

“Oh, wa’d some pow’r the Giftie gie us  
To see oorsels’ as ithers see us!  
It wa’d frae mony a blunder free us  
An’ foolish notion.”—*Burns.*



# Other States —their Capitols

What they look like  
and what they cost

With a word regarding  
West Virginia and its  
proposed Capitol



Published by  
The Parkersburg Board of Commerce  
Capitol Committee

## OTHER STATES COMPARED

State	Pop. 1920	Taxable Real Est. Val.	Capitol Cost
Arkansas -----	1,752,000	\$ 575,000,000	\$ 2,000,000
Iowa -----	2,404,000	1,093,000,000	3,296,000
Kentucky -----	2,417,000	2,430,000,000	1,820,000
Missouri -----	3,404,000	3,213,000,000	4,000,000
Nebraska -----	1,207,000	3,101,000,000	5,000,000
Utah -----	450,000	650,000,000	2,309,000
<b>West Virginia-----</b>	<b>1,464,000</b>	<b>880,000,000</b>	<b>10,000,000</b>

IOWA—Assessed value of real estate one-fourth more than West Virginia.

KENTUCKY—Assessed value of real estate nearly three times as much as West Virginia.

MISSOURI—Assessed value of real estate nearly four times as much as West Virginia.

NEBRASKA—Assessed value real estate nearly four times as much as West Virginia.

These four great states have recently built new capitols at an aggregate cost of \$14,000,000.00—an average of 3½ millions. Why should West Virginia spend vastly more than any of them? With Parkersburg's donations of cash and site, and with the money and property now available, and in view of the much cheaper cost of construction in Parkersburg as compared with Charleston, a building of which the State could be proud could be erected in Parkersburg without additional levies on the people. This appears from the following:

Parkersburg offers to give \$1,000,000.00—payment to be adequately guaranteed, together with any one of several sites of about fourteen acres each.

Two years ago the Legislature appropriated for Capitol purposes for the two year period, \$2,250,000.00. At the date of the recent report of the Capitol Commission, there remained unexpended of this, the sum of \$348,836.26. Since that appropriation was made, there has been received from sale of old capitol site and from fire insurance \$2,145,772.59, which has been covered into the State Treasury, and should be available for appropriation by the Legislature for Capitol purposes. And there still remains to be disposed of, State property which the Capitol Commission values at \$1,000,000.00 (see page 8 of report). There will also remain to be sold the new site which has cost nearly two millions, and which even the most (but not all) of the buildings on it already removed, should realize \$750,000.00.

## WEST VIRGINIA



WEST VIRGINIA—and here's a picture of the proposed capitol buildings for West Virginia, designed for erection at Charleston, and which do not meet with the approval of everybody. The selection of the site brought about an upheaval in our present capitol city.

The site is about a mile from the old capitol site, which for many years was in the heart of the business district of Charleston.

The proposed site (though attractive and suitable in itself) is open to criticism on account of the fact that it is on the outskirts of the town, and a considerable distance from the hotels and railroad depots.

Parkersburg offers a choice of at least four sites, any one of them equal, and in all probability superior to the site chosen in Charleston, and the Parkersburg site will not cost the state one cent.

Parkersburg offers no suggestion as to the type of buildings to be constructed but Parkersburg unreservedly insists that any type of building can be built in Parkersburg at a saving in costs of from 20 to 25% over Charleston. On a ten million dollar outlay this means a saving of a cool two million dollars—not including the value of fourteen acres of land embodying a site which is offered free in addition to one million dollars as a gift.

Parkersburg's offer therefore involves three million dollars with a free site to boot. Think it over.

## ARKANSAS



Arkansas is one of the most resourceful and most promising states in the Union. It has a population of 1,752,000 and a taxable wealth of \$575,000,000—one-third less taxable wealth than that of West Virginia. In the years to come Arkansas will increase her taxable property wealth, because like West Virginia, her wealth of minerals of many sorts has merely been scratched.

Arkansas built her capitol at Little Rock at a total cost of \$2,000,000. Here's the telegram upon which we base our findings:

LITTLE ROCK ARK FEB 23 1923  
TOTAL ACREAGE CAPITOL GROUNDS FORTY  
THREE COST BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COM-  
PLETE TWO MILLION BUILDINGS STARTED  
NINETEEN ONE OCCUPIED NINETEEN ELEVEN  
COMPLETED NINETEEN FOURTEEN ASSESSED  
VALUATION OF STATE FIVE HUNDRED SEVEN-  
TY FIVE MILLION SEVENTY THOUSAND FOUR  
HUNDRED EIGHTEEN.

CLARENCE F HOLLAND SECY  
BOARD OF COMMERCE

Viewed from the terraces of the Union Depot at Little Rock, the capitol buildings of the State of Arkansas are magnificent in their unobtrusive dignity—the most impressive we have ever seen.

# IOWA



The above is not as good a picture of the State Capitol at Des Moines as we would like. It is the best we could secure—in a hurry.

The great agricultural state of Iowa has a population of 2,404,000 and a property wealth of \$1,093,000,000, approximately one-fourth greater than the real property wealth of West Virginia.

The capitol cost \$3,296,000. Here's the telegram upon which we base the above statements:

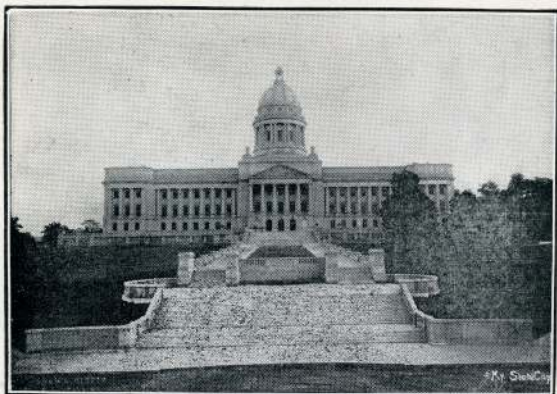
DES MOINES IOWA FEB 23 1923

TOTAL ACREAGE CAPITOL GROUNDS IS NINETY THREE AND ONE FOURTH ACRES TOTAL TAXABLE VALUATION OF STATE IS ONE BILLION NINETY THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED TWENTY THREE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FIVE DOLLARS COST OF BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMPLETE YEAR WHEN BUILT IS THREE MILLION TWO HUNDRED NINETY SIX THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED FIFTY SIX DOLLARS.

JOS F LEOPOLD SECY  
IOWA STATE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Just think of what it must have cost to purchase 93 acres of down town property! Yet the cost of the capitol—buildings and land—is only about one-third what is contemplated for West Virginia's capitol.

# KENTUCKY



The great State of Kentucky with a population of 2,417,000 or 1,000,000 more people than West Virginia lays claim to, has a property taxable wealth of \$2,430,000,000 or almost three times the taxable real property wealth of West Virginia.

It built this magnificent State Capitol at a total cost of \$1,820,000—approximately one-fifth the cost of the proposed State Capitol of West Virginia.

Here's the telegram upon which we base the above statements:

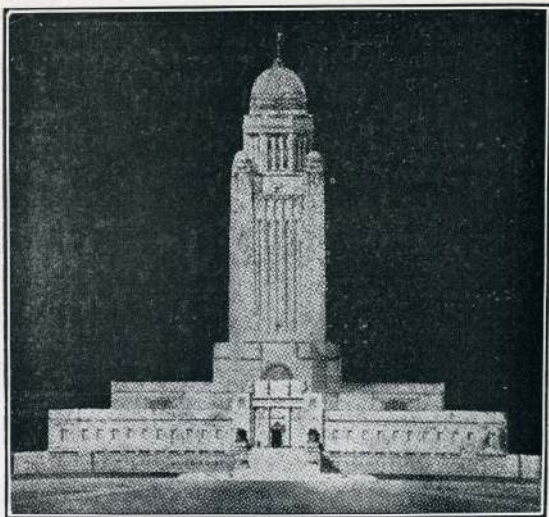
FRANKFORT KY FEB 23  
CAPITOL COMPLETED NINETEEN HUNDRED  
NINE. TOTAL COST ONE MILLION EIGHT HUN-  
DRED TWENTY THOUSAND DOLLARS INCLUD-  
ING GROUND OF THIRTY-FIVE ACRES ASSESSED  
VALUATION OF STATE TWO BILLION FOUR  
HUNDRED THIRTY EIGHT MILLON DOLLARS

J U NICHOLS SECRETARY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

In addition to the photograph from which the above cut is made, there comes another photograph showing the terraced approaches to the main buildings. These are ornamented with artistic masonry and are decorated with handsome boulevard lights.

The interior of the building proper is finished in marble with noble arch work, facades and flying buttresses.

# NEBRASKA



The great commonwealth of Nebraska with a population of 1,207,000 (a little less than that of West Virginia) but with a vastly greater area, enjoys a taxable wealth of \$3,192,000,000, nearly four times as much as that of West Virginia.

Here's the telegram from which we base our findings:

LINCOLN NEBR FEB 23 1923

CAPITOL GROUNDS SEVEN HUNDRED TWENTY FEET SQUARE GROUND VALUED THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. ESTIMATED COST NEW CAPITOL FIVE MILLION. CONSTRUCTION STARTED NINETEEN TWENTY TWO TOTAL ACTUAL VALUATION OF STATE THREE BILLION ONE NINETY ONE MILLION SEVEN FORTY SEVEN THOUSAND EIGHT SEVENTY.

WALTER S WHITTEN SECY  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Nebraska's new state capitol will be one of the most magnificent state houses in the country .

The building will be 437 feet square. The lower part of the building will be used as the senate and house of representatives; the library and various departments of the State government. Four light courts, 80 feet square will admit light to every part of the building.

## Nebraska—Continued

The material will be Indiana limestone of a light buff color. The tower will have a statue of "The Sower," in recognition of the importance played by agriculture in the life of the State. The light from the tower can be seen thirty or forty miles around.

A War Trophy Room is provided for in the top of the tower. This is expected to be the greatest room in the building, the climax of stone and marble symphony.

The cost of Nebraska's new capitol will not exceed five million dollars—approximately ONE-HALF THAT CONTEMPLATED FOR WEST VIRGINIA.

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## MISSOURI



The great commonwealth of Missouri—with its fine metropolitan cities, Kansas City and St. Louis—has a population of 3,404,000 and a taxable wealth of \$3,213,000,000—four times that of West Virginia, yet its new capitol at Jefferson City cost but \$4,000,000.

If the great state of Missouri can get along with capitol buildings and grounds that cost so much less than contemplated for West Virginia, surely it must be evident to every citizen of the Mountain State that state expenditures are threatened with a pitiless sacrifice and that the people's interests are held in meagre reverence.

Anyone who has seen the magnificent capitol at Jefferson City will agree on this.



# UTAH



The population of the State of Utah is 450,000. It is a small state in area and population compared to her neighbors. The taxable wealth of the State is \$650,000,000. Her new capitol cost but \$2,309,000. Here's the telegram upon which we base our findings:

SALT LAKE CITY UTAH FEB 24 1923  
ACREAGE CAPITOL GROUNDS NINETEEN AND  
ONE HALF COST OF BUILDING AND GROUNDS  
COMPLETE TWO MILLION THREE HUNDRED  
NINE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY FIVE  
DOLLARS. BUILDINGS COMMENCED NINETEEN  
TWELVE FINISHED NINETEEN FOURTEEN TAX-  
ABLE VALUATION OF STATE SIX HUNDRED  
FIFTY MILLION.

J H RAYBURN SECY

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Salt Lake City is one of America's Meccas. Tourists flock to it in thousands annually. From an architectural standpoint the public buildings in Salt Lake City are peerless: the great Mormon Temple is taken as a triumph of architectural design to which all other buildings are expected to conform insofar as their architectural qualities are concerned.

One may be sure that the capitol buildings in Utah's capital—Salt Lake City—are all that could be desired in this respect.

## Materials at Parkersburg's Door—Therefore No Freight Charges

Parkersburg manufactures the finest floor tile in the world. She has one of the largest electric porcelain plants in the world and the largest Vitrolite plant in the United States. Vitrolite is better than marble for interior finish and certain furnishings, lavatories, etc.

Parkersburg produces insulated electric and coated electric wire of all types.

Parkersburg manufactures all types of brick for building purposes, while her supplies of sand and gravel are inexhaustible.

ALL THESE ARE AVAILABLE FOR CAPITOL CONSTRUCTION AND NONE WILL COST ANYTHING FOR TRANSPORTATION SHOULD PARKERSBURG SECURE THE STATE CAPITOL.

The saving that will accrue to the State on freight charges alone through the locating of the Capitol in the city of Parkersburg is incalculable.

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### FREIGHT FIGURES ON MATERIALS

(Supplied by the Baltimore and Ohio R. R.)

#### STRUCTURAL STEEL—BY RAIL (Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Pittsburgh, Pa. ----	28½	19½

A saving of fifty per cent is easily effective by Water as against Rail to Parkersburg. Dollars saved in freight on steel will be enormous if the Capitol is located in Parkersburg.

#### GRANITE—BY RAIL (Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Vermont -----	30	25

Granite will enter very largely into the construction of the Capitol buildings. Four Thousand Dollars freight advantage is a conservative estimate in favor of Parkersburg on this item alone.

#### LIMESTONE ALSO BUILDING STONE—BY RAIL (Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Bedford, Ind. -----	24	24

**TILE ROOFING**  
(Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Cleveland, Ohio ----	23	20½
Pittsburgh, Pa. ----	23	18½
Baltimore, Md. ----	36	30½

**MARBLE—BY RAIL**  
(Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Gartrell, Ga. -----	41½	41½

**CEMENT—BY RAIL**  
(Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Universal, Pa. -----	15½	12½
Coplay, Pa. -----	23	19½

**LUMBER—BY RAIL**

Yellow pine and hardwood lumber from point of shipment to Charleston and Parkersburg are the same.

**PLASTER—BY RAIL**  
(Per One Hundred Pounds)

From	To Charleston	To Parkersburg
Cleveland, Ohio ----	17½	16
Columbus, Ohio ----	19½	13

It will be seen that in but three instances is Charleston on a par with Parkersburg in freight rates—Marble, Limestone and Lumber.

In no item whatever, entering into the construction of the capitol buildings has Charleston a fraction of advantage over Parkersburg rates.

Sand and Gravel are at Parkersburg's doors—there will be no freight thereon. Charleston's freight charges for these will be very considerable.

Sand and gravel at Charleston's present prices (March 1 ) are \$2.50 per cubic yard; Parkersburg's price at this date is 65c per cubic yard. Charleston has some sand but no gravel. It must be freighted to Charleston at a cost of 90c a ton. Imagine the immense saving in this one item—sand and gravel—which will be used largely in the construction of the capitol buildings, the driveways, the sidewalks, etc.

A local architect estimates that in the aggregate this saving will mean at least \$25,000 in favor of Parkersburg and that in but one item of material.

**Thousands on thousands of dollars can be saved in freight charges by locating the Capitol at Parkersburg**

**SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS IN MILEAGE WILL  
RUN INTO THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS  
PER YEAR**

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Parkersburg would be an ideal Capitol for West Virginia. It is more accessible for 65% of the people of the State than Charleston. Its population is 98% American born. It has every facility with which to discharge the obligations of a Capitol City with credit to the State.

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**SAVINGS TO TAXPAYERS ON FREIGHT  
CHARGES WILL RUN INTO TENS OF  
THOUSANDS OF DOLLARS**