from the fact that every spring whose waters coursed through the Mississippi and the Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico, was said to be within the limits of the French possessions; and this claim was followed up by settlement.

But France and Frenchmen made slow work in colonizing this western world. As in France to-day, so then in French America, too mnch was expected of the Government, the people only following in the path pointed out by their social and political leaders: so unlike the ways of the English colonists, who asked of the Government only consent to occupy the lands they discovered; when they had thus occupied them, their own right hands defending themselves and their homes.

Under the royal management in the western part of America, monopoly succeeded monopoly, and gigantic schemes of colonization by companies which were to yield large profits to stakeholders inflamed the people of France; yet few colonists came. Soon followed the collapse of the South Sea bubble. This made the name of Louisiana a stench in the nostrils of the French people, so that in 1763 that nation, when it lost Canada, readily yielded to Spain this western dominion.

Then, indeed, if territorial possessions could enrich a land, was Spain the most opulent nation of which history tells us. Her American empire alone was more extensive than the entire dominions of any other power of either ancient or modern times. Stretching through the torrid and the greater part of the two temperate zones, it embraced the habitable portion of the western half of two continents. It was possessed of all varieties of most desirable climate, and had a soil of unsurpassed luxuriance, while deep underneath lay fabulous stores of mineral wealth. The last was all old Spain cared for, yet she was

fated to touch not one particle of the immense subterranean resources of the splendid domain she obtained from France.

It was not, however, until 1769, after violent opposition from the colonists, that Spain took possession of her new acquisitions. These colonists had meantime organized and maintained for a few years a little republic of their own, the first upon the American continent.

By the treaties of St. Idlefonso, of October 1st, 1800, and Madrid, March 21st, 1801, Spain retroceded Louisiana to France, which country, on the 30th of March, 1803, negotiated a treaty ceding the whole extensive domain to the youthful American republic.

Possession of upper Louisiana was not taken, however, by France until the 9th day of March, 1804, and the very next day the French flag gave place to the American. Thus ended forever the dominion of the Latin races over this vast empire. During the long period of French and Spanish rule over the territory, I find no trace of any attempt at colonization in what is now Iowa, certainly none endured, and now there remains with us no relic of their rule, and we inherit no vestage of their jurisprudence.

By an act of Congress passed October 31st, 1803, the President of the United States had been authorized to take possession of the new territory, and to use the army and navy for that purpose, and to maintain order therein. The same act provided that for the present all the military, civil, and judicial powers exercised by the officers of the Spanish government, should be vested in such persons as the President should direct, for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of Louisiana, in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property, and religion.

By another act, the Louisiana purchase was divided into the territory of Orleans and the district of Louisiana. This district, comprising the present State of Iowa, was placed under the jurisdiction of the governor and judges of the territory of Indiana. This act took effect, October 1, 1804. On the 4th of July, 1805, the district of Louisiana, become the territory of that name. On the 7th of December, 1812, the State of Louisiana, comprising the larger part of the territory of Orleans, having been previously admitted into the Union, the territory of Louisiana became the territory of Missouri.

In 1821, the State of Missouri was admitted into the Union. From this time Iowa remained without any local government until June 28th, 1834, when it was attached to the territory of Michigan.

It was during this interregnum that the first settlement was made in Iowa. This occurred in Lee county, about the year 1832. Earlier attempts had been made by adventurous pioneers to make homes for themselves on this side of the Mississippi; but all had failed, settlements having been in some cases broken up by government troops, the title to the land being yet in the Indian tribes.

In September, 1834, the Legislative Assembly of Michigan territory erected two counties on the west side of the Mississipi river, viz: Des Moines and Dubuque, the Iowa river being the dividing line. A census of these counties, taken in 1836, showed a population of 10,531.

On the 3d day of July, 1836, the Territory of Wisconsin was organized, including all of Michigan territory not embraced within the limits of the State of Michigan. Under this organization it was, as we have seen, that the first legislative body met in Iowa. This legislature had met, the year before, at a place called Belmont, which name was about all there was of the town. The session at Burlington was begun in a two-story frame house, built for the purpose by Jeremiah Smith, Jr., a member of the Council. During the winter this building took fire and was destroyed. The legislature thereafter met in the Methodist Episcopal church, known as the "Old Zion church." This Wisconsin Legislature further divided the two counties of Dubuque and Des Moines into sixteen, which included all the country to which the Indian title had been extinguished.

Thus, as we have seen, the territory comprised within the limits of the State of Iowa has been a part of the possessions successively of two kingdoms and two republics, and subsequent to its purchase by the United States was under the jurisdiction of no less than five territorial governments.

On the third day of July, 1838, these sixteen counties became the Territory of Iowa. Four months later, as before stated, the Legislative

Assembly began its session at Burlington, in the building occupied the previous winter by the Wisconsin legislature, "Old Zion church." Here were held the sessions of the First, Second, and Third Legislative Assemblies.

Among the first matters naturally to attract the attention of the new Iowa legislature, was the erection of public buildings for the use of the territorial government, for which purpose Congress had in the organic act appropriated the sum of $20,000. Accordingly, on the 21st of January, 1839, two acts were passed appointing three commissioners, viz.: Chauncey Swan, Robert Ralston, and John Ronalds, to select a site for a permanent seat of government within the limits of Johnson county. There they were to lay out 640 acres into a town to be called Iowa City, and to proceed to sell lots and erect public buildings thereon.

A section of land having been granted by Congress for the purpose, a selection was presently made of lands just purchased of the Sac and Fox Indians, and which were that season surveyed. Here a town was laid out; the first sale of lots taking place the 16th of August, 1839. A plan for the building had been designed by Mr. John F. Rague, the architect, a resident of Springfield, Ill. The Legislative Assembly at its second session passed an act requiring the commissioners having the work in charge to adopt such plan for the building that the aggregate cost, when completed, should not exceed $51,000, and if they had already adopted a plan contemplating a greater expenditure, they were to set it aside. When the legislature came together in Burlington in July, 1840, Governor Lucas could say that on the fourth day of the same month he had been at Iowa City and found the basement of the capitol nearly completed. January 15th, 1841, a bill authorizing a loan of $20,000 for the work was passed, the unsold lots at Iowa City to be given as security. Under this act. $5,500 was obtained.

On Monday, the 6th of December, 1841, the Fourth Legislative Assembly met at Iowa City. Here, as at Burlington, a temporary frame house had been erected for the use of the legislature, which occupied it during the sessions of 1841 and 1842. At this session, the

Superintendent of Public Buildings, who, with the Territorial Agent, had superseded the first commissioners, estimated the expense of completing the building at $33,330, and at $15,600 to complete rooms for the use of the legislature. During the year 1842, the Superintendent began to get stone from a new quarry, about ten miles northeast of the city, where a fine bed of rock was found. This is now known as the "Old Capitol" quarry, and yet contains, it is believed, an immense quantity of excellent building material. From this source, the remainder of the stone for the building was obtained, On the fifth day of December, 1842, the new capitol having been sufficiently completed, the Legislative Assembly convened in that building. At this session, the Superintendent estimated that it would cost $39,143 to finish the house. This, it will be observed, was higher, by nearly $6,000 than the previous estimate, notwithstanding a large expenditure meantime. This discrepancy may be accounted for by the fact that the officers in charge of the work were constantly cramped for means. Besides the appropriation of $20,000 by Congress, already mentioned, and loans of $5,500 obtained from the Miners' Bank at Dubuque, all the funds for the prosecution of the work were obtained from sales of lots, which went off very slowly, from certificates of indebtedness, and from scrip based upon unsold lots, to be received in payment for such lots when sold. At one time the Superintendent made a requisition for bills of iron and glass which could not be obtained short of St. Louis. To meet this, the agent sold some lots for a draft payable at Pittsburg, for which he had to pay twenty-five per cent. exchange. This draft, amounting to $507, that officer reported to be more than half the actual cash handled by him during a season when the disbursements were nearly $24,000. With such uncertainty as to means, accuracy in estimates could not be expected. Nevertheless, the work seems to have been prosecuted with prudence, and with all the expedition the circumstances would permit.

Iowa was admitted into the Union December 28, 1846. At this time, there were twenty-seven organized counties, with a population of

nearly one hundred thousand, and settlements were pushing toward the Missouri river.

At the first session of the State legislature, the State Treasurer reported the capitol building in a very unprotected condition, subject to be injured by storm, and expressed the hope that the legislature would make some provision to complete it at least sufficiently to protect it from the weather. The General Assembly responded to this appeal by voting the sum of $2,500 for the completion of the public buildings. The question of the western boundary of Iowa having now been settled, a discussion arose in regard to the re-location of the capital; it being conceded that Iowa City was too far to the eastward for the permanent seat of government. The first General Assembly accordingly appointed Commissioners to locate the seat of government, and to select five sections of land, being the amount granted by Congress for the erection of public buildings; and granted the unfinished edifice at Iowa City to the newly created State University, to be used, however, by the legislature and State officers until other provisions were made. These commissioners forthwith entered upon their duties, and selected four sections and two half sections in Jasper county. Two of these sections are in what is now Des Moines township, the remainder in Fairview township. These lands are situated between Prairie City and Monroe, on the Des Moines Valley R. R. which runs diagonally through them. Here a town was platted, called Monroe City, and a sale of lots took place. Four hundred and fifteen were disposed of, at prices not strikingly remunerative. The cash payment, one-fourth, yielded $1,797.43: while the expenses of the sale, and the claim of the commissioners for services, exceeded this amount by $409.14. When the report of the commissioners making this brilliant financial showing had been read to the House of Representatives, and while it was under consideration, an indignant member, afterwards known as the eccentric Judge McFarland, moved to refer the report to a select committee of five, with instructions to report how much of said city of Monroe was under water, and how much was burned up. The report was referred without the instructions. The result was, Monroe

City ceased to be the seat of government, and was forthwith vacated, the money paid for lots being mostly refunded to the purchasers. The same session, $3,000 more were appropriated for the building at Iowa City to complete the cupola, the offices of State, the Supreme Court room, &c. In 1850, $2,500 more was appropriated for completing the State-house; in 1852 the further sum of $5,000; and finally in 1854, $4,000 more, making the whole cost about $123,000, partly paid by the General Government, and partly by the State, but mainly by the proceeds of the sale of lots at Iowa City.

Meantime, the question of the permanent location of the seat of government had not been settled. In 1851, bills were introduced into the House of Representatives to remove the capital to Pella and to Fort Des Moines. That designating the latter place seemed to have the support of a majority of the members, but was finally lost on ordering to a third reading. A bill was introduced into the Senate the following session, for the removal to Ft. Des Moines; this was barely defeated upon the final vote.

The effort was resumed at the next session, and with success; and on the 15th of January, 1855, the Governor approved the bill relocating the seat of government within two miles of the Raccoon fork of the Des Moines, and providing for the appointment of Commissioners for that purpose. In accordance with this act, the spot upon which we now stand was selected in 1856; this square with two smaller ones being given the State by citizens and property-holders in Des Moines. An association of private individuals erected the building across the street for a temporary capitol, leasing it at a nominal rent. Having been advised of the completion of this edifice, Governor Grimes, on the 19th of October, 1857, issued his proclamation declaring the city of Des Moines the capital of Iowa. The removal of the offices and archives was forthwith commenced, and continued through the fall of that year. It was an undertaking of no small magnitude; not a mile of railroad was there to facilitate the work, and the season was an unusually disagreeable one. Rain, snow, and their accompaniments increased the difficulties; so that it was not until December that the last of the

effects, the safe of the Treasurer of State, drawn, on two bob-sleds, by ten yoke of oxen, entered the new capitol. It is not imprudent now to whisper that while on this passage, over hills and prairies, across the rivers, and through the bottom-lands and the timber, several of the safes belonging to the different departments, contained considerable quantities of money, most of it, however, individual funds. Thus Iowa City finally ceased to be the seat of government, after having witnessed the meetings of four legislatures of the Territory, and six of those of the State, besides three Constitutional Conventions. On the 11th of January, 1858, the Seventh General Assembly convened at Des Moines, now made by the fundamental law the permanent seat of government. Six General Astemblies have since then held eight sessions in that house, known now, and to be thus known so long as it shall stand, as the "Old Capitol." To this building the State obtained title by purchase in 1864.

Its inadequacy for the purposes of its construction, however, has long been felt. The offices have become more and more crowded, and the legislative halls more and more meager. Accordingly, in 1870, the General Assembly, deeming the time had come for commencing work on a permanent edifice for the State government, took steps to that end by providing for the appointment of a Board of Commissioners, and making an appropriation for a beginning. This beginning you see, and because of it you are here to-day.

I have introduced these sketches of history relative to our beginnings as a territory and State, for the purpose of making up a brie- record for those who shall come after us—a record more useful, I think, and more appropriate, than any display of rhetoric could be. In this third of a century, how marvelous has been the growth of our Iowa. The sixteen counties of 1838, with an average population of 1,500, have grown to one hundred counties, with an average of 12,000 people. Then more than two-thirds of the territory belonged to various Indian tribes. The title of these aborigines has long been extinguished, and where their haunts were, has become the abode of the Caucasian, who has his home in every part of the State.

We have made rapid progress, not only in population, but in all that makes a State great. Then we had a few immigrants from the East and from Europe. Now, every year, more of them, perhaps, than the total population of that day, come among us and are scattered over our State as permanent citizens. Then we had no railroads; now we have three thousand miles of them, laden with the fruits of our industry. Then we had no telegraphs; now the lightning carries our messages from the capital to the many towns and cities throughout the State, and to the far-off corners of the world. Then we had few public schools, now more than six thousand school-houses are scattered over our State, in which three hundred thousand youth are annually taught the rudiments of a good education.

Scarce two score years have passed since the first white settlement was made in this prairie wilderness, where one and a quarter millions of human beings to-day have their homes. Whether regarded from this date, or from that of the organization of the territory, or from that of the admission of the State into the Union, the first years of Iowa show a rapidity of growth unsurpassed in any similar period by any commonwealth of which we have knowledge.

And the record of Iowa has not been all of peace. On the contrary, she has a brilliant martial history, upon whose pages have been emblazoned the gallant deeds of her noble sons. In her infancy, her Mills and her Guthrie shed their life-blood for the flag in a far-off land; and in that later and gigantic contest, when the republic and slavery met in a life-and-death struggle, Iowa's bravest and most enthusiastic sons rushed to the conflict, freely poured out their blood on many a battle-field, and testified by their services their devotion to liberty and the Union.

Looking abroad over our whole country, we can hardly realize the changes which have occurred since we struck out for ourselves. Then the number of the States was twenty-six—their total population about twenty millions. Democracy was comparatively an experiment, put upon trial. Our development in agricultural and mineral wealth had barely commenced. The Star of Empire had hardly started on its

way westward. Much of this mighty Mississippi valley, with its rich soils and mineral deposits, lay a wide wilderness, its abundant riches scarcely imagined. West of the great Mississippi river for thousands of miles was almost an unknown country. Less than a quarter of a century ago we had no Pacific railroad—no San Francisco. California, Nevada, Arizona, all these were Mexican territory. Kansas and Nebraska were not organized. Neither science nor observation had detected their deposits of gold and silver. That now great railroad center of the West, Chicago, was just coming into public view. That vast mineral, grazing, and agricultural region traversed by the Union and Central Pacific Railroads, was noted by historians as the "Great American Desert," or the "Wild Cat Country," in which it would have been a misfortune to own land. Now thirty-seven States make up our beloved country. Forty millions of people press our soil—people who, knowing their rights, dare maintain them. This great brotherhood extends from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Plymouth Rock on the Atlantic coast to the golden shores of the Pacific. Trials indeed we have had, but God has preserved us even amid the fires of civil war—out of it we have been taken sorely chastened but purified and made better. The Union was saved, because we believed God had a greater mission for this republic to perform. To-day it stands as the beacon-light to all the world, as a monument of man's free agency, and his individual responsibility only to those around him, to himself, and to his God

In the old world, the people, stimulated by the earlier and later triumphs of liberty in the new, rising in their might, have overturned dynasties, shattered thrones, and demolished State churches, those pestilent handmaids of tyranny. Hoary despotisms have yielded to the march of events, and invited the people to participate in governing themselves; while old monarchies have vanished from the face of the earth. The long-locked lands of the East, aged when Rome was young, awakening from their immemorial slumber, have opened their gates, and invited our own countrymen to aid in their rejuvenation, and in developing their yet hidden treasures. And the end is not yet. These

mighty movements cannot stop. The long-suffering masses of the world, beginning to realize what belongs to them, are imperatively demanding all their rights, and these cannot long be withheld. The physical advancement the present century has developed hastens the march of progress. The wonders of steam and electricity, marvelous in their service to man, acquainting people with each other, and drawing continents together, awaken livelier sympathies and enkindle mutual aspirations; so that whatever of advance either may make, others will not be slow to attempt.

In our own country, new states are to be founded, new cities and towns to spring up, and new resources to be developed. In a few years at most, a railroad will be completed from Lake Superior to Puget Sound, a distance of 1,800 miles. This will open to civilization an empire larger and broader than Western Europe; yes, an empire equal in extent to England, Ireland, Scotland, France, Belgium, Germany, Austria, Italy, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Spain. This vast extent, now a wilderness, possesses more mineral wealth, and more excellent soil, than all the countries I have named. We fail to appreciate the grand dimensions and unimagined resources of this vast western continent. But lest I weary you, I turn to the equally inviting fields of our own beloved State.

And what of her future? Who shall measure its capabilities or confine its possibilities? With our vast extent of excellent soil; with millions of untouched acres awaiting the pioneer plow; with immense treasures of mineral wealth stored away for the use of countless generations to come; with a delightful and invigorating climate; with an intelligent and liberty-loving people; with a beneficent system of common schools, the nursery of freedom and the dread of tyrants; the prospect before us bewilders, while it enchants. It behooves us, and those who shall come after us, to build worthy of these grand opportunities, and to use well the means a kind Providence has placed at our disposal. Let us see to it that to the extent of our power we securely fashion the fabric of the commonwealth, that freedom

and equality, justice, intelligence, and public virtue shall ever be its characteristics; that ours shall not be

> "A land to hast'ning ills a prey,
> Where wealth accumulates and men decay,"

but one whose material triumphs, while enriching the whole, shall yet not impoversh any; and that the laws to be promulgated from the edifice soon to crown this fair hight, while looking to the suppression of crime, the removal of poverty, and the dissipation of their causes, shall ever tend to the true object of righteous legislation—the greatest good of all the people.

MUSIC BY MONROE CORNET BAND.

ODE.

BY PROF. A. S. HARDY.

Read by Hon. J. B. Grinnell, of Grinnell.

Out of the dawn with fair swift feet,
  Waited of men with hope and tears,
Wrapped about with a glory meet
  For the long-expected one of years,
    Cometh the prophesied of seers.

Splendor of love is in her eyes—
  Splendor of strength in arm and limb—
Splendor of truth that halo-wise
  Lighteth the glad earth's distant rim,
    Making a glory in the skies.

She who was as a dream of dreams,
  Behold, a cry hath smote her ears!
Lo! she that hath promised redeems,
  That thy heart wax not heavy with fears,
    O man, nor thine eyelids with tears.

Sweetness of spring and sounds thereof, -
  So is her voice to them that wait,
Sweetness of pity born of love—
  Yes! thunder of wrath to them that hate
    And fetter the rights of man's estate.

Lo! where her sandaled feet are come,
  Life is quickened of dust long dead,
A voice leaps forth from lips long dumb,
  A crown is set on the veiled head.

Swifter than birds on wide firm wings,
  Up from their homes by plain and sea,
Mightier than the seed of kings,
  Gathers the army of men made free,
    Sons and daughters of Liberty!

Swift are their hands to do her will,
  Strong are the knotted arms and bare,
From the rage that stings and hates that kill
  And subtle weavings of toilers' snare,
    To save her, fairest of earth's most fair.

And through the breadth of her domain,
  Near stream that foams and sea that shines,
In lap of hills and bosom of plain,
  Wrought of the riches of earth's mines
        Rise dome and pillar of her shrines.

* * * *

Many a leaf the summers have shed,
  Many a bud has blossomed and blown,
Many a day the sun has led
  'Round the wide world's changing zone,
        Since first her glory earthward shone.

And shifting of battle the world has seen,
  And steam of horses and gleam of spears,
And blooming of meadows fair, made green
  With the blood of men and woman's tears,
        Ere the cry of triumph smote her ears.

And one whose blood was freely poured,
  Whose strong young wrath was as a crown,
Quick to draw from its sheath the sword,
  And last to lay its warm blade down,
        Goes back to his yellow fields and brown.

And here 'twixt suns that rise and set,
  'Twixt river and river, sea and sea,
Will we build thee a shrine, he said, where yet
  Our children's children shall worship thee
        As their fathers have, O Liberty!

Here where with stealthy eye and feet
  The Indian crept on the trail of war;
Let its white walls stand, a symbol meet
  Of the tablets pure of peace and law,
        Till the world is dead and time grown hoar.

And freedom shall be its corner stone,
  And truth the pillars that tall and fair
Rise stately above the great white throne
  Where Justice sits to guard her own,
  And over all shall hover there
        The solemn breathing of a prayer.

MUSIC BY MONROE CORNET BAND.

CATALOGUE

Of Articles deposited under the Corner Stone of the New Iowa State Capitol, November 23, A. D. 1871.

The following list was then read by Mr. A. R. Fulton, Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

1. Copy of the Holy Bible, enveloped in the folds of our National Flag.
2. Copy of our National Ode, "The Star-Spangled Banner," engrossed on parchment.
3. Copies of the Constitution of the United States and the State of Iowa.
4. Copy of the Declaration of American Independence.
5. Copy of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation.
6. Copy of the Joint Resolution ratifying the Amendment to the Constitution of the United States abolishing Slavery, unanimously passed by the Eleventh General Assembly of Iowa, March 30, 1866, with the names of the members thereof, on parchment.
7. Roll of Honor of Iowa Soldiers, and a Roster of the several Iowa Regiments serving in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion.
8. Copies of the reports of Adjutant General N. B. Baker, giving lists of Iowa officers and soldiers serving in the war for the suppression of the Rebellion.
9. Copy of Washington's Farewell Address.
10. Copy of Governor Merrill's Thanksgiving Proclamation for 1871.
11. Copies of the pamphlet, entitled, "Iowa, The Home for Immigrants," in the English, German, Holland, Danish, and Swedish languages.
12. Copy of the pamphlet entitled, "Free Lands of Iowa."
13. Copy of "Laws and Instructions relating to the Duties of County Surveyors," compiled by Hon. C. C. Carpenter, then Register of the State Land Office, and now Governor elect.
14. Copy of the Revision of 1860, with all laws subsequently passed, including the laws relating to a new Capitol.
15. Copy of the report of the committee on building stone, embracing the report, charts, and tables of Prof. Gustave Hinrichs, of the

Iowa State University, and Lieut. W. P. Butler, giving chemical and mechanical tests of samples of Iowa building stone.

16. Copy of the Report of the Iowa State Agricultural Society for 1870.

17. List of premiums of the 18th annual exhibition of the Iowa State Agricultural Society, with names of officers.

18. List of premiums of the 12th annual exhibition of the Central Iowa District Agricultural Association, with names of officers.

19. A sectional map of Iowa.

20. Names and residences of the State officers, and also lists of the names and residences of the members and members elect of the 13th and 14th General Assemblies.

21. Copy of the Census Report of 1867, containing a complete official register of the Territorial and State Governments, compiled by Hon. Ed Wright, Secretary of State.

22. Copies of all legislative documents of the 13th General Assembly, including executive messages, and reports of State officers.

23. Abstracts of votes cast at the general elections of Iowa for the years 1868, 1870, and 1871.

24. Iowa official and statistical table for the year 1871, with names of State and county officers, and the population of the several counties.

25. A complete list of the judicial officers of the State for the year 1871.

26. Table of statistics pertaining to railroads in Iowa, compiled by Hon S. E. Rankin, Treasurer of State.

27. Copy of Des Moines City Directory, with copies of all city ordinances, and a list of municipal officers.

28. A statement of the population, value of real and personal property, with a catalogue of the manufactures, amount of capital invested, and a list of resident bankers and attorneys of the city of Des Moines.

29. A map of Polk county.

30. A map of the city of Chicago, showing the extent of the great conflagration of Oct. 9, 1871.

31. A chronological table of events pertaining to American history.

32. Calendars for the years 1871 and 1872, with astronomical calculations.

33. Autographs of the several State officers, and members of the Board of Capitol Commissioners—on parchment.

34. Roll of names of the 270 foremen, mechanics, and laborers, employed on the New Capitol during the year 1871—on parchment.

35. Copies of all newspapers, and other periodicals, published in Des Moines; also, copies of the several daily papers of the State.

36. A roll of the names of the members of the Monroe Cornet Band, present at the ceremonies of laying the corner stone, as follows:

J. R. Hall, 1st E flat cornet; Jas. Bain, 1st B flat cornet; Frank Hiskey, 2d B flat cornet; Geo. M. Cowels, 1st E flat alto; S. Dixon, 1st B flat tenor; G. D. Foust, 1st B flat baritone; L. M. Shaw, E flat tuba; Wm. Elrod, tenor drummer; J. C. Carr, bass drummer.

37. Programme of proceedings relating to the laying of the Corner Stone of the new Capitol, with a copy of the address of his Excellency, Governor Merrill, delivered on the occasion.

38. The several denominations of gold, silver, and nickel coins of the United States; also a United States Treasury note, and the several denominations of fractional currency.

39. A photographic view of the design of the new Capitol.

40. Photographs of the several State and Des Moines City Officers.

COINS DEPOSITED.

The following are the denominations and dates of the several coins deposited, to-wit:

Gold—$20 of 1870; $10 of 1855; $5 of 1853; $2.50 of 1841; and $1 of 1851.

Silver—$1 of 1871; 50 cents of 1859; 25 cents of 1858; 10 cents of 1857; 5 cents of 1850; and 3 cents of 1858.

Copper and Nickel—5 cents of 1869; 3 cents of 1866; 2 cents of 1868; 1 cent of 1847; and 1 cent of 1869.

MUSIC.

PRESENTATION

OF SILVER MALLET AND TROWEL.

HON. JOHN A. KASSON, of Des Moines, arose in the audience and addressed the Governor as follows:

GOVERNOR MERRILL, *President of the Board of Commissioners:*—The Architects, Messrs. COCHRANE & PIQUENARD, and the local Superintendent, Mr. JAMES APPLEYARD, are unwilling that this occasion should pass without some special contribution to its interest on their part. In common with all the people of Iowa, they appreciate most heartily the intelligence, good sense, and perfect honesty of your administration, and especially in respect to this new Capitol whose foundations are now laid. In token of this appreciation, they have requested me to present to you, in behalf of the architects, this beautifully engraved Silver Trowel, with which you may spread the cement in which the Corner Stone will be laid; and in behalf of the Superintendent, this handsomely carved Mallet, of the most beautiful wood of Iowa, and mounted with silver, to be used in setting the stone in its bed.

They ask you to accept these tools of art which are fitly inscribed in memory of the occasion; and pray that descendants of your blood and name may continue to hold them in possession so long as that building, whose foundation stone you will this day put in place by their use, shall stand as the monument of an honest, free, and generous State.

GOVERNOR MERRILL arose and received the souvenirs, remarking that he was taken completely by surprise; that this was a part of the programme not before intimated to him. He would accept the beautiful gifts, appreciating most heartily the good will and kindness of the

donors, and would carefully preserve them as mementoes of the occasion, as well as of the generous sentiments of regard on the part of his friends which prompted the presentation.

(Inscription on the trowel.)
Presented to
COL. SAMUEL MERRILL,
GOVERNOR OF IOWA,
by
COCHRANE & PIQUENARD,
Architects.
Used in setting the Corner Stone of the
State Capitol at Des Moines City,
Nov. 23*d*, *A. D.* 1871.
[View of New Capitol.]

—

(Inscription on the mallet.)
To GOV. SAMUEL MERRILL, *President*
Board of Capitol Commissioners,
From JAMES APPLEYARD,
Local Supt., New Capitol.
Nov. 22*d*, 1871.

LAYING THE STONE.

Gen. BAKER, as Chief Marshal of the day, again formed the procession, and the audience repaired to the southwest corner of the foundation to witness the final ceremonies. The leaden box, 20 inches long, by 10 inches wide and 12 inches deep, had been previously filled by Commissioner CHAS. DUDLEY with the articles named in the catalogue, and was now securely placed in position in the cavity under the corner-stone. Governor MERRILL then, using his silver trowel and silver-mounted mallet, smoothed the mortar and adjusted the stone to its proper position, after which, mounting the stone, he turned to the spectators and remarked—"In the name and in behalf of the people "of Iowa I pronounce the corner-stone well set."

In these final proceedings assistance was rendered in their several positions by the following named persons, to-wit: JAMES APPLEYARD, local superintendent; NATHAN W. SMITH, foreman in charge of the derrick; DAVID D. FLEMING, engineer, and M. C. MEIGHAN, foreman of stone-cutters. The engine used on the occasion is designated as "Double, engine Nos. 1093 and 1094, manufactured by Cook, Rymes & Co., Charlestown, Mass., 1870."

After the laying of the stone the band played the "Star Spangled Banner," after which Rev. THOMAS O. RICE, standing on the corner-stone, pronounced the benediction. As the audience dispersed the Zouave Light Artilery, of Des Moines, commanded by Capt. F. OLMSTED, fired a national salute, and the ceremonies of the day were ended.

The corner-stone is cut from granite obtained in Buchanan county, Iowa, and was presented for the purpose by DAVID ARMSTRONG, Esq., of that county. Its dimensions are 7 x 3 x 3 feet. A panel cut on the face fronting west contains the following inscription:

CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS.

GOV. SAMUEL MERRILL,

S. G. STEIN, G. M. DODGE, J. N. DEWEY,

J. O. CROSBY, JAS. F. WILSON, JAS. DAWSON,

WM. L. JOY, CHAS. DUDLEY,

COCHRANE & PIQUENARD, Architects.

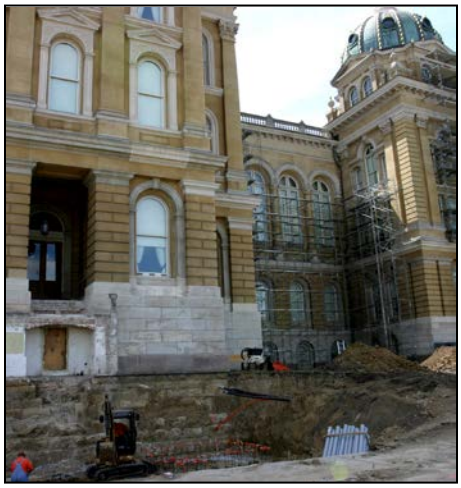
On the south end—the stone being in the southwest angle of the Capitol—the bold inscription is briefly:

A. D.

1871.

Trowel

Maul



Chisels

Trowel Engraving*

Original tools used in laying the Iowa State Capitol foundation

Stone-Dressing Axe

The engraving reads as follows:

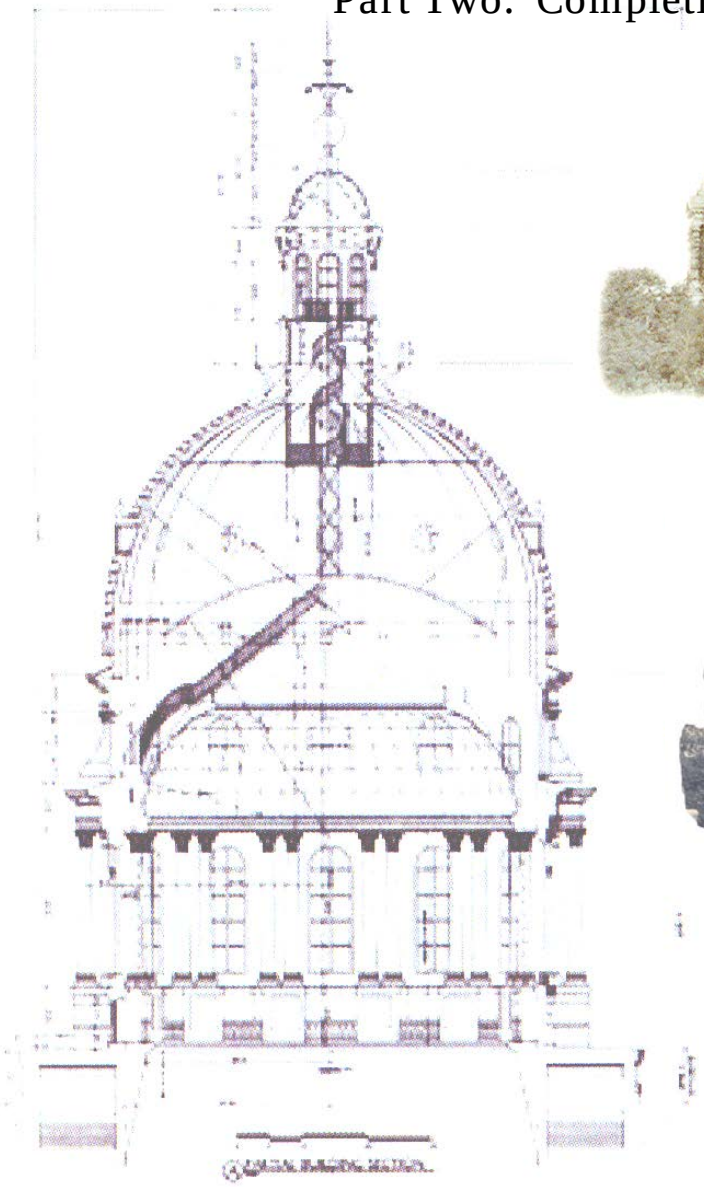
Presented to
Col. Sam Merrill
Governor of Iowa
by
Cochrane & Piquenard
Architects.
Used in
setting the Corner Stone of the
State Capitol at Des Moines City
Nov. 23d, A. D. 1871.

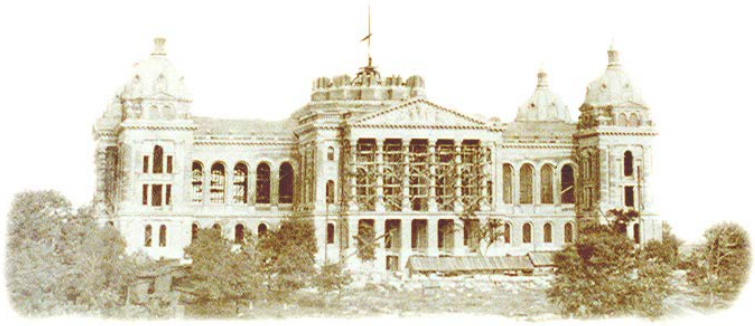
Constructing

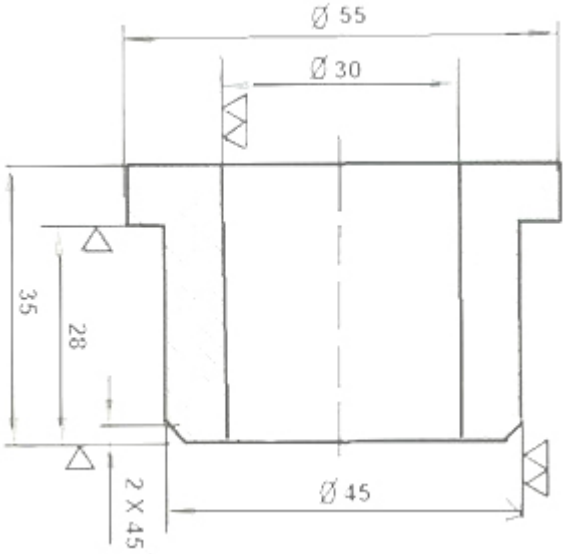
the

Iowa State Capitol

Part Two: Completing Construction







Robert S. Finkbine

Constructing

the

Iowa State Capitol

Part Two: Completing Construction

CHAPTER FIVE
Foundation

The Legislature mandated that the Capitol was to be constructed without raising taxes. The funds available for the project were what remained after all other state obligations had been paid.

> **"SECTION 6. No money hereby appropriated shall be paid out until the Census Board shall certify to the Treasurer of the State that the resources of the treasury, without increasing the rate of taxation, are sufficient to meet the proposed disbursements, after other appropriations are allowed."**

The failure of the first foundation stone was a major setback in the construction. Histories written about the building rarely demand more than a paragraph describing the failure of the original foundation, but it was a huge financial mistake and slowed the construction by many months. Mr. Finkbine understood it was the "sensible" thing to remove all the unstable stone and replace it before construction continued rather than to continue building only to have more stone fail 10 years into the construction. The cost of replacing the foundation stone came to $52,353.76.

The report of the architect for the years 1872 and 1873 states that in compliance with the resolution of the General Assembly "most of the foundation stone was removed but five good pieces, which would have cost too much to remove and which are placed where they could not injure the building . . . remained." Because of the failure of the 1871 foundation, the Legislature removed the original Capitol Commissioners and created a second smaller Capitol Commission.

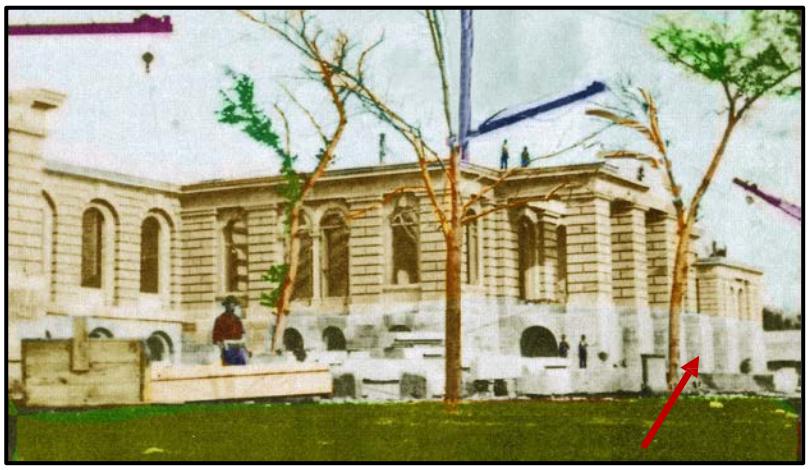
Maturin Fisher

Peter Dey

> **The report of January 1, 1872, shows an expenditure of $119,997.62. Acting on the foregoing suggestion, the Fourteenth General Assembly passed an "Act, approved April 10, 1872, which amended the former act, and established a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Governor, who should be *ex-officio* President of the Board, John G. Foote of Des Moines county, Maturin L. Fisher of Clayton county, R. S. Finkbine and Peter A. Dey of Johnson county."**

Mr. Appleyard, the first Superintendent of Construction, or "overseer," had been discharged at the close of work in December 1871. Mr. Finkbine had been strongly recommended but the board felt they would be accused of favoritism if a commissioner

were also to serve as overseer. In June 1872, the board concluded to carry on the work through an executive committee, and appointed Mr. Fisher, Mr. Dey, and Mr. Finkbine as such a committee. The committee invested in Mr. Finkbine all their authority, and he discharged the duties of the local superintendent. The Fourteenth General Assembly, at an extra session in 1873, passed a Joint Resolution authorizing the board to appoint one of their own as local superintendent, or overseer, and Mr. Finkbine was immediately and unanimously elected to that office in February 1873.



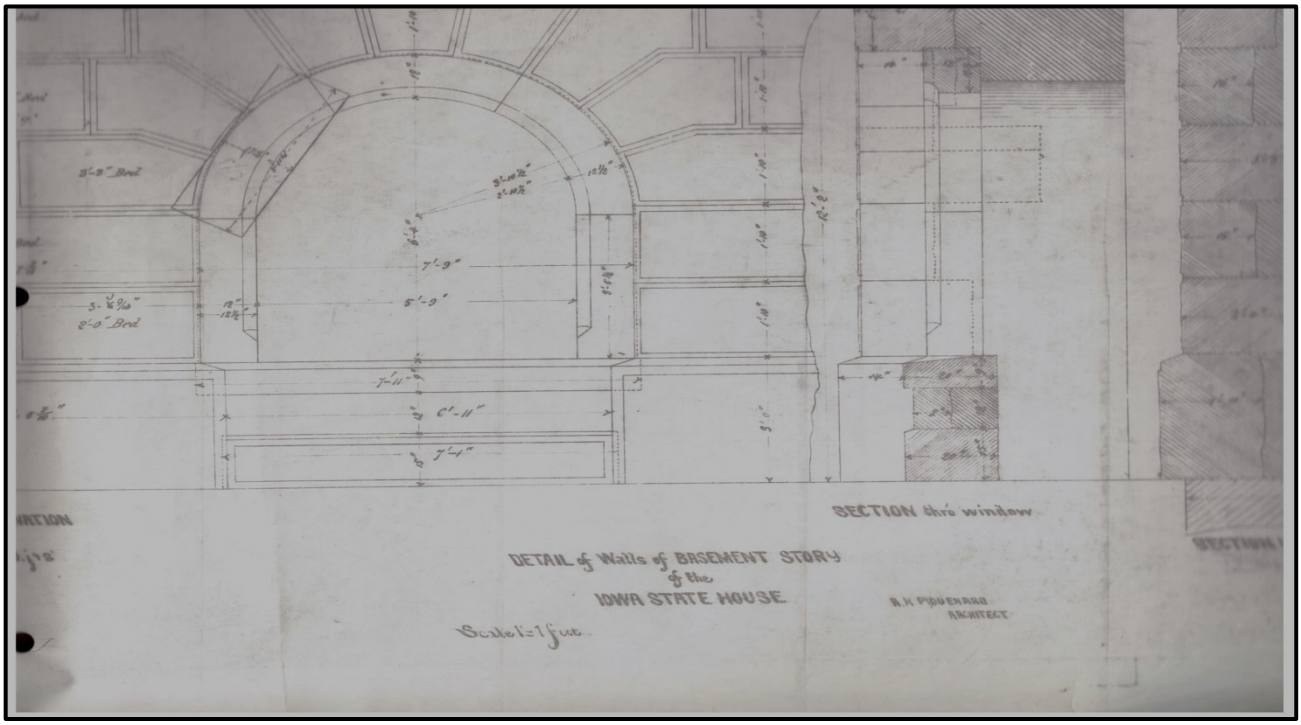
Capitol's southeast corner, circa 1873

Once the foundation walls were replaced, and the cornerstone relaid, the Capitol Commissioners, Mr. Finkbine, Mr. Foote, Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Dey, set about the work of completing the Capitol. David Armstrong and Messers. Barnum and Overman furnished granite for the base course in 1873. The contract to provide two million bricks went to Jones and Redhead.

Early expenditures primarily focused on functional and structural items: sewer lines, waterlines, stonecutting, railroad fees, and salaries for the architects, commissioners, and laborers. By December 31, 1873, there had been three separate appropriations:

- The Thirteenth General Assembly: $150,000.00
- The Fourteenth General Assembly: $100,000.00
- The Fourteenth General Assembly: $125,000.00

Total: $375,000.00
Total expenditures: $374,825.88

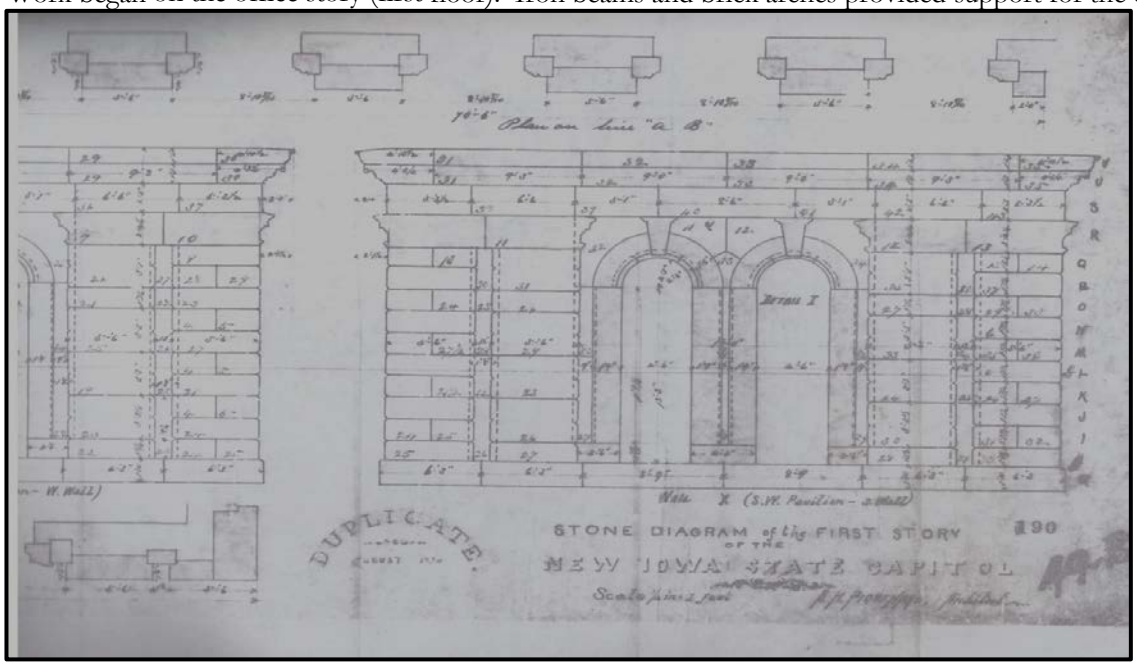


Detail of walls of the basement in the Capitol

Mr. Piquenard acknowledged the wisdom of the selection of Mr. Finkbine as the overseer of the work because of his experience as a builder. Mr. Piquenard also recommended the General Assembly appropriate a larger amount, suggesting the same amount per year would allow the work to "push forward with more force and vigor."

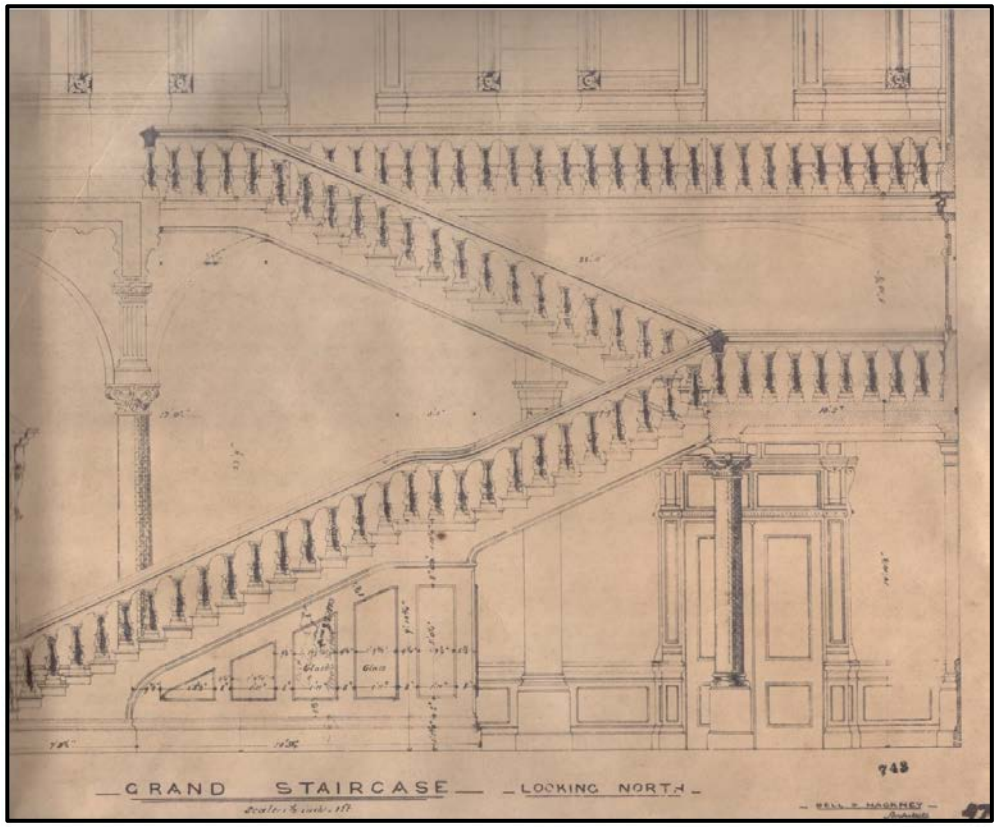
The next major decision made by the commissioners included the choice of the exterior stone. Sandstone was chosen because of color and wearability. Brown stone, or buff stone, from St. Genevieve, Missouri, for the large blocks and blue sandstone from Carroll County, Missouri, served for the decorative contrast pieces.

The fine-grained blue stone from Carrol County made for easy carving and would save time and money. This decision would end up costing a great deal in later years as the stone corroded easily. By 1875 the basement story was complete. Work began on the office story (first floor). Iron beams and brick arches provided support for the office story floors that would eventually be laid over them. Stonecutters received a template that specified dimensions for the stone to be cut according to what was needed at the time. Mr. Finkbine hired day laborers based on the work and skill needed for the day. Nearly all the exterior stone for the office story was on the grounds and cut by this time.

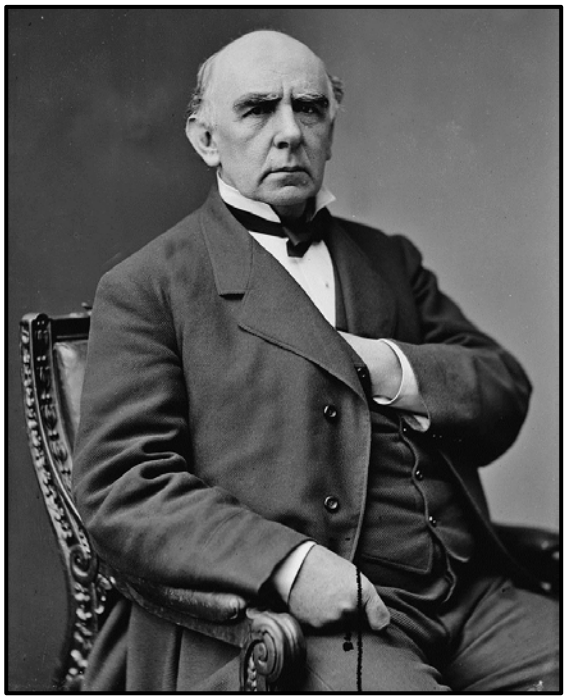


Stone diagram of the first floor of the Capitol, 1875

In 1876, the Capitol Commissioners were faced with the decision to use plans adopted by the General Assembly that were accepted based on cost and not the architect's recommendations. Edward Clark modified the original plans to stay within the original estimated cost of $1.5 million. The commissioners appealed the legislature to approve a more costly building. Had the commissioners not dropped the modified plans of Mr. Clark and reverted back to the original plans submitted by Mr. Cochran and Mr. Piquenard, the Capitol would have no domes. The four corner pavilions would each have a flat roof, and the main dome would have been built to rise just above the roof level and would be covered with a skylight. The grand staircase would be iron, not marble, and the library would occupy the east projection with committee rooms below on the office story. Floors would have been hardwood, rather than marble or tile. Architect Alfred Piquenard died in November 1876. His assistants, Mifflin Bell and William Hackney, were appointed by the board to supervise the completion of the building.



Grand Staircase



Edward Clark

In 1877, the walls of the first floor, or office story, had been completed. Commissioners pushed to install the heating apparatus so the process of drying the structure and eventually drying the finished surfaces could begin. In 1878, the Capitol Commissioners purchased the lot for the steam heating plant and the exterior walls of the building were completed.

The report of the Capitol Commissioner in 1880 states, "the statues for the west pediment are complete and in place. The four turrets have been completed at a cost of $69,800.64." The commission needed approval from the General Assembly to finish work on the central/main dome.

When the Legislature adopted Mr. Clark's modified plans at the beginning of construction, their intention was to build the Capitol within the $1.5 million limit but as construction continued the architects continually reminded the Legislature of their obligation to construct a building that would not only stand 1,000 years but would also be the pride of Iowans for generations to come. The Legislature did not need much convincing. They also felt the responsibility of constructing a building of beauty for all time. Changing Mr. Clark's modified plans to include the five domes revived Mr. Piquenard's original plans; although, architect Mifflin Bell had revised the design of the main dome to a shorter wider dome. The idea of a dome at all did not pass the legislature without some opposition.

One Joint Resolution offered by Representative Caldwell in 1880 read as follows:

> Whereas, By an over appropriation there will not be sufficient moneys in the treasury to complete the dome on the new capitol within the next biennial period; and
>
> Whereas, It would be unwise to expend two thousand dollars in a wooden roof; and
>
> Whereas, Great damage would result from leaving open of the space now open for said dome; therefor *Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa*, That the Executive Council be instructed and the Capitol Commissioners be requested to prepare, as soon as circumstances will permit, sufficient prairie hay and bark to cover the said space so left open.
>
> Laid on the table.

This resolution is a reminder that divisions existed between those who championed the changes suggested by the architects bringing symmetry and elaborate details to the building and those who wanted the building completed quickly and for as little money as possible.

Iowa State Capitol west front, 1880

The dome was completed by 1882 at a cost of $391,389.60. The hemispherical part of the dome weighs 481,000 pounds. When evaluating the heating and ventilation, the commissioners went to great lengths to ensure the comfort of those who would inhabit the building. After completing the work of heating and ventilation, the architects and Capitol Commissioners focused on finishing the interior of the building.

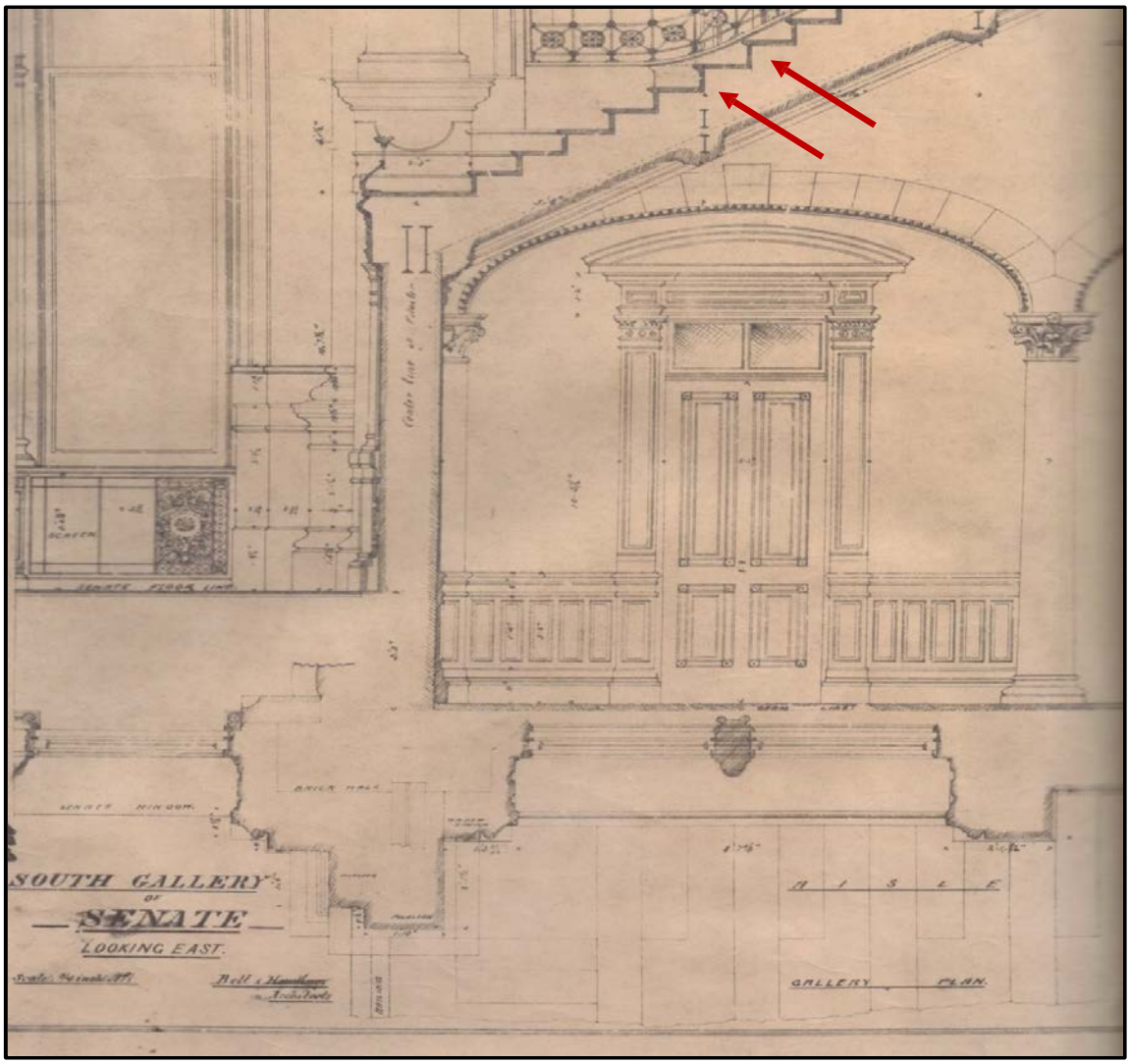
The commissioners determined it was best to finish the second story first, and then work their way down. They felt it necessary to finish the library as quickly as possible because the condition of the library in the Old Brick Capitol was endangering the library collection. Also, the Legislature pressured them to finish the building. By completing the second story first, the Legislature could move into their beautiful new chambers more than two years before the entire building was completed.

The Nineteenth General Assembly, by an Act approved March 14, 1882, made an appropriation of $525,000 for the new Capitol—payable, $75,000 in the year 1882, $275,000 in the year 1883, and $175,000 in the year 1884; "and required the Capitol Commissioners to complete the Senate Chamber, Hall of the House of Representatives, Library room, and such other portions as may be practicable, for occupancy by the next General Assembly."

For the interior finishes, the architects recommended employing "only artisans and skilled specialists." They felt the furnishings should be designed and constructed for each department of state. That carpet, curtains, painted walls, and ceilings should blend within the rooms.

Expenditures between the years 1882 to 1884 were almost exclusively for interior finishes. Ettore S. Miragoli was contracted to decorate the House of Representatives, Senate, Library, and the east wing of the second and third floors. Also, the main dome above the granite columns and the entrances to the House and Senate were Mr. Miragoli's creation.

In 1882, E. S. Miragoli contracted with the Capitol Commission for "painting and decorating the ceiling and walls of the Senate for the sum of $3,000.00 and the House for $3, 500.00."



South Gallery of the Senate Chamber, looking east

Mr. Miragoli contracted in 1883, "for painting and decorating the walls and ceilings of the east wing, including figures, stenciling walls, tinting panels and finishing the entire level of the gallery floor for the sum of $2,350.00. The rotunda complete with the ceilings above the granite columns and the entrances to the House and Senate for the sum of $1,960.00. The Library ceiling complete and the marbleizing of all the pilasters for the sum of $2050.00."

The Report of the Superintendent of Finance for the Capitol Commission shows payments to Mr. Miragoli between January and December 1883 totaling $14,343.94.

Jackson Sentinel.

MAQUOKETA, IOWA, 1882

The Iowa Capitol Building.

Since the new Capitol building was begun, over half a million people have settled in Iowa. Perhaps now that the great building is so rapidly approaching completion, the register cannot do better than to give some information regarding its size and cost, as well as the progress of construction.

The bill to provide for the construction of the new Capitol was passed by the Legislature in 1870. The bill provided for the creation of on nine Commissioners, six to be chosen by the Legislature, and the others to be Gov. Samuel Merrill, Gen. C. M. Dodge and Honorable James. F. Wilson. The ultimate cost provided for was to be $1,500,000, but there was a stipulation that the rate of *taxation was not to be increased* to provide funds.

The corner-stone for the new structure was laid Nov. 23, 1871. The next year it was discovered that the rock which composed the foundation wall was of inferior quality, and in 1873, the slope southwest of the Capitol ground was nearly covered with the rejected foundation rock.

The railroad track which the Rock Island road laid to the grounds in 1870 to facilitate the handling of heavy materials was removed in 1881.

The foundation was relaid with more durable rock in 1873, and the corner-stone was relaid with much scanter ceremony than on the previous occasion.

The building was covered in 1880, the domes were completed, and the glass mainly in place last year.

As the structure now stands, it measures, including the portico, 365 feet from north to south and 239 feet from west to east. The building is four stories high, except in the part devoted to the Legislative halls and Library, where it is three stories. The height from the base line to the top of cornices is 93 feet, and from the base line to the top of the center dome it is 275 feet. The four domes at the corners are 165 feet above ground, The main dome has a horizontal diameter at its base of 73 feet. The east and west porticos are fronted each by six Corinthian pillars, and the north and south entrances by four each.

The first story above the basement is divided up into twenty-nine rooms, beside closets, that will average as large as 30 x 30 feet each. These will be devoted to the use of the various State offices, including Supreme Court rooms.

The story above will be largely taken for the two Legislative halls and State Library. This part is now being completed as rapidly as possible under the provisions of the appropriation bill passed last session. These chambers will be reached by stairways at the north and south entrances. The Senate chamber will be forty feet from floor to ceiling, and the Library forty-six feet.

The total length of the wall of this imposing building, exterior measurement, is 1,464 feet, or rather more than a quarter of a mile. The number of square feet enclosed is 54, 850, or almost an acre and a quarter. There were used in the foundation 2,759 cubic yards of concrete and rubble, the walls required 471,856 feet of granite and limestone, and the interior consumed 13,626,000 brick. There have been used 802,200 bushels of sand and 27,398 barrels of cement. Of the metal the consumption has been—cast iron 117,526 pounds; wrought iron, 2,217,024 pounds; steel, 21,016 pounds; lead, 10,815 pounds, sheet iron, 2,902 pounds; copper and bronze, 187,237 pounds. The iron was largely for heating and gas pipes, and the copper for the domes.

The main dome, as is well known, is to be gilded. This will not be so expensive as many would think. The total cost is now estimated by the architect at from $4,000 to $4,500. There are but few buildings that boast this embellishment. Among the more notable gilded domes are those surmounting the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, and the Cathedral of St. Isaac, in St. Petersburg. The Capitol dome at Boston and that at Hartford are also gilded. It may be added that but few domes exceed in size that of Iowa's Capitol. Like the building it is practically fireproof; the vertical part above the stylobate is constructed of stone and brick; the hemispherical part is made of light iron framework, consisting of vertical eye beam ribs, tied with horizontal bands of flat iron, and filled in between the ribs and

inside the bands with a brick wall arch, distinguishing in thickness from fourteen inches at the springing line to four and a half inches at the ring, which forms the base of the lantern. The amount of iron used in the construction above the cut-stone work, and below the lantern was 87,783 pounds, and the brick used between the same points was 85,960. The total weight of the constructive portion of the hemispherical part of the dome is 487,000 pounds. The exterior above the cut-stone work is covered with copper; the floor of the lantern balcony is of cast bronze, and the railing around the balcony is of brass and bronze. These metals are not materially affected by the action of the elements, and will not be marred from exposure by rust or other disintegration. The copper will be finished with paint and gilding.

The total amount expended on the Iowa Capitol up to July 1 was $1,977,489.07, and the Commissioners believe that the building will cost, when completed, $2,500,000, or $1,000,000 more than originally intended. It is to be hoped, however, that future General Assemblies will provide a few pieces of statuary for the grounds and more suitable paintings for the vestibules. But these can wait—*Des Moines Register*.

The Lemars Sentinel.

VOL. XII. LEMARS, IOWA, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1882 NO. 22

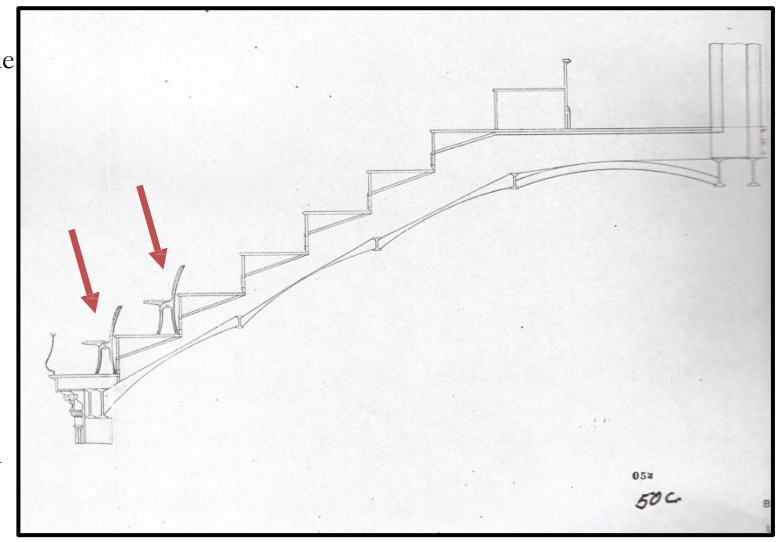
THE Des Moines *Register* says: "The Capitol Commissioners let the contract for all marble work to a Mr. Foster, of New York. The question of gilding the Capitol dome, long a subject of discussion, was decided by the board, and the dome is to be gilded with gold. Gold adds greatly to the finish of the building. An English gentleman has been employed to do the plaster-paris work, in marble effect. He comes all the way from London to do the work, as the board was unable to employ a competent person in this country, and gets $6 per day and expenses.

A. H. Andrews and Company furnished nine hundred opera chairs for the House and Senate visitor galleries. The cost was $6.50 each.

Pottier & Stymus Manufacturing Company provided curtains for the legislative chambers for $4,750. Robert C. Fisher and Company in New York provided marble for the second floor wainscoting and pediments for the office story doors including the elevators and the marble for the grand stairway.

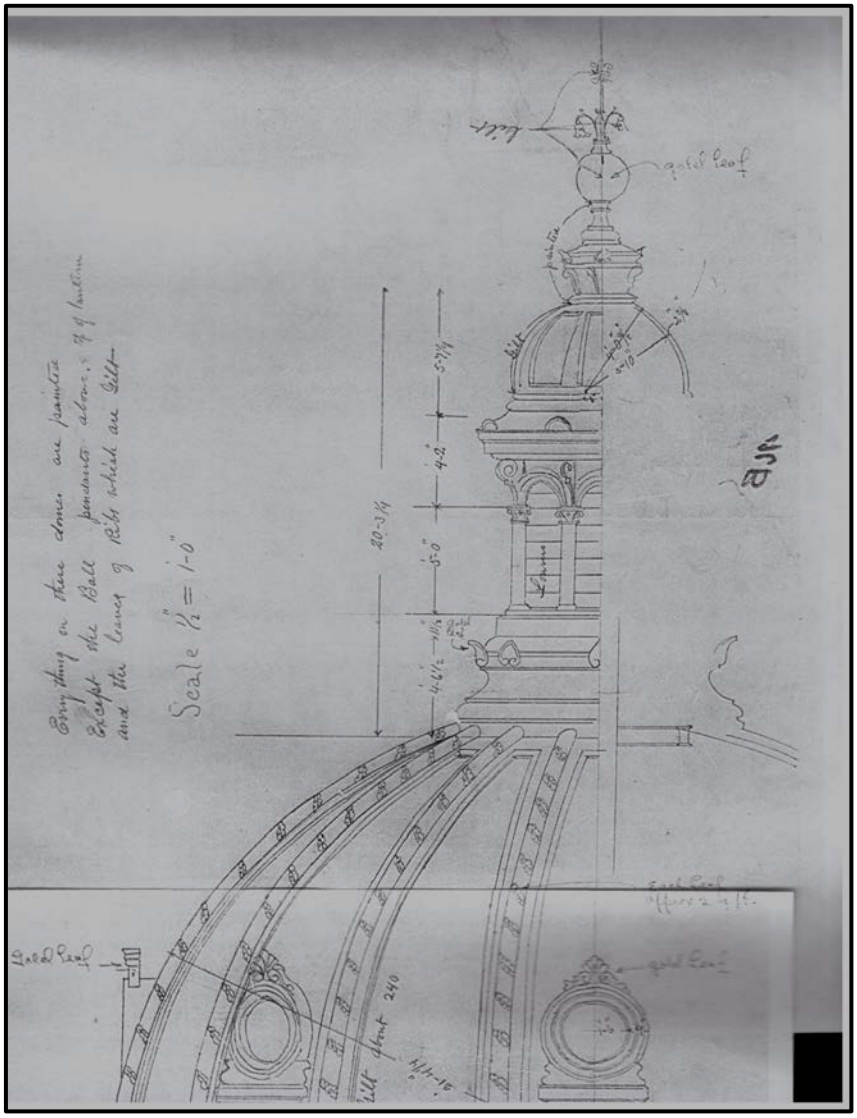
Wires were run for a system of telephones throughout the building, with the intention of an exchange in the basement, connecting various offices and rooms with each other and with the city exchange.

Mitchell, Vance, and Company of New York provided the gas light fixtures for the portions of the building completed and occupied for the 1884 Legislative Ssession at a cost of $21,221.23.



Opera chairs in the visitor galleries

Governor. A. Misch of Chicago provided the stained glass for the skylights above the House, Senate, Library, and east wing for $2 per square foot, on cars (delivered, but not yet installed).



Iowa State Capitol golden dome

L. Harbach of Des Moines furnished 150 legislators desks for $6,750. These desks are still in use today.

Haugh, Ketchum & Company installed the two flights of spiral iron stairs for the library at a cost of $2,107.24.

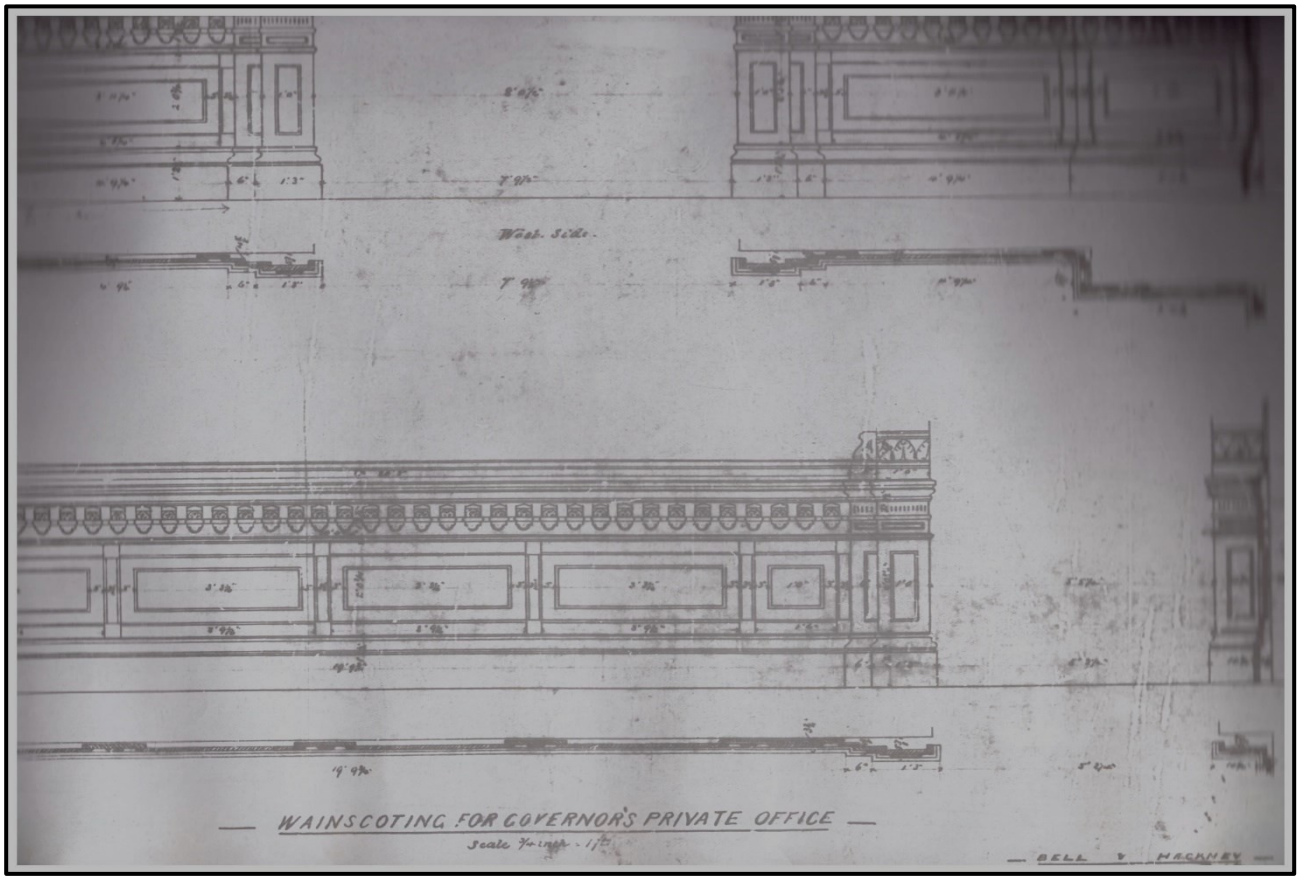
The most noticeable exterior work completed in 1882 and 1883 consisted of the decorative work on the exterior dome including gilding the large dome and the braids of the smaller domes. The gilding contract went to Hastings and Company for $3,662. The gold leaf cost $2,741.50, $45 for sizing, and $875 for labor.

The completion of the interior decoration of the second and third stories allowed the legislative spaces to be occupied. The building was dedicated on January 17, 1884. The Legislature ceremoniously moved from the Old Brick Capitol into their new chambers. Mr. Finkbine noted in his 1884 report that the public galleries had been completed in time for this event but were finished just minutes prior to the Legislature convening and he had not "had time to examine the work other than that the required number had been furnished." A grand ceremony and public ball took place in the new Capitol that day. The Governor and the General Assembly invited Mr. Kasson, who led the fight to build a new capitol, to give the address for the Inauguration of the State Capitol at Des Moines.

January 18, 1884, architects Bell and Hackney submitted their fourth biennial report to the Capitol Commissioners recommending the continued use of encaustic tile for the public hallways on the first story, marble wainscoting, and mantels in executive offices, and that all principle offices and corridors should be richly decorated. They suggested a more elaborate treatment for the Supreme Court room because of the "dignity of its intended occupancy."

The Legislature approved an Act on April 3, 1884, providing for the care and management of the new Capitol. The Capitol commissioners were to oversee the completion and furnishing of the building but were also to oversee the maintenance of the portions already completed. The Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners, Ed Wright, was appointed the custodian of the Capitol building. At the regular meeting of the Capitol Commission in November 1884 they adopted the following Resolution:

> Resolved, That the pay of the custodian of the new Capitol as provided for by resolution of this Board of May 8, 1884, be two hundred dollars per month from and after the first day of December, 1885.



Wainscoting for the Governor's private office

By this time, William Hackney was the only architect left on the project. John Cochran left the firm before the completion of the foundation; Mr. Piquenard passed away November 19, 1876; and Mr. Bell left in December 1884 to supervise the construction of the Treasury building in Washington, D.C.

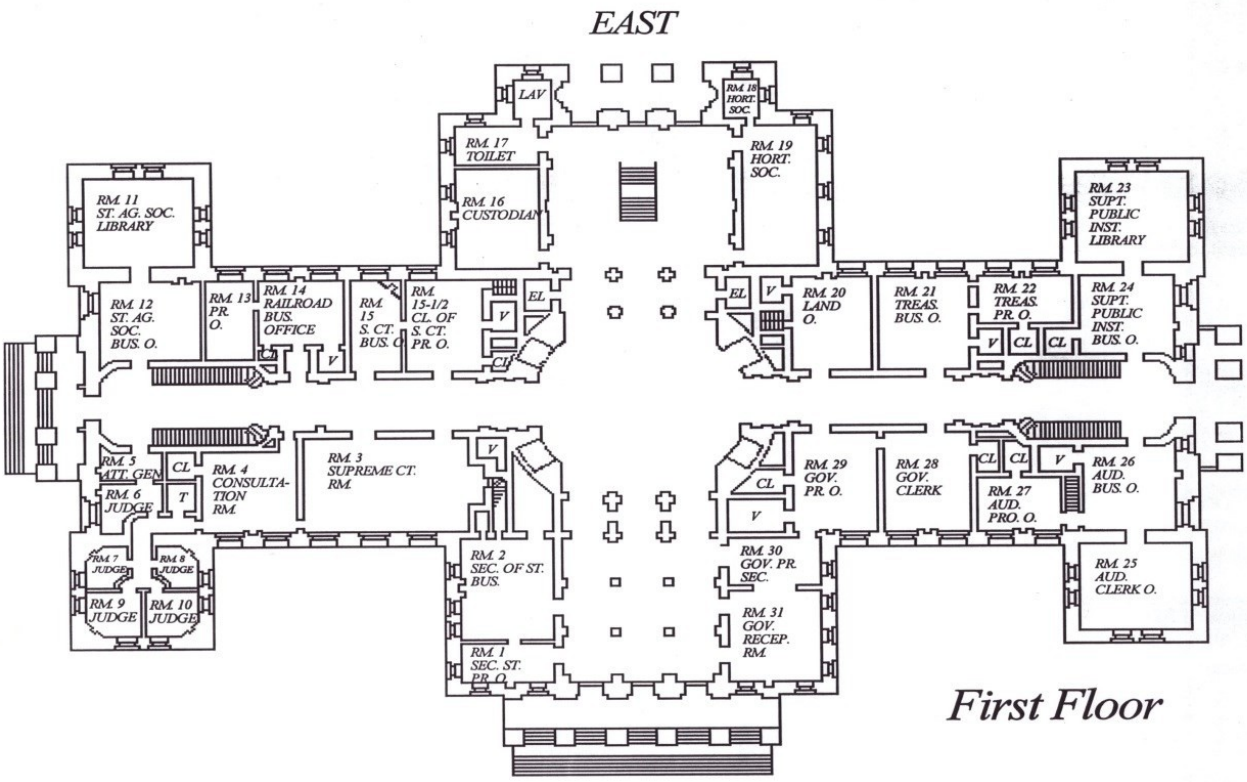
The Legislature assigned the remaining rooms in the Capitol through a Joint Resolution. The executive and judicial offices occupied the first floor. Their corresponding business offices and additional nongovernmental rooms were assigned to the ground floor.

ASSIGNMENT OF ROOMS IN NEW CAPITOL.

JOINT RESOLUTION
Relative to the Assignment of Rooms in the New Capitol.

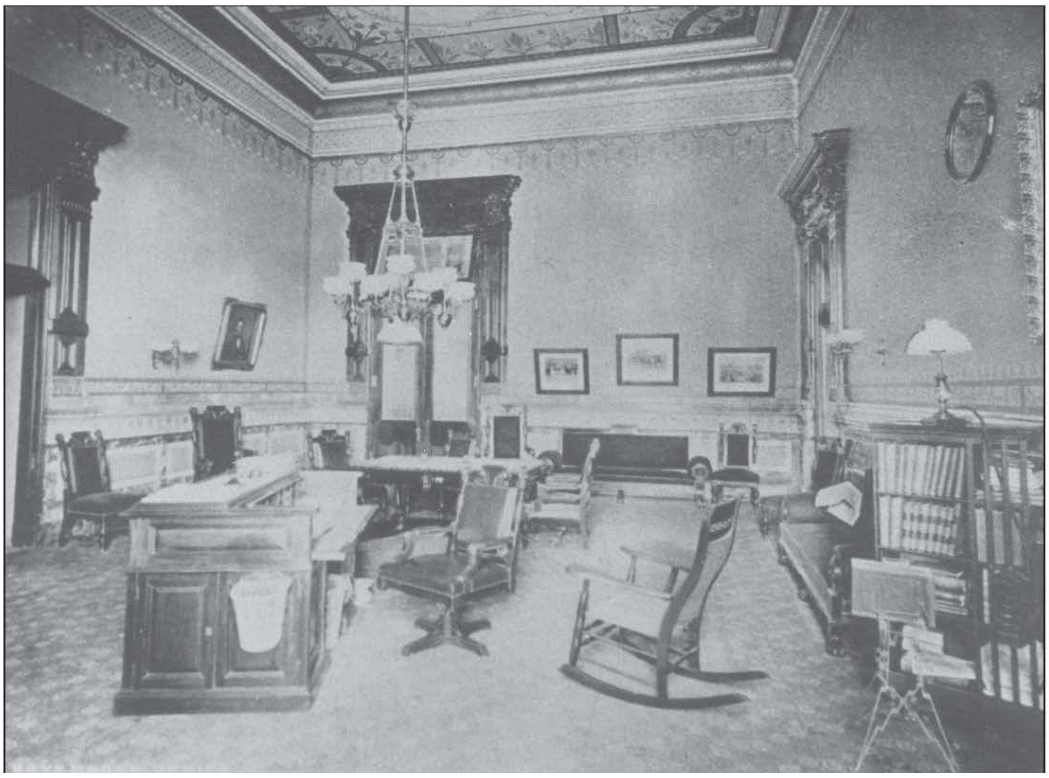
Be it *resolved by General Assembly of the State of Iowa*

That the rooms of the new capitol in the basement and first story thereof be assigned to the several state officers, and boards of commissioners as designated in schedules A and B hereto attached and that such rooms as are not therein assigned be left subject to future assignment by the general assembly, or as may be provided by law, and that the capitol commissioners be directed to finish and furnish said rooms in A style most convenient for the purpose or purposes, for which each room is to be used as designated in said schedules.



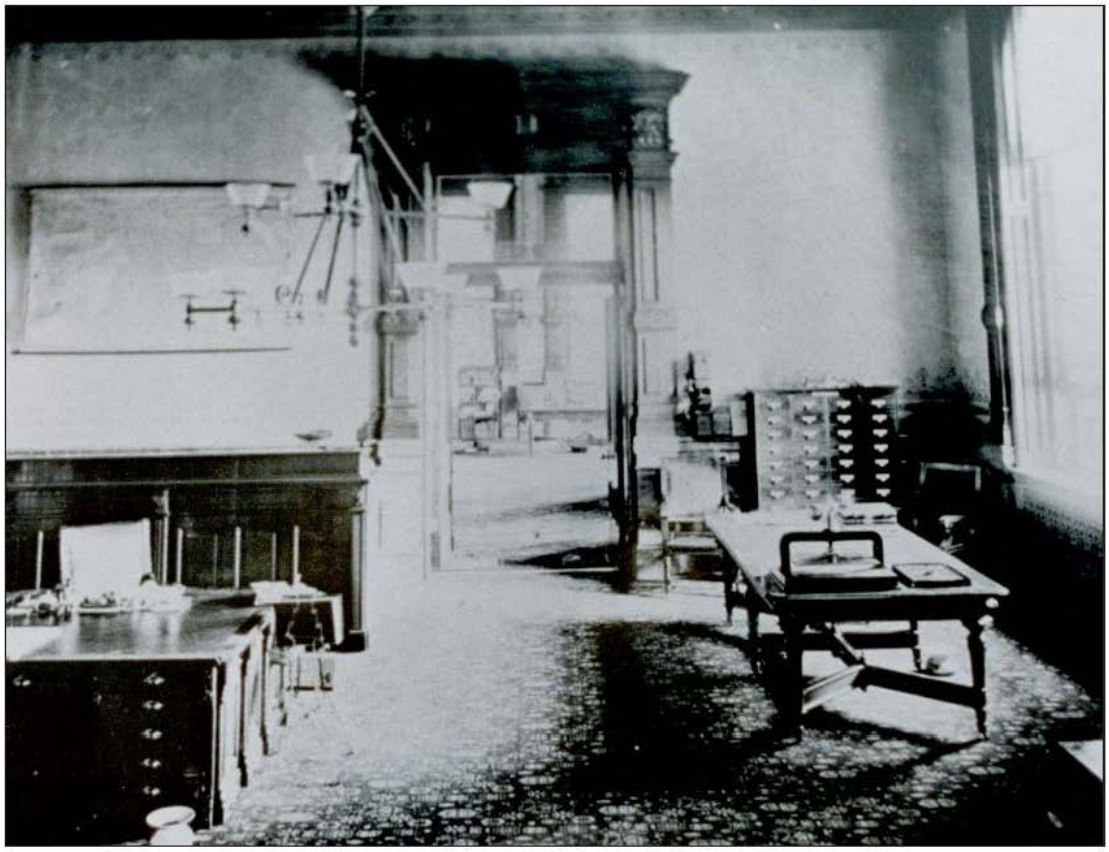
Schedule A. *First Story*

No.1. Secretary of State, Private Office
No.2. Secretary of State, Business Office
No.3. Supreme Court Room
No.4. Supreme Court Consultation Room
No.5. Attorney-General's Room
No.6. Judge's Private Room
No.7. Judge's Private Room
No.8. Judge's Private Room
No.9. Judge's Private Room
No. 10. Judge's Private Room
No. 11. State Agricultural Society, Library
No. 12. State Agriculture Society, Business Room
No. 13. Railroad: Commissioners, Private Office
No. 14. Railroad Commissioners, Business Office
No. l5. Clerk Supreme Court, Business Office
No. 15 1/2. Clerk Supreme Court, Private Office
No. 16. *Curtodeon* [Custodian] of the Capitol, Office
No. 17. Lavatory
No. 18. Horticultural Society
No. 19. Horticultural Society
No. 20. State Land Office.
No. 21. State Treasurer's Business Office
No. 22. State Treasurer's Private Office.
No. 28. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Library
No. 24. Superintendent of Public Instruction, Business Office
No. 25. Auditor of State
No. 26. Auditor of State
No. 27. Auditor of State
No. 28. Governor's Private Office
No. 29. Governor's Business Office
No. 30. Governor's Private Secretary
No. 31. Governor's Reception Room

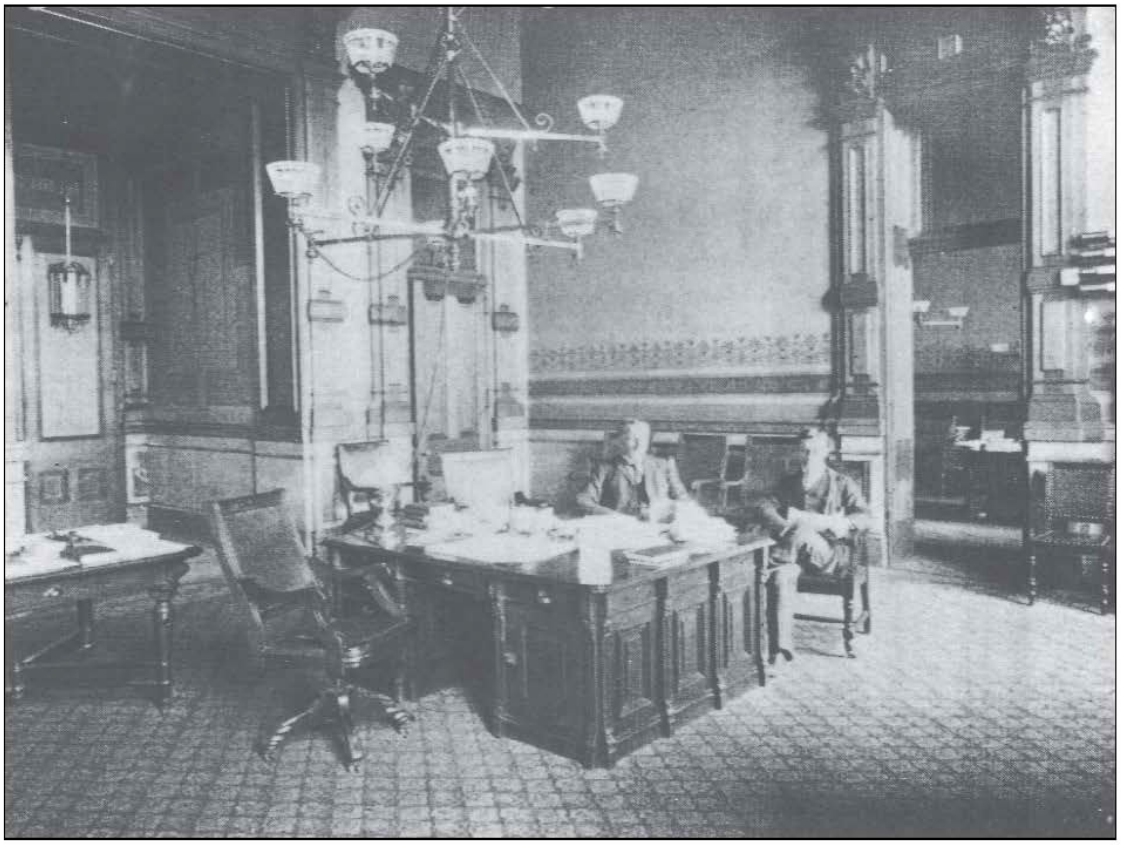


Governor's private office on the first floor

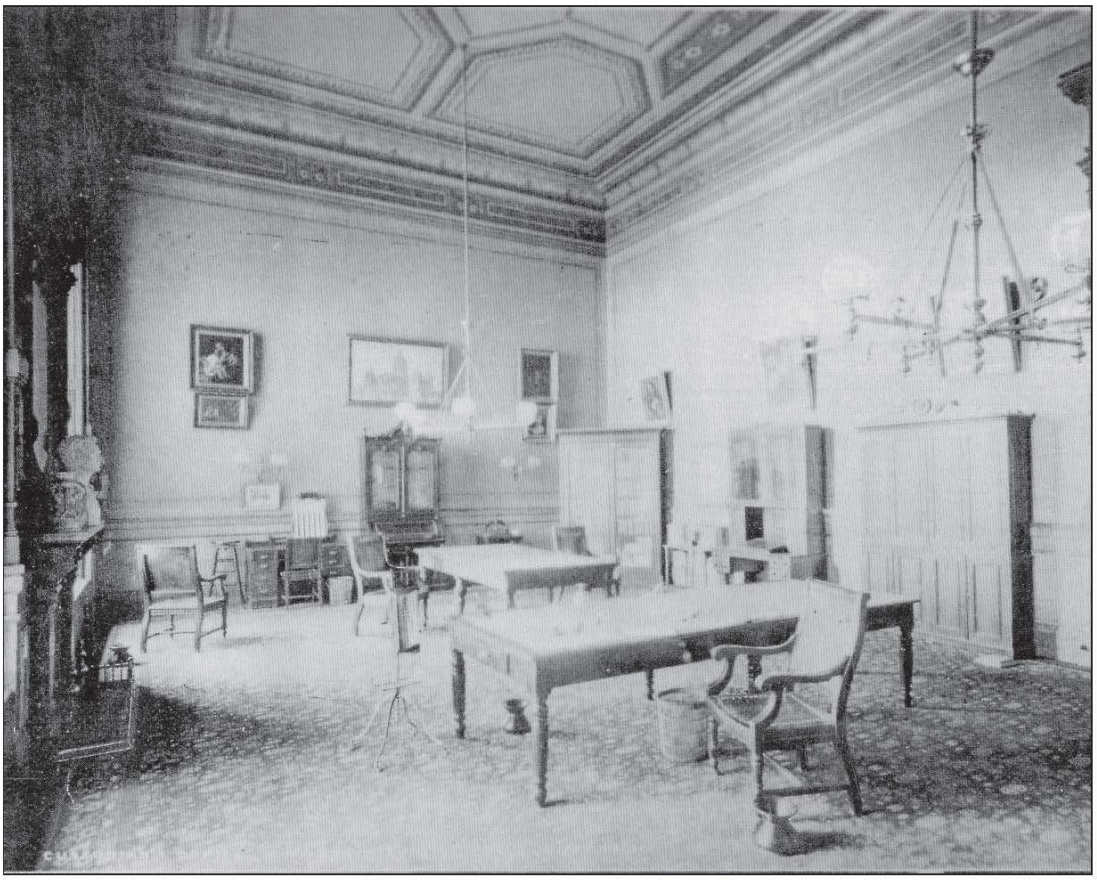
Iowa Supreme Court Chamber



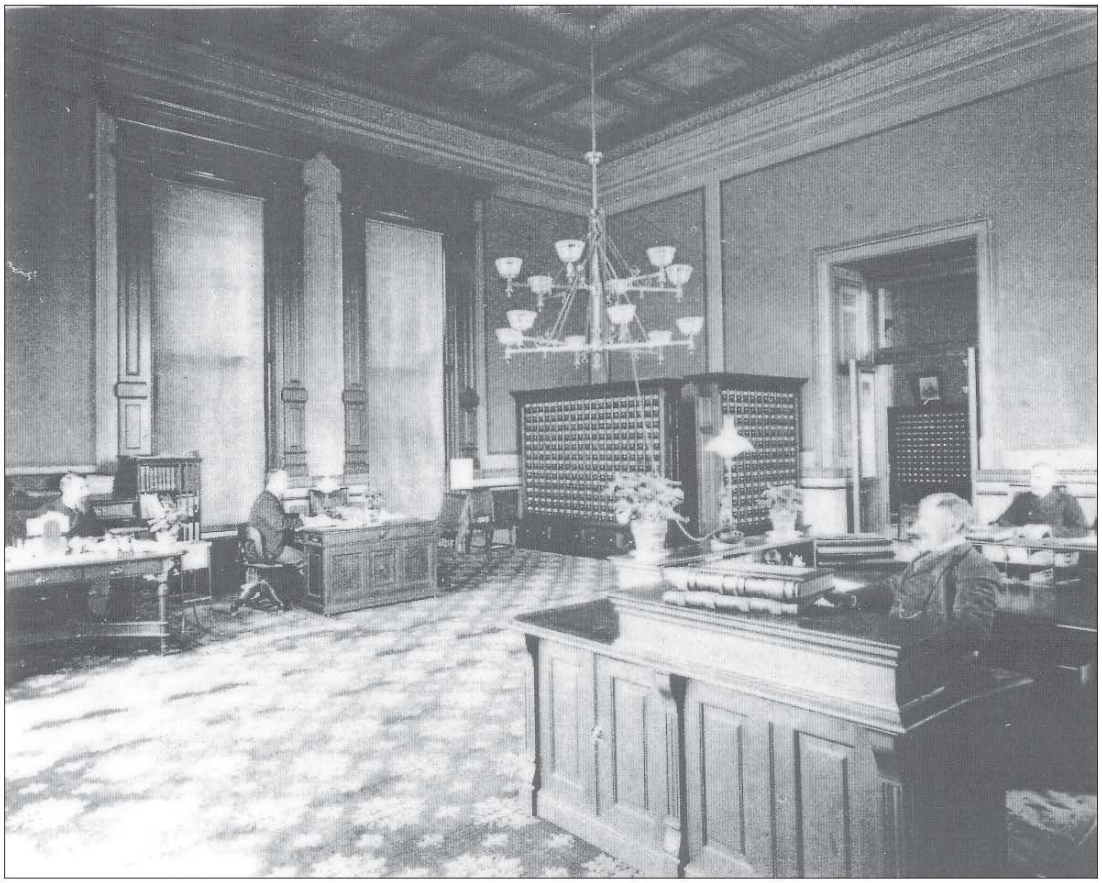
Public Instruction Business Office



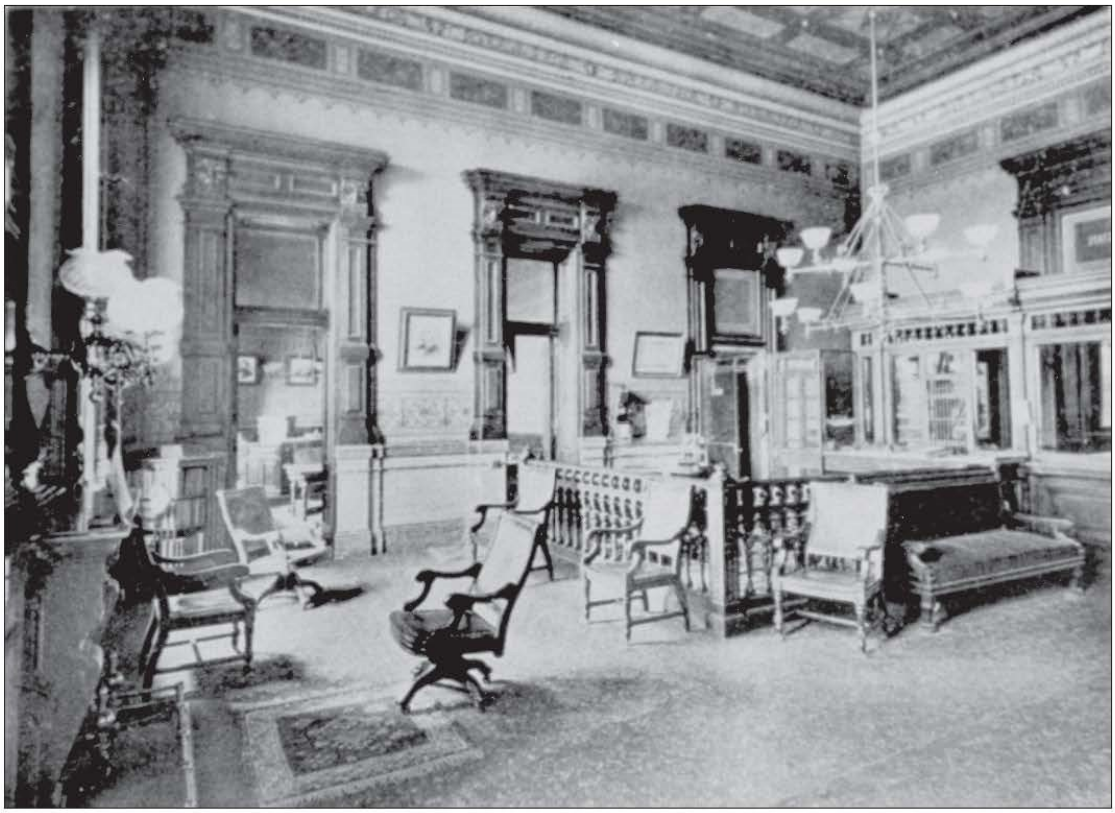
Railroad Commission Business Office



Custodian's Office

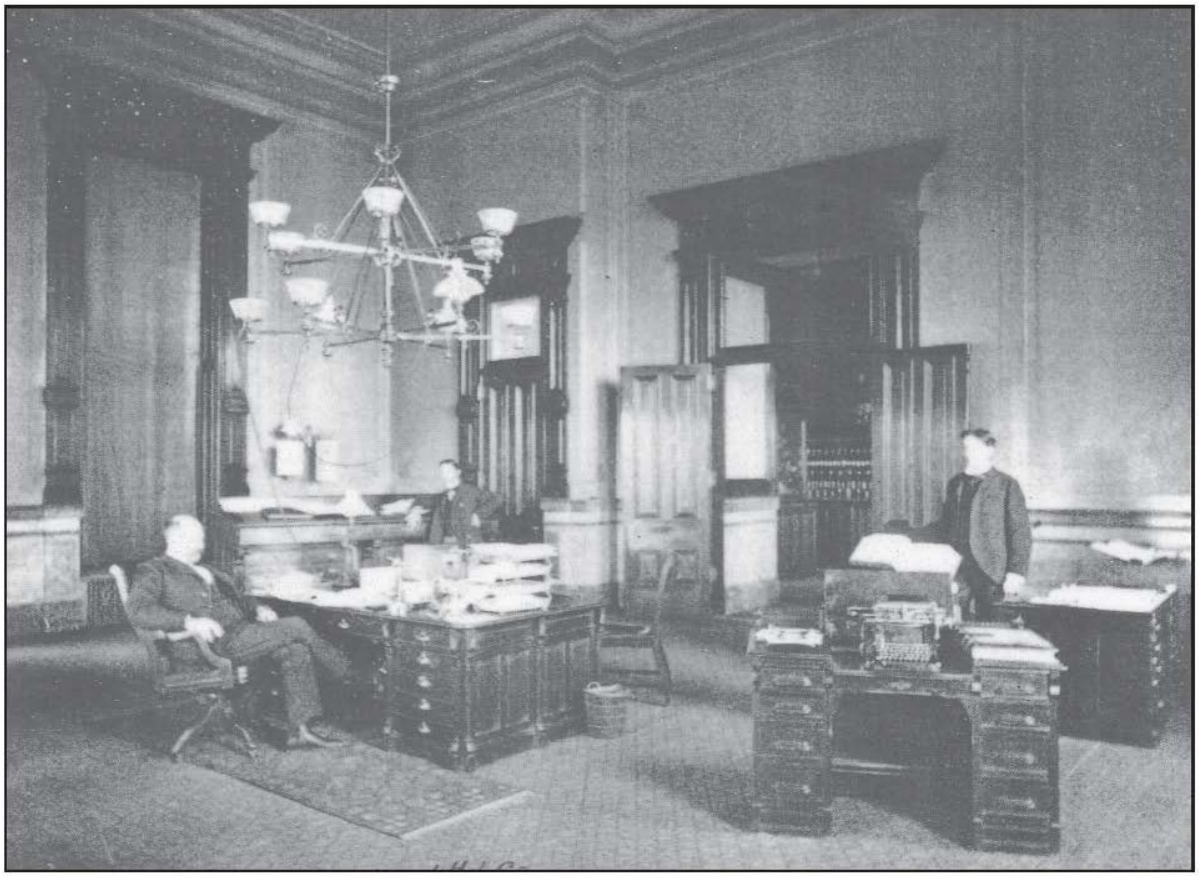


Auditor Clerk's Office



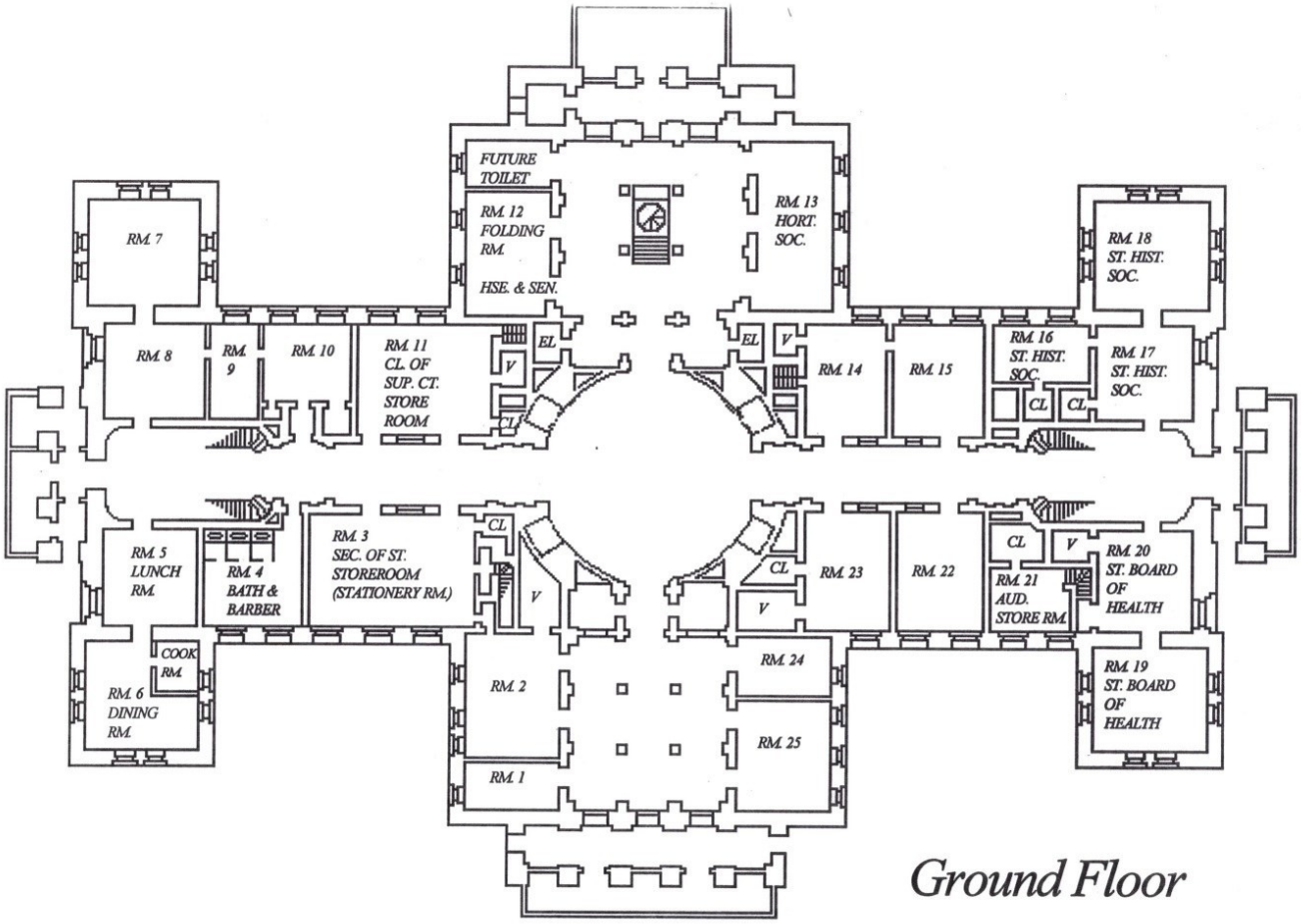
Treasurer's Business Office

Secretary of State's Business Office



Secretary of Agriculture's Office

Auditor's Office



Schedule B. *Basement Story*

No. 3. Secretary of State, Stationery Room.
No. 5. Restaurant.
No. 6. Restaurant.
No. 11. Clerk of Supreme Court, Store Room.
No. 12. Folding Room for House and Senate.
No. 13. Horticultural Society.
No. 16. State Historical Society.
No. 17. State Historical Society.
No. 18. State Historical Society.
No. 19. State Board of Health.
No. 20. State Board of Health.
No. 21. Auditor of State.

The numbers designating the several rooms *in* [are] the same used on the plans in the office of the Capitol Commissioners.

Approved, April 26, 1884.

August Knorr, a local decorator, was hired to oversee the decorative painting on the office story. Each suite of rooms was carefully stenciled. Commissioner's reports state that "the frescoing done by day costs more than work done by contract, but it is better done, not only in ground work, but in design and execution."

Office story rooms were completed as follows:

Governor's suite 1/1/1885 (May 8, 1884, Noxon and Toomey won the contract for the decorative painting in the Governor's suite for $1,750)

Secretary of State's suite 3/4/1885 (decorative painting executed by Andreas Hansen)

Auditor's suite 3/19/1885

Treasurer's suite 7/13/1885

Land Office 10/1/1885

Department of Public Instruction 10/26/1885

Clerk of Supreme Court 11/26/1885

Railroad Commissioner's suite 1/4/1886

The Custodian's Office, agriculture rooms, and Supreme Court room were completed sometime after February and before July 1886. The Supreme Court ceilings were the only ceilings decorated on canvas. Painted by Fritz Melzer in Germany, they were shipped to Iowa and glued in place.

Supreme Court Canvas Murals

Ceres

Columbia

Justice and Peace

Justice

The Capitol Commission submitted their final report to Governor Larrabee on June 30, 1886. The total cost of the building amounted to $2,873,294.59. The final audit examining 3,735 vouchers and bills showed $3.77 unaccounted for after 15 years of construction. The Legislature had not funded the work needed to complete the building. This work would be completed by a third "Capitol Improvement Commission" in the early 1900s.

CHAPTER SIX

Biennial Report of the Capitol Commissioners

FINAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD

OF

Capitol Commissioners

TO THE

GOVERNOR OF IOWA,

JUNE 30, 1886.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER.
1887.

FINAL REPORT OF THE CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS.

To his Excellency, WILLIAM LARRABEE, *Governor of the State of Iowa:*

The Commissioners appointed by the act of the Fourteenth General Assembly, entitled "An act to provide a State Capitol, approved April 13, 1870," and charged with the execution of the provisions of law in respect to the erection of the Capitol, respectfully submit this their final report.

The act to provide a State Capitol was approved April 13, 1870. By its terms the Governor was made *ex-officio* President of the Board, and six Commissioners were to be chosen by the Senate and House of Representatives; also, two Commissioners for the State at large were named in the bill, General G. M. Dodge and Hon. James F. Wilson. They were to hold their office for the term of two years. The Commissioners were charged with the execution of the provisions of the law, were required to give bonds to the amount of fifty thousand dollars each, and to receive as their only compensation five dollars per day and their actual traveling expenses.

They were authorized to employ an architect, to determine upon one of the plans for a Capitol selected by the Census Board, or upon some modification thereof, the cost of which should not exceed the sum of $1,500,000, and were directed to proceed with the work. The Board was required to advertise for all contracts in amount exceeding $1,000, and preference was to be given on the same "quality and terms" to bidders living in the State. They were authorized to appoint a superintendent, also an executive committee from their own number.

They were required to meet in Des Moines as often as once in three months. All payments were to be made by warrants issued by the Auditor, upon certificate of the superintendent countersigned by the President of the Board. The law directed that the building should be constructed of the best material, to be fire-proof, warmed and ventilated in the best manner; to contain suitable legislative

halls, rooms for the judiciary, executive office, library, committees, for the archives and collections of the State Agricultural Society, and for all other purposes of the State government; the building to be erected on the ground held by the State for that purpose. Section 6 of the law so clearly outlines the policy of the State at that time, and the reasons that it required so long a time to complete the building, that we give the section in full:

"SECTION 6. No money hereby appropriated shall be paid out until the Census Board shall certify to the Treasurer of the State that the resources of the treasury, without increasing the rate of taxation, are sufficient to meet the proposed disbursements, after other appropriations are allowed."

The Board organized May 25, 1870, and appointed a committee to examine the quarries of the State for the purpose of determining whether suitable stone could be found for the building.

Under their instructions, mechanical and chemical tests were made by Professor Hinrichs of the State University, and Lieutenant Butler of the Rock Island Arsenal, which satisfied the committee that suitable stone could be found. They employed Edward Clark, architect of the capitol extention at Washington, to aid them in selecting plans, and for the purpose of modifying the plans to keep the cost within the limit of the appropriation. To accomplish the latter purpose Mr. Clark advised leaving out the basement story, making the foliated caps of the columns and cornices of iron, and generally dispensing with the ornamental work about the building, leaving off the domes, and practically putting the building in a condition where at some future time it might be finished. The Commissioners began the construction of the Capitol in June, 1871, and on the 23d day of November following the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies. The Architect's report shows that at that time three-fifths of the outside walls of the cellar were completed. On the west face of the corner-stone the following was carved:

CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS:

GOV. SAMUEL MERRILL.

S. G. STEIN. G. M. DODGE. J. N. DEWEY.

J. O. CROSBY. JAMES F. WILSON. JAMES DAWSON.

WM. L. JOY. CHARLES DUDLEY.

COCHRANE & PIQUENARD, *Architects.*

On the south end was carved:

A. D. 1871.

On this occasion an introductory address was made by the Hon. Jas. F. Wilson, an historical address by his Excellency, Samuel Merrill, Governor of Iowa, a poem was read by Hon. J. B. Grinnell, and an address by the Hon. John A. Kasson on the presentation to Governor Merrill of a silver trowel by the architects, Cochrane & Piquenard, and a silver mallet by the local superintendent, James Appleyard.

The Commissioners close the report of their operations for the years 1870 and 1871 with the following recommendations: "That the Board should be so modified as to consist of not to exceed three persons, in which number both political parties should be represented, and their tenure of office should be the time occupied in erecting the building, and that they should be paid a salary that would justify them in giving their whole time to the discharge of their duties.' The report of January 1, 1872, shows an expenditure of $119,997.62. Acting on the foregoing suggestion, the Fourteenth General Assembly passed an "Act, approved April 10, 1872, which amended the former act, and established a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Governor, who should be *ex-officio* President of the Board, John G. Foote of Des Moines county, Maturin L. Fisher of Clayton county, R. S. Finkbine and Peter A. Dey of Johnson county."

This Board was charged with the execution of the provisions of law in respect to the erection of the Capitol. It was specially made their duty "to cause the present foundation and material on hand to be carefully and skillfully inspected and examined with regard to the quality of the material and character of the work, and cause to be changed, rejected and removed any part thereof that in their judgment did not conform to a proper standard of material and workmanship. And the estimated value of such rejected portions should not be considered in determining the amount authorized to be expended in the construction of the building."

The act appropriated for the prosecution of the work on the Capitol $100,000 for the year 1872, and $125,000 annually thereafter until the amount reached $1,380,000. The Commissioners were further instructed "to direct all their action with a view of the completion of the building for the sum of $1,500,000."

The first question that the new Commission had to meet was the cost of the building. In this they had been anticipated by the old Board, who had called Mr. Edward Clark to their assistance.

Mr. Clark states that he is satisfied that the estimate is twenty per

cent less than the actual cost, and to reduce the cost to the limit fixed by law advises to omit the attic stories and domes, also the great dome; to use iron stairways for the interior instead of stone, iron capitals to large columns, the bells filled in with stone, to make the balustrades and main cornice of cast iron, omit all unnecessary ornamental work in the interior, leave out the basement story entirely, reducing the height of the building, which, he thinks, would improve it, and putting the warming and ventilating apparatus inside the building. The intimation, in Mr. Clark's report, that the estimates of the architects were twenty per cent below the probable cost, induced the Commissioners, through a committee selected from the Board, to make an independent estimate. This committee reported the cost from the plans to be very materially larger than the limit fixed in the law. The say that two courses are open to remedy the the excess—either to cheapen the material and workmanship by the substitution of something inferior, or change the plans and reduce the size of the building. The latter they do not consider advisable, as with the present basement story, which Mr. Clark proposes to leave out, there does not seem to be more room than the future wants of the State will require.

To meet the exigency they propose to substitute galvanized iron for cut stone in the cornices, to use cast iron for the capitals instead of cut stone, to use iron in place of marble in the grand staircase, to substitute hard wood for marble in the floors of the halls and corridors, to use English crystal or French cylinder in place of plate glass, and leave out the committee rooms over the library and the upper story of the east wing. These changes were advised from absolute necessity to meet the requirements of the law. Acting on the report, the Commissioners decided to proceed with the erection of the building in accordance with the plans furnished, which they adopted. The next question to be met, was the clause in the law that required the removal of any part of the work that did not conform to the proper standard of material and workmanship. The Commissioners found that the walls were largly built of Rock Creek stone, quarried late in the year and full of water, the action of the extreme cold weather having cracked and broken them up to such an extent that it was deemed unsafe to build upon them. The amount of wall taken down to remove the defective stone was 2352 cubic yards. The actual cost of removing the defective stone and rebuilding the walls which were taken down, and leaving the work at the point it was

when the repairs were commenced, was $52,343.76. The stone for the cellar was furnished by Tuttle & Robertson from the Madison county quarries in the vicinity of Winterset, under a contract with the old Board. This contract was modified by the Commissioners under authority of a joint resolution of the General Assembly, approved April 22, 1872. During the years 1872 and 1873 the entire foundation walls, both interior and exterior were constructed, the piers to carry the arches were built, the building arched over, the arches concreted to the level with the exterior walls, and covered with a coat of pitch.

In accordance with the directions of joint resolution number 14, of the Fourteenth General Assembly, approved March 20, 1873, all inscriptions of names, dates and figures were erased from the corner stone, and only the name Iowa and the date 1873 were inscribed on it. This was relaid September 29, 1873. To the box in the stone, which was supposed to contain the account of many of the material events that formed the basis for national and Iowa history and other matters of interest, was added another box containing documents that brought the legislative history of the new Capitol to that date. During the year 1872, the Board conducted the work under the supervision of Mr. Finkbine, chairman of the the executive committee, having some scruples as to the propriety of selecting a superintenent from there own number. They were relieved from any embarassment by the action of the extra session of the General Assembly in 1873, which authorized the Board to appoint one of their number overseer of the work. Mr. Finkbine was unanimously elected to the position. On January 9, 1873, the Board awarded to Munson & Turner the contract to furnish the stone for the entire building from their quarries near Quincy, Illinois, the delivery to commence on the 15th of April. The contractors found great difficulty in getting stone from their quarries to fill the specification, and on July 22d had delivered but four carloads, which were rejected. The Commissioners regarding this contract as very favorable to the State, and believing that a sufficiency of stone could not be obtained during the current season and that it would be necessary to postpone the construction of this story until the next year, as it would require so much time to develop the quarries, released the contractors from furnishing the stone for the basement story, organized a force, procured machinery, and quarried and delivered the stone required from the old Capitol quarry in Johnson county, giving the contractors until the next year to de-

velop their quarries. In their report to the Governor, January 1, 1874, they say experience has shown that the most practicable way to exercise supervision over an edifice as large and costly as the Capitol is to employ a Board of Commissioners, an architect and superintendent. The compensation of these officers can scarcely be less than $10,000 per annum, and with this necessary force it is as easy to superintend the expenditure of $300,000 or $400,000 annually as $100,000. "The existing law appropriates $125,000 per year. $10,000 is a large per cent of this amount. With sufficient appropriation, the building can be completed in four years with a cost of supervision of $40,000. Economy and the best interests of the State require that the Capitol be constructed as speedily as the financial condition of the treasury will permit." On December 31, 1873, there had been expended from the commencement $374,825.88.

By an "Act making an additional appropriation for the erection of the new Capitol building," approved March 18, 1874, an appropriation of $125,000 was made, in addition to the $1,380,000 previously appropriated. The conditions of the two acts were such that the Commissioners were enabled to expend $200,000 in 1874, and $175,000 in 1875. The stone for the basement was quarried for the Commissioners from the old Capitol quarries in Johnson county, and delivered entire on February 16, 1875.

On April 21, 1874, the full Board visited the quarries of Munson & Turner, at Quincy, and reached the conclusion that no expenditure of money would furnish from this quarry the stone required by the specifications, and shortly after released them from their contract. The Commissioners say in the report that "the considerations that influenced them to cancel this contract were that a mistake was made in awarding a contract to an undeveloped quarry. It was imprudent for the Commissioners to accept, and hazardous for the contractors to propose from such a quarry, when taken in connection with the other fact that the price at which the stone was offered was, in the opinion of the Commissioners, about the cost of quarrying, had the quarry proved as good as the contractors hoped it might." On June 12th they awarded the contract for all the stone above the basement to the Ste. Genevieve Sand, Stone & Granite Company, and J. A. Gaines & Co. of Carroll county, Missouri.

These quarries had furnished large amounts of stone, and were in the hands of practical men. During the two years ending December 31, 1875, the basement story was built, the iron beams for the office

story put in place, the corridors arched over, and the greater portion of the office story built. What was lacking of stone was on the ground and cut. The Commissioners in their report call the attention of the legislature to the changes they were compelled to make to bring the cost of the building within the limit fixed by law, and state that unless authority is given to restore these now, it will be too late. They also ask in addition to the money received annually from former appropriations the sum of three hundred and fifty thousand dollars to use during the coming two years. On March 21, 1874, General Ed Wright, who had been acting as secretary to the Commission, was appointed assistant overseer of construction. The total amount expended on the building up to November 30, 1875, was $750,000.

By an act of the Sixteenth General Assembly, approved March 17, 1876, there was appropriated, in addition to former appropriations, the sum of $250,000, $150,000 to be drawn during the year 1876.

This with the amount payable yearly from former appropriations gave the Commissioners to expend during the year 1876, $275,000; for 1877, $225,000. They were also instructed to make the capitals of the columns and the cornice of stone instead of iron.

The appropriations of 1874 and 1876 increased the limit of expenditure and established as the policy of the State that inferior material was not to go into the building. During the two years ending December 31, 1877, the walls of the office story were completed; the wing south of the main dome was built to the entire height and placed under roof, with the exception of the corner pavilions. The balance of the exterior wall were built to the window-sills of the gallery story, the columns and piers supporting the dome were set through the office and hall stories, the arches turned over them, and the dome walls carried to the level of the Senate ceiling. The Commissioners in their report say that the heating apparatus should be provided as soon as practicable, and that the boiler-house should be located off the grounds. They again ask money enough to prosecute the work rapidly, as the best economy for the State. They also call attention that in the modified plans suggested by Mr. Edward Clark the dome of the pavilions were left off, and to be finished with balustrades and a flat roof; that the main dome was to be carried to the ridge line of the roof and covered with sky-lights. The original plans before modified to meet the limits of expenditure provided for

domes of iron to be constructed above the ridge line. The Commissioners say that they regard iron as not the best material for the domes, and recommend stone in place thereof, saying that the foundation and dome supports have been strengthened from the original plan so as to bear the additional weight should it be deemed advisable to use this material. The architects estimate the cost of the main dome and turrets constructed of stone at $461,190.24, of iron $415,036.62.

Messrs. Cochrane & Piquenard, as has been before stated, were the architects employed by the first Board of Commissioners. Early in 1872 Mr. Cochrane resigned, and Mr. Piquenard was appointed sole architect. On the 19th of November, 1876, Mr. Piquenard died at his residence in Springfield, Illinois. The original design of the building was made by Messrs. Cochrane & Piquenard. How much, or what part, should be credited to either the members of this Board do not know, but from their intercourse with Mr. Piquenard for four years they became satisfied that he was a man of a high order of genius, and worthy of a place among the foremost of his profession. The Board appointed Messrs. Bell & Hackney, two of his assistants, as his successors, and the building has been finished under their supervision. Mr. Bell resigned his position on the 18th day of December, 1883, to accept the appointment of Supervising Architect of the Treasury Department at Washington, and Mr. Hackney has had sole charge of the architectural work since that time.

The total amount expended to the date of report, Nov. 30, 1877, was $1,250,000.

By an act, approved March 25, 1878, the Capitol Commissioners were authorized to purchase a lot for steam heating works, and to construct a sewer to the Des Moines river, and a special appropriation of $10,000 was made for that purpose. They were authorized to construct a large dome in the center of the building, but were prohibited from building it until an appropriation was made therefor by the General Assembly. This prohibition was repealed by an act approved March 26, 1880. $75,000 was appropriated for the purpose of finishing the roof and constructing the turrets on the pavilions of said building.

During the years 1878 and 1879 the exterior walls of the building were completed; the roof, gutters and conductors put in place; the foundation walls of the main dome carried to a point above the ridge line of the roof; the stylobate walls were built, and the four turrets

on the pavilions, together with the domes and lanterns, were completed, and plans were adopted for heating and ventilating the building. The amount expended upon the construction of the building for this period was $325,000.

On the fifth day of February, 1879, Maturin L. Fisher, who had been a member of the Board since 1872, died at his residence in Clayton county. Mr. Fisher had been a prominent and useful man in the State for more than thirty years. In 1854 he was President of the Senate; afterward he was State Superintendent of Public Instrction. He was a member of each of the Boards of Commissioners for the construction of Asylums for the Insane at Mount Pleasant and Independence, and served during the construction of both of these buildings. This experience gave Mr Fisher a knowledge of architecture and building material, which made him a valuable member of this Board and his death was felt to be a great loss. As affording some evidence of the interest, Mr. Fisher took in the building, as well as his enthusiastic devotion to the proprieties and rules of architecture, we here insert an extract from the report of the Commissioners for 1874, which was written by him, protesting against the employment of iron:

"The Board then determined, in order to reduce the cost of the building within the limits prescribed by law to change the plans and specifications as follows:

To change the cut stone cornice to galvanized iron; the cut stone capitals to cast iron; the grand staircase from marble to iron; to put hard wood floors in the halls and corridors instead of marble; to leave out the committee rooms over the library, and in the upper story of the east wing; to change the glass from French plate to French cylinder, double thick or English crystal. By making these changes, which is considered preferable to reducing the size of the building, the cost of the building is brought within the limit fixed by law. But it should be distinctly understood that these changes are not made in accordance with the taste of the Commissioners; they are made from necessity, not from choice. The conceptions of the great architects of ancient times, embodied in the orders of architecture and displayed in the capital of the column, and in the architrave, the frieze, and the cornice of the entablature, were designed to be executed in stone; a cornice of galvanized iron, or a capital of cast iron is an imitation and a counterfeit. The rooms over the library and in the upper story of the east wing can be constructed at a more con-

venient season, hereafter; marble can be substituted at some future time for iron in the grand staircase and in the halls and corridors for wooden floors; and an inferior kind of glass can be exchanged for that of a superior quality; but the iron cornice and the iron capitals can never be replaced by stone, but must remain disfigured by rust, to mar forever the beauty of the building, and to exhibit to future ages the depraved taste of the present generation." It is gratifying to the surviving members of the Board that Mr. Fisher lived to see the capitals of columns and the cornices constructed of stone.

Cyrus Foreman, of Osage, was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Fisher. He took his seat on the 27th day of March, A. D., 1879.

During the years 1880 and 1881 the main dome was constructed. The iron frame work for the inner dome and the canopy covering the same were put in place, and the stairs from the level of the stylobate to the lantern balcony were built. The heating works and the tunnel connecting the heating works with the Capitol were constructed. The windows for the entire building were finished and put in place. The exterior steps on the north and east fronts were built. By authority granted by the General Assembly the Commissioners contracted with the city of Des Moines, for use of the city sewers, and made the proper connections for the sewerage and drainage of the building and grounds.

There was expended during the years 1880 and 1881, upon the building $258,145.38; for additional lot for boiler house $1,725.00, and for sewers and use of the city sewers $4,850; total expenditure from commencement $1,844,553.88.

For the years 1882 and 1883 the work was almost exclusively upon the interior of the building. The interior of the dome was finished to the office floor, the grand stairs were built, the gallery story completed, the hall story, embracing the halls of the senate and house of representatives, the library, post and telegraph offices, the rooms of the lieutenant-governor and speaker, rooms for the secretaries of the senate and clerks of the house, and committee rooms for both houses were completed. On the office floor the main corridors, the rooms for Governor and Secretary of State were nearly completed, and the gas fixtures mainly put in.

The steam heating apparatus was completed in the finished part of the building, and a Howard tower clock was placed in the attic with dials in the house and senate chambers.

There was expended upon the building during the two years $642,-840.55, making the total expenditure from commencement $2,477,-394.43. For the years 1884 and 1885 the work done was upon the interior of the building, except the covering of the belt course and portico floors with copper. The plastering of the office and basement stories and marble work of the office story was completed. Encaustic tile floors were laid in the corridors of the first story, in the Treasurer's business office, and in the vaults and closets of the basement story. The corridors, rotunda and barber shop floors were laid in the basement with Italian marble tile. The woodwork was completed for the office story, except in the rooms for the Horticultural Society.

The suits of rooms for the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer. Superintendent of Pnblic Instruction, land office, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Railroad Commissioners, Supreme Court consultation room, the Sergeant-at-Arms rooms of the Senate and House, the coat and smoking rooms and closets of the House and Senate were frescoed. The hard oil finish was finish was done in the office story, except the Agricultural rooms, Custodian's room and the Supreme Court room. The two elevators were put in place. The rooms of the Governor, Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, consultation rooms, Attorney-General's rooms, private rooms of the Judges of the Supreme Court, Railroad Commissioners, and rooms of the Clerk of the Supreme Court were furnished. The land office was furnished except desks, and the furniture was all procured for the Supreme Court room, except the desks for the clerk and judges, which were partly done. The chairs for the Agricultural and Horticultural rooms were purchased. The street paving around the Capitol was completed, the curbing set and the sidewalk partly built. For the two years there was expended $345,-613.31, making the total expenditures from the beginning $2,823,-007.74.

From February 3, 1886, to the 30th day of June, 1886, (the date of this report), the side walks around Capitol square have been completed and some additional grading done for the same. Marble base has been placed in the basement corridors, barber shop and water closets. The steam heating contract has been completed, except the engineer's house. The wood work has been completed in the Horticultural rooms and in the basement story. The frescoing of the Supreme Court room has been finished, the south portico ceiling has

been plastered and painted, brass railings haue been placed around the porticos, the plumbing has been completed in the basement story, and the hard oil finish mainly finished in the first story. Furniture has been provided for the Supreme Court room, Agricultural rooms, and for the land office. Mirrors and electric clocks and dials have been placed in the rooms of the Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, consultation room, land office, Governor's business room, Custodian's office, room of the Railroad Commissioners, Agricultural room, the room of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and in the House and Senate wash rooms. There has been expended upon the building during the present year the sum of $50,286.59, making the total expenditure from the commencement $2,873,294.59.

It would perhaps be well here to give the reasons why the steps on the south and west fronts have not been put up, as the stone for them has been cut and is upon the ground, and why the other outside work was not done. The legislature of 1886 having failed to make the small appropriation required to complete the building, the Commissioners thought it wise to complete the interior, as they had the material on hand and competent workmen.

The outside work can be done at any time in the future, and will require less skillful men. The hard woods and machinery, if left without special care, would greatly deteriorate. They, therefore, completed everything inside that they had the means to pay for.

We have briefly traced the legislation and the history of the construction of the Capitol from the passage of the original bill to that of the last General Assembly, legislating the Board out of existence. The only regret the members of the Board feel is that the financial situation of the State was such that the legislature was unable to make the small appropriation required to finish the building. Their estimates showed that it required to finish the

Engineer's house	$ 872.00
Frescoing halls, corridors, etc.	11,800.00
Putting up steps, pointing walls, etc.	16,015.00
Finishing under steps	650.00
Total	$ 29,337.00

The stone, consisting of granite base and rail, limestone, ashlar and freestone steps, platforms and balustrades for the two remaining flights of steps, is cut, ready for setting.

For the purpose of completing the building an additional appro-

priation of $30,000 was asked. They would have felt that their work was completed could they have turned over the building, at least finished. The General Assembly of 1884 passed a concurrent resolution requiring the Commissioners to furnish to the next session plans and estimates for grading, improving and decorating the grounds about the Capitol. After examining plans submitted by Prof. Prentice of Cornell College, Ithaca, New York, Mr. Carpenter of Galesburg, Ill., and Mr. Weidenmann of New York, they contracted with the latter to furnish plans and information necessary to make the estimate required. They believe his plan, or one similar, would give to the building its best possible effect, and they are of the opinion that it will always appear incomplete until the ornamental grounds furnish a setting worthy of the building.

In concluding this report it may not be amiss to say a few words of themselves and their relations to the State, the public and each other during the fourteen years that they have acted together. The Governor was made by law the presiding officer of the Board, and six different Governors have met with them, otherwise there has been but one change in the membership of the Board since its organization, and that by the death of Mr. Fisher. The Commissioners were selected, two from each political party, and came together comparatively strangers. During that long period, while they have differed on many matters, these differences have never degenerated into personal feeling, or diminished in any degree the profound respect inspired by the consciousness that each was honestly, and to the extent of his ability, endeavoring to promote the best interests of the work in their charge, and they will carry away with them none but the most pleasant recollections.

While there have probably been mistakes made, they think they can safely challenge, in every particular, any building in the country for a comparison in cost, in workmanship, in material or in its adaptation to the purposes for which it is intended. In a period when the builders of almost every important work have been severely censured, and their actions impugned, the public has dealt kindly with the Commissioners. No criticism from any source, or, at least, any respectable source, has been made upon their management.

The public has awarded to them all that could be asked—its confidence.

The Commissioners call your attention to the following enumerated papers, which are herewith transmitted:

1. Report of the Superintendent.
2. Report of the Architect.
3. Report of the Superintendent of Finance.
4. Report of the Custodian.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

JOHN G. FOOTE.
R. S. FINKBINE.
CYRUS FOREMAN.
PETER A. DEY.

REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION, OF THE MATERIAL PURCHASED AND WORK DONE ON THE NEW CAPITOL, FROM FEBRUARY 3, TO JUNE 30, 1886.

To the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN—I herewith submit my report of the work done, and material purchased, from the date of my last report to this date.

The sidewalks around the Capitol square have been completed, and some additional grading done for the same.

Marble base has been placed in the basement corridors, barber shop, and water closet. The steam heating contract has been completed with the exception of the engineer's house, which was not in condition to have the work done. The wood work has been completed in the Horticultural rooms and in the basement story.

The frescoing of the Supreme Court room has been completed, the south portico ceiling has been plastered and painted. Brass railings have been placed around the porticos, the plumbing has been completed in the basement story, the hard oil finish has been completed in the first story, with the exception of the rooms in which the fres coing is not done, in these rooms the last coat of hard oil has been omitted. The hard oil finish in the basement story has been completed with to coats, shelving for books and papers has been placed in the store rooms of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and of the Railroad Commissioners. Furniture has been provided for the Supreme Court rooms, for the Agricultural rooms and for the land office. Brass fenders and irons have been provided for the fire places in the rooms of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Auditor, Treasurer, Custodian, consultation room, Railroad Commissioners, Clerk of the Supreme Court, Agricultural rooms, Attorney General and the private rooms of the Judges of the Supreme Court. Mirrors have been placed in the rooms of the Auditor, Treasurer, Superinten-

dent of Public Instruction, consultation room, land office, the Governor's business room, Custodian's office, the room of the Railroad Commissioners, Agricultural room, the room of the Clerk of the Supreme Court, and in the House and Senate wash rooms.

Electric clock dials have been placed in the Agricultural room, the Railroad Commissioners, the Clerk of the Supreme Court, the Custodian's office, the Horticultural room, the Supreme Court room, the land office, Treasurer's office, office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Auditor's office, Secretary of State's office, in the Governor's business and private offices and in the Clerk of the Supreme Court's office.

Appended is a statement showing the material purchased since the date of my last report.

A statement of the furniture and fixtures purchased and made.

A statement of the machinery and material delivered to the State Agricultural Society under a resolution of the last General Assembly.

A statement of the machinery and tools sent to the Anamosa Penitentiary under a resolution of the Seventeenth General Assembly.

A statement of the total amount of material used in the construction of the Capitol, and a statement of the tools, machinery and other property belonging to the State, on hands.

Respectfully submitted,

R. S. FINKBINE,

Superintendent.

REPORT OF THE ARCHITECT TO THE BOARD OF CAPITOL COMMISSIONERS.

ARCHITECT'S OFFICE,
DES MOINES, IOWA, June 29, 1886.

To the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN—In presenting this, my last report, I think it advisable to give a general resume of the architectural work from the organization of the first Board of Commissioners.

When the original Board of Commissioners was organized, on the 25th day of May, 1870, they found three plans for a capitol building had been procured in a competition instituted by the Census Board, no one of which was entirely satisfactory. These plans, in connection with one made by Messrs. Cochrane & Piquenard, were submitted to Mr. Edward Clark, architect of the capitol at Washington, D. C., with instructions "to suggest such modifications, and make such revision of estimates as he should deem best, in order to fully determine that the expenditure under the plan which might be adopted should not exceed $1,500,000."

In conformity with these directions, Mr. Clark made the following report:

ARCHITECT'S OFFICE, U. S. CAPITOL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19, 1871.

HON. CHARLES DUDLEY, *Commissioner, etc., for New Capitol Building for the State of Iowa:*

SIR—I have examined, as well as the time would permit me, the plans, specifications and estimates for the new Capitol building for the State of Iowa, and have the honor to submit the following remarks concerning them:

The plans showing the interior I consider well arranged, and are made substantially in accordance with the modifications which I recommended both verbally to the Commissioners and in my communication to them, dated September 24, 1870. I have no alteration to suggest relative to them, except the abolition of the basement story. As relates to the exterior, I will offer some suggestions with a view to lessen the cost of the structure.

1. A large sum might be saved, in my opinion, the appearance of the building improved, by reducing the height of the basement story, and abolishing the floor between the basement and cellar, making of them one story, instead of two, as shown on the section.

According to the basement design, the first floor is reached by thirty steps, and the cellar is without light, or at least only such light as may be obtained from windows below the surface of the ground. I would suggest that the first floor should not be over twelve steps above the surface, and that the cellar story should have the benefit of the lower windows above the ground line, thus getting light and air. As the steam pipes must run through the rooms and passages of this story, the walls will be kept warm enough to prevent the condensation of any moisture on them, thus making it sufficiently dry for storing records, etc.

2. The panel and the acroteria in the pediment might be omitted. The finish of the walls of the porticos in the rear of the columns might be less elaborate, and the attached columns of the arcade omitted, leaving plain piers.

3. The foliated caps of the columns might be made of iron, particnlarly if the stone used should be of a soft and porous quality.

These suggestions are made mainly to keep the cost within the sum fixed by law, as I am of the opinion that the estimate is twenty per cent less than the actual cost, there being no allowance for contingencies, superintendence, expenses of commission, etc., etc.

In relation to the heating and ventilating, I would suggest that a boiler vault should be constructed outside the building, but in connection with it, at the corner near the smoke stack indicated on the plan. The location of the boiler house at the corner of the grounds, as proposed, would increase the cost of the heating apparatus, and would cause a loss of heat by having so great a distance to carry steam, without any compensating advantage. A change in the position of the exhausting shaft might also be made to advantage, the present being at the base of the dome. When a dome is erected and strong winds press against it from certain directions, there will be a tendency to force the air down the shaft and prevent a proper ventilation; the further the shafts are from the dome, the better.

In conclusion, I would state that, in my opinion, with the above mentioned modifications and judicious management, this building can be erected for the sum named in the law.

I am very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

EDWARD CLARK, *Architect.*

This report, so far as the exterior is concerned, was based upon the design furnished by Messrs. Cochrane & Piquenard, and which was finally adopted, with some of the modifications suggested by Mr. Clark incorporated in it, but fortunately not all of them. His first recommendation, in regard to the basement, can be accounted for

upon no other hypothesis than an *extreme* desire to conform to the instructions of the Board in the practice of economy, and this the *easiest* way to accomplish that end. Had this story been omitted the beauty of the building would have been marred forever, and the public service would have been crippled for want of valuable space that could be procured in no other way for the same amount of money. Had this story been made one course of stone (22 inches) *higher* the effect would have been as good or better, and the lighting of the rooms would have been much more thoroughly accomplished.

In October, 1870, the Board appointed Messrs. Cochrane & Piquenard, of Chicago, general architects and superintendents, and instructed them to modify the plans, with reference to the suggestions made by Mr. Clark, so as to provide sufficient room for the requirements of the State, and in order to keep within the limit fixed by law, to forego the ornamental rather than the useful and essential.

They at once prepared the plans for the foundation and cellar walls, and the sewerage system, so that work could be commenced in the spring of 1871, and also made scale drawings for the floor plans, sections to a scale of 8 feet to 1 inch, and prepared the specifications for the whole work.

According to these plans, and with Mr. J. C. Cochrane, of Chicago, acting as the supervising architect, the original foundation walls were put in place.

When the present Board was organized, on the 17th day of April, 1872, the plans were in the condition as above stated, and the action taken in regard to them can best be described by quoting from the second biennial report, which is as follows:

"The Commissioners have not been unmindful of that provision of the law which requires them to 'direct all their action with a view to the completion of the building for the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars,' or of the oath taken by them, which exposes them to the pains and penalties of perjury, if by any action of theirs that sum is exceeded in the construction of the Capitol. The plans and specifications were virtually adopted by their predecessors and the execution of them actually commenced. The plans were indeed formally adopted by a vote of this Board, without any inquiry or judgment, however, as to their merits, but because their adoption was considered an accomplished fact. It was important for the Commissioners, if they should build the Capitol according to the plans

which came to them from their predecessors, to know whether they would be in danger of transgressing the limit of expenditures fixed by law. Messrs. Cochrane & Piquenard, architects, were instructed to prepare a careful and detailed estimate of the cost of the building according to the plans and specifications received from the old Board. They did so, and reported their estimate to the Board. This estimate, together with the plans and specifications were referred to a committee consisting of Mr. Finkbine and Mr. Dey, with instructions to examine them and to report their opinion to the Board. In their report they state that the estimate of the cost of the building would largely exceed the limit fixed by the law. The same committee were then instructed to inquire and report whether it was advisable to reduce the cost of the building by diminishing its size. The committee in their report advised against reducing the size of the building, and their report was adopted. The Board then determined, in order to reduce the cost of the building within the limits prescribed by law, to change the plans and specifications, as follows: To change the cut stone cornice to galvanized iron; the cut stone capitals to cast iron; the grand stair case from marble to iron, to put hard wood floors in the halls and corridors instead of marble; to leave out the committee rooms over the library, and in the upper story of the east wing; to change the glass from French plate to French cylinder, double thick or English crystal. By making these changes, which is considered preferable to reducing the size of the building, the Board estimated that a saving would be effected of $116,945.91, and the cost of the building brought within the limit fixed by law. But it should be distinctly understood that these changes are not made in accordance with the taste of the Commissioners, they are made from necessity, not from choice. If the legistature would place another hundred thousand dollars at the disposal of the Commissioners, they would be cheerfully abandoned. The conceptions of the great architects of ancient times, embodied in the orders of architecture and displayed in the capital of the column, and in the architrave, the frieze and the cornice of the entablature were designed to be executed in stone; a cornice of galvanized iron or a capital of cast iron is an imitation and a counterfeit. The rooms over the library and in the upper story of the east wing can be constructed at a more convenient season hereafter; marble can be substituted at some future time for iron in the grand stair case, and in the halls and corridors

for wooden floors; and an inferior kind of glass can be exchanged for that of a superior quality, but the iron cornice and the iron capitals can never be replaced by stone, but must remain disfigured by rust, to mar forever the beauty of the building and to exhibit to future ages the depraved taste of the present generation."

On the 3rd day of September, 1872, Mr. John C. Cochrrne resinged his position as one of the architects, because of the pressure of business in Chicago, and Mr. A. H. Piquenard was appointed sole architect.

Under Mr. Piquenard the plans were again revised and all the diagrams and details made for the building up to the roof line, except for the inside finish and decoration.

The Sixteenth General Assembly directed the Board to restore the original specifications so far as the change affected the capitals of the columns and pilasters and the cornice, making them of stone, and the drawings were made in accordance therewith.

As the work progressed other changes were made in the drawings and specifications, under the direction of the Board, with the view of having both the material and workmanship of the best quality. It being almost an impossibility to procure limestone of sufficient size and good quality for the columns around the rotunda, on the legislative floor, granite was substituted. The original specification for the roof provided for iron frame work, covered with wood sheeting and galvanized iron. This not being fire-proof, it was decided to cover the roof with porus terra cotta tiles, on the iron frame, and slate bedded in Portland cement. This being heavier than the former covering the iron trusses were made stronger.

Thus far the architectural work was completed when, on the 19th day of November, 1876, Mr. Piquenard died at his home in Springfield, Illinois. What loss the State and the world of art sustained in his death cannot be estimated. He was a man scholarly in his attainments, grand in his conceptions and abounding in expedients, standing at the first rank in the profession. He was genial in his deportment and attentive to business, and during life enjoyed the full confidence of his colleagues in this and other work.

On the 1st day of January, 1877, Mr. M. E. Bell and myself, as the firm of Bell & Hackney, were appointed to fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Piquenard's death.

The Board being desirous of completing the building as a whole, and not leave a portion to be built in the future at a much greater ex-

pense, we were directed to prepare plans, details and estimates for the central and four small domes, to be submitted to the Seventeenth General Assembly. The original plan provided for iron construction in the domes, but this being deemed not the best material for outdoor construction, from its tendency to corode, and its liability to expand and contract with every change of temperature, we were directed to make our designs for stone domes, having iron frame work in the tholus only, and this to be covered with brick and heavy copper.

These instructions were obeyed and subsequently the legislature directed the domes to be built, which has been done, making them substantially as above described. The inner dome being made of iron frame-work, covered with galvanized iron, and the peristyle columns are made of iron covered with scagliola.

The change of stone for iron in the main dome imposed a much greater weight on the substructure than had been contemplated by Mr. Piquenard, and we found it necessary to increase the size and strength of the dome supports at four points, beginning at the foundation line and continuing up to the level of the ceiling of the Senate, which was done in a satisfactory manner, as there are no signs of settlement in any part.

We were next directed to make designs for finishing the legislative and library departments, changing from the original specifications so as to make encaustic tile floors in the library and corridors; marble wainscoting in the library, corridors, legislative halls and in the lobbies; scagliola columns in the Senate and House of Representatives; stucco cornices; hard wood finish for doors, casings, wainscotings in the rooms, etc.; plate glass in the windows; and also the furniture for these departments.

After visiting various buildings in the east and viewing the cramped condition of most of the libraries, and realizing the rapidity with which our own library is growing, it was deemed best to dispense with the committee rooms, which were designed to be built over the library room, and make the whole space into one large room 52x108 feet and 45 feet high, with five tiers of shelving. This was done at a small increase in the cost, but we have in return therefor a room of elegant proportions and that has a capacity to accommodate the accumulation of books for many years to come.

While this work was in progress we also made plans for the steam heating works and the tunnel connecting them with the building.

Mr. L. R. Greene, an eminent steam heating and sanitary engineer of Boston, made the drawings and specifications for the heating apparatus, and the satisfactory working of the same has proven the wisdom in procuring his services.

Having been appointed supervising architect of the Treasury Department at Washington, D. C., Mr. M. E. Bell resigned his position as one of the architects on the 18th day of December, 1883, leaving me in charge of the work.

At this time the detail drawings were all made for the library, the legislative department, the grand stairway and the east and west corridors, most of the work was finished, and the mural decorations executed. Since then the detail drawings have been made for all the State offices, the Supreme Court department, and the basement story, including the furniture, which has been manufactured by our own workmen in the building, or made by contract from special designs for each department. Most of this work has been completed, and the mural decorations executed in the Supreme Court department and in the principal State offices.

In order to make an estimate of the cost of grading and parking the Capitol grounds, Mr. J. Weideman, a landscape architect of New York City, was employed to make preliminary drawings, sections and profiles, with specifications, sufficient to give an intelligent knowledge of the amount and quality of the work to be done. These drawings were furnished, and the estimate made to the Twenty-first General Assembly.

The scale drawings with all the details, by which the work has been executed, the drawings for the parts remaining unfinished, and the plans for parking the grounds, have all been arranged and placed in the hands of the Custodian. I have also had made, in water colors, an accurate perspective showing the south and west fronts of the building, which will be framed and hung in the Custodian's office.

Having came to this work in the spring of 1874, under Mr. Piquenard; having been selected one of the architects to succeed him in in 1877, and having had charge of the architectural work since December, 1883, it has been with the greatest of interest that I have watched the development of every part of the building, and leaving it can feel a just pride in knowing it to be a creditable monument to its originators, to you gentlemen, who have labored so faithfully in its execution, and to the State.

Thanking you, gentlemen, for the uniform courtesy and consideration, and the confidence imposed in me during this long term of service, I am

Very respectfully,

W. F. HACKNEY, *Architect.*

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF FINANCE.

To the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

GENTTLEMEN—I herewith present my final statements of the appropriations and expenditures for the new capitol from May 26, 1870, to June 30, 1886.

The accompanying statements are in the following order of exhibits:

A. Classified statement of expenditures from the commencement of the work to June 30, 1886.

B. General statement of expenditures in detail from February 4, 1886, to June 30, 1886.

C. General statement of cash received from February 4, 1886, to June 30, 1886, and the balance on hand.

D. Classified statement of expenditures from February 4, 1886, to June 30, 1886.

E. Classified statement of expenditures from May 25, 1870, to June 30, 1886.

F. Condensed statement of appropriations and expenditures.

G. Statement of ledger balances June 30, 1886.

H. Statement of the cost of new capitol June 30, 1886.

All of which is regpectfully submitted.

JOHN G. FOOTE,

Superintendent of Finance,

EXHIBIT "E."

Classified statement of expenditures from May 25, 1870, to June 30, 1886.

ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	AMOUNT.
Excavation and drainage	$ 17,978.87
Cistern	1,512.12
Repairs, first foundation	52,343.76
Concrete, labor on	9,093.71
Printing and advertising	3,205 26
Water	3,579.84
Cash	1,612.54
Board of Commissioners	24,693.15
Cast iron work	6,071.05
Rubbing stone	26,115.56
Accidents	990.72
Extra handling stone	2,244.46
Stone setting and masonry	69,575.81
Paints and oils	8,721.26
Roofing and guttering	95,160.20
Terra cotta work	3,700.04
Lot and sewer	10,000.00
Machinery and tools	34,343.22
Heating and ventilating	81,453.32
Painting	36,752.09
Railroad	16,458.63
Fuel	8,053.67
Cleaning and pointing	236.77
Glass	26,843.87
Marble work	117,097.47
Plumbing	14,580.99
Stone	486,417.56
Boiler house	25,844.19
Nails and hardware	15,365.82
Stone cutting	342,138.07
Wrought iron work	187,603.24
Gas fitting	6,848.91
General labor	54,915.43
Cement	49,733.17
Brick	127,565.79
Sand	8,624.00
Sheet metal work	21,020.78
Prismatic lights	3,082 23
Plain plastering	45,616 52
Scagliola work	13,934.85
Ornamental plastering	29,258.05
Electric work	5,945.85
Interest and discount	3,155 20
Fresco painting	28,077.37
Floor tiling	34,485.58
Heating expenses	10,989.91
Plans	8,784.13
Furniture	129,131.77
Patterns and models	7,868.75
Brick masonry	122,030.36
Extra General Assembly	208.55

THE NEW CAPITOL.

EXHIBIT "E"—CONTINUED.

ON WHAT ACCOUNT.	AMOUNT.
Salaries	$ 189,829.82
Adjutant-General's office	3,021.01
Capitol grounds	1,883.70
Expenses	4,992.72
Lime	7,863.33
Carpenter work	177,422 75
Lumber and timber	64,530.65
Elevators	7,636.56
Street improvements	24,994.59
Governor's settlement account	55 00
Total	$ 2,573,294.59

EXHIBIT "F."

Condensed statement of appropriations and expenditures.

APPROPRIATIONS.

Chapter 110, Laws of the Thirteenth General Assembly	$ 150,000.00	
Chapter 35, of the General and Public Laws of the Fourteenth General Assembly, being $100,000 for the year 1872, and $125,000 for each of the years 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, 1877, 1878, 1879, 1880, 1881 and 1882	1,350,000.00	
Chapter 68, Local Laws of the Fifteenth General Assembly	125,000 00	
Chapter 151, Laws of the Sixteenth General Assembly	250,000.00	
Chapter 138, Laws of the Seventeenth General Assembly	75,000.00	
Chapter 138, Laws of the Seventeenth General Assembly, for lot and sewer	10,000.00	
Chapter 83, Laws of the Nineteenth General Assembly	525,000.00	
Chapter 136, Laws of the Twentieth General Assembly	361,500.00	
Chapter 136, Laws of the Twentieth General Assembly, for paving and curbing the streets and putting down sidewalks around the Capitol square	28,000.00	

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Chapter 75, Sec. 32, Laws of the Fifteenth General Assembly	600.00	
Chapter 142, Sec. 19, Laws of Sixteenth General Assembly	600.00	
Chapter 170, Sec. 20, Laws of Seventeenth General Assembly	600.00	
		$ 2,876,800.00

THE NEW CAPITOL.

EXPENDITURES.

Expended on new Capitol..... .....$	2,624,199.48	
Expended on repairs of first foundation	52,343.76	
Expended on lot and sewer	10,000.00	
Expended on boiler house.....	25,844.19	
Expended on furniture.....	129,131.77	
Expended for Twentieth General Assembly...	208.55	
Expended for Adjutant-General's office.....	3,021.01	
Expended on Capitol grounds	1,883.70	
Expended on street improvements.....	24,994.59	
Expended on Governor's settlement account..	55.00	
$	2,871,682.05	
Cash unexpended and turned over to Governor William Larrabee.....$	1,612.54	
Street paving and sidewalk appropriation in the State Treasury undrawn.....	3,005.41	
		$ 2,876,300.00

EXHIBIT "G."

Ledger balances June 30, 1886.

State of Iowa		$ 2,878,294.59
Lot and sewer	$ 10,000.00	
Boiler house	25,844.19	
Furniture	129,131.77	
Extra work ordered by 20th General Assembly	208.55	
Adjutant General's office	3,021.01	
Capitol grounds	1,883.70	
Street improvement	24,994.59	
Governor's settlement account (F. L. Williams)	55.00	
Wm. Larrabee, Governor	1,612.54	
New Capitol	2,676,543.24	
		$ 2,878,294.59

EXHIBIT "H."

Cost of new Capitol to June 30, 1886.

General construction		$ 2,624,199.48
Repairs of first foundation		52,343.76
Total		$ 2,676,543.24

CREDIT.

By cash turned over to Governor Larrabee	$ 1,612.54	
Original cost of tools and machinery sent to Anamosa penitentiary	10,105.87	
Value of tools and machinery loaned to the State Agricultural Society	1,329.31	
Value of tools and machinery and material on hand	5,480.14	
		18,527.86
		$ 2,658,015.38

HON. WILLIAM LARRABEE, *Governor:*

On the thirtieth day of June the Capitol Commissioners were furnished with a balance sheet, showing that they paid, erroneously, to sundry parties, sums aggregating $37.73, and that they made errors in favor of the State, by not paying to sundry parties the amounts they were entitled to, aggregating $33.96.

The Commissioners instructed me to collect such overpayment as the parties were willing to refund, the Commissioners supplying the balance of the total overpayment, and to pay to all persons named in the schedule furnished the Commissioners the amounts due them.

The principal overpayment was made to Mr. Fred. Hass, of Rock Island, who promptly remitted the amount he had been overpaid. The parties entitled were paid the sums due. The account is as here shown:

Amount refunded by Mr. F. Hass	$ 34.00	
Amount paid by Commissioners	3.78	
		$ 37.73
Disbursed to sundry persons, as shown by receipts appended	$ 33.96	
Paid for postal order for Hass	.08	
Cash paid Gov. Larrabee	3.69	

R. S. FINKBINE,
For the late Capitol Commissioners.

The following is a list of the vouchers in which errors have been found on settlement with the Capitol Commissioners:

No. of voucher.	TO WHOM.	DR.	No. of voucher.	TO WHOM.	CR.
			1440	H. F. Getchell	$ .14
1168	Des Moines Coal Co	$ .05	2237	Chicago Lumber Co	.09
1367	J. C. Tayler	.03	2818	Hawkeye Planing Mills	1.00
1414	J. K. & W. H. Gilcrest	.03	3068	A. Anderson	.50
1673	J. K. & W. H. Gilcrest	.11	3042	Capital City Gas Co	.61
2022	Rothert Bros	1.51	3087	Chicago Lumber Co	20.00
2160	Huron Slate Co	.19	3259	T. H. Cady & Co	.17
2285	J. K. & W. H. Gilcrest	.06	3402	Fred. Hass	1.00
2677	Pioneer Coal Co	.12	3412	T. H. Cady & Co	.20
2873	Chicago Lumber Co	.05	3477	Eagle Iron Works	2.00
2900	Berry Rasch & Co	.20	3608	Perkins & Perkins	.19
3266	A. Anderson	1.00	3633	T. H. Cady & Co	.05
3377	Giant Coal Co	.18	3678	H. F. Getchell & Sons	1.19
3590	T. H. Cady & Co	.05	3912	Harlan Brothers	5 60
3623	T. H. Cady & Co	.05			
3603	Wilson & Stein	.10	4036	Patten & Hill	.13
3312	Fred. Hass	34.00			3.77
		$37.73			$37.73

The above is believed to be correct.

DE LOS ARNOLD.

Received of the Capitol Commissioners, the several sums set opposite our respective names, thé same being due as by reasons of errors in computations in bills rendered to said Capitol Commissioners:

No. of voucher.	Amount.	NAME.
1440	$ .14	H. F. Getchell & Sons.
2227	.09	Chicago Lumber Co.
2818	1.00	John Wyman, Assignee.
3068	.50	Paid. (See voucher 3266.
3042	.61	Capital City Gas Light Co.—A. P. Foster.
3087	20.00	Chicago Lumber Co.
3259	.18	T. H. Cady.
3402	1.00	Paid by P. O. order, Des Moines, No. 16681.
3412	.20	T. H. Cady.
3477	2.00	Eagle Iron Works.
3608	.19	Perkins & Perkins.
3633	.05	T. H. Cady.
3678	1.19	H. F. Getchell & Sons.
3912	6.60	Harlan Bros.
4036	.13	Patten & Hill—F.

Received of the Capitol Commissioners, July 9th, 1886, three dollars and sixty-nine cents.

WM. LARRABEE.

REPORT OF CUSTODIAN.

Report of the Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners to the Board, as required by a resolution adopted May 8, 1884, exhibiting in detail the expenditures made necessary by chapter 140, laws 1884, from January 1, 1886, the date of the last report, to April 17, 1886, the date of the taking effect of chapter 148, laws 1886.

To the Board of Capitol Commissioners:

GENTLEMEN—I herewith submit a detailed statement of the expenditures made necessary in complying with chapter 140, laws of 1884, from January 1 to April 17. As this period includes the session of the Twenty-first General Assembly, I submit it as a fair index of the cost of taking care of, lighting and heating the building during one session of the General Assembly. I gave the matter my best attention early and late, with a studious effort to give satisfaction to all parties. In my selection of men for the various places I was very successful. All did their work well and to my entire satisfaction, and to the satisfaction of all parties concerned so far as I have learned.

Mr. N. W. Smith had charge of the boiler house, tunnel and the ventilation of the cellar. He gave it his entire attention from seven o'clock A. M. until ten and sometimes eleven o'clock P. M. Mr. G. W. Beall had charge of the temperature and ventilation of the halls of the Senate and House of Representatives. He gave the matter his best attention from the time the building was open in the morning until it was closed at night. Both of these men proved to be the right man for the place assigned them, and made the heating and ventilating an entire success.

I desire to express my thanks to these two men for their valuable assistance during the session and for their earnest and untiring efforts at all times.

By reference to the annexed statements it will be seen that the expenditures during the time covered by this report was $13,901.68.

Your attention is respectfully called to the annexed statement of expenditures.

Respectfully submitted,

ED WRIGHT, *Secretary.*

STATEMENT No. 1.

Classified statement of expenditures made on taking care of the Capitol as required by chapter 140, laws 1884, from January 1 to April 17, 1886.

Warming—		
Fuel	$ 1,440.75	
Labor, engineer, fireman, etc	2,392.24	
		$ 3,832.99
Lightning—		
Gas	$ 2,840.80	
Expenses other than gas	58.74	$ 2,899.54
Cleaning and caring for building, furniture and rooms—		
Labor	$ 3,914.44	
Tools and material for cleaning	266.47	
		$ 4,180.91
Repairs—		
General	$ 93.93	
Furniture	16.00	
		$ 109.93
Police and watchman		890.75
Water		273.49
Salary of custodian		733.00
Elevator		744.65
Miscellaneous		236.42
Total		$ 13,901.68

STATEMENT No. 2.

Itemized statement of expenditures made in taking care of the Capitol as required by chapter 140, laws 1884, from January 1, to April 17, 1886.

Warming—	
98 days, engineer at $4,25	$ 416.50
98 days, piper at $2.50	245.00
210 days, fireman at $2.00	420.00
491 days, fireman at 1.75	859.24
301 days, fireman at 1.50	451.50
3,879 bushels coal at 7 cents	271.53
1,300 bushels coal at 5 cents	65.00
7,063 bushels coal at 3 2-5 cents	240.04
43,209 bushels coal at 2 cents	864.18

Police and watchman—	
112 days at $3.00	$ 336.00
105 days at 2.25	236.25
182 days at 1.75	318.50
Ink clerk by order of General Assembly, 69 days at $2.00	138.00
1,367,450 gallons water at 2 cents	273.49
1,414,400 cubic feet gas at $2.00	2,828.80
3 street lamps in use 2 months	12.00
Labor, cleaning—	
1 day team	2.75
317 3-10 days labor at $2.50	792.25
104 days labor at $2.25	234.00
8 days labor at $2	16.00
1,614 days labor at $1.75	2,824.44
Washing 44 dozen long towels	44.00
Salary of Custodian, 3¾ months	733.00
Elevator labor—	
98 days, mechanic, at $3	294.00
257 days tender at $1.75	449.75
1 barrel salt	1.60
11½ pairs blankets for mops	15.50
4 16x28 mirrors	16.00
6 New Idea carpet sweepers	13.20
3 24-inch floor brushes	10.50
94 yards cotton flannel	12.69
8 boxes W. R. soap	36.80
655 pounds salsoda	12.32
½ dozen No. 3 tubs	1.25
1-12 dozen patent mops and scrub	1.00
5 dozen patent mop sticks	7.50
6 dozen scrub brushes	8.50
5 bk. black lead	.90
14 torches and taper holders	9.90
15 boxes tapers	3.90
1 barrel, 47½ gallons Eldorado oil, 35 cents	16.63
5 pound S. W. Florida sponge	12.50
2 dozen 10-inch thermometers	3.50
2 dozen No. 6 rubber floor scrapers	13.70
Freight and drayage	4.11
1 dozen 114 granite pails	18.00
1 dozen dust pans	1.50
5 large galvanized coal hods	3.75
½ dozen shovels	2.25
8 steel springs for water closet door	.25
5 oil cans	1.30
1 lantern globe	.20

½ dozen lanterns	$ 5.40
4 wash boilers for use in attic	7.09
2 gross screw hooks	1.30
3½ pounds Silver Lake sash cord	1.40
1 pound emery	.10
1 dozen papers assorted carpet tacks	.40
Expense incurred in building inauguration platform—	
Labor, Opdyke, 4½ hours	1.57
J. A. Murphy, 4 hours	1.00
W. Pitzold, 4 hours	1.00
A. Forbes, 4 hours	1.00
Lumber—	
384 feet flooring, 2½	9.60
294 feet 2x6, 1½	4.41
144 feet shiplap, 1½	2.16
147 feet 4x4, 18	2.64
96 feet 2x4	1.44
24 feet finish	.48
Covering north and east steps—	
Labor, Robt. Nichols, 33 hours	8.25
W. McGregor, 22 hours	5.50
Errickson, 8 hours	2.00
Carter, 1 hour	.25
Mills, Burke, 4 hours	1.40
Stroupe, 9 hours	1.80
Nails	2.00
Lumber, 3,255 feet at 15	48.82
Blank keys	6.25
Exchange	.40
2 pattern B. No. 3 steel wheelbarrows	30.09
15 feet leather belting for sweepers	.50
2 gallons alcohol	4.90
11 pounds gum camphor	3.90
10 pounds bicromate potash	2.00
6 boxes pressed castile soap	12.30
1 box 1776	3.78
18 cells Disque battery	11.70
36 Leclanche zincs	2.16
1 set zincs and carbons put together	9.00
4 extra zincs	3.00
1 hose cart	2.75
30 pounds salamoniac	5.00
4½ pounds asbestos packing, 30 cents	1.35
3½ pounds asbestos wick	1.05
100 feet 3 ply ¾ rubber hose	12.00
4 ¾ hose bands	.40

Covering north and east steps—*Continued*—

2 ¾ hose couplings	.25
1 ¼ tap, 1 ½ tap	1.19
6 balls wicking	.24
3 ink cans	1.50
1 pint measure, 10 cents, 1 quart measure, 10 cents, 1 funnel, 10 cents	.30
2 3-16 pounds rubber washers	2.19
Express	1.75
Boxing	.25
5 dozen extra heavy carpet brooms	20.00
8 dozen fancy brushes	6.00
4 closet valves put in place	40.00
4 pounds Italian packing, pump	1.40
6 pounds Italian packing, boiler house	2.10
4 square inch gauze wire	.10
1 tin can	.25
1 gas pump	.70
24 3½x6 gaskets at 12 cents	2.88
1 dozen Fuller balls for repairing basin cocks	.75
Total	$ 13,901.68

CHAPTER SEVEN
John A. Kasson Report

STET CAPITOLIUM FULGENS.

INAUGURATION

OF

THE STATE CAPITOL

AT

DES MOINES, IOWA,

ADDRESS DELIVERED BEFORE THE TWENTIETH GENERAL ASSEMBLY BY

Hon. JOHN A. KASSON,

UPON INVITATION OF THE GOVERNOR AND GENERAL ASSEMBLY, JANUARY 17, 1884.

PRINTED BY ORDER OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

DES MOINES:
GEO. E. ROBERTS, STATE PRINTER
1884.

THE NEW CAPITOL.

Gentlemen of the General Assembly, Officers of State, and Fellow Citizens:

For the people of Iowa, and especially for you, their representatives in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial departments, this day may well be devoted to congratulations. The people will rejoice that this great structure, now so near completion, has been erected with economy, honesty, and sound judgment, and without special taxation, or debt. Their representatives rejoice that they can now enter into appropriate halls with abundance of heaven's pure air and clear light, and with suitable chambers for the important work of their committees. Their Executive and Judicial officers have special reason to be glad that they are soon to leave the inconvenient and insecure quarters hitherto assigned them, for the safe and spacious rooms where fire cannot destroy, where thieves cannot easily break through and steal, and where moth and rust are far less likely to corrupt. All our people, in public or in private life, will to-day experience profound gratification that all the high authorities of government, the elect of their suffrage, enter in their name into the possession of a State House befitting the intelligence and the wealth, the dignity and the worth of a State which is justly proud of her record of good government. It is the third time that the State has taken possession of a Capitol building. As the immigrating farmer willingly passes his first difficult years in a cabin of logs, and when his family is better grown, and the tide of steady prosperity has enriched him, erects a

substantial dwelling in which, as he hopes, his children, and their children after them, may preserve his name and virtues in lasting memory, so Iowa, passing from her earlier official cabins, has devoted a part of her increasing wealth to the erection of this enduring mansion for the residence of her elected government during generations to come.

Our first prayer beneath this high dome is, that here the moral and political foundations of this imperial State may be so deeply and so wisely laid that remote generations shall recall and celebrate the wisdom and the virtues of their ancestors who in the nineteenth century erected and occupied this solid mansion of the State.

It is for us all a source of profound gratification that from the day when the present Commissioners assumed control, with their accomplished Superintendent of Construction, the legislative bodies have never withdrawn from them their confidence. Not one act of speculation or spoliation, not one coin wasted or vainly spent, has defaced the bright record of their administration. It shall be a part of the legacy we leave to our children that all these vast and durable walls have been laid in the cement of honesty, and built by the rule of fidelity. More proud of this legend are we, than of all these classic columns and brilliant domes which please the eye and gratify the taste.

As this house of the government has been erected in integrity, without turmoil or disorder, so may neither corruption nor violence ever appear within its chambers. Let nothing be ever here transacted against patriotism, religion, morality or education, nor against the just principles of civil liberty, or public or private right. As the wheels of time roll on, as generations of men arise, act their part, and decay, may each generation represented in these halls leave to its posterity a newly enriched inheritance of order, liberty, and justice. Let us cherish the hope that for centuries to come the eyes of happy Industry shall see with joy the beams of the rising day play-

ing upon these bright domes; and that there also, well-rewarded Labor may look with contentment upon the rays of the declining sun, when the evening hour brings its welcome repose to toil.

This noble Capitol to-day becomes a monument between two eras in the history of Iowa, dividing the frontier transitory record of the State from its grander history begun with the census of 1880. The past of our State presents a brief record which is within the memory of living men. No misty traditions of antiquity have either obscured or illuminated our course. We have lived chiefly in our anticipated future, to which we have sought to give form and reality. When the bell of Independence Hall rang out the peal of Liberty in 1776, Iowa was unknown, except as a land whose borders had been discovered by the French. When Spain ceded the region to Napoleon, and Napoleon in turn ceded it to the United States in 1803, it was still unexplored, unknown, and nameless. First attached in 1804, under the name of the "District of Louisiana," to the jurisdiction of the Territory of Indiana, it became, in 1805, part of the Territory of Louisiana, and in 1812, by change of name, part of the Territory of Missouri. In 1834 all the country north of the State of Missouri and west of the Mississippi river, as far as the Missouri and White Earth rivers, was attached to the Territory of Michigan. Two years later, in 1836, Wisconsin Territory was created, and embraced all that had so lately been transferred to the jurisdiction of Michigan. After two years more, in 1838, the Territory of Iowa was established, including what are now the States of Iowa and Minnesota and a large section of Dakota. Seven years later, in 1845, Congress offered to admit us as a State by the side of Florida, on certain conditions, which established our western boundary at longitude 17 degrees, 30 minutes west of Washington, separating from us the entire Missouri "slope." This our people wisely refused; and finally, in December, 1846, Congress extended our

western boundary to the proper limit of the Missouri river, and Iowa became one of these United States. Thus, only thirty-seven years ago, Iowa with 130,000 people and two representatives became a member of this great Union of States, which she now supports with nearly two millions of loyal people, with eleven representatives in Congress, with over 21,000 school-houses, more than 22,000 teachers, and 464,000 pupils; and with a greater proportion of her people able to read than is shown by any other State of the Union.

This record becomes the more notable when it is remembered that the very hill upon which this Capitol stands, and all the valleys and plains for many leagues around, were forty years ago in the occupation of the aboriginal tribes. All this fair domain between the two great rivers of the continent was in the possession of roving or resident tribes until 1830. In that year the relinquishment of the Indian title began by a treaty which covered, with ill-defined boundaries, all the region west of the divide between the Des Moines and Missouri rivers, as far north as the forks of the Des Moines river, and thence westward, taking in the valleys of the Boyer, Little Sioux, and Floyd rivers, to which was added a strip extending northeastward to the Mississippi river. These concessions were made by the Ioways, Otoes, Omahas, Missourias, Sacs and Foxes, and four bands of Sioux, all of whom claimed rights in the districts relinquished to the United States. The Sioux separately ceded a strip of territory twenty miles wide running from the Mississippi river below La Crosse southwesterly to the Des Moines river, on which cession are now found the towns of Cresco, Osage, Charles City, and others as far as Dakotah City. The Sacs and Foxes ceded a like strip immediately adjoining it on the south, on which are now many towns, embracing Waukon, West Union, Postville, and others to Fort Dodge. This double concession, forty miles in width, formed a neutral zone between alien tribes. All of Iowa north of these con-

cessions was claimed by different bands of the Sioux until 1851, when their relinquishment was obtained. But these first concessions in 1830 seem to have been made not so much in the interest of the whites as to prevent wars among the Indian tribes, disputing their respective rights to that territory. The advancing tide of immigration, however, was by this time ready to cross our great Mediterranean river, and open up the country on its western bank. The Sacs and Foxes yielded to its demands, and in 1832 gave to white settlement a district equal to two or three tiers of counties up and down the Mississippi. Again, in 1837, they yielded to further pressure, and gave up one and a quarter million of acres along the Cedar and Iowa rivers, including their chief's, Keokuk's, village. This still left all central Iowa south of Fort Dodge and as far west as the Missouri water-shed, in possession of the allied tribes, who numbered, all told, about two thousand two hundred and fifty souls. But the friendly character of these red men had given opportunity to the whites to hear of these clear skies, this fruitful soil, and these wooded streams, and even to see these lands of promise, and so to covet them. Under the influence of the progressive human tide pressing on from the east, in 1842 they finally threw themselves into the arms of the Federal Government to choose for them a new home further west; and agreed to surrender all their immemorial heritage in three years from that time. When, at midnight following the eleventh day of October, 1845, the signal gun from Fort Des Moines, on yonder point, announced the end of all aboriginal right, the last of these faithful tribes had left their ancestral grounds forever, and the complicated law of the white man succeeded to the simple usages of the native tribes. And so was the very ground now covered by the shadow of these walls transferred from the dominion of Asiatic tribal organization to the control of our European Christian civilization.

These tribes of Sacs and Foxes were among the best Indians of their race. The testimony of our frontiersmen, and the official records of the Government describe them as thoroughly entitled to the respect of our race. The United States agent at the Raccoon Agency, just before their migration, attributes to them "the manly virtues and innate principles of honor and honesty." After their migration, the agent speaks in his reports of their "fidelity and regard for truth, their sense of honor and honesty, and pride of person and Nation." It should be told to our children that these sons of the soil to whom we have succeeded left behind them a noble name for manly virtues which we may well desire to emulate. Would that my voice might reach them now with these words of praise; and that they might be consoled for the loss of this Eden-land of their ancient possession by knowing that the ground over which they roamed to find food for little more than two thousand souls, now gives home and food to near two million souls, under the protection of the same Great Spirit who rules both them and us.

Those of us who have known the liberal pleasures as well as the struggles of the spacious frontier life, the invigorating contests with wild nature and wilder beasts, the simpler manly virtues which it develops, the self-reliance, personal independence and courage which spring spontaneous from it, may well indulge a feeling of sympathy in the passing away of those tribes who had for centuries enjoyed that life along these running waters, under the shade of these oaks and walnuts, and over these blossoming prairies, where some of us once wandered with gun and fishing-rod in the days that have fled with the game. Shall the restless and eager life of the white man be sweeter than the life of the peaceful savage whom we have displaced—savage only to his enemies? Shall our greed of wealth be more profitable to the human soul than his greed of game? Shall truer virtue be found in our speculating marts of trade and in our

crowded bins and stockyards, than that which was nourished in the the sheltered tents of the red men, and under the influence of the brilliant heavens that beamed over their unplowed prairies? Shall the means of personal happiness, now far removed from the simplicities of nature, be more fruitful for us than they were for them as they reposed on the very breast of Nature? Let the philosopher who shall live at the close of the twentieth century answer these questions.

As the Indian with bow and arrow disappeared in the west, the frontiersmen advanced from the east with axe and plow. They gathered around the meeting of the rivers in this valley, and believed they could see even then the dawning aurora of a brilliant future. They eagerly expected the rising sun of prosperity. But oh, the weary waiting for its coming! The cold blasts of winter, the overfloodings of the streams in spring, the unsold harvests of the autumn, the tedious roads to market, the hopeless improvement of navigation, the tired expectancy of promised railways! Old settlers of Central Iowa, you remember the years that seemed decades, the decade that seemed a century. But we now hail the risen sun. The long expected time of prosperity has come. Instead of struggling wains, dragged by worn beasts over miring roads and across swollen streams, there now depart each day from beneath the shadow of this Capitol eighty trains of cars, propelled by a tireless power, and laden with busy men, or with the wealth of State and Nation, over iron ways radiating to all points of the compass, directed to the interior of a continent or to the shores of two oceans, and to markets in foreign lands. Instead of dangerous fords, iron bridges span our streams. Tall groves and houses of comfort defy the wintry blasts of our prairies. Churches and school-houses illuminate the country and beautify the towns. The joy of this time would be complete if it had pleased Heaven to

spare the lives of all our hardy pioneers to see this day. They were the daring scouts of civilization—these early settlers who bore the severest hardships of the struggle, and opened the way for the happier multitude who now enjoy the ripened fruits of their planting. All hail to the memory of these departed, and a living welcome to you who survive! May Heaven long preserve you in the well-earned comfort of your declining years.

Taking leave of our past, what shall be our future in the history of the Republic? Shall we grow into a powerful member of this great Union of States, or bury ourselves in the fatness of our fruitful fields and populous pastures? The real facts which most concern our personal comfort and happiness are undoubtedly those which have for their scene our hearths, our farms, our churches, schools, and workshops. But these are rarely gathered up by the pen of history. It is the larger community, the State, which embodies the resulting character of all this local training; the State, which has its own rooftree and hearthstone, preserves its own records, and develops a character of its own;—it is the State which passes into history, and by its perpetual record conveys to posterity the impressions which they shall entertain of their ancestors. The Legislature of the little emigrant colony of Plymouth, over two hundred years ago, declared: "Forasmuch as the maintenance of good literature doth much tend to the advancement of the weal and flourishing state of societies and republics, this court doth, therefore, order that in whatever township in this government, consisting of fifty families or upwards, any meet man shall be obtained to teach a grammar school, said township shall allow at least twelve pounds to be raised by rate on all the inhabitants." While we know little of the men who thus resolved, of their names, mode of living, or conditions, this noble record of their devotion to education has illuminated all the later pages of the history of Massachusetts. Three states of

this Union maintained for two generations a character among their sister states as individual and distinct as that of an eminent man among his associates. In proportion as the traits of State character are more marked and resolute, the longer they endure. The influx of new elements among the masses of population in many of our States has subjected this character to modifications, until even the family likeness is in some cases dangerously near to disappearance. Our Northwestern States are so miscellaneously settled, and are still so young, that no artist can yet venture to draw a portrait which will be recognized as faithful a half century hence. But for the last quarter of a century the pulses of Iowa, and her impulses, have been so thoroughly felt, her tendencies and the influences working in her development are so clearly shown, as to justify the indulgence of a noble hope of her future. Her liberality in the support of schools, and of religious and charitable institutions, the superiority of her people in the comparative tables of popular education, the more equal diffusion of wealth and comfort within her borders, her unquestioned love of liberty, temperance, and justice, and her military and civil courage in their maintenance, so distinguish her as to lend a halo to the brightest promise of coming history.

The dangerous influences which threaten to defeat this promise are visible, and demand your vigorous activity to suppress them. The State will rise no higher than the motives and the intellect of the men who in all ranks most prominently represent it. If you allow your offices to be sold as patronage, or claimed as a personal right, and fill them in response to personal solicitation, or party dictation, without regard to fitness, you fail in your duty to the State. If you listen to demagogues who appeal to prejudice against measures of justice, who defame the character of your elected officers to gratify malice or to obtain office for themselves, you prepare the way for the degradation of all public life, and for the humiliation of

the State itself. Some new Peter-the-hermit will yet arise among the people to preach a new crusade against the system of falsehood, forgery and defamation, which are still tolerated as weapons of political warfare. Let your curse rest upon them, and your heel crush them out. They degrade us in the eyes of all foreign nations, and they insult the purity and patriotism of our own people. As your vengeance should be swift upon those who are proved corrupt, so let it fall with the speed of a thunderbolt upon the forgers and libellers who fear not to corrupt the public mind with falsehood, and defame the reputation of the State and Nation by reckless assaults upon their representative officers.

Let your indignation also flow in full tide against the corrupters of the ballot box. Our laws are not yet severe enough against these enemies of the Republic. Tricks and deceptions which rob the voter of his sovereign right are not adequately punished. Fraudulent tickets are repeatedly delivered to the ignorant and unwary. And yet a single vote has been known to shape the policy of a State. The ballot is the crown of popular sovereignty, and it should be guarded with a care like that bestowed upon the jeweled emblem with which kings go to their coronation.

What influence will the five hundred and seventy periodical presses of Iowa exert upon the future character of our State? What will this enormous power for good or evil do to form the reputation and build up an honorable name and fame for our home Republic? Shall their columns be filled with a mixture of good and evil, of truth and falsehood, that they may thrive by ministering to all depraved as well as elevated tastes? The preaching of your churches and the teaching of your schools will be robbed of half their educational force, if the press fails to contribute its share to the elevation of public sentiment. The hurried demand of the daily page upon overtaxed brains leads too often to recklessness of

assertion, to viciousness of argument, and even to the invention of facts, while verification of their statements awaits the leisure of their author. Meanwhile the public mind is led astray, and public opinion in part corrupted. The great majority of their issues, it is willingly believed, are useful instructors among the moral forces of the community. But from this central hearthstone of the State we to-day invoke them all to recognize a higher responsibility to truth and justice, a more thorough emancipation from prejudice of party and of person, and a deeper appreciation of their influence upon the destinies of Iowa.

Formidable social and economic questions have in recent years risen in the political horizon, to which we direct our troubled gaze as we should look at some unknown comet stretching across the heavens. The simpler manners and the greater equality of fortunes have passed away. The progress of our race in this nineteenth century has been so rapid, and signal discoveries of science occur so frequently, that when we pause to look backward along the line of our own advance we are filled with astonishment. The venerable man of four score years who may listen here to-day knew a time when no boat was propelled by steam; while now all great seas and all inland waters are vexed by their ceaseless wheels. The mature man of three score years knew a time when no vehicle for freight or passengers moved rapidly on iron rails, governed by an unseen force; while now their noise disturbs the tranquility of two continents. Men of still more vigorous years know a time when electricity was an unchained force; while now, subjected to our use, messages are instantaneously transmitted by it thousands of miles over land and under seas, annihilating time and outspeeding the coursers of the sun. The boy still at school, with satchel slung upon his shoulders, remembers the time when the human voice was lost at a short radius in the atmosphere; where now it travels, guided by a delicate wire, for scores of

miles, and speaks gently in the ear which listens, even beyond the horizon of the human eye. Such events, so strange, so wonderful, occurring within our own time, surpass the imaginative compass of an Arab story, and fill us with awe and amazement. Unable to forecast the productive future, we tremble as its opening scenes are displayed to our bewildered sight. We ask what is to be the effect of the enormous accumulations of wealth rendered possible by the numerous amazing inventions of man? What shall be the fate of LABOR, which applies all these discoveries to the production of this vast wealth? Shall it share in the improvement of human conditions, or be left to retrogradation? Remembering that extreme wealth and extreme poverty are the two widely separated ends of the human chain, shall the great middle classes which so largely outnumber both the others, reconcile the rights of one with the interests of the other, and so maintain our peaceful development? These pregnant questions, gentlemen, will demand your unimpassioned thought for years to come, for they must in part be hereafter resolved by legislation within the halls of which you this day take possession. The country is feeling its way steadily toward their solution. Let Patience be a welcome guest at your deliberations, and let Justice control them. For Justice is the richest jewel in the crown of government—justice to the low, justice to the high, justice to all. Legislation must not take away from industry, activity and extraordinary capacity the legitimate earnings of these superior qualities; for that would be to discourage the best labor, and to retard the advance of society. Nor, on the other hand, must it give to superior faculty such advantages as will enable it to oppress humbler natures, or deprive them of their fair protection, and their fitting share in the world's advance. The just principle *must* be found upon which proper social legislation shall be based. It may possibly be recognized by analogy to the care bestowed by governments upon those in its military ser-

vice who are wounded or diseased in the line of duty. It may be found in the compulsory and regular contribution from the profits of the enterprise to a beneficial fund; or in the principles of an insurance association. Voluntary efforts of enlightened wealth are already opening the way, and blazing the path of future legislation. The principles of justice, reinforced by the sentiment of Christianity, will surely lead our fair-minded countrymen to the settlement of these questions without the violence and disorder which are so dangerously distracting the older nations of Europe.

We, gentlemen, shall soon pass from the stage of public action. The hope of the country will soon pass to the next generation. The fair flower of Iowa, now in her public schools or just leaping the fences into political life, will claim the control of the destinies of the State. I appeal to them to avoid the common road which leads through the passions and prejudices of men; and to choose the path which demands higher courage, but which leads assuredly to an honorable fame. The generosity of their years should easily lead them to resist the despotism of the strong, as well as to scorn the ways of the demagogue. To gain greatness for themselves or for their State, they must be guided by the nobler sentiments of the human heart and by the higher qualities of the human intellect. It is of the very nature of greatness that it represents these qualities, as it is developed by them. But it is of the very nature of prejudice and passion that they cannot endure in leadership; they must die of the moral mephitic gasses which are evolved out of their own active heat. You may try to convert them to a better nature, but try not at all to build yourself upon them. They may make a Marat, who flooded a city with blood; but never a Napoleon, who curbed and conquered them, and organized an empire upon their fall. Truth alone is indestructible.

"The eternal years of God are hers,"

as well in politics as in religion. Truth and you together are

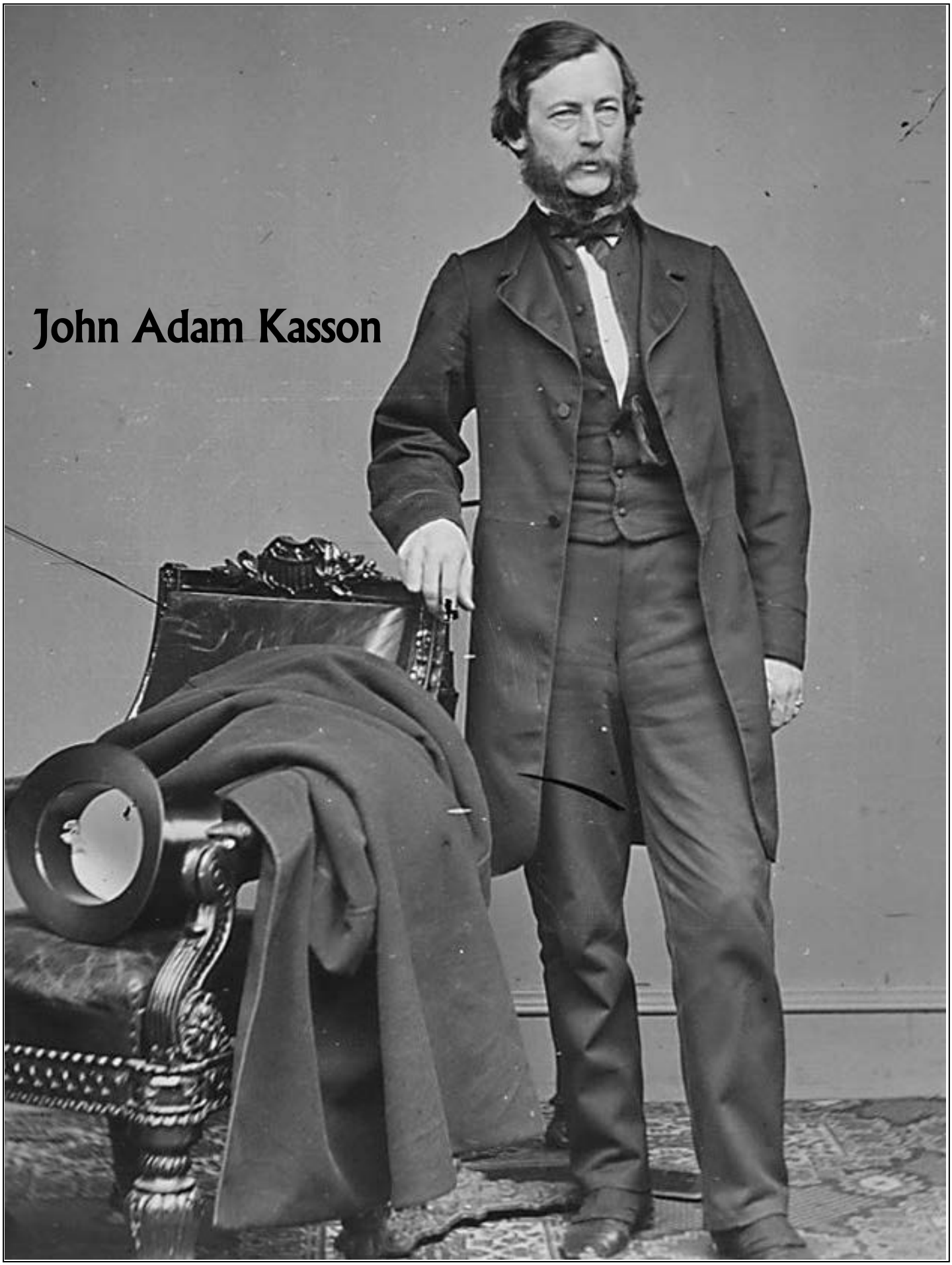
stronger than you and all the hosts of error in company. In a time of great passion and excitement John Milton wrote, "I care not what error is let loose into the field, so Truth be left free to combat it." One of the noblest things in this contest against popular error and prejudice on the one hand and against the prejudices of organized wealth and position on the other, to which I summon the youth of Iowa, is found in the manly qualities of courage and personal independence which it evokes. Slaves of party and slaves of self interest and prejudice abound, and will threaten you with defeat if you take sides against them for public justice and public honor in times of difficulty. But the battle, though prolonged, is surely won in the end for truth and justice. It is not the skirmish, but the final victory, which wins the chaplet of immortality. We send these messages to-day from beneath this dome to the blossoming manhood of our State, now in university, college and schools, who shall soon occupy our places in this Capitol, and shall here direct the affairs and establish the fame of a greater State.

One sentiment more demands expression under these arches as they are dedicated to future centuries. Need I say to you, men of Iowa, who have so recently and so bountifully given your treasure and your blood to maintain it, that the strongest hope of the future welfare of our State, under favor of the Almighty, is in the perpetuity of the National Union. In that well-rounded circle we dwell secure. Detached from that bond, a broken fragment, we should be the prey alike of internal faction and of faithless and transient external alliances. Jealousies of rivals on every side, obstructed intercourse, commercial exactions, and frontier broils, would impoverish the people, excite their passions, and destroy their peace. In the end we should fall like the petty Republics of Greece under foreign domination, or like Rome seek relief from domestic faction in submission to a despot's rule The rallying cry of all patriots

must still be, the CONSTITUTION AND THE UNION. The victories of war and the glories of peace, won under the common flag, must never be divided. May each generation transmit from these halls to its succeeding generation the watchword: Let the UNION remain forever. When, in 1851, being the seventy-sixth year of our Independence, the corner-stone was laid for the extension of the United States Capitol, Mr. Webster deposited a memorial of the ceremony, in which he declared that if it should thereafter be the will of God that the structure should fall from its base and its foundations be upturned, that memorial should make it known that the Union of the States then stood firm, and the Constitution unimpaired, and grown stronger in the affections of the people than ever before.

Standing to-day in this noble presence of all departments of the government, Legislative, Executive and Judicial, and of the people of the State, I would enlarge the lofty words of that great statesman. If it shall hereafter be the will of God that the pillars and domes, towers and walls of this great structure shall fall prostrate, and even its foundations be buried from the eyes of men, be it known that at this time, in the one hundred and eighth year of our Independence, the UNION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, having withstood the shock of two foreign wars, and of one more terrible civil war, STILL stands firm, and more strongly consolidated than ever before, having been cemented by blood; that their Constitution still exists unimpaired, and even improved by the introduction of universal human liberty within its entire jurisdiction; and with more than its original usefulness and glory; that it grows every day stronger in the affections of the great body of the American people, and attracts more and more the admiration of the world. And all here assembled, whether belonging to public or private life, with hearts devoutly thankful to Almighty God for the preservation of the liberty and the

happiness of the country, and for the great prosperity of the State, unite in sincere and fervent prayers that these walls and arches, domes and towers, columns and capitals, may endure so long as the Republic and Liberty survive.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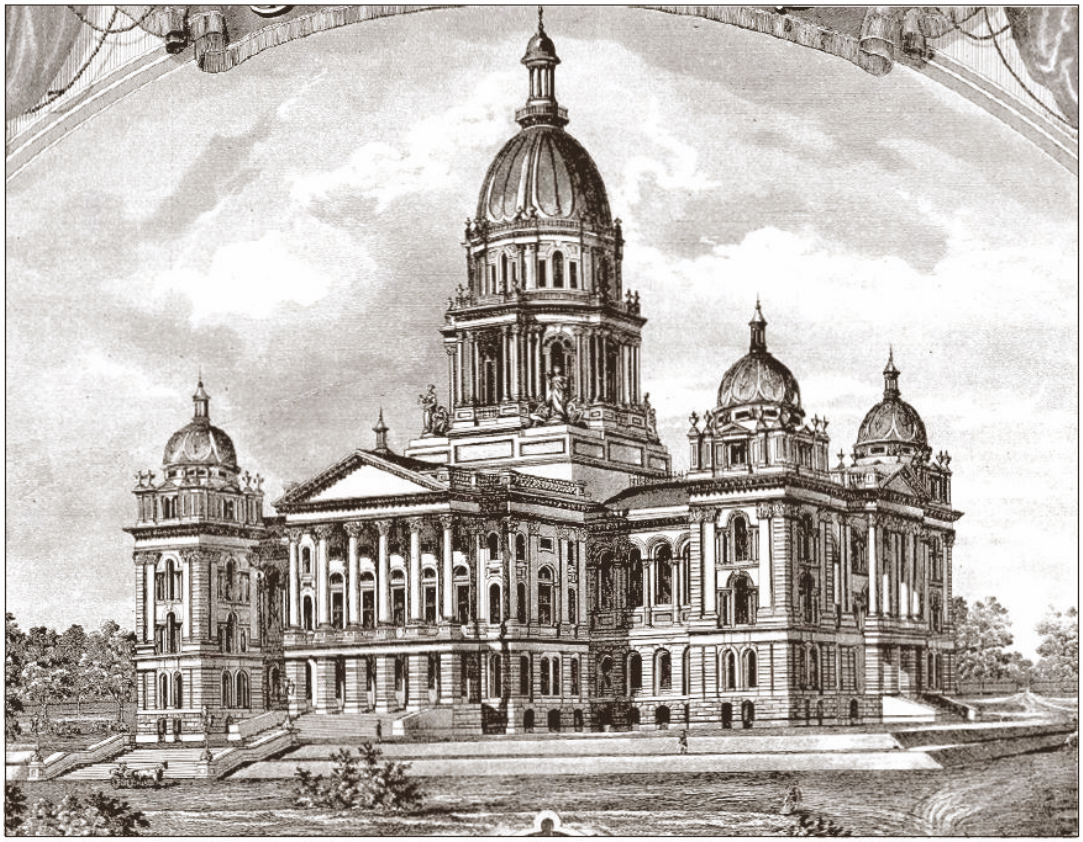

A preliminary architect's drawing of the Iowa State Capitol around 1870.

A later architect's drawing of the Iowa State Capitol. The diameter of the dome was revised by William F. Hackney and Mifflin E. Bell.

The new Capitol towers over the Old Brick Capitol to the south.

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