REPRESENTATIVE STATE COMMISSIONERS



CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW,



G. W. THOMPSON, Washington.











F. H. PEAVEY, Minnesota.



Harmonious Relations of the Unions and the Management.

Part Played by Organized Labor in the Creation and Completion of the Exposition Enterprise.

Notable among the incidents attending the building of the exposition is the fact that that Geraldine was not a fit man for the position, when thousands of men representing accepted October 29. nearly every branch of skilled and unskilled labor were on the pay rolls, there has never nected with the exposition, Geraldine conbeen a serious difference between the man- tinued to haunt the grounds, where he was agement and the men who toil. On several occasions questions have arisen between the made several subsequent efforts to stir up two hose companies and one chemical, about contractors and their employes that resulted | trouble among the workingmen, but they had | twenty men in all. The exposition company exposition management has been able to long decived. The most recent case of this ladder of the latest model, and two hose bring about an understanding that was sort occurred Saturday, May 14. As wagons and the chemical engine will be mutually satisfactory, and from the time the Geraldine had completed the carpenter work transferred to the grounds for the first shovelful of dirt was lifted until the on a minor building in the contract for summer by the Omaha department. The gates opened, the workingmen have been which he was interested, he discharged the main engine house is located on Twentieth among the most loyal and enthusiastic sup- union foreman and put in a nonunion man, street, immediatey south of Manderson. porters of the enterprise.

had no unimportant share in the success he had anticipated, but as soon as the union reach any part of the main grounds within of the exposition. Thousands of shares of leaders saw how matters stood and that a few seconds from the alarm, and will also stock were subscribed and paid for by men Geraldine was merely trying to make trouble be available in case their services are which the big transmississippi show is lowho had nothing but their daily wages and for the other contractors, the strike was needed on the bluff tract. The remaining cated has one distinction that is peculiarly little homes on which they found it diffi- declared off and the men returned to work hose company will be at Sixteenth and its own. It is the only exposition site on cult to pay the taxes. They recognized the on the other buildings the following Monfact that the exposition would open an en- day morning. larged opportunity for labor. They believed that it meant a new era of prosperity for Omaha, and they loyally paid their assessments when men who had fat bank accounts put their hands in their pockets and refused to take them out.

The labor question was brought prominently before the board of directors almost as soon as its organization was determined the material of which the exposition buildon. At a meeting held January 9, 1897, Fred ings are constructed the necessity for the M. Youngs introduced a resolution which most effective and ample fire protection has them equipped with two lines of two and the site of the World's fair split the city provided that all contracts entered into by been kept constantly in mind. A large conthe exposition management should stipulate | flagration at any time during the process of the exposition management should stipulate flagration at any time during the process of that Douglas county labor should be given construction would have undoubtedly re- 100 to 150 feet of hose on each reel, and tained in several other exposition cities. In preference and that the minimum price for sulted in at least the postponement of the the aggregate amount of hose for stand pipe this respect the present exposition was exunskilled labor should be \$1.50 a day. The exposition, and a similar misfortune during resolution was referred to the executive the summer would seriously affect the succommittee and was returned a month later cess of the enterprise. To insure the buildwithout recommendation. The directory was ings would be useless, as no amount of few seconds. The reels are so arranged our locations and a decision reached that ready to stipulate that laborers should be after compensation could restore the build- that all that is necessary is to open the left several sore spots, the existing site paid at the rate of \$1.50 per day, but it was ings in time for service. The management valve and run along with the nozzle to the came in as a compromise that was apparurged that the adoption of any resolution that has proceeded on the principle that such fire. The hose runs off without a hitch ently satisfactory to all interests. It was seemed like a discrimination in favor of fire fighting facilities must be provided as and the stream is playing on the fire almost adopted by a unanimous vote of the full that time. It was contended that the chief conflagration to acquire sufficient headway to position guards are drilled in handling these argument of the opponents of the exposition lead to such a disaster. in other localities was the allegation that this was to be an Omaha show, and that if such action was taken the immediate retents are the most complete and effective Manufacturers' and Agricultural buildings of directors after the permanent organizasult would be to narrow the scope of the modern experience can suggest. In this re- are equipped with six stand pipes each and tion. Strangely energh, however, the enterprise and antagonize the interests spect the suggestions of Omaha's efficient twelve lines of hose, the Fine Arts, Ma-ground that was eventually chosen as the whose sympathies it was eminently desirable to enlist. The logic of this argument was followed. An ample water pressure is asapparent and although several efforts were made to secure action giving a preference to local workingmen no such measure was ever formally adopted by the directory. As the work proceeded it became evident that local labor was receiving due recognition and its leaders were satisfied that they had

been fairly treated. Early Differences Adjusted. As the construction of the buildings pro-

ceeded and a vast amount of skilled labor was called into requisition the labor unions demanded that the union scale of hours and wages should be formally adopted. The first difference occurred between the carpenters union and Briggs & Cushman, the contractors for the Administration building. This was settled by arbitration, but early in October the dissatisfaction that had been bred by the methods of Dion Geraldine, who had been employed as superintendent of construction, culminated in an open revolt or the part of the union men. The leaders of the movement declared that Geraldine had been working from the first to break down the labor organizations. They alleged that he brought in hundreds of cheap men by sending out false reports that there were not enough men in Omaha to do the work, and that he had discriminated against or ganized labor at every opportunity. It was asserted at that time that some of the contractors were paying carpenters five and ten cents per hour less than the union scale and compelling them to work nine and ten hours per day. On the morning of October 10 work was stopped by a general strike of all the union men employed on the grounds. A few non-unton men continued to work on one or two of the buildings, but as soon as their day's work was o'er they were quietly approached by the strikers and most of them were induced to join their ranks. Perfect order was maintained and none of the strikers attempted to use force to enforce their demands. Four days later one of the contractors capitulated and the strike resured in a substantial

victory for organized labor. A few days later thirty-six carpen ters quit work for Goldie & Sons on the ground that they had not kept their agreement to recognize the union scale. In two days the contractors signed an agreement by which they bound themselves to pay the union scale and the men returned to work. At the same time the executive committee of the exposition adopted an official recognition of the union scale. At a meeting held October 28 the following resolution was introduced by Manager Rose water of the Department of Publicity and

Promotion and adopted:

Resolved, That from and after this date all contracts for construction, which shall be awarded by the exposition, shall provide that the union scale of wages, in force October 1, 1897, shall govern in the payment of skilled labor and that eight hours shall constitute a day's work, provided, that extra shifts of eight hours may be used without overtime charge.

Resolved, That for all skilled labor employed directly by the exposition the union scale of wages as provided above shall prevail. Promotion and adopted:

The scale which was thus endorsed was

Carpenters and joiners Carpenters and Jones
Bricklayers
Plasterers
Painters and decorators
Plumbors, steam and gas fitters
Sheet metal workers
Staff makers, modelers
Staff makers, casters

Contractor Hamilton, who was building the Machinery building, and Contractor Parrish of the Liberal Arts building were now the only remaining contractors who had not signed the agreement to pay the



of days later. Unions Force Geraldine Out.

At this time the question of voting \$100, 000 of Douglas county bonds for the exposition was before the people and the election CONTRIBUTION OF WAGE-EARNING CLASS was at hand when the labor trouble was at its height. The workingmen improved the opportunity to assist in the discomfiture of their old enemy, Geraldine, and they openly declared that unless he was discharged from his position they would defeat the bonds. Resolutions expressing this sentiment were adopted by the unions as well as by various other bodies who condemned Geraldine's methods and demanded his discharge. For some time past Mr. Rosewater had contended from its inciplency the enterprise has sus- tion he occupied and the agitation ended in tained harmonious relations with organized his enforced resignation, which was sublabor. During the long period of construc- mitted to the executive committee and

While he was no longer officially constill interested in several contracts. He consists of one hook and ladder company, As soon as this was discovered by the Here are housed the truck, one hose wagon As a matter of fact, the workingmen have carpenters' union a strike was ordered, as and the chemical. These companies can

the Possible Spread of Destruc-

tive Confingration. In view of the inflammable character of local interests would be most impolitic at would make it practically impossible for any as soon as the alarm is sounded. The ex-

> fire chief, John Redell, have been generally sured by a complete system of mains that intersect every part of the grounds and surround each of the large buildings. Aside from the three fire companies that will be always on the ground for immediate use each building is protected by six to twelve lines of hose, attached to stand pipes, distributed at intervals through the building. The pressure is always full on and the



S. D. COOK,

C. A. FELLOWS, Kansas,

alarms from the grounds in person.

ings.

distributed over the grounds.

any ordinary blaze.

extinguishers, alone sufficient to suppress



WM. NEVILLE, Nebraska.



FERDINAND W. FECK, Illinois.







EX-GOV. NORTHEN, Georgia.

Seventeen ballots were taken

that has ever occurred in the directory,

Then an adjournment was secured until

the next evening, when Miller park won on

the first ballot, with two votes to spare

Then W. J. Connell, who had led the fight

for Hanscom park, moved that three cheers

be given for Miller park, and they were

given with a unanimity in which every

trace of the acrimony that had character-

ized the discussion of the previous day

eemed to disappear. The directors shook

Decision is Reconsidered.

But in less than thirty days the mem-

bers of the executive committee arrived at

the conclusion that the park was too far

from the business district to admit of a

successful exposition. Then the advisabil-

ity of securing the present location was

suggested and in a very few days arrangements for the acquirement of the nec-

essary territory were informally perfected.

side residents as Miller park, no particular

opposition to the change developed and it

any other point. The change was for-

mally accomplished by a unanimous vote

with universal satisfaction by the public.

The present site of the exposition com-

immediately south of Manderson street,

If any doubt had existed as to the wis-

and beauty. The Kountze tract lent itself

most readily to the architectural plans of

ings, the concessions and other incidental

a very slight expense.

It consists of the old fair

hands all around and the fight was over.

COL. CLARK E. CARR, afternoon in the midst of of the most spirited debates

Garden of Eden.

Resemblance of the Exposition Tract to the

THOUSANDS OF TREES, SHRUBS AND PLANTS Transformation in the Landscape Produced by Laying Out Walks

and Drives and Application of

Artistic Gardening.

While the superb architecture of Omaha's White City has been growing under the busy hands of thousands of workmen the surrounding grounds have been gradually transformed into a fitting framework for their archivectural magnificence. The rugged bluff and monotonous vista of level soil has disappeared under the artistic As this site was as accessible to the north touches of the landscape gardener and has been succeeded by long cool stretches of was conceded that the new site offered turf, miles of neatly graveled walks and advantages that could not be secured at drives and a wilderness of trees and shrubs and flowers suggestive of tropical luxury. Those who admire the exquisite beauty of the exposition landscapes can scarcely of the board of directors at a meeting held March 17, and their action was regarded realize that the marvelous change has been accomplished since the last snow melted and trickled down the bluff to swell the turbid current of the river below. The trees are as luxuriant and the turf and flowers as inviting as though years had been spent in their cultivation and the beholder wonders whether he shall most admire the

setting or the gem. While the grounds selected for the exposition offered no original attraction they were susceptible of the most beautiful landscape effects. Rudolf Ulrich of New York was employed to make plans for their beautification and from that time until the present he has been employed in looking after this feature of exposition construction. The bulk of the work has been done during the last two months and the change that has been wrought in that period borders on the marvelous. It is most noticeable on the bluff tract, which was naturally adapted for the development of the most artistic effects dom of the change it has been dispelled and where the landscape architect had more freedom to work out his ideas untrammeled by the crowding of large buildings.

The most important landscape effect has been worked out on the east slope of the bluff tract and consists in properly merging the bluff into the graded park. It required 3,000 trees and nearly 9,000 shrubs to 'arry out this feature and these chiefly consist of varieties native to Nebraska. Then 1,200 shade trees were planted along the walks and drives and as many more were set out with the shrubbery along the fences and in the Kountze tract. These consist mostly of soft maples, catalpas, cottonwood, white ash, elms and evergreens and other coniferous varieties, the first named being largely used on account of the rapidity with which

has been broken by miles of gravel walks laid out in artistic pattern around the buildings and grass plots. The aggregate length of these walks is 15,204 lineal feet, exclusive of the 8,484 yards of graveled surface which form the Grand Plaza. To supply properly the grass and flowers with moisture involved the construction of atirrigation system, including 12,000 feet pipe. Work of Floral Decoration.

All this was preliminary to the installation of over 100,000 plants and flowers, besides a vast number of vines for decorative effects. The flowers have been largely raised in the greenhouse which had been constructed early last winter, as it would have been a difficult matter to purchase so many from local greenhouses. A score of different varieties are represented, among which the geraniums, oleander, dahlias, canna, lilies and arbutus are most prominent. Between sixty and seventy beds of various patterns have been laid out in the grass plots immediately surrounding the Horticulture building and filled with the exhibits of Nebraska and Iowa florists. One of the most interesting floral features is the aquatic basin just north of the Horticulture building, which is filled with an extensive and valuable collection of pond lilles, with some magnificent specimens of the Victoria On the Kountze tract the landscape effects

were somewhat simplified. The main court is largely occupied by 4,510 lineal feet of brick pavement, extending from the lagoon half way to the interior line of the buildings. The remainder has been graveled, leaving only room for a few minor displays of grass and shrubbery. Over 9,000 yards of sod have been laid in the Kountze tract and some striking effects obtained by the use of vines and shrubbery along the colonnades. The abrupt slope of turf at the head of the lagoon, broken by crescent shaped beds of flowers, makes an artistic effect and the appearance of the court is improved by the huge vases of flowers and vines set at intervals along the lagoon and against the white elevations of the buildings.

Another pretty feature of the main court will be the roof garden, to be constructed on the Mines and Mining building. This will be lavishly arrayed with shrubs and flowers and will be a popular resort for feminine visitors.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE PRESS.

Special Building at the Disposal or

the Newspaper Men. accommodations have been provided on the exposition grounds for local and visiting representatives of the press and these will be afforded every facility for gathering, writing and telegraphing their stories of the exposition. The Press building is a handsome structure modeled after the Italian Renaissance of the sixteenth century and conforming in its exterior appearance to the other exposition buildings. It is located in the center of the grounds just back of the Administration Arch and is sufficiently commodious to afford ample room for the purposes to which it is to be devoted. The building is 50x58 feet and the main hall, which will be used as a reception and read ing room, is 30x36 feet and twenty-four feet The telegraph rooms and eleven smaller rooms for the use of reporters and correspondents open from the main hall and exceptional care has been taken to have the interior well lighted. The main entrance is a very attractive treatment of Corinthian columns and the character of the building is indicated by the statues emblematic of the Press and Telegraphy which surmount the columns.







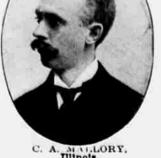
L. W. SHURTLIFF, Utah.

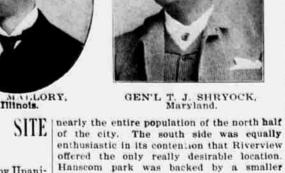


THE



C. A. MAILORY,





The proposals were referred to a special committee consisting of Caspar E. Yost, Topography and general availability of grounds for building purposes. Second-Transportation facilities by street cars, steam railroads and other vehicles. Third-Sewerage and water supply. Fourththey recommended them in the following order: Miller, Elmwood, Hanscom, River-

of the engineers. The first ballot was taken on the following Tuesday, and it resulted as follows: Miller, 19; Hanscom, 13, convenient intervals through all the build- liely discussed for some time previous and Riverview, 4; Elmwood, 1. It had previously were known respectively as the Miller park. been decided that the vote of a majority of Hanscom park, Riverview park, Elmwood the full directory should be necessary to a and the names of 1,000 laborers have been plete equipment of electric boxes liberally park and East Omaha sites. The Miller choice and the contest narrowed down to a on the pay roll at various times since the

prises about 200 acres of territory that has J. H. Millard and R. S. Wilcox, with proved to be particularly adapted for the instructions to report in two weeks. The various purposes of construction and decocommittee was also authorized to employ ration. an engineer and a landscape gardner to grounds on Sherman avenue, thirty-seven make detailed investigations and assist them acres, the bulk of Oak Chatham addition by such technical information as they could lying west of the fair grounds, thirty-five furnish. The services of H. C. Alexander acres, two blocks of the Kountze property and A. C. Schrader of Chicago were secured by the committee and they spent several forty acres, the strip between the fair days in examining the various locations and grounds and Ames avenue on the north, in preparing their report. This was not fifteen acres, and the bluff tract extending considered by the board of directors until from Locust street to Ames avenue on the February 6 and in the meantime the queseast side of Sixteenth street, sixty acres. tion almost completely absorbed public at-To this was added several portions of lots tention. Mass meetings were held in various that were considered desirable to round parts of the city in the interests of different out the location and which were secured at locations and the directors were literally beseiged by people who wanted to make their influence count in favor of one or another. When the report was opened by the since the exposition began to take on form directors the hall was jammed to its capacity with an interested lobby in which Milley park sentiment seemed to prethe main court and the Bluff tract has been dominate. The engineers reported that they made an ideal location for the state buildhad based their conclusions on four points in the following order of Importance: First-

features of the big show. The old fair grounds were admirably adapted for the purposes for which they are now occupied and the all-important question of transportation has been happily solved by locat-Distance from postoflice. After a general ing the exposition within ten minutes' ride review of the adaptability of each location of the heart of the city. view and East Omaha.



apparatus ready at an instant's notice. Scattered all through the buildings are chemical | SELECTION The regular exposition fire department | Present Exposition Grounds Chosen by Unanimous Vote of Directors.

in temporary strikes, but in every case the become too familiar with his system to be has purchased a sixty-five foot extension IDEAL LOCATION FOR THE GREAT SHOW

How the Perplexing Site Problem Was Solved to the Satisfaction of Everybody Concerned.

That portion of the Missouri bluff on Manderson streets, in easy reach of any part carth that was chosen by a unanimous vote of the grounds. The plan of Chief Redell and the selection of which did not carry with is to man these companies from among the it an aftermath of distempered opposition EXCELLENT FIRE PROTECTION experienced men of the city department. from disgruntled property owners. With Assistant Chief Windheim will be assigned very few exceptions previous big expositions to have charge of the exposition companies have started under a local handicap, aris-Every Precaution Taken to Prevent and Chief Redell will also answer possible ing from the disappointed self-interests of people who had not been able to locate it Aside from the house apparatus the stand where it would most directly benefit their pipe system will of itself furnish fairly personal interests. It is very recent hisadequate protection. There are from three tory how the question whether the lake to six stand pipes in each building, each of front or Jackson park should be selected as one-half inch hose, with nozzles attached of Chicago into two bitterly antagonistic dozen lines cannot be brought to Bear in a tested struggle between the friends of variboard of directors and approved by the people irrespective of previous preferences.

lines, and thus become available as an auxil-The arrangements made for the protection lary fire department of no doubtful effectivechinery and Electricity and Boys' and Girls' home of the exposition was scarcely sugbuildings and the Auditorium have four gested during the weeks of agitation that pipes and eight lines of hose each, and the preceded the final action of the directory. Horticulture building has three pipes and The bids offering locations were received six lines of home. In addition to these 150 at a meeting of the board of directors held chemical extinguishers are distributed at January 9, 1897. These had all been pub-The alarm service is supplied by a com-

but influential combination of business men and property owners, who favored it on account of its accessibility and its facilities for drainage, while Elmwood park and the Courtland beach site were also vigorously Advice is Called For.

The recommendation of Miller park as the advocates wanted to force a vote at once, from the director general to the day been seeded and 14,500 square yards but this was successfully opposed by laborer. Of these fully half have been of sod laid and sprouted. The turf gomery, who urged that a few days should be allowed in which to consider the report park proposal was vigorousty supported by deadlock between Miller and Hanscom, grading was begun.

Number of Men Employed.

It has required the services of 5,000 men The recommendation of Miller park as the first choice was greeted with tremendous to build the exposition. This estimate incheering by its supporters in the lobby. Its cludes those who worked in any capacity carpenters. When the construction was in full blast 1,500 carpenters were working on the grounds at one time. The staff work and plastering has employed about 400 men and the landscape work has utilized the services of nearly as many. Upwards of 200 men were employed in sewer construction

CENTRAL ARCH OF U. S. GOVERNMENT BUILDING

