



# TAFT CONGRATULATES CITY FOR . BUILDING STATELY STRUCTURE

## Majestic Cavalcade Leads the President Through Crowded Streets to Platform

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Building were filled with smiling faces and waving flags.

Up to the top of the big derrick used in the steel construction of the City Hall suddenly mounted an American flag, and as it unfurled slowly in the still air the cheering was renewed.

The air was calm, hardly a breath of wind stirring, but it was pleasantly warm. It was as fine an example of California climate as one would have wished the President to enjoy. It was several minutes after 6 o'clock before the President had finished his short address, and the waning afternoon light added to the impressiveness of the spectacle.

### GREAT PRECAUTION TAKEN.

Both at the Key Route Inn gardens and at the excavation where the corner stone laying ceremonies were held, the police and secret service men took great precautions to guard against a disaster. At the Key Route gardens the platform of the arbor was torn up this morning at 6 o'clock by workmen, and police, to guard against the possibility of anything having been concealed there. The floor was boarded up, and from 6 o'clock until the arrival of the Presidential party a guard of police remained on duty there, admitting no one.

### CEREMONY IMPRESSIVE.

The corner stone ceremony was most impressive. Most Worshipful Master Alonso J. Munroe, Deputy Grand Master Dana R. Weller, Senior Grand Warden Judge John D. Murphy, Junior Grand Warden Judge Benjamin F. Bledsoe, Past Grand Masters Henry S. Orme, William T. Lucas, O. S. Henderson, George W. Hunter and George Perrine conducted the beautiful ritual.

The ceremony opened with the singing of "America" by the Temple quartet of Live Oak Lodge of Oakland, in conjunction with the quartet of the Grand Lodge. The Grand Lodge quartet was composed of Edgerton Smith, first tenor; J. C. Hughes, first bass; Samuel D. Meyer, second tenor; and Walter Campbell, second bass. Samuel D. Mayer, grand organist, was in charge of the singing. The Temple quartet consisted of Carl E. Anderson, first tenor; J. F. Yeaco, second tenor; Clement P. Rowlands, first bass, and Clarence Castell, second bass.

### PRESENTED WITH SILVER TROWEL.

At the conclusion of the opening ode Most Worshipful Grand Master Alonso J. Munroe was presented with a silver trowel, appropriately engraved, by Mayor Frank K. Mott of Oakland, who introduced the grand master, acting for the people of Oakland, saying: "I now respectfully invite you to proceed with the ceremony of laying the corner stone of Oakland's new City Hall."

The center of interest was then in the northeast corner of the structure. Grand Master Munroe responded to Mayor Mott, telling the ancient history of the Masonic corner stone laying. He said: "The Mayor of Oakland, in behalf of the people, has instructed the Grand Lodge to lay this afternoon the corner stone of this public building. We are about to perform a ceremony which was performed at Washington, in the event of the laying of the corner stone for the Capitol. It is with pleasure that the Grand Lodge accepts this invitation. You have invited the first citizen of your country to be with you and should feel honored. We will now proceed to perform our ancient custom of laying corner stones for public buildings."

Senior Grand Warden Judge John D. Murphy communicated the order to proceed. The order was repeated by Junior Grand Warden Judge Benjamin F. Bledsoe. The grand treasurer, Edward Coleman, was then instructed by the grand master to place the basket containing the articles which will rest under Oakland's finest building for time immemorial. The basket was placed in the cavity by the grand treasurer, while the double quartet sang an appropriate ode.

Grand Secretary John Wittcher then read the contents of the basket.

### CONTENTS OF CASKET.

The handsome casket which was placed in the corner stone contained an American flag, a California State flag, the Holy Bible, three great lights of Masonry, Columbus day memorial medal, United States gold and silver coins of 1911 date, invitation to corner-stone laying, Oakland city directory, 1911; Oakland city charter, 1849; Oakland city charter, 1910; Oakland city ordinances; Oakland City Hall competition programme, Oakland City Hall contract and specifications; roster of city officials, 1910-11; roster of city officials, 1911-12; roster of Oakland Police Department; Chamber of Commerce book, 1911; State of California Blue Book, Oakland Tribune, October 22, 1911; Oakland Inquirer, October 12, 1911; Oakland Times, October 13, 1911; Oakland Examiner, October 13, 1911; San Francisco Call, October 13, 1911; "San Francisco Chronicle," October 13, 1911; San Francisco Bulletin, October 12, 1911; San Francisco Post, October 12, 1911; map of the city of Oakland, 1857; photographs of President Taft, Hotel Oakland, Broadway, Oakland, 1911; Washington street, Oakland, 1911; harbor work, city of Oakland, 1911; pictures of Oakland City Hall in 1877, present City Hall, new Oakland City Hall, Oakland public parks and Oakland public playgrounds; photographs of the latest inventions, including the modern automobile, motorcycle, typewriter, linotype, airplanes, monoplane, biplane and dirigible models, telephone instrument and equipment, wireless apparatus, United States steamship Delaware, largest battle-ship in the world; trolley cars, electric trains, largest steamship in the world, motor boat, automobile fire engine and Oakland's automobile chemical fire engines.

### GIVE TOOLS TO MASONS.

The architect, Henry Hornbostel, representing the firm of Palmer & Hornbostel of Boston, architects who planned the new twenty-two-story building, distributed the working tools among the grand officers, giving the handsome silver trowel to the grand master, the square to the deputy grand master, the level to the senior grand warden and the plumb to the junior grand warden. Assembling around the stone, Grand Master Munroe spread the cement upon the lower stone and directed the lowering of the upper stone. The grand officers then applied the jewels of their office, namely, the square, the level and the plumb, to the stone and pronounced it perfect.

The grand master then approached the stone and gave it three blows with his gavel, saying: "The craftsmen having faithfully and skillfully performed

their duty, I declare this foundation stone to be well formed, true and trusty. May the edifice which is to rest upon it ever be devoted to the uses of those whose mission it is to extend the spread of useful knowledge, to practice unceasing and unostentatious charity, and to inculcate fraternity and good will among men; and may it be completed by the craftsmen in peace, love and harmony—they suffering no contention among themselves except that noble and fraternal one as to who best can work and best agree."

### DISTRIBUTES SILVER CUPS.

At the conclusion of the specific ceremony of the laying of the stone Grand Master Munroe directed the silver cups containing the corn, wine and oil to be distributed to the deputy grand master and the senior and junior grand wardens. The deputy grand master poured the corn on the stone, the junior grand warden the oil and the senior grand warden the wine. With the singing of "Behold, the Lord Has Laid the Foundation," by the double quartet and the presentation to Henry Hornbostel of the architectural firm in charge of the plans for the new building by the grand master the ceremony was fittingly concluded amid a great outburst of applause.

The ceremonies were conducted under the auspices of the Masonic Grand Lodge of the State of California and subordinate lodges, with Oakland Commandery, No. 11, Knights Templar, acting as escort. The Oakland lodges which assisted were the Live Oak, Oakland, Alcatraz, Brooklyn, Fruitvale, Sequoia, Bay View and Yerba Buena. The lodge people were seated to the right of the stage, the double quartet being placed in the foreground.

### TO STAND AS MONUMENT.

Mayor Mott, in introducing the President, said:

"This great gathering of the people of Oakland has assembled today to take part in the solemn ceremony of placing in its proper setting the corner stone of a magnificent public office—a City Hall—which shall stand in the years to come as a monument to the civic pride of our people. At these beautiful symbolic exercises we consecrate ourselves to a continuance of united effort that our beloved city shall go forward in the vanguard of American municipalities, worthy to be enrolled among the leaders in the march of civic uplift and material development.

"To the people of our city are due praise and credit for the public spirit and enterprise which have made possible the splendid structure that will be reared upon this foundation. Among the many good citizens, patriotic men and women who have honored this occasion by their presence, there is one who, by reason of his splendid character and the mighty position that he occupies in our Republic, stands foremost in this assemblage. He has, indeed, honored us by his presence. The people of Oakland feel a justifiable pride in having him as their guest on this notable day.

"Ladies and gentlemen, with a sense of profound respect and deep appreciation, I have the great honor and pleasure of presenting to you the President of the United States, William Howard Taft."

### APPLAUSE DELAYS SPEECH.

President Taft said nothing startling in his address, which followed immediately upon the completion of the Masonic ceremony. He was in a jovial mood and fairly beamed on the entire assemblage of cheering men, women and children. It was several moments before he could begin his address because of the continued cheering.

He made no mention of the recall of the judiciary or of other much-mooted questions in which he has been of late interested. Neither did the election of last Tuesday elicit any comment, his address being confined to local conditions entirely.

Concluding his speech, the President arose from his seat and, followed by the members of the executive committee, filed through the spacious Capwell reception room. The band then struck up the national anthem and the entire crowd stood with heads uncovered and watched the Nation's chief board the automobile and join the procession to the wharf.

### AUTOS FOLLOW PRESIDENT.

Following the exodus from the platform, the President and his party, followed by a string of automobiles, followed by a string of automobiles, followed by Fourteenth street to Broadway and down Broadway to the wharf where the President embarked on the Government tug General Slocum.

All along Broadway crowds lined the street and cheered the Chief Executive, while at the wharf many thousands waited and watched him embark on the tug for his journey across the bay. Every factory and train whistle was tied down, and when the gangplank was laid the band struck up the national anthem, while the crowd offered three long and lusty cheers.

Immediately after the President and his party, Victor H. Metcalf, James Sloan Jr. and several of the secret service men boarded the boat it started away from the pier, leaving the crowd giving their last farewell to the President, who stood on the after deck with head uncovered, bowing.

### PRESIDENT GIVES GREETING TO AN OLD MASONIC FRIEND.

Glad Hand Extended to Municipal Inspector Robert Moulds.

Robert Moulds, a municipal inspector on the new City Hall work, greeted the President very affectionately after the corner stone laying, by virtue of the fact that he has the unique distinction of being the only man in California, with the exception of the honored guest, who is a member of Kill-winning Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, of Cincinnati, of which the Chief Executive is a member. Moulds, also, was at one time a deputy clerk of the Superior Court over which the President presided in Cincinnati.

The President recognized Moulds immediately, as he stepped forward to greet him in the reception room in the Capwell building. The President met Moulds with outstretched hands.

"Well, well," greeted the Chief Executive, "I remember you when you were a deputy clerk in the court over which I presided. How are you? It is a happy occasion to meet you as an inspector of this fine building. I shall remember the occasion."