

Owing to the uncertainty of being able to have all of this work completed as proposed by the plans adopted, it was proposed to have the building sufficiently advanced for the accommodation of the General Assembly of 1904, leaving much of the interior finish to be taken up and completed later on.

On account of unforeseen delays and strikes in connection with furnishing material and labor for handling the same, it has, for some time been a grave question as to the possibility of the building being occupied by the Legislature. The principal cause of delay having been somewhat overcome, sufficient progress has been made recently to enable the Legislature of 1904 to occupy in part the new building. At the same time it is thoroughly appreciated that some inconvenience must be expected for the time being.

The general plan, when finally completed, will afford ample and convenient accommodations for the Legislative and Executive Departments.

The commission has had in mind the desirability of retaining such parts of the old State House structure as possible, and having the new work conform to the old where possible. In this connection it was found that but little of the old original work remains. Much of the old building has been altered, such as the base, the windows and the portico. The architects report that after a thorough examination of the old building with a view of carrying out the new construction, it was found that much of the old work is in very unsatisfactory shape, and will require considerable renovation in the near future for its preservation. Therefore, it was determined that the outside of the new structure should conform in general outline and appearance with the old building, the bricks having been made to match in size and character as nearly as possible. On account of the cornice of the old building being of wood and in bad condition it was decided that the cornice of the new building should be of stone, and it is hoped that the cornice of the old building will be replaced with stone hereafter.

Recent changes of the old original building unfortunately did not stop with the outside, but the in-