

THE WORLD'S COLUMBIAN EXPOSITION.

THE BRITISH SECTION.

"Westward the course of empire takes its way," as Bishop Berkeley sang a century ago. Never was it truer than to-day, when all our thoughts are turning Chicagoward. So a representative of the *Illustrated London News* sought an opportunity of gaining from Sir Henry Trueman Wood

a few particulars as to the progress of the British Section in the World's Fair, which opens next May. Sir Henry Trueman Wood, in his business-like office in the Adelphi, has for some time past been "doubling the part," as actors say, of secretary of the Society of Arts and secretary of the commission which is dealing with the various questions in connection with Great Britain and the Chicago Exhibition. His experience of exhibitions has resembled Sam Weller's acquaintance with London in being "extensive and peculiar." He first found scope for his energy and great powers of organization in connection with the Health and the Inventions exhibitions, held respectively in 1884 and 1885. The difficulties attending the Paris Exhibition of 1889, which had been refused official recognition from the British government, only served to call forth the skill of the secretary of the Society of Arts in surmounting them. His services on this occasion were gracefully acknowledged by his creation as an officer of the French Legion of Honor and by knighthood conferred by his sovereign.

"Well, first of all, how much ground will the British section cover?" was the opening for conversation.

"About 500,000 square feet, I expect. Of this space, two-fifths will be occupied by our colonies. This is a decided advance on previous exhibitions, for our maximum has been hitherto 360,000 square feet—at the Paris Exhibition of 1878. By the way, I may tell you that to view every exhibit in the World's Fair one will require to walk fifty miles."

"Then as to the total of British exhibitors?"

"Well, I fancy we shall be represented by six hundred in the industrial sections. In the Fine Art Section there will probably be between eight hundred and nine hundred works, by some three hundred artists. About one thousand applications were received, and every care has been taken to select those exhibits which shall give an adequate and interesting picture of Great Britain's commerce and art. Allotments were made to us in the following departments: Agriculture, Electricity, Fine Arts, Fisheries, Forestry, Live Stock, Machinery, Manufactures and Liberal Arts, Mines and Mining, Transportation, and in the Women's Building."

"Will there be much moving machinery?"

"Three steam engines will be at work, but I think one of the finest exhibits in this department will be Platt's cotton-cleaning machinery. Printing and typesetting will be illustrated, and there will also be shown looms, spinning frames, steam hammers, and the usual miscellaneous machinery."

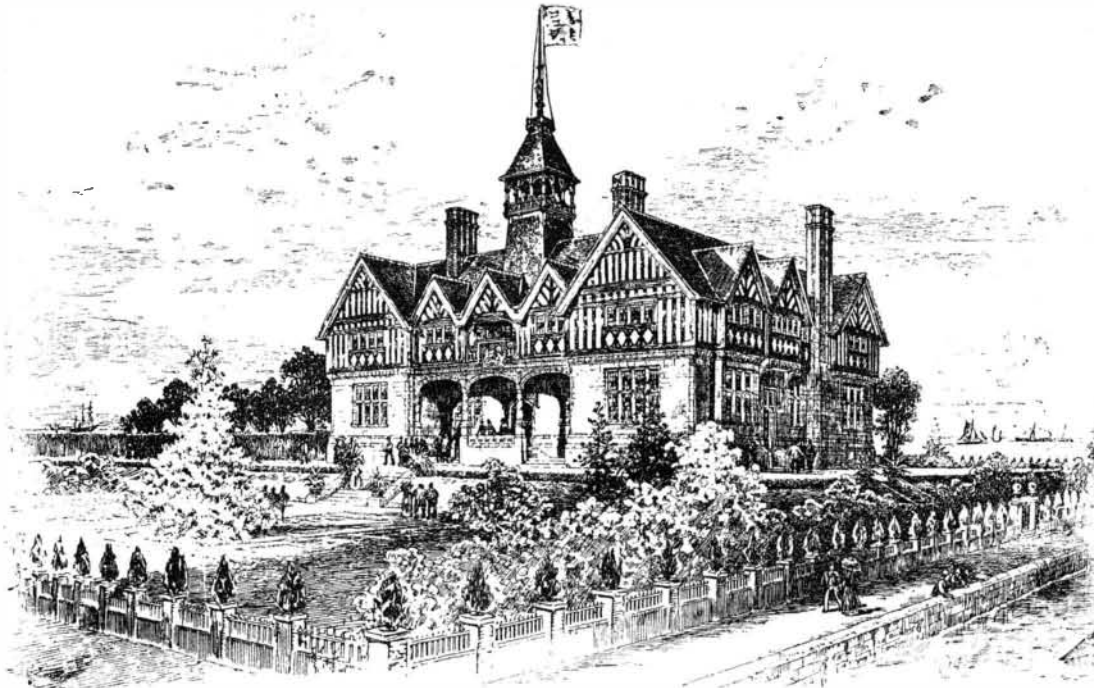
"Where will the chief British exhibits be on view?"

"In the Manufactures Building, where will be found some fine specimens of such heterogeneous goods as Worcester porcelain, Doulton ware, jewelry, furniture, silks, wall papers, billiard tables, linen and old gold work from Ireland, chemical products, etc., and in the gallery of this section there will be a great attraction in the shape of photographs—oh! yes; the ubiquitous amateur photographer will be represented—newspapers, scientific instruments, and various educational appliances used by the School Board for London and the Science and Art Department."

"How have your appeals for pictures been answered?"

"I attach a good deal of importance to the Fine Art Department. The Americans nowadays are greatly given to French art, and they really appreciate but very little the British school of art, so that this ought

to prove an excellent opportunity for finding a market. The New York dealers, who have the whole control of the market, do not encourage the sale of English pictures, and it is quite a limited number of important canvases by our leading artists which finds its way across the herring pond. Nearly all the Royal Academicians will be represented. Now as to your

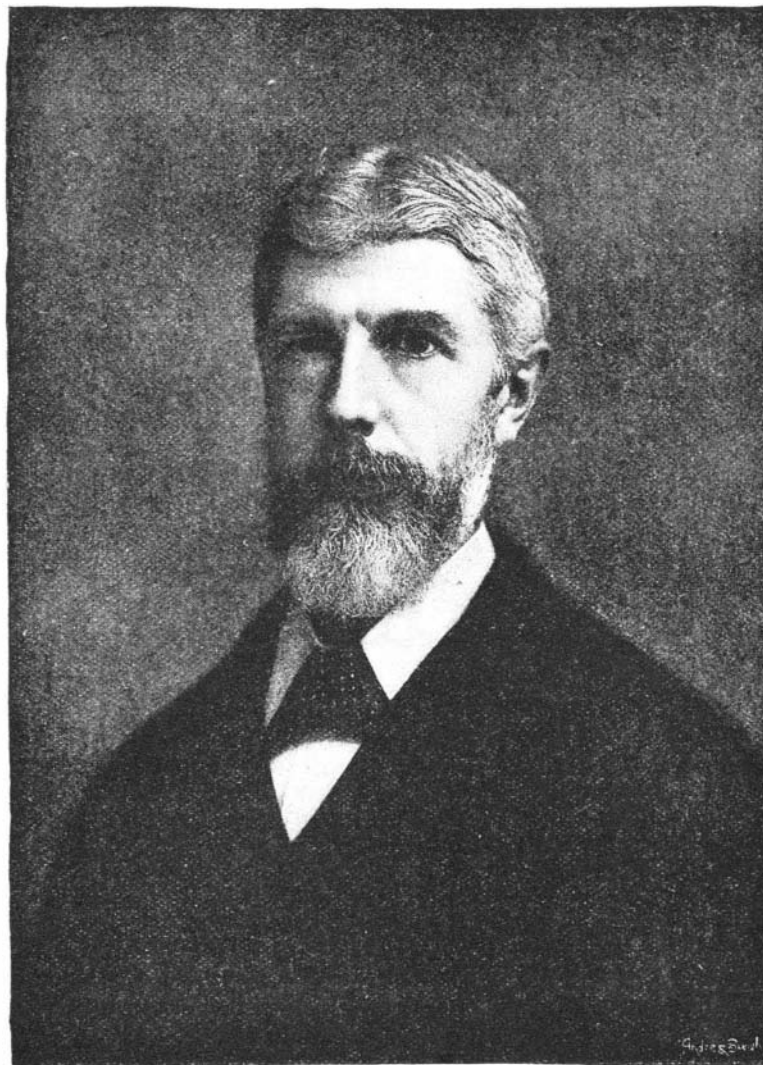


THE VICTORIA BUILDING—OFFICES OF THE BRITISH SECTION OF THE CHICAGO EXHIBITION.

query about the replies we have received on this subject, I have found in the north of England that the McKinley tariff has left such a sore feeling with many private collectors that they have been very loth to assist the World's Fair in any way."

"As to public galleries; do you get any pictures loaned?"

"No; scarcely any. Now in France or Germany, with just the assent of the government, which is never difficult to obtain on this point, an exhibition may borrow largely from public collections. But the National Gallery and the South Kensington pictures are precluded from being lent. The Queen has graciously



SIR H. TRUEMAN WOOD.

set the example to private collectors by lending us certain pictures." "Will you tell me what are going to be the British contents of the Transportation Gallery?"

"In the first place, there will be engines and carriages from various railway companies. Then there will be cycles, a model of the Forth Bridge, pictures and carriages (and for good vehicles Americans usually come

to England), and ship models from most of the great firms. This latter exhibit is certain to be popular, judging from the success which the Naval Exhibition attained."

"As to the part which our colonies are going to play, will you give me some details?"

"Canada will hold premier position, showing extensively in the Agricultural, Mining, and Manufactures Buildings. Next to the Dominion comes New South Wales, sending merchandise and timber. They are going to have an enormous trophy representing the silver taken out of the Broken Hill mine. Ceylon will have a great deal of tea, naturally both for show and for sale. Both Ceylon and India intend to have native attendants on the spot to give a local coloring to their tea stalls. You may recollect that India was very late in deciding as to whether it would be represented at the exhibition, and as a result of the government's delay and refusal to take an active part in the matter India was not able to obtain as much space as might have otherwise been the case. However, I think we shall have no reason to be ashamed of her

exhibits. Of course, specimens of Indian art, which meet you everywhere, will not be lacking. Finally, the Cape is determined to manifest its importance by showing the various processes connected with diamonds such as the washing and searching in the blue clay for these precious stones. Curiously enough at these exhibitions there is always a profusion of diamonds in every sample of clay!"

"Is Great Britain contributing much to the Electrical Section?"

"Not so much as I could have wished. English electricians have had rather a surfeit of exhibitions lately. The chief exhibit will be a splendid collection of apparatus in use for the purposes of telegraphy by our post office. I may add that there are some specimens of platinum, etc., in the Mining Section. There are, unfortunately, not many exhibits in the Horticultural Department, but we are fairly to the front in the Agricultural Building. Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M.P., is showing a model of his stud farm, which is certain to interest the sportsmen. Then there is a model dairy and a good selection of baking machinery."

"Do you think the early visitors to the World's Fair can be promised a complete exhibition?"

"Yes; I think matters are progressing so favorably that things will be in working order by the date of opening. I will undertake to say that the British Section will be complete and ready on the first of May. We are going to have a 'British House,' called after her Majesty the Queen."

"As to our exhibits—are they already being erected?"

"Many of them are in the United States or en route, but, so far, I believe they are not placed in the grand buildings which will be their home. I was over in Chicago in July, that being the second time I have visited the city on exhibition business, and expect to go on again in February to organize the British exhibits. I shall probably remain until August. There will be a regular staff to undertake official work on the spot, and I trust we may realize a great success."—*Illustrated London News*.

Citric Acid as a Water Purifier.

The well known chemist M. Girard, chief of the Paris Municipal Laboratory, has lately been engaged in making researches concerning the bacilli of cholera and typhoid fever; in so doing he has once more proved the effects of acids in destroying microbes. He finds citric acid to be the most useful and powerful of all. One gramme, he says, added to a quart of tainted water, will effectively destroy all the microbes that may be in it. Consequently he recommends the use of natural lemonade as an excellent beverage at all times, and especially during epidemics. If necessary, a little bicarbonate of soda can be added as a means of neutralizing the acidity of the lemon.