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No. 1.

**AMERICAN  
TYPE FOUNDERS  
COMPANY**

**MAKERS OF THE BEST TYPE**

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VOL. IX.

INDIANAPOLIS, JULY 1, 1896.

No. 1.

THE GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

*An Historical Epitome of an Interesting Institution at Once a Credit and a Disgrace to the Republic.*

BY SKOPEO, OF NO. SIX.



WHEN it is stated that Uncle Sam owns the largest book factory in the United States, perhaps in the world, the output per year being one million books, in addition

to the Congressional Record, the statement must appeal forcibly to the average compositor, who knows little about the immense Washington office, nowadays the Mecca of many under civil service rules.

As few have any conception of the government office and its working it is thought that this article will prove of much interest. The office is at once a credit and a disgrace to the republic, for its management is as sound and excellent as the building is dilapidated and unsafe. It was built as a private office in 1856 and purchased by the government in 1861 for \$135,000, and is four stories high and 243 by 61 feet in area. It is very homely in appearance, and with its numerous additions looks rather grotesque. These additions were made in 1865, 1871, 1879, 1881; a storehouse was added in 1885, and in 1889 another story was added to the south center section. A new six story addition has since been erected at the west end of the H street section. The structure consequently presents the effect of a crazy-quilt collection. Time after time has protest been made by the public printers against the insecurity

(for which read "dangerous condition") of the office, but congress has not yet acted in the matter. All departments, carried on at an annual expenditure of \$4,000,000, are supervised with great ability and untiring diligence by Mr. Benedict.

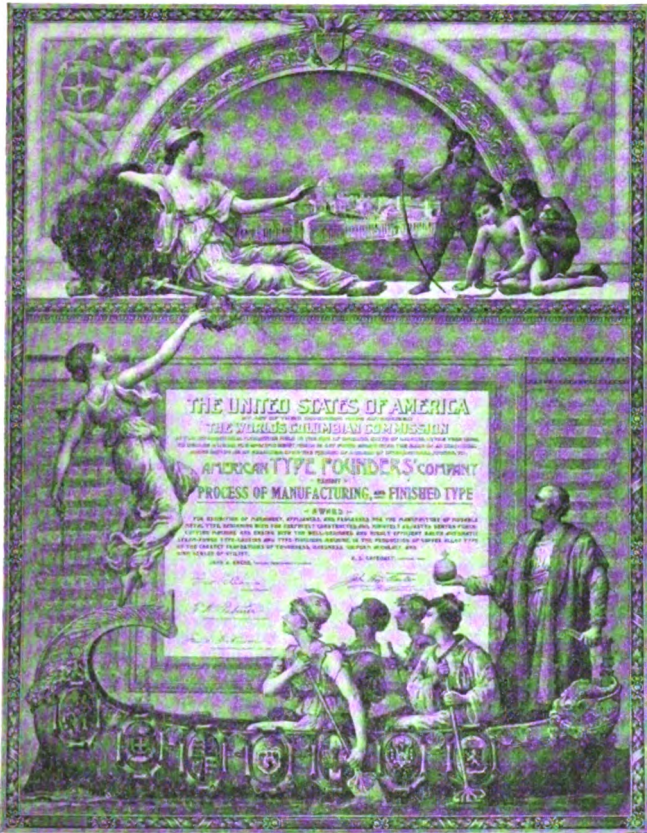
One of the most important positions is that of foreman of the Congressional Record (which was formerly the Congressional Globe), whose duty is to supervise the printing of the daily record of the doings of the legislators. When he arrives at his desk in the evening he does not know what the size of the paper will be. It may be eight, sixteen or one hundred and fifty pages. The highest number of pages set in one night under the present administration was one hundred and twelve, but the addition of standing matter has occasionally brought it up to one hundred and fifty. The revision of speeches adds to the magnitude of the work, and all copy furnished must be set up.

In the cashier's office nearly \$3,000,000 are paid to employes every year. The cashier, Mr. James E. Teal, is an expert in remembering faces. Although there are now over 2,500 employes, a number which has been at times over 3,500, Mr. Teal seldom fails to remember a face. From two hundred to three hundred employes are paid in five minutes.

### World's Columbian Exposition Diplomas of Awards.

Through the courtesy of the American Typefounders' Company, we are able to print a reduced fac-simile of the diploma of award issued by the World's Columbian Exposition. The original is a steel engraving, plate  $17\frac{3}{4} \times 23\frac{1}{2}$  inches, printed on paper  $25\frac{1}{2} \times 36\frac{1}{2}$  inches. It was designed

patent roller bed, made by the Cincinnati branch of the American Type Founders' Company. This reproduction is one of five diplomas awarded to the big type company in competition with the world, and covering (1) the best type-punch cutting machine, (2) the best (Barth) automatic type casting machine, (3) the best space and quad casting machine, (4) the



by Wm. H. Low, engraved by Charles Schlecht and printed at the bureau of engraving and printing at Washington. The award is printed in type. Quaint open, Howland open, Cushing and self-spacing old style, made by the American Type Founders' Company, were used, and this department of the work was done under the supervision of John E. Blue. The presswork was done on hand presses, mostly Washington hand presses, with

best copper alloy and self-spacing type, and (5) the best assortment of type faces shown in specimen books. The mechanical as well as the artistic resources of this company are unmatched for excellence.

ONE of our most important duties to the non-union workman is to convince him of his helpless condition as an individual.