

GOV. ORR'S PORTRAIT IN THE CAPITAL

P. H. McGowan in Columbia State

Washington, Sept. 30.—Hanging alongside those of John G. Carlisle, Thomas B. Reed, Charles C. Crisp and other former speakers of the national house of representatives in the capitol is the handsome oil painting of one of South Carolina's favorite and much loved sons—James L. Orr. And to add to the interest in the new painting is the fact that it was done by one of the Palmetto State's favorite daughters—Miss Esther Edmonds of Columbia, who has already made a big name for herself in the world of art.

A year or two ago when the house committee on library was directed to secure new paintings to take the place of several old ones then hanging in the speaker's lobby at the capitol, and it became generally known that the work was to be undertaken, there was a demand from many persons to be permitted to do it. But care had to be used as it was not the financial part of the matter in which the committee and the people of the country were interested in having new paintings of their former speakers made to take the place of those which time had begun to ruin, but to secure the very best work that was possible. When the time came to award the contracts the committee almost without hesitation decided that when the new picture of Gov. Orr should be painted the work should go to a South Carolinian. Miss Edmonds undertook the execution of the painting,

and just how well she has succeeded may be ascertained from the expressions heard that it is one of the best and most life-like of the portraits ever painted for congress.

The painting is entirely unlike the one whose place it took. The old picture represented South Carolina's son with long, black beard and made him look quite old; the new one, on the contrary, presents him as a much younger man, possibly not over 40 or 42 or 43, with no beard. The clearness of the eye, the large, massive brow and the clean, clear-cut features of Gov. Orr in the new picture are points that are easily seen. Many favorable comments have been heard regarding it, and only today when The State's correspondent went to the capitol some of the official guides who are on duty there said that a large number of tourists had stopped to look at the picture since it was hung and that many had expressed the opinion that it was an excellent piece of work.

The old painting has not been cast aside, but, on the contrary, Elliott Woods, superintendent of the capitol building and grounds, is carefully preserving it from decay in an upper room in the capitol. This morning when I asked him if I might have permission to inspect this old painting in order to compare it with the new one, he cheerfully complied and furnished me a guide to the very dome of the capitol. There, many feet from the street blow, is a snug little room where Mr. Woods keeps his old-time treasures. Turning the key in the big, rusty lock the large wooden door swung back and there, each clothed with its own white suit of heavy covering, were half a dozen or more pictures of former speakers. That of Gov. Orr was with them. Moving many of them around the little room in order that I might find the one I wanted, I presently came to it, and had no difficulty in recognizing it as the old Orr painting that had hung so many years in the speaker's lobby side by side with others of the country's great men.

South Carolinians who come to Washington sightseeing may see the new painting if they will go direct to the speaker's lobby at the capitol. It is near the middle of the large group, and is one of four or five which have recently been repainted.

By this excellent piece of work a bright future has opened up before Miss Edmonds, and her artistic skill will doubtless be greatly valued in the years to come.

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Charlotte, N. C., Oct. 5.—On November 1, the Observer company, publishers of the Charlotte Daily Observer, is to undergo a reorganization. On that date Maj. J. C. Hemphill is to become the editor of The Observer and Mr. A. E. Gonzales is to assume the office of publisher and managing director. Both of these gentlemen become stockholders in the company. Two other new stockholders will be Mr. George Stephens and Mr. Word H. Wood. Mr. D. A. Tompkins, the present controlling stockholder, will retain some of his stock and will continue to be identified with The Observer.

Major Hemphill for the past two years has been editor of the Richmond Times-Dispatch. Prior to that time he was editor of the Charleston News and Courier, with which paper he spent 20 years of his journalistic career. Mr. Gonzales is principal owner of the Columbia State. Messrs. Stephens and Wood are president and treasurer, respectively, of the American Trust company, of Charlotte.

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