

Golden Jubilee of West Virginia

1863 - 1913

CELEBRATING THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADMISSION OF THE STATE INTO THE UNION

TO BE HELD AT WHEELING,
BIRTHPLACE OF THE STATE,
THE WEEK OF JUNE 20, 1913



MOTTO; MOUNTAINEERS ARE ALWAYS FREEMEN

"What was done in the mountains of West Virginia during the civil war left the only trace on the map of the United States to be found now, fifty years after that conflict"—From Speech of Senator Dolliver of Iowa.

COMPILED BY JOHN E. DAY, SECRETARY OF THE SEMI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF WEST VIRGINIA

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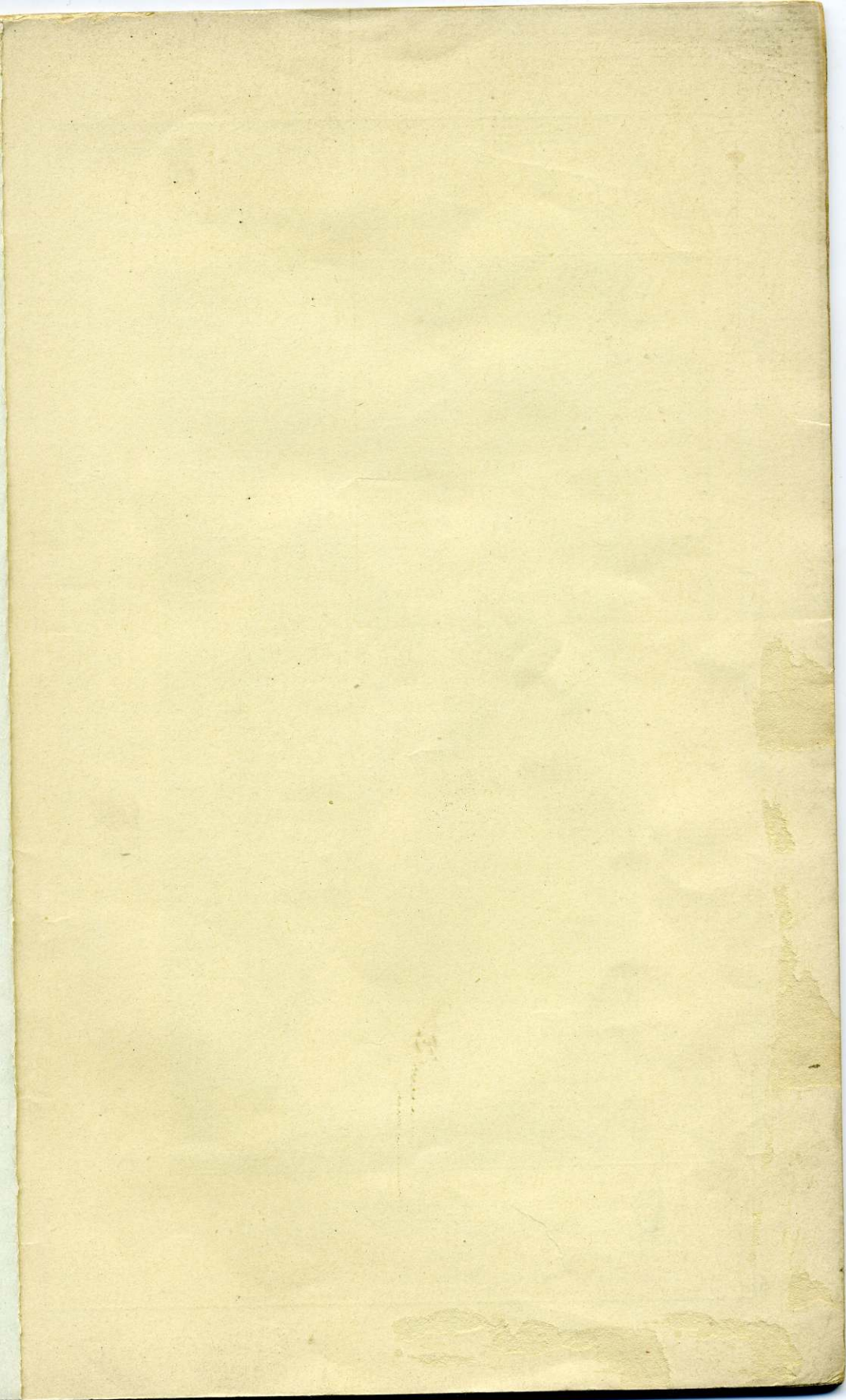


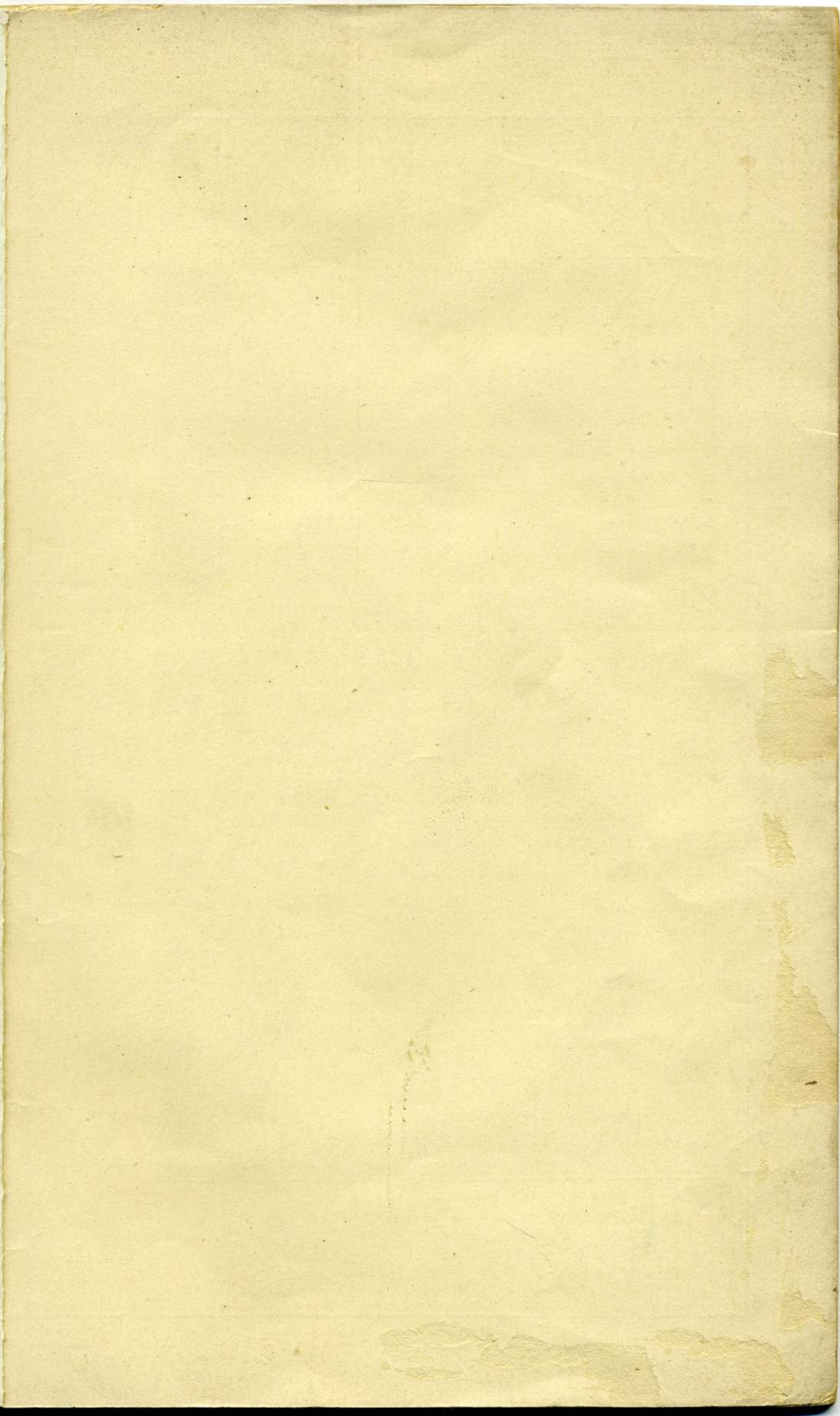
West Virginia University

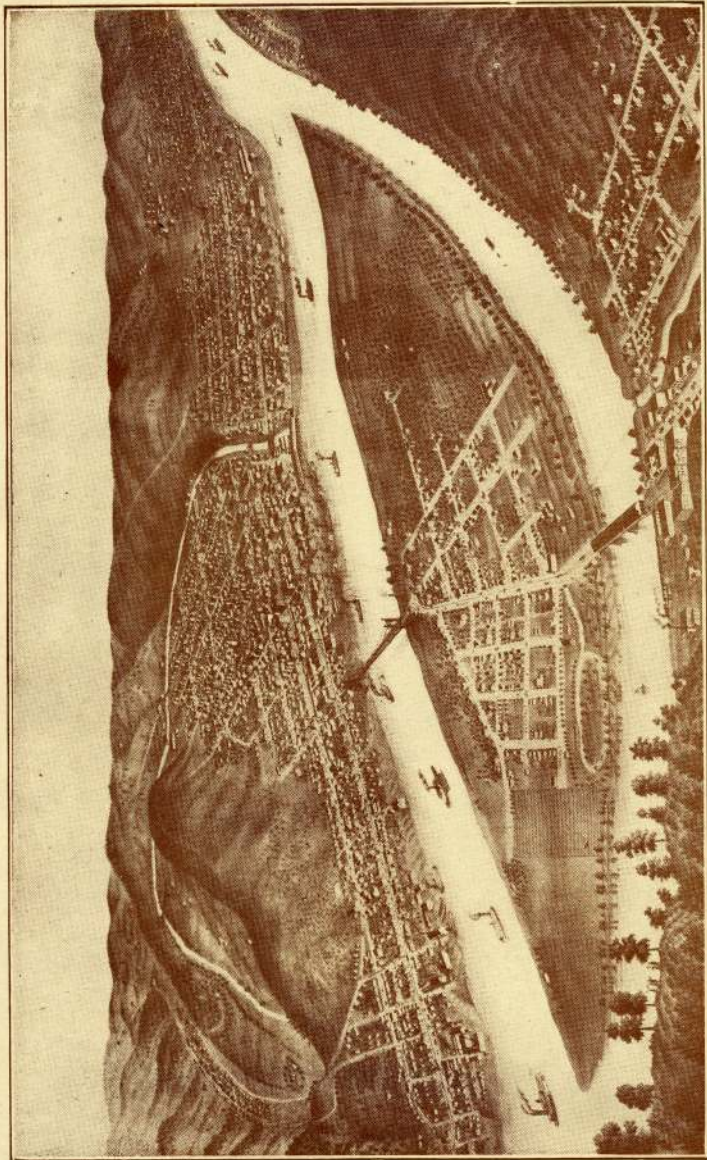
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Wheeling as it appeared when State was formed in 1861.

TAKEN from a sketch made from the Ohio hills opposite Wheeling. The oval seen in the foreground on the Island was the grounds of the North-western Virginia Fair Association, and known during the war as Camp Caville, from whence soldiers after being drilled were sent to the front. Wheeling in those days was a veritable "City of Refuge." This was "by reason," says Granville D. Hall in *The Rendering of Virginia*, "of its geographic location and equally because of resolute its Unionism, towards which the loyalists throughout North-western Virginia turned their eyes in this emergency."

Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia

Directing the Celebration of the Fiftieth
Anniversary of Statehood, June 20, 1913.
Appointed October 1, 1909, by Governor
William E. Glasscock.

Chairman. HON. HENRY G. DAVIS, ELKINS
Vice Chairman. HON. STUART F. REED, CHARLESTON
Secretary. COL. JOHN E. DAY, WHEELING
Treasurer. HON. B. W. PETERSON, WHEELING
Historian. HON. VIRGIL A. LEWIS, CHARLESTON

Commissioners

HON. HENRY G. DAVIS, ELKINS	HON. W. E. CHILTON, CHARLESTON
HON. JOHN W. MASON, FAIRMONT	HON. FRANK P. MOATS, PARKERSBURG
DR. THOMAS E. HODGES, MORGANTOWN	HON. AMOS BRIGHT, SUTTON
HON. STUART F. REED, CHARLESTON	HON. E. A. BRANNON, WESTON
HON. C. J. FAULKNER, MARTINSBURG	HON. HUGH I. SHOTT, BLUEFIELD
HON. V. L. HIGHLAND, CLARKSBURG	HON. J. B. WILKINSON, LOGAN
HON. B. W. PETERSON, WHEELING	HON. EDW. THORNBURG, HUNTINGTON

COL. JOHN E. DAY,
WHEELING

Executive Committee

THE GOVERNOR, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION
AND THE VICE CHAIRMAN

Inscription.

To the Hon. Henry G. Davis of Elkins,
West Virginia's "Grand Old Man,"

A prime factor in the development and progress of the state,
and the uplift of its people, these pages are respectfully and
appreciatively inscribed.

Spirit and Scope of Celebration



It is the purpose and aim of the Semi-Centennial Commission to have a general celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary of the admission of West Virginia into the Union, June 20th, 1913. Although Wheeling was selected as the place of the official celebration, the event will be of state wide observance on that day, and just how wide and general it will be will depend largely on the state pride and patriotism animating the people of the various sections of the commonwealth. To this end it is expected that the commission will have the active co-operation of the officials and the people of each city, town, village and hamlet in arranging a program of appropriate exercises, parades, etc., for the occasion. Schools, colleges, fraternal orders, churches and Sunday schools, civic and commercial organizations and all local societies are expected to enter into the spirit of the day to be observed. It is to be distinctly the people's celebration in joyful acclaim for the blessings and happiness, secured to us by the founders of the State, and in laudation of the amazing progress we have written into the history of the fifty years of our statehood. We have done much more than well, therefore we should celebrate much more than well.

It is proposed to have the celebration, in so far as possible, educational in its features; to acquaint the world with our distinctive attractions, the superlative wealth of our almost inexhaustible resources and the innate grandeur of our imperial commonwealth.

The spirit of this celebration has nothing to do with a revival of the bitter enmities which attended the formation of the State. It will be conducted on the broad and conciliating lines that we are all West Virginians, without partisan bias or political prejudice. It will present the rare occasion of the forgotten and forgiven quarrels and bitterness of the early contests and strifes.

The official celebration of the Semi-Centennial Commission at Wheeling will be confined to one day, Friday, June 20th, 1913. The Wheeling Board of Trade and the City will conduct a celebration around that date for a week or more, and for which they are arranging attractive programs for each day. Under the direction of the Board of Trade an exposition of the resources and products of the State will be held, which promises to be an instructive and inspiring object lesson, not only to our own people, but to the outside world. It will be a week of awakening the Nation to the primacy of West Virginia in the things that make most for opportunity, progress, prosperity and contentment.

Semi-Centennial Commission.

History of Its Inception and Appointment by Governor William E. Glasscock.

The first practical suggestion for a celebration of the semi-centennial of the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a sovereign state came from the pen of John E. Day through the editorial columns of the *Wetzel Republican*, of the issue of June 24, 1909, he being the editor of the paper at that time. The article appealed for a commemoration of the event of the State's golden jubilee worthy of the occasion and the commonwealth, "the aggrandisement of its royal richness and in tender memory of its tragic birth." Responses to this appeal were received from Governor Glasscock, President Taft and others. Among those heartily endorsing the proposition were United States Senators Stephen B. Elkins and Nathan B. Scott; Congressmen William P. Hubbard, H. C. Woodyard, James H. Hughes; the five ex-governors of West Virginia: A. B. Fleming, William A. MacCorkle, George W. Atkinson, Albert B. White, William M. O. Dawson; hold-over state senators: Henry Zilliken, A. C. McIntire, C. P. Craig, E. T. England, Howard Sutherland, W. C. Grimes, Charles G. Coffman and Joe L. Smith.

Favorable expressions from these gentlemen were supplemented by the commendation and approval of former U. S. Senator Henry G. Davis, State Labor Commissioner I. V. Barton, Roy B. Naylor, secretary of West Virginia Board of Trade, Charles Brooks Smith, secretary of the Parkersburg Chamber of Commerce, Judge John W. Mason, Hon. Stuart F. Reed, Secretary of State, and almost the entire state press, the latter contributing to arousing public sentiment in favor of the proposed celebration.

Appointment of Commission.

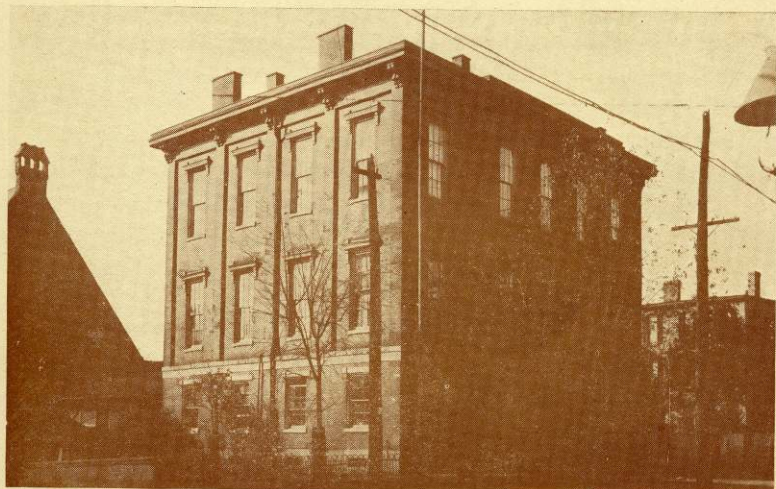
Early in the fall of 1909 Governor Glasscock, becoming impressed with the state-wide approval of the scheme, appointed the following gentlemen, distinguished in public life and affairs in the State, as members of the Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia: Col. John E. Day, then of New Martinsville, now of Wheeling; Judge John W. Mason, of Fairmont; former U. S. Senator Charles J. Faulkner, of Martinsburg; Hon. B. W. Peterson of Wheeling; Hon. Virgil L. Highland, of Clarksburg; ex-Speaker of House of Delegates Frank P. Moats, of Parkersburg; United States Senator William E. Chilton, of Charleston; former U. S. Senator Henry G. Davis, of Elkins; Hon. Amos Bright, of Sutton; Hon. Hugh I. Shott, of Bluefield; Judge J. B. Wilkinson, of Logan. These members were appointed October 1, 1909. Subsequently four more were added by appointment of Governor Glasscock as follows: Dr. Thomas E. Hodges, President of West Virginia University, Morgantown; Hon. Stuart F. Reed, Secretary of State, Charleston; Hon. E. A. Brannon, state senator, of Weston, and Hon. Edward Thornburg, of Huntington.

One of the functions of the Commission was to inquire into the advisability of celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the state. At its meeting in Parkersburg, December 3, 1909, the following resolution was passed:

RESOLVED—That it is the sense of this Commission, subject to the approval of the Governor and the legislature, that the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of the state into the Union should be celebrated in 1913 in some proper manner.

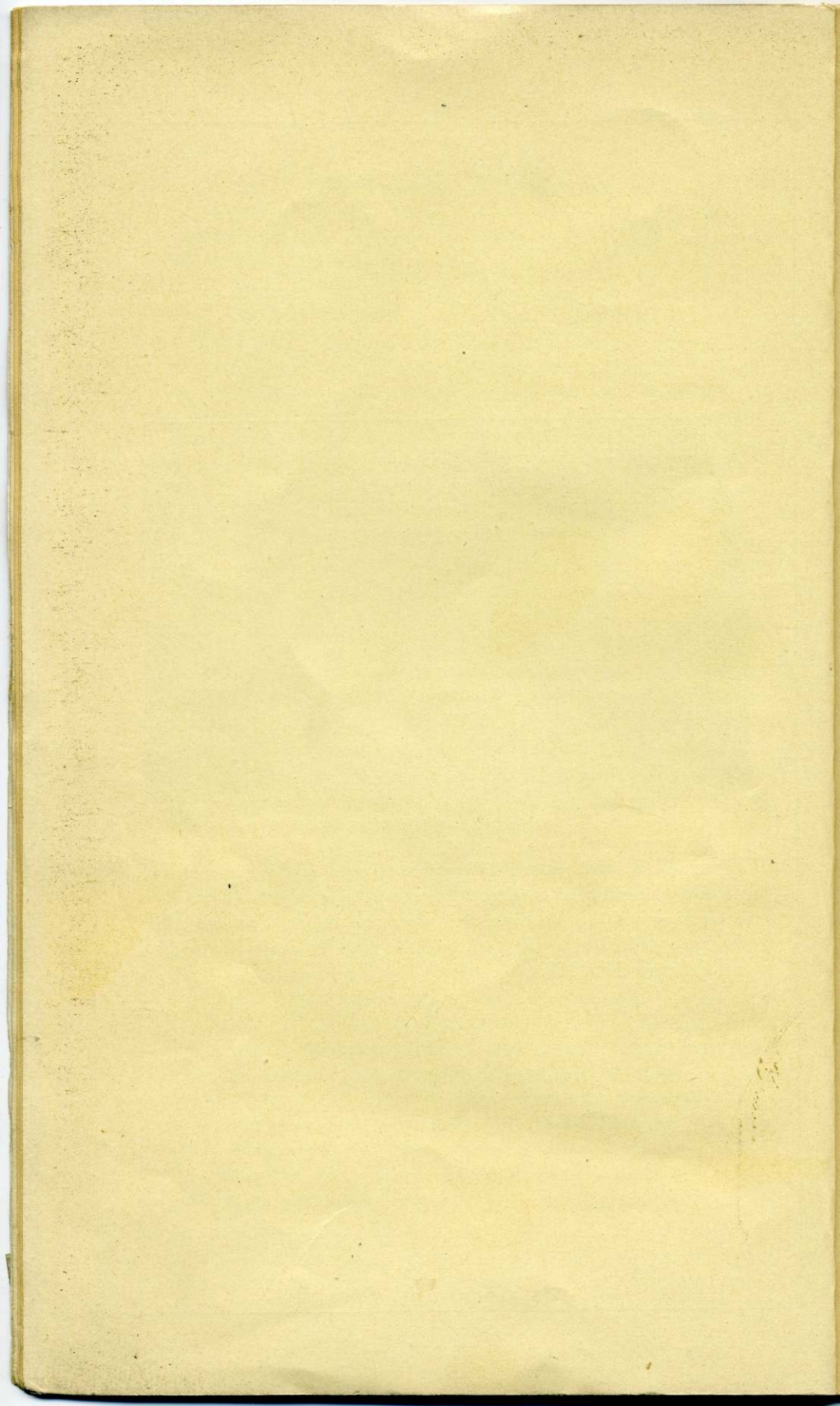
Permanent Organization.

This action was approved by the governor and the legislature recognized the importance of the event by appropriating \$10,000 in 1911 towards the expenses of the celebration. The commission since its appointment had so far been doing business under a temporary organization, and it was not permanently organized until the meeting held at Clarksburg, November 4, 1911, when the following permanent officers were chosen: Chairman, Hon. Henry G. Davis; Vice Chairman, Hon. Stuart F. Reed, Charleston; Secretary, Col. John E. Day, Wheeling; Treasurer, Hon. B. W. Peterson, Wheeling; Historian, State Archivist Virgil A. Lewis, Charleston. At that meeting a tentative programme for the celebration was mapped out. This celebration will be state-wide in its character. The official celebration will be held in



Linsly Institute.

THIS BUILDING, which still stands, was used as the first capitol of West Virginia, and continued to be used as such until 1870, when the archives and seat of government were removed to Charleston, that city being designated as the capital of the state by act of the legislature February 20, 1869.



Wheeling on Friday, June 20, 1913, that city having been selected as the place by the commission because it was the birth-place of the new state. It is proposed, however, to have every city, town, village and hamlet within the state arrange a program of appropriate exercises for the same day.

At the Clarksburg meeting the sum appropriated by the legislature was not deemed sufficient for the expenses of the celebration, but it was pointed out that the legislature of 1913 could be called on for an additional appropriation. However, all fears of a possible lack of funds were allayed by the announcement of Chairman Henry G. Davis, that he would make good any deficiency in the cost of the celebration not provided for by the legislature, a characteristically generous and patriotic action on the part of Senator Davis that was highly appreciated and applauded by the members of the commission. The work of preparing for the celebration is going steadily forward, and it is assured that it will be wholly in keeping with the importance of the event it commemorates.

Extends Helping Hand.

The West Virginia Board of Trade at its session in Huntington, in October, 1909, cordially endorsed the proposition to celebrate the Semi-Centennial anniversary, stating in one of its resolutions: "We commend the suggestion as a good one, worthy to be officially sanctioned and approved by our legislature; and we pledge our support to whatever action may be taken looking toward the careful carrying out of this most appropriate and timely suggestion."

This organization further displayed its interest in and sympathy with the project by naming a Semi-Centennial committee to advise with and co-operate with the state commission. This committee consisting of Hon. George W. Lutz, of Wheeling, chairman; Hon. A. B. White, Parkersburg; Hon. G. A. Northcott, Huntington, and Hon. E. M. Showalter, Fairmont, met with the commission at Clarksburg and was quite helpful in its advisory capacity.

The West Virginia Board of Trade still further advanced the exploitation of the Semi-Centennial scheme by publishing 5,000 pamphlets containing a condensation of the letters of approval of the suggestion printed originally in the *Wetzel Republican*.

Wheeling's Celebration.

The Board of Trade Has Charge of City's Part in Celebration. Work Going Forward.

The Wheeling Board of Trade, through its secretary, Mr. Roy B. Naylor, immediately after the appointment of the Semi-Centennial Commission, took measures to secure the holding of the celebration in Wheeling. The Board was persevering in following the commission in its various meetings, until it was successful in landing the coveted honor at the Clarksburg meeting of the commission, November 4, 1911. The Wheeling Board of Trade then assumed full charge of Wheeling's part in commemorating the fiftieth anniversary of the birth of the state. The obligations it entered into with the commission are as follows:

The city of Wheeling agrees to furnish the following, if the celebration is held in our city, during the month of June, 1913:

First—To furnish all electric light being required.

Second—To furnish all arches lighted with electric light being required, one special arch to be constructed as suggested by the Commission.

Third—To furnish whatever office room may be required.

Fourth—To furnish all assistant clerks and stenographers being required.

Fifth—To meet all expense that may be incurred the day before and after the celebration, namely: such as the exhibits of State resources, or manufactures; products, agricultural and otherwise.

Sixth—To take such steps as are necessary toward a nation-wide advertisement of the celebration.

Seventh—To bear the expense of a Five Hundred Dollar prize for a poem and a similar sum for music in honor of the celebration.

Eighth—To furnish the New Auditorium, seating 4,000 people for any public meetings or exercises, and, if necessary the Court Theatre, seating 1,400 people and the Virginia Theatre, seating 2,800.

Ninth—To furnish the Wheeling Park for any out-door exercises that may be planned.

Tenth—Lastly, to co-operate heartily with the Commission in any manner possible to make the event a grand success, promoting the best interests of our State and setting forth our magnificent resources and opportunities.

On January 26th, 1912, a meeting of the Board was held, at which a general committee of thirty-five was appointed to forward the celebration in co-operation with the Semi-Centennial Commission. The membership of this committee represents the city's most prominent citizens. The roster follows:

Semi-Centennial Committee.

W. P. HUBBARD
DR. J. L. DICKEY
GEORGE HOOK
ROBERT HAZLETT
J. G. HEARNE
W. S. BRADY
GEO. W. LUTZ
LOUIS HORKHEIMER
H. C. FRANZHEIM
A. S. LIST
I. V. BARTON
JOHN J. JACOB
H. W. MCLURE
GEO. O. NAGLE
F. C. HOFFMAN
FRANK W. NESBITT
H. C. OGDEN

B. W. PETERSON
RICHARD ROBERTSON
E. W. OGLEBAY
C. C. SCHMIDT
N. B. SCOTT
W. F. STIFEL
W. E. STONE
W. F. WELCH
J. B. TANEY
GEO. W. WOODS
DR. C. A. WINGERTER
A. C. WHITAKER
H. F. BEHRENS
C. G. WHITHAM
C. A. ROBINSON
C. A. BOWERS
JOHN COLEMAN

A. W. PAULL

On March 6, 1912, this committee met and organized temporarily by electing Mr. A. C. Whitaker, chairman, and Mr. R. B. Naylor, secretary. A sub-committee on organization to outline a plan for the city's part in the exercises was named by Chairman Whitaker: George W. Lutz, George O. Nagle, John Coleman, George Hook, Robert Hazlett, H. C. Franzheim and I. V. Barton. The Committee organized by electing Mr. George W. Lutz, chairman, and Mr. R. B. Naylor, secretary.

This committee held several meetings and outlined a plan of organization, including a large number of committees, headed by an executive committee, which has general charge of the celebration.

Reasons for Separation.

Justification of People of West Virginia in Setting Up a New Government.

"As 'round and 'round we run,
Ever the right comes uppermost—
Ever is justice done."

On the eve of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the admission of West Virginia into the Union as a free and in-

dependent state it is worth while to go back and examine into the true reasons and the leading causes which lead up to the final separation of Western from Eastern Virginia. The civil war was not the cause, but presented the opportunity long looked for by the suffering and greatly aggrieved people living in the western part of the "Old Dominion," divided by the natural barrier of the Allegheny mountains. The injustice dealt to Western Virginia through long decades before 1861 was flamed into active and armed resentment when the eastern and more populous section of the state outvoted the western and loyal element on the Ordinance of Secession, and afterwards attempted to coerce them to cast their fate with the Southern Confederacy in the conflict to dismember the Union. The stand taken by West Virginia has been vindicated by the subsequent glorious accomplishments of her statehood, and has linked her indissolubly with the beginning and ending of the world's greatest civil war—the rout of the invading forces at Philippi, Barbour county, June 3, 1861, and the submission of Lee at Appomattox Court House, April 9, 1865.

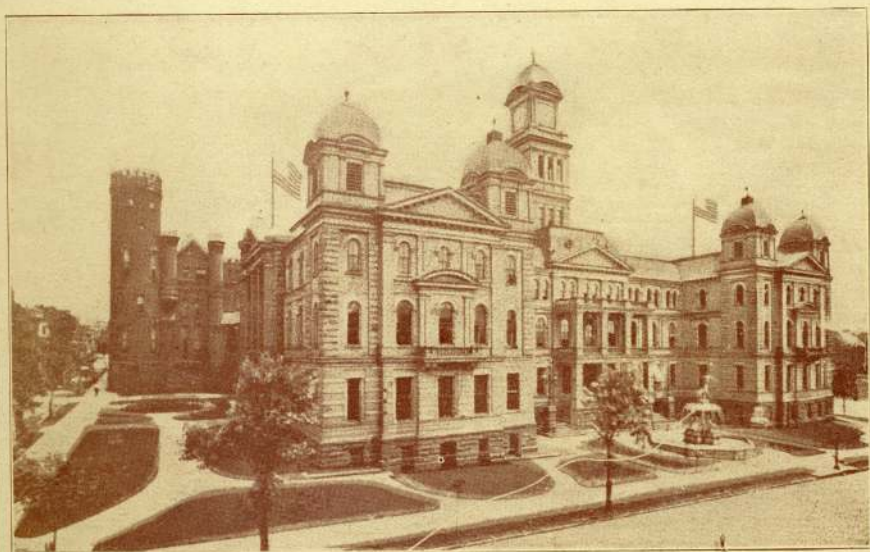
What distinguishes West Virginia most in connection with that supreme struggle was happily cited by United States Senator Jonathan Prentiss Dolliver, of Iowa, a native born West Virginian, in his address at the unveiling of the statue of Francis H. Pierpont in statuary hall in the Capitol at Washington, when he said:

"What was done in the mountains of West Virginia during the civil war left the only trace on the map of the United States to be found now, fifty years after that conflict."

What Caused The Separation.

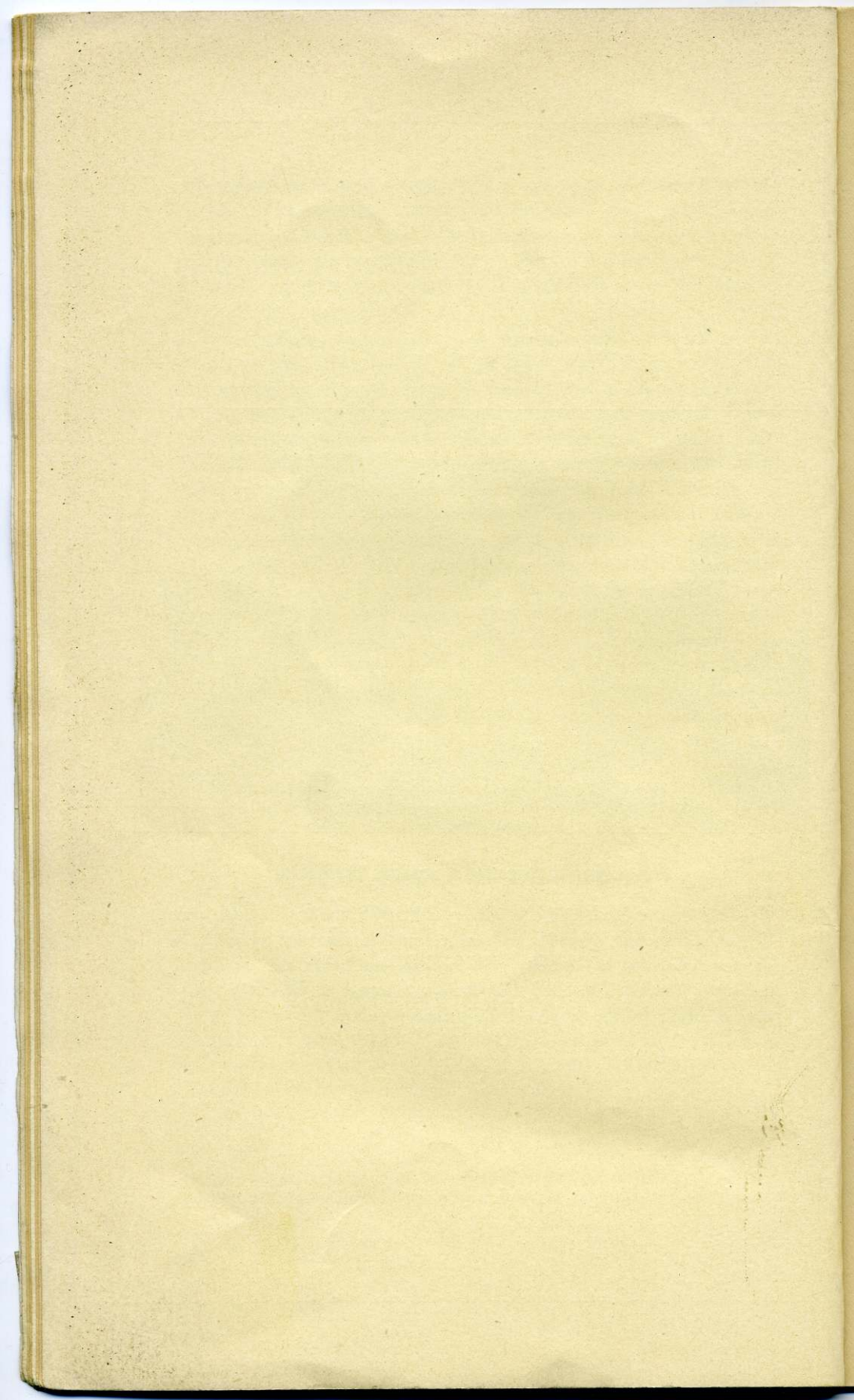
Thus it was that West Virginia emerged from a bondage that endured from shortly after the Nation was decreed, into freedom as a sovereign state. The fundamental causes that conspired for the division of the state were far reaching and were succinctly given by Hon. Daniel Lamb in his address at the June convention which met in Wheeling in 1861, then considering an ordinance providing for the erection of the new state. Speaking to that memorable assemblage, Mr. Lamb said:

"Mr. President, let me say in the outset that I am for a separation of this state when it can be done at the proper time and in the proper manner. * * We have long suffered, Mr. President, from the misrule of the Eastern section of the state. **THEY HAVE REPEATEDLY DENIED US OUR PROPER SHARE OF REPRESENTATION IN OUR LEGISLATURE—THEY HAVE SUBJECTED US TO AN UNEQUAL**



Wheeling's Second Capitol Building.

BY act of the legislature of February 20, 1875, the capital was again established in Wheeling, where it remained for ten years. The structure was built by the city of Wheeling, and when the capital returned to Charleston in 1885 the building reverted to Wheeling. It is now occupied by the City and Ohio county jointly.



AND UNJUST SYSTEM OF TAXATION FOR THE PROTECTION, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE, FROM THE BURDEN OF STATE SERVICE, OF THEIR OWN PROPERTY. IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE EXPENDITURE OF THAT TAXATION THEY HAVE ENDEAVORED TO ENCOURAGE THE PROSPERITY OF THEIR OWN SECTION OF THE STATE, AND HAVE LEFT THE WEST WITHOUT ANY PARTICIPATION IN THE BENEFIT OF THE EXPENDITURE.

"We are, in fact, a different people. Our social habits are different. Our commercial relations are not with Eastern Virginia. The productions of our soil and our workshops do not go in that direction; nor do we purchase the articles which we want from the cities of Eastern Virginia. EVERY CONSIDERATION WHICH CAN BE ADDRESSED TO THE WISDOM OF A STATESMAN, WOULD DEMAND A SEPARATION AT THE PROPER TIME AND IN THE PROPER MANNER."

Washington's Injunctions.

Western Virginia being largely opposed to the institution of slavery was, naturally, against secession which sought to perpetuate it, and for the maintenance of the National unity. That the people of the Northwestern part of the state were more Virginians than those of the Eastern section is exemplified by their actions in following the injunctions of "The Father of His Country," and in maintaining the traditions and fundamental principles of patriotism set forth by him in his "Farewell Address." Washington on that occasion gave voice to the following burning words, which justified the patriotic West in dissolving its relations with the contentious East and supporting National unity:

"The unity of government which constitutes you one people is also now dear to you. * * * It is of infinite moment that you should properly estimate the immense value of your national union to your collective and individual happiness: that you should cherish a cordial, habitual and unmovable attachment to it; accustoming yourselves to think and speak of it as the palladium of your political safety and prosperity; WATCHING FOR ITS PRESERVATION WITH JEALOUS ANXIETY; DISCOURTEAGING, WHATEVER MAY SUGGEST EVEN A SUSPICION THAT IT CAN IN ANY EVENT BE ABANDONED; AND INDIGNANTLY FROWNING UPON THE FIRST DAWNING OF EVERY ATTEMPT TO ALIENATE ANY PORTION OF OUR COUNTRY FROM THE REST, OR TO ENFEEBLE THE SACRED TIES WHICH NOW LINK TOGETHER THE VARIOUS PARTS. * * * The name American, which belongs to you in your national capacity, must always exalt the first pride of patriotism more than any appellation derived from local discriminations."

Webster's Prophetic Vision.

The shadows of coming events were never more clearly cast than in 1851, when that great sage, statesman and patriot, Daniel Webster, referring to the dark clouds of secession then looming

up, in a speech delivered at Washington in that year, at the laying of the corner stone of the addition to the Capitol, spoke these memorable words:

"And ye men of Western Virginia, who occupy the slope from the Alleghenies to Ohio and Kentucky, what benefit do you propose to yourselves by disunion? If you secede, what do you secede from, and what do you accede to? Do you look for the current of the Ohio to change and bring you and your commerce to the tide waters of Eastern rivers? WHAT MAN IN HIS SENSES CAN SUPPOSE THAT YOU WOULD REMAIN PART AND PARCEL OF VIRGINIA A MONTH AFTER VIRGINIA HAD CEASED TO BE A PART AND PARCEL OF THE UNITED STATES?"

Webster spoke with the spirit of the prophet. With what keen, perspicuous vision he saw into the future, as one endowed with occult power. How well and how truly did the Western Virginians fulfill that prophecy. Ten years later they gave to the patriotism instilled by Washington a renewed local habitation and a loyal name.

State Important to the Union.

But for the war there might have been no West Virginia; but for West Virginia there might, today, be no Union. James G. Blaine in his *Twenty Years in Congress*, in reviewing the action of Congress in admitting the new state into the Union shows the importance of the loyalty of Western Virginia in sustaining the National unity. After briefly reciting the wrongs and injustice suffered by the Western part of the state inflicted by the Eastern section, Mr. Blaine says:

"IT IS OF THE FIRST IMPORTANCE TO REMEMBER THAT THE NEW STATE WAS NOT PRIMARILY ORGANIZED AND ADMITTED TO THE UNION FOR THE BENEFIT OF HER OWN PEOPLE, BUT IN FAR LARGER DEGREE FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE WHOLE UNION. If it had not been apparent that the organization of West Virginia was an advantage to the loyal cause; if the border-state policy of Mr. Lincoln, so rigidly adhered to throughout the contest, had not required this link for the completion of its chain—the wishes of the people most directly involved would never have had the slightest attention from the Congress of the United States. Strong and equitable as was the case of West Virginia, irritating and undesirable as her relations to the older state might be, advantageous to the people as the new government might prove, these considerations would not of themselves have offered sufficient inducement to engage the attention of Congress for an hour at that critical period."

Lincoln's Final Judgment.

After the bill admitting West Virginia into the Union passed both houses of Congress it was up to President Lincoln to give fulfillment to hopes long deferred, or dash the longing and expectations of Western Virginians to the ground with a negative sweep of his veto pen. Happily he found good and vital reasons for endowing us with statehood, contained in the following excerpt from his memorandum attached to the bill:

"More than on anything else, it (the expediency of admitting West Virginia into the Union) depends on whether the admission or rejection of the new state would, under all the circumstances, tend to the restoration of national authority throughout the Union. That which helps most in this direction is the most expedient at this time. Doubtless those in remaining Virginia would return to the Union, so to speak, less reluctantly without the division of the old state than with it, but I think we could not save as much in this quarter by rejecting the new state as we should lose by it in West Virginia. WE CAN SCARCELY DISPENSE WITH THE AID OF WEST VIRGINIA IN THIS STRUGGLE; MUCH LESS CAN WE AFFORD TO HAVE HER AGAINST US IN CONGRESS AND IN THE FIELD.

"Her brave and good men regard her admission into the Union as a matter of life and death. They have been true to the Union and under very severe trials. We have so acted as to justify their hopes, and we cannot fully retain their confidence and co-operation if we seem to break faith with them. In fact, they could not do so much for us, if they would. Again, the admission of the new state turns that much slave soil free, and thus is a certain and irrevocable encroachment upon the cause of the rebellion. The division of a state is dreaded as a precedent. But a measure made expedient by a war is no precedent for times of peace. It is said that the admission of West Virginia is secession and tolerated only because it is our secession. Well, if we call it by that name, THERE IS STILL DIFFERENCE ENOUGH BETWEEN SECESSION AGAINST THE CONSTITUTION AND SECESSION IN FAVOR OF THE CONSTITUTION. I believe the admission of West Virginia into the Union is expedient."

Thus it was finished. The rancor of war and the anger of sectionalism have passed away. The past has its impressive lesson, the present is full of duty and new obligations to a reunited country while the future holds the hope of continued unity. It is fifty years after the strife, and we are living in the days of a glorious revelation of the truth of Lincoln's prophetic words: "The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."

The Buffer State.

The action taken by Western Virginia at the outbreak of the war really made the new state a buffer for the states of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Eastern Kentucky against the invasion of the Southern forces. This is substantiated by Granville D. Hall in his work, entitled *Lee's Invasion of Northwest Virginia*, in which he says:

"The military operations in Northwest Virginia quickly following the investment of General Lee with command, developed the first serious collision between Northern and Southern armies in the field. Compared with later movements this campaign is a minor event. Yet it was not without consequences, immediate and remote. * * * It furnished a commander (McClellan) for the army upon whom depended the defense of the National capital. Out of this grew weighty consequences, military and political. It resulted also in the exemption of Northwest Virginia from further military attack and the security throughout the war of Ohio, Eastern Kentucky and Western Pennsylvania. Not least important, it made easy the restoration of civil government in Virginia, followed by the creation of a separate State west of the Alleghenies—an event far-reaching and momentous in the sequel."

Birthplace of West Virginia.

Old Washington Hall, Where May and June Conventions of 1861 Held Their Sessions.

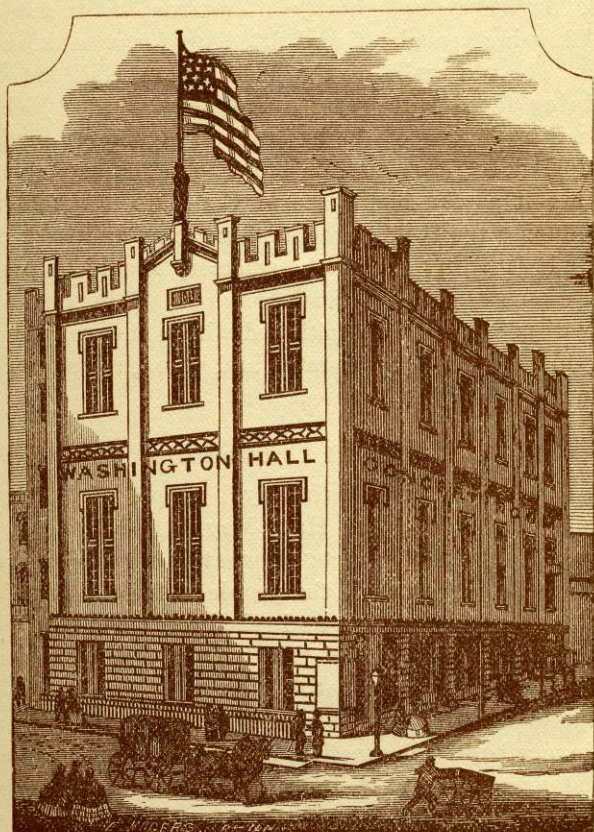
Of the few structures remaining in Wheeling, venerated through their connection with the stand Northwestern Virginia made for the preservation of the Union and the formation of the new State, Washington Hall is the most conspicuous. While it is true the old building was destroyed by fire, its foundation, the entire first story walls, the entire north and east walls were retained in its reconstruction, so that practically much of it is still "Old Washington Hall," the birthplace of West Virginia. The outer semblance to the original structure has been radically changed, but it is worth while to present a cut of the original building as it stood in 1861. It is the only cut of the building extant, being a wood engraving preserved among the papers of the late William S. Goshorn, one of the stockholders and an officer of the Washington Hall Association. It is now the property of Hon. Alfred Caldwell, son-in-law of the deceased, through whose courtesy it is now used.



State Capitol, Charleston.

THE capitol at Charleston was constructed when the seat of government was removed from Wheeling in 1870. Additions were subsequently added when the capital was returned to Charleston in 1885. A handsome stone annex stands opposite this building, built to accommodate the growing needs of the state government. The capital is now permanently located at Charleston.

The building is memorable for two other things besides being the birthplace of the state. In January, 1853, the citizens of Wheeling gave a banquet in the structure in honor of the President of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, together with his guests from the city of Baltimore and the states of Virginia and Maryland, who arrived in Wheeling on the first through train



over the just completed road, the first transit made by rail from the Atlantic ocean to the Ohio river. The building of this road is relevant to the formation of West Virginia, because it was the means of rushing Union troops to the front in time to hurl back the Confederate forces, and enable the Federal troops to retain possession of Northwestern Virginia and preserve it to the Union.

Burned in 1876.

Again the building gained distinction in housing the West Virginia legislature temporarily, when the capitol of the state was removed to Wheeling in 1875 from Charleston, until the city erected a proper capitol building. It was during the occupancy of Washington Hall by the House of Delegates that the structure was destroyed by fire on the morning of November 30, 1876. It was rebuilt shortly afterwards. It is now at this date, 1912, being remodeled and fitted up for a bank and office building. The old walls of the Washington Hall are still retained, being faced with granite and terra cotta, which, when finished will make one of the handsomest structures in the city. It is proposed to place on this building a bronze tablet, commemorating it as the birthplace of the state, the tablet to be unveiled during the Semi-Centennial exercises the week of June 20, 1913. It is fitting that such a memory should be preserved, that future generations as they run may read of the courage, valor and patriotism of those who gathered within the walls and made not only history but a new state; and who gave succor to the Nation in the hour of its greatest peril.

The First Convention.

The first convention of the loyal people of Northwestern Virginia met in Washington Hall, May 13, 1861, the result of meetings held in various parts of what is now West Virginia, proclaiming the adherence of the people to the Constitution and the Union as against secession and rebellion. The Virginia legislature at that time had passed the Ordinance of Secession to be submitted to the voters for ratification or rejection. The members of the legislature from this part of the state voting against that ordinance had been expelled, and had returned home, many of them at great peril to their lives. The sentiment among the members of this convention was strong for the immediate separation from the "Old Dominion" and the erection of a new state, but the hour had not yet arrived. On one thing they were unanimous, and that was determined opposition to the secession ordinance and maintaining the loyalty of Western Virginia. The convention adjourned on May 15, after three days of exciting debate and patriotic tension. It provided for the election of delegates to a convention to be held in June following, and the appointment of a central committee "to attend to all matters

connected with the objects of this convention." This committee was composed of John S. Carlile, of Clarksburg; Francis H. Pierpont, of Fairmont; Campbell Tarr, of Wellsburg; George R. Latham, of Grafton; James S. Wheat, Chester D. Hubbard, Andrew Wilson, S. H. Woodward and James W. Paxton, of Wheeling. Of this committee but one member survives today, Col. George R. Latham, now living at Buckhannon. This committee issued an address to the people of Northwestern Virginia, calling on them to oppose secession to the utmost; "to resist the usurpers and drive from our midst the rebellion sought to be forced upon us. * * * ever remembering that resistance to tyrants is obedience to God." It was a stirring and eloquent appeal, and attended, as the future showed, with impressive results.

The June Convention.

The general elections of Virginia were held May 23, at which time the Ordinance of Secession was also voted upon. The ordinance was overwhelmingly negived in the counties comprising the present state of West Virginia, which vote was overcome by the more populous and rebellious eastern section of the state. The legislative delegates and senators elected in Western Virginia, and double the number of delegates from each county appointed on June 4 by the loyal people of said counties, composed the second convention which met in Washington Hall June 11, following. The battle of Philippi had been fought June 3, with the result that the Confederate advance had been driven back in a complete rout. But stronger forces of invasion were massing determined to wrest Western Virginia from the Union and to force her people into the Southern Confederacy. But in Washington Hall there met representatives of the people of this section of the state unalterably opposed to any such coercion, and who were willing to lay down their lives in defense of the Union.

It was in this convention that the "Restored Government of Virginia" was established, a legal stepping stone to the formation of West Virginia as a separate state. The declaration of the convention for the restoration of the loyal government of Virginia was adopted by a vote of 56 yeas, with no opposing vote recorded. After the announcement of the result a delegate called attention to a happy coincidence, hailing it as an auspicious omen, remarking: "We have fifty-six votes recorded in favor of

our Declaration, and we may remember that there were just fifty-six signers to the Declaration of Independence." A happy coincidence and omen, indeed, and of equal significance, at least to the people of West Virginia.

The June convention after a few days session in Washington Hall, transferred its place of meeting to the U. S. custom house, where the adjourned session met in August; also the constitutional convention, which convened in November, 1861. While the consummation of the new state was effected outside Washington Hall, the inception and growth of the new commonwealth were conceived and nurtured within it, with none of the tender memories that surround it as the real birthplace of the state abated.

Primer History of State.

The Incidents and Events Leading Up To The Formation of West Virginia.

*"Child of the storm,
Born 'midst the throes of War."*

The progressive stages which led up to the erection of West Virginia into an independent state follow. They form the history of the state in a nutshell:

1861—The Virginia General Assembly met in extraordinary session January 7, 1861, and a week later ordered an election, held February 4th, for delegates to a state convention at the Capitol, February 13th.

This convention passed an Ordinance of Secession April 17th, in secret. The vote was: yeas, 88; nays, 55, a majority of 33.

Meeting of protest held at Morgantown, April 17th, on receipt of telegram that Ordinance had passed.

Clarksburg meeting April 22nd, which called first convention to meet at Wheeling, May 13.

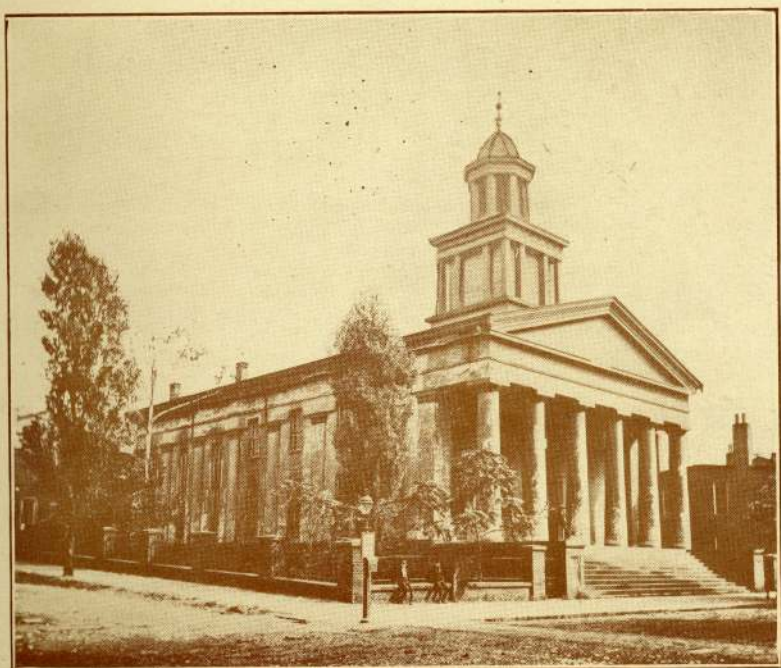
April 25th, the Virginia convention entered into a league with the Southern Confederacy, without waiting for the vote of the people on the Ordinance of Secession at the election of May 23rd.

Among the meetings of protest against Secession, one at Wheeling, May 2nd, Elijah Day, Assessor, resigned because he was unwilling to assess taxes for the use of the Richmond government.

Mass meeting at Clarksburg, May 3rd, addressed by Francis H. Pierpont.

Meeting at Wheeling, May 5th, passed strong resolutions drawn by Chester D. Hubbard.

May 8th, 2,000 rifles sent by Secretary of War Cameron to citizens of Brooke county, unloaded from a steamer from Pittsburgh at Wellsburg.



Old Ohio County Court House.

WHEN the capital came to Wheeling in 1875, this building was used by the house of delegates, after the burning of Washington Hall, where they were in session at that time, pending the construction of a capitol building. It was razed some years ago and the present Board of Trade and Court Theatre building stands on the old site.

The "May Convention" met on May 13th, in old Washington Hall, Wheeling, and adjourned late in the evening of the third day. It laid the foundation for momentous history. Appointed a "Central Committee" to exercise its powers. Provided for meeting of second convention in case the Ordinance of Secession should be ratified at election of May 23rd.

Col. Porterfield, General Lee's avant courier, arrived at Grafton, May 14th, which gave grave concern to the loyal convention in session in Wheeling.

Regular Virginia spring elections held May 23, which included selection of members of the legislature and the vote on the ratification of the Richmond Ordinance of Secession. In the immediate northwest counties the vote against the Ordinance was practically unanimous. In twenty-five counties in what now comprises West Virginia, the majority against ratification was 13,378.

United States soldiers crossed the Virginia frontier at Parkersburg and Benwood, May 27, to join West Virginia volunteers already in the field.

Col. Porterfield in command of Confederate forces routed out of Philippi, June 3. Col. B. F. Kelly, in command of West Virginia troops, severely wounded.

June 4, election of delegates to the "June Convention," provided for, in case the Ordinance of Secession passed, by the May convention which met in Wheeling. Convention assembled June 11.

Virginia Declaration of Independence adopted by convention June 17th—anniversary of battle of Bunker Hill, a significant coincidence.

Ordinance reorganizing and restoring the Virginia state government passed June 19, with Francis H. Pierpont as governor.

June 25th, convention took recess. Reassembled on August 6th. August 20th convention passed ordinance ordering election within boundaries of proposed new state October 24th on (first) the question of division and (second) for delegates to constitutional convention, if first proposition carried. Result of election: For separation and new state, 18,889; against 481.

November 25th Constitutional Convention met and finished work February 18th, 1862.

1862—Constitution ratified by people April 3, when the vote stood: For ratification, 18,862; against, 514.

The loyal Assembly of restored government of Virginia met in Wheeling, May 13th, and gave consent of Virginia to formation of West Virginia.

May 29th certified copy of the Constitution was presented by Senator Willey in the U. S. Senate.

Bill for the admission of West Virginia passed Senate July 14th. In the House of Representatives, the bill was made the order of the day for December 9th. Passed the House, December 10th, and was approved, as a New Year's gift, by President Lincoln, the night of December 31, 1862.

1863—The Convention which had framed the Constitution, without emancipation, was recalled and reassembled February 12th 1863. The emancipation patch was put on, and the amended instrument ratified March 26, 1863.

April 20th President Lincoln, having received certificate of ratification, issued proclamation declaring West Virginia a State in the Union sixty days from that date.

June 20th, 1863, West Virginia was inaugurated and first administrative officers assumed their duties, at the temporary capitol, the Linsly Institute, in the city of Wheeling.

Since that memorable occasion fifty eventful and constructive years have rolled by—marvelous epochs of time fruitful of the con-

quests of science, the victories of invention and discovery and the opening of mysteries that were sealed since the morning of creation. The people of West Virginia were given a wilderness and they have builded an empire by planting and nurturing the things of enduring benefit and masterful achievement.

Founders' Day.

To Be Observed During Semi-Centennial Week. Some of the Survivors.

One of the most interesting features of the celebration of the semi-centennial of the State will be "Founders' Day." This will be an occasion for the gathering of the survivors of the conventions which met in 1861 and declared in favor of a division of the old State and the formation of the new Commonwealth. They were the veritable fathers of this splendid community of counties comprising the State of West Virginia, and they are entitled to distinguished recognition in the prospective celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of its birth.

Measures are now being taken to provide for such an occasion by the Wheeling Board of Trade's committee, which is a sufficient guarantee that the matter will be well taken care of. Only a few of the names of these persons can be recalled at this writing: Hon. John J. Davis, of Clarksburg; Dr. W. L. Grant, of Grafton; Alpheus Garrison, of Monongalia county; W. T. Brown, of Grafton; Col. George R. Latham, of Buckhannon, and Perry M. Hale, of Weston. There are, no doubt, others which future inquiry and investigation may disclose.

The Men of the Hour.

Many years after the State was formed, and just previous to his death, the late Hon. Daniel Lamb said that "looking back on what had been done he had no regrets as to the part he took, and that the action of the convention was the inspiration of the best wisdom of those days." How eloquently have the fifty years of the statehood of West Virginia fulfilled the hopes the verified the faith of its founders.

In 1901, the late Hon. James C. McGrew, of Preston county, writing to a friend had this to say: "Having been present at the birth of West Virginia, I have marked with intense interest the marvelous growth of the young giantess, and find my affection for this 'child of the storm' grow stronger day by day; more than the life of a generation has gone by since West Virginia had her birth on the 20th of June, 1863, and when looking back to that event, and calling to mind the earnest men who were active in bringing it about, I find myself asking the question, 'HOW MANY OF THEM LIVE TODAY TO BE CHEERED BY THE ABUNDANT FRUITS OF THEIR LABOR?' Do we fully appreciate the sacrifices they made, the dangers they incurred, and the great good they secured to us? Most of their number no longer respond to roll-call. They have passed beyond the reach of either praise or censure, soon to be followed by those of them who still linger on the hither side."

Dangers and Perils.

The perils and dangers besetting and surrounding the May and June conventions composed of the founders of the state could not be exaggerated. It was an assemblage that never had its counterpart from the foundation of the republic to the present time, and likely never will. To imbibe the spirit of the times one can get the atmosphere by reading the following description of the assembling of the May convention, written by John Marshall Hagans, of Monongalia county, to be found in the first volume of Reports of the Supreme Court of West Virginia:

"To the meeting of that convention all looked forward with hope. That was thought to be the rallying point FROM WHICH ALL SUCCEEDING MOVEMENTS WOULD TAKE THEIR ORIGIN. THE UNDERTAKING WAS A PERILOUS ONE. No federal troops had penetrated into Virginia, or, indeed, crossed the Ohio river.

Yet the morning of the 13th of May beheld the city swarming with an excited multitude of its own inhabitants, and the delegates to the convention. By an arrangement, the delegates met at Washington Hall at 11 o'clock a. m. The large building was filled to overflowing with an eager throng, whose anxious countenances depicted the depth of their feelings. It was a remarkable spectacle; the faces of the delegates were not familiar to those who had attended the political meetings for several years previous. They were a new set of men whom the people had thrust forward in the peril of the emergency. They were plain, unassuming men, too, but as plain men always do, they possessed those traits which make honesty the accompaniment of simplicity. Above all, they were filled with a noble spirit caught from their constituents, an undying attachment to the government of their fathers, and a holy hope of relief from the task-masters of the East, (Virginia)."

Such were the founders and fathers of West Virginia.

How State Was Named.

Was First Known as Kanawha, and Afterwards Changed to West Virginia.

It may be known to many that the new state formed out of the western section of Virginia was first named Kanawha, but there are still many more, the greater majority of the people living in West Virginia to-day, who are not informed on this matter. At the adjourned session of the June convention, meeting at the Custom House, Wheeling, August, 1861, the "division ordinance," to be submitted to a vote of the people, was framed. The first section of that ordinance contained this provision: "The people of Virginia, by their delegates assembled in convention at Wheeling, do ordain that a new state, to be called the State of Kanawha, be formed and erected," which was followed by a description of the boundary lines of the new state. The name chosen was in deference to a large number of delegates, who in the heat of their anger against the action of Virginia in joining the Southern Confederacy, and the memory of the earlier wrongs suffered,

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wished to blot out anything that would connect it, even in name, with the old state. The majority of the people were not of that mind, the larger number believing they were better representatives of the old traditions and historical glories of Virginia than those living in the eastern section. While this feeling was dominant at the election in October following, it could not be expressed without endangering the more important prospect of a new state, so the people swallowed the name with a protest in voting for the division ordinance. The final vote recorded was 50 for and 28 against the ordinance.

How Name Was Changed.

When the convention to frame the first constitution of the state met in Wheeling, in November, 1861, the membership of that body was convinced that while the people were practically unanimous for the new state, they were anything but satisfied with the name. The press of that day was filled with letters of protest, the majority of writers favoring Western, or West Virginia. One of the things early determined by the convention was that they would not have the name (Kanawha). Mr. Sinsel, of Taylor county, made the motion to strike out "Kanawha."

Contention ran through the proceedings. Some speakers maintained that there was nothing to attach the people to the name of Virginia, as they had received nothing but oppression and outrage under that name. Mr. J. W. Paxton, of Ohio county, held that the convention lacked authority to change the name. If they could depart from the prescription in this instance, they might in others. Mr. Stuart, of Doddridge county, who had made the motion in the August convention to strike out Kanawha and substitute "West Virginia," said his constituents had voted for division with a protest against the name. This was undoubtedly the sentiment that prevailed throughout the state. All legal quibbles were swept aside, however, and Kanawha was stricken out by a vote of 30 to 14. "West Virginia" was then substituted by an affirmative vote of 30, with scattering votes for "Kanawha," "Western Virginia," "Allegheny," and "Augusta." So it was the state was named.

And, why not West Virginia? The memory of Washington was common heritage, and did not Western Virginians obey the farewell injunctions of the "Father of His Country" more faithfully than those of Eastern Virginia! and were we not co-heirs of the reflected glories of the author of the Declaration of Independence and the chief projector of the National Constitution, all native sons of a once happy and undivided Virginia?

"Switzerland of America."

The Mountains and Vales of West Virginia of Incomparable Beauty and Grandeur.

West Virginia has been termed by many nature enthusiasts the "Switzerland of America," and justly so. The mountainous region traversed by the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, of unequalled grandeur in the world, is picturesquely described by an appreciative writer: "Under



Old Wheeling Custom House

IN this building the latter sessions of the June convention, and the adjourned session in August, 1861, were held. Here the "division ordinance" was framed which secured statehood for West Virginia. The first constitutional convention of the state also met in this structure. It is now used for commercial purposes.

the influence of so genial a climate that semi-tropical forms of vegetation are almost native to its soil, its flora may safely be presumed to equal, if not surpass, in variety and magnificence, the wealth of nature in any other state or continent. In its fauna it is equally distinguished. Birds, beautiful in plumage and sweet in song, give life and grace and cheerfulness to field and forest. The surface is of infinite variety. Rills meet in rivulets, and rivulets swiftly swell into rivers, which leap their mountain barriers and quietly subside into the placidity of the plains below. Mountains rise like little Alps on Alps; glades, those meadows of the mountain, freshen the summer atmosphere with delicious coolness; cultivated slopes, as in Greenbrier and other of the older counties, move the imagination as by a wand of enchantment; deep, winding, fertile valleys, lie at the foot of beetling bluffs, full of the fatness of fertility. Everywhere the vision is greeted with variety and beauty. Nature has not only been partial, but prodigal.

"European travellers have been enraptured with the ever-varying scenery of the Cheat river region, as seen in a trip by rail; and none have been more impressed by it than those who have climbed the Alps, and viewed with awe their towering heights and darkening depths beneath. 'This scenery,' said the historian Bancroft, 'has a character of grandeur of its own; and in the wonderful varieties of forest and lawn, of river and mountain, of nature in her savage wildness and nature in her loveliest forms, presents a series of pictures which no well educated American should leave unvisited. We cross the Atlantic in quest of attractive scenes; and lo! we have at home, along the side of the great central iron pathway, views that excel anything that can be seen among the mountains of Scotland or in the passes of the Appennines.'"

Had the writer visited the interior of the state and the beautiful valley of the Great Kanawha, his rapture, with no danger of abatement, might have warmed into a still brighter glow.

Facts About West Virginia.

The most southern northern state and the most northern southern state.

First battle of Civil war and last of the Revolution fought in West Virginia.

Establishment of State only change made on map of United States by Civil war.

Most salubrious and equable climate of any State in the Union. The mean annual temperature is 52.30°.

First among the states in production of natural gas, and largest producer of first grade oil in the country.

Has the largest proprietary medicine concern in the world.

Has more coal area than any other state and stands second in production, and second in coke output.

State motto: **Montani Semper Liberi**, meaning "Mountaineers are always freemen."

At the close of the war, in 1865, West Virginia had no state institutions. To-day there are twenty-nine, representing an investment of \$8,000,000.

State ranks first in production of hardwoods.

Has more than a score of medicinal springs, chief among them being the nationally famous White Sulphur Springs resort. 76 medicinal plants abound in state.

State has the largest pottery, largest glass factory, largest independent tin mill, largest axe factory, and largest stogie manufactory in the United States.

Sixty per cent of area of state is covered with forests, one and a half million acres being in virgin forest.

One million horse power can be developed by the rivers of the state each year.

The wage earners in the various avenues of industrial interest of West Virginia number 239,000.

West Virginia is pre-eminently a grazing state. Her hillsides with their rich blue-grass sod and streams of pure water, make ideal pastures.

Great fruit growing state. West Virginia apples are sold in markets of foreign countries. Ripe peaches can be picked from trees during two and a half months in the year and apples during four months.

West Virginia has a splendid system of free public schools. It is one of the few states in which the teaching of agriculture in the common schools has been required by law. It has numerous normal schools, three institutions of college rank, and a state University. Between 1900 and 1911 the expenditures for common schools increased from two to five million dollars, and the value of all public property used for educational purposes from \$4,515,000 to \$10,550,000. Number of pupils enrolled, 277,200. State has 6,700 schools with nearly 10,000 teachers.

State has no public debt; has over \$1,000,000 surplus in treasury. State tax, ONE CENT on the \$100 valuation. State has lowest average tax rate of forty-six states.

West Virginia is a land of flowing streams. Four splendid interior rivers—the Big Sandy, Great Kanawha, Little Kanawha and Monongahela—all having efficient modern locks and dams under the supervision of the Federal Government, bring this economical method of transportation to the very heart of the State. These streams flow through the State to the Ohio, a river which washes her western boundary for nearly 300 miles and then sweeps on to the Mississippi. The sequence of rivers is unrivaled among the navigable waterways of the earth.

Has largest lampblack factory in the world.

State has the largest percentage of native born population of any state in the Union.

Five large trunk railway systems operate throughout the state tapped by numerous local roads. The total number of railroads in the State is 63. These together with 24 electric railways, have a main and sidetrack trackage of 5,870 miles.

The population of West Virginia has grown from 376,688 in 1860 to 1,221,119 in 1910. The State's total assessed wealth increased from \$140,338,273.00 in 1870 to \$1,114,000,000.00 in 1911.

Number of coal mines in State 826; number of men employed in mining, over 70,000.

Lowest point in State, Harper's Ferry, 260 feet; highest, Spruce Knob, Pendleton county, with an elevation of 4,860 feet.

West Virginia furnished 36,000 troops to the Federal army during the Civil war.

State flower Rhododendron, or mountain laurel.

State has fifty-five counties with 100,000 farms. Average size of West Virginia farm, 114 acres.

In the eastern part of State there are large deposits of iron ore.

All kinds of clay abound in the state. Also glass sand, lime and building stone.

State ranks fifth among glass producing states.

Stands seventh in rank in number of postoffices.

The two elements of successful manufacturing are cheap and abundant fuel and cheap and abundant raw material, and nowhere else in the world are these cheaper or more abundant than in West Virginia.

Declaration of Rights.

**Adopted by Loyal Convention, Meeting in Wheeling,
June 17, 1861. Important State Paper.**

Following is an exact reproduction of the "Declaration of Rights," used prefatory to the Ordinances and Act of the Restored Government of Virginia, prior to the formation of West Virginia. It is considered one of the most important state papers of West Virginia.

"The true purpose of all government is to promote the welfare and provide for the protection and security of the governed, and when any form or organization of government proves inadequate for, or subversive of this purpose, it is the right, it is the duty of the latter to abolish it. The Bill of Rights of Virginia, framed in 1776, reaffirmed in 1830, and again in 1851, expressly reserves this right to a majority of her people. The act of the General Assembly, calling the convention which assembled in Richmond in February last (1861), without the previously expressed consent of such majority, was therefore a usurpation; and the convention thus called has not only abused the powers nominally entrusted to it, but, with the connivance and active aid of the executive has usurped and exercised other powers, to the manifest injury of the people, which, if permitted, will inevitably subject them to a military despotism.

The Convention, by its pretended ordinances, has required the people of Virginia to separate from and wage war against the government of the United States, and against citizens of neighboring States, with whom they have heretofore maintained friendly, social and business relations:

It has attempted to subvert the Union founded by Washington and his co-patriots, in the purer days of the republic, which has conferred unexampled prosperity upon every class of citizens, and upon every section of the country.

It has attempted to transfer the allegiance of the people to an illegal confederacy of rebellious States, and required their submission to its pretended edicts and decrees:

It has attempted to place the whole military force and military operations of the Commonwealth under the control and direction of such confederacy, for offensive as well as defensive purposes:

It has, in conjunction with the State executive, instituted wherever their usurped power extends, a reign of terror intended to suppress the free expression of the will of the people, making elections a mockery and a fraud:

The same combination, even before the passage of the pretended ordinance of secession, instituted war by the seizure and appropriation of the property of the Federal Government, and by organizing and mobilizing armies, with the avowed purpose of capturing or destroying the Capital of the Union:

They have attempted to bring the allegiance of the people of the United States into direct conflict with their subordinate allegiance to the State, thereby making obedience to their pretended ordinances, treason against the former.

We, therefore, the delegates here assembled in Convention to devise such measures and take such action as the safety and welfare of the loyal citizens of Virginia may demand, having maturely considered the premises, and viewing with great concern the deplorable condition to which this once happy Commonwealth must be reduced unless some regular adequate remedy is speedily adopted, and appealing to the Supreme Ruler of the Universe for the rectitude of our intentions, do hereby, in the name and on the behalf of the good people of Virginia, solemnly declare that the preservation of their dearest rights and liberties and their security in person and property, imperatively demand the reorganization of the government of the Commonwealth, and that all acts of said Convention and Executive, tending to separate this Commonwealth from the United States, or to levy and carry on war against them, are without authority and void; and that the offices of all who adhere to the said Convention and Executive, whether legislative, executive or judicial, are vacated."

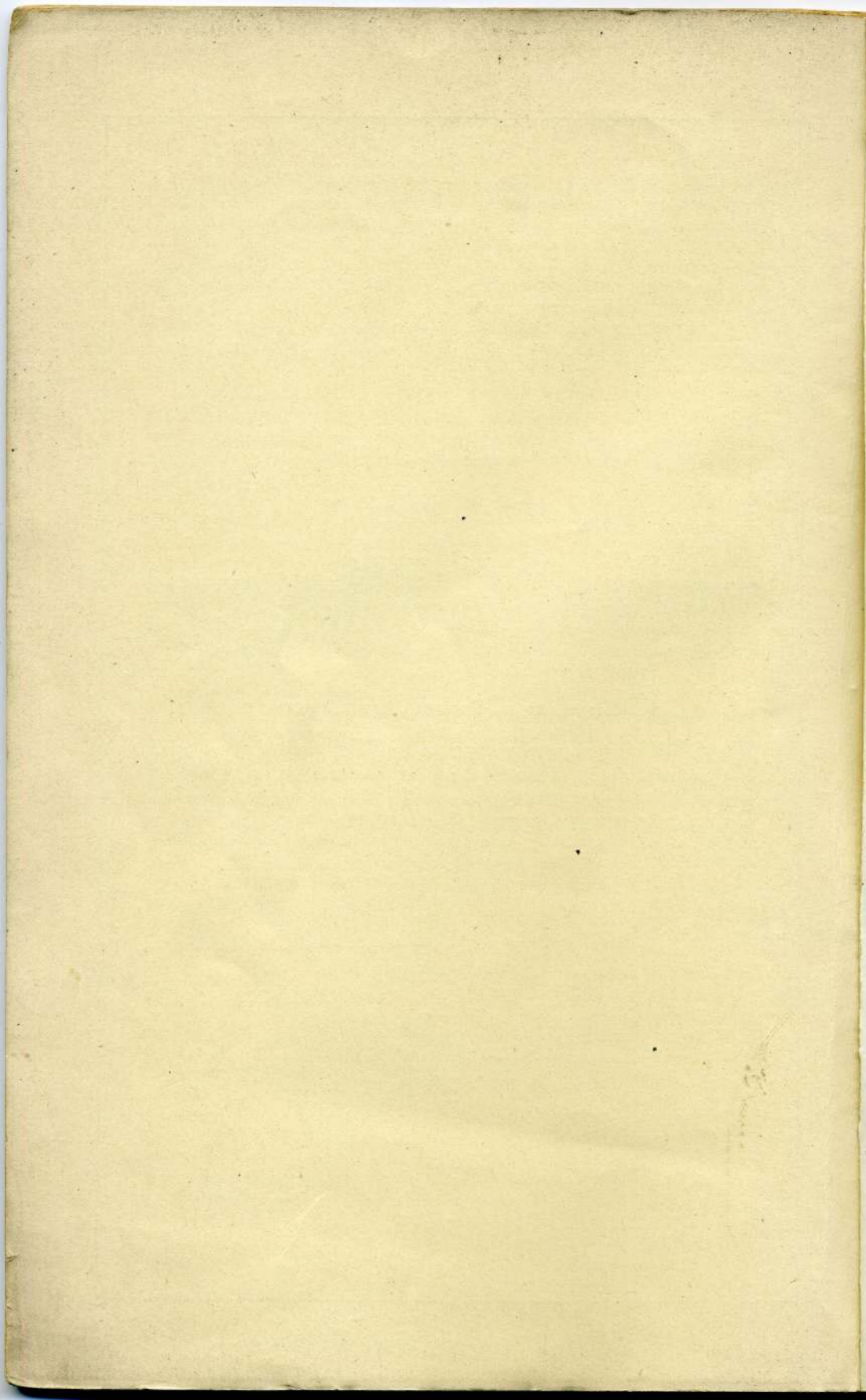


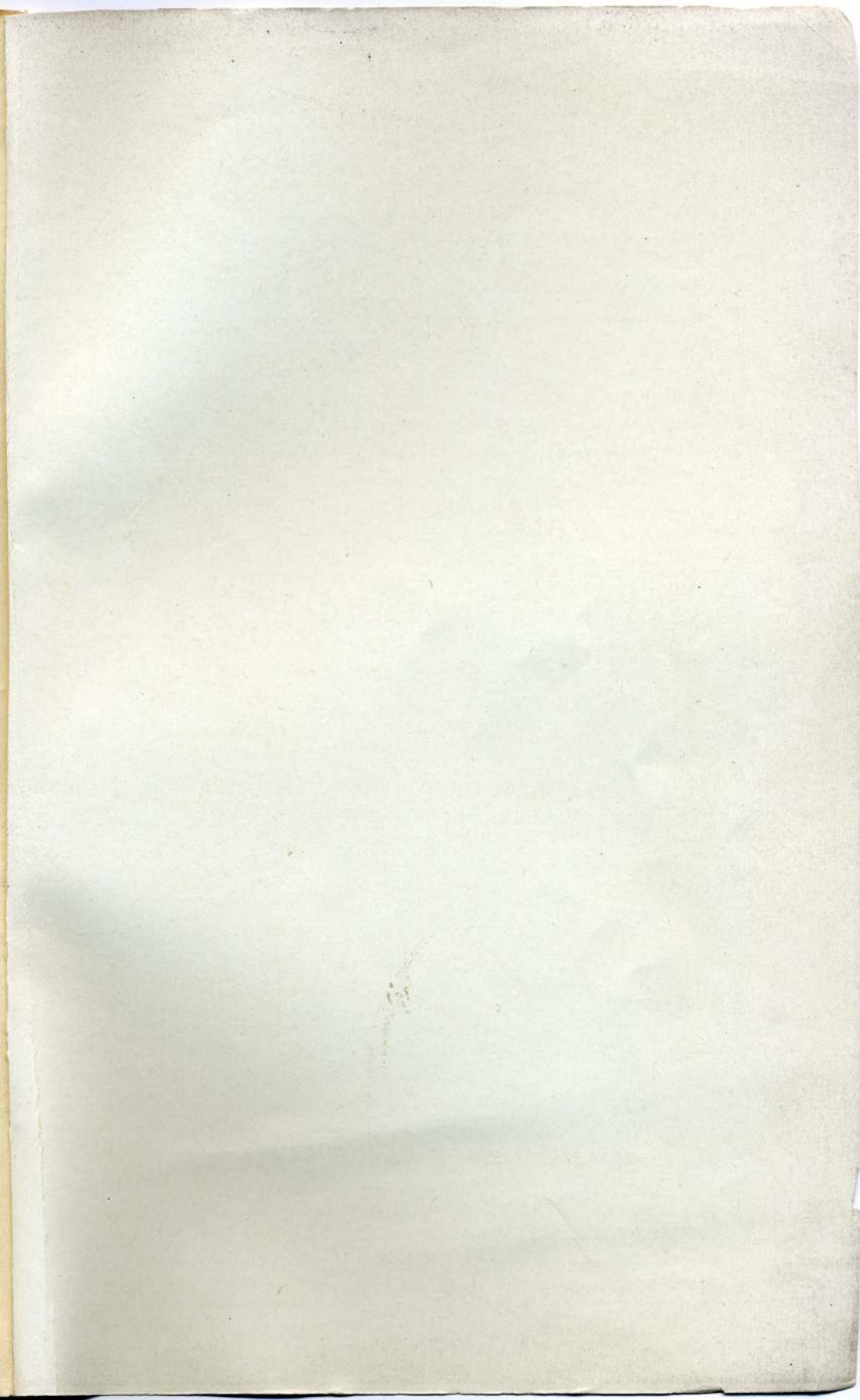
Bullard Printing House, Wheeling, W. Va.



Wheeling's Market Auditorium.

THIS building, now nearing completion, will be ready for occupancy January 1913. The central part, or auditorium, is to be used for public meetings and will seat comfortably 4,000 people. Here the main exercises of the Semi Centennial celebration will be held.





"My Country's Call"

Altoona, Pa. celebrated during the week of September 22, 1912, the semi-centennial of the meeting of fourteen governors of the loyal states at that point in 1862, when the fate of the nation hung in the balance. The meeting was called by Governors Tod of Ohio, Curtin of Pennsylvania and Pierpont of the Restored Government of Virginia. At that celebration the following poem was read by Miss Francis Pierpont Siviter, grand-daughter of Governor Pierpont, and written by her mother, Mrs. Anna Pierpont Siviter, of Pittsburg, daughter of the Governor:

My country, O my country, dark and dread now war clouds lower,
And the traitors' band has seized you; you are yielding to his power,
And your mighty leader trembles. In Columbia's great land
Is there none to send him succor, or uphold his weakening hand?

Never was there direr peril, never was there greater need,
When a nation's life is threatened, shaken as a broken reed;
When her cry for life is stifled—choked by deadly, craven fear;
Victory has fled her standards, and defeat draws swiftly near.

All the world is watching, waiting, for an end that seems not far—
When the hope of oppressed people dies as dies a shooting star—
When a nation that was founded for the freedom of mankind
Shall be racked and torn asunder by foul slavery, fierce and blind.

But our God is still in heaven, and His purpose may not be
Thwarted by man's dumb endeavor; He it was made Liberty!
Loyal states have come together, led by leaders wise and brave,
Who have pledged their best and strongest that the Union they will save!

Hark! Their cry for help is ringing—scarce a cry, 'tis more a prayer;
And the answer to their summons seems to come from everywhere—
Every loyal state is hastening, gladly sending forth her best,
Never braver men have answered to stern duty's swift request.

West Virginia boys are coming, from her mountains, swift and strong—
Thousands upon thousands marching, you can hear their battle song;
You can see their banners waving. O my country, 'tis for thee
That they lift their voices chanting: "Mountaineers are always free!"

Pennsylvania sends battallions—hundreds upon hundreds more;
Massachusetts men are moving, from her hillsides and her shore;
Maine, Vermont and stanch Ohio catch the battle-cry and go—
How the Lord of Battles led them forth to victory well we know—

How they saved the mighty Union, how they gave their lives that we
In the paths of peace might wander, ever blessed, ever free.

So we come to pay them homage, praying: O Thou Lord of Light,
Help us, as Thou helped our Fathers, to climb up to Freedom's height.
Greed and Lust and Wrong are waiting, to withstand us on our way;
Send us leaders, Lord of Wisdom, to uphold and guide Thy sway.