CORNER-STONE DAY.

Making Arrangements for the September Celebration.

MEN WHO ARE DOING THE WORK.

Plans Made by Chairmen of the Various Committees.

A SIGNIFICANT CENTENNIAL.

SEPTEMBER 18, 1793, was the date of the laying of the corner stone of the Capitol building, and if the centennial of this important event is not celebrated in an appropriate manner it will be even more surprising than the tremendous growth and development of this city since the piece of sandstone was put in place 100 years ago. The celebration of the laying of the corner stone will be an event of peculiar importance to Washingtonians. Each year there are many celebrations held in Washington, but in all our history there is no date of more vital local importance than the 18th of September, 1793. The laying of the corner stone of the magnificent building, which looks down on the city with all the majesty that perfect grace and symmetry give, not only told of the commencement of the especial building to which it belonged, but the act marked the birth of the great Washington, the beautiful Washington of today, that radiates its broad avenues in all directions to the admiration of all visitors. For many years after its birth the city was but a sickly infant and little attention was paid either to its health or its beauty. Years, however, have come and gone. A century of time has rolled itself across the panorama and a new century enters into its existence to find the Capitol building imposingly beautiful; its white walls and dazzling dome surrounded by green lawns and looking down on the most beautiful city in the world.

The celebration of the laying of the corner stone is not of local importance only. The building whose commencement it will commemorate is a national building, and the greatest of all national buildings, both in beauty and in the importance of its uses, while the event celebrated marks the beginning of the era of growth and prosperity of the young and struggling republic.

That the centennial celebration in September will be a success is assured with the men who have it in charge. Men who have managed inaugurations, Grand Army encampments and dozens of similar events are capable of anything and strangers, who will undoubtedly flock here by thousands, may rest assured that the reputation which Washington has gained for hospitality will be fully sustained. Already many of the committees are well advanced in their preparations and further particulars are being settled every day. The committees have been selected in a thoroughly judicious manner and are well qualified to carry out the especial affairs intrusted to them. The general committee is a marvel of selection, while the officers possess every requisite for success. The chairman of the celebration, Mr. Lawrence Gardner, is one of the best known men in this city, both in a political and business way. His skill as an organizer has been proved many times. C. C. Glover is the vice chairman, and a better selection could not have been made. He is of the banking firm of Riggs & Co., and possesses remarkable executive ability. The secretary, Mr. Edwin B. Hay, one of Washington's bright lawyers, has a personal popularity which stretches from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The corresponding secretary is Mr. M. I. Weller, the well-known East Washington real estate dealer, who has the honor of having made the first proposal for the celebration. The treasurer is Mr. S. W. Woodward of the firm of Woodward & Lothrop. Mr. Woodward has held the same position with uniform success for many events.

No better assurance could be given of the success of the celebration than the printing of the names of the general committee, which comprises Lawrence Gardner, chairman; C. C. Glover, vice chairman; Edwin B. Hay, secretary; M. I. Weller, corresponding secretary; S. W. Woodward, treasurer; J. W. Babson, H. L. Biscoe, H. W. Boynton, A. T. Britton, J. J. Darlington, Mills Dean, Harrison Dingman, W. C. Dodge, George T. Dunlop, J. J. Edson, W. C. Frizzell, William A. Gordon, O. C. Green, H. A. Griswold, Jules Guthridge, J. J. Hannan, Chris. Heurich, J. Harrison Johnson, F. A. Lehman, Thomas N. Miller, F. L. Moore, Theodore W. Noyes, E. M. Parker, Charles F. Powell, Samuel Ross, John W. Ross, Isadore Saks, Thomas Somerville, A. R. Spofford, Thomas W. Smith, A. F. Sperry, Henry Sherwood, W. S. Stephenson, James F. Scaggs, Elias Spear, Dr. J. M. Toner, Seymour W. Tulloch, Duncan S. Walker, E. H. Warner, J. F. Whelpley, Beriah Wilkins, L. C. Williamson, L. D. Wine, Marshall W. Wines, and S. S. Yoder.

Chairman Lawrence Gardner of the general committee, who is giving almost his whole time to the work of the celebration, said to a Star reporter:

"In preparing for an event such as we are now about to celebrate there are two sides, the sentimental-patriotic and the practical, both of importance and both to be watched carefully and care to be exercised that each receive proper attention. When we stop for a moment to consider the patriotic side of the question the subject opens up so many avenues of thought that we are apt to be carried away by sentiments of the highest patriotic character, and by extravagances that are un-American. We are about to celebrate the centennial of the laying of the corner stone of the Capitol, and as we look back over the years that have passed since then, we think, can it be possible that Washington ever dreamed or contemplated such a grand and imposing structure as the present Capitol, to be surrounded by such a beautiful city as this has become, backed by sixty-six million people and wealth untold.

"We have had centennial celebrations innumerable, but there has been none that so thoroughly illustrates both the patriotic and practical as this celebration. Here was laid the corner stone and for one hundred years our country has step by step progressed, and no matter what we may conjecture for the future we cannot help but feel that the past hundred years at least have been a success. In holding such celebrations as we are now preparing for we simply call the attention of the people to this patriotic occasion. The conditions that exist at the present time and at the time of the original laying of the corner stone are so marked that they are worthy of some consideration.

"In 1793 our entire system of government was to an extent an experiment. The laying of the corner stone of the Capitol at that time in such a vast wilderness, if done at this practical age would be looked upon as the work of some day dreamer or enterprising boomer, but President Washington, with that peculiar abiding faith of his in the future success of the great republic he had helped so materially to establish, and his belief in the future prospects of the great city that had been honored by his name, did not hesitate to put on record his opinions, and the result of our centennial bear testimony to the clearness of his judgment.

"Now we are celebrating what is a fixed and established fact—our government now on a perpetual basis and our Capitol fixed as firmly and as lasting as it is possible for human foresight to establish a political home.

"To make the celebration a success we are meeting with the most hearty co-operation from the citizens, in fact, it is astonishing to see the unanimity of purpose in which our citizens are responding with the desire to make this celebration a grand success."

The proposition to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the Capitol having originated with the East Washington Citizens' Association, the appointment of Mr. J. W. Babson, the president of that association, as the chairman of the committee on the scope of the celebration was a most wise and appropriate selection. Mr. Babson has been untiring in his efforts to make the coming celebration a success, and to a Star reporter he stated yesterday that he was confident that the celebration would be all that its projectors hoped for. "The Star," said Mr. Babson, "has kept the people of the District so fully informed of the plans and intentions of the general committee of fifty and of the various subcommittees as announced from time to time that I fear that there is nothing new for me to tell. There will be a great parade on the day of the celebration, the 18th of next September, and in the afternoon at the Capitol there will be most interesting ceremonies, consisting of addresses by the President and noted orators, a poem by a distinguished writer, Masonic exercises and vocal and instrumental music. In the evening there will be more music, a grand display of fireworks and general illumination of the Capitol and the city. The latest idea of the committee is to prevail upon the Secretary of the Navy to order here such a number of the vessels of the navy as will add a fine naval display to the celebration. The committee feels confident of being able to secure such a display, and it hopes to add other enjoyable features to the occasion. The people of not only the District but also those of the neighboring states are daily becoming more and more interested in the celebration, and it will have much more than a mere local coloring. In fact, the celebration will be a national one, as it should in all propriety be, and it will be a grand success." The remaining members of the committee on scope are: Dr. Jos. M. Toner, F. L. Moore, W. J. Stephenson, Mills Dean and Henry Sherwood.

Mr. B. H. Warner, the president of the Washington Loan and Trust Company, and whose public spirit has helped make many a movement in the District successful, is chairman of the Committee on Ceremonies. He has for associates A. R. Spofford, vice chairman; Charles C. Glover, Dr. Joseph M. Toner, J. W. Whelpley, J. J. Darlington, Mills Dean. They have given a great deal of attention to the preparation of the program, which, although not long, owing to the nature of the ceremonies, has been arranged with the view of giving wider scope than would be the case if the celebration were regarded simply as a matter of local interest.

Although it has not been definitely arranged, Bishop Paret of Baltimore will probably open the ceremonies with prayer. Music will be furnished by the Marine Band, which the Secretary of the Navy has kindly detailed for the occasion.

The orator, William Wirt Henry of Virginia, will be introduced by President Cleveland. Mr. Henry is a lineal descendant of Patrick Henry, and is a scholar of wide reputation as well as of decided oratorical ability. He will speak largely on the civic institutions of the United States, as well as of its general history, which has been created mainly since the corner stone of the Capitol was laid.

It is also intended to have an original poem by Richard Watson Gilder, the editor of the Century magazine, which will have special reference to the occasion.

The Masonic ceremonies and address will be under the direction of the Grand Lodge of the District of Columbia. Mr. L. Cabell Williamson, grand master. Vice President Stevenson, who is a Mason, having been grand commander of the state of Illinois, has been invited to deliver the address.

It is hoped that Cardinal Gibbons will be present and participate in the closing of the ceremonies.

Mr. John Joy Edson.

The finances in affairs of this sort furnish a great deal of the motive power. In this instance the man selected as the head of the finance committee is in himself a guarantee that the work of the committee will be done with energy and promptness. Mr. John Joy Edson is the chairman. His excellent record in connection with the management of the arrangements for the Grand Army Encampment is still fresh in the minds of the public. Mr. Edson intends to raise all the money that will be needed. In speaking of the work of the committee he said:

"Our committee has commenced to canvass for subscriptions to secure the funds to defray the necessary expense attending the ceremonies of the centennial anniversary of the laying of the corner stone of the United States Capitol. We realize that our duties are probably the most arduous that any committee is called upon to perform. However, we feel that it is of that character which all public spirited men must enter into earnestly and successfully to accomplish. Now and then the people of Washington are called upon to arrange for some public affair of like character. They are only inaugurated when the occasion seems to be entirely proper. On such occasions in the past committees have been organized, sufficient funds have been raised promptly and the details carried out in a creditable manner as far as I can recollect without exception and proving a benefit to our people and to Washington. Our people have come to rely upon the committees they appoint, that funds raised by popular subscriptions will be handled to defray legitimate expenses only; avoiding extravagance on the one hand and doing what is proper and necessary on the other. The committee having in charge this celebration, will, I am sure, prove no exception. When a committee is appointed to raise funds in this manner their duties are necessarily arduous and are a great tax upon their time, and when subscriptions are made willingly and promptly by those able to do so, it goes a great way to relieve them of the burden.

"This celebration is one worthy of our best efforts. Conducted as contemplated, it will prove a lesson both useful and patriotic, and will furnish a happy opportunity for the people of Washington, where the national Congress always assembles, in a proper way to recount and bear testimony to the great history and success that has been attained in conducting the republic under our Constitution. The ceremonies will be of such a character that they cannot help but favorably impress the country at large, as well as Congress, which will then be assembled, and thus be a great credit to our people and the city of Washington."

Those associated with Mr. Edson on this committee are as follows:

Frank P. Reeside, secretary; John T. Arms, Henry C. Burch, James L. Barbour, Charles J. Bell, H. H. Bergman, Charles C. Bradley, S. Thomas Brown, Brent L. Baldwin, Job Barnard, F. H. Barbarin, J. Wesley Boteler, Samuel Bieber, W. D. Baldwin, W. B. Baldwin, William E. Clark, Clarence Corson, Daniel B. Clark, Samuel Cross, Dennis Connell, Albert Carry, Samuel W. Curriden, C. H. Davidge, Louis J. Davis, C. C. Duncanson, W. Clarence Duvall, Edward Droop, George W. Driver, John C. Eckloff, Matthew G. Emery, S. G. Eberly, George E. Emmons, William A. Frizzell, Prof. W. G. Fowler, A. P. Fardon, James E. Finch, Dr. George W. Fisher, Jules Guthridge, William B. Gurley, A. M. Green, H. A. Griswold, Thomas Gray, George C. Henning, John E. Herrell, A. H. F. Holsten, George F. Harbin, D. P. Hickling, Theodore L. Holbrook, R. O. Holtzman, C. W. Howard, Charles A. James, John G. Judd, Arthur L. Keene, George Killeen, A. M. Lothrop, T. A. Lambert, Philo J. Lockwood, B. F. Leighton, John B. Larner, Jas. Lansburgh, John H. Magruder, William H. Manogue, A. M. McLachlen, John W. Macartney, Frank B. Mohun, W. C. Morrison, Meyer Loeb, Frank P. Madigan, Clarence McClelland, Frank B. Noyes, Allison Naylor, jr., George M. Oyster, E. S. Parker, E. F. Berry, Thomas C. Pearsall, J. T. Petty, Eugene Peters, John C. Parker, Seaton Perry, E. Francis Riggs, A. B. Ruff, S. Ross, T. E. Roessle, W. W. Rapley, F. T. Rawlings, Thos. Somerville, Frederick C. Stevens, F. A. Stier, B. F. Snyder, John G. Slater, Dr. A. J. Schafhirt, A. L. Sturtevant, John W. Shafer, Samuel S. Shedd, O. G. Staples, J. S. Swormstedt, E. J. Stellwagen, Thomas W. Smith, Isadore Saks, O. T. Thompson, John W. Thompson, Jos. D. Taylor, A. A. Thomas, George W. Talbert, Lem Towers, jr., Jesse B. Wilson, Charles E. White, George H. B. White, Charles P. Williams, B. H. Warner, Beriah Wilkins, Louis D. Wine, Samuel H. Walker, Frank P. Welfer, W. J. Whelpley and Edward S. Wescott.

There is going to be a great parade and it will be a success from most any standpoint. Gen. Ellis Spear is the chairman of the committee on parade, and as he tackled the monster Grand Army demonstration here last September with credit to himself and satisfaction to all concerned, it is pretty certain that he will be able to get into line the aggregation of military bodies and civic societies that will lend their aid to promote the glory of the celebration in September. Gen. Albert Ordway, the commander of all the forces of the District, is the grand marshal. He will ride at the head of a line that will be imposing in its length and highly interesting in the details, as the various bodies will be composed of the flower of the manhood of the city. The District militia will turn out in force, and of course the regular troops stationed here will be expected to take part. Then there will be the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Elks, both of this city and of Baltimore, the Grand Army, the camps of confederate veterans of Virginia and Maryland, the veteran firemen, the oldest inhabitants and other organizations. These bodies will march in compact array down Pennsylvania avenue from the White House to the Capitol, following the same route that was traveled 100 years ago. The parade is going to be a popular feature of the celebration, and it will be a "corker" if the efforts of the chairman and the members of his committee, who are as follows, can make it so.

Gen. Ellis Spear, chairman; Robert Ball, Capt. Harrison Barbour, Robert Boyd, Lieut. Col. Harry Coggin, Charles W. Darr, Capt. C. S. Domer, S. E. Faunce, Daniel Frazier, George Gibson, Col. Charles Heywood, U. S. M. C.; Capt. Joseph O. Manson, Capt. John S. Miller, Capt. Allison Naylor and John J. Peabody.

The committee on illumination has charge of electric lighting, gas illumination and fireworks. Mr. F. A. Lehman, chairman of the committee, is a well known and progressive citizen of East Washington and under his direction the committee has made plans and obtained a great deal of information which will enable them to go ahead so soon as they know how much money will be at their disposal. Mr. Lehman gave a Star reporter some interesting details of the work of his committee.

The committee originally intended to illuminate the Capitol from all four sides by means of search lights, which were to suddenly flood the building with light some time during the evening, but as search lights cannot be moved far enough back on the north and east sides of the Capitol to produce the proper effect this portion of their plan had to be abandoned.

The whole electric plant now in the Capitol was kindly placed, free of charge, at the use of the committee. The committee is considering plans not only to illuminate the dome from the outside, but to place a large electric torch in the upraised hand of the statue of Washington, so as to light up the grounds on the east front; a moving caravel on the top of the globe in the raised hand of Columbus, and other appropriate designs to be placed in suitable positions.

An electrician from Cleveland, O., offers to throw any desired picture on the clouds so as to be seen from the whole surrounding country.

Three firms are competing for the fireworks—Paine and Son of New York, who gave the brilliant exhibition during the Grand Army encampment; the St. Louis Fireworks Company, which gave the exhibition on the night of March 6, and the Consolidated Fireworks Company of Baltimore, who have never given an exhibition in this District, but who claim to have the largest fireworks plant in the world. The St. Louis Company presents a schedule of $2,500, and says it does not care so much to make money as to redeem its reputation for the unfortunate series of accidents which prevented their last display from being a success. The subcommittee on fireworks went to New York city Wednesday to witness the display of Paine and Son, and while the evening was a very bad one for such a display the committee has returned very much pleased with what they saw. The agent for the Baltimore company, not to be outdone, gives an exhibition Saturday night at Baltimore, to which this committee is specially invited. Paine and Son and the Consolidated Fireworks Company have each schedules for different sums, ranging from $2,000 to $5,000, and have the price of each separate part of the display given, so that the committee can make up a schedule to suit themselves and the amount of money at their disposal.

One special feature of the evening will be an American flag in fireworks, which will be set off when the chorus sings the "Star Spangled Banner." Whether this flag will be given as a set piece or will be attached to a balloon and rise in the air will depend on which of the companies is given the contract. Paine and Son have a patent for raising a burning flag in the air, and hence the other two companies are restricted to a set piece. The Baltimore company offers to donate a flag of any desired size if it is given the contract and to run an electric wire to the music stand, so that the musical director can touch it off at the proper moment.

The subcommittee on gas illuminations have prepared designs for the gas lamps in the Capitol grounds and on the east front of the Capitol. The gas lamps will be removed from the posts and burners, composed of letters designating the different states and territories substituted. Around the large pillars of the building will be placed circles of lights, which will be connected by arches provided with hundreds of burners.

Sometime during the evening the entire Capitol grounds will be illuminated by different colored fires and a perfect fairy scene produced.

Mr. Lehman has associated with him on his committee the following: Ed Clark, Wm. McAdoo, Capt. Geo. McDerby, Capt. G. J. Fleheger, A. W. Hart, A. S. Pattison, Gustav Bissing, Albert Bright, C. P. Glien, Geo. L. Morton, B. N. Morris, A. B. Claxton, A. R. Townsend. Subcommittee on gas illumination—Wm. F. Hart, chairman; O. B. Haliam, Max Georgie.

An important function is discharged by the committee on invitations, of which Gen. Duncan S. Walker is chairman. The duties of the committee are of a kind requiring tact and courtesy, and it is generally considered that the committee is well constituted for the performance of such duties. To a Star reporter Gen. Walker, speaking of the work of his committee, said:

"To the committe on invitations was assigned the duty of causing to be prepared suitable invitations for distinguished guests and to distribute the same to such persons as might be invited to take part in the ceremonies by the general committee. Designs have been submitted for the invitation cards, some of which are very beautiful and appropriate, but no selection has yet been made by the general committee or its industrious chairman, who must first approve the same before they can be put in the hands of the publishers.

"Preliminary invitations have been addressed to the governors of the several states and territories of the Union, requesting their presence, and, of course, the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the government will be fully represented, as they were in the ceremonies of laying the corner stone of the building in 1793 and the corner stone of the extension in 1851. In reply, so far as answers have been received, the state officials have accepted, and promise their co-operation in every way to make the centennial an assured success."

"As to the invitations to municipal authorities, it was thought best to have the chairman of the general committee, with others, personally visit neighboring cities and invite their co-operation.

"So far as the invitation committee has yet been instructed, the line laid out for them is somewhat like that pursued in 1793 and 1851, the general committee, with the advice of Mr. B. H. Warner's committee on ceremonies, having adhered very wisely to a dignified program, worthy of the occasion. It is a national as well as a local centennial, and more than semi-official in character. What is said and done at the Capitol on September 18th next will live in the annals of the country, and in the matter of invitations, so far as the committee has gone, the guests have been selected with respect to their official character, as representing the state and national government and historic cities."

Gen. Walker has as associates on his committee, Gen. H. V. Boynton, vice chairman; M. W. Wines, secretary; Commissioner John W. Ross, Commissioner M. M. Parker, Commissioner Charles F. Powell, Chief Justice M. W. Fuller, Eppa Hunton, Representative Barnes Compton, Judge M. F. Morris, Prof. J. C. Welling, Frank Hatton, Theo. W. Noyes.

Mr. Wm. A. Gordon, the chairman of the committee on music, referred the reporter to Dr. Frank T. Howe, the vice chairman, who, he said, was looking more directly after the detailed work of the committee. Dr. Howe said: "The work of the music committee is yet in an uncertain state, but I can assure you that when the day of the celebration arrives we will present the grandest musical effect that has ever been heard in this District. We propose to raise a chorus of a thousand voices, and the work of selecting this chorus is already well in hand. The director will be Prof. N. Dushane Cloward, who so successfully conducted the chorus in the pension office building on the occasion of the reception to the G. A. R. a year ago, and he has entered into the work with characteristic energy. Communication has been opened with many of the surrounding towns and from some replies have already been received promising assistance in swelling the number of singers. Favorable responses have been had from Rockville, Takoma, Hyattsville, Alexandria and Falls Church. Of course with such a large chorus as is contemplated the preliminary rehearsals will have to be in sections, and the work of selecting the subdirectors is now going on. It is intended that these sectional rehearsals shall be conducted so thoroughly that when the whole chorus is assembled for the first grand rehearsal they will all be in excellent condition to go forward with the work as a body.

"This chorus will participate in the exercises in the afternoon and will probably sing three or four numbers. It will also furnish a portion of the night entertainment, when a feature of the program is expected to be the giving of the 'Star Spangled Banner' in a manner more thrilling and calculated to excite more enthusiasm than ever before. It is expected that Mr. Chas. B. Hanford will first recite that glorious national song; that it will then be sung by soloists; that the immense chorus will then take up the theme, and that finally the whole of the vast concourse of people who will be assembled will join in the repetition of the chorus.

"In all this work the chorus will have the assistance of the Marine Band, under the competent leadership of Prof. Fanciulli, who will probably have his force augmented to about a hundred performers. It is possible that Prof. Fanciulli may compose something appropriate to the event, which will add to the interest of the occasion. Mr. Ralph Galt, the chairman of the subcommittee on band music, has this particular matter in charge, and his experience in connection with the last inauguration will be of great assistance in securing the best performers. Thus far, I understand, there have been no definite arrangements made, but inquiries have been started to ascertain how many musicians will be needed for the parade, for the exercises in the afternoon and for the grand entertainment at night, and from where they can be most advantageously obtained. Prof. Fanciulli will undoubtedly have control of the band music, and from the excellent work he did at the inauguration time, both at the ball and at the concerts given in the pension office building, the best results may be anticipated.

"One thing I can say, and that is that the committee is earnest and enthusiastic in its work, and from the encouragement it has thus far received is confident that it will be able to present the citizens of Washington a class of music and a body of singers that will be worthy the occasion and the national capital. Every local musician and singer that has been spoken to has promised to assist, and it is believed that we will be able to present fully a thousand singers on the east front of the Capitol on the 18th of September next."

Mr. Gordon's associates on the music committee are: Dr. Frank T. Howe, W. A. Slack, Ralph L. Galt, Fred Grant, James P. Willett, W. H. Manogue, A. B. Coppes, Louis M. Turner, James H. Forsyth, H. K. Simpson, Leonard C. Wood, S. M. Yeatman, Jos. I. Weller, John A. Roeder and J. E. Jones.

The evening entertainment committee is charged with all matters pertaining to the evening ceremonies, except illumination of the Capitol and fireworks. Mr. Jules Guthridge of the Evening News is chairman and he has taken hold of the work with his usual energy. In reference to the work before his committee Mr. Guthridge said to a Star reporter: "So far the following suggestions have been made for their consideration: First, the Capitol grounds being properly illuminated it is suggested that there be a grand instrumental and vocal musical entertainment, at which the Marine Band will render a historical cantata, indicating the several prominent stages of the country's history, and a chorus sing the 'Star Spangled Banner' and other appropriate anthems. A torchlight procession, with historical floats and appropriate music, instrumental and vocal, has also been suggested and is under consideration. Another suggestion is an evening performance in the open air of one of Shakespeare's plays by professionals who have tendered their services for the occasion. The committee has not yet considered any of these plans, awaiting the full determination of the general committee as to the extent of the illumination and character of fireworks display on the evening of the 18th of September."

Mr. Guthridge's committee comprises the following well-known citizens: A. T. Britton, vice chairman; Jas. F. Scaggs, secretary; Job Barnard, A. M. Ellis, Robert Christie, Harrison Dingman, Geo. T. Dunlop, Reginald Fendall, H. W. Garnett, O. C. Green, Geo. E. Hamilton, James Lansburgh, W. W. McKenny, Thos. F. Miller, E. Mosely, R. Ross Perry, Richard Smith, S. W. Tulloch, Gen. Thos. W. Vincent, L. C. Williamson, Louis D. Wine.

One of the most important committees in an affair like the coming celebration of the Capitol centennial is the committee of reception. To such a committee collectively and to each of its members individually is intrusted the duty of receiving the distinguished guests of the occasion and extending to them all the proper courtesies. For such reasons the personnel of this committee must be composed of representative men of standing and men of tact and judgment, for a breach of etiquette on such an occasion would be regarded as rather a serious matter. The committee this time is quite up to the high standard set for such bodies on similar occasions in the past and there is no doubt that when their time comes they will do the duty allotted to them in a thoroughly satisfactory manner. The chairman is Mr. Beriah Wilkins, the business manager of the Post, who has had a deal of experience in matters of this sort already. His committee is necessarily a large one. As yet it has not held a meeting, for its duties do not really commence until just before the actual ceremonies when the guests, who have been invited by the invitation committee, begin to put in an appearance. The members of the committee are as follows:

Beriah Wilkins, chairman; Dr. William Tindall, secretary; ex-Mayor James G. Berret, ex-Mayor M. G. Emery, ex-Mayor Sayles J. Bowen, ex-Gov. A. R. Shepherd, ex-Commissioner John H. Ketcham, ex-Commissioner Thos. B. Bryan, ex-Commissioner J. Dent, ex-Commissioner Thos. P. Morgan, ex-Commissioner Jos. R. West, ex-Commissioner J. B. Edmonds, ex-Commissioner Wm. B. Webb, ex-Commissioner S. E. Wheatley, ex-Commissioner J. W. Douglass, ex-Commissioner L. G. Hine, ex-Commissioner G. J. Lydecker, ex-Commissioner Wm. Ludlow, ex-Commissioner C. W. Raymond, ex-Commissioner H. M. Robert, ex-Commissioner Wm. T. Rossell, Gen. Nicholas Anderson, Mahlon B. Ashford, John A. Baker, Chas. B. Bailey, C. J. Bell, Gen. Bussey, Gen. Wm. Birney, Chapin Brown, James L. Barbour, L. J. Bates, M. W. Beveridge, N. W. Burchell, John L. Carroll, John Cassells, George W. Cochran, H. J. Cranford, H. H. Carter, Wm. S. Crosby, Eugene Carusi, Walter D. Davidge, Henry E. Davis, Wash. Danenhower, John T. Devine, J. Maury Dove, Chas. C. Duncanson, J. C. Ergood, James S. Edmonds, W. E. Edmonston, Albert F. Fox, Capt. G. J. Fleheger, Wm. B. Gurley, John T. Given, Dr. Edw. M. Gallaudet, G. Clay Goodloe, Dr. W. W. Godding, George C. Gorham, H. Wise Garnett, Col. John Hay, Charles Heywood, Frank Hume, William C. Hill, Maj. W. P. Huxford, W. S. Hoge, Robert O. Holtzman, Curtis J. Hillyer, Gardner G. Hubbard, Stilson Hutchins, Gen. S. S. Henkle, James Kerr, George E. Lemon, L. Z. Leiter, T. A. Lambert, Daniel Loughran, A. A. Lipscomb, Dr. Thomas F. Mallan, Samuel Maddox, W. Cranch McIntire, D. I. Murphy, D. P. McKeever, Dr. William V. Marmion, William F. Mattingly, C. M. Matthews, A. P. Morse, F. B. McGuire, John R. McLean, Clarence F. Norment, N. G. Ordway, George M. Oyster, Anthony Pollock, Bushrod Robinson, Theo. Roessle, George R. Repetti, E. Francis Riggs, William H. Selden, O. G. Staples, E. J. Stellwagen, H. W. Sohon, John A. Swope, James A. Somerville, Henry T. Thurber, S. T. Thomas, A. A. Thomas, H. O. Towles, Enoch Totten, H. T. Taggert, Col. J. M. Wilson, A. S. Worthington, Levi Woodbury, Thomas E. Waggaman, H. A. Willard, C. C. Willard, Wash B. Williams, Charles E. White, Simon Wolf.

The city will wear a gala appearance in honor of the day goes without saying, but still in order that all things may be done decently and in order a committee has been appointed to look after the decorations of the streets and the public buildings. It is not the intention that the committee should do this work or bear the expense of it, but that they shall stimulate and arouse the interest and the pride of the public if such missionary work be found necessary. The chairman of this committee is Mr. Harrison Dingman, who, as everybody knows, has extended experience in affairs of this character and besides is endowed with the tact and energy which inspires other people. There is no doubt that the city will look very handsome in its holiday dress and the committee intends to do everything in its power to contribute to that end. Those associated with Mr. Dingman on this committee are: Reuben F. Baker, Harrison Barbour, Robert Beall, Henry L. Bryan, Albert Carry, S. W. Curriden, Wm. Dickson, Ed. F. Droop, J. H. Gordon, Wm. Hoeke, I. W. Hopkins, Harry R. Howser, W. A. Hutchins, George W. Joyce, Prof. Harry King, C. C. Lancaster, Frank P. Madigan, Edward Minnix, F. S. Parks, Geo. F. Pyles, C. C. Bowsfield, John Boyle, Hobart Brooks, Logan Carlisle, Chas. C. Carlton, John M. Carson, Cluskey Cromwell, Wm. L. Crounse, Marshall Cushing, R. H. Darby, E. G. Dunnell, W. H. Dennis, J. Hadley Doyle, Fergus Ferris, Harry P. Godwin, George H. Harries, Frank H. Hosford, Thomas B. Kalbfus, Rudolph Kauffmann, S. H. Kauffmann, Horace Kenney, R. M. Larner, Francis E. Leupp, A. Maurice Lowe, R. Bowman Matthews, John P. Miller, O'Brien Moore, Frank P. Morgan, Frank J. O'Neille, John H. Roche, Maurice Splain, John G. Slater, Harold Snowden, Orlando O. Stealey, Alfred J. Stofer, Louis Schade, R. H. Sylvester, John Tracey, Clifford Warden, Walter Wellman, E. B. Wight, R. J. Wynne.

In addition to assisting in promoting the project the committee will see that visiting members of the press are suitably received, furnished with every assistance and their visit made as enjoyable as possible.

A committee whose work will form a most important part of the celebration is that of badges and souvenir medals, of which Mr. Thomas Somerville is chairman, and Messrs. George W. Casilear, H. H. Twombly, Sid H. Nealy, D. I. Murphy, George Gibson and Joseph Waltmeyer are his fellow committeemen. The committee is charged with the preparation of the necessary badges and also with the production of a souvenir medal, and have already had the design selected by the committee for the medal approved of by the general committee of fifty. This design was prepared by Mr. George W. Casilear of the committee, and will result in the production of a souvenir of the celebration which will be prized no less for its exquisite beauty than for its value as a souvenir of the celebration of the one hundredth anniversary of a really great event in American history.

The Souvenir Medal.

The Souvenir Medal--Reverse.

The medal will be about the size of a silver dollar, and will be of white metal plated with gold. One side will show Washington laying the corner stone of the Capitol, and the other side will represent the Capitol as it is today, with medallion head of Washington just above. The medal will suspend by a strip of red, white and blue ribbon from an appropriate bar, on a background of white ribbon. The medals will be produced in sufficient numbers to allow not only members of the various committees to secure them, but also to put them in the reach, by purchase, of all others who may desire to secure copies of them.

Committee on Printing.

An important and interesting feature of the work of preparing for the celebration will be the publication, under the auspices of the committee on printing, of a pamphlet containing a history of the Capitol from the laying of the cornerstone 100 years ago down to the present day. Accounts of the event published in the newspapers at the time will be reproduced in the pamphlet, extracts from Webster's address when the cornerstone of the extension was laid in 1851 and much other interesting and valuable matter will be found in it. A map of the District, prepared from data furnished by Dr. J. M. Toner of this city, showing the holdings of the original proprietors of land in the District at the time of the establishment of the seat of government here, will be a feature of the pamphlet. Chairman A. F. Sperry of the committee, under whose personal supervision the pamphlet is being prepared, and who is an old newspaper man, states that the pamphlet is now in press, and will be issued very shortly. This pamphlet will, of course, form the most important part of the work of the committee on printing, although the committee will have charge of all the printing necessary to be done in connection with the celebration. Mr. Sperry's fellow committeemen are Arthur St. C. Denver, Geo. H. Harries, David Moore and William H. Rapley.

Mr. Henry L. Biscoe.

In anticipation of the large crowd of strangers who will undoubtedly visit Washington it was thought wise by the general committee to appoint a committee on public order and comfort, and the following well-known citizens were appointed as such committee: Henry L. Biscoe, chairman, and W. L. Cash, W. B. Easton, George H. Gaddes, John Keyworth, A. W. Kelley, J. Fred. Kelly, Noble D. Larner, M. A. McGowan, Col. W. G. Moore, Joseph Parris, Thomas A. Rover, H. L. Street, Richard Sylvester, L. P. Wright. Mr. Biscoe, the chairman, is a well known business man and has rendered efficient service at the head of important public committees. The committee is charged with the duty of co-operating with the District authorities in securing the necessary aid for enforcing the requisite regulations to clear the avenue and streets for the formation and movement of the procession. They are also authorized to consult with the proper authorities in charge of the United States Capitol for the preservation of order in the Capitol grounds and such other matters as in their judgment may be necessary for the protection and comfort of the public, both during the ceremonies and evening entertainment.

Theodore W. Noyes.

The press throughout the country has taken a deep interest in the proposed celebration, and has encouraged and aided it in every possible way, recognizing the fact that the celebration will be one in which the whole nation is interested. Therefore, a press committee was regarded as necessary to the success of the celebration and one was appointed. Mr. Theodore W. Noyes, associate editor of The Evening Star, made chairman of the committee. His associates on the committee being: P. V. DeGraw, vice chairman; Henry L. West, secretary; George W. Abell, Felix Agnus, Thomas G. Alvord, Alex. D. Anderson, Addison B. Atkins, Edward W. Barrett, David S. Barry, C. C. Bowsfield, John Boyle, Hobart Brooks, Logan Carlisle, Chas. C. Carlton, John M. Carson, Cluskey Cromwell, Wm. L. Crounse, Marshall Cushing, R. H. Darby, E. G. Dunnell, W. H. Dennis, J. Hadley Doyle, Fergus Ferris, Harry P. Godwin, George H. Harries, Frank H. Hosford, Thomas B. Kalbfus, Rudolph Kauffmann, S. H. Kauffmann, Horace Kenney, R. M. Larner, Francis E. Leupp, A. Maurice Lowe, R. Bowman Matthews, John P. Miller, O'Brien Moore, Frank P. Morgan, Frank J. O'Neille, John H. Roche, Maurice Splain, John G. Slater, Harold Snowden, Orlando O. Stealey, Alfred J. Stofer, Louis Schade, R. H. Sylvester, John Tracey, Clifford Warden, Walter Wellman, E. B. Wight, R. J. Wynne.

In addition to assisting in promoting the project the committee will see that visiting members of the press are suitably received, furnished with every assistance and their visit made as enjoyable as possible.

The committee on railroad rates will endeavor to secure such reasonable rates of transportation to the city as will insure the attendance of a mighty throng of people from other places. The committee is composed of such men as leaves nothing to be doubted. The chairman is Mr. Thos. W. Smith, the lumber dealer, whose energy compels success in whatever he undertakes. Washington as a place of interest will be doubly so in connection with the coming celebration, and the committee hopes to be able to make such arrangements with the different transportation lines as will permit visitors to spend several days here. The committee are busily engaged in their work, but so far have merely reported progress to the general committee. The following are the remaining members of the committee: E. W. Anderson, H. L. Biscoe, Samuel Ross, W. J. Stephenson.

S. S. Yoder.

The committee on decoration of the Capitol is one that will probably make as much of a show of the results of its labors as any of the rest. This is the committee of which Mr. S. S. Yoder, the sergeant-at-arms of the House, is the efficient chairman, and he has associated with him in the work allotted to him to do about a dozen well-known and active gentlemen.

According to the reports of the committee's progress made to a Star reporter by Mr. Yoder the plans for the decoration of the great white building are by no means completed as yet, nor can they be for some little time to come. The reason of this is that the committee is not sure of the amount of money that will be turned over to them for their use. It is their intention to make the decoration just as elaborate and beautiful as the means at their disposal will allow. The plans so far as they have been considered include the decoration and draping of the east front and dome of the Capitol with handsome banners and flags. Flagstaffs are to be erected about the colonnades, and from these will be hung great banners. The east elevation is to be hung with flags, while from the top of the dome long streamers are to be draped to the wings below. For fear that bunting laid directly upon the white surface would mar and stain it, especially in the event of rain, this method of decoration will be dispensed with. The chairman, vice chairman and secretary of the committee have been appointed a subcommittee to confer with professional decorators to secure designs and estimates for the work, and until they are ready to make their report the committee will not be in a position to take any definite action. The committee hope to be able to borrow from the War and Navy departments such flags and banners as they may need, and thus materially reduce the expenses of decoration.

Chairman Yoder's colleagues on the committee are: Charles H. Harris, C. H. Fickling, R. B. Buckley, Benj. F. Guy, John R. Carmody, James F. Hood, J. H. C. Wilson, James D. Maher, George W. Talbert, J. J. S. Hassler, George W. Moss, W. H. Rupp, E. J. Hannan, Thomas N. Conrad and Tracy L. Jeffords.

The committee on stands has for chairman Mr. W. J. Frizzell, the enterprising president of the wide-awake and progressive Northeast Washington Citizens' Association. The committee is expected to select the designs for and superintend the construction of the stands necessary for the accommodation of the speakers, invited guests, singers and musicians. Chairman Frizzell states that the committee proposes to erect one great stand on the central steps of the eastern front of the Capitol, and such a stand as will be commodious, safe and artistic in the highest degree. The stand will be handsomely decorated, and the committee hope to be able to select a design in time to report it to the general committee Tuesday evening next. The full committee is as follows: Harry Barton