MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN ERECTED IN McMILLAN PARK, WASHINGTON.

Erected by citizens of Michigan in honor of James McMillan, a Senator from Michigan, 1889–1902; Chairman of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, 52d, 54th, 55th, 56th, and 57th Congresses. Herbert Adams, sculptor; Charles A. Platt, landscape architect. The design of the fountain was passed upon by the Commission of Fine Arts.

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63 Congress, 2d Session - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - House Document No. 461

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES TRANSMITTING THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1913

DECEMBER 10, 1913.—Read, referred to the Committee on the Library
DECEMBER 20, 1913.—Ordered to be printed with illustrations

WASHINGTON
1914

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I transmit herewith for the information of the Congress the Report of the Commission of Fine Arts for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913, with accompanying illustrations.

WOODROW WILSON.

The WHITE HOUSE, *December 10, 1913.*

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PART I

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION

REPORT OF

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1913.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *December 9, 1913.*

THE PRESIDENT.

SIR: The Commission of Fine Arts has the honor to submit the following report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1913:

The commission was established by act of Congress approved May 17, 1910. Its members are appointed by the President of the United States, and consisted throughout the year of—

Daniel C. French, chairman, of New York.
Frederick Law Olmsted, of Massachusetts.
Thomas Hastings, of New York.
Cass Gilbert, of New York.
Charles Moore, of Michigan.
Edwin H. Blashfield, of New York.
Peirce Anderson, of Illinois.

All except Mr. Blashfield and Mr. Anderson were appointed under commissions dated June 15, 1910. Mr. Blashfield was appointed on May 31, 1912, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr. Francis D. Millet, who perished on the *Titanic*, and Mr. Anderson was appointed on July 5, 1912, to fill the vacancy created by the death of Mr. Daniel H. Burnham, who died suddenly while abroad.

Col. Spencer Cosby, United States Army, officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, was appointed secretary of the commission by the President under commission dated June 15, 1910.

MAINTENANCE.

The sundry civil act, approved August 24, 1912, made an appropriation of $5,000 for the expenses of the commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, in the following words:

> COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS: To meet the expenses made necessary by the act approved May seventeenth, nineteen hundred and ten, entitled "An act establishing a Commission of Fine Arts," including the purchase of periodicals, maps, and books of reference, to be disbursed, on vouchers approved by the commission, by the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, who shall be the secretary and shall act as the executive officer of said commission, $5,000.

The same amount was appropriated for the expenses of the commission for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914.

The members serve without compensation, being reimbursed only for expenses incurred by them in traveling on the official business of the commission. The secretary also receives no additional compensation for his services. The only permanent paid employees of the commission are a clerk and a messenger boy; a draftsman has been employed at times when his services were necessary.

JURISDICTION.

The act of May 17, 1910,[1] creating the commission, provides that—

> It shall be the duty of such commission to advise upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia, and upon the selection of models for statues, fountains, and monuments erected under the authority of the United States and upon the selection of the artists for the execution of same. It shall be the duty of the officers charged by law to determine such questions in each case to call for such advice. The foregoing provisions of this act shall not apply to the Capitol Building of the United States and the building of the Library of Congress. The commission shall also advise generally upon questions of art when required to do so by the President or by any committee of either House of Congress.

In official opinions of the Judge Advocate General of the War Department it was held that "in so far as statues, fountains, and

[1] For act, see p. 38.

monuments are concerned, the act is restricted in its operations to the District of Columbia; and that if monuments are erected elsewhere in the United States, and the opinion of the commission is desired, its action may be invoked by the President or by a committee of Congress."

By Executive order dated October 25, 1910, the President directed that "plans for no public building to be erected in the District of Columbia for the General Government shall be hereafter finally approved by the officer duly authorized until after such officer shall have submitted the plans to the Commission of Fine Arts created under the act of Congress of May 17, 1910, for its comment and advice.[1]"

On February 2, 1912, the President directed the commission to advise the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds in regard to the improvement of any of the grounds in the city of Washington under his charge whenever such advice is asked for by that officer.

During the fiscal year the commission has reported upon matters referred to it by the President, by committees of Congress, by the Commissioners of the District of Columbia, by the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds, by the Isthmian Canal Commission, and by other officials charged by law to determine certain questions of art. The tendency is to an increase both in the number of matters submitted and in the extent to which the advice of the commission is called for. The plans or models of nearly all monuments, wherever located, toward the erection of which the Government has made appropriation have been submitted to the commission for advice. In the growing desire of Government officials to submit to the commission questions of art is to be found the justification of the organic act.

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[1] On November 28, 1913, the President issued the following Executive order:

"It is hereby ordered that whenever new structures are to be erected in the District of Columbia under the direction of the Federal Government which affect in any important way the appearance of the city, or whenever questions involving matters of art and with which the Federal Government is concerned are to be determined, final action shall not be taken until such plans and questions have been submitted to the Commissioners of Fine Arts designated under the act of Congress of May 17, 1910, for their comment and advice."

In all cases it has been the aim of the commission to accomplish results by advising with commissions and with the artists individually, suggesting modifications or changes wherever desirable. The spirit has been one of cooperation rather than of simple criticism.

In a number of instances the commission has, as a matter of courtesy, complied with the request of public officers for advice on questions of art upon which the law did not require it to act.

WORK OF THE COMMISSION.

The commission held five formal meetings during the year in its office in the Lemon Building, 1729 New York Avenue NW., Washington, D. C.

The matters considered by the commission during the year numbered 59, of which 2 were brought over from last year; 2 were not disposed of before July 1, 1913, and were carried over into the next year; and 1 was returned without action, the commission being without authority to act in this case. This made a total of 56 submissions considered and disposed of, a considerable increase over the number of submissions in any former year, although there was a decrease in the number of meetings held by the commission. In order to work within the amount of its appropriation the commission finds itself limited to not more than six meetings a year. The total amount of money involved in the cases passed upon approximates $6,345,000.[1]

Each submission is acted upon by the commission as a whole, but whenever considered desirable a committee is appointed to expedite and facilitate action. New questions to be determined constantly arise during the consideration of the various submissions, and the problem has to be studied out carefully in each individual case. The money value of a submission is no indication of the amount of work its consideration involves, for many submissions requiring much time and careful thought are problems of expediency and questions of art not computable in money values.

[1] See p. 23.

THE FOUNTAIN IN HONOR OF FRANCIS DAVIS MILLET AND ARCHIBALD WILLINGHAM BUTT, AS ERECTED.

Designed by Thomas Hastings. Bas-reliefs by Daniel Chester French. The site chosen and the design of the memorial were approved by the President of the United States upon the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts.

During the year examinations were made, both in Washington and elsewhere, either by the commission, by a duly appointed committee, or by individual members, of models for proposed statues, and of proposed sites for public monuments and other structures. Frequent conferences were held with officers of the Government, committees of Congress, architects, sculptors, and others interested in the matters submitted to the commission. In February a committee, representing the commission and composed of the chairman and the vice chairman, spent nine strenuous days in the Canal Zone for the purpose of advising the Isthmian Canal Commission upon several urgent matters, and of securing data for a proposed report to be made the President under authorization of Congress on the artistic character of the structures of the Panama Canal.

It is believed that the efforts of the commission have resulted not only in a marked improvement in the beauty and artistic character of monuments and public buildings erected in and planned for Washington during the last three years, but also in a saving of many thousands of dollars to the Government. Its recommendations have invariably been in the direction of simplicity and against ornateness.

The relations during the year between the executive officers of the District of Columbia and the commission have continued excellent, extending to such matters connected with the artistic development of the city of Washington as came under the jurisdiction and control of the District Commissioners.

SUBMISSIONS.

The matters considered by the commission during the year consisted of the following submissions:

STATUES, FOUNTAINS, AND MONUMENTS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Butt-Millet Memorial Fountain.

A fountain authorized by joint resolution of Congress to be erected on public grounds in the city of Washington to the memory

of Francis D. Millet, first vice chairman of the Commission of Fine Arts, and of Maj. Archibald W. Butt, United States Army, his friend and companion, both of whom perished in the *Titanic* disaster. The fountain is being erected by their friends as a tribute to their memory, and the site chosen and the design of the memorial were approved by the President upon the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts. The commission also gave advice regarding the planting proposed around the memorial. (Three submissions.)[1]

Peace Monument.

The advice of the commission was given upon the treatment of the fountain of the Peace Monument at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and First Street NW., at the foot of the Capitol.

Grant Memorial.

A memorial being erected by Congress to Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, at the head of the Mall near the Capitol. The advice of the commission was given upon the arrangement of the inscription for the front of the pedestal under the equestrian statue of Gen. Grant. (Two submissions.)

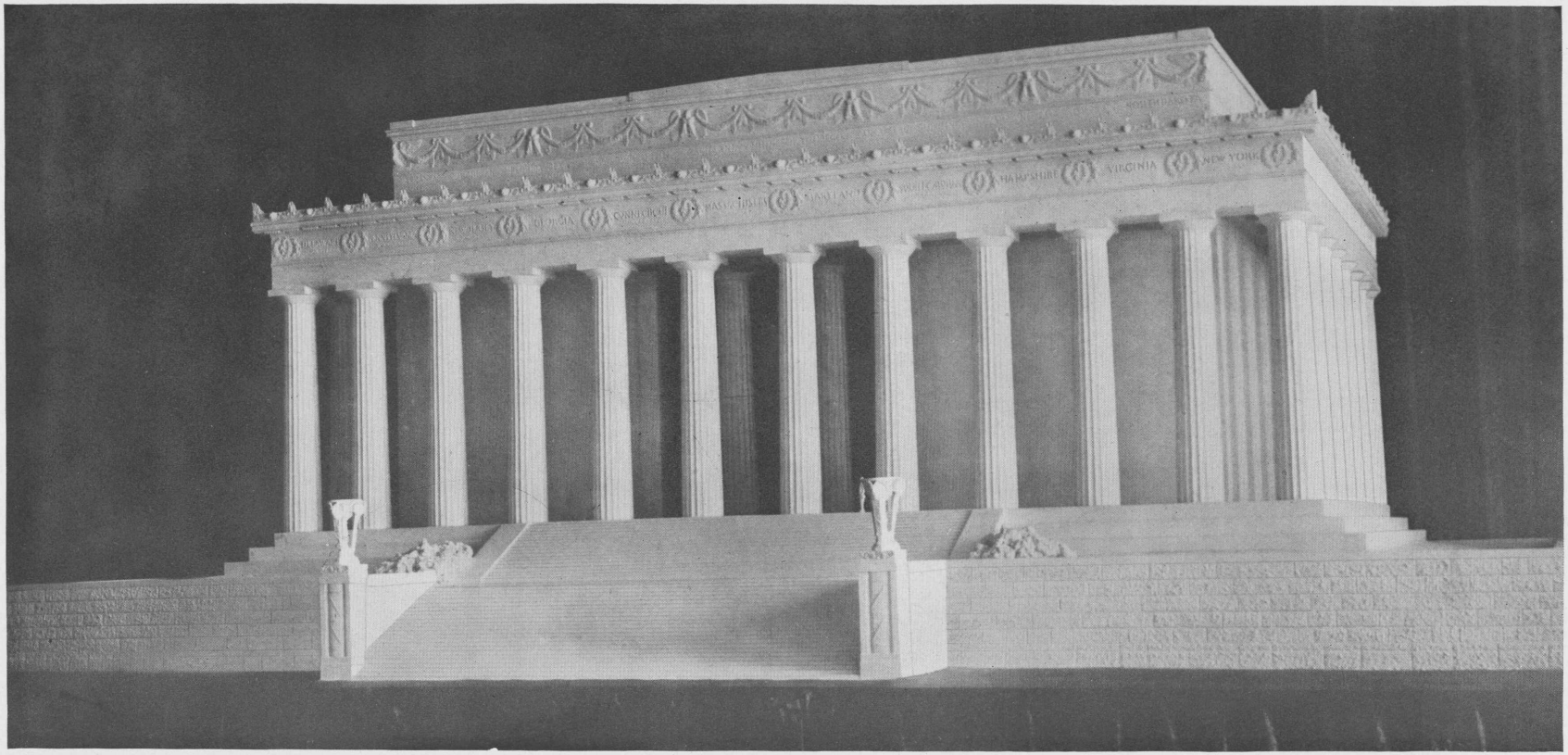
Barry Monument.

A monument to be erected in Franklin Park by the United States to the memory of Commodore John Barry. The commission passed upon the full-sized plaster model of the figure of Victory which is to be placed on the front of the pedestal, and upon the inscription for the monument. (Two submissions.)

Lincoln Memorial.

A memorial to be erected by the United States in the city of Washington to the memory of Abraham Lincoln. The Lincoln Memorial Commission, upon the advice of the Commission of Fine Arts, given after long and careful consideration of the subject, recommended to Congress the plan and design for the memorial prepared by Mr. Henry Bacon, architect, of New York

[1] See Pls. II and IV opposite pp. 15 and 18.



DESIGN FOR THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL IN WASHINGTON.

The design was approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, was recommended to Congress by the Lincoln Memorial Commission, and approved by Congress February 1, 1913. Henry Bacon, architect.

City, and the site in Potomac Park on the Capitol-Washington Monument axis. Congress, by joint resolution of February 1, 1913, approved this recommendation, and in the sundry civil bill appropriated $300,000 for commencing work on the erection of the memorial.

The Commission of Fine Arts during the year examined and reported upon the detailed working drawings for the memorial.[1]

PUBLIC BUILDINGS AND WORKS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The advice of the commission was given upon the following matters:

Engineer Storehouse in Potomac Park East of the Railroad Embankment.

Plan and location of a new fireproof storehouse erected by the United States Engineer Office in the portion of Potomac Park east of the railroad embankment on the Washington Harbor side.

Park Lodges.

Location of new park lodges to be placed in Franklin, Lafayette, and Judiciary parks. (Three submissions.)

White House Grounds.

The desirability of a change in the lanterns marking the north entrances to the White House grounds.

Means of Connecting Potomac Park with Rock Creek Park.

A tentative plan for a proposed connection between Rock Creek Park and Potomac Park. Congress has authorized the acquisition of additional land lying along Rock Creek for park purposes and for connecting Potomac Park with the Zoological and Rock Creek Parks. (Two submissions.)

Large Clocks on the Sidewalks of the City.

The desirability of permitting large clocks to be placed upon the sidewalks of this city.

Montrose Park.

The disposition of the old mansion and the small outbuildings in Montrose Park. This park has recently been acquired by the Government and contains 15.69 acres.

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[1] See Pl. III, facing p. 16.

Washington Monument.

A plan showing a sundial arrangement suggested for the treatment of the grounds around the Washington Monument.

Potomac Park.

A plan for the treatment of the portion of Potomac Park lying south of the railroad embankment and containing 327.5 acres. The plan of the officer in charge of public buildings and grounds contemplates the creation of a people's recreation ground in this portion of the park.

Meridian Hill Park.

A preliminary plan for the treatment of Meridian Hill Park, which has just been purchased by the Government. The park contains over 11 acres. (Two submissions.)

Union Station Plaza.

The character of the treatment of the unimproved portions of the central island of the Union Station Plaza.[1]

Boating Facilities in Potomac Park.

The location of boathouses along the Potomac Park water front, as well as the general conditions under which provisions should be made for yachting, boating, and other outdoor sports in the eastern section of the park.

QUESTIONS OF ART REFERRED BY CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.

Portrait Bust of Former Chief Justice Fuller.

Opinion given to the Joint Committee on the Library upon the model for a portrait bust of the late Chief Justice Fuller.[2]

Woman's "Titanic" Memorial.

A memorial structure proposed to be erected in the city of Washington by the Woman's *Titanic* Memorial Association to the memory of those who perished in the *Titanic* disaster. The advice of the commission was requested upon a definite site for the memorial as well as upon a design.[3]

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[1] See p. 33. [2] See p. 28. [3] See p. 27.

THE FOUNTAIN IN HONOR OF FRANCIS DAVIS MILLET, FIRST VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS, AND MAJOR ARCHIBALD W. BUTT, UNITED STATES ARMY.

Congress authorized the erection of the fountain on public grounds in Washington. It is situated south of the White House grounds, at the northwest junction of the road around those grounds with the road around the Ellipse.

Addition to the Building of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Report made to the Committee on Public Buildings and Grounds of the Senate upon a bill providing for the erection of an addition to the building in the District of Columbia of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Memorials to Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson.

Memorials proposed to be erected in the city of Washington to the memory of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. The commission held a conference with the Committee on the Library of the House of Representatives, and later rendered a report to that committee upon the merits of bills introduced in Congress providing for the erection of these memorials. (Two submissions.)[1]

MISCELLANEOUS.

Princeton Monument.

A monument to be erected upon the battlefield of Princeton, N. J., to commemorate the victorious battle fought there in 1777 by the Americans. The views and recommendation of the commission were given upon a sketch design for the monument.

Indian Memorial.

A memorial to the North American Indian to be erected by Mr. Rodman Wanamaker, of New York City, without expense to the United States Government, upon the site already selected for the purpose in New York Harbor. The commission passed upon a preliminary design and plans for the memorial.

Screven-Stewart Monument at Midway, Ga.

A monument to be erected by the United States at Midway, Ga., to the memory of Gens. Screven and Stewart, who fought in the American Revolution. The commission gave advice upon the design for the proposed monument.

"Maine" Memorial.

A memorial to be placed in Arlington Cemetery, consisting of the mast of the former battleship *Maine*, with an appropriate

[1] See p. 29.

setting. The commission passed upon various preliminary designs for the composition, and made final recommendation as to the design and the site. (Three submissions.)

Powell Memorial.

A memorial to be erected by the United States on the brink of the Grand Canyon of the Colorado, in the Grand Canyon Forest Reserve in Arizona, to the memory of John Wesley Powell. The views of the commission were given upon the suitability of several designs submitted. (Three submissions.)

Memorial Tablets from Parts of the Wreck of the "Maine."

Bronze memorial tablets cast from parts of the wreck of the *Maine* for donation by the Government as relics to municipalities and other bodies. The advice of the commission was requested upon suitable designers for the tablets, upon designs later submitted by these artists, and upon competent bronze founders to do the casting. (Three submissions.) [1]

Memorial to the North Carolina Women of the Confederacy.

A memorial to the North Carolina Women of the Confederacy to be erected in Raleigh, N. C., by a citizen of that State. The commission, as a matter of courtesy, passed upon the artistic merits of the model for the memorial. The commission had previously, upon request, informed the authorities in charge of the erection of the memorial as to the best method of selecting a sculptor.

United States Naval Academy.

The opinion of the commission was given regarding a uniform system of improvements in the layout and arrangement of the academic buildings and grounds at the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md. Advice was also given as to competent technical assistance in the study of these improvements.[2]

Rostron Medal.

A medal presented by Congress to Capt. Arthur Henry Rostron of the steamship *Carpathia* for the heroic rescue of the survivors

[1] See Pl. V, opposite p. 20.

[2] See pp. 34–38.

TABLET MADE FOR THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER AUTHORITY OF CONGRESS, FROM PARTS OF THE WRECK OF THE FORMER BATTLESHIP "MAINE" AND ITS EQUIPMENT.

Charles Keck, sculptor. The Commission passed upon the design for the tablet.

of the *Titanic* disaster. The commission submitted to the President the names of artists competent to furnish suitable designs for the medal, and made recommendations on the designs submitted. (Three submissions.) [1]

The Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery.

The advice of the commission was given regarding the employment of an expert for the preparation of a general plan for the future development of the Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery.

Arlington Cemetery Memorial Amphitheater.

The commission gave advice regarding the best location for the memorial amphitheater and chapel and approaches thereto, authorized by Congress to be constructed in accordance with the plans of Carrere & Hastings, architects, of New York City, in the Arlington (Va.) National Cemetery.

Germantown Memorial.

A monument to be erected by the United States and other parties at Germantown, Pa., in commemoration of the founding of the first permanent German settlement in America. The commission, after having previously submitted recommendations on models submitted in competition for the memorial, designated one of the members of a jury who passed on the two models submitted in the final competition for the monument.

Design for New Paper Currency.

The commission gave its opinion upon a design prepared for the back of new paper currency proposed to be issued by the Treasury Department.

Panama Canal.

The act of Congress approved August 24, 1912, called the Panama Canal Act, contains the following provision:

> Before the completion of the canal, the Commission of Fine Arts may make report to the President of their recommendation regarding the artistic character of the structures of the canal, such report to be transmitted to Congress.

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[1] See Pl. VII, opposite p. 27; also p. 27.

Report of Commission of Fine Arts

In order to make this report, and on the urgent request of the chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission, a committee from the Commission of Fine Arts visited the Canal Zone and made a thorough examination of sites and plans for permanent structures to be erected in connection with the canal. The report of the commission was not finished before the end of the fiscal year.

In addition to the general recommendations to be embodied in its report, the commission also gave advice direct to the Isthmian Canal Commission upon the following specific matters submitted at different times during the year:

The designs submitted by competing artists and firms for the interior decorations for the New Washington Hotel at Colon, Canal Zone.

A proposal to erect a monument to the Spanish explorer Balboa at some suitable place in the Canal Zone.

A new design for the west breakwater light and fog signal in the Canal Zone.

The planting and grading to be done in the vicinity of the Gatun Locks.

Technical assistants to the Isthmian Canal Commission for the proposed municipal department in the Canal Zone.

SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1913,

Carried over from last year		2
Statues, fountains, and monuments in the District of Columbia		9
Public buildings and works in the District of Columbia		14
Questions of art referred by congressional committees		6
Miscellaneous		27
Questions submitted but returned, as commission was without authority to act		1
		59
Not acted on at close of year	2	
Submission returned	1	
		3
Total considered and disposed of		56

McMILLAN MEMORIAL FOUNTAIN IN McMILLAN PARK, WASHINGTON.

Approach from First Street NW.

The following table shows the work of the commission during the past year in comparison with that done during the two previous years of its existence:

	1911	1912	1913
Number of official meetings of the commission held during the year	9	8	5
Statues, fountains, and monuments in the District of Columbia	10	13	9
Public buildings and works in the District of Columbia	14	14	14
Questions of art referred by congressional committees	5	2	6
Miscellaneous	14	8	27
Questions submitted and returned because commission was without authority to act	2	2	1
Carried over from previous year	. .	2	2
	45	41	59
Not acted on at close of fiscal year	2	2	2
Submissions returned because commission was without authority to act	2	2	1
	4	4	3
Total considered and disposed of	41	37	56

The following summary shows the principal expenditures and liabilities incurred by the commission during the fiscal year 1913:

Salaries of employees	$2,386.34
Members' traveling expenses	1,418.35
Office supplies	353.45
Repairing plans	135.00
Photographs and printing	193.23
Telegraph and telephone service, cleaning offices, and sundry expenses	402.93
	4,889.30
Balance unexpended at end of year	110.70
Amount of appropriation	5,000.00

Respectfully submitted.

DANIEL C. FRENCH, *Chairman.*

PART II

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

DESIGN OF MEDAL PRESENTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR AND ON BEHALF OF CONGRESS, TO CAPTAIN ARTHUR HENRY ROSTRON OF THE STEAMSHIP "CARPATHIA."

John Flanagan, sculptor. The design was passed upon by the Commission of Fine Arts.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BY COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.

MEDAL TO CAPT. ARTHUR HENRY ROSTRON.

AUGUST 13, 1912.

THE PRESIDENT,
The White House.

Mr. PRESIDENT: The Commission of Fine Arts regret to report that they find none of the designs submitted in competition for the proposed medal to Capt. Rostron achieves the high standard of artistic excellence required in a medal which is an expression of the honor paid to a distinguished man by the Nation.

The commission recommend the rejection of all of these designs and that new designs be secured from artists distinguished for their skill in this most difficult department of the fine arts. The commission will furnish names of such artists, if desired.

By direction of the commission:

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT, 3D,
Captain, Corps of Engineers, U. S. A.,
Acting Secretary.

ADVICE REGARDING A SITE FOR THE WOMAN'S "TITANIC" MEMORIAL.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
Washington, D. C., April 5, 1913.

The CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON THE LIBRARY OF
THE UNITED STATES SENATE,
United States Senate.

SIR: The Committee on the Library of the Senate, in letter of February 25, 1913, transmitted to the Commission of Fine Arts the joint resolution (S. J. Res. 161) "Granting permission to the Woman's *Titanic* Memorial Association to erect a memorial structure in Potomac Park, in the city of Washington," and requested

the advice of the commission as to a definite site for the memorial and also the opinion of the commission regarding the design, if one has been proposed.

Careful consideration was given to this matter at the meeting of the commission held yesterday, the first meeting since the receipt of the letter. The secretary of the Woman's *Titanic* Memorial Association suggested as a site for the proposed memorial a location in Potomac Park on the west shore of the Tidal Basin, about a thousand feet northwest of the inlet bridge, and lying between the main drive and the sea wall of the basin. The Commission of Fine Arts has made a personal examination of this site and considers it an excellent one for a monument of suitable design. The commission understands that no design has yet been selected, but, as the proposed joint resolution requires the Commission of Fine Arts to give its advice upon any design that may be proposed, it is believed that this provision should protect the United States from the selection of an unsuitable design.

By direction of the commission:

Respectfully, SPENCER COSBY,
Colonel, United States Army, Secretary.

PORTRAIT BUST OF FORMER CHIEF JUSTICE FULLER.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
Washington, D. C., August 13, 1912.

Hon. GEO. PEABODY WETMORE,
Chairman the Joint Committee on the Library,
United States Senate.

SIR: In compliance with your request the Commission of Fine Arts have examined the bust of Chief Justice Fuller, by William Ordway Partridge, and beg to report that they consider the bust artistically worthy of purchase by the Government, and, so far as a comparison of the photographs of Chief Justice Fuller with the bust could determine, it seems to be acceptable as a likeness.

In case it is decided to place the bust in the room of the Supreme Court, the commission advise that the plinth or base of the bust shall be changed to harmonize with the busts already installed and that the sculptor's attention be drawn, in rendering the bust in marble, to the importance of recalling the extreme delicacy and refinement that characterize the architectural detail of the room.

By direction of the commission:

Very respectfully, U. S. GRANT, 3D,
Captain, Corps of Engineers, United States Army,
Acting Secretary.

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
Washington, D. C., December 28, 1912.

Hon. JAMES L. SLAYDEN,
Chairman, The Committee on the Library
of the House of Representatives,
House of Representatives, United States.

SIR: The Commission of Fine Arts, to whom were referred Senate bill 745 and Senate joint resolution 8, proposing the erection in Washington of statues of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, respectfully report:

This commission took up, first, the sites east of the Capitol now occupied by the bronze vases which once flanked the statue of George Washington that was removed to the National Museum a few years ago. We understand that these sites, although excluded by the terms of the legislation authorizing the statues in question, have been seriously considered by your committee, and that it might be possible to obtain legislation to permit the use of these locations. If these sites shall be selected it would seem desirable to place in the former location of the Washington statue another statue of Washington executed in material that will withstand the weather—at present the only statue in the Capitol grounds is one of John Marshall, the period and scope of whose activities, great as they were, would hardly seem to justify this unique distinction. To place the statues of Jefferson and Hamilton opposite the principal front of the Capitol calls for the central figure of Washington to give historic unity and significance to the composition. Such action would find further justification in the fact that both the site for and the design of the Capitol were selected by Washington.

Should Congress now authorize the location of the statues of Jefferson and Hamilton in the Capitol Grounds, it seems probable that at a later date the statues of John Jay and James Madison would be added, in order to complete the group of authors of The Federalist, to whom history ascribes the chief part in bringing about the adoption of the Constitution. It is to be considered, therefore, whether it is desirable to break the long-established precedent, recognized in the act now before you which exclude the Capitol Grounds from consideration, and to begin the erection of statues in these grounds.

If the location named shall be selected, a readjustment of the surrounding landscape should be made; and the statues themselves should have accessory sculpture indicating the historic character of the personage. They should not be simply portrait statues. The architectural features also should be in entire harmony with the Capitol. The problem of an artistically successful treatment is a difficult one. This commission therefore advise that, before sites in the Capitol Grounds shall

be determined upon, preliminary studies be made by competent artists, so that your committee can be certain that the difficulties will be overcome.

Another location might be found on the newly acquired lands flanking the approach to the Capitol from the Union Station Plaza. The statues would then form the central embellishment of considerable park areas, and the parks themselves might appropriately be named respectively Jefferson Park and Hamilton Park. In this manner the improvement of these park spaces would be hastened, the sculptors would have a much freer hand in carrying out their conceptions, and the precedent of not admitting statuary into the grounds of the Capitol would be maintained.

The construction of a new building for the Department of State suggests that some statue will find a place of first importance in relation thereto. Thomas Jefferson not only was the first Secretary of State, but he was the author of the Declaration of Independence, which historic document is in the custody of this department. Unless and until some plan is adopted, looking to the commemoration of the Presidents of the United States, or of the founders of the Republic, the most fitting place for the statue of Jefferson would seem to be in connection with the Department of State.

An appropriate location for the Hamilton statue would be in connection with the Treasury Department. Among Alexander Hamilton's many services to this Nation, those rendered in connection with the fiscal system were both conspicuous and enduring, thus making the site suggested singularly fitting.

Whether the statues shall be erected in the Capitol Grounds, in the new parks facing the Union Station Plaza, or in connection with the department buildings, their relations to the structures named should be considered carefully, and the pedestals and landscape settings should be designed so as to make harmonious compositions. Therefore the sculptor will desire to associate with himself an architect and perhaps a landscape architect in order to produce a result entirely harmonious with the situation, either as that situation exists to-day or as it may be developed.

Congress appropriated $250,000 for the Grant Memorial; but so many have been the changes and so costly the delays that the sculptor has had a small money reward. The statue of Gen. Sherman, together with its setting, has cost $131,000, but here again the vicissitudes brought about the death of the original holder of the commission and the changes made after the work began enhanced the cost unduly. For the Columbus Memorial composition Congress appropriated $100,000, and this sum would seem to be a proper one for each of the statues contemplated, provided the sum is to include the cost of the foundations and the landscape treatment of the setting.

It is suggested that, in view of the larger treatment advised, the word "statue" in the acts be changed to "memorial."

The method of choosing the sculptor or sculptors remains to be considered. If the commission to be created to take charge of the erection of the statues shall become satisfied that there is some one sculptor whose executed work is of such a character as to make reasonably certain a successful outcome, then a direct personal selection would be preferable, the sketches to be submitted to the commissions for their approval before execution. In case a competition shall be found desirable, it would be well to have three money rewards besides the award of the work. This encourages a better class of competitors, because sculptors of reputation have work sufficient to keep them from entering competitions in which there is small opportunity to receive remuneration for the labor and expense of preparing sketches. In case of a competition, five sculptors might be selected directly, and others disposed to enter might be given the opportunity.

In any case, after the site has been determined, a program should be prepared setting forth the conditions imposed upon the artists, and a commission of experts should be named to pass upon the merits of the sketches submitted and to suggest such changes as may be found desirable as the study of the problem progresses. In this way it will be possible to secure works of art which, while worthily commemorating the lives and services of Jefferson and Hamilton, will also adorn the National Capital.

In considering the questions submitted the commission was led to examine the list of statues now erected in the District of Columbia and to note therein the lack of historic perspective. Of the two chief personages in our national history, Washington is fittingly commemorated in the great monument that bears his name, and Congress has taken steps to raise a worthy memorial to Lincoln. Of the 23 other persons who have occupied the presidential chair President Garfield alone has had a statue erected in his honor, although there is the statue of Andrew Jackson in his military capacity. Outside the Capitol no Vice President is commemorated. John Marshall alone among justices of the Supreme Court has a place beyond the precincts of that tribunal. The Revolution is represented by Gens. Washington, Greene, Lafayette, Rochambeau, Von Steuben, Pulaski, and Kosciuszko, Commodore John Barry, and Capt. John Paul Jones—three of the nine being American. Gen. Jackson is the sole representative of the War of 1812, as Gen. Scott alone stands for the Mexican War. The Civil War is represented by no fewer than 11 statues—those of Gens. Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, McClellan, Hancock, Rawlins, McPherson, Thomas, Logan, and Admirals Farragut and Dupont—and by the Peace Monument and the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial. Science and

medicine are exemplified by Prof. Joseph Henry, Daguerre, Gross, and Hahneman; exploration is typified by Columbus and Gen. Pike; a private individual erected statues to Franklin and Webster; Witherspoon represents church and state, as Longfellow does the world of letters; and the century-old District of Columbia finds its only exponent in Alexander R. Shepherd.

The foregoing list includes only those works of sculpture that are used both for the adornment of the city of Washington and also for the commemoration of the individual. This commission calls attention to the matter only because Congress appears to have begun systematically to make appropriations for the purpose of commemorating the memory of those who have deserved well of the Republic.

By direction of the commission:

Very respectfully,

SPENCER COSBY,
Colonel, United States Army,
Secretary.

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS RELATIVE TO MATTERS SUBMITTED BY THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, AND RELATIVE TO THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

LARGE CLOCKS ON THE SIDEWALKS OF THE CITY.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, July 9, 1912.

Col. SPENCER COSBY,
Secretary the Fine Arts Commission, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to transmit herewith an application received by them from the Riker & Hegeman Co., 162 West Thirty-fourth Street, New York, for permission to erect a Howard clock on the curb directly in front of premises 1000 F Street NW., Washington, D. C.

The commissioners would be pleased to have, for their guidance in general more than in this particular case, the opinion of the Fine Arts Commission upon the question of the desirability from an architectural standpoint of permitting such an object to be placed upon the sidewalk.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President.*

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,

Washington, D. C., August 10, 1912.

Hon. CUNO H. RUDOLPH,

President Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia,

Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: The Commission of Fine Arts at its meeting held yesterday gave consideration to the question of the desirability from an architectural standpoint of permitting large clocks to be placed upon the sidewalks of the city. I am directed by the commission to state that as a general principle clocks, being obstructions on the sidewalks or in the vista along the street, are regarded as objectionable by the commission. There might be individual cases, however, in which this objection can be waived.

Respectfully,

U. S. GRANT, 3D,

Captain, Corps of Engineers, United States Army,

Acting Secretary.

TREATMENT OF THE CENTRAL ISLAND OF THE UNION STATION PLAZA.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,

COMMISSIONERS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,

Washington, July 12, 1912.

Col. SPENCER COSBY,

Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army,

Secretary Commission of Fine Arts.

DEAR SIR: The Commissioners of the District of Columbia have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Commission of Fine Arts the question of the character of treatment of the unimproved portion of the central island of the Union Station Plaza.

A plan showing the treatment originally proposed for the Union Station Plaza is inclosed, from which it will be seen that the smaller islands and the lower terrace of the central island were intended to have a cement sidewalk pavement, while the upper terrace of the central island was designed to be paved with cement tile, in three colors. This plan has been modified to the extent that the smaller islands have been sodded instead of paved, and it is contemplated substituting brick for cement in the central island, the upper terrace of which would be paved in a pattern of two-colored brick.

The absence of the parking treatment in the vicinity of this Plaza, a condition which must be anticipated to exist for a number of years, leads the commissioners to believe that consideration should be given to the question of substituting for the pavement proposed for the central island of the Plaza a suitable parking treatment

in grass and shrubbery. It is proper to state that the circumstances of the appropriation for the improvement of this Plaza are such that should a parking treatment be adopted and later prove unsatisfactory it would be entirely practicable at any time in the future to pave or otherwise suitably improve this island.

Very respectfully,

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
By CUNO H. RUDOLPH, *President.*

THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
Washington, D. C., November 16, 1912.

The BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA,
Washington, D. C.

SIRS: The Commission of Fine Arts has given careful consideration to the suggestion of the Commissioners of the District of Columbia in their letter of July 12, 1912, that a suitable parking treatment in grass and shrubbery be substituted for the pavement originally contemplated by the architects for the central island of the Union Station Plaza. The commission has had several tentative plans for such parking treatment prepared, but none of them proved satisfactory, and it therefore recommends that the plans of the architects as to the pavement of the central island of the Union Station Plaza be adhered to.

By direction of the Commission:

Very respectfully,

SPENCER COSBY,
Colonel, United States Army, Secretary.

REPORTS AS TO WORKS OF ART LOCATED OUTSIDE OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

OUTLINE PLAN FOR TREATMENT OF GROUNDS OF NAVAL ACADEMY AT ANNAPOLIS, MD.

AUGUST 5, 1913.

The SECRETARY THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS,
1729 New York Avenue, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: Your letter of July 24, 1912, transmitting a copy of a letter to the President from the Hon. Beekman Winthrop, Acting Secretary of the Navy, and of a letter from the Secretary to the President transmitting to the Commission of Fine Arts the first mentioned letter, has been received.

The Naval Academy has been practically entirely rebuilt since 1898, and additions have been made from time to time, up to the present date, to the Government reservation until it now comprises about 225 acres on the southwest bank of the

Severn River and about 330 acres on the northeast bank of the Severn River. Your attention and that of the committee is particularly invited to the portion of the Government reservation on the southwest bank of the Severn River, which is made up of what is termed the Naval Academy proper, lying between Spa Creek (Annapolis Harbor) and Dorsey Creek, and the portion of the Government reservation, formerly known as the Strawberry Hill Farm, lying on the northwest bank of Dorsey Creek, and the southwest bank of the Severn River. Seven blueprints of drawing No. 700 showing the portion of the Government reservation just referred to are inclosed.

While, as above stated, the Naval Academy has been practically rebuilt since 1898, the completion of the rebuilding is of comparative recent date, and much of what may be termed the aesthetic side of the arrangement of the grounds remains to be done, such as regrading, planting of trees, flowers, and shrubs. The main expenditure along the lines just indicated, of such moneys as can be allotted from the appropriation for the maintenance and repair of the buildings and grounds of the Naval Academy, has been made on the grounds of the Naval Academy proper, but it can be seen that in the very near future money will be available for the finishing and beautifying of the grounds of the Government reservation lying on the northwest bank of Dorsey Creek. This point will be referred to later.

It will be noted that there is a reentrant of the property of the city of Annapolis into the grounds of the Naval Academy. The purchase of this land has been advocated by the Superintendent of the Naval Academy for a number of years, and for two years the Board of Visitors to the Naval Academy have also recommended its purchase. It is understood that this year the Navy Department will recommend to Congress the appropriation of sufficient money for the purchase of this land, for the razing of the buildings now on it, for the grading and otherwise, to incorporate this land as an integral part of the Naval Academy. While this appropriation of money may not be made by the next Congress, the necessity is evident, not only from the point of view of symmetry, but because of the requirements of the Naval Academy itself, and the money for its purchase must be forthcoming within a very few years.

On the portion of the Government reservation lying on the northwest bank of Dorsey Creek there is situated the Marine barracks, the naval hospital, and beyond this on the other side of the county road leading through the Government reservation lies the Naval Academy dairy. In the opinion of the superintendent none of these utilities should have been located on the southwest side of the Severn River; the whole of the Government reservation on that side being devoted to purely academic and aesthetic purposes; the institutions just mentioned should have been located on the northeast bank of the Severn River, the purchase of the necessary land for their location being made.

The governing authorities of the Naval Academy continually change, and while there is no question whatever of the earnestness of the endeavor on the part of the governing authorities to enhance the beautiful and symmetrical ensemble of the Naval Academy, there must of necessity be not only a lack of continuity in the lines of endeavor along which the work to this end is accomplished, but it is possible and in fact probable, that two successive superintendents may have totally different ideas concerning not only the method, but the fundamental principles on which the work should be laid out.

The superintendent believes that if a body of experienced men such as compose the distinguished Commission of Fine Arts could give their consideration to the outlining of a plan, to be followed in the years to come, showing the most desirable location for proposed buildings, the laying out of walks and drives, the planting of trees and shrubbery, and the establishment of lawns, etc., along which continuous and unchanging effort may be directed, more valuable and satisfactory results will be obtained in the expenditure of Government money than could possibly be obtained by additions to plans laid out, as the money may be available, by different persons or boards. If it is possible for the Commission of Fine Arts to take up this work, the superintendent believes that one or possibly two visits on the part of the commission, during which every available facility will be offered for the inspection of the grounds of the Naval Academy, and the opportunity to confer and discuss the question with the superintendent and his subordinates will be given, will be enough to sufficiently crystallize the opinions of the commission to outline a definite general plan on which further additions and improvements to the Naval Academy may be recommended and accomplished. The field is wide and the opportunity almost unlimited to produce the best possible results with the expenditure of comparatively little time.

There are also inclosed seven blue prints each of the following tracings:

No. 2825. Plan of grounds, showing trees.

No. 2589. Plan of Government reservation on north side of Severn River.

Very respectfully,

J. H. Gibbons,
Captain, United States Navy, Superintendent.

The Commission of Fine Arts,
Washington, D. C., August 30, 1912.

Capt. J. H. Gibbons, United States Navy,
Superintendent United States Naval Academy,
Annapolis, Md.

Sir: Your letter of August 5, addressed to the secretary of the Commission of Fine Arts, was considered by the full commission at their meeting of August 9

after an informal examination of the premises by one of the members of the commission.

In the opinion of the commission any device such as you suggest, which would enable the constant succession of officers in charge of the buildings and grounds of the Naval Academy to avoid discontinuity of purpose in their methods of maintaining and gradually improving the grounds and placing such new buildings as may from time to time be added, would be of the greatest value not only as regards the beauty and convenience of the place as a whole, but also as regards economy in the expenditure of appropriations.

It is peculiarly true in regard to expenditures for the maintenance of such grounds and for minor improvements therein from year to year that the full results are not to be obtained until after the lapse of many years. This is notably the case where the planting and growth of trees or other vegetation is involved, but it is no less true in many other cases. Not only is the full effect of such expenditures slow in arriving but often the first visible results do not even suggest the nature of the final result to which they are intended to contribute. An isolated piece of grading done in expectation of some other change which is not yet practicable may seem meaningless and even highly objectionable to one who does not understand the whole purpose behind it. As a rule a high degree of beauty and convenience can be developed in the grounds of a great institution only by the cumulative effect of long continued intelligent annual maintenance work and innumerable minor improvements made from year to year as circumstances permit, often in a fragmentary way; and where the direction of such work frequently changes hands there is naturally a great deal of waste through repeatedly starting on lines of development which are abandoned in favor of other ideas before they have really progressed far enough to show their real advantages. A tolerable plan consistently followed will give far better results for less money than a rapid succession of contradictory plans even though every one of the latter be a work of genius.

The commission ventures thus to enlarge upon the advantages of what you have yourself proposed in order to emphasize their appreciation of its importance and their desire to be of assistance in the matter. It is, however, quite impossible for the commission to undertake the preparation of any such general plan with its careful and explicit definition of the essential things to be sought in shaping the details of maintenance and gradual improvement. To do so adequately involves a laborious and patient study, in consultation with the officials of the Academy, of a great number of practical details with a view to overcoming inconveniences which experience has developed and providing for needs which now exist or can reasonably be forecast, while at the same time securing harmonious and agreeable aesthetic effects throughout the grounds.

If the officer of the Naval Academy, with competent technical assistance, undertakes the preparation of such a plan, the Commission of Fine Arts will be glad to aid by advice and suggestive criticism at any stage of the work. After the completion of such a plan the commission would be in a position to act in a measure as its custodian and interpreter, assisting the successive officers in charge of the Academy to understand the motives of design which controlled their predecessors in developing the grounds, and advising and helping them to make the changes that time will inevitably require in any general plan in such a manner as not to sacrifice needlessly the attainment of objects for which their predecessors may have taken the preliminary steps.

By direction of the commission:

Respectfully, U. S. GRANT 3d,

Captain, Corps of Engineers, United States Army,

Acting Secretary.

ACT OF CONGRESS ESTABLISHING THE COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS.

AN ACT Establishing a Commission of Fine Arts.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That a permanent Commission of Fine Arts is hereby created to be composed of seven well-qualified judges of the fine arts, who shall be appointed by the President, and shall serve for a period of four years each, and until their successors are appointed and qualified. The President shall have authority to fill all vacancies. It shall be the duty of such commission to advise upon the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public squares, streets, and parks in the District of Columbia, and upon the selection of models for statues, fountains, and monuments erected under the authority of the United States and upon the selection of artists for the execution of the same. It shall be the duty of the officers charged by law to determine such questions in each case to call for such advice. The foregoing provisions of this act shall not apply to the Capitol Building of the United States and the building of the Library of Congress. The commission shall also advise generally upon questions of art when required to do so by the President, or by any committee of either House of Congress. Said commission shall have a secretary and such other assistance as the commission may authorize, and the members of the commission shall each be paid actual expenses in going to and returning from Washington to attend the meetings of said commission and while attending the same.

SEC. 2. That to meet the expenses made necessary by this act an expenditure of not exceeding $10,000 a year is hereby authorized.

Approved, May 17, 1910.

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