

INTERESTING WASHINGTON NEWS.

Capitol Improvements—Masonic Honors For Mr. Richardson—Turkish Consulate. Special correspondence of The Florida Star.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—The closing session of the Fifty-sixth congress is now fairly under way, and the senators and representatives are getting down to work with an apparent determination to clear up the heavily incumbered calendar or at least to dispose of the most important items of the unfinished business left over from the first session.

Senators and representatives alike are highly pleased over the changes

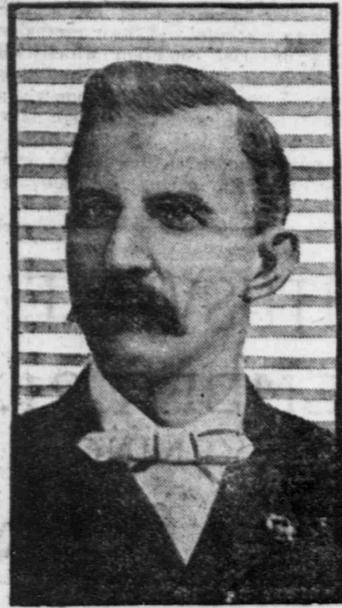


Photo by Bell, Washington.

JAMES D. RICHARDSON.

and improvements that have been made in the capitol building during the recess, which give each branch of congress 14 additional committee rooms. They are likewise loud in their praise of Assistant Architect Woods and marvel that the work could have been done so thoroughly in so short a space of time. Toward the close of the last session a joint resolution was adopted which provided that "the rooms and space recently occupied by the Library of Congress in the capitol building shall be divided into three stories, the third story of which shall be fitted up and used for a reference library for the senate and house of representatives and that portion of the other two stories north of a line drawn east and west through the center of the rotunda shall be used for such purpose as may be designated by the senate of the United States and that portion of the first and second stories south of said line shall be used for such purpose as may be designated by the house of representatives."

An indefinite appropriation was made by the resolution and no limit fixed on the expenditure, full discretion being lodged in the architect of the capitol, Edward Clark. As soon as Mr. Clark received the authority of congress for the work he turned the whole matter over to Elliott Wood, the assistant architect of the capitol, who prepared the plans and supervised the work. All contracts were approved by the secretary of the interior and disbursements made through that office. The cost has been about \$200,000.

The work was begun on Aug. 20 and since been pushed vigorously day and night. At the outset a difficulty was encountered of quite a serious character. When the old structure was torn away and the foundation for the new work was about to be begun upon plans drawn for the occasion, it was found that the windows and doors of the old building were not "true." This necessitated changes in the working plans and considerable additional labor. Solid masonry was put in, about 300,000 bricks being used. There are 11,000 square feet of tiling in the work and 4,500 lineal feet of marble base. Altogether there are 28 apartments, occupying two floors, thus giving each body 14 additional committee rooms. Nearly all the rooms are light and airy and some of them of ample dimensions. Each apartment has a fireplace, with a marble mantel, American marble being used. The rooms will not be decorated until next summer, but are finished in white at this time. The woodwork in the doors is solid mahogany, and everything about the place is of the best quality. The main entrance to the apartments is reached from the rotunda in the same way as the Library of Congress was formerly entered. The little lobby between the rotunda and the new committee rooms is highly ornamental. Two marble columns, with carved capitals, support a marble ceiling. The side walls are also of marble, and a marble balustrade surrounds the stairway leading to the lower floor.

Many improvements of a minor character have been made about the capitol building since congress was last in session. The room of the senate committee on foreign relations has been redecorated in an elaborate manner and new

furnishings put in to match the decorations. Green and gold work is the color scheme, and the effect is striking. The room of the house committee on foreign affairs has also been newly ornamented, as well as some other of the committee rooms. Two new electric elevators have been placed in the house wing of the capitol to replace the slow and cumbersome old machines. New tiling has been put in the basement floor of the old building, and the machinery of the ventilating plant has been completely overhauled. Altogether the congressional recess has been an exceedingly busy time for the architect's office.

Speaking of capitol betterments, it may be noted that there is a strong sentiment in favor of improving and beautifying the rotunda. One suggestion is to line the walls with Siena marble similar to that used in the Library of Congress, as it is said that this would blend better with the colors of the frieze and dome than anything else. The contemplated improvements would include a mosaic floor instead of the old granite slabs and the removal of the fluted columns around the walls, which now appear as if they were composed of plaster of paris. The beautiful entrance to the new committee rooms, consisting of marble columns with carved capitals and marble side walls and ceilings, serves to throw into unfavorable contrast the dingy rotunda, and many senators and representatives have commented upon it.

Another matter in connection with the capitol building which concerns the representatives in congress is what is to be done with the additional members of the house which it is supposed that the reapportionment bill will provide. There is apparently no way with the present accommodations to seat 28 additional members, and it is probable that there will be some radical changes in the hall of the house.

The reapportionment question, which comes to the front as a result of the increased population as shown by the twelfth census, is likely to precipitate a pretty lively fight in which the party lines will be sharply drawn. The forces of the minority will be marshaled by Congressman James D. Richardson, the Democratic leader of the house.

Since the last session of congress Mr. Richardson has, by the way, been the recipient of a new honor, one of which even his most pronounced political opponents freely recognize that he is entirely worthy. He is now one of the most exalted Masons in point of rank in the United States, being the sovereign grand commander of the southern jurisdiction, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, to which position he succeeds through the death of the late Grand Commander Thomas Hubbard Caswell, who died in California a few weeks ago. The officers of the Scottish Rite, unlike all others in Masonry, hold their rank and stations for life, and Mr. Richardson, who was lieutenant grand commander, becomes in the order of succession the grand commander.

In executive, diplomatic and even congressional circles there is just now not a little of speculation and comment as to what will be the outcome of the



Photo by Bellsmith, Cincinnati.

DR. THOMAS H. NORTON.

tangle in the Levant, which is brought into prominence by Turkey's rejection of a request for an exequatur for an American consul at Karpuz and the dispatch of the battleship Kentucky to Smyrna. The refusal to grant an exequatur is regarded by the United States legation at Constantinople as a violation of treaty rights. Consequently Dr. Thomas H. Norton, who was appointed some time ago by President McKinley to establish a consulate at Karpuz, has been directed to proceed to his post. He has been in Constantinople some time awaiting the issuance of his exequatur. The claim of the United States in his case is based upon a clause in the Turco-American treaty of 1830 which reappoints "The United States may appoint its citizens to be consuls and vice consuls at the commercial places in the empire." The sublime port of Karpuz shall be found needful to superintend the affairs of

commerce." The sultan claims—and it is difficult to prove the contrary—that there is no commerce at the place in question, the same objection made to the establishment of a consulate at Erzerum. Furthermore, he claims that his final permission in the case of Erzerum was obtained under an implied understanding that the United States government would abandon its claim to a consulate at the other place. While it is admitted at Washington that there may have been foundation for this understanding, it is said that the British government has since established a consulate where one is now refused to us, and under the favored nation clause of the Turco-American treaty our government claims the same privileges as those accorded to Great Britain. The visit of the battleship Kentucky to Smyrna may relate to this matter as well as to the larger one of missionary indemnity. At all events the unfolding of the Turkish complications will be watched with keenest interest here.

SAMUEL HUBBARD.

The Best Plaster.

A piece of flannel dampened with Chamberlain's Pain Balm and bound to the affected parts is superior to any plaster. When troubled with lame back or pains in the side or chest, give it a trial and you are certain to be more than pleased with the prompt relief which it affords. Pain Balm also cures rheumatism. One application gives relief. For sale by Wilson & Son.

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A young Wilkesbarre, Pa., girl is believed to have been kidnapped, having been decoyed from home by a note to which was forged the name of a priest with whom she was acquainted.

A Night of Terror.

"Awful anxiety was felt for the widow of the brave Gen. Burnham, of Machias, Me., when the doctors said she could not live till morning," writes Mrs. S. H. Lincoln, who attended her that fearful night. "All thought she must soon die from pneumonia, but she begged for Dr. King's New Discovery, saying it had more than once saved her life, and had cured her of consumption. After three small doses she slept easily all night, and its further use completely cured her." This marvelous medicine is guaranteed to cure all throat, chest and lung diseases. Only 50c and \$1. Trial bottles free at B. R. Wilson & Son's drug store.

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SOUTH BOUND (Read Down.)				In Effect Sept. 6, 1900.				(Read Up) NORTH BOUND.			
No. 11	No. 39	No. 85	No. 28.	STATIONS.	No. 28.	No. 75	No. 82	No. 12	No. 18	No. 28	No. 12
Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily		Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily	Daily
ex Su	ex Su	ex Su	ex Su		ex Su	ex Su	ex Su	ex Su	ex Su	ex Su	ex Su
4:05p	10:00a	12:00p	12:00p	Lv. Jacksonville	Ar	7:30p	10:15a	10:15a	10:15a	10:15a	10:15a
5:15p	11:10a	1:10p	1:10p	Lv. St. Augustine	Lv	6:20p	9:05a	9:05a	9:05a	9:05a	9:05a
5:20p	11:15a	1:15p	1:15p	Lv. St. Augustine	Ar	6:15p	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a	9:00a
5:27p	11:40a	1:40p	1:40p	Lv. Hastings	Lv	5:40p	8:25a	8:25a	8:25a	8:25a	8:25a
5:41p	12:05p	1:55p	1:55p	Lv. East Palatka	Lv	5:20p	8:12a	8:12a	8:12a	8:12a	8:12a
6:40p	12:30p	2:30p	2:30p	Lv. Palatka	Lv	5:00p	7:40a	7:40a	7:40a	7:40a	7:40a
5:50p	11:40a	1:40p	1:40p	Lv. Palatka	Ar	5:45p	8:55a	8:55a	8:55a	8:55a	8:55a
7:35p	6:55a	8:55a	8:55a	Lv. San Mateo	Lv	7:35p	6:55a	6:55a	6:55a	6:55a	6:55a
8:15p	12:05p	1:20p	1:20p	Lv. East Palatka	Ar	5:25p	8:10a	8:10a	8:10a	8:10a	8:10a
7:42p	1:20p	3:00p	3:00p	Lv. Ormond	Lv	4:05p	6:42a	6:42a	6:42a	6:42a	6:42a
7:55p	1:37p	3:17p	3:17p	Lv. Daytona	Lv	3:51p	6:21a	6:21a	6:21a	6:21a	6:21a
8:05p	1:47p	3:27p	3:27p	Lv. Port Orange	Lv	3:41p	6:21a	6:21a	6:21a	6:21a	6:21a
8:50a	8:20p	2:10p	2:30p	Lv. New Smyrna	Lv	3:20p	6:00a	6:00a	6:00a	6:00a	6:00a
5:55a	3:00p	3:00p	3:00p	Lv. Titusville	Lv	3:00p	5:40a	5:40a	5:40a	5:40a	5:40a
6:30a	3:30p	3:30p	3:30p	Lv. City Point	Lv	2:55p	5:35a	5:35a	5:35a	5:35a	5:35a
	3:45p	3:45p	3:45p	Lv. Cocoa	Lv	4:55p					
	3:50p	3:50p	3:50p	Lv. Rockledge	Lv	4:50p					
	4:20p	4:20p	4:20p	Lv. Eau Gallie	Lv	4:10p					
	5:04p	5:04p	5:04p	Lv. Melbourne	Lv	4:00p					
	5:09p	5:09p	5:09p	Lv. Roseland	Lv	12:20p					
	5:58p	5:58p	5:58p	Lv. Sebastian	Lv	12:22p					
	6:05p	6:05p	6:05p	Lv. St. Lucie	Lv	11:30a					
	6:27p	6:27p	6:27p	Lv. Fort Pierce	Lv	11:25a					
	6:31p	6:31p	6:31p	Lv. Titusville	Lv	11:04a					
	6:35p	6:35p	6:35p	Lv. Eden	Lv	11:00a					
	6:45p	6:45p	6:45p	Lv. Jensen	Lv	10:55a					
	7:15p	7:15p	7:15p	Lv. Stuart	Lv	10:45a					
	7:28p	7:28p	7:28p	Lv. Hobe Sound	Lv	10:14a					
	8:02p	8:02p	8:02p	Lv. West Jupiter	Lv	10:02a					
	8:27p	8:27p	8:27p	Lv. West Palm Beach	Lv	9:22a					
	8:30p	8:30p	8:30p	Lv. Boynton	Lv	9:02a					
	9:22p	9:22p	9:22p	Lv. Delray	Lv	8:53a					
	10:07p	10:07p	10:07p	Lv. Port Landerdale	Lv	8:06a					
	10:15p	10:15p	10:15p	Lv. Lemon City	Lv	7:55a					
				Lv. Miami	Lv	7:15a					

**Between Jacksonville, Pablo Beach and Mayport.**

No. 27	No. 25	No. 17	No. 15	STATIONS.	No. 16	No. 18	No. 28
Sun only	Sun only	Daily	Daily		Daily	Daily	Sun only
ex Su	ex Su	ex Su	ex Su		ex Su	ex Su	ex Su
6:30p	2:00p	5:30p	8:15a	Lv. Jacksonville	Ar	7:45a	5:00p
6:35p	2:05p	5:35p	8:20a	Lv. So. Jacksonville	Lv	7:37a	4:52p
7:00p	2:35p	6:05p	8:50a	Lv. Pablo Beach	Lv	7:10a	4:25p
7:30p	3:00p	6:30p	9:15a	Lv. Mayport	Lv	6:45a	4:00p

**Between New Smyrna and Orange City Junction.**

No. 1	STATIONS.	No. 2
3:25p	Lv. New Smyrna	Ar
4:30p	Lv. Lake Helen	Lv
4:54p	Lv. Orange City	Lv
5:00p	Lv. Orange City Junction	Lv

**Between Titusville and Sanford.**

No. 11	STATIONS.	No. 12
7:00a	Lv. Titusville	Ar
7:13a	Lv. Mims	Lv
8:28a	Lv. Osteen	Lv
8:50a	Lv. Enterprise	Lv
9:30a	Lv. Sanford	Lv

All trains between New Smyrna and Orange City Junction daily except Sunday. All trains between Titusville and Sanford daily except Sunday.

These Time Tables show the times at which trains may be expected to arrive and depart from the several stations, but their arrival or departure at the times stated is not guaranteed, nor does the Company hold itself responsible for any delay or any consequences arising therefrom.

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Leave Havana Thursdays.....10:40 a. m. Arrive Key West Thursdays.....5:30 p. m.  
Leave Key West Thursdays.....6:30 p. m. Arrive Miami Fridays.....6:30 a. m.

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