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GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS.

The System Governing Their Erection and Cost.

How the Plans for New Buildings Are Engineered and Put Through Congressmen—The Need of Proper Restrictions.

In many of our cities and large towns the most noticeable structure is the government building. There are now nearly four hundred such buildings scattered through the country. The number has been greatly increased in recent years, and the expenditure for construction has become a large annual item in the appropriation bills of congress.

In 1891 the amount expended on this account was more than four million eight hundred thousand dollars, which was one-fifth as much as all the ordinary expenditures of the government in 1890. This great extension of the system has taken place gradually, but the policy seems now to be firmly established.

Within proper limits, says Youth's Companion, it is an extremely reasonable system. In a little town the rent of a corner in a store for a post office amounts to almost nothing. The town grows, and the post office requires larger quarters—a whole floor on the street level in the center of business. The town transforms itself into a city. Land and rents increase, and the expense for the hire of a building, which must be conveniently located in the very heart of the city where rents are highest, becomes large.

A still further increase of population, and now other departments of the government begin to appear in the city. If it is on the coast or on the lakes, a deputy collector of customs is appointed. The federal courts have business now and then in the city. An internal revenue office is established, or a branch of the pension or the land office.

Under such circumstances it is cheaper for the national government to invest, once for all, the capital needed to erect buildings than to continue to pay rent. The only question is, at what point it becomes a matter of economy to build rather than to hire.

Naturally the people of a growing town are convinced of the necessity for a public building long before congress can see the matter in the same light. The congressman from the district, anxious to make himself popular, urges the importance of the building on his associates, and sometimes succeeds in obtaining the consent of congress to the project before the building is really needed.

Formerly authority to erect buildings was inserted in appropriation bills, and there was a great chance for "log-rolling"—that is, Congressman Smith would help on Congressman Jones' scheme if Congressman Jones would help Congressman Smith. At present each building is authorized by a separate act, but there is still some opportunity for log-rolling.

All government building is done under the superintendence and control of the treasury department. First, congress authorizes the building and appropriates money for the site and the structure. Next a lot is selected, approved and purchased. Plans are made by the supervising architect, and the building is erected. The custodian—though he may be, and frequently is, the postmaster—is under the direction of, and reports to, the secretary of the treasury.

The reason for this is, perhaps, that in the early days government buildings were chiefly for the offices of collectors of customs, who are under the secretary of the treasury, and only incidentally for post office use.

No doubt the eagerness of communities to obtain a costly and ornamental building at the government expense has caused this system to be abused. Attempts have been made to lay down certain conditions which must be satisfied before a town or city shall be deemed to need a government building. Thus, it might be required that the population shall be so many, or the receipts of the post office so much, or that there shall be other uses than the post office for such a building. No such restrictions have been made, and

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It is the supply city for an extensive and rich agricultural and grazing country, its trade reaching as far south as Summer Lake, a distance of over two hundred miles.

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The rich grazing country along the eastern slope of the Cascades furnishes pasture for thousands of sheep, the wool from which finds market here.

The Dalles is the largest original wool shipping point in America, about 5,000,000 pounds being shipped last year.

ITS PRODUCTS.

The salmon fisheries are the finest on the Columbia, yielding this year a revenue of thousands of dollars, which will be more than doubled in the near future.

The products of the beautiful Klickitat valley find market here, and the country south and east has this year filled the warehouses, and all available storage places to overflowing with their products.

ITS WEALTH.

It is the richest city of its size on the coast and its money is scattered over and is being used to develop more farming country than is tributary to any other city in Eastern Oregon.

Its situation is unsurpassed. Its climate delightful. Its possibilities incalculable. Its resources unlimited. And on these corner stones she stands.

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This Popular House

Has lately been thoroughly renovated and newly furnished throughout, and is now better than ever prepared to furnish the best Hotel accommodations of any house in the city, and at the very low rate of

\$1 a day. First-Class Meals, 25c.

Office of the fast and commodious opposition Stage to Dufur, Kingsley, Tygh Valley, Wapinitia, Warm Springs and Prineville is in the Hotel and persons going to Prineville can save \$4.00 by going on this Stage line.

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On and after JUNE 1, 1893, the

Str. INLAND STAR,

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Stopping at all way landings.

Leave The Dalles at 7 A.M. Small freight will be received and delivered safely. NO PASSENGERS.

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EDWARD JUDY,

CENTERVILLE, WASH.

J. F. FORD, Evangelist,

Of Des Moines, Iowa, writes under date of March 23, 1893:

S. B. MED. MFG. CO., Dufur, Oregon.

Gentlemen:

On arriving home last week, I found all well and anxiously awaiting. Our little girl, eight and one-half years old, who had wasted away to 38 pounds, is now well, strong and vigorous, and well fleshed up. S. B. Cough Cure has done its work well. Both of the children like it. Your S. B. Cough Cure has cured and kept away all hoarseness from me. So give it to every one, with greetings for all. Wishing you prosperity, we are Yours, Mr. & Mrs. J. F. Ford.

If you wish to feel fresh and cheerful, and ready for the Spring's work, cleanse your system with the Headache and Liver Cure, by taking two or three doses each week.

Sold under a positive guarantee. 50 cents per bottle by all druggists.

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