

World's Finest  
Craftsmen Built

# CAPITOL FURNITURE

Will Establish a New Period in Design  
for FUTURE GENERATIONS

THE doors of Washington's new \$6,500,000 Capitol were locked. Within workmen were laying wire and preparing stations for the receptions of instruments.

A woman's hand rattled the knob. She wanted to enter, but the building was not open to visitors, and she went away. She will come back, though, in time, for like her sisters scattered over the Pacific Northwest, she is determined to see the furniture of which she has read so much in the newspapers.

It is not an idle curiosity that brings the women to the new Capitol. Women the world over love beautiful things. They want tastefully furnished homes, attractive surroundings, flowers, birds, paintings, green plants growing.

**Art Given Expression**  
Art is new to Washington. Few states possess less of it, except as it is expressed in nature, but with the passing of the pioneer period the public is giving more and more attention to the beauties and comforts of life.

In Greece and Rome the state led the way. It taught the people to appreciate those qualities which charm and delight the senses. In its new Capitol, and its furnishings, Washington has presented an example which will have an influence of incalculable value on all who visit the building.

The Legislature must have realized the need of furnishing the Capitol in a style that would be in keeping with the beauty of the surroundings,

By—  
MARK A. SHIELDS

because it appropriated \$600,000 and asked the Capitol Committee and the architects to spend the money as judgment dictated.

It is easy to believe that the next Legislature will be pleased when it observes the results. Everywhere there is harmony, soft lights, colors that blend, rich woodwork, warmth, an atmosphere of hospitality that invites one to linger and loiter around the spacious rooms, or stretch out at will in handsome chairs and davenports.

Throughout the building there is a fine balance of grace and utility in the furniture.

**Furniture Built to Order**  
It was because of a determination to find the beautiful in a grade of furniture that would stand hard usage that the Capitol Committee and the architects determined to build the furniture to order, just as one would have a suit of clothes made up by a tailor. Months passed before satisfactory designs were obtained, but in the end the tremendous task was completed.

Office buildings, schools, churches and homes are ordinarily furnished with furniture taken out of stock. Every large furniture store either carries on hand, or can get, goods that meet the usual demand.

Some days ago a friend disposed of a set of choice furniture which had been purchased 25 years ago and replaced it with a modern desk and a spring chair. The style in both instances was dictated by the manufacturers.

Washington could have bought its furniture for the Capitol from a catalog and have had about what this friend got for his money, but it didn't, any more than it bought the plans for the Capitol from a ready-cut mill which sells houses, or from architects who sell stock plans for homes.

Competitive plans were called for when the state prepared to erect the Capitol, and out of 37 sets submitted, those of Wilder & White, New York, were selected.

The furniture was purchased in the same manner.

**Many Manufacturers Compete**  
Furniture manufacturers of the United States were asked to present styles which they believed would be suitable for use in the building. The Capitol Committee and Wilder & White stressed the need of a furniture that would harmonize in tone with the massive structure, and yet not appear either too heavy or too light.

It was like a dog show. Manufacturers dug out their catalogs and sent their representatives racing west on transcontinental trains. They were interested. Days and days were spent by the committee and the architects in going over drawings. Some manufacturers went away disappointed, others remained.

Slowly, but surely, the architects kept hammering on lines. No one came prepared to give the committee exactly what it wanted, and so piece by piece, the desired furniture was sketched and the factories asked to turn it out and deliver it in Olympia.

The greatest attention to detail was centered on the legislative chambers, the state reception room and the suite which will be occupied by the governor.

**Rugs Specially Woven**  
Rugs had to be specially woven. There are eight of these, seven of which are in the executive suite and one in the reception room. All are seamless, and three of them are among the largest ever woven. There are lots of huge rugs. Hollywood is full of them, and so is New York and San Francisco and other big cities, but they are spliced, often to the dissatisfaction of the owners. Those eight rugs cost the state \$14,000.

The state reception room is the "parlor" of the state house. Here distinguished visitors will be welcomed and here tired mothers who come with children to visit the Capitol will find quarters where they may sit and rest.

It and the executive offices are done in what the architects and newspapers refer to as "Class A" furniture. The furniture, a handsome mahogany and walnut, was specially built by the W. & J. Sloane Company, of New York, at a cost of \$52,000, inclusive of the window hangings which this firm installed on the fourth floor.

The mahogany in the governor's private office is furnished in the finest leather and like the other furniture throughout the building, stuffed with curly hair. You may laugh at that curly hair,

—and Completes Undying Monumental Structure  
for SEAT OF GOVERNMENT

but it will be no laughing matter if you will try one of your grandfather's snappy old chairs, for no doubt his was done with a straight hair before the days of the bob, which will account for the rough spots that make it so uncomfortable.

**Executive Offices Pretentious**  
The Governor's suite takes in much territory. There is a board room, a reception room, the large public office, a small private office where he may retire and be alone with his work, an office for the private secretary, another for the assistant private secretary, one for the executive clerk and still another for the stenographers.

Not all of these rooms are done in mahogany. The smaller ones are in oak and the larger ones in walnut.

The House chamber is done in walnut and the Senate chamber in mahogany. Like the other furnishings, this was special work. Both chambers were fitted by Irving & Casson—A. & H. Davenport Company, of Boston, at a cost of \$120,000.

In building the House and Senate chamber desks, the architects made up their drawings only after repeated conferences with members of the Legislature and the chief clerk. Chairs and desks are built both with a view of fitting into the general color scheme and of giving senators and representatives the greatest comfort and convenience.

There is charm and grace in every line. In no other Capitol Building in the United States have the legislative chambers been more tastefully handled.

**Comfort is Considered**  
Recollect those hard, awkward seats in the galleries of the old state house? They were nightmares. Made one want to go home after 15 minutes.

The galleries in the new Capitol contain long, leather cushioned benches. They will be a gift



Photo by Chapin Bowen, Tacoma  
The Governor's Office—Wall Hangings by Frederick & Nelson, Furniture by W. & J. Sloane—  
A Beautiful Work Room

from heaven to some of our solons who in the past have been unable to hold the crowd. No person can sit on one of these benches and look down upon the furnishings in the chambers below without a glow of satisfaction stealing over his face.

Walnut done in velour has been used in the lounge rooms, the Lieutenant Governor's office, the office used by the speaker of the house, and the private offices in the quarters given over to

the State Treasurer, the Secretary of State and the State Auditor. Here again are the delicate lines and subdued tones. This furniture, made to order and purchased through Lowman & Hanford at a cost of \$80,000, holds the attention of the visitor by its sheer beauty. It is used in the principal committee rooms of the two houses, and shows at its best in the offices of the senate and

(Continued on Page 40)

Pacific Coast Factory Supplied Furniture for Many Offices in New Legislative Building



First photographs published of offices in Legislative Building that have awaited occupancy for many months. At left is a Committee Room with desks for stenographers. Center, Senate Committee Room; and right, office of personal secretary to Secretary of State. This furniture was built by the West-Made Desk Company.



Photo by Chapin Bowen, Tacoma  
Governor's Conference Room in New Legislative Building

## The Capitol Furniture

(Continued from Page 25)

house appropriations committee. It is quiet, dignified, substantial.

The outer rooms in the executive offices, the quarters occupied by accountants, secretaries and stenographers, and the secondary committee rooms off the House and Senate chambers are furnished in oak. It is not oak in the sense that one associates with the furniture of that wood which has come to be so extensively used in modern day office equipment.

### Beauty and Utility Combined

Furnished by the Seattle West-Made Desk Company through the Bookstore, Olympia, at a cost of \$89,000, the Capitol committee and the architects have found a design in this furniture which proves that art has its place in the counting room. Once more we encounter the delicate coloring and soft lines. Comfortable, too, and made to stand up under the shock of adding machines and heavy typewriters.

The furnishing on the first floor, where only workshops are located, are of stock grades, obtained from the Standard Office Equipment Company, Tacoma, at a cost of \$11,000. They are strong, hardy pieces of furniture, but of a style and finish that makes them readily adaptable to the general scheme of things.

In the committee rooms and public reception rooms are a number of leather upholstered davenports, with solid mahogany frame. These are products of a Washington factory, the Washington Furniture Manufacturing Company of Seattle. Any home owner in this state would be happy to own a similar piece of furniture at a price much higher than the state paid.

In the building are four qualities of carpets, known in the phraseology of the architects as classes A, B, C and D.

The eight specially woven carpets come in the first class. They were made up in Boston through an order placed by Frederick & Nelson, of Seattle, who took the contract for providing them, together with most of the other carpets and the wall hangings, or tapestries, and the window shades.

### Carpets Blend with Whole

The less expensive carpets, used in the secondary committee rooms of the House and Senate and in the work rooms were furnished by B. F. Shearer of Seattle at a price of \$20,000.

Soft, restful to the eye, and designed to withstand the passage of time and feet, the carpets add color without throwing the picture out of balance. The state paid Frederick & Nelson \$103,000 for materials furnished in the Capitol, including the eight carpets of special design, but there is quality in those furnishings and a character and dignity that one finds in homes where the owners are in a position to select the best.

Little wonder the woman who rattled the door and wanted to enter the Capitol went away disappointed.

### All of Fund Not Spent

The legislature set aside the \$600,000 for the purchase of the furnishings. Selecting the furniture and carpets would have been a delectable task for women. Everywhere expression is given to sensible, well grounded ideas, and yet those in charge did not spend all the money that was available. When they had finished there still remained a balance of about \$50,000 which will be turned back to the state treasury.

Even in the metallic furnishings the Capitol committee and the architects found opportunity to combine art and utility. One finds it in the Globe-Wernicke vault equipment and house and senate lockers, furnished by the Bookstore of Olympia, on a bid of \$43,620.

Not all of the firms who contributed to the furnishing of the building were able to hold up a clean balance sheet when the checks came in, and it is improbable that any made the customary trade profit, due to unusual demands made upon them, but they have had a part in demonstrating that beauty and comfort and utility can be incorporated in furniture and also appreciate the prestige resulting from having shared in such a pretentious enterprise.



One of Sixty Washington-Made Leather Davenport in Capitol.

### New Note is Struck

One searches in vain for a name with which to associate the furniture, and finally drops back to the conclusion that, since it must belong to a period, there is a term somewhere which will fit. It is original, new, delightful because of its charming simplicity, and so, perhaps, in time we shall come to speak of it as our own Washington of 1927.

It is still so new that the public has not become acquainted with it, nor have the newspapers and magazine of nearby states had opportunity to prepare their features. Nowhere in the west, and in probably few other public buildings of the United States, have the designers struck out with greater boldness nor more pronounced success.

When the Capitol is opened and the feminine world begins to flow through it there are going to be some pronounced reactions, for here is a type of furniture that can not be seen elsewhere, for there is none other like it.

By and by a newspaper will send a talented woman feature writer through the corridors and rooms of that gigantic white mass of stone and concrete and steel, and when she weaves her story we may expect an interest in furniture that will rival the breathless anxiety of the Easter season.

## The Capitol Dome

(Continued from Page 16)

ing is judged as an entity. Also, moreover, those lines had to be equally perfect when viewed as a part of a completed group. In this latter aspect the Capitol will be the central structure in a group of six buildings and all of these, when viewed from a distance, will present the general effect of one single structure with an exceptionally extensive base.

The present dome is of ample height to fit in with that completed picture. Yet its height is not so great that it seems out of proportion in any sense when the individual building is viewed.

There are, to repeat, 30,800,000 pounds of material in the dome structure—and every pound, every ounce has been used to contribute its maximum share of beauty. Every line in it shows finished artistry, complete understanding of all problems and infinite human pains.

The result, indisputably, is a masterpiece.

## Consider the Daffodil

(Continued from Page 13)

in excess of a million. These are being grown on about twelve acres in the vicinity of Olympia.

Many similar successes on a much smaller scale have come to my attention. Some twelve years ago a woman in Tacoma bought 100 narcissus for \$15, which she cultivated for a number of years for the income she received from the sale of the blooms. Three years ago I purchased her surplus bulb stock for \$150. In this instance the value of the bulbs had increased 900 per cent in nine years. Another woman in Olympia made a similar investment about the same time and two years ago I purchased her bulbs for \$300. I have grown this last lot of bulbs two years now and consider them worth about \$1500. Three years ago I sold a woman near Seattle 500 narcissus bulbs for \$7.50 and the following spring she sold the blooms from them for \$18.50. Several years ago a disabled veteran of the Civil War was admitted to the veterans home at Retsui and took with him there and planted on the grounds a hat-full or more of narcissus bulbs which he faithfully attended as a hobby. He enjoyed a little income each year from the sale of blooms and bulbs, but last summer he became too feeble to look after them and I purchased the remnant of his bulbs for \$25.

### Hollanders Enter Field

But the big impetus to commercial narcissus growing in Washington came in 1925 and 1926 with the appearance in this state of several prosperous growers from Holland. The first to come were Segers Brothers, who planted first at Kirkland in King County and later moved their planting to Lynden in Whatcom County. This planting comprises more than a million bulbs. Two years ago two large plantings were made in Washington by Hollanders, that of Von Zonnenveld Bros. & Philippo, which was planted first near Chehalis and moved last year to Orting, and that of Van Zanthen Bros. at Lynden. The Von Zonnenveld planting is the largest in the state, comprising 5,000,000 bulbs and covering about 95 acres. The Van Zanthen planting has in excess of a million bulbs and covers, I believe, some 45 acres. These Holland growers have had the significant advantage over the pioneer American growers in the respect that their undertakings were adequately financed from the beginning, and they are growing their bulbs for a market already developed by them in this country during the years when they were allowed to supply it with bulbs grown by them in Holland. They have the advantage, also, of long years of familiarity with the cultural and other requirements of the crop, but this has proven to be less of an advantage under new and unfamiliar climatic conditions than would at first thought be assumed. However, all of these plantings are thriving in a manner regarding which their owners speak in the most boastful terms, as they all loudly emphasize the high superiority of the bulbs grown in the State of Washington.

### Many Narcissus Classifications

Another big spurt was given the development of the industry in 1925 and 1926 when a group of farmers in the Puyallup valley, originally inspired by the late W. H. Paulhamus, and under the present leadership of Frank Chervenka and the Orton Brothers (C. W. and E. C.) organized the Puget Sound Bulb Growers Exchange as a marketing organization and by group purchase imported several car loads of bulbs which were distributed among its members for planting.

These plantings, located in the vicinity of Puyallup and Sumner, are thriving very satisfactorily, and the Exchange is offering 600,000 bulbs for sale this coming season. This organization has an excellent co-operative marketing project which is open on equal terms to all other growers who may desire to join it.

There are seven different botanical classifications of narcissus and perhaps 1500 names of varieties known to commerce and listed in catalogs. But for a convenient classification the better known varieties may be classified as long trumpet, medium trumpet, short trumpet, and multiflowering varieties, the first three named having but one and the last named several blooms to a stem. In the accompanying illustrations the Princeps is of the long trumpet type, Stella Supurba of the medium trumpet and Pheasant's Eye the short trumpet. Another classification is into hardy and tender varieties. All the long and medium trumpets are of the hardy varieties, while a few of the short trumpet and multiflowering ones are tender. Only the hardy varieties thrive best in Washington, the tender varieties being grown chiefly in Southern France in Europe, and in Florida, South Carolina and California in America.

Washington does not by any means have a monopoly of growing narcissus in America, although we do grow in this state practically one-third of all the bulbs of the hardy varieties, our plantings aggregating approximately 22,500,000 bulbs on the basis of official returns last fall. There are eight million in Texas, six million New York, five million in Oregon, four million in Virginia and three millions in New Jersey. There is a considerable planting near Benton Harbor, Michigan, statistics of which are not at present available. But the significant feature of these statistics is that the plantings in Washington are increasing at the rate of fifty per cent or more a year, while those in other states are barely holding their own, or in some instances, falling off from season to season.

### New Bloom Trade Sought

Reference has been made to the returns enjoyed by some of the pioneer growers from the sale of blooms from their narcissus fields. At times these have been very gratifying but among the larger growers not a great deal of dependence is placed on the revenue from this source. Some of the Holland growers follow the policy of not allowing blooms to be cut for sale from their bulb fields. They take the position that to market the blooms is to enter into competition with their florist customers to whom they expect later to sell their bulbs. The industry of growing narcissus for the bulbs has attained such magnitude that it is impossible to find a local market for all the blooms, and of recent years competition has become so keen that the blooms are sold at very reasonable prices. But, even now, literally millions of them are marketed each season in the nearby cities and hundreds of thousands of them are shipped each season to distant parts of the country, even as far as Chicago. The field blooming season begins about March 10 and lasts six weeks. At the height of the season the blooms are sold from the fields at prices as low in some instances as \$5 or \$6 per 1,000, and are retailed in the principal market centers as low as two dozen for 25 cents. One store in Tacoma sold four truck loads of them on one Saturday afternoon in 1926 and at this last named price. Even at a price of \$5 a thousand a good income could be made in growing narcissus for the blooms alone if the grower could find a market for all he could grow, since it is easily possible to produce from 150,000 to 250,000 blooms to the acre from a planting two or three

(Continued on Page 42)