

THE NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM BUILDING AT WASHINGTON.
Nearing completion and soon to be opened to the public.

STOREHOUSE OF NATION.

Great Hall of Muscum To Be Thrown Open This Week.

A portion of the great new National Museum building at Washington will be thrown open to the public before the end of the present week. This will mark the first of the final steps in the completion of the greatest storehouse for art and information that the nation has ever constructed. It will be followed rapidly by others, and by the end of the summer everything will be in place in the magnificent structure, the completion of which marks to the artist, the scientist, the historian, the student of all manner of things an era in American development.

Its completion means that what is said to be the greatest natural history collection in the world may be adequately shown to the public. It means that there will be exhibition space for that collection of historical relics which is by many persons considered more precious than anything else that will ever be massed together. It means that a certain amount of space may be had for that nucleus for a national gallery of art which is already formed and is so rapidly increasing as to promise a collection owned by the government that will rank favorably with those of the great nations of Europe.

The new building is roughly completed. Inside the rooms are finished and await only the placing of the material which is to cover their ten acres of floor space. Outside there is but the approach to be completed and the debris of the years of construction to be cleared away. Then there is the massing and the arrangement of the vast stores of material. This work will require the entire spring and summer, and when the autumn comes it is expected that all will be in readiness. Then there will be held a grand opening, to which all the world will be invited. The occurrence of the present week will be without formality, and will consist merely of the throwing open of one great hall to the public.

But this happening marks the first definite accomplishment in a campaign of more than half a century for the establishment of an adequate museum that would comport with the dignity of this great nation. The actual construction of the building has required six years. It was in 1904 that Congress appropriated the money for its erection. The amount was \$3,500,000, a sufficient sum to erect a structure that is adequate for the present needs. Since that time the work has been pushed to the utmost, but many delays have been experienced, chiefly through a failure of stone contractors to deliver material on time.

The new building is situated in the Mall, directly in front of the Smithsonian building, which it faces. It is a massive and dignified granite structure, four stories high, with a frontage of 561 feet and a depth of 365 feet. Its shorter axis is in line with 19th street, through which it may be reached from Pennsylvania avenue, a distance of three blocks. The principal external feature of the building is a large, square pavilion at the middle of the south side, terminating in four pediments at some distance above the main roofs. Inclosed by the pavilion is a rotunda eighty feet in diameter, with four massive, ornamental piers, surmounted by a curved ceiling reaching to a height of 127 feet. The exterior structure of the rotunda is carried above the pediments of the pavilion in the shape of a circular granite wall, capped by a simple,



MODELS OF SIOUX INDIANS.
A part of the great natural history collection in the National Museum at Washington.

rounded dome with a slate covering, attaining a height of 162 feet above the ground line. The south pavilion contains the main entrance, sheltered by a portico supported by heavy Corinthian columns, of which there are six in the front row. Below these are the steps and platforms of the approaches from the driveway, all of granite.

Aside from the south pavilion, the exterior of the building is practically without ornamentation, and the same is true of the interior. The interior width of the halls in the main structure is 114 feet, while the lesser halls are 54 feet wide.

Altogether, it is one of the greatest storehouses for treasure that was ever built. Here is to be brought all that material which a century has accumulated. No man knows just what the government owns in this line. Certain it is that there are great treasures stored away, the exact nature of which has been forgotten. There are records of the receipt of rare masterpieces, the disposition of which is a mystery. These will probably be discovered when the many boxes are unpacked, and it is also likely that other treasures will be found, relative to which there is no record. So extensive are the stored materials that with the passing of generations and of administrations all idea of the extent of the collections is lost and will be revealed only when the boxes are opened that these new halls may be filled.

Among the first ambitious undertakings that face the administration of the museum will be the mounting and arrangement of the Roosevelt-Smithsonian collection, which is now practically all in, but unmounted.

WILLIAM ATHERTON DU PUY.

CHRISTMAS CONVIVIALITY.

At a dinner in Denver Judge Ben B. Lindsey told a story about Christmas conviviality.

"There used to be an old fellow of sixty," he said, "who got arrested about twice a week for conviviality. He was always haled before Magistrate Blank, and as the magistrate was about sixty, too, a queer kind of comradeship, almost friendship, arose between the two men.

"In the late autumn the toper was called away from Denver. He did not return till Christmas time. The convivial Christmas spirit in the crisp Denver air was, of course, too much for him, and the day after his return he was haled before the usual magistrate on the usual charge.

"The magistrate, in the green festooned courtroom, felt kindly and forgiving.

"Well, George," he said to the prisoner, "you are here again at last, eh?"

"Yes, your honor," said old George, humbly.

"You've been away some time, haven't you?"

"Yes, your honor; nigh on to three months."

"And how many times, George, did you get drunk during that period?"

"I don't like to say, your honor," old George faltered, "before all these here people."

"Well," said the magistrate, "take paper and pencil and write it down."

"So George wrote, and the paper was passed up to the magistrate, who looked at it and said:

"Ah, well, it's the Christmas season; and since you were away three months, George, and got drunk only sixteen times, I'll let you off."

"Thank you, judge," said old George, as he left the dock. "You looked at the paper upside down, though!"

SWIFT THINKER.

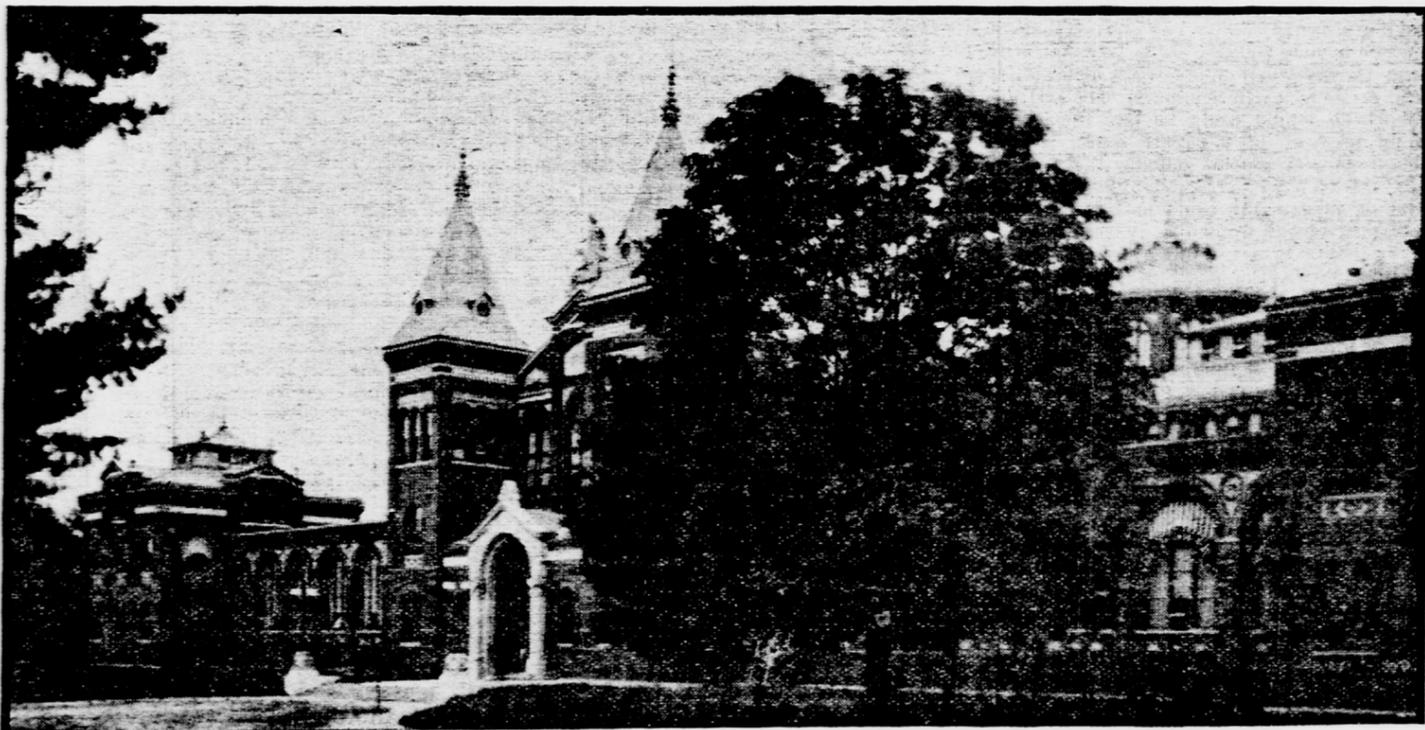
Harker—You seem in a deep study. A penny for your thoughts, old man.

Bluffwood—Oh, I'm a rapid thinker and have five hundred thoughts at once. Pass me over a five spot.—Chicago News.

MODERN EDUCATION.

Willis—Does you son take to arithmetic?

Gillis—Indeed he does. Last year he took false weights and measures; this year he is studying rebating, and next year he will take up commutation of fines.—Puck.



THE OLD BUILDING OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AT WASHINGTON.
It will be given over to exhibits of the industrial arts.

LIVER UPSET? Try
Hunyadi János
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