

LARGEST LIBRARY IN WORLD

Great Structure in New York to Be Dedicated on Wednesday.

THREE FUNDS ARE CONSOLIDATED

Institution Opens with Three and Half Million Endowment and Three Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Volumes.

NEW YORK, May 20.—The New York Public Library, the largest, the most costly and one of the most beautiful buildings designed for its specific uses in the world, will be dedicated to the instruction and the convenience of the public on Wednesday of this week by President Taft, Governor Dix, Mayor Gaynor and a distinguished representation of the culture of the entire nation. It holds shelf room for 3,000,000 volumes; it has a floor space of 275,000 feet, as against 225,000 feet in the Congressional library at Washington, and it has cost for erection merely more than \$10,000,000, a figure which, when all details have been attended to, may rise to \$12,000,000. The land on which it stands, fronting two blocks on Fifth avenue, between Fortieth and Forty-second street, was last valued at \$35,000,000.

Three foundations, originating in private beneficence, merge in the present public foundation—the Astor library, incorporated in 1849; the Lenox library, incorporated in 1850; and the Tilden trust, incorporated in 1887. The city, empowered by special act of the legislature, gave the land and defrayed the cost of erection. The architects and assistants were the architects, John Carrere, one of the moving spirits in the American renaissance of the present generation, was run down by a taxicab and died before he could see his greatest work established as a part of the life of the community.

At the time of consolidation, the Astor library owned its site and building and had an endowment of \$411,000, with an annual income of \$47,000 and 287,000 volumes; the Lenox library owned its site and buildings and had an endowment of \$500,000, an income of \$50,000 and 85,000 volumes, and the Tilden trust owned 20,000 volumes and had an endowment of \$1,000,000. The New York Public Library, therefore, opens with a total endowment of \$2,446,500 and 270,000 books on the shelves. Within the next twenty-five years ten times as many are expected—3,700,000. The catalogue room now has 3,000,000 cards and can rise to 10,000,000 without feeling cramped.

Low Lays Cornerstone. Nine years ago next November the cornerstone was laid by Mayor Seth Low. Since then criticism has been abundant, not always well informed and often conflicting. In great measure the public has been hampered in any true appreciation of the building as a whole by the fragmentary and ragged state of its approaches. Said John W. Alexander, the painter: "The public library reminds me of a beautiful woman who hasn't kept her finger nails clean." All that has now been done with the approaches, however, have been cleared and the building stands free to the public gaze as the architects planned.

Not the least interesting about it is the land on which it stands. At the opening of the revolution the site was part of the spacious country place of Robert Murray, a Quaker merchant of the busy city that then lay three miles south of him. At that time the town had only reached as far north as Fulton street. As it grew, the adjacent countryside took his name and became Murray Hill, long a select residential district, still the home of J. Pierpont Morgan, but now invaded by the advancing forces of business.

In 1829 the city contained 12,796 inhabitants and about 20,000 houses. There was no strictly residential quarter, but the most promising development unfolded the field which has since become Washington Square, at the foot of Fifth avenue. But there was a drawback. Before the rich merchants could be expected to build about the square, it was necessary to find a new potter's field, for the friendless dead were buried in the acres about to become a pleasure ground for the living. Accordingly the city bought the land now bounded to north and south by Fortieth and Forty-second streets and to east and west by Fifth and Sixth avenues, for \$348, and made a potter's field of it. That was in 1823 and the same land was last valued at \$20,000,000.

In 1837 it was decided to make the field a reservoir for the newly planned Croton system, not only because the ground was high, but because it was then far out in the country, where the approach of the water and there was "little chance of the water becoming contaminated." The site now rests at the busiest corner in the city and is already beginning to be counted downtown, but the reservoir stood, long an anachronism, until it was torn down to make way for the new library.

Dimensions Are Imposing. The dimensions of the building are imposing in themselves, but much as has been written about it, there is a singularly little authoritative critical comment on its architectural merits or defects. In exterior dignity, general opinion holds it nobly adequate. For interior spaciousness and unity, it is felt, perhaps, to fall below the Boston Public Library as a pure monument of beauty, but to exceed any other building of its nature in the world for combined beauty and utility. In general the style is a blend of the Italian and French Renaissance, and Gustave Kobbe has characterized this blend as "thoroughly harmonized and made congruous, not merely conglomerate. The result," he says, "is artistic and dignified."

The exterior is exclusively of white marble. Very little of anything else has been used inside or out, although colored marbles, both native and foreign, soft limestone and woodwork have been freely employed as decorative accessories. The library stands 280 feet long on Fifth avenue and 270 feet deep. (Including the two exterior court yards, carved out of the main block for light and air, it covers a superficial area of 115,000 square feet and has a floor space of 275,000 square feet. It took 200,000 tons of white Vermont marble to build it not counting the marble feet rejected because of flaws. All the marble was exposed to the elements for a year or more to test its qualities of endurance. When the builder took the contract he bought the quarry outright, roofed it over and worked it night and day, summer and winter.

The main entrance opens from Fifth avenue upon the rotunda, a room which, though impressive in its purity of outline and dignified simplicity, disappoints some critics as lacking in spaciousness for the introductory to a structure of such huge proportions. The architects on the contrary, felt the room adequate in itself and everywhere here to mind the needs of a living organism. They kept the halls and corridors severe and simple. They laid the floors in marble and tiling to withstand the tread of generations. They decorated the ceilings richly, but they made no contracts for mural paintings, a conspicuous contrast from the example of the Boston and the Congressional libraries. In this instance it was felt wiser to leave blank panels which may be filled as the artistic consciousness of the city, the commemorative needs of the day and the

private munificence of the hour may suggest.

As a mechanism, as a masterpiece of convenience, the library is believed to be without equal in the world. It has facilities both ordinary and extraordinary never before attempted. There is a reading room for the blind. There is a charming little room for children, with diminutive chairs and low tables, quite in the manner of a nursery, over which a motherly superintendent will have charge. There are eight private rooms for the use of scholars. It was remembered, for instance, that Rear Admiral Mahan wrote his monumental works on the influence of sea power almost entirely in the public rooms of the Astor library.

Largest Reading Room in World. But the crowning glory of the edifice is the great reading room, the largest in the world, on the top floor at the rear, surmounting the stack room. It runs 256 feet in length, seventy-seven feet in width and stands fifty feet high, with ceilings painted to simulate the cloud-drifted sky. Bisecting it is a double, roof screen, eighty-four feet wide and divided into arches; the purpose of which is to serve the delivery shaft to each member of which one of the arches is apportioned. Gustave Kobbe has described this screen in part as follows: "Elegant in proportion, simple and dignified in design, with beautiful carved Corinthian columns and gracefully arched floors, it carries the beholder back to the old English abbey. The material is quartered American oak." Woodwork plays a conspicuous part in the color scheme of the whole building. It blends with the marbles and the mosaics and reflects the tone of the gorgeous ceilings. Nearly half a million square feet of Circassian walnut, French walnut and Indiana oak have been used, but the proportion of native to foreign wood is as five to one. The care spent upon this detail work was one of the causes that contributed to the length of time it took the library to rise. "A century hence," said John Carrere, "the classic perfection attained by the artisans who executed this carving, then softened by the prime of time, will have rendered this work an antique that will be much appreciated. How could such a result have been hastily attained? Time is indeed precious, but it is economically expended when the result is so satisfactory."

The books themselves, the treasure ground on which the rest of the library is built, are housed in a stack room directly beneath the main reading room, comprised of seven stories, each ten feet high. They have an impressive monotony of perspective, regular, severe and almost surgically aseptic. The framework is latticed steel and the shelves of bronze. No reader, however privileged, will be allowed inside. His call slip will come down to the attendants through one of many pneumatic tubes, and elevators will carry the book he wishes back to him. There are sixty-three miles of shelves in the stack room alone and twenty-seven miles more in other rooms devoted to special departments, making ninety miles of shelf room in all.

Unlike so many modern buildings the New York public library is built as the ancients built, for eternity. The vault of the rotunda is a true vault, not a veneer from supports above. The walls are solid masonry. The roof is masonry, tiling and metal. Steel has only been used where the ancients would have used wood. The millions that went into it will endure, and as the library is enriched from year to year by gift and legacy it will grow in beauty and usefulness.

Good Advice. "Limantour advises the Mexican rebels to lay down their arms." "Before they take his advice I should like to give them a bit." "And what would you advise?" "I'd advise them, as soon as they had laid down their arms, to take to their legs."—Judge.

Dull Preacher Responsible. Wife—John, dear, your trousers badly need pressing. They look as if you'd been sleeping in them. Hubby—I have. These are the ones I wore to church—Boston Transcript.

Straw Hats Cleaned & Blocked Too

And we clean and block felt hats also, but "straws" are timely, hence this announcement. Now then, if you want a professional cleaning and blocking of straw hats, let us know. DON'T give a hat to some street fakir to be cleaned; DON'T buy a 5c packet of powder and expect to do a better job YOURSELF. You wouldn't feel right if you ruined some swell Panama, would you? We do high class cleaning at 5c up. Better tell us all about your hat over the phone; then we will quote our prices and our statements about WHAT can be done with it.

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THE FOURTH WEEK OF MY BIG SALE BEGINS TOMORROW

In every way this sale has been a success. It has pleased and satisfied thousands of patrons. Several rush shipments have this week been forwarded to me from the eastern manufacturing jewelers and silversmiths who authorized me to conduct it.

SPECIAL OFFERS FOR NEXT WEEK

Note the following list of high grade articles and the prices. Take advantage of them now. I may be instructed to stop this sale at any time.

BUY WEDDING AND GRADUATION GIFTS NOW AT JUST HALF PRICE

Don't let this opportunity slip by. Come in tomorrow and make your selections from these new shipments and at these greatly reduced prices.

DIAMONDS. Graduation time is near. Our beautiful line of diamond jewelry is most appropriate for gifts. Misses' 1/2-carat diamond in 14K Tiffany mount. \$23.75. Special sale price \$12.50.

WATCHES. Watches are ideal graduation gifts for boys and girls. Here are two of our leaders: Misses' 6 size watch, Elgin or Waltham movement, in solid gold filled 20 year plain or hand engraved case; special sale price \$10.00.

BOYS' 16-size watch, Elgin, Waltham or Rockford 15-jewel, patent regulator movement, fitted in solid gold filled 20-year plain or hand engraved case; \$11.75 sale price \$6.00.

LOCKETS. A large variety of lockets in all late designs. Ask to see our new Sea Green finish lockets. Plain and fancy stone set lockets, \$2.50 to \$10.00. \$1.25 to \$5.

PENDANTS, LAVALIERES. Something new in this line of neckwear, in both solid gold and solid filled. Regular price \$4.50 to \$18.00; \$2.50 to \$22.50 sale price.

CUT GLASS. No wedding gift is more appreciated than a fine bit of cut glass. 8-in. Berry Bowls, \$5.50 value; special sale \$2.75.

CREAMERS AND SUGARS, \$5.00 to \$25.00 value; \$2.50 to \$4.75 sale price. All other articles in our entire line at just half price.

CUFF LINKS. Exceptional bargains this week in heavy set of solid gold plain Roman cuff buttons and scarf pin to match, easily worth \$12.00; engraving \$3.00.

ROGERS BROS. 1947 SILVERWARE. If you need table silverware, you'll not again equal these prices. 1/2 doz. Teaspoons, regular price \$2.00, sale price \$1.00.

1/2 doz. Dessert spoons, regular price \$3.50, sale price \$1.75. 1/2 doz. Tablespoons, regular price \$2.00, sale price \$1.00.

MONDAY—STERLING SILVER SOUVENIR SPOONS. Any Sterling Silver Spoon in the store, values up to \$2.00, your choice Monday \$1.00.

THE PINKEY RING PAD IS HERE. Different from anything else you ever saw. Pinkey Rings for the little finger to be worn one or three colors. \$1.00 each. Set of three \$2.75. Come in and see them.

"At the Sign of the Crown" Brodegaard & Co. JEWELERS 116 South Sixteenth Street OPPOSITE BRANDEIS STORES.

Office Furniture and Fixtures for Sale

Roll-top and Flat-top Desks, Office Tables, Typewriter, Filing Cases, Addressograph, Cabinets, etc., will be sold cheap for cash. Inquire at C. B. Havens & Co., 1805 Farnam street.

Why Do They Make It So Good? Luxus THE BEER YOU LIKE FRED KRUG BREWING CO. FOUNDED 1859 OMAHA, U.S.A. Consumers' Distributor JOHN NITTLER, 2234 South 24th St. Doug. 1828, Ind. A-1314.

WHITE SHOES DREXEL SHOE COMPANY 1419 Farnam Street.

ABOVE ALL IN QUALITY BEER OMAHA'S FAVORITE

White shoes will be more popular this season than ever before. For the Thin Summer Gown and for outgoing wear a Woman will want White Shoes. How neat and tidy they always look! Oxfords, Ties and Pumps of White Buck or Canvas. Covered heels with plain or tipped toes. \$2.50, \$3.00 to \$3.50.

White Footwear never looked as handsome as it does this season in the new models.

For Home Consumers -PHONE- Doug. 119; Ind. A-2119 Fry Shoe Co. THE SHOERS 16th and Douglas Streets.

Wm. J. Boekhoff Retail Dealer. Office, 803 So. 7th St.



The Clothes Scoop of the Season

2,000 Splendid New Spring Suits

Secured from C. J. Simon Clothing Co. of Philadelphia and the Broadway Special at a magnificent cash price reduction.

Offering Them to the Consumer

At 60c on the Dollar

All excellent new spring 1911 styles, colorings and fabrics, regular \$13.50, \$15.00, \$18.00, \$20.00, \$25.00 and \$27.50 values; divided into four great lots—

LOT 1 \$7.75 LOT 2 \$9.75 LOT 3 \$11.75 LOT 4 \$14.75

Yesterday's selling was the biggest our Clothing Department has ever known. The announcement of this clothing scoop brought the people and the quality of the offerings done the rest. Our selling capacity was taxed to its utmost and we expect even greater selling Monday.

You'll find in each lot pure worsteds, tweeds, Scotchies, cassimeres, blue serges—cut in conservative and college models.

Get in on this sale and get in quick before the lines are picked over. Sale will continue till every suit is sold but the earlier you buy the more complete assortments you'll have to select from.

See them Monday Sure. HAYDEN BROS. A fit and style for all. Come early.

Remember, our guarantee of satisfaction goes with these sale suits. We know the quality of material and workmanship will deliver the greatest amount of satisfaction you ever had out of a suit at any of these prices.

When You Move—Phone Us. You'll then appreciate having experienced, careful movers handling your household goods. Our prompt service—big clean vans and our willing employees will prove a revelation to you. 25 Years' Experience. GORDON Fireproof Warehouse & Van Co. 216 South 17th Street. Ground Floor See Bldg. 17th Street Side. Phone: Douglas 394; Ind. A-1314.

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