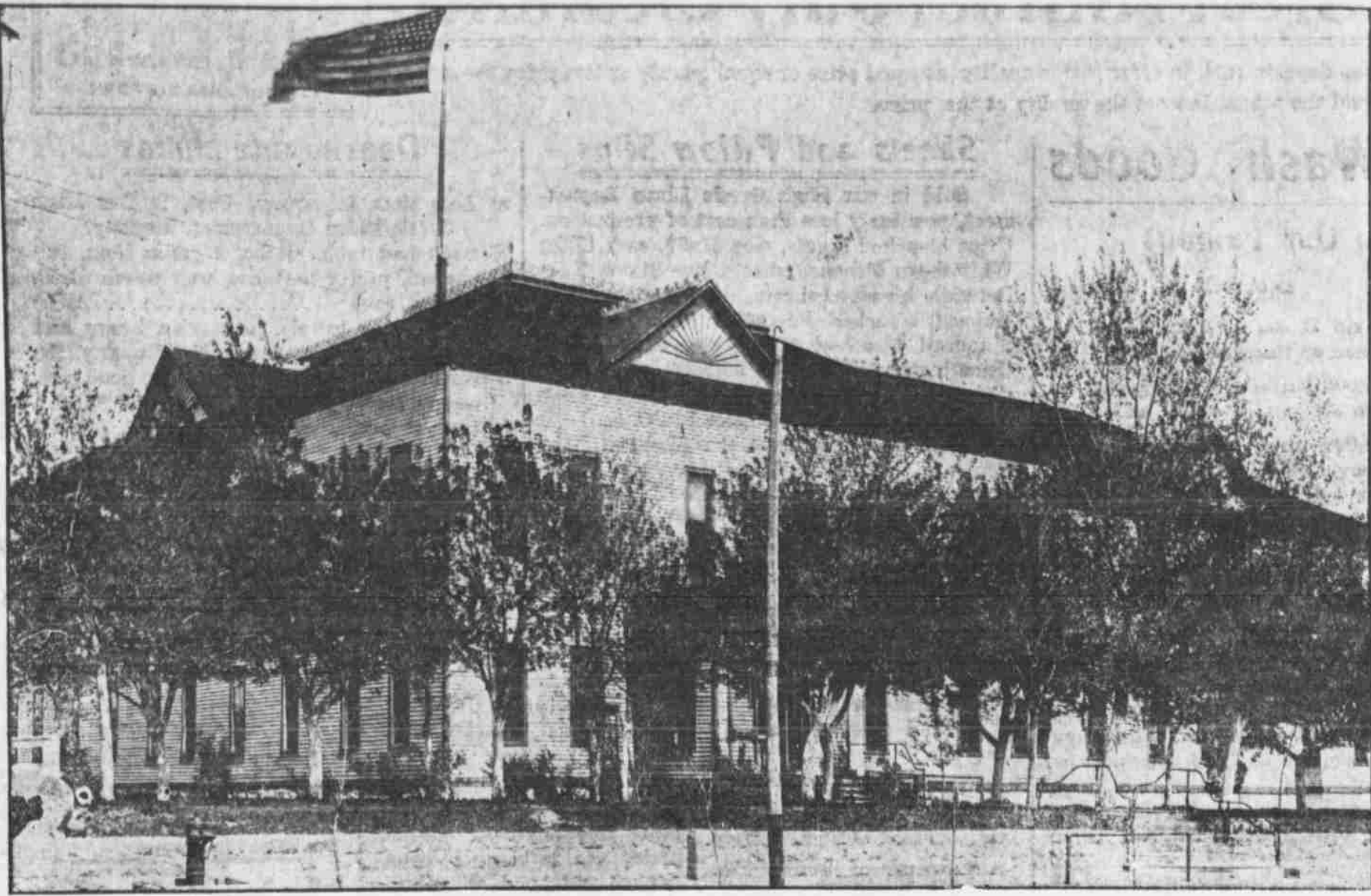


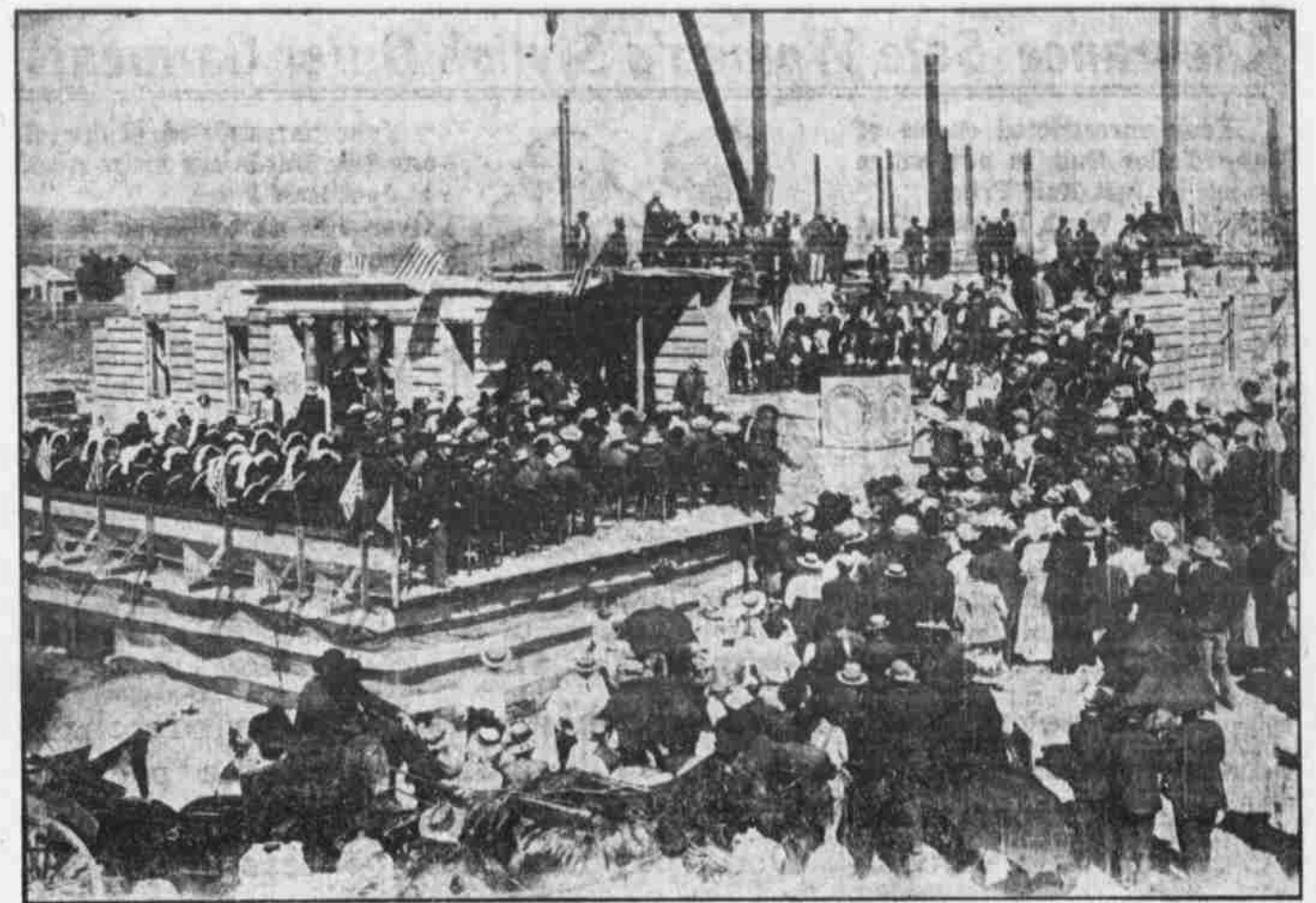
# Corner Stone Laid at Pierre Ends Fight for Capital in South Dakota



PRESENT SOUTH DAKOTA STATE HOUSE AT PIERRE



PERSPECTIVE DRAWING OF THE NEW SOUTH DAKOTA CAPITOL



LAYING THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NEW SOUTH DAKOTA CAPITOL AT PIERRE

**P**IERRE, S. D., July 4.—(Special Correspondence.)—The laying of the corner stone of the new capitol in this city last week marks an end to a struggle of a quarter of a century on the part of the people of Pierre to secure the location of the permanent capital of South Dakota in the center of the state. It is the fruition of hopes and struggles, into which the earlier residents of the city would never have plunged had they been able to look ahead and see all which it would mean in the way of expense and effort. But with the task once taken up, there has been no idea of stopping on the part of any of those engaged in the work, and while it has been a costly "whistle" which the city has paid for, they now feel that they have secured it, in fact, for all it is worth to any town at which a state capitol is located. From the very founding of Pierre, the capital aspiration was one of the tenets of its builders. The earliest papers teemed with the possibilities in that direction based on location and future development of the territory of Dakota.

With the capital of the territory located at Yankton, when the population of a handful of settlers along the eastern and southern borders of the territory, it remained until the boom days of the early '40s, when a new population poured into the territory on an immigration wave built on the construction of new lines of railroad built ahead of settlement and on faith in future development. As the population began to spread northward and westward, there came a demand for a change to a location more central both as to population and territory, and in the session of the territorial legislature of 1883 a bill was introduced for the removal of the territorial capital from Yankton to Huron.

This bill began to make headway, when the other ambitious towns of the territory got into the game and stopped progress on that measure. After the practical death of the Huron bill, on suggestion of Territorial Governor Ordway, the contending interests got together on the idea of a commission to select a site, and their combined strength succeeded in the enactment of a law to that effect, the commission to be named by the governor. In this move the Pierre people thought they saw an element of strength for themselves from the fact that George Ordway, son of the governor was heavily interested in the town, and with him the governor himself held interests.

**When Bismarck Won.**  
When the commission was appointed it consisted of nine members, six from the southern half of the territory, and three from the northern half, and the southern people all believed that they had the best of it, and wherever the capital might be located it would be in the southern half of the territory. And with the interests of the Ordway family at this city, Pierre felt that the governor had selected the men with such interests in view. The list selected being George A. Matthews, of Brooklyn; C. H. Meyers, of Redfield; H. H. DeLong, of Canton; John E. Vidler, of DeWitt; M. Thompson, of Vermilion; Alex. Hughes, of Elk Point. This was the list from the southern half of the territory, while those from the northern half were Alex. McKenzie, of Bismarck; B. F. Spaulding, of Fargo and Dr. Scott of Grand Forks. Under the law the commission was to organize at Yankton, but for some reason best known to the commission, they did not care to visit the ancient capital. They met at Sioux City, and agreed upon the organization, and boarded a train which would take them through Yankton, and as soon as the city limits were reached organized as the train was being pulled rapidly through, selecting Hughes as chairman, and Ralph Wheelock, a Mitchell newspaper man—now a resident of Minneapolis, as secretary. The train proceeded on north from Yankton, making its first stop at Canton, which was the nearest aspirant for the honors under the provisions of the law.

The list of candidates and the offers they presented to the state were as follows: Aberdeen, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Bismarck, \$100,000 and 200 acres of land; Canton, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Frankfort, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Huron, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Mitchell, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Pierre, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Ordway, \$100,000 and 400 acres of land; Odessa, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Redfield, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land; Steele, \$100,000 and 100 acres of land.

These bids were opened and the commission started out to view the different locations offered to them. Its trip was one "grand round of pleasure," each town vying with the others in its attempt to impress the members most favorably. After putting in several weeks of travel and stopping to pay a visit at each town, the commission finally rallied up at Grand Forks and began to ballot. Canton, Pierre, Redfield and Bismarck were the towns which received votes on the first ballots, with the three Dakota members standing by Bismarck on every ballot. Finally DeWitt, who had been voting for Pierre,



John Sutherland



J. J. Davenport



W. H. H. Beadle

THREE OF THE MEN WHO ARE BUILDING THE NEW SOUTH DAKOTA CAPITOL

changed to Bismarck and Hughes swung over with him, giving the North Dakota town the location.

**Towns that Have Faded.**  
Of the list of towns which entered the field at that time two are but a memory, being Ordway, in Brown county, which is now a flag station, and Odessa, on the shores of Devil's lake, North Dakota, which has been wiped off the map completely, not even remaining as a postoffice. Ordway was backed by a syndicate of Chicago men, who named it after the governor with a hope that the desire to perpetuate his name would bring his influence to bear upon the commission in the way of location. Odessa was a town only in name at that time and was backed by a syndicate from Grand Forks, who put up the certified check required before any town would be considered. It was twelve miles from a railroad and the members of the commission were taken to the location in carriages provided for the occasion. The only other North Dakota towns which attempted to secure the plum were Bismarck, the winner, and Steele, on the Northern Pacific between Jamestown and Bismarck. Among the southern aspirants were several which were factors in capital fights in future years when the territory had been divided and the northern towns were no longer a factor.

**Pierre Gets in Game.**  
But with the selection of Bismarck by the commission their troubles did not end. Pierre wanted the capital and "wanted it bad" and did not let matters rest with the selection. At the first session of the territorial legislature at the new location in 1885 V. E. Prentiss of this city went to the session as a representative of Pierre interests and attempted to get a removal bill through to relocate at Pierre. His move came too soon in the game and the removal proposition did not make any great amount of headway.

Before the next session, in 1887, a new governor was appointed for the territory in Gilbert A. Pierce, a Chicago newspaper man. When he came into the territory to take up his duties some of the interested ones wanted to know what his position would be on the question of capital location, and in a speech he made at Huron before going to the capital he stated that the capital removal question was one for the people of the territory to settle for themselves and that he would not interfere in whatever they might want in that direction. In the session of 1887 W. S. Wells of Pierre took up the work on a removal bill and succeeded in getting a bill for removal to Pierre through both houses, only to have it blocked by a veto on the part of the governor, who had promised to keep hands off. It was called up for action regardless of the veto and mustered enough strength in the assembly, or lower house, to carry it over the veto. It then went to the senate, with the removalists hopeful and jubilant, but when it came to the test vote it failed of the required two-thirds by one vote, the member of the council from Clay county changing his vote to sustain the veto, after having voted for the original removal bill. After the vote had been taken and discussion was no longer in order, Frank Pettigrew of Sioux Falls, a member of the council for the session, arose and delivered a scolding to the South Dakota member who would take such an action, which left the member red with anger and placed him in different company for the rest of the session than that of the men who he had associated with up to that date. Wells was arrested on a trumped up charge of bribery and locked up in Bismarck until he could secure bonds, and as soon as he got out of custody he stopped to pay a visit at each town, the commission finally rallied up at Grand Forks and began to ballot. Canton, Pierre, Redfield and Bismarck were the towns which received votes on the first ballots, with the three Dakota members standing by Bismarck on every ballot. Finally DeWitt, who had been voting for Pierre,

of 1888, the last territorial session; the rest of the record has to do with South Dakota alone, and goes back to 1885.

**Division and Statehood.**  
In that year the move for division and provisional statehood was placed before the people of the south half of the territory and a vote was secured. With the question of possible division came also a question of capital location, and Pierre, Huron, Sioux Falls and Alexandria entered the lists. While but little attention was paid to this election in many parts of the territory and a light vote was cast, Huron won in the vote.

Matters so far as the south half of the territory were allowed to go in this way until the final statehood bill was secured in 1889. At that time Huron interests demanded that as they had secured a majority of the votes in 1888 that town should be made the capital of the south half by the provisions of the bill. Congressman Springer of Illinois opposed naming any town as the capital of the new state, but demanded that it should be settled by a vote of the people. His views prevailed and the statehood bill carried a provision that in the election of 1889 for the selection of the first state officers a vote should be taken on temporary location to be free of all. That the following year a vote would be taken on permanent location to be free of all, and if no town secured a majority of all the votes cast for capital, that at the following election the two towns which were in the lead in the first fight for permanent capital should be submitted to the people securing the majority of the votes to be the "permanent capital" of the state. This he explained was to prevent continued dispute over capital location.

**Race for New Honor.**  
Under the provisions of this law the towns of Pierre, Huron, Sioux Falls, Mitchell, Watertown, Redfield and Chamberlain went into the race for temporary capital. It was a fight of cash. While every town in the race plunged in the way of expense, Pierre and Huron led them all, and both towns were "in" the campaign of that year. Both had spread their limits to take in as much territory as possible and assessed it at a high rate to give them a greater bonding capacity, and bonds were issued on any

kind of an excuse to secure the funds for the fight.

All kinds of schemes were worked out, lots were platted in outlying territory and the campaign workers for the two towns were loaded with blank deeds ready to fill in the name of the party who would accept one as an inducement to work for the town. One of the unique features of this campaign was the organization of the Capital Investment company by a number of business men in the southern part of the state. They sold stock all over the state and then went to the different towns asking for bonuses to select that place as the one where they would invest their money, each stockholder being interested to the extent of his stock in giving what he thought would be an increase in the investment made by having the capital location. After canvassing the propositions made to them by the different towns, they selected Pierre as their place of investment and purchased a large tract of land near the city. This directed the stockholders' interests this way, and no doubt controlled many votes. When the contest was ended in October, the vote being: Pierre, 27,096; Huron, 14,914; Watertown, 11,970; Sioux Falls, 11,765; Mitchell, 7,666; Chamberlain, 2,414. On that vote Pierre secured the temporary seat of government and on November 1 the first session of the state legislature was held for the purpose of selecting two United States senators and was in session two days for that purpose, the senate holding its sessions in the Congregational church and the house its sessions in the Hughes county court house. Before the regular session in January the city had made good its promise and had erected a building for the holding of the session, it now being the main part of the present old capitol, to which a wing was attached at state expense two years later.

**Pierre Against Huron.**  
The next year while under the provisions of the law, it was a free for all permanent capital location, all the contestants dropped out except Pierre and Huron, and another fierce campaign was fought. Pierre increased its assessment and issued more bonds, and laid out other additions for donation lots, and Huron sold the municipal water plant to raise funds. The fight was on the same line, of centrality and future development on the part of

Pierre, and better present location on the part of Huron, and after both towns had practically bankrupted themselves, the vote was again in favor of Pierre by a vote of 4,876 to 3,423 for Huron.

Huron then began a legislative fight for re-submission, and attempted to secure the submission of a constitutional amendment changing the location. They made their first trial in 1892, and followed it with another in 1893, and again in 1897, two efforts were made, in which bills passed both houses at different times, but the same bill did not get through both houses. The session of 1899 was allowed to go without an effort to make a change, but in 1901, Watertown boomers came down with a bill to change to Watertown, but fell down early in the session, and then Mitchell took up the fight, and was defeated in the house after practically an all night session. Then in the session of 1902 came the combined assault of Mitchell, Huron and Redfield, which went into a combine to secure relocation votes with an agreement that the town, which was to be named in the new bill was to be selected by caucus. The scheme was worked up by Mitchell after they had secured pledges from what they considered a majority of the possible members, who would favor capital change, and then used Huron and Redfield as cat-paws to help them gather chestnuts, with a certainty that in the caucus they would be left out, and Mitchell be the winner. The bill was pushed early in the session, and one of the peculiarities of it was that it came to the house from the senate in time to be passed on Friday, January 12, in a year which had thirteen for its numerals. The thirteen followed by Pierre receiving thirteen votes in Mitchell at the time of the election, and Mitchell receiving thirteen votes in Huron county, in which Pierre is located at the same election.

Jones and seventy-five" and Jones with the pass in his pocket presented it, and it was up to the conductor to pick the seventy-five in the crowd on a train of from ten to twelve coaches, all crowded to the steps, and with a half dozen "Jones" passes presented. For the last thirty days of the campaign the smallest number, which visited Pierre in any one day was 7,000 and one day the record went up to 10,000. These people had to be entertained, and sent home feeling satisfied, and the population of the town was organized into a reception committee, with every house admitting lodgers, who were assigned from a central office at which a large room was arranged for a checking room, and was open at all hours, special trains arriving at any time of the night or day, each of which was met by men with megaphones, instructing the travelers where to go to be provided with lodgings and stopping places.

The same argument of rally and future development which had been used by Pierre from the beginning of its existence was again potent in this campaign, and the final vote was 57,500 for Pierre, and 40,600 for Mitchell.

**Nailing Down the State House.**  
The following session the legislature took up the question of the construction of a suitable permanent capitol on the grounds at Pierre, and after quarreling over it in the legislature for some time, provided for a wing of a building to be constructed at a cost of not more than \$100,000, to be so constructed as to form a harmonious part of a whole building. The governor, auditor, secretary of state, and state land commissioner, were to comprise the commission to look after the construction of the building. These officials, after traveling to the capitals of several states, decided that the building, which has been erected in Montana, was in the line of what would better fit the needs of this state than any other which they had found, and secured plan for a completed building upon the plans of the Montana construction, somewhat modified, and advertised for bids for the construction of the foundation of the seat wing. This contract was let, and work completed in the fall of 1905. In 1906, they advertised for bids for the erection of the main part of the capitol, representatives of Sioux Falls went into the supreme court asking for an injunction to prevent the bond from being sold on the ground that they did not intend to use any South Dakota material in the work. After the application had been made the commission stopped procedure until the court had passed upon the application, and then rejected all bids. It was then so late in the year that nothing more was done until after the election, and new officers formed the commission.

This wait also brought a new legislative session, and this session decided upon proceeding with the construction of the complete structure instead of only a portion of it, fixing the cost of the whole structure at \$600,000, and providing means for the funds, which might be lacking after the time completed by the general government for the construction of a capitol. They also provided that in the letting of bids the commission might give South Dakota stone a 5 per cent preference in the letting of contracts.

**Sioux Falls Stone Cut Out.**  
Bids were advertised for, and the contract was let to O. H. Olsen of Sillwater, Minn., on a basis of construction of a combination of Sioux Falls granite, Ortonville granite and Bedford limestone. Later the contractor came to the commission, with a report that he could not get any Sioux Falls quarriesmen to bid on furnishing the stone without a time limit which would delay work on the structure for a least a year, and even would not furnish a bond that they would have the stone at the time they asked for getting it out. On this showing, and after correspondence with the Sioux

Falls quarriesmen, the Sioux Falls granite was cut out of the contract, and Marquette rai-drop sandstone substituted in its stead, and all the South Dakota material which goes into the structure, is the granite boulders used for the foundation, and the Yankton cement used in the construction.

The new building is 300 feet in length, with a width of 100 feet in the center, and 100 feet in the wings. To the top of the tower it will be 154 feet from the foundation. The sub-basement is walled with granite boulders, and the basement story is constructed of a combination of rai-drop sandstone and Ortonville granite, above which the building will be of Bedford limestone, making it a combination of brown and light gray stone. The dome is to be covered with polished copper.

The halls of the two houses of the legislature will be in the wings on the second floor above the basement, and will extend to the roofs, making that portion of the building three stories, but office rooms will be fitted in a fourth story above the legislative halls. The principal offices will be on the first floor above the basement. The contract calls for a completed building by the first of July, 1910, and the first legislative session which will meet in the new structure will be the session of 1911.

While the new building is immense when compared with the old wooden structure, which has served the state for twenty years, the indications at present are that it will be too small for the use of the state before many years go by, and that another building for the supreme court will be required to allow the necessary room for the other state business in the main building, within ten years from the present.

**Establishes Old Religion in Omaha**



CONSTANTINOS HARVALIN, Greek Catholic Priest from Athens

## Gossip and Stories About Noted People

**A Beaten Philibuster.**  
PROPOS of the recent attempted filibuster in the senate it is recalled how similar tactics were attempted and defeated in the Virginia democratic convention of 1877. Mr. Horace Lacy attempted then to talk against time so as to prevent the nomination of candidates until the platform had been reported. It was a hot July day, and the hall was crowded. Hour after hour the speaker kept up his flow of words, exhausting his hearers if not himself. He talked so long that his voice grew husky and clapping his hands for a page he ordered a pitcher of water, and when it came he paused long enough to pour the contents down his throat. Then in the pause, before the speaker could resume, there came a voice from the section where the Wash county delegation was seated, that cried: "That's the first time that ever I see a windmill run by water." The storm of filibuster that ensued was too much for the filibuster. Mr. Lacy sank to his seat and the convention went on with its business.

**The Wrong Man.**  
B. F. Keith before his rise to fame in the vaudeville field was the imprecario of a dime museum in Boston. This was a good many years ago, but he still tells of an experience that befell him in his search for novelties in the way of freaks. "I read in the paper one day of a man up in Maine who had just celebrated his hundredth birthday and was still hale and hearty," said Mr. Keith. "I remember his name well. It was Amos Whitfield. I journeyed to his farm and found him in the early evening sitting on his stoop smoking a pipe. I introduced myself and grasped his hand. 'Yo' 'n' me war bo'n on the same day, Mistah Roosevelt,' the darky enthusiastically said, his shining face almost clort from ear to ear by a grin. 'Delighted, indeed, to hear it!' warmly responded the president, taking a fresh grip on the black hand and laughing heartily. 'So you and I were born on the same day?' 'Will, wick,' said the darky. 'Yo' 'n' me forty-seven yers old, sah?' 'I am,' was the quick answer. 'An' yo' war bo'n on Octobah 17, 1851?' 'Yes.' 'Ya'as, sah,' then exclaimed the darky, shaking all over with rapture; 'Ya'as, sah, Mr. Roosevelt, yo' 'n' me is bofe twint'!"

**Completing the Speech.**  
When Ambassador Whiteley held was running for the vice presidency, says the New York Press, he made the speech of his career at a banquet in New York. The pro-fa had been on the books in the Tribune office for days, corrected and recorrected, with a big "must" on it for the morning after. At midnight there was a "leak" of the "phone. Mr. Reid, having delivered his speech, summoned the night editor and said he wanted to make a few interpolations. He then read the speech in full over the wire, and his interpolations were—at almost every period: "Applause," "Much applause," "Loud applause," "Loud and continued applause," "Frequent applause," "Vociferous applause," etc.

asked if it were true that he was 100 years old. He replied that he was. I then made him an offer to exhibit himself as the oldest man alive. "I guess you've made a mistake, ain't ye?" he said. "You must be thinkin' of my father." "Your father? I gasped. Is your father alive?" "Surest thing you know," said Amos. "Ye'eb is he?" I asked. "He's upstairs puttin' grandpas to bed," replied Amos, ruffling his pipe. —Philadelphia Ledger.