

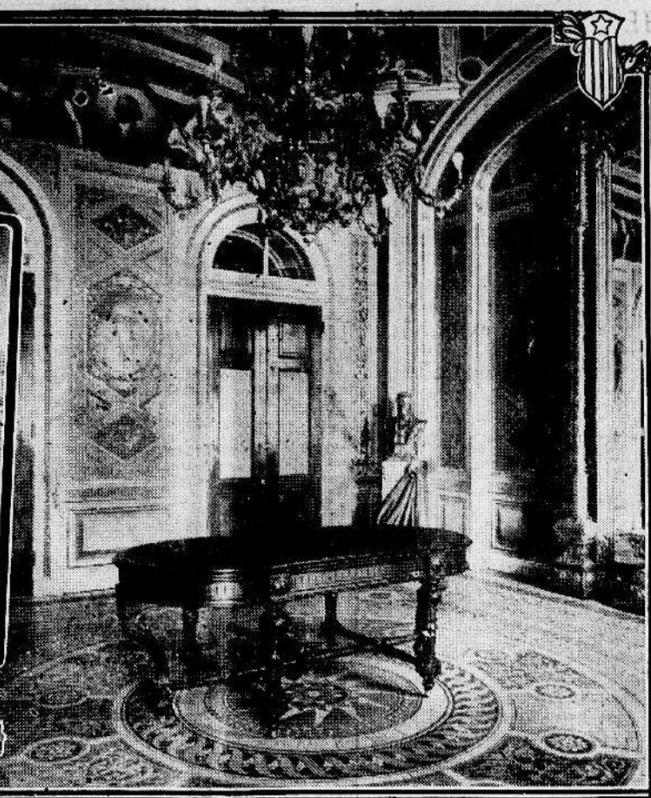
The PRESIDENT'S ROOM at the U.S. Capitol



The famous "Marble Room" which adjoins the President's Room



The Vice President's Room at the U.S. Capitol



The President's Room



The Approach to the President's Room

Nothing that President Wilson has done since he came into office, or since he was elected chief magistrate has caused so much discussion as his plan to "drop in" upon congress in its home on Capitol Hill at Washington, more frequently than has been the custom of our previous presidents. The new occupant of the White House has, both in his private capacity and in his official role, done a number of things that have provoked comment since he grasped the reins of government, but this scheme to spend more or less time at the Capitol in order to keep in touch with our lawmakers has overshadowed everything else.

Such evidences of individuality as persisting in wearing a soft hat instead of the traditional silk tie; receiving visitors when clad in a sack or business suit; dodging crowds at a fashionable church by patronizing a small one; cutting out the frills and the playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" when he goes to the theater; demanding nine hours' sleep each night; and getting to work like a real business man at 8 o'clock in the morning; have caused more or less of a flutter among those "cave dwellers" in Washington who worship "precedent" as something sacred, but none of these innovations have been a patch on this capital scheme, for causing the devotees of conventionality to sit up and take notice.

You see this plan to set up a presidential business office at the legislative headquarters of the government has this significance—it is an official action rather than a private one, so to speak. It is generally recognized that the president of the United States in his capacity as the first citizen of the land has a right to indulge his personal preferences. Consequently if he chooses to prove himself truly democratic by evidence such as that above cited, even the hide-bound conservatives cannot say too much. But when a newcomer goes to upsetting customs that, because of long usage, are supposed to govern official conduct in the high office, that is quite another matter.

President Wilson, though, has been no more dismayed in this quarter than he has been by our antiquated presidential fashions in dress and deportment. His mandate that office-seekers must see the respective cabinet members instead of importuning the president betokened his emancipation and now it seems he is to burn behind him the most important of all the bridges of precedent by maintaining a "branch office" at the big white-domed building. It is not an occasional visit, mind you, that the new president is contemplating but a regular daily call whenever congress is in session. Indeed, it is said to be in the president's mind to keep office hours at the Capitol just as he does at the executive office building under the shadow of the White House.

Of course, this reputed plan of the new president to get more closely in

touch with congress has provoked some resentment in congress as well as outside. That was to be expected—the whole plan is so new and there are always plenty of people who are against any new scheme if for no other reason than that it is new. Moreover, it has been a tradition in Washington for to these many years that our forefathers placed the White House distant from the Capitol a full mile (a mile longer distance than in these days of automobiles) for the express purpose of preventing undue "executive interference" with legislation. And it has been that same tradition, more than anything else, which has kept most of our later presidents away from the Capitol except on rare occasions.

But for every public man who has criticized the suggestion that President Wilson spend some time on "the Hill" each day, there have been at least two or three who have enthusiastically endorsed it. The level-headed Senator O'Gorman, of New York, in discussing the project, said: "The president will be welcome if he will come to the Capitol and advise with congress." Senator Pomeroy, of Ohio, said: "The closer the president and congress can get in the transaction of public business the better it will be." Even Senator Tillman who might be expected to be "touchy" if anybody would on the subject of "presidential encroachment" has said that if the new chief magistrate would come in the capacity of an adviser congress would be glad to see him at the Capitol.

If President Wilson carries out this reputed plan of placing his finger daily on the congressional pulse during the special session of congress we may expect to see suddenly shifted into the limelight of publicity one of the least-known but one of the most ornate rooms in the U. S. Capitol. This is the apartment known as the "President's Room" and it has been, up to this time, probably the least-used of all the rooms in the huge structure. Indeed, in a sense, the room may be said to have been known only to guides and the tourists that they daily pilot through the mazes of the marble pile. The mere fact that the president's name is borne by this room has long made it a magnet for the average sightseer and the guides have learned, by long experience, to include it in the itinerary of every personally conducted tour of the building.

But the men who work in the Capitol day in, day out, have seldom gone near this "show place" and some of them might actually be puzzled for the moment to direct you to it, if your inquiry caught them unawares. This room for the president hasn't even needed attention from the painters and decorators as have most of the other rooms. Perhaps it is because it has been so little used but aside from an occasional "touching up" here and there very little has been done for the maintenance of this room since the civil war. As

for actual use by the president, that has been so rare as to almost rob the room of the right to the use of the name. If a chief executive were to come to the Capitol on the occasion of any great ceremonial occasion he might be expected to tarry in the president's room until time for him to enter the legislative hall but such a visit is of rare occurrence. Similarly on the last day of the final night of a session of congress the president may go to the Capitol in order to sign (and thereby make laws) of the bills as they come from the legislative hopper but this involves occupancy of the room for only a few hours each year. In explanation of the president's action in transferring his activities from the White House to the Capitol during the closing hours of a session it may be pointed out that a bill passed by congress within ten days of the time of adjournment fails to become a law unless the president signs it before the session closes. It is said at the Capitol that with the exception of Grover Cleveland every president since the time of Andrew Jackson has repaired to the Capitol to thus facilitate the disposition of the legislative business in the final hours.

Just who was the originator of the idea of a room for the president in the national Capitol seems to be shrouded in mystery. History, so far as can be ascertained, is silent on this subject. But for all that, the room is one of the most ornate in the historic edifice. Indeed, the president's room which is located in the senate wing of the Capitol, at the west end of the private lobby which is directly north of the senate chamber proper is generally considered the most beautifully decorated room in the building. The whole ornamentation of the room is the work of Brunelli, the Italian artist who did so much of the more pretentious decorative work in the Capitol and who was at his best in the embellishment of the president's room.

Constantino Bramelli had a most romantic career. His father was a Greek and his mother an Italian and he learned in Rome the now almost forgotten art of fresco. He was a captain of the Papal Guards at the time of the revolution in Rome and was thrown into prison and remained there for more than a year, only being released, at the intervention of the pope, on condition that he immediately leave Italy. This explains his migration to America. His first three years in the New World were spent in Mexico but at the end of that time he took up his residence in Washington and entered upon a life-work, the crowning achievement of which was the decoration of the

president's room. Conspicuous among the paintings in the president's room are splendid medallion portraits of President George Washington and the prominent members of his cabinet—Thomas Jefferson, Secretary of State; Henry Knox, Secretary of War; Alexander Hamilton, Secretary of the Treasury; Edmund Randolph, Attorney-General; and Samuel Osceola, Postmaster-General. It will not be surprising if President Wilson arranges when occupying this room, to face the portrait of Jefferson, for his admiration for the founder of the democratic party is well known and is the more readily understandable when it is borne in mind that Wilson's birthplace in Virginia is distant only a few miles from the home and tomb of Jefferson at Monticello and Wilson, as a young man, attended the university which was founded by Jefferson and which was his especial pride.

In the four corners of the president's room are frescoes of four famous men, each of whom has been chosen as representative of a force in civilization. Christopher Columbus typifies Discovery; Americus Vesputius signifies Exploration; Benjamin Franklin suggests History; and William Brewster, Elder of Plymouth Colony, is representative of Religion. Carving the same idea further, four groups in fresco, beautify the ceiling—to the north, Religion; to the east, Executive Authority; to the south, Liberty; and to the west, Legislation. The intricate mosaic of the floor is quite as ornate in its way as is the decoration of walls and ceiling and there is a massive chandelier that completes the effect.

One thought that is bound to suggest itself upon an inspection of the president's room is that things are likely to be somewhat crowded if the president should desire to receive there a considerable number of legislators at any one time. There is a huge, full-length mirror at one side of the president's room which conveys an effect of spaciousness but in reality the apartment is of comparatively modest size—when compared, for instance, to that adjoining "show place" the famous "Marble Room"—built entirely of Italian and Tennessee marble—and which is used by the senators as a private reception room. But for all that the president's room is rather limited in size it has been the scene of some rather large gatherings. A notable occasion in point was on Friday, December 18, 1874, when King Kalakaua, of Hawaii and his suite gathered in the president's room and were greeted by many senators and congressmen. Perhaps the most historic event that ever had the president's room as its

setting occurred one evening in March, 1862, when President Lincoln, while seated in the president's room, received from General Grant that memorable message stating that General Lee had made the preliminary overtures for peace. Here Lincoln consulted with the secretary of state and war and here, about midnight, he wrote with his own hand a reply which was signed by Stanton and forwarded to General Grant.

It is likely that if President Wilson elects to spend any considerable time at the Capitol the president's room will be refurbished. At present and for years past the furnishings have been only such as one might expect in a show parlor—a massive center table, a few heavily upholstered chairs, a bust of the late President McKinley for which congress is said to have paid \$2,300, and a handsome "grandfather's clock" of mahogany which was purchased in 1887. It is expected that if the president's room is refurbished it will be made into a comfortable "livable" room like the vice-president's room which is located at the opposite end of the Marble room—the Marble room serving as a sort of connecting link, as it were, for the presidential and vice-presidential rooms. The vice-president's room has a tall clock such as that in the presidential room but it is also provided with a commodious desk, rugs, chairs, book-cases, and last but by no means least, a famous painting of Washington by

Rembrandt Peale, the talented son of a famous father.

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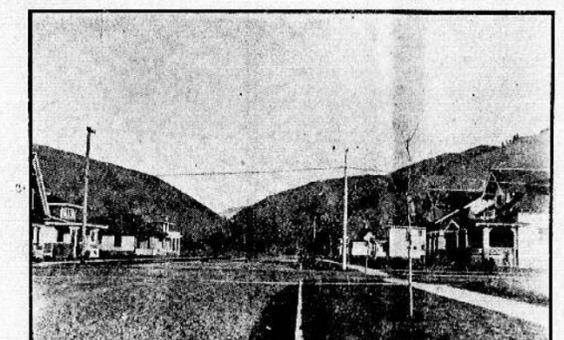
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CHANGES SHOWN BY PAIR OF PHOTOS



Here in the west where the growth of population is rapid the evolution of community from the pioneer to the paved street-trolley car stage is accomplished in less than a lifetime. Half a century ago Missoula was not and there are a good many Native Sons whose hair won't turn gray for many years who can remember when the southside was not in the country. Ten years ago Indians used to camp where parked and improved streets are found today; one used to be able to observe Indian customs and ways



from his back door as easily as he now can on the reservation. Small bands of red men, packing their grimy tepees and their battered kettles on poles strapped to their ponies' sides used to live on the southside throughout the summer months, shooting gophers for amusement and sustenance and filling out their bill-of-fare with delicacies found in Missoula's alleys. The pictures that accompany this brief article strikingly show the changes of the last few years. The first picture was taken by Colonel Benson, then a lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry, in 1888—25 years ago. It was taken from a point on the south

side of the river about halfway between the university campus and the Higgins avenue bridge. The Indians as a glance at the picture will show, were not chance visitors, to be looked upon as curiosities by the people of the city. They were camped where their fellows had camped for years before them. It can easily be seen that they are settled for a long stay. The cut below was taken just 25 years later, from a point as close to the old Indian camp as the photographer could get. It shows clearly the change that has come with a quarter century. An Indian camp on the south side would be a thing to attract curious crowds today. The tide of population is beginning to drive the red men even from their old tenting grounds near the Chinese gardens west of Missoula. Another quarter of a century will find the teepee a curiosity and the Indian—save for modernized Thorpes and Meyers—a creature of fable, plausible only because of his preservation upon the government's new five-cent piece.



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12:40 p. m.	No. 3	12:50 p. m.
11:50 p. m.	No. 5	12:00 a. m.
8:20 a. m.	No. 41	8:30 a. m.
EASTBOUND		
5:18 p. m.	No. 2	5:28 p. m.
7:20 a. m.	No. 4	7:30 a. m.
8:25 p. m.	No. 6	8:40 p. m.
6:55 p. m.	No. 42	6:45 p. m.
BITTER ROOT BRANCH		
4:20 p. m.	No. 205	8:40 a. m.
8:25 a. m.	No. 206	3:25 p. m.
COEUR D'ALENE BRANCH		
4:15 p. m.	No. 199	11:35 a. m.
BUTE LOCALS		
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