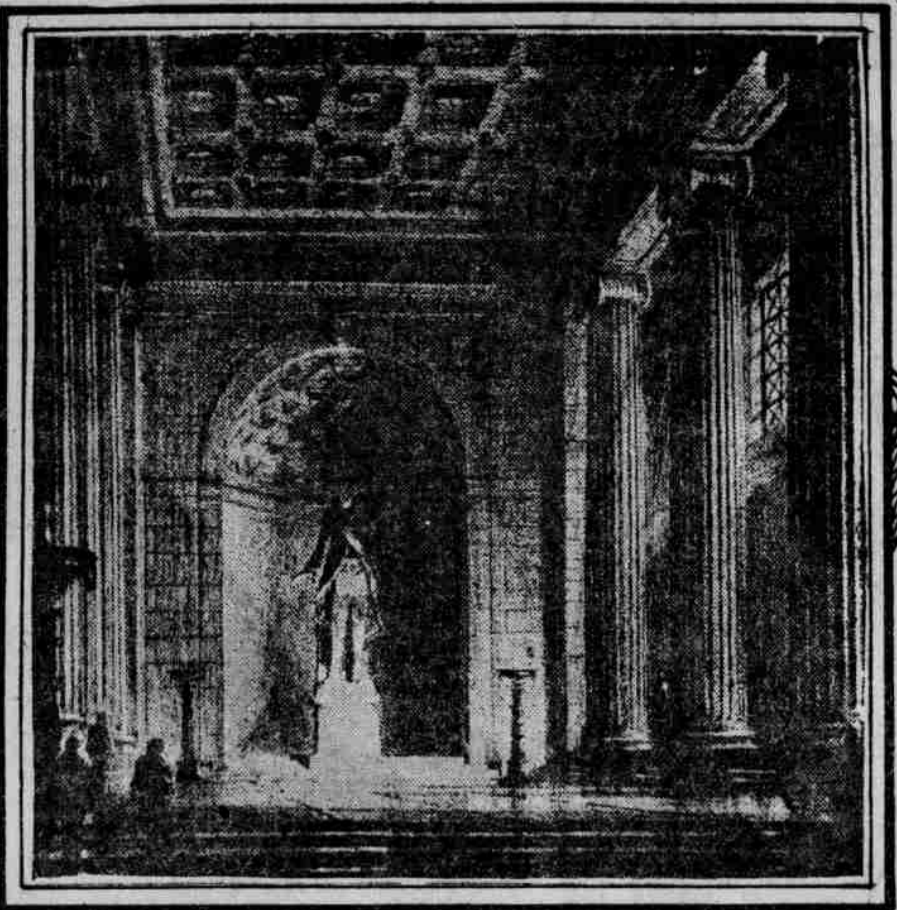


MASONS' MEMORIAL TO GRANDEST MASTER-- WASHINGTON

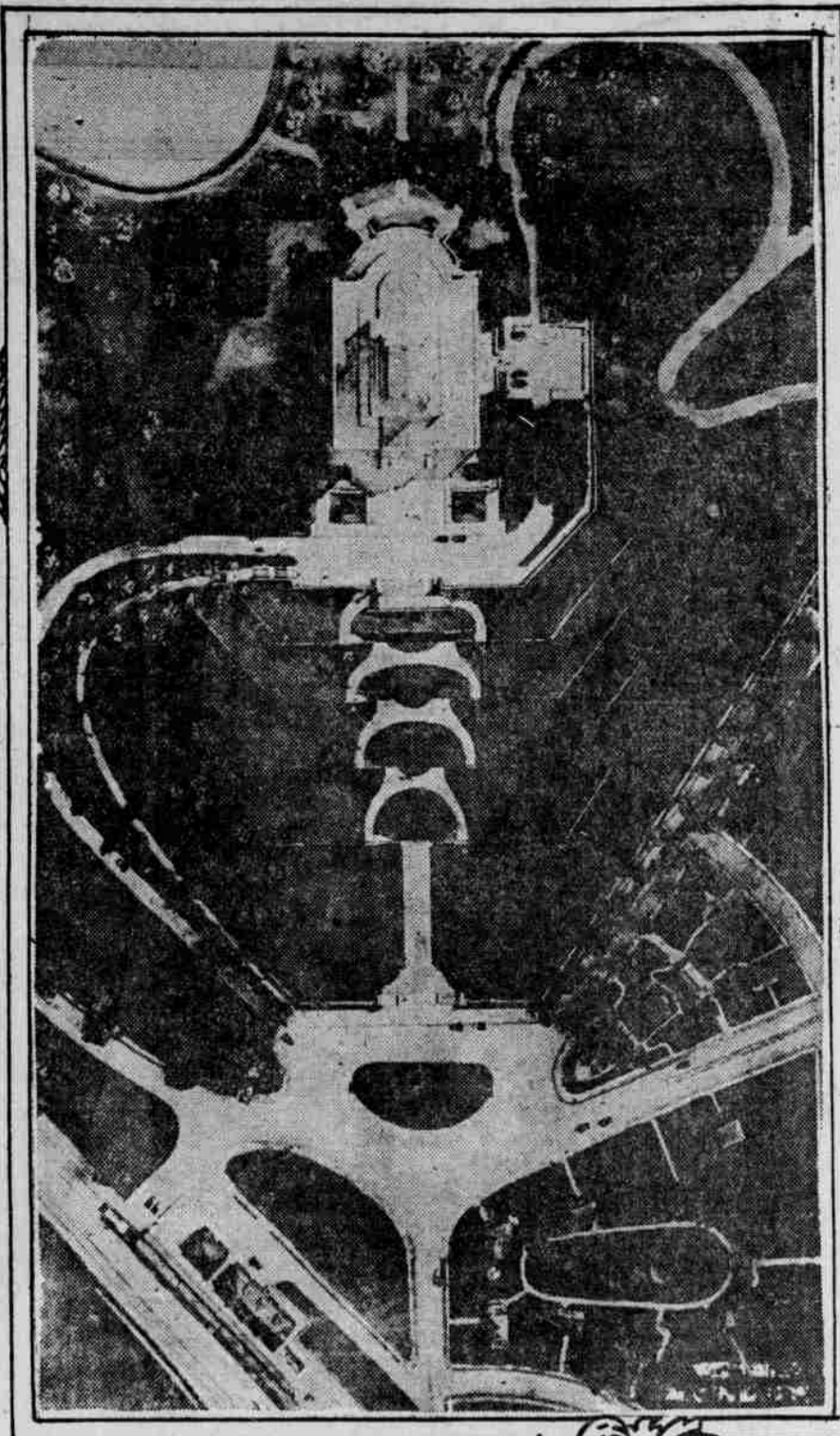
Marble and Bronze Will Perpetuate, in Stately Splendor, the Deeds of the Father of His Country
Members of the Craft Raise Tribute to Their Greatest Brother and His Activities in the Fraternity



Looking out through the entrance portico of the memorial.



Interior of Memorial Hall, a part of the memorial at Alexandria.



Birdseye view of the national Masonic memorial.

BY HAMILTON WRIGHT.

ON FEBRUARY 22, 1922, the 190th anniversary of the birth of George Washington, news was flashed from Washington that the Masonic orders of the United States had accepted plans for a magnificent memorial edifice to be constructed under the direction of the George Washington Masonic National Memorial Association at Alexandria, Va., and involving an outlay of \$2,000,000.

The important details of these plans have now become available. There has also developed in connection with the movement for the memorial—which has been under way for more than 12 years—a sequential narrative embracing historical details of George Washington's life in the region in which the memorial building is to be constructed. In this work Alexandria lodge, No. 22, F. and A. M., which was lodge No. 39 in Washington's time, has been foremost. The lodge has, moreover, a priceless collection of relics associated with George Washington's career, and also a number of personal possessions which were treasured by him.

These historical incidents, the description of some of the relics, as well as the details of the George Washington Masonic national memorial itself, blend into a single story. The local traditions of Washington in this region and the relics constitute a part of the atmosphere with which the imposing memorial to the father of his country will be invested.

After Washington's death numerous relics, many of which have been associated with his Masonic life, passed into the possession of the lodge to which he belonged. Such was his Masonic apron worn by the general when master, and at the laying of the cornerstone of the nation's capitol. These memorabilia were carefully treasured by the lodge and constituted one of the important nuclei which helped to keep alive many intimate anecdotes of the life of the great administrator.

More than 12 years ago the sentiment surrounding the preservation of these memorabilia and arising from the peculiarly intimate nature of the traditions of Washington in this region, where he had passed so large a part of his youth, were crystallized in the desire for a permanent memorial.

The movement was started by Alexandria-Washington lodge. It was taken up by the Masonic fraternity of the country, and a national association, known as the George Washington Masonic National Memorial association, came into being. Its first president was Thomas Shyrook, who had been grand master of Maryland for 32 years. He remained president of the memorial association until his death. The present officers of the association are:

Louis A. Watres of Pennsylvania, president; directors, including Mr. Watres, Melvin, N. Johnson, Massachusetts; W. L. Daniels, New Jersey; W. S. Farmer, New York; George L. Schoonover, Iowa; Walter L. Stockwell, North Dakota; Andrew L. Randall, Texas; Charles C. Homer, Maryland; George M. Napler, Georgia; secretary-treasurer, J. Claude Keifer.

The enthusiasm with which the movement has been received and the solicitude care with which the plans for the memorial have been perfected give assurance that in the historic community of Alexandria, rich with the most intimate associations of Washington, the Masonic orders will erect for the benefit of posterity a memorial worthy of the reverence with which Washington is held, of the hallowed traditions of a century gone and of the fond memories which gather around him and his neighbors. This purpose will be evidenced in many ways.

The George Washington Masonic national memorial is primarily a memorial to George Washington, the man and the Mason. Its form is inspired by the great towers built in the ancient days of Greece and Rome to mark the entrances to the harbors, and from whose summits ever-burning flares that could be seen for miles at sea guided the mariner on his way.

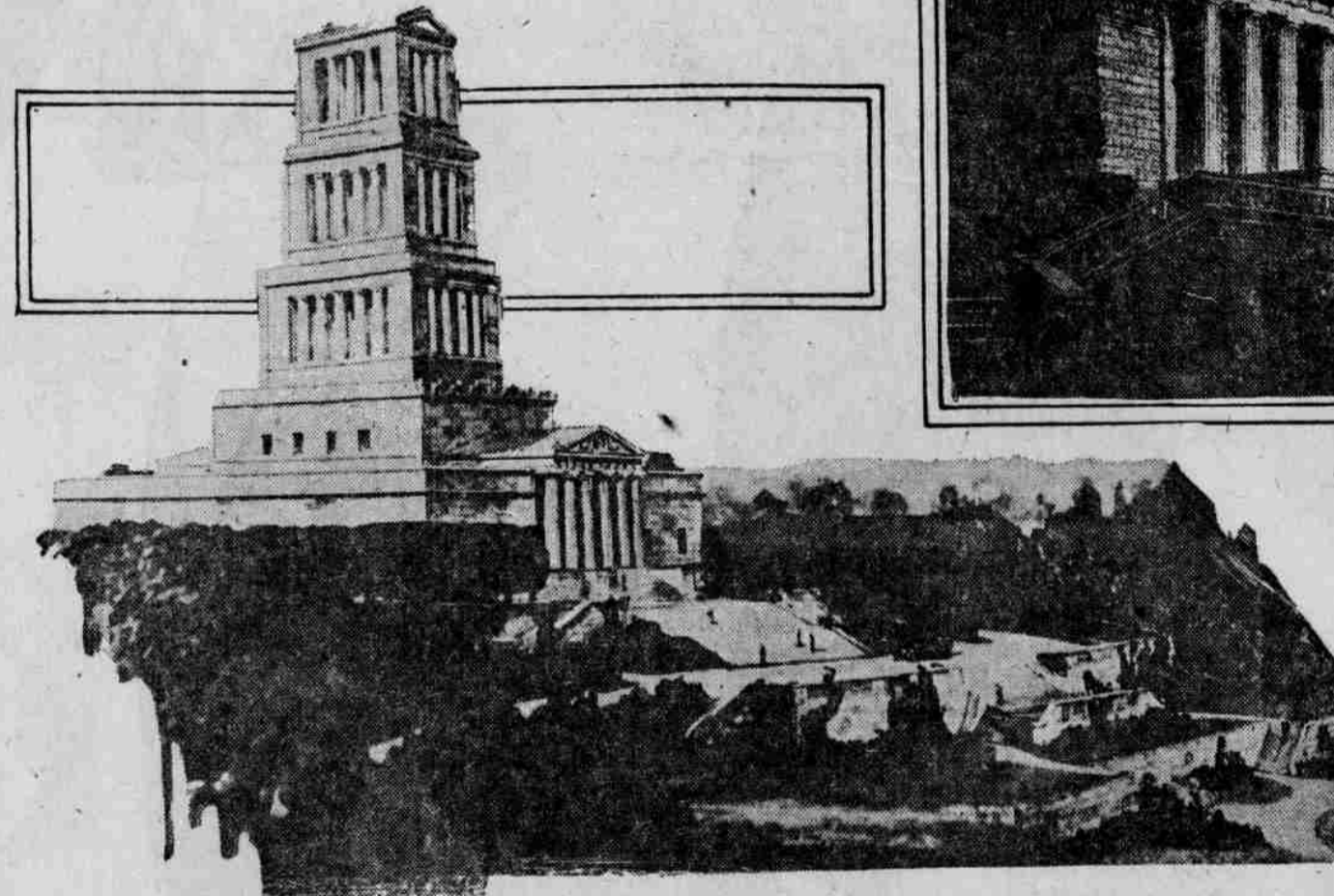
The very heart and center of the building will be a great atrium, 70 feet wide

and 100 feet deep, which will form the memorial hall already referred to, in an arched recess of which will be set the memorial itself, an imposing statue of George Washington. This spacious hall will rise to a height of 64 feet, ascending by a clerestory above the surrounding portion of the building. It will be flanked by great Ionic columns 40 feet high and surrounded by a number of rooms devoted to Masonic interests. Clerestory lights above the roofs of these adjoining rooms

taining the great memorial hall will stand out prominently.

Scarcely less valuable than the memorial itself in the perpetuation of Washington's memory is the old colonial town of Alexandria, which has preserved much of the quaint appearance that characterized it in Washington's day.

This city of the future memorial edifice is located on the west branch of the Potomac river, six miles south of Washington, D. C. It is one of the oldest cities in Virginia, having received its charter in 1749. For more than half a century it was the county seat of Fairfax county, in which Mount Vernon is located. Among its trustees in Washington's day were many of his friends and relatives, including Thomas Lord Fairfax, by whom, in 1749, Washington, then a youth, was engaged as a surveyor; William Fairfax, at whose home, Belvoir, Washington lived while pursuing his studies; Lawrence



Another view of the \$2,000,000 temple as it will appear when finished.

will admit the light of day into the main memorial hall.

The entrance of the building will be expressed in a six-column portico of pure Greek Doric design, contrasting interestingly with the plain unbroken side walls of the Masonic rooms. The memorial hall will be reached through the portico by gradual steps. From behind these mighty fluted columns as he prepares to leave the building the visitor will behold the country spread for miles in a panorama beneath him.

Rising above the imposing memorial hall and forming a second story of the tower will be a museum room to house the many memorabilia of Washington and his time, including the interesting relics connected with Washington's services as master of Alexandria-Washington lodge. The George Washington Masonic Memorial museum will be 80 by 75 feet, with lofty ceiling and fine light. It will be reached by both stairs and elevators.

The third level, which is above the museum, will be for future assignment.

Above this will be a covered observation platform. The three levels will be screened by stately colonnades, and rising above the main hall each will be smaller than the level beneath it.

These four elements will form the huge tower inspired by the classic towers that guided the mariners of old. The broad steps and grassy terraces adorned with shrubs will add to the imposing and beautiful effect of the memorial building.

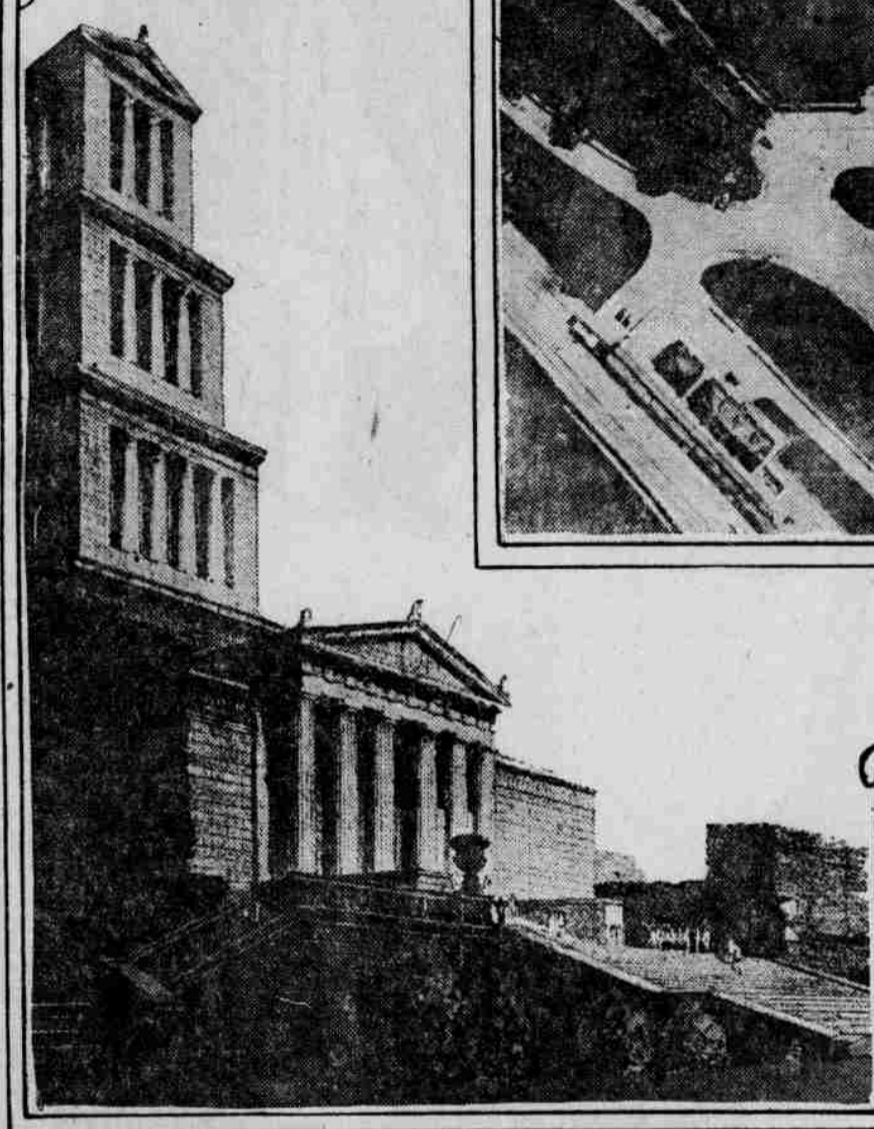
From a distance the monument will be seen, therefore, as a massive and lofty tower rising from a terraced, verdure-clad base on the summit of a commanding eminence. The tower or upper portion of the monument will be clearly visible from Washington, D. C., while at a distance of several miles even the lower portion con-

tain Washington, his half brother, and John Carlyle and others. Washington himself became a member of the town council in 1785 and served until 1779, when the city was incorporated.

George Washington surveyed Alexandria's streets and founded and endowed its first free school. This was the Alexandria academy, the first permanent free school in Virginia. The building in which it was established is still occupied as a public school. The direction of the academy was placed under a board of trustees and General Washington's correspondence with them is a part of the public school records of the city. The general guaranteed a yearly payment of 50 pounds sterling, a much larger sum in those days than now, to maintain the school for the children of indigent parents. The endowment was sufficient to add to the yearly income after Washington's death. In this old building General Robert E. Lee, who became commander-in-chief of the Confederate forces, received his primary education.

It was years later, in 1779, that Christ Church, in Alexandria, was completed. Shortly thereafter General Washington purchased a pew in the church at the round figure of 36 pounds and 10 shillings, and he became a regular attendant when in Alexandria. This old church still stands in the heart of the little old colonial city. The pew occupied by Washington and now marked with his name has been restored to its original design. Another pew bears the name of General Robert E. Lee, who was confirmed into the Episcopal church in this edifice in 1853. On the vestry register are to be found many names famous in colonial history.

The memorial will be set upon the commanding Arlington ridge, rising 200



George Washington national Masonic memorial at Alexandria, Va.

feet above its surrounding pediments. It will be in plain view of Washington, D. C. It will be passed by all who travel between the city of Washington and George Washington's old home at Mount Vernon. The edifice itself will be surrounded by a series of artistically planted landscapes. It will be reached by broad walks and stone steps ascending through seven successive terraces. From the topmost colonnaded tower of the memorial visitors will view over an expanse of many miles the region in which the immortal Washington passed a great part of his life. As readers will recall, the National cemetery at Arlington is also situated on the beautiful Arlington ridge.

The dimensions of the edifice over all will be 160 feet in width by 230 feet in depth. This is exclusive of the steps, terraces and approaches which it will surmount, but which from afar will be seen as a part of a stately and beautiful architectural scheme. Its height to the summit of the covered observation platform crowning the tower will be 200 feet.

General Washington maintained a town office in Alexandria, which was torn down in 1857. But the City hotel, formerly Gadsby's tavern, still stands. While quartered in the older of the two buildings comprising the City hotel, Washington, in 1754, recruited his first command. From there he began his march which resulted in the battle of Great Meadows. A year later he received his commission as major under Braddock, the English general, and there he first announced his espousal of the cause of the colonies. In 1789, when starting on his first inauguration, he delivered a farewell address to his neighbors from the steps of this building. Shortly before he did so he reviewed the local troops.

But the tavern was not alone the start-

ing place for wars or great events, for in its handsome ballroom on the second floor George and Martha Washington trod to the measures of many a stately colonial dance.

Indeed, it was in Alexandria that Washington cast his last vote, and there on January 20, 1800, Colonel George Denesse, master of the Masonic lodge and clerk of the court, recorded his will. It has been the great pride of Alexandria-Washington lodge to have assembled so many mementoes of the public and private life of the first president. And by inheritance, tradition and affiliation it is peculiarly equipped to have inaugurated the movement for the memorial.

General Washington's fondness for the lodge and the Masonic order undoubtedly had impelled his widow, shortly after his death, to present to the lodge the old clock that had stood in his bed chamber. At the time he died one of the attending physicians, General Elisha Cullen Dick, who was master of the lodge, cut the pendulum and stopped the old timepiece forever.

Its hands still point to the minute and hour that marked the close of that inspiring life. General Washington became a first or charter member of Alexandria lodge in 1778, shortly after the application for a charter had been made to the grand lodge of Virginia. Upon the walls of the lodge still hangs the document containing his name, signed by Edmund Randolph, governor of Virginia. He served as master for 20 months, being re-elected to succeed himself. But for years prior to that time he had been associated with the lodge and had been elected an honorary member shortly after his return from the revolution, when the lodge was within the jurisdiction of the provincial grand lodge of Pennsylvania. One of the priceless relics of the first president, a letter in his own hand, under date of December 28, 1778, from Mount Vernon, reveals the deep affection in which he cherished his brother Masons. The concluding paragraph of the letter reveals the spirit of love and desire for service: "I shall always feel pleasure when it may be in my power to render service to lodge No. 39, and in every act of brotherly kindness to the members of it, being in great truth your affectionate brother."

The friendship existing between Washington and the older residents of Alexandria was long. From 1765 until the incorporation of Alexandria in 1779 he had served as a member of the famous town council of the village. As he grew in public reputation and experience his obligations to the colonies constantly increased.

But despite the historic and momentous nature of the events into which Washington was drawn and in whose direction he was foremost, he ever maintained, with that fidelity which was characteristic of his earlier years. Upon the conclusion of his active service to the nation he was happy in resuming many of his earlier associations.

LOCAL SCHOOL LEADS ALL AMERICA

(Continued From Page 2)

moved and the boys taught to make their own calculations. For example: On a lathe with an eight-thread-per-inch lead screw, to produce a four-thread-per-inch screw the cutting tool must travel twice as far at each revolution as the lead screw! To produce a 16-thread to the inch, the tool must travel half as far at each revolution as the lead screw.

If you are chasing a thread the same pitch as the lead screw, the work and the lead screw make the same number of revolutions. If you are chasing a thread any other pitch, you must gear accordingly. The students are taught to make many other calculations along these lines for milling machines, grinding machines and for machinery that produces finer grades of work.

"To have a course in foundry practice in cast-iron only is a mistake because of the fact that cast-steel is being specified more and more and fast taking the place of drop forgings and cast iron. Benson's foundry is up to date with a three-ton cupola and the boys are taught metallurgy from a standpoint of foundry practice. They are shown that smelting is a chemical action of heat and fluxes that refine the iron, and are taught to produce the different grades of gray iron, cast steel, brass, bronze and many of the

alloys that are used in the industries in a practical way."

Leaders in industry, pacemakers in the trades, experts able to cope with the most intricate of problems, the Benson record is becoming a proud one and the fame of the school carries Portland along with it. A consistent flow of successful graduates forces recognition of the school in a national way, no other establishment can duplicate it. A success? Yes, a marvelous one, an encouraging possibility for the boy who wants to perfect himself as a tradesman or enter a mechanical profession. Contrast this modern method of making mechanics with the old shop system of apprenticeship where the boy was usually made into a machine capable of doing only one thing, not an all-round mechanic but a one-motion specialist.

In solder rehabilitation Benson can train them at approximately one-eighth the cost of other northwest schools and train them better, the school board claims. Many a professional man can be found in the night classes studying some fascinating angle of a favorite trade, and many mechanics come here and take up some puzzling phase of their work. Now, after digesting some of the facts about Benson, the local resident can get some idea of the reason why the young graduates step forth and often beat the old master mechanic at his own game.