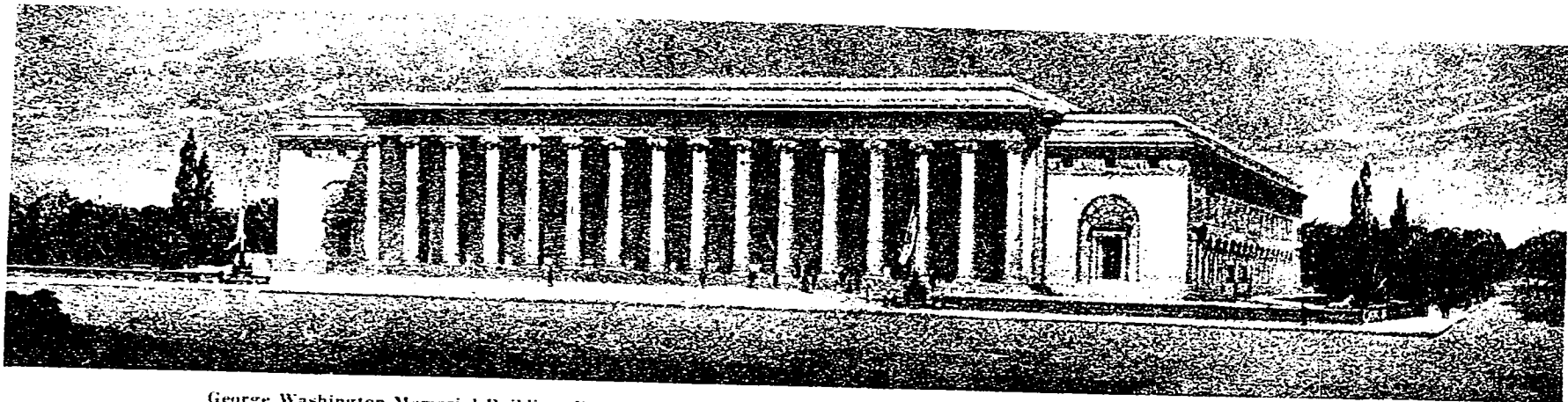


Memorial Temple Under Way in Washington: Fund Left by the First ...

By RUPERT HUGHES.

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George Washington Memorial Building, Proposed to Commemorate Both the Revolutionary War and the Struggle Just Ended.

Memorial Temple Under Way in Washington

Fund Left by the First President Was Basis of Project for Majestic Structure Which Can Be Utilized as a Joint Monument to the Men of '17 and '76

By RUPERT HUGHES.

'17 AND '76!
The men of 1917 have finished the task begun by the men of 1776, and have paid the debt incurred. The odd coincidence in numbers stands as the symbol of a real bond.

Washington borrowed of France the men and the money that saved the day for the freedom of the colonies. Wilson sent back to France the men and the money that saved the day for the freedom of the nations. We repaid Lafayette with Pershing.

There is a universal eagerness to build a fitting memorial to the heroes of the war of wars. Monuments will spring up all over the United States to individual men, officers, and organizations. But there is a desire for one great memorial.

The only place for it is, of course, the capital of the country, and Washington has been and will be in a large sense the capital of the world.

No memorial will be appropriate which has not a lasting value and a dignity of usefulness as well as beauty and splendor. No statue or group of statues could be reared which would express what this memorial must express. No column of melted cannon, though it were made of steel barrels a mile high, would convey the message. An imperial arch would imply nothing more than a gateway for conquerors and would act simply as an obstruction to traffic.

The right memorial must be a temple, a temple of architectural grandeur, a museum for statues, busts, tablets, archives and interesting relics, a place of daily resort, and a hall where meetings can be held.

It is an amazing fact that Washington, the city of monuments, the mecca of congresses, has no large and dignified meeting place, no convention hall of any dimensions.

The memorial described would therefore meet a pressing need.

What idea should this memorial most vividly express? Of what religion should

the temple be? Surely the religion of democracy, of freedom, of equality, of opportunity.

It should express the triumph of the ideals of Washington and the founders of this Republic as those ideals have spread throughout the world and united the world in the recent bloody victory over the spirit of autocracy.

The difficulties in the way of erecting such a temple are the expense at a time when the nation is staggering under a burden of debt; the discovery of a proper

carried out to the attainment of the noblest memorial imaginable.

The explanation can be briefly made: Since George Washington would accept no money for his services to the nation two gifts were voted to him, one consisting of a sum in cash, which he disposed of as an endowment to the university now known as Washington and Lee; the other a number of stock certificates valued then at \$25,000. This latter amount he set aside in his will to be used as a cumulative fund for the

But the country had now fairly blossomed with universities, every State having its own. The movement languished until the Presidency of the association was given to Mrs. Henry F. Dimock, sister of William C. Whitney, who, as Secretary of the Navy, won the title of Father of the New American Navy.

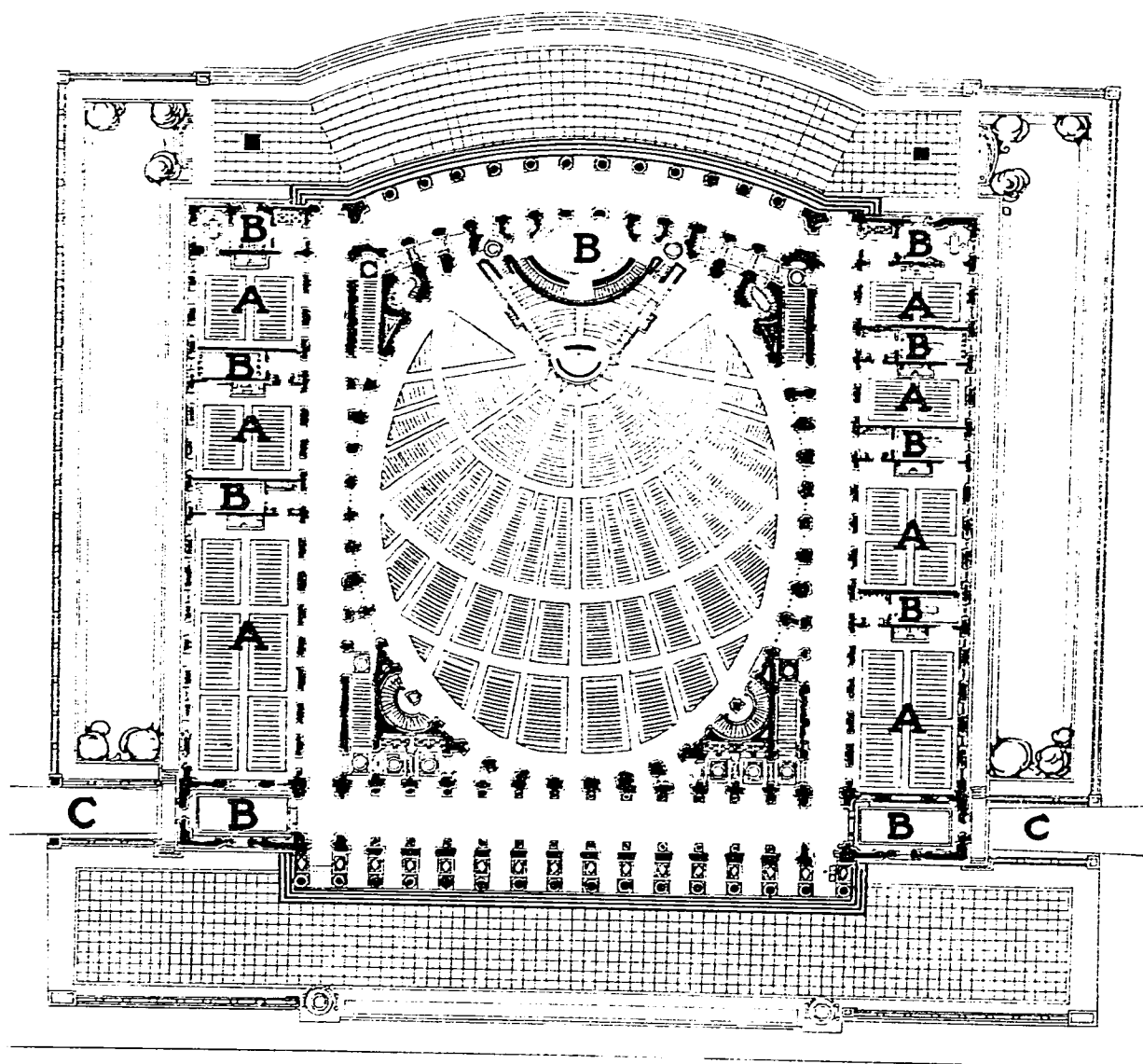
With characteristic Whitney energy, Mrs. Dimock set about the accomplishment of the long-neglected ideal. Gathering about her many eminent associates, she succeeded in accumulating a fund of

\$350,000 in cash, and contingent subscriptions to a still larger amount; and in procuring from Congress the grant of an ideal site, the tract of land formerly occupied by the Pennsylvania Station, and now covered in part by temporary buildings of the War Department. This is almost the only desirable site remaining unoccupied in Washington.

Finally, Mrs. Dimock succeeded in arranging a competition in designs by a dozen of the foremost American architects. The Committee of Award selected from these a plan of such impressive beauty as to silence criticism.

This majestic structure is spacious enough to house a multitude. The main auditorium occupies a floor space of 38,500 square feet, with a gallery of 10,000 square feet, giving a seating capacity of 7,000 persons; it would furnish room for inaugural receptions, national and international conventions and conferences, orchestral concerts and celebrations. Several smaller halls are grouped about it to accommodate meetings of smaller bodies, military, patriotic, scientific, medical, educational, and the like conventions.

On the second floor is a banquet hall with serving rooms, seating 600 people. Here also are rooms to be set apart as the permanent headquarters of societies of veterans, of reserve officers and groups of patriotic and other societies. The third and fourth floors would contain a museum and library for the care



Floor Plan of the Memorial, with Auditorium Seating 7,000 in Centre. (A) Assembly Rooms for Various National Organizations. (B) Reception Rooms. (C) Carriage Passage Through Building.

site, and the selection of a design worthy of the idea.

By a strange good fortune these difficulties can be removed, the ideal realized, and time, money, and hesitation saved. Construction can, in fact, begin at once.

Our entrance into the war interrupted the execution of plans which with a slight adaptation can be resumed and

diffusion of knowledge. In the vicissitudes of time the stock he bequeathed lost its value and the dying wish of the father of his country seemed likely to remain forever unfulfilled.

It was nearly a century later before a movement was set on foot to fulfill the wish. A society was formed and various projects were advanced, among them the foundation of a university.

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Memorial Temple Under Way in Washington

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of precious relics, souvenirs, and books on the art of war, and the histories of our soldiers; and smaller rooms for such special purposes as may arise.

When the United States entered the war, this project was well on its way. The committees had finished the hardest part of the task, securing a grant of land from Congress, an inspired and inspiring design from architects, and a large sum of money. Well begun is half done. But the outbreak of the war and the concentration of the national effort on the one great purpose put a stop to the collection of funds.

The triumphant conclusion of the war sees Mrs. Dimock and her associates at work again with a new zeal because of

the enlarged scope of the memorial. The plans have received the indorsement of the highest authorities. President Wilson wrote:

My Dear Mrs. Dimock: I am very much interested in the plans for the George Washington Memorial Building, and hope most sincerely that they will prosper and the memorial be finally built. It is entirely to be desired. Very sincerely yours, WOODROW WILSON.

Committees of prominent women representing patriotic societies are collaborating. Subscriptions in large and small amounts have been received and will be welcomed. Every child who contributes 10 cents receives a button carrying the legend, "This pin means a brick in the Memorial Building." The name of each child and of each donor of any amount will be entered on the records.

The architect of the building, Evarts Tracy of Tracy & Swartwout, is one of America's eminent architects. He has just returned from more than a year of active service in France as a Major of Engineers, and is giving his enthusiastic attention to the development of the plans, which, fortunately, need little alteration. Major Tracy is a great-grandson of Roger Sherman of Connecticut, who was one of the committee to draft the Declaration of Independence. He was technically educated in France, and his wife is the great-granddaughter of one of Napoleon's Generals. In France Major Tracy was at the head of the Camouflage Service. He has designed important buildings, the Missouri State Capitol being one of them.

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