

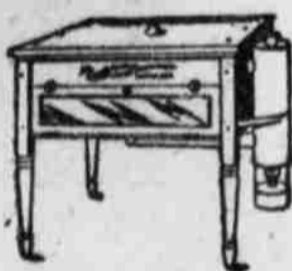


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## Up and Down the Pike.

The sun had gone upon a strike  
As slowly down the brick-paved "Pike"  
A youth trudged on with might and  
main  
And gave voice to the loud refrain:  
"Rubber!"

"Whence goest thou?" I asked the boy.  
'Why on your face this look of joy?'  
The lad looked up with gleaming eye  
And voiced this loud and clear reply:  
"Rubber!"

"Creation" dawned upon his sight;  
'The Alps' rose to a dizzy height;  
'Galveston's Flood' arce and fell,  
And at each sight the youth did yell:  
"Rubber!"

"Hale's Firemen" to the rescue came  
And quickly quenched the roaring  
flame;  
And in the "Naval Show" the shells  
Exploded 'midst resounding yells:  
"Rubber!"

"Jim Key" with equine skill and grace  
Did stunts that filled with cheers the  
place.  
And all the while the trudging youth  
Cried as he passed from booth to  
booth:  
"Rubber!"

His eyes took on a steely gaze;  
He saw things through a misty haze.  
His feet long since had gone to wreck,  
Yet still he stretched his weary neck—  
"Rubber!"

When morning dawned he couldn't  
rise.  
A heavy sleep held fast his eyes,  
But as he dreamed the echoes woke  
As with a shriek this word he spoke:  
"Rubber!"

Go count how many necks there be  
Stretched out upon "The Pike" to see.  
Enumerate as best you may  
And then, like this tired laddie, say:  
"Rubber!"

## The Pike and The Pikers.

St. Louis, Mo., May 24.—When Chi- cago opened the World's Columbian exposition wise people shook their heads and oracularly declared that the world would not see another exposi- tion so great within a hundred years. It looked like a good guess then. But ten years later St. Louis took a day off and opened an exposition that made the one at Chicago look like three- tenths of a dollar

The "Whether" man and the part- ner of his joys and sorrows have been "Piking" down here for several days, and their experiences may be of inter- est to Commoner readers who antici- pate visiting St. Louis later in the season. First, the American people should bear in mind that this is the greatest exposition that ever hap- pened. Second, as the exposition busi- ness has been woefully overdone of late years, the chances are that this will be the last great exposition for many years to come. Therefore, those who can spare the time and the money really ought to see this one. The ex- pense is comparatively small—that is, the expense is small compared to the enjoyment one can get out of a visit to the exposition. If you live within 500 miles of St. Louis you can spend a

# Whether Common or Not

By WILL M. MAUPIN.

week here at about the following ex- pense:

Railroad fare .....	\$15.00
Room seven days.....	7.00
Twenty one meals, at 25c.....	5.25
Seven admissions to fair.....	3.50
Street car fare.....	.70
"Pike" attractions .....	5.00
Sundries .....	5.00
Total .....	\$41.45

Call it an even \$40, and you have a liberal estimate. You can spend ten times that much if you have it. The "Whether" man didn't have it.

And it will be worth every cent of it. The trouble is that the exposition is too awfully big. Just as one be- gins looking at something interesting one sees something more interesting. Every time the "Whether" man began feasting his eyes upon some glorious sight his better half would grab him by the arm and yank him over to see something she thought more glorious. When she got down into the Parisian section of the Varied Industries build- ing and began looking at the sweet costumes, the "Whether" man thought he would see no more. She showed an inclination to camp right there and have her meals sent in.

There are plenty of hotels and pri- vate rooms for all who may visit the exposition. Competition will keep the price within reason, so intending visi- tors need have no fears on that score.

The state buildings are fine, and of course Missouri's is the finest. As a native Missourian the "Whether" man took great pride in this fact. As a Nebraskan he felt humiliated because Nebraska has no building on the grounds. But over in Agricultural hall—a mere hovel a half a mile long and 500 feet wide—Nebraska has an exhibit that tops anything there.

Uncle Sam's building is a beauty, and it contains enough of interest to keep a visitor busy for a week. Our avuncular relative is engaged in many and varied industries, and he shows all of them in this building. You may see the tide rise and fall, watch the making of death-dealing cartridges and see the operation of rapid fire rifles and big guns. As a matter of fact, it appears that just now our Uncle Sam is paying vastly more atten- tion to the manufacture and perfection of death-dealing devices than he is to those things which contribute to com- fort and happiness. On all sides you see guns, gatlings, rifles, cannon, shells, swords, bombs, torpedoes, bat- tleships, forts, mines and cruisers. The section devoted to the department which looks after the health of the general public could be put into the space occupied by the mechanism of one of the big guns.

Of foreign nations Japan takes the lead in size and beauty of exhibits and every building contains something from Japan. In the Varied Industries building these "Oriental Yankees" have an exhibit of their industries that is simply marvelous. The "Whe- ther" man's companion stopped before an embroidered screen and admired it immensely.

"My, I wish we had that," she ex- claimed.

Immediately the "Whether" man started out and secured the attention of one of the attendants, thinking to purchase the aforesaid screen.

"How much?" he asked, pointing to the screen.

The Jap smiled, fingered the tag, made a mental calculation and replied:

"Five thousand dollars."

A compromise was made by buying a 90-cent lacquered platter.

In the same section there is an ex- hibit of ivory carvings. One Japanese carver has carved from an elephant's tusk, and all in one piece, eight ele- phants marching single file, each hold- ing his trunk aloft. The smallest ele- phant is about the size of the "Whe- ther" man's salary and the largest one about the size of his two fists, and the whole is about four feet long. This ivory carving is valued at \$2,000, and looks like it was worth the money. Close by is an ivory vase, fifteen inches high and six inches wide at the widest part. So delicate is the carv- ing that it looks like a pattern of ex- quisite lace. The owner says he will sell it for \$1,800, but the "Whether" man persuaded his wife to pass it up and take a dollar "stein" as a sou- venir instead.

Germany has a magnificent exhibit, and it is constantly crowded by Amer- icans who trace their descent from the Fatherland, and they enjoy it to the utmost.

If you have only a week or ten days to spend at the fair, send for a guide book and mark out your itinerary be- fore you go. Then, after you get there, stick to the itinerary marked out. You'll get swamped if you do not, and will miss most of the good things. Start in with the government exhibit. Then take in Liberal Arts, Varied In- dustries, Electricity, Education, Trans- portation and Machinery. Spend the days in these buildings. In the evening spend an hour listening to Sousa or Innes, and after dinner spend three or four hours on "The Pike."

"The Pike!" From one end to the other it is filled with great spectacles, curious peoples, queer costumes, quaint customs, foaming beer and high-priced lunches. You can see there nearly every race of people on earth, hear almost every known lan- guage, and spend money faster than Uncle Sam can coin it. Roughly esti- mated, there are on "The Pike" 3,750 well devised schemes for separating the visitor from his coin. But be it said in all candor, most of the methods include an adequate return. You get the worth of your money in nearly all of "The Pike" attractions. And you can enjoy yourself immensely without spending a cent—although few do so.

Some mathematician has figured it out that the visitor can see everything on "The Pike" for \$52. This, however, does not include wear and tear on the feelings. The exposition management deserves the hearty thanks of all clean-minded men and women for one thing, and that is this: "The Pike" is practically free from the immoral and debauching spectacles that made the Midway at Chicago a stench in the nostrils of respectability. Common sense has taught men that catering to respectability is more profitable and satisfactory than pandering to vice.

The grounds embrace nearly 1,400 acres, but the intramural cars carry you to all parts in a few minutes. The service is good, but the cars stop run- ning at 11 p. m. The other night the "Whether" man and about 200 other Nebraskans tarried too long at "The Pike." It was dark and terribly mudd- y. From "The Pike" to the hostelry is about a mile and a half, and on this particular occasion the mile and a half meant almost twelve furrows of mud. During the walk the crowd generated enough heat to keep those cars run- ning for a month without any ex- pense for a fuel.

The "souvenir fiend" is everywhere. He is besieging you constantly, and he—or she—has a most beguiling way. Once you get started on the souvenir fad at St. Louis you'd better begin making arrangements to draw on your home bank or wire your employer for an advance of a week's salary.

By all means visit the Louisiana Purchase exposition if you can. Do not be deceived by the reports of ex-