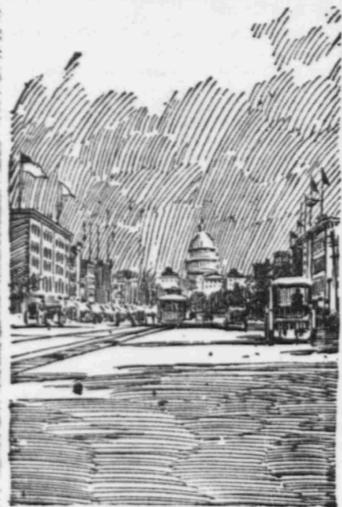


WASHINGTON ON ITS OWN MERITS

History of the City's Ideal Government and Its Present Form.

Special correspondence of The Florida Star.

WASHINGTON, June 10. — With congress adjourned, most of the members gone to their homes in other parts of the country and a great many of those connected with the executive branches of the government away on vacations Washington wears the garb and has the appearance of other large and beautiful American cities, with this difference, at least in the eyes of the average Washingtonian, that it is more beautiful than any of its sister cities. Naturally the popular idea of the na-



PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE AND CAPITOL.

tion's capital throughout the country is formed under the influence of the knowledge that it is the seat of national government, and that it is one of the country's largest, richest and most beautiful cities is by the majority of citizens either not known or is generally overlooked and forgotten. Many think of Washington only as the place where congress meets and the president resides, and few seem to care to come here during the recesses. This lack of knowledge of the capital is not confined to those who have never visited the city. As a matter of fact a great many persons come here when congress is in session and sometimes stay for a week, two weeks or a longer time and when they go home know very little more than if they had remained at home and read their newspapers' reports of the proceedings of congress excepting that they have had a few of the celebrities in each house pointed out and had a glimpse at the White House and the Washington monument.

The ignorance of the people on the subject of Washington, the city and not the capital, is, however, rapidly growing less, and the time is approaching when it will be exceptional. Years ago it was the custom for the government employee from the highest to the lowest whose duties only required his presence in the city during the session to hurry off to his home in the west, east, north or south just the moment he could get away after adjournment. All that is changed. The change has been gradual, but it is none the less complete. One cause of the change, and in a sense a governing cause, is that the tenure of employment is not so transitory as it was in former times, and it is possible for the government's "help" to establish homes in the place of employment. But aside from this important influence is the fact that a great many have come to look upon Washington as an especially desirable place of residence and remain here more as a matter of choice than from a desire for convenience. In fact it is said that the city is more than half filled with has-beens from the various walks of official life, and they don't stay here because they cannot get away, but because no other place on earth will suit them as a place to live.

These thoughts came to me as I walked about last night and observed that everything looked just as it did a month ago, when congress was in full blast, and that impression will remain with one so long as he keeps out of the beaten paths of officialdom. Of course things aren't just the same up at the capitol nor around the department buildings, but we have already barred them in this consideration. The principal hotels may be included in the list of exceptions, but as a rule only the inflated rouser can tell you who is absent from the lobby or the smoking room.

Verily Washington is not a one horse town. Its eggs are not all in one basket and the basket just now off at a picnic. The big show still goes on, though one of the principal attractions has been taken off for a spell. Bridal parties, Bible class excursionists and lovers of the grand, the beautiful and the historic will find much to interest them during the recess of congress in this city.

This may read like an extract from the circular of a real estate exchange or a summer hotel, but what am I here for if not to tell my readers something about this great and treasured city? Your congressman will tell you what you don't already know about the recent session of congress, and he may

tell you some things that he doesn't know, and no human being would dare try to tell you what the next session will do, and so to avoid conflicts and keep on safe ground I am trying to write something about Washington when congress isn't in it.

Most of the show places of Washington have at various times been treated of in this correspondence, and it is not the intention now to describe any large portion of them in detail. It is of the city in a more general way that I would now treat. Washington has for years aptly borne the name of the City of Magnificent Distances, and with equal justice it could now be called the City of Magnificent Parks, for no city in the country excels it in this particular. Most of the streets are lined with beautiful shade trees, and the park effect from this cause extends almost entirely throughout the city. The statuary, of which there is as much if not more than is to be seen in any other city in the country, adds greatly to its beauty.

While Washington has been growing in possibilities as a city of residence very rapidly of late years there have been many and radical changes in the residential portions of the city. For example, no further back than the seventies McPherson square was the northwestern boundary of the city and was also considered one of the most important residential sections because of the people who lived there and the fine residences of the neighborhood. Now hotels and business blocks have almost a monopoly of the section. This is but one instance of the many changes that have taken place in the city. There are others innumerable, some of them greater than this one.

Important and striking as these changes have been, they are not the most interesting of Washington's experiences in the line of evolution. This honor belongs to the changes which have taken place in the city's form of government, and as it is likely that this subject is not well understood by everybody I will briefly sketch it here. For the greater part of my information on this subject I am indebted to Mr. John B. Wight, until recently one of the commissioners for the District of Columbia. To Mr. Wight as to other residents of the city with whom I have discussed the subject the government of the city of Washington is the ideal form for large cities. Up to 1871 the city had the municipal form of government, such as pertains in large cities, but it became so bad that the citizens organized a committee of 100 and demanded a change of form. Acting upon this demand congress passed a law giving the city territorial form of government, with a representative in congress. This did not prove satisfactory, and in 1874 the government by commissioners was tried, and this form was made permanent in 1878. Of the three commissioners two are civilians appointed by the president and confirmed by the senate, and, although there is no law upon the subject, it is the custom to have each of the two large political parties represented on the board. The third commissioner is an officer of the engineer corps not below the rank of captain. He is designated by the president to act as the engineer commissioner. The term is three years. While the three commissioners act as a board they assign various municipal matters to one another, and over the details of their assignments each commissioner has absolute control. The commissioners, however, act as a board in making appointments and in important matters.

"This form of government is as near ideal as can be devised notwithstanding the fact that it eliminates the franchise," said Mr. Wight. "The large taxpayers are well pleased with it, and the only disgruntled ones are the few who are seeking to hold some office. This form of government eliminates all the evils incident to primary elections, does away with dishonesty in office and with the various troubles that afflict other cities in connection with gang rule and machine politics. As a commissioner I came to realize the beauties of Washington and her magnificent possibilities. The development of our national capital is only limited by the appropriations which congress will make. There is no reason why Washington and her suburbs, with all their wonderful and natural advan-

tages, should not be made the equal in point of beauty of any city in the world, and they are growing rapidly in that direction. The people of Washington do not appreciate what has been done for their city by Alexander R.



ALEXANDER R. SHEPHERD.

Shepherd, who in 1871 was the prime mover in not only changing the form of government, but in redeeming the city from an obscure, muddy village and establishing the present grade for streets, the sewer system and pavements, which have made the present development possible."

The railroads have been caught up in the spirit of progress which prevails in Washington. During the past year an agreement has been reached with the Pennsylvania and the Baltimore and Ohio roads whereby they will remove all grade crossings and build terminal facilities which will be abundantly adequate to take care of the large crowds that so frequently gather in the city at inaugurations and other such times.

Verily Washington, the nation's capital city, is forging rapidly to the front, and all patriotic citizens will rejoice in this state of things.

SAMUEL HUBBARD.

BACKACHE should never be neglected. It means kidney disorder, which, if allowed to run too long, will result in Bright's disease, diabetes or other serious and often fatal complaints. Foley's Kidney Cure is guaranteed for kidney disorder. B. R. Wilson & Son.

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Half rates to Kansas City, Mo.—Account national Democratic convention, tickets will be sold via Southern railway on July 1st and 2nd, with final limit July 9th, inclusive. Southern railway offers twelve hours quicker time than any other line.

Half rates to Cincinnati, O., July 10th, 11th and 12th.—Account national convention B. Y. P. U. tickets will be sold via Southern railway at one fare for the round trip, final limit July 18th. Tickets can be extended to August 1st by depositing with joint agent Cincinnati. This route is twelve hours quicker than any other line. Two daily trains. Official route for Florida delegation.

Half rates to Detroit, Mich., August 24th, 25th and 26th.—Account biennial convocation Knights Pythias tickets will be sold via Southern railway at one fare for the round trip on dates above mentioned, final limit Sept. 5th. Twelve hours quicker than any other line. Two daily trains through to Cincinnati. Through sleepers twice a day. This route has been selected by Florida delegation of Knights of Pythias.

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Mr. G. A. Stillman, a merchant of Tampico, Ill., writes: "Foley's Kidney Cure is meeting with wonderful success. It has cured some cases here that physicians pronounced incurable. I myself am able to testify to its merits. My face to-day is a living picture of health, and Foley's Kidney Cure has made it such. I had suffered twenty-seven years with the disease, and today I feel ten years younger than I did one year ago. I can obtain some wonderful certificates of its medical qualities." B. R. Wilson & Son.

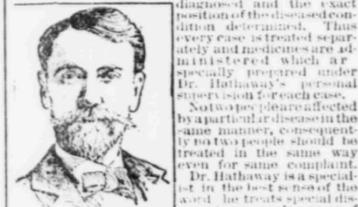
Worse Still.

Seraps says that Major O'Gorman, when denouncing in the house of commons the iniquitous system under which one-tenth of the poor Irish Catholic peasant's earnings went to support an alien church, declared solemnly that "the poor man was robbed by that recursed title system of fully one-tenth of his hard earnings—nay, there were cases in which he had been deprived of as much as one-twentieth."

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Exclusive Treatment. In spite of hundreds of requests yearly from doctors in all parts of the world, asking for the privilege of using Dr. Hathaway's method of treatment, he believes it best to hold it himself. The knowledge of this method, as he uses it, is the secret which may be done by the unskillful use of any system, never mind how perfect.

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J. NEWTON HATHAWAY M. D. Dr. Hathaway & Co., 25 Bryan Street, Savannah, Ga. MENTION THIS PAPER WHEN WRITING.

Florida East Coast Ry.

TIME TABLE NO. 25, IN EFFECT APRIL 11, 1900.

Table with columns for SOUTH BOUND (Read Down.), STATIONS, and NORTH BOUND (Read Up.). Includes times for Jacksonville, St. Augustine, Palatka, San Mateo, East Palatka, Titusville, etc.

Table with columns for Between New Smyrna and Orange City Junction, Between Titusville and Sanford, Between Jacksonville and Pablo Beach. Includes station names and times.

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