

It's Been "Hustle" for Lots of Men to Get Capitol Ready for Congress

THE SPICK-AND-SPAN SENATE KITCHEN.

Superintendent Woods and His Force Have Been Busy at the Job Ever Since Last Session.

THE workmen who have been setting the stage in Washington for the opening of Congress to-morrow pulled out the last of their ladders and scaffolds last week and stored them away in the subterranean passageways of the Capitol. A few scattering crews will be rubbing off the rough corners and cleaning up the debris up to the hour when the House and Senate begin their winter's work, but most of the hustle and bustle of preparation were over before the advance hosts of Congress appeared on the scene.

The week just over was the last one of the grand rush in Washington preparatory to the opening of the national legislature. The business of Congress will draw the attention of the country, but the business of getting ready for Congress passes with slight notice. None of the thanksgivings offered last week was more heartfelt than those of Elliott Woods and his assistants in charge of the \$35,000,000 Capitol property when definite order began to appear out of the confusion and rush of the preceding months.

From the time the last departing Congressman hurried away to catch a train last August Superintendent Woods and his big crew have been at work day and night doing the annual house cleaning and furnishing up that is necessary to keep the Capitol and its surrounding buildings in condition, and to make the work of Congress comfortable, expeditious and healthful.

Down in the subterranean passageways of the great building, where visitors seldom penetrate, and whose very existence is unknown to most of the public, there is a large and highly organized force that waits with impatience for the end of a session. Its pickets grow about the Capitol every day, looking for signs of trouble in the building or its intricate equipment, marking things that will need rebuilding or repair when Congress is gone, planning changes that are necessary and laying the ground work for the work that must be rushed through in the short interval between the end of one session and the beginning of another.

Out of the subterranean burrows when Congress adjourns our ladders, scaffolds, plumbing tools, paint buckets and all the implements of the important trades of house building and repair. Noise and bustle such as Congress never hears began the day that Speaker Clark and Vice-President Sherman announced adjournment last August, and with the opening of the new session it disappears for another year, leaving behind a clean house in good repair.

The century-old Capitol has been washed and polished inside and out; the marble office buildings flanking it have been scrubbed until they shine. Statuary Hall has been renovated and its marble occupants scrubbed and manicured. The Senate Chamber has been done over in the prevailing mode and each Senator's desk refurnished by expert cabinetmakers.

Supreme Court, House Chamber, committee rooms, corridors and public rooms have been painted, cleaned and renovated. Famous frescoes have been touched up; expert art workers have gone over the more important paintings, repairing signs of decay or discoloration, and in the lower regions of the Capitol kitchens have been overhauled, miles of air and heat ducts painted and cleaned and thousands of dollars worth of important machinery and apparatus put in condition for the winter.

HOUSECLEANING IN STATUARY HALL.

This is the annual task of the Superintendent of the Capitol Buildings and Grounds. He is in many respects the most indispensable man about the nation's home of representative government. Though he seldom figures in the proceedings of Congress, he is always figuring how to make those proceedings run more smoothly and how to contribute in the greatest degree to the comfort and convenience of the members. Mr. Woods is the master of nearly all trades, and has developed a permanent organization in the Capitol that varies from a nucleus of fifty men in the winter to a hundred and fifty when the repair season is at its height.

The underground region of the Capitol is a hive of industry and peculiar trades. Under the big dome, out of sight of the world in general, there are blacksmith shops, machine shops, kitchens, cabinet-makers' shops, the rooms, plumbing shops, model rooms, storerooms of all kinds, and headquarters for art experts, gardeners, electricians, carpenters and all sorts of workmen.

Through these lower corridors this force moves constantly, repairing portions of the building, watching the structure for signs of decay, replacing bits of flooring that break, keeping tunnels and air ducts open and clean, and getting ready for the "season" when Congress is on vacation.

Out of the hundreds of passageways and corners of the Capitol there are but few that are not under the direct control of the superintendent of the building. One peculiar arrangement exists at the House end, where the keys to all stairways leading up over the House Chamber are kept by the Speaker of the House, and all doorkeepers for these entrances are appointed by him.

The reason for this singular arrangement had long been a mystery, and was the subject of a small investigation when the Democratic Congress began to parcel out the appointive jobs last spring. It was found that when ex-President Garfield was



ELLIOTT WOODS. The man who keeps Congress comfortable.

chairman of the Appropriations Committee of the House some workmen were one day repairing a skylight over that body when the House was in session. A workman stumbled, fell through the skylight and dropped to the House floor below, narrowly missing a member of that body, and injuring himself seriously. The matter became the subject of consideration by the House, and a rigid order was finally made that no work should be done over the House Chamber while that body was in session, and that the keys and control of the stairways should be kept by the Speaker of the House. There they have remained, notwithstanding the fact that Congress gives to the superintendent of the Capitol control of practically every other part of the building.

This year the work done by Superintendent Woods and his force has ranged all the way from installing new dishwashing and refrigerating machines in the House and Senate kitchens to redecorating the Supreme Court rooms and refitting the

Senate chamber. It has been a season of unusual activity, for the aging Capitol was tired out from an almost continuous session of Congress of nine months, and it had to be cleaned and refurbished from cellar to parrot.

Congress comes back to-morrow to find three of its ambitions still unfulfilled, despite the immense amount of work that has been done in preparation for the session. The long-promised refrigerating system that is to cool the House and Senate chambers has not been completed. The start has been made, and Superintendent Woods has worked out a plan for the Senate Chamber. It is promised that before the hot days of summer come cool breezes will be playing about the two legislative halls, and dry air will be taking the place of the humid atmosphere that makes a summer session in Washington an event to be dreaded.

Two other promised changes, the remodeling of the House Chamber and the construction of a small railway line through the subway from the House office building to the Capitol, are also lacking. The latter will be a keen disappointment to the apt members of the House. Although their office building was completed and occupied before that of the Senate, the Senators had the pleasure of trying out the first underground transportation system.

Two electric automobiles hustle the dignified members of the Senate back and forth through the passage between the Capitol and their office building, but members of the House are compelled to walk the two blocks. When filibustering leaders are demanding roll calls every half hour a member who wants to do some work in his distant office spends much of his time hurrying back and forth through the tunnel.

Several schemes have been proposed for the House tunnel, ranging from moving sidewalks to regular electric tramways. A tentative scheme has been developed by Superintendent Woods, but it has not yet been sanctioned by the House itself. Without a year, however, the members will probably be cooling off in the summer by riding back and forth in their own tunnel.

The proposed changes in the House Chamber, to make it a better hall for debates and to provide room for the new members who will come in under the enlargement of the House from 381 to 435 members, will not be made for some time. The money has been appropriated, and New York architects have completed an elaborate plan for the reconstruction of the hall on the most improved lines of interior architecture, but Congress is slow to give the authority to start the work of tearing out the old hall and completely remaking it. Officials of the House express the

belief that in the end there will be a re- seating of the present hall, substituting benches for the present desks. Instead of a complete remodeling of the chamber, at the House end it has been necessary to build a new barber shop, move two or three document rooms and change the house kitchen and its serving arrangements.

To hasten the transportation of documents from the Capitol to the House office building a big pneumatic carrier has been installed, which makes the long run in a few seconds. To make room for the enlarged kitchen at the House end of the Capitol the document rooms that were formerly below the House Chamber have been transferred to the office building, and business will be expedited by the pneumatic carrier.

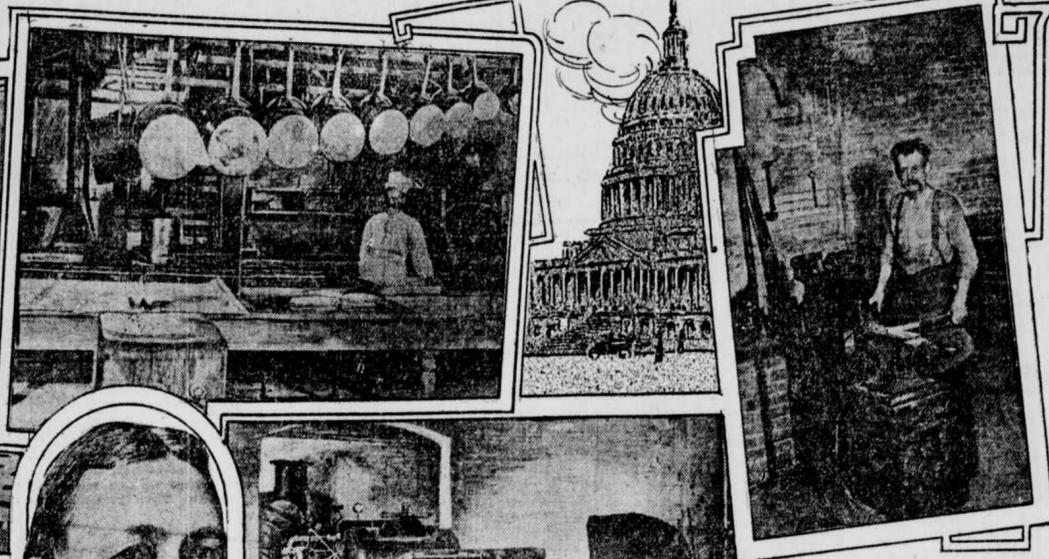
Both the House and Senate restaurants have been remodelled and enlarged to meet the demands of members for more privacy in their dining rooms.

Not a small part of the work of preparation about the building is to see that all sanitary arrangements are of the best. There are passageways under nearly all the floors of the buildings, and air ducts leading from the outside. These have been scrubbed and whitewashed, and the air has been tested thoroughly to see that it is not contaminated.

These matters, undertaken for the health of members of the House and Senate, seldom reach the attention of these bodies, and it is not often that Superintendent Woods steps out of his cloak of modesty and refers to them. There is also a system of elevator inspection at the Capitol that has few equals. Each elevator in the building is inspected regularly every morning that it is in operation by an engineer, who goes over its machinery and makes sure there will be no accidents to those who travel in it.

The task of keeping up the main Capitol building is one of great responsibility, requiring expert acquaintance with every

HOUSECLEANING IN STATUARY HALL.



THE SPICK-AND-SPAN SENATE KITCHEN.



A NEW AIR-CHUTE TO CARRY DOCUMENTS.



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This Hammering, Sawing, Painting, Polishing Crew Will Now Vanish to Subterranean Haunts.

foot of the structure and with the constant changes that are occurring in it. Much of the old portion of the building is over a hundred years old. It was built of Virginia sandstone, and like the large pillars of the United States Treasury, replaced two years ago when their crumbling threatened a serious disaster, the surface shows signs of disintegration where it has suffered from the ravages of the weather.

Every three years this older portion of the building gets a heavy coat of paint and the protection thus given to the surface has done much to preserve the structure. Architects estimate that to keep a large building in repair and in good permanent condition, it is necessary each year to spend at least 1 1/2 per cent of the original cost of the building in repairs and maintenance work. The Capitol cost approximately \$15,000,000, but much less than 1 per cent of this is spent annually for repair maintenance. The highly trained organization that is maintained at the Capitol and the development of experts within the ranks of these workmen have done much to keep down this cost.

The cornerstone of the Capitol was laid in 1793 by George Washington. Work was restricted at first to what were designed to be the House and Senate wings, but which have now become the Supreme Court Chamber, Statuary Hall, and the passageways leading to the present Senate and House wings.

The old Senate wing was completed in 1800, and the House wing in 1811. They were first connected by a wooden passageway, where the present dome and rotunda were. The British captured Washington in 1814 and burned the building, rendering it uninhabitable for several years. In 1815 Congress again moved into it. The present Senate and House wings were begun in 1821 to provide room for the rapidly growing legislative business of the government and were constructed of a white Massachusetts marble, which withstands the elements better than sandstone and submits to an annual bath of white paint.

These newer portions of the building were completed in 1856, and at the same time the new dome of iron and glass, taking the place of the small dome that covered the old building, was completed. The Capitol building covers three and a half acres, and the terraces that adjoin it on the north, south and west, under which are many offices and workshops, cover an additional two and two-thirds acres.

The Capitol grounds cover a total of sixty acres, and contain one of the rarest and most complete collections of trees known. It is no small part of the task of Superintendent Woods and his experts to keep these trees and the shrubbery in the big park free from disease or injury.

The present value of the Capitol buildings and grounds is roughly classified as follows:

Capitol Building	\$15,000,000
Grounds	10,400,000
Senate Chamber	2,225,074
Grounds	146,111
House Office Building	8,242,011
Grounds	145,429
Power plant	1,645,587
Subways	527,000
Total value	\$35,948,202

Few women look like themselves in public.

SUNDAY'S NEW-YORK TRIBUNE Mailed anywhere in the United States for \$2.50 a year.

Chief Feature of the Curriculum in This New University Will Be the Study of New York

K. Slewfoot Dollarford Designs to Fit Young Men for Strenuous Life on Broadway.

K. SLEWFOOT DOLLARFORD, eminent promoter and veteran captain of film-fam industry, approached the single-legged table in the rear of the buffet where several of his professional friends were busy baptizing their joys and sorrows in skillfully blended alcoholics. If you had known the man as they did, you would not have been surprised had you noted the general movement the crowd made to see that its respective rolls were safely stowed away in intimate pockets. There may be honor among thieves, but K. Slewfoot was no common thief. Having exchanged greetings with the bunch, Dollarford helped himself to a chair, said what to the portly waiter, and settled himself comfortably.

"Boys," he began cheerfully, as reached in his inside pocket for a cigar. "I got a scheme—a scheme that is a scheme. I've been working on it a long time. There's fat millions in it, and I'm going to pump them out of it."

THE CLINICS WOULD BE WELL ATTENDED



There was a subdued murmur of pity from the rest of the group. They knew that when K. Slewfoot Dollarford set his twenty-one jeweled brain on an idea and hatched that idea into a concrete scheme there was certain trouble in store for people with uninvited cash. And although their hearts were about as soft as vitrified paving material to victims of their own, they could easily afford to have a charitable sigh of sympathy for those who ran up against the flawless games of K. Slewfoot.

The promoter allowed his first statement



to sink into the brains of his hearers while he bit to cents' worth off one end of the cigar through which to smoke the rest of it. Having waited long enough for their curiosity to ferment a bit, he continued: "This scheme ought to put me on the best block in Easy street, with a southern exposure for my house. And what's more, it's the sort of game that will allow me to live there under my maiden name."

"Ha, ha!" twice chuckled one of the party—a restless, lean man, whose long, nervous fingers persistently sought his upper lip to stroke a mustache which had

Promoter Gets His Idea from a Noted Educator, and Thinks It Will Prove Winner.

center and killed a long, tall drink. When he turned around the charm had been broken and the procession of beauty had been shut off. Ever since that he has been drinking consistently in the hope of seeing that rare bunch of silken chickens again. It is a sad case!

"Well," in addition to the foundation alcohol course I would have to have a Chair of Chance.