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THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

If there is any blame to be placed because the World's Columbian Exposition is not fully completed on the opening day, it should be laid on exhibitors and not on the Exposition management. Urgent letters and telegrams have been frequently sent out to exhibitors at different times calling their attention to the necessity of their being prompt in installing their exhibits if they wished to escape the rush of the last few days and be ready with their displays on the opening day. Everything possible seems to have been done by the Exposition to force matters, so that there should be no excuse for not being ready on time. The facilities for handling exhibits have been more than ample, although on a few occasions they have been pretty well tested. One serious drawback during the month of April has been the difficulty of securing sufficient skilled labor, especially carpenters, and also of getting teams enough to haul lumber and other supplies. A fair illustration of the embarrassments that have been met in this latter particular is that of an exhibitor who after a good deal of effort secured carpenters enough to do his work, and engaged a drayman to haul his lumber at seven dollars a load. The drayman hauled part of the lumber, and as he was waiting his turn at the Sixty-fourth Street entrance to get passage for his team into the grounds to discharge his load, another exhibitor who was looking for a man to haul lumber offered ten dollars a load. This offer was promptly accepted without completing the agreement with the first exhibitor, and so the carpenters who had been engaged to prepare the exhibit were without lumber to work with, and the exhibitor had to hunt up other means of getting his lumber.

The Exposition has done much less night work than it was expected would be necessary. In the mechanical department three shifts of men have been employed during April, because of the fact that this department was much behind in the work of installing the engines and boilers of the great power plant and of completing the steam and other connections. More ordinary labor has been at hand than could be employed. Every day for the last six weeks from a dozen or two to a hundred or more men have haunted the gate adjoining the service building seeking employment. With such an abundance of labor the Exposition has been able to push work with the greatest vigor by daylight.

Some idea of the manner in which work was rushed toward the last can be gained from the way in which Stony Island Avenue, which runs along the western boundary of the Exposition grounds, was macadamized. April 10 this avenue was full of deep ruts and sinkholes almost its entire length. On the 15th it was a finely macadamized road for a distance of about a mile. At the same time that this work was being carried on, provision had to be made for the passage of teams and drays which were bringing exhibits and supplies into the Exposition grounds.

The work of turfing lawns adjoining the State and other buildings in the northern part of the grounds was begun on the 10th, and by the close of the week was completed so far as building operations would permit. Work was begun on the promenades and walks about the same time, so that all that remained for the landscape department to do during the last week of the month was to complete the work of turfing the lawns adjoining those buildings where this work had been delayed and finish the work of hardening the more active arteries of travel. Temporary buildings and structures which had been necessary during the period of construction, but which had outgrown their usefulness, disappeared almost in a night.

When the middle of April arrived, a comparatively small percentage of the exhibits was installed, and the Exposition management found it imperative to let up somewhat on some of its stringent regulations, especially in regard to the driveways and narrow-tired vehicles. A very large number of exhibits enter the grounds on vehicles instead of arriving in cars, and up to the middle of the month it was imperative that these vehicles have extra width of tires, or they would not be permitted more than to enter the grounds, and all such exhibits had to be transferred to vehicles which were properly provided with the requisite width of tire. The number of exhibitors who had exhibits which could be installed with very little trouble inside of a few days was very large, and they did not make any effort toward preparing their exhibits until the latter part of the month. This brought in such a rush that, as a general rule, the original vehicles conveying the exhibits were permitted to drive into the grounds and buildings, thus furthering the work of the Exposition vehicles, and at the same time doing away with considerable delay in transferring. The more important driveways had been covered with planking since winter, so that no damage worth mentioning was done to the driveways by the narrow tires.

In addition to furthering the work in this way, the installing force was increased to as many men as could possibly be used, and an abundance of labor was held in reserve and at the service of

the exhibitors who were in need of assistance. The lighting equipment to the buildings has been installed for several weeks and ready for use, and with the extra rush that began at the middle of the month, considerable night work became necessary. Quite an incredible amount of work has been done since the 17th of April, and as a result it is probable that most of the buildings will be practically ready on the opening day. Among these buildings in which exhibits will be practically complete are the Agricultural building, Mining building, Transportation building, United States government building, Fine Arts building, Fisheries building, and Transportation building.

April 10 was originally set as the last day upon which exhibits would be received, but there has been so much delay and such a comparatively small part of the exhibits had arrived up to this date that Director General Davis extended the time to April 30.

The telephone service at the Exposition grounds has been completed, and some days ago connection was made with the long distance wires, so that during the holding of the Exposition visitors will have every facility for talking with New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other cities.

Although it became necessary to close to visitors the buildings in which exhibits were being installed during the month of April, other attractions were held out by the Exposition management, making it well worth while for visitors to go to the grounds to see these attractions themselves, in addition to the Exposition buildings and other sights. The leading attraction has been the flowers, and these have drawn many visitors, especially on Sundays. As soon as the display of cyclamens or "Persian violets" began to fade, other elaborate and very complete displays were made—among these pansies, cinerarias and English primroses. A great treat to lovers of flowers is promised soon, when the rhododendrons blossom. France and Germany have each contributed a splendid collection of these, which have arrived in most excellent condition. The French display will be made largely in the grounds adjoining the Woman's building. In addition to all these flowers there is also a very attractive show of early blossoming bulbs on the terraces in front of the Manufactures and Liberal Arts building and the Agricultural building. The greatest display of flowers when the Exposition is opened will be on the Wooded Island, which gives promise of being equal in its way to many of the other large displays of exhibits.

The opening ceremonies on May 1 will not be quite so select and exclusive as was at first proposed. The Council of Administration has decided that they shall be held outdoors and in the Grand Plaza in front of the Administration building. A temporary platform will be constructed from which the exercises will be carried out, and where seats will be provided for the 1,500 invited guests. There is such ample space in this Grand Plaza that it is believed that from 75,000 to 100,000 people can witness the ceremonies.

The heaviest piece of material that was handled in the Palace of Mechanic Arts was the shaft of the Allis two thousand horse power quadruple expansion engine. This shaft weighed thirty-three tons, or three tons more than the largest cylinder of this engine. No difficulty was experienced in handling and placing it in its bearings, but a good deal of time was consumed in the operation.

The engineering department of the Exposition has been at work during the past month outlining and arranging the work for making every preparation for a large number of tests. These tests include everything, from burning fuel oil with efficiency and economy to evaporating water for generating steam. There will also be a great variety of tests of the engines and electrical machines. All these tests will be as exhaustive as it is possible to make them, and they will be carried out on a much larger and more comprehensive scale than has ever before been possible. The results of these tests will be of great scientific value to the mechanical and industrial world.

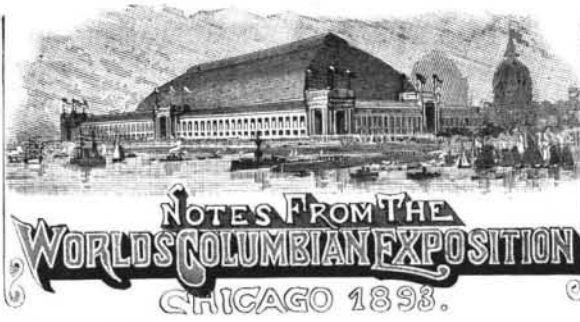
The work of hanging pictures in the gallery of fine arts was begun the second week in the month and has been carried on energetically ever since. Each nation has pushed its own department, so that altogether this building will be nearer a state of completeness than most of the others. One of the interesting exhibits in this building is that which has been installed in the east wing by the French. This is what is called the Trocadero collection, and comprises a very large number of plaster reproductions of some famous French works. This collection is to remain permanently in this country, arrangements having been perfected to that end.

The elevated road which enters the grounds, and which will carry passengers from the heart of the city, has completed its commodious station immediately over the annex to the Transportation building. The station is so arranged that visitors can go from it to the adjoining station of the Intramural Railway without the necessity of going down one flight of stairs and up

another. The elevated road has accomplished an immense amount of work during the month of April, and will have no difficulty in running its trains into the Exposition grounds in time for the opening ceremonies.

Exhibitors seem to have the staff mania, although in a somewhat milder form than the Exposition management. Nearly all of the larger and more pretentious booths and pavilions throughout the various buildings use staff to a greater or less extent for the purpose of ornamentation. In fact, there are very few booths outside of the smaller ones which are constructed without using it. In the Manufactures and Liberal Arts building is an especially elaborate display of staff ornamentation. In the midst of all this mass of staff it is a relief to look at the German section, which has quite a display of structural and fancy iron ornamentation. In the Mining building staff is not used quite so extensively, yet there are several pavilions which combine building stone or terra cotta and use staff ornamentation.

A national bank, established under the auspices of the Chemical National Bank of Chicago, has opened for business in one of the wings of the Administration building, and will do a banking business during



THE AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

The Agricultural building, next to the Administration building, is probably more conspicuous than any other building at the World's Columbian Exposition in the amount of statuary and other ornamentation. The architecture of the building is of the Classic Renaissance style. It fronts on the Basin and is directly opposite the south end of the Manufactures and Liberal Arts building. At the west of it is the South Canal, which separates it from the Palace of Mechanic Arts, while in the rear, or east of it, is what is called the

dome of the central pavilion. This is the figure of Diana that was formerly on the tower of the Madison Square Garden in New York City. Immediately over the main entrance is a winged figure illustrative of the "Victory of Ceres." This is a female figure with outstretched hands, holding a laurel wreath. On each side of this figure is the Ceres group. This group comprises two female figures holding between them a large shield on which is the word "Ceres," and underneath this is a garland of fruit. Cupids stand on either side of each of the figures, holding in their hands cornucopias which are running over with abundance.

On each corner pavilion are two reproductions of what is called the Four Seasons, making altogether eight of these groups. This group consists of four female figures representing the four seasons of the year, spring, summer, autumn, and winter. They are set back to back with their arms outstretched for sheaves of wheat extended above their heads.

Besides these groups of figures, which are decidedly Grecian in design, there are two other groups which are eminently rural and illustrative of agricultural pursuits. One of these is a horse group, the other cattle. There are four of the horse groups, two on the front of the building, one on the east end of the



THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION—CATTLE GROUP, AGRICULTURAL BUILDING.

the six months that the Fair is in operation. This bank is established both for the convenience of visitors and exhibitors, and special arrangements have been made so that there shall be as little red tape as possible in cashing checks or making drafts. The bank has been fitted up in a manner in keeping with its surrounding conditions, and will be well worth a visit of banking men.

Soda water fountains are among the most conspicuous structures in several of the larger buildings, and, judging by their size and capacity, the Exposition management expects a very thirsty crowd of visitors.

The railway terminal station at which passengers will arrive in the Exposition grounds by all the railroads, except the Illinois Central, was practically completed by the middle of April. It is a very fine appearing structure, and is especially convenient in its interior arrangements. The railway tracks entering it have been down for some months, and have been considerably used for the storage of freight cars, but have now been mostly cleared away to be ready to receive passenger trains. The switching plant which is to control the vast network of tracks is not quite completed, and there is some doubt as to whether it will be fully finished on the opening day, but it will be near enough completion to fully answer all the requirements.

South Pond. This building, like all the other Exposition buildings, is covered with staff. It is 800 feet long from east to west, and 500 feet wide from north to south. The cornice line, like all the other buildings surrounding the Basin, is 65 feet above grade. The main entrance is on the north face of the building, and on either side of it are mammoth Corinthian pillars, 50 feet high and 5 feet in diameter. Pavilions are reared at each corner and from the center of the building, the center one being 144 feet square. Curtains connect the corner pavilions, forming a continuous arcade around the top of the building. Each corner pavilion is surmounted by a dome 96 feet high, and on each of these domes is a group of maidens of heroic size, called the Horoscope Group. These figures are represented as holding aloft a globe about which is a zone with signs of the zodiac. The figures are made of staff, while the globes are of sheet copper. Each group represents a distinct race, one the Caucasian, another the Mongolian, another the Ethiopian, and the fourth the American Indian.

The main entrance leads through an opening sixty-four feet wide into a vestibule, and from this vestibule into the rotunda, which is one hundred feet in diameter. This rotunda is surmounted by a mammoth glass dome one hundred and thirty feet high.

Perhaps the most conspicuous figure on the building is that of Diana the huntress mounted on the

building facing the pier at which steamboats will land passengers, and one on the west front. The group comprises a figure of a Grecian plowman standing on a slightly raised elevation holding the handle of an ancient stone plow; two spirited horses are attached to the plow, yet held in check by a firm hand.

In the cattle group, which is likewise strongly Grecian, is a woman standing on a slightly raised pedestal holding a garland of flowers which encircles the necks of the cows. Standing on the right side of the group is the figure of a goat, and on the left is that of a calf. The number and positions of these groups are relatively the same as those of the horses. We give an engraving of this group.

On the exterior walls of the building, in strong relief, are fifty-four single figures of the Angel of Abundance holding a cornucopia which is overflowing with the fruits of the harvest. These figures are clothed in loose flowing robes and are classical like the others. Between the springs of the arches of the north, east, and west sides of the building are twenty-two more single figures in relief representing a female classically clothed, holding in her hands the signs of the zodiac. On the east front there are two spandrels, also two on the west and one on the north side. Four of these are the same. The two on the west side are immediately under the Horoscope Group and represent a pastoral