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WASHINGTON, WHERE THE FIRST INAUGURAL BALL WAS HELD

A Washington dispatch says: It is hard to picture Washington at the time of the first inaugural ball was held over a century ago in Long's hotel on Capitol hill. The national capital was then not much more than a little muddy Virginia village. Such a thing as a paved street was unknown. Trolley cars had never been dreamed of. Instead of the thousands of automobiles which the city boasts of today, there were then a few, not in the least, stately coaches and four. Mules furnished most of the locomotive power. Drivers and coachmen were black. James Madison was the first president to countenance the idea of a night social celebration at inauguration time. Needless to remark, the tiny capital became a flutter when he reached this important decision. At any rate the greatest preparations were made for this unusual function. Letters were dispatched by the first post to New York to summon extra fiddlers. It was then a stage coach journey which occupied fully seven days each way.
 Taverns and boarding houses were few, and when guests began to arrive from far away Baltimore and Philadelphia, the hostesses were taxed as they never had been before. Dolly Madison was the belle of the ball. Those who had the good fortune to see her on that occasion never forgot it.

Opened Gloriously.

The ball was opened gloriously as the band struck up "Jefferson's March," in honor of the retiring president. Jefferson was one of the big figures at the gathering. He spent fully two hours mingling among the guests with President Madison. There was such a crowd, and it was so hot, that window panes were broken by the gallants so that their ladies might have air and some comfort in dancing when the assemblage thinned out a little. The party came to end precisely at midnight, because the next day was Sunday.

The scene of the second inaugural ball was at the Davis hotel, on the site of the present Metropolitan hotel, near Sixth street and Pennsylvania avenue. President Monroe's brilliant ball was also held there. The event was not celebrated in 1821, but four years later there was a memorable reception in the Assembly hall, located at Eleventh street.

On account of mourning for his wife, there were no festivities at Andrew Jackson's first inauguration. When he was re-elected there was an elaborate function in Masonic hall, at Pennsylvania avenue and Four-and-One-Half street.

There were two balls for President Van Buren in 1837. One was an exclusive affair at Carus's and the other was an assembly. Mr. Van Buren

only went to the first. William Henry Harrison went Van Buren one better in 1841, and had three balls. He slighted none. So far as anybody remembers, Polk did not attend either of the two balls given in his honor.
 Zach Taylor's inauguration was celebrated by three balls. He went to all. No halls were big enough to hold them so temporary structures were erected especially for the occasion in Judiciary square, which is just back of the present pension office. There was too much sorrow in Washington for any gaiety in 1853. Mrs. Pierce, wife of the new chief executive, had been seriously injured in a railroad wreck. Young Pierce, the president's son, died as a result of the accident.

The Buchanan Ball.

Another temporary structure was erected in Judiciary square for the Buchanan ball in 1857. Four years later the same preparations were made for the inauguration of Abraham Lincoln. Times were far too troublous for such frivolous things, and the ball was a failure, because Lincoln did not attend. He came to the next, however. That was in 1865, and the sorrow of the nation was just beginning to lift. The ball was held in the model room of the patent office, and it was the first time that a government building had been used for that purpose. President Lincoln remained about an hour.

What is now known as the banking room of the treasury was utilized for the first Grant ball. It was not a quarter as large as the assembly room of the leading hotel in Washington today, and there was a frightful crush. For President Grant's second ball, at the time of his re-election, a huge structure was erected in Judiciary square. There was a blizzard, and the place could not be heated. An uproar was raised because of the \$20 admission tickets. There had been enough indignation when at some previous balls \$10 had been charged. Possibly that was the reason there was no dancing when President Hayes was inaugurated in 1877.

Mr. Taft May Attend.

It would not surprise those who have followed the personal relations of the two men, if President Taft would remain in Washington to attend the inaugural ball of his successor. During the heat of the campaign, following one of Colonel Roosevelt's attacks on President Taft, it will be remembered that Gov. Wilson spoke in the highest terms of the president. This has not been forgotten by Mr. Taft. Following the last inauguration, President Roosevelt went directly to his train, but in this instance Mr. and Mrs. Taft might be persuaded to remain in spite of the difference in political faith between the President and his Democratic successor.

How Will Turkey Be Carved

London, Jan. 8.—Lucien Wolf, in The Graphic, discusses the question, "How Will Turkey Be Carved?" He says the remaking of the Near East by the diplomatists is likely to prove a far more protracted business than its destruction by the soldiers has been, adding:

"The first stage will, perhaps, be simple enough, seeing that it will deal only with the question of how much of European Turkey is to be left in the possession of the Sultan. On this head we have already suffered a progressive disillusionment. At first we all talked glibly of 'bag and baggage,' Islam was at length to be pitchedforked into its native Asia. The ardent imagination of Mr. Garvin experienced no difficulty in picturing King Ferdinand as celebrating a Greek mass in St. Sophia, although he happens to be a Roman Catholic, while his subjects are all under the ban of the Patriarchate.

"Then some of the difficulties of the Constantinople question began to dawn upon the people, and it was allowed that the Sultan might remain on the Bosphorus, but only with a sort of back garden, limited by the Tehatalja lines. Now it looks as if this limitation would not be maintained, and that something like the trace of the San Stefano treaty might be adopted. That is, of course, only in regard to Constantinople and its hinter land. There is no chance of the other concessions of San Stefano—Salonika, Thessaly, Epirus, and Albania—being revived.

"The arrangement is not unreasonable. Once it is admitted that there is no alternative to the Turk at Constantinople you must give him elbow

room, and this for two reasons. In the first place he has yet a good deal of fight in him, and to overcome him by force would be costly and might lead to fresh diplomatic complications. In the second place a frontier which would place Constantinople under the guns of the Bulgarians could not be permanent, and would be a perpetual source of danger to the peace of the Near East. Moreover, the whole region is predominantly Muslim, and provided Bulgaria gets her outlet on the Aegean at Kaevalia, she may well be thankful not to be burdened with so large an alien population. On this point, then, there is not likely to be any difficulty.

"The real perplexity will come afterwards when the division of the remaining territories among the allies is to be determined and the whole adjusted in accordance with the interests of the great powers.

"It is possible that these questions are already cut and dried and that the whole peace problems will be solved without a hitch. If that be so, I can only say that the parties concerned have dissembled their harmony very successfully.

"While it is probable that peace between Turkey and the allies will offer no insuperable difficulties, it is very doubtful whether the settlement between the allies themselves will be equally easy, or that it will assure a solid peace to the Balkans. But the point that I wish particularly to emphasize is that the European situation, in relation to the Balkan problem, is in all essentials as grave today as it was ten days ago. All the so-called symptoms of improvement are only so many make-believes."

ORPHEUS CLUB CHORUS

The Orpheus Club Male Chorus will meet on Thursday evening, at 8 o'clock at the school house. All strangers, and residents who have not heretofore attended, are cordially invited to be present. 2t.

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ODD FELLOWS—TAKE NOTICE

Installation of officers elected for the ensuing term, Thursday Jan. 9. Refreshments will be served after the installation. Let every Odd Fellow who can, attend.

L. F. JONES, D.D.G.M. 2t.

Job Printing at The Empire Office.

NEW ORPHEUM TO OPEN JANUARY 13

Juneau's new amusement palace, the Orpheum Theatre—and it is a palace—is to be formally opened Monday night Jan. 13. The finishing touches are now being given to the interior of the splendid little playhouse. By Saturday night everything will be done leaving Sunday and Monday for rehearsals.

The Douglas Orpheum will be closed on Monday night and the entire force will appear at the Juneau house promising an entertainment such as Juneau has not enjoyed for many, many days. This little playhouse is without doubt the finest in Alaska at the present time. Everything is modern and up-to-the-minute in construction and detail. Rest rooms are provided for women and children. A special balcony—really the best view in the house—for native patrons, is reached by steps near each of the main entries. The floor has a gentle slope and comfortable aisles between the sections of opera chairs on the main floor. The building was constructed with a view to the possible addition of boxes along either wall elevated above the main floor. The seating capacity at present is 300.

The stage is broad and ample. The dressing rooms are equipped with hot and cold water. The orchestra pit is large enough for an augmented orchestra. The building has steam heat. Four exits guarantee safety from panic or other alarming circumstances. More than thirteen years ago John T. Spickett, manager of the Orpheum Amusement Company, was broke. He took a job on the thirtieth of the month, writing insurance. The first day he wrote 13 policies and when he reached his hotel asked for room 13. He has always had as much as 13 dollars since that lucky day, hence the fondness for 13 and the sentimental reason for opening on January 13.

FIRST LEGISLATURE MAY MEET IN NEW ORPHEUM

It has been suggested that the Orpheum theatre would be a suitable place for the Territorial legislature to hold its sessions, if, providing it can be secured.

The theatre building has many apartments on the upper floor that would be suitable for committee rooms. The building is conveniently reached and would be very comfortable.

Of course the theatre has but one auditorium. The house could meet here and the Senate having but eight members will not require so large a place for regular work, and can easily be provided for, while all joint sessions could be held in the theatre auditorium.

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