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WHEN CONGRESS MET IN WALL STREET

After five years in old Federal Hall it was packing its bags Just 131 years ago to move to Philadelphia, thence to Washington.

Just 131 years ago the Congress of the United States was bidding adieu to Wall Street, where it had associated with the "money power" for a five-year period, returning temporarily to its scenes of former activity at Philadelphia, whence it was to finally remove to the new capitol to be established on the Potomac.

Few of the thousands of people who pass the historic spot at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets, but a few feet from the doors of The National City Bank of New York, are mindful of the stirring events which occurred during the five years in which it was the abiding place of Congress.

New York Eighth Capitol
It was in 1785 that the Congress of the Confederation after a decade of wandering in search of a permanent abiding place, established itself in the modest old City Hall, which then stood at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets. During the period of its existence, which began at Philadelphia in 1774, it had held session in no less than seven different cities and towns, thus making New York the eighth capitol of the United States, while Washington became in its turn the ninth capitol.

Kept on the Run
The peripatetic life which Congress had led during the decade before settling down in New York had been largely due to the necessity of hurried moves to prevent the capitol and the Congress falling into the hands of the British.

The first meeting place, Philadelphia, occurred in 1776, when the British were preparing to move upon that city, and the December session of that year, 1776, was held at Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where it remained but for three days, removing thence to York on the opposite side of the Susquehanna, where it spent all of that terrible winter in which Washington was at Valley Forge.

Returns to Old Quarters
On the evacuation of Philadelphia by the British in 1778, Congress returned to its old quarters in that city, remaining there until 1783. Owing to some misunderstandings with the Philadelphia authorities, it removed over night to Princeton, New Jersey. At Princeton it completed its session and there adopted a plan for the creation of two permanent capitol cities, one to be located on the Potomac and the other on the Dela-

ware; the sessions pending the construction of the proper buildings at the new capitols to be held alternately at Annapolis and Trenton.

Lure of Great City
The session of 1783 was held at Annapolis and that of 1784 at Trenton, where it appears that the lure of the great city of New York, which had then a population of 33,000, overruled the double capitol plan, and in January, 1783, the Congress removed to New York, where it was granted the use of the City Hall.

All of the meetings up to this time had, of course, occurred under the Articles of Confederation, which, however, had proven unsatisfactory, and when the ninth state ratified the proposed Constitution, in 1788, the Congress, then in session in New York, lastly passed a measure requiring that the vote for the President, provided by the new Constitution, should occur on "the first Wednesday in January, 1789," that the electoral votes should be cast on "the first Wednesday in February," and that the President should be inaugurated on "the first Wednesday in March." As it happened that the first Wednesday in March fell upon the fourth day of that month, the date "March 4th," as the beginning of the term of the President and Congress, was thus permanently established.

Inauguration is Delayed

With the limited facilities of communication and travel which characterized those days in which the telegraph, the wireless, the railroad or the flying machine had not yet been dreamed of, the official report of the election did not reach General Washington at his home in Virginia until April 14, 1789, and because of the time occupied by his journey thence to New York, his actual inauguration did not occur until April 30, 1789. Meantime, the enterprising citizens of New York, realizing that the dignity of Congress and President under the new Constitution required more suitable surroundings than those offered by the old City Hall, had contributed \$32,500 for the improvement of that building, and it was re-named "Federal Hall" and thus became the meeting place of the first Congress under the Constitution and the place in which Washington took the oath of office as the first President of the United States.

Why Congress Moved

It was during the second session of that first Congress under the new Constitution that the events occurred which resulted in the departure of the Congress from New York and the establishment of the permanent capitol of the nation at the spot now designated as the District of Columbia and the city



The American Congress had ten meeting places up until the time it was permanently located in Washington in 1800. The pictures reproduced here are from rare old prints and original drawings collected by Mr. Austin. They are listed below in the order in which the buildings were occupied by Congress:
1. Independence Hall, Philadelphia, 1775, 1777-78, 1790, 1800.
2. Baltimore, December, 1776.
3. Court-house, Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1777.
4. Court-house, York, Pennsylvania, 1777.
5. Nassau Hall, Princeton, N. J., November, 1783.
6. State-house, Annapolis, Md., 1783.
7. Court-house, Trenton, New Jersey, 1784.
8. Carpenter's Hall, Philadelphia, 1774.
9. Old City Hall, New York, Wall and Nassau Streets, 1785-88.
10. Federal Hall, New York (reconstructed City Hall), Wall and Nassau Streets, where the first Congress under the Constitution met, and President Washington was inaugurated.
11. First Capitol building at Washington, D. C., 1800.

debt of the Confederation; second, the full payment of the domestic debt, which had fallen far below par in its market value; and, third, the assumption by the Government of the debts incurred by the respective states during the revolutionary war. The first proposition, for full payment of the foreign debt met with no opposition, and that for the payment of the domestic debt was opposed by many but received a majority vote.

Opposition is Aroused

The third proposition, that the Government of the United States should assume the debts created by the respective states during the Revolutionary War was bitterly opposed and its final settlement resulted incidentally in the good-bye of Congress to Wall street. The opposition to payment by the Government of the claims of the respective states was bitter and long drawn out, much of the opposition being based upon the assertion that the claims had been already bought up by speculators and that the assumption by the Congress under

seemed likely to fail, diplomacy got in, its fine work. The question as to the permanent location of the Capitol of the Nation was pending. New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore wanted it. So did several other enterprising cities and towns in the middle states and in Virginia. The South, which was opposing the measure for the payment of the claims of the states, was solidly in favor of the transfer of the permanent seat of government to that section of the country. Hamilton favored the payment of the claims of the states, Jefferson favored the location of the Capitol at the South, and these two experienced men, putting their heads together, worked out a plan which was laid before certain of their colleagues at a dinner at the home of Jefferson, where the details were agreed upon. The next day, to the astonishment of those not immediately participating in the agreement, the hostility of certain Southern members to the payment of the claims of the states mysteriously disappeared. The bill for payment of these claims was passed and a little later the measure establishing a permanent seat of Government on the Potomac became a law, with a proviso that Congress should remove to Philadelphia before the



Wall Street in the early days of the Republic. The building with the "custom house" sign is on the site of the present home of The National City Bank of New York.

that date would not be materially beneficial to the states themselves. Most of these claims were held in the North, and as a result, the members from the northern states favored the proposition, while those of the South were almost solidly against it and succeeded in temporarily defeating this feature of the measure.

How it Was Settled

At this juncture, when the assumption of the debts of the states

date set for the next session, the first Monday in December, 1790, and remain there until the year 1800, by which time the Capitol buildings and presidential residence would be ready for occupancy.

And this is how it happened that 131 years ago Congress was tearfully packing its belongings at the corner of Wall and Nassau streets preparatory to the trip to Philadelphia, which was then a matter of several days instead of a couple of hours as at present.

these days in which we count governmental appropriations in terms of billions.

Hamilton's Three Proposals

The proposition submitted to the Congress by Hamilton included, first, the assumption of the foreign

of Washington. One of the first important questions laid before the Congress had been that of the assumption by the Government of the existing debts of the Confederation and those which the states had created during the revolution. The foreign debt amounted to \$12,000,-

000, the domestic debt of the Confederation \$42,000,000, while the debts of the various states incurred during the Revolutionary War aggregated \$26,000,000 making the grand total of \$80,000,000, a sum which then sounded large, no matter how small it seems to us in

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\$7,000,000 Lost In Chicago Fraud

CHICAGO, Feb. 16.—Investigation into the operations of Raymond J. Bischoff, 25 year old promoter, revealed that more than \$7,000,000 had been "borrowed" from poor persons, mostly of foreign extraction, during the past two years, by three men who held out the lure of rich returns.

The amount of the "borrowings" ranged from a few dollars up to one loan of \$8000. The average was approximately \$200.

RESOLUTION TO PURCHASE ST. LAWRENCE TERRITORY

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 16.—Purchase by the United States of all the Canadian territory south and east of the St. Lawrence river and the center of the Gulf of St. Lawrence, with a view to developing and utilizing half of the water power from the river, is proposed in a resolution introduced by Representative Ten Eyck, democrat, of New York.

Love in a Cottage Enters Life of Rich American



Mrs. Anastase Vonsiatsky.

The cottage in which they are living.

(International News Service)
CHESTER, Pa., Feb. 16.—"I shall stay and work at Baldwin's—how long I do not know," replied Anastase Anrevitch Vonsiatsky-Vonsiatsky, 23, when questioned as to his intentions following his marriage to Mrs. Marian Stephens, 45, heiress to \$40,000,000 in New York.

Ever since he came to Baldwin's he has been working to establish the home at Ridley Park, on which he has paid a month's rent in advance. This love-nest for the \$40,000,000 bride is of the familiar Pennsylvania Railroad school of Swiss architecture so frequently found in this section, but its lack of artistic merit does not bother Anastase.

calls he has had to submit to since he sprang into the limelight. Anastase prides himself on having been aide to both of the famous leaders of the "White" Russian forces. His romance with Mrs. Marian Stephens, wealthy divorcee, was the result of a chance meeting in Paris.

in which the air of romance surrounding the 23-year-old soldier made a deep impression on the heart of the onetime leader of Chicago north-side society.

Anastase's career as locomotive builder commenced some time ago, when a highly-polished limousine drove up to the offices of the Eddystone works and deposited him armed with a letter of introduction to Samuel M. Vauclain, president of Baldwin's. A conference with William Thomas, labor superintendent, followed, and the next day "V. V." as his fellows know him, started work on a steaming gang in shop No. 1, contract No. 16.

Hopes for New Ozar

Since that time he has worked daily from 7:30 to 5.

"I do not want my wife to live in any house but mine," he said, "paid for with my own money. The car she is to pay for—it will cost \$1600—the furniture also."

Smiling, young Vonsiatsky referred to his own fortune of 1,200,000 rubles, which he modestly values at five dollars. The aristocratic Russian family from which he descended formerly ruled over vast estates in southern Russia. These were all seized by the Bolsheviks during the revolution, for the family were pronounced monarchists. Anastase himself, while resident in Paris, following the collapse of Admiral Kolchak, wrote "The Diary of a Monarchist," which, he says, would not prove popular if published in this country, let alone in Soviet Russia.

For Such A Short Month

there are two mighty important birthdays crowded into February, and both Washington and Lincoln were vigorous advocates of thrift. Could there be a more fitting tribute to the memory of these two great men of America than the opening or increasing of a savings account?

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