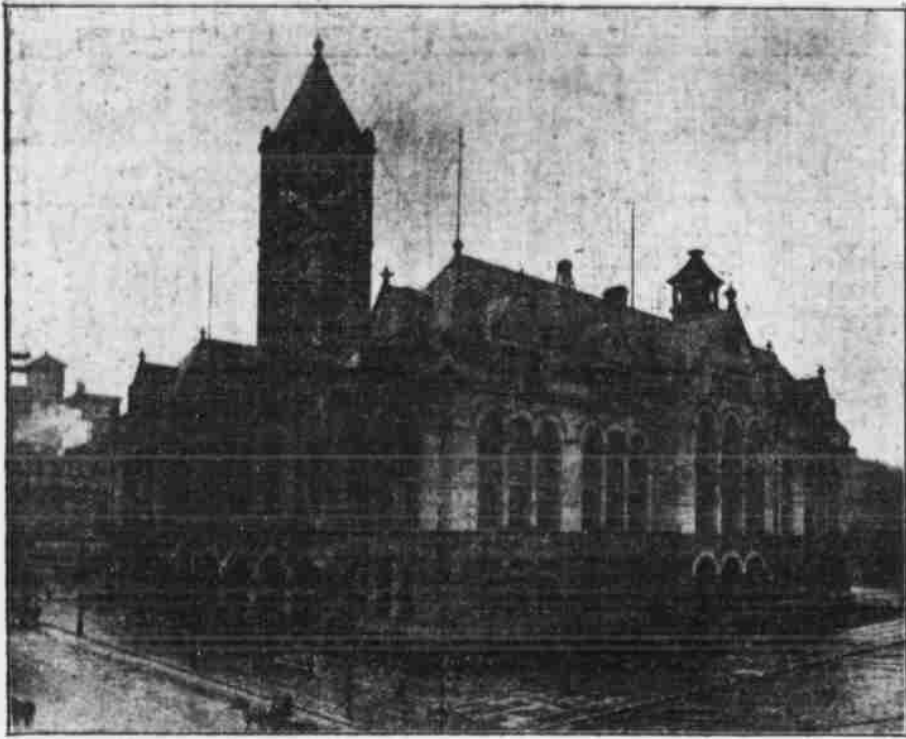


# Uncle Sam's Headquarters in Omaha

Pictures Made from Photos by a Staff Artist



THE OMAHA POSTOFFICE—EAST AND NORTH FRONTS FROM SIXTEENTH AND CAPITOL AVENUE.



THE OMAHA POSTOFFICE—WEST AND SOUTH FRONTS FROM SEVENTEENTH AND DODGE STREETS.

**S**IXTH in size in the United States, and costing approximately \$2,000,000, the postoffice building in Omaha is an ornament not alone to the city, but to the entire west. It occupies the entire block bounded by Sixteenth street on the east, the main front; Seventeenth street on the west, Dodge street on the south and Capitol avenue on the north. Its architecture is of the Renaissance period, and the main structure is built in the form of a quadrangle, surmounted on the east front by a tower of 150 feet in height from the street. The basement is built of Minnesota granite and the main structure of gray Colorado granite, the inner walls being of cream colored porcelain brick. It has a frontage of 210 feet on Sixteenth and Seventeenth streets and 200 feet on Dodge street and Capitol avenue. The building is four stories in height, and is absolutely fireproof. It is roofed with slate and is in all respects a complete and safe structure. The public corridors of the first floor are wainscoted with rose colored marble. The wainscoting of the second, third and fourth floors in the older part of the building are of hardwood and white marble is utilized in wainscoting much of the new or west wing on all the three

propriated under the original appropriation limit. On March 2, 1891, an act was passed increasing the appropriation \$75,000; March 2, 1895, \$200,000 additional was appropriated; June 11, 1895, \$100,000 additional; June 4, 1897, \$125,000 additional. On March 2, 1899, an act was passed increasing the total cost of construction to \$1,800,000. The following day \$150,000 was appropriated for the work, and on March 3, 1901, \$350,000 was appropriated for a like purpose. On June 6, 1902, an act was passed increasing the limit of the total cost of construction to \$1,845,000. June 28, 1902, \$25,000 was appropriated to continue the work, and by the act of March 3, 1903, the total limit for construction was increased to \$1,870,000. On the same day \$10,000 was appropriated. The total amount of the appropriations up to this time being \$1,845,000, not including the appropriation of March 3, 1903.

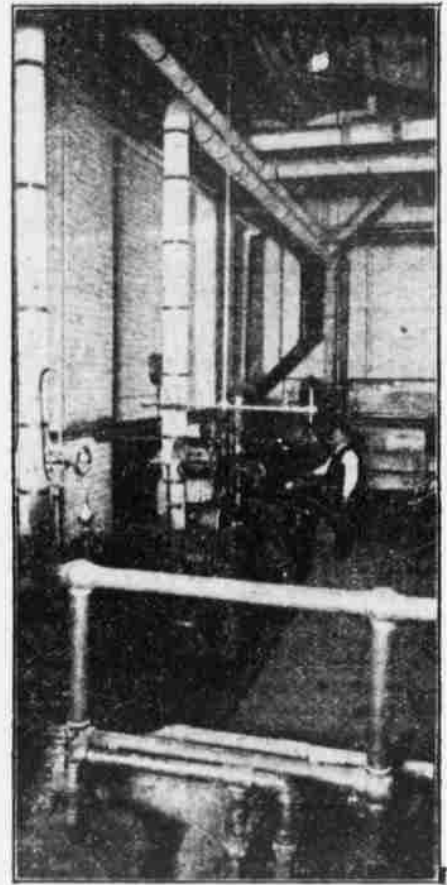
On the site and incidental expenses thereto \$400,000 was expended. On the building up to June 30, 1902, \$1,144,364.19 and during the fiscal year 1903 \$157,840.75, the total expenditure up to the close of the fiscal year of 1903 being \$1,302,204.94. At that time there was on deposit to the credit of the building in the Treasury department \$122,327.14; in the hands of the disbursing agent, \$20,467.92; unexpended bal-

ance, \$142,795.06; outstanding liabilities, \$142,882.80, leaving an available balance of \$412.28. This money was disbursed through the office of the custodian of the building, who is also the disbursing officer for the government for this purpose.

The building was first occupied in the fall of 1898 by the Postoffice department, and the other federal officials moved in at various intervals shortly afterward, as their quarters were made ready for them, all these departments having been previously quartered in the cramped quarters of the old federal building at Fifteenth and Dodge streets, which is now occupied as headquarters for the Military Department of the Missouri.

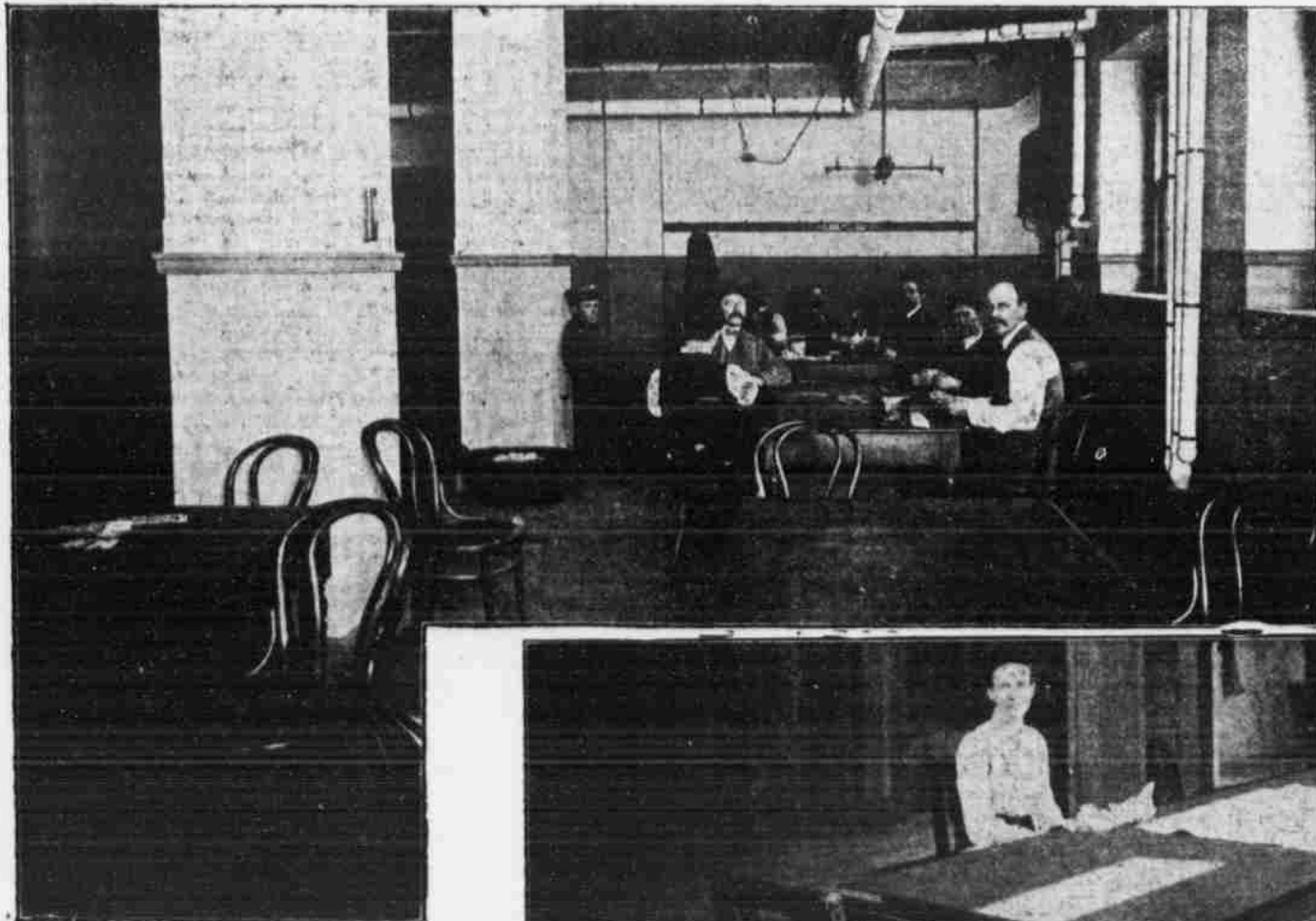
A peculiar fact exists with reference to the building in respect to its occupancy, and that is that with all its immensity there remains but two suites of rooms at present unassigned, which fact shows at a glance the great federal interests and department now centered here in Omaha.

The basement of the building is occupied by the steam heating plant, elevator machinery, ventilating machinery and electric light motors. Charles Baxter is chief engineer and is assisted by an assistant engineer, three firemen and two coal passers,



CORNER OF ENGINE ROOM SHOWING THE PUMPS.

In addition to the steam and electric operating plants are storage rooms. In these are stored old mail sacks, canceled money

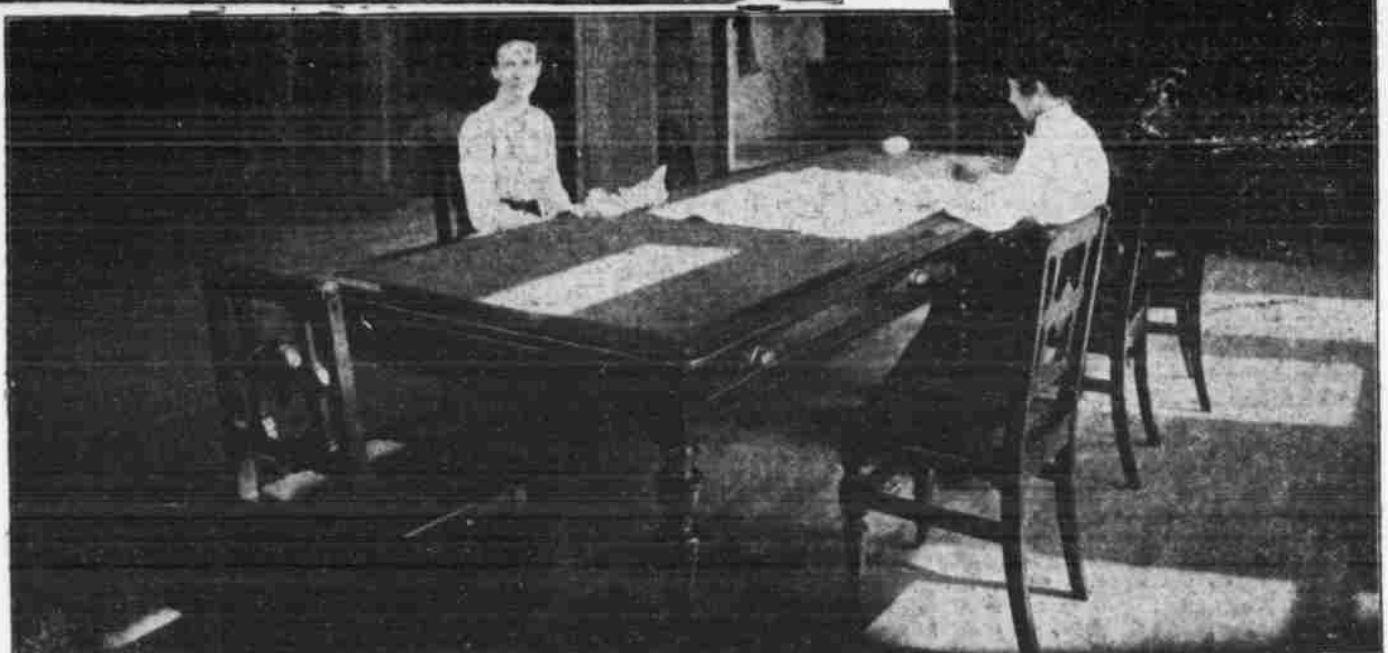


REST ROOM FOR THE MAIL CARRIERS

Upper floors.

The interior frame work is of steel, including all the beams and rafters. All of the floors are artistically laid Italian tiling, the pieces being an inch square, of varied colors, in perfect harmony with the general elegance of the building, giving it an artistic and quiet dignity.

The first appropriation for the building was made by the act of January 21, 1889, which limited the cost of site and building to \$1,300,000 (site not to exceed \$400,000), the initial appropriation being \$600,000. Under the act of August 5, 1892, \$300,000 was ap-



REST ROOM FOR THE WOMEN CLERKS