

WOMEN'S WORK FOR THE FAIR

Notable Contribution to the Success of the Exposition.

ALL UNDER BOARD OF LADY MANAGERS

Principal Educational Features Carefully Worked Out in Detail by Representative Women of the Greater West.

By Frances M. Ford, Secretary Education Bureau.

In all the great expositions women have been given an honorable place, but the nature and scope of the work assigned to them has varied greatly. At the Philadelphia Centennial they "were allowed," so says one of the workers, "to raise some money," and there was an exhibit of such work as women were guilty of twenty years ago. By the time of the Columbian Exposition, however, the character of women's work had wholly changed, and it was quite to be expected that there should be a Woman's department and that it should be spelled in capitals. Every body remembers the Woman's building, with its crowded walls, its cases packed with china and needlework, and its library of women's books. It was for the most part an artistic exhibit, and one to be proud of, but thinking people recognized in the Woman's congress auxiliary a movement of greater importance than that shown by the material exhibit, for when women from every part of the world gathered together, at their own expense, to appear by scores upon the program of the general congresses, there came to view an exhibit of thought which had not been expected. Atlanta and Nashville followed the example of Chicago in a display of fine and decorative art and in the form of a request from President William McKinley that the club would formulate a plan for the woman's work in the exposition. A committee, of which Mrs. W. H. Harford was chairman, and Mrs. Z. T. Lindsey, secretary, immediately undertook to find a path which the women of the exposition might tread comfortably, but first they laid down three principles:

1. There is no reason why the investments of women in this enterprise should be separated from those of men. There is no reason why women should "give titles of all they possess," and then give away, without management, lectures and withal, beg from door to door in order that the woman's department should have a fund separated from the general fund of the exposition. Teachers and other professional women, business and domestic women, have subscribed generously to the stock of the exposition. If, then, a woman's department be desired, let it be supported as other departments are.

2. There is no reason why the work of women should be separated from that of men. If the work is of a quality suitable to the use of the exposition, it makes no difference who does it.

3. The strongest and best work which women do in the world is along educational lines. These are the lines which will be apt to be neglected in a great commercial enterprise. Let the women therefore have jurisdiction over the educational exhibits, let them direct whatever is to be done distinctly for young people and children and let them have charge of a series of congresses on educational, scientific and philosophical subjects.

Composition of the Woman's Board. The committee advised that the details of this work be left to a board of twenty-seven women, of whom two should be chosen by the women of each of the six congressional districts of Nebraska, two from South Omaha, two from Council Bluffs and the remaining eleven from Omaha. It was also suggested that there be an advisory council consisting of two women from each transmississippi state.

The report of the committee having been adopted by the exposition management, the elections in the several sections were held and the board was called together early in April, 1897, in Omaha to take formal charge of the bureau of education of the Department of Exhibits. The following are the officers and members of the board:

President, Mrs. Winona S. Sawyer, Lincoln; vice presidents, Mrs. Thomas L. Kimball, Omaha; Mrs. Kittie L. Dutton, Hastings; Mrs. Frank Johnson, Crete; secretary, Mrs. Frances M. Ford, Omaha. Executive Committee—Chairman, Mrs. William P. Harford, Omaha; Mrs. D. C. Giffert, West Point; Mrs. Jennie E. Keyser, Omaha; Miss Kate McHugh, Omaha; Mrs. Edith M. Reed, vice chairman, Council Bluffs. Omaha—Mrs. O. S. Chittenden, Mrs. E. A. Cudahy, Mrs. Stella R. Fell, Miss Anna Foss, Mrs. William P. Harford, Miss Alice Hiltz, Mrs. Jennie E. Keyser, Mrs. Thomas L. Kimball, Mrs. Kate McHugh, Mrs. Euclid Martin, Mrs. Harriet S. Towne. South Omaha—Mrs. A. A. Monroe, Mrs. Erwin B. Towle. Council Bluffs—Mrs. Sarah C. Key, Mrs. Edith M. E. Reed.

First Congressional District—Mrs. Allen W. Field, Lincoln; Mrs. Winona S. Sawyer, Lincoln. Second Congressional District—Miss Helen Chase, Papillion; Mrs. Angeline Whitney, Elk City. Third Congressional District—Mrs. D. C. Giffert, West Point; Mrs. Nettie Knox Holmbeck, Fremont. Fourth Congressional District—Mrs. Frank Johnson, Crete; Mrs. J. B. McDowell, Fairbury. Fifth Congressional District—Mrs. Kittie Longbridge Dutton, Hastings; Miss Hattie Pye, Hastings. Sixth Congressional District—Mrs. Hattie Hunter, Broken Bow; Mrs. C. L. Kerr, Anselmy.

As the meetings of the board have been held at intervals of three months the detail has been left largely to the executive committee. There has been a distinct advantage, however, in having representation in various parts of the state, and the service of the individual members in correspondence and in the presentation of plans of work to teachers and children has been valuable. Under exhibits effort has been made in two directions, namely, to secure representative collective exhibits, and, second, to stimulate individuals to present work in competition. Under the first head success has been conditioned upon the appropriations made by cities, counties and states to defray the expense of making educational exhibits. Nebraska has a noble display of school work ranging from primary grades to the university in the gallery of the Manufacture building. The educational and woman's section of Missouri will be found in the gallery of the Liberal Arts building. The university display will be extensive and there is a special negro exhibit. Colorado, Kansas and Oregon are also to be found in the Liberal Arts building, as is the Columbia college and the Art institute of Chicago. Illinois places her educational exhibit in an annex of her state building, and Iowa, whose appropriation is not sufficient to cover the

presentation of educational resources collectively, is represented by special schools. Educational Competitions. In the individual competitions composition and history have brought in some interesting results from collegiate institutions, in which connection mention might be made of Nebraska university and Doane college. Manual training has given opportunity to technical schools, and Washington university, St. Louis, Kansas Agricultural college and the manual training department of the Omaha High school have taken prizes. Penmanship has called forth specimens from business colleges as well as from graded schools. Nature study has brought out collections illustrating plant life in various sections, and drawing, with its divisions for crayon, pencil and water color, illustrating figure sketching and designing, has been most popular of all, enlisting all grades.

There is probably no building on the exposition grounds which represents a more widely extended interest than that which is to be devoted to the use of the girls and boys. Pictures of it decorate scores of school rooms, and little folders containing a description of it have been distributed among the children of Iowa, Minnesota, Kansas and Nebraska, while donors to its building fund, to the number of 20,000 and upwards, hold the receipt of the Bureau of Education for sums ranging from 1 cent to \$1.

The collection of the building fund has been made for the most part through patronesses in the various school districts, villages and cities, under the direction of the Girls' and Boys' Building committee, consisting of Mrs. T. L. Kimball of Omaha, Mrs. A. A. Munro of South Omaha, Mrs. E. A. Cudahy of Omaha, Mrs. S. C. Key of

Council Bluffs and Mrs. D. C. Giffert of West Point. A certificate containing a picture of the building, and made from a design, submitted in competition with others, by Miss Lydia McCague, has been given to schools and individuals contributing \$1 and upwards. The thirty framed pictures which decorate the walls of the building are to be awarded to the schools making the largest contribution per capita, and this fact has brought an element of competition into the collecting of the fund. Naturally the schools of Omaha have been the largest contributors, having raised about \$1,800, besides the \$1,000 contributed by citizens of the city to the fund solicited by Mrs. Kimball personally. Of the smaller places West Point leads, with a gift of \$175, and Ashland, Blair, Weeping Water, Kearney, Auburn, Crete, Fairbury, Beatrice and O'Neill follow after. South Omaha, by the hands of Mrs. E. M. Towle and Mrs. A. A. Munro, and Council Bluffs through Mrs. E. M. Reed have given most generously.

A committee which has made a material addition to the building fund is the one under whose auspices a girls' and boys' paper was issued in honor of George Washington and his birthday. "The Hatchet" staff consisted of Mrs. Charles Marple, editor, with editorial committee, Mrs. W. P. Harford, Mrs. W. W. Keyser and Mrs. F. M. Ford. Mrs. George Tilden, business manager, Mrs. Draper Smith manager of circulation and Mrs. Robert Hunter advertising manager. The result of their labors is shown in a handsomely illustrated twenty-five page paper, containing matter associated with children and furnished largely by them. Girls and boys throughout Nebraska have sold 23,000 copies of the paper, and 2,000 copies remain to be sold in the building as

souvenirs. Addition was also made to the building fund through a children's edition of the Council Bluffs Nonpareil, which was issued by the patronesses of the Iowa city, and speaking of patronesses, it must be said that the success of the building is due to them. They have given most generously of time and strength—and through rally days, newspaper sales and children's entertainments, they have pushed on the gathering of funds, until the building stands as a monument to their efforts.

The Girls' and Boys' building needs no description here, for every visitor to the exposition will see it. It will be put to such uses as will please the children, and, incidentally, the parents. A series of children's entertainments is planned to be carried out in the large hall, and several courses of talks to mothers and teachers will be given there. The girls and boys have each a reception room, where they may rest and meet their friends, while in the creche, with its dainty appointments, tired mothers may leave young children to be cared for while they visit the exposition.

Work of Congress Committee. The congress committee consists of Mrs. A. J. Sawyer, Mrs. E. M. Reed, Mrs. W. H. Hanchett, Mrs. T. K. Sudborough and Mrs. N. P. Fell. It has arranged a series of congresses which will occupy dates in June, September and October. The Woman's Club congress will convene June 18, and a week later one of the most important congresses of the season, that of music, will be held. The committee has also assisted in plans for the Transmississippi teachers' convention of June 28 to 30, the section for child study having been placed in its charge. Early in September a labor congress will convene under an organization most comprehensive in scope. This will be followed immediately by a currency

congress, in charge of Hon. J. Sterling Morton. The Congress of Christian Activities, Rev. F. A. Warfield, chairman, will occupy ten days in September, and the last week in the month will be devoted to art, in charge of Mr. Lorado Taft of Chicago. October gives dates for the Liberal Congress of Religions, the State Federation of Women's Clubs, a P. E. O. day, a congress of literature, in charge of Mr. Hamlin Garland, the National Council of Women and the National Household Economic association. The committee has in process of organization upwards of forty convocations and congresses, all of which give promise of success, both in point of attendance and attractiveness of program. They regard their work as partaking somewhat of the character of pioneer work as far as women are concerned, as this is the first time in the history of expositions, and for that matter of any institution, where the conduct of an important series of congresses, covering a wide range of subjects and embracing both sexes, has been placed exclusively in the hands of women. It is too early to forecast results, but the workers in the Bureau of Education hope that when November 1 comes the public will have come to agree with the verdict pronounced recently by a prominent official in the exposition, namely: "The woman's department of our exposition is less conspicuous than it has been in others, but it is far more potent."

In comparing the buildings of the exposition with those at the World's fair it should be remembered that in the latter case both the fine and liberal arts were combined in the same building. Imagine the Fine and Liberal Art buildings merged into one of comparative proportions and Omaha would not suffer by any comparison.

Itself a sufficiently convincing indication of the great future of the west. The territory on which Omaha now stands was formerly occupied by the Omaha tribe of Indians, which acquired considerable renown in aboriginal annals through the fame of Blackbird, its greatest chief. The first settlement of white men in this vicinity was in 1845, when the Mormons, under Brigham Young, went into winter quarters at the place now known as Florence, about six miles north of the present business district. They left for Utah in 1847, and the beginning of Omaha more properly dates to 1854, when a number of settlers located here and built the rough cabins that sheltered the first permanent residents of this part of Nebraska. Among these pioneers were Dr. George L. Miller, Thomas Swift, Lyman Richardson, A. J. Hanson and A. D. Jones, who are still numbered among the active and influential residents of the city.

At that time the city was little more than a frontier trading post, but its designation as the territorial capital by Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming gave it a prestige that the energy of its citizens turned to the best advantage. The first session of the territorial legislature occurred in 1855 and Andrew J. Hanson, still a resident of the city, was speaker of the house. In the following year there was a large increase of population and during the next ten years the progress of the young city was constant and eventful. The census of 1870 gave it a population of 16,083. The next decade increased it to 30,518. In 1885 it was 61,000 and in 1890 it had reached the figure of 140,452.

Fast Public Improvements. The amount of labor and expenditure required to effect this marvelous development can scarcely be realized by those accustomed to the more conservative growth of older cities. Omaha has accomplished in the last twenty-five years more than many of the eastern cities of proportionate size have done in two centuries. It has required the excavation of millions of yards of earth to reduce the rugged succession of hills and gulches to the present topography of the city. There are paved streets almost in the business district, flanked by rows of big buildings, that are over forty feet lower than the original soil. In other places the bluffs have been graded down from twenty to seventy feet, and all this has involved an expenditure that in a less progressive community would have been regarded as an insurmountable obstacle to the building of a city. It cost more to grade the site of Omaha than it would to pave, light and sewer an ordinary city. But it has been accomplished within the recollection of hundreds of its citizens. Its streets have been magnificently paved, it has a vast sewerage system that cost nearly \$2,000,000; it has beautiful parks and its school houses, libraries, art galleries and public buildings compare favorably with those of any city in the United States. It is equipped with the most modern types of all recent conveniences, and in spite of the tremendous energy that has been absorbed in this extraordinary achievement it has still found time to cultivate many of the adornments that distinguish cities of older growth.

While the bulk of the task of exposition building has been done by individual citizens, the city has taken a not insignificant part in the enterprise. Under the present charter the city could not legally make any direct appropriation for the benefit of the exposition, but with the sanction of the mayor and council, the Board of Park Commissioners has expended over \$30,000 in improvements on Kounze Park, which is a part of the main court on the exposition site. The construction of the lagoon and the construction of the bridges was paid for out of the public funds and also a considerable proportion of the landscape

adornments on the grounds. The city council has indirectly contributed to the success of the enterprise by extensive street improvements and by adding materially to the system of street lighting. Miles of permanent sidewalks have been laid and thousands of dollars have been expended to put the city in condition to receive its guests.

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of customs; L. A. Welsh, chief observer United States weather bureau. Omaha is also the headquarters of the Department of the Missouri of the regular army, Brigadier General John J. Coppinger, commanding. Personal staff, First Lieutenant Grote Hutchison, engineer officer and inspector of small arms practice; First Lieutenant A. W. Perry, chief ordnance and signal officer. Department staff, Major George Andrews, adjutant general; Major E. H. Crowder, judge advocate; Major George E. Pond, quartermaster; Major Frank E. Nye, commissary of subsistence; Major E. A. Koepfer, chief surgeon; Major Albert S. Towar, chief paymaster.

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OMAHA THE EXPOSITION CITY

Preparations Made by it for Entertaining Guests.

CHARACTERISTIC EXAMPLES OF ITS ENERGY

Names of the Public Officials Who Have Co-operated in the Work of Exposition Building.

While the Transmississippi Exposition is neither a local nor a state affair, to the city of Omaha belongs not only the paternity of the enterprise, but also the credit of furnishing the bulk of the brains and money with which it has been organized and carried to a successful completion. As the site of one of the greatest expositions ever held on American soil the city has been brought prominently into notice not only throughout the United States, but also in nearly every civilized country. Thousands of the visitors who pass through the gates of the White City this summer will not only acquire an enlarged conception of the resources and development of the transmississippi country, but they will realize for the first time that a city of metropolitan proportions can be built up and equipped with all modern municipal improvements on ground that only a few years ago was a part of an unbroken wilderness. The mere fact that such an exposition can be produced by a territory, the entire development of which has taken place within a half century, is in

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of customs; L. A. Welsh, chief observer United States weather bureau. Omaha is also the headquarters of the Department of the Missouri of the regular army, Brigadier General John J. Coppinger, commanding. Personal staff, First Lieutenant Grote Hutchison, engineer officer and inspector of small arms practice; First Lieutenant A. W. Perry, chief ordnance and signal officer. Department staff, Major George Andrews, adjutant general; Major E. H. Crowder, judge advocate; Major George E. Pond, quartermaster; Major Frank E. Nye, commissary of subsistence; Major E. A. Koepfer, chief surgeon; Major Albert S. Towar, chief paymaster.

While much of the new street work would have been done under any circumstances, the presence of the exposition has been a powerful incentive to property owners to cooperate with the municipal authorities to hasten improvements that might otherwise have been delayed. The paving on North Twenty-fourth street, Sherman avenue and Wirt street is largely due to exposition influences and these have also operated to secure the acquiescence of the property owners in the plans of the Board of Public Works which have resulted in a general abolition of old sidewalks and the substitution of artificial stone and brick walks. The large increase in the number of street lights involves an additional public expenditure of several thousand dollars annually for that purpose in addition to the special appropriation of \$2,500 for the illumination of the business district during Ak-Sar-Tien week. During the last few weeks painters and decorators have been at work on the interior of the city hall, which is now resplendent in new coloring.

Aside from these more public improvements there has been a general disposition on the part of property owners to make those minor improvements that had been neglected during the financial depression of the previous few years. The records of the building inspector show that hundreds of permits have been granted during the last six months for additions and alterations to dwellings. Thousands of yards of brick and lumber have been covered with fresh paint. Lawns have been sodded and planted with flowers and shrubbery and the fact is everywhere in evidence that the people of Omaha are not unappreciative of the honor of entertaining the exposition guests.

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