

THE WYOMING CAPITOL.

The main or center building of the magnificent new Capitol is now occupied by the Legislative Assembly, and a description of the edifice at this time will be of interest.

The Capitol is the most conspicuous object in Cheyenne, its lofty dome being visible from all directions for miles around the city. Its location across Capitol avenue, which has a gentle slope toward the business portion of the city, must soon become the geographical center of Cheyenne. Overlooking the capitol and city parks, and commanding a grand view of the distant snow-capped mountains, a finer site for this noble structure could hardly have been found, and is not surpassed by any public building in the West.

The plan of the capitol, which was designed by Architect D. W. Gibbs, of Toledo, O., is purely classic in style, with a center and two projecting wings, the general outline bearing a resemblance to the national capitol at Washington, and to other State capitols. Its entire length, when finished, will be 216 feet, with a breadth, exclusive of the broad steps leading from the building, of 83 to 112 feet in the different portions, the whole edifice covering an area of nearly three-quarters of an acre. The height of the center and wings from the ground to the roof is 60 feet, and with the basement the building is three and a half stories high. From the central building springs a lofty dome 30 feet in diameter at its base and surmounted by a tholus or lantern 15 feet high. Its total height from the front of the capitol to the point of the finial, or pinnacle, is 153 feet. The south front, or main entrance, forms a projection, or broad portico, that is surmounted by two groups of Corinthian columns, above which is a cornice and gable treated with elaborate ornamentation.

The principal material used in the construction of the capitol has been the Rawlins sandstone, a superior gray stone with a greenish tint, that is in harmony with the character and cost of such a building.

The architect's plans call for a total expenditure of \$275,000, of which amount \$150,000 has already been expended upon the main building, and \$125,000 has just been appropriated for the completion of the two wings.

The rotunda forms the chief attraction of the interior of the capitol, and consists of a circular hall 30 feet in diameter and 54 feet in height to the lantern above. Cathedral glass reflects a mellow light throughout the interior of the rotunda, which is richly ornamented with stucco and elaborately carved woodwork. A broad hall 18 feet wide approaches the rotunda from the main entrance, and halls of similar width lead east and west to the main staircases and wings of the building. The floors of these halls are laid with alternate tiling 12 inches square of white and black marble. All the woodwork of the hall, including the wainscoting 4 feet high, the grand staircases and railings around the rotunda and arcade are of cherry, carved in rich and tasteful designs.

The walls are sand finished, with the exception of a handsome stucco cornice 2 feet in depth, the two colors, gray and white, forming a pleasing contrast. These walls will be appropriately frescoed, and in time adorned with noble statues and historical paintings. There are four niches for statues in the colonnade of the

second floor, facing the rotunda, and when filled will be visible from the floor beneath. But before these improvements are made the park around the capitol will probably be laid out with walks, drives, fountains, etc.

As you enter the capitol, the three rooms to the right, including a reception room, public office and private parlor, are set apart for the Governor of Wyoming, while a similar suite on the left of the hall are to be occupied by the Secretary of the Territory. There are six other offices or suites of rooms on this floor for the accommodation of the Auditor, Treasurer, and other officials. All are handsomely finished in butternut wood, with heavy plate-glass windows, fire-proof vaults, cloak-rooms, lavatories, fire-places, etc. The entire building is provided with the Ruttan-Smeed heating and ventilating apparatus, one of the latest and most approved systems now in use, complete sewerage, and means by which the building can be lighted by both electricity and gas.

The principal apartment on the second floor is the Supreme Court room. It is 36x40 feet, with clerk's offices and consultation rooms for the judges adjoining on either side. This room, which is 26 feet in height, has a gallery leading from the arcade of the third floor, and resembles in general form a miniature theater. What is known as Agricultural Hall, on the same floor, occupies the space over the main entrance hall and the reception-rooms of the Governor and Secretary. The central building as now constructed contains thirty-one rooms above the basement. With the exception of the hallways, two large fire-proof vaults, and lavatories, the basement is taken up with six furnace and fuel rooms.

The plan of the east wing designates the large room on the first floor above the basement for the Territorial Library, and the entire space of the second and third stories, for the House of Representatives, a lofty room with gallery. Besides

the General Assembly room on the third floor, there are ante-rooms, post-offices and lobbies for members.

The west wing is slightly different in arrangement, there being an entrance at the west end of the building, and offices on either side of the hall of the first floor. The second and third floors provide for the Council, or Senate, a hall similar to that of the lower house in the east wing, while the basement is set apart for a geological museum.

The Territorial Capitol building, at Cheyenne, the Wyoming University, at Laramie, and the Hospital for the Insane, at Evans-ton, were established by the Legislative Assembly of 1886, upon the recommendation of Governor Warren, and will prove an enduring monument to his administration. Governor Warren is now the President of the Cheyenne Board of Trade; but he needs no introduction to the people of Wyoming. He came here twenty years ago, when Cheyenne was in its infancy, and has been identified with almost every enterprise that has been calculated to benefit the Territory, and especially the City of Cheyenne. Every public improvement has found in him an active and efficient worker, and no citizen has done more to achieve for the city its present wealth and importance.

CHEYENNE has three daily and three weekly newspapers.



CAPITOL OF WYOMING TERRITORY, CHEYENNE.