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**The New National Museum.**

Interest in the Smithsonian institute has been increased since Theodore Roosevelt has associated himself with its expedition to Africa, and a large proportion of the future visitors to Washington will wish to see the specimens of big game which the ex-president has secured for the national museum.

But the museum's attractions have not been ignored in the past by the American people for whose instruction and amusement they are gathered together from all parts of the earth. Nearly 1,000,000 persons enter the building annually and now that a new and attractive structure has provided to house the collections, there will naturally be more callers than formerly.

The new building, which will soon be occupied was erected at a cost of \$3,500,000 and is larger than any other government building in Washington except the Capitol. It is of granite and is four stories high with a frontage of 541 feet and a depth of 365 feet. The ceiling of the rotunda is 127 feet above the floor.

Though there is a total floor space of ten acres, it will all be occupied the moment that the building is completed. The old museum building and the Smithsonian institute building will be used for the purpose of housing a vast collection representing the arts and industries. Congress will sometime provide a new home for these exhibits.

The fact is, the museum has been cramped for quarters for many years. By 1886 the old buildings were completely full and since then the directors have had to store great quantities of specimens and exhibits in quarters provided for that purpose. The shops and laboratories have been established in rented quarters. When the new museum is in order there will still be reserve collections in storage which would go far, so it is said, towards stocking a second building like the one soon to be erected.

It may appear to some people that in view of this embarrassment of riches there was no need of the present expedition to Africa. With all its collections however, the museum lacked specimens of the rapidly disappearing animals of the dark continent.

**To Reorganize The Navy.**

It is stated that Secretary Meyer has secured the full approval of his naval reorganization plans from President Taft. The plan will be the chief feature of the next report to be submitted by the Secretary of the Navy to congress. Theodore Roosevelt desired to bring about this reform, which logically follows the reorganization of the army by Elihu Root.

But various things have conspired to delay action. Congressmen view the plan with some misgivings. They see that they are threatened with the loss of certain privileges. It is possible to raise the cry that the reorganization of the navy is just a scheme by which the executive branch of the government seeks to increase its power at the expense of the legislative branch.

But no power would be taken from congress by the new navy plan, for congress would continue to control the appropriation by which the navy is manipulated. The only thing that congress would lose is the chance to interfere in the matters of detail. At present each bureau chief has to make his own plea before the committees on naval affairs and there is a fine opportunity for congressmen with friends who have things to sell to the navy to influence the bureau unduly.

"See that my friends get contracts," a congressman may say to a bureau chief, "and I will help you to get the appropriation from which you ask." Or this understanding may come about without anything being said at all.

Such a situation explains in part the extraordinary expensiveness of our naval establishment as compared with

that of England. Reorganization will doubtless result in great economies and it ought to mean greater effectiveness too. The separate bureaus do not always work in harmony. The new plan contemplates doing away with the independent bureaus and vesting the direction of the navy in the general board of which Admiral Dewey is still the chief.

The government has been severely criticized for keeping up the present number of naval yards some of which are almost useless on account of their lack of facilities for docking the new battleships. It is supposed that Secretary Meyer will recommend that the number of navy yards be cut from about a score to about six or seven. There is sure to be lively opposition to this measure on the part of congressmen from states which would close naval stations if the plan were approved.

**Old Newspapers.**

The St. Louis Republic has just issued a pamphlet containing brief historical sketches of newspapers in this country, a hundred years or more old. There are 82 of them in the list. Pennsylvania has 19; New York, 15; Ohio, 9; and Massachusetts, 7. The oldest papers are the Philadelphia North American and the Saturday Evening Post, both of which were founded in 1728. Two German papers are in the list: The Reading Adler and the Lancaster Volksfreund and Baebachter.

Germany, Sweden, Holland, England, France and Scotland all claim to have older newspapers than this country. The Frankfort Journal was established in 1615; the Antwerp Nieuwe Tijdinghen in 1616; the London Weekly News in 1622; the Paris Gazette de France in 1631, and the Stockholm Post och Inrikes Tidende in 1643. But it is only natural that the older countries should have the older newspapers.

**Want Pretty Pictures Only.**

Members of the Women's Press Association of Texas have adopted a resolution against the cartooning of the women. It is all right, they say, to make fun of men in drawings of this kind, but when it comes to women, the case is different. There is some ground, no doubt for the protest the Texas ladies make. Some of the comic artists have been a little rough with the members of the gentler sex. But if women want a "wider sphere" they will have to take things somewhat as they come, just as the men do. Men who get into the limelight of publicity have to take censure as well as praise, and they cannot prevent the illustrators from having a little fun with them, though there is the libel law if the cartoonist goes too far with them.

To dare the fierce bango in its lair is the purpose of the expedition with Col. Theodore Roosevelt at its head which left Nairobi today for Entebbe in Uganda. The former president also expects to bag a few giant pigs and may add a lion or two to his death list of the kings of the jungles while on this trip. The party will reach Entebbe on Monday and will establish camp and commence stalking game about Wednesday.

**Up and in and get a deal**  
**Prices red down**  
**These are facts**  
**We don't a**

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**FOR RENT**—Two four room modern cottages. Inquire of Mrs. S. C. Zuber.

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**FOUND**—In one of the stores on Adams avenue a gentleman's gold signet ring. Information may be obtained by calling at this office.

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