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The Great Trans-Mississippi Exposition

ORIGIN AND STORY OF THE EXPOSITION

INCEPTION OF A COLOSSAL ENTERPRISE

Plan is First Proposed to the Transmississippi Congress.

UNANIMOUSLY ENDORSED BY DELEGATES

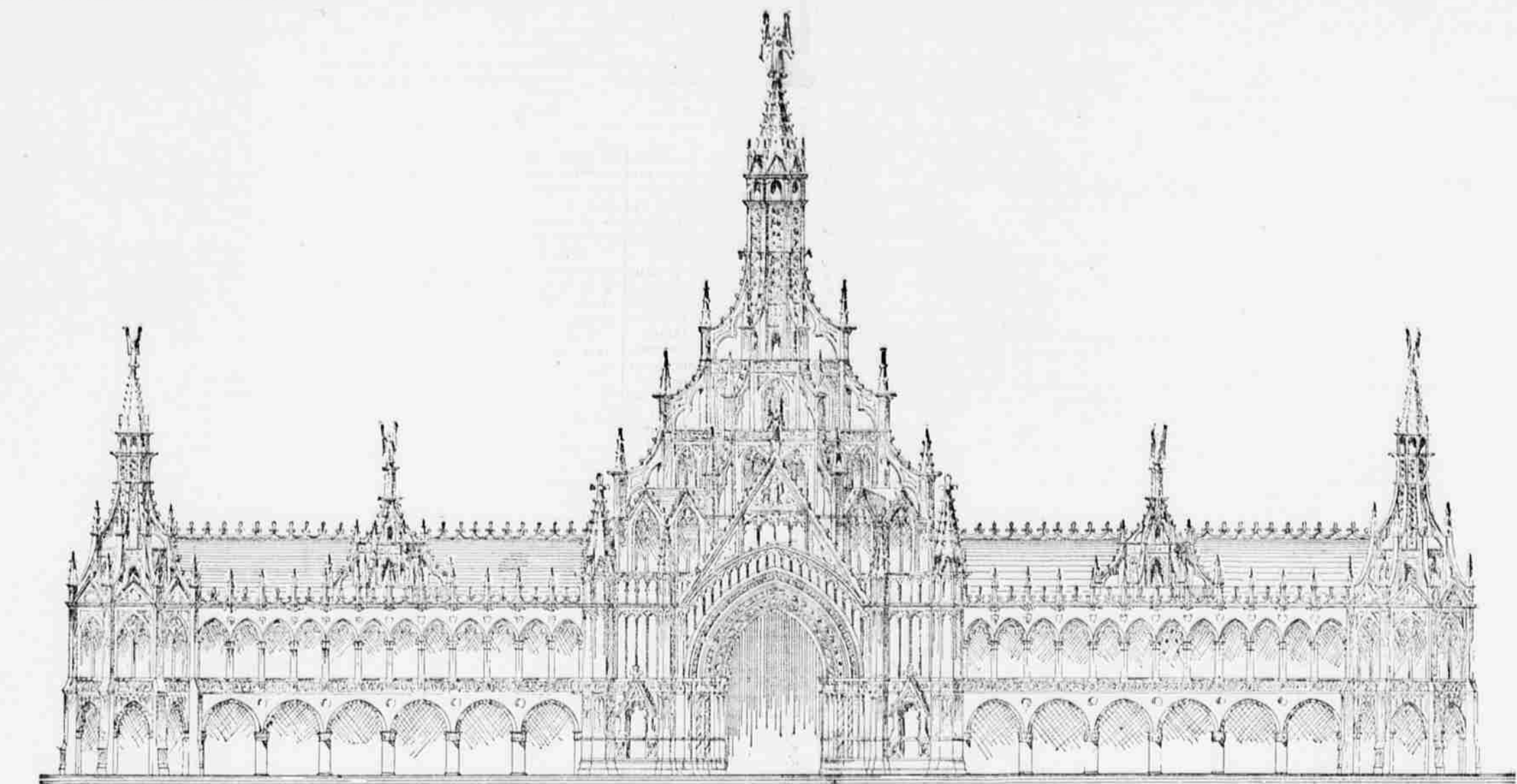
Omaha Chosen as the Most Central Mid-Continent Location.

RECOGNITION ACCORDED BY CONGRESS

Steps Taken to Secure Participation of Nation and States.

PROSPECTS BRILLIANT FOR SUCCESS

Record in Detail of the Preparations for the Great Exposition to Be Held in Omaha in 1898.



Proposed "Silver Palace" for Central Feature of Eldorado.

The most imposing feature of the exposition of 1898 is to be the mineral exhibit. It is proposed to set apart a portion of the grounds for this purpose under the designation of Eldorado. In which a silver palace is to be the central structure. The accompanying illustration is a sketch made by Mr. S. S. Beman of Chicago, one of the architects of the World's Fair buildings.

Omaha to make the Transmississippi Exposition a success, the business men of this city will carry out the letter."

CONSIDERED BY DELEGATES

This article appeared in The Bee at a time when the city was entertaining the delegates in attendance upon the session of the Transmississippi Commercial congress.

The matter was laid before the delegates to the congress and it instantly met with favor. Wednesday, November 27, Hon. W. J. Bryan, the president of the congress, left the chair and asked unanimous consent to introduce the following resolution:

Resolved, That the United States congress be requested to take such steps as may be necessary to hold a transmississippi exposition at Omaha during the months of August, September and October, 1898, and that the representatives of such states and territories in congress be requested to favor such an appropriation as is usual in such cases to assist in carrying out this enterprise.

RECEIVED WITH APPLAUSE

The reading of the resolution was listened to with marked attention and the conclusion was followed by a burst of applause. Mr. Bryan briefly recounted the benefits which would accrue to the west by reason of the exposition and indicated the numerous reasons why Omaha was the most favorable location.

Nothing could be more gratifying than the enthusiastic unanimity with which the project had been approved by the transmississippi delegates, and with this favorable beginning the citizens of Omaha were encouraged to go forward.

ORIGINAL STOCK SUBSCRIBERS. On the suggestion of Mr. Rosewater, who contended that ninety days was too short a time in which to hold such an exposition as was contemplated, the articles were amended to provide that the exposition should be opened in June and closed in November, 1898.

people living in Omaha and vicinity, at which time it was decided to push the enterprise with redoubled zeal. Public meetings were held and the people put their heads together to evolve a plan to push the exposition to a successful issue.

A meeting of the stockholders to elect fifty directors was called to be held December 1st and this meeting resulted in the election of the following fifty men to serve as directors:

George F. Bidwell, general manager of the Fremont, Elkhorn & Missouri Valley railway. J. L. Brandeis, senior member of the firm of J. L. Brandeis & Sons.

PREVIOUS TO THIS work of preliminary organization Senator William V. Allen, who has been an earnest supporter of the expedition project, had introduced a bill in the national senate granting the exposition recognition by the national government.

A grand jubilee celebration was held by the people of the Burlington & Missouri River railroad. Charles M. Markel, proprietor of the Millard hotel.

Charles Metz, general manager of the Metz Bros. Brewing company. J. H. Millard, president of the Omaha National bank.

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Alfred H. Noyes, manager for the G. H. Hammond Packing company, South Omaha. George H. Payne, president of the Fidelity Trust company.

William A. Paxton, president of the firm of Paxton & Gallagher, wholesale grocers, and president of the Paxton & Vierling firm.

Arthur C. Price, purchasing agent for Swift & Co., meat packers, South Omaha. Allen T. Rector, treasurer of the Rector-Wilhelm company, wholesale dealers in hardware.

Abraham L. Reed, president of the Byron Reed company, dealers in real estate. Edward Rosewater, president of The Bee Publishing company, The Bee Building company, and editor of The Omaha Bee.

Alvin Saunders, president of the Omaha Real Estate and Trust company. Arthur C. Smith, member of the firm of M. E. Smith & Co., wholesale dealers in dry goods.

Dudley Smith, general manager of the Steele-Smith Grocery company, wholesalers. Henry A. Thompson, member of the firm of Thompson, Belden & Co., retail dealers in dry goods.

Gordon W. Wattle, vice president of the Union National bank. John L. Webster, attorney-at-law. Charles P. Weller, vice president of the Richardson Drug company, wholesalers.

Lucius Wells, member of the firm of Deere, Wells & Co. of Council Bluffs, Ia., dealers in agricultural implements. John C. Wharton, attorney-at-law. Robert S. Wilcox, manager for Browning, King & Co., clothiers.

Charles M. Wilhelm, treasurer of the Orchard & Wilhelm Carpet company. Casper E. Yost, president of the Nebraska Telephone company. Fred W. Youngs, president of the Printing Pressmen's union.

OFFICERS OF THE EXPOSITION. The Board of Directors, after full and careful consideration, decided upon a plan of organization which provided for the usual officers and an executive committee of seven members, each of whom should be the head of a department.

Executive Committee—Zachary T. Lindsey, chairman and manager Department of Ways and Means; Edward Rosewater, manager Department of Publicity; Gilbert M. Hitchcock, manager Department of Promotion; Freeman P. Kirkendall, manager Department of Buildings and Grounds; Edward E. Bruce, manager Department of Exhibits; Abram L. Reed, manager Department of Concessions and Privileges; William N. Babcock, manager Department of Transportation.

The articles of incorporation of the exposition provide that each of the transmississippi states shall be represented by a vice president to be appointed by the governor. In accordance with this provision the governors of these states were requested to make their appointments and up to this time sixteen

have responded and the vice presidents named are as follows: Iowa, Hon. George F. Wright, Council Bluffs; South Dakota, Hon. Thomas H. Welle, Hot Springs; Nebraska, Hon. William Neville, North Platte; Missouri, Hon. John Doniphan, St. Joseph; Kansas, Hon. C. A. Fellows, Topeka; Arizona, Hon. Charles R. Drake, Tucson; California, Hon. George W. Parsons, Los Angeles; Texas, Hon. Gus Rye, Merchoffer, Galveston; Oklahoma, Hon. Eugene Wallace, Oklahoma City; Idaho, Hon. B. P. Shauhan, Payette; Nevada, Hon. William J. Westerbeld, Reno; Utah, Hon. Lewis W. Shurtliff, Ogden City; Colorado, Hon. Henry P. Steele, Denver; New Mexico, Hon. L. Bradford Prince, Santa Fe; Oregon, Hon. B. S. Cook, Salem; Alaska, Governor James S. Gage, Sitka.

CONGRESSIONAL AND STATE AID. About this time a bill was introduced in congress by Congressman Mercer which amended the former act and provided for an appropriation of \$200,000 for a building for the government exhibit and an additional appropriation of \$300,000 for the transportation and proper arrangement of the exhibit.

THE GREAT CORN BELT. The states and territories west of the Mississippi contain the great wheat and corn belts, which in 1895 are credited with raising 1,100,000,000 bushels of corn, valued at \$225,000,000, and 390,000,000 bushels of wheat, valued at \$335,000,000.

Perhaps the most striking proof of the wealth and resources of the country west of the Mississippi is afforded by the statistics of live stock. The number of horses and mules in the states and territories west of the Mississippi was computed to be \$455,809, and their value is estimated at \$42,633,621.

The mineral wealth of the transmississippi states includes practically all the precious metals and the bulk of other valuable minerals produced in the United States. The annual value of the gold and silver mined in the transmississippi states exceeds \$100,000,000. The production of copper and other minerals exceeds in value the gold and silver produced. The vast coal beds which for the most part are lying dormant produce an aggregate of 20,000,000 tons a year, valued at from \$25,000,000 to \$30,000,000.

With an assessed valuation of real and personal property aggregating over \$5,000,000,000, resulting from less than one-fourth of actual property values, the lowest estimate

RESOURCES OF TRANSMISSISSIPPI REGION

STATES REPRESENTED IN THE EXPOSITION

Hidden Wealth Yet to Be Brought Into the World's Markets.

VAST COUNTRY BUT PARTLY DEVELOPED

Character of the Products that Will Be Exhibited.

UNEXCELLED INDUCEMENTS FOR SETTLERS

What the Transmississippi Exposition Will Stand For.

LATEST AND MOST RELIABLE STATISTICS

Descriptive Account of the Wealth and Resources of the Great Transmississippi States and Territories.

The nineteenth century, and more especially the latter half of it, has witnessed a marvelous development of material resources and colossal increase in wealth in the United States. This unparalleled material progress is most notable in that portion of the continent lying west of the Mississippi. In this domain agriculture finds a most prolific soil, which, when fully developed, can feed the population of the world, while upon its cattle ranges countless herds are nurtured on natural grasses. The rice plantations of the Gulf states, the wheat fields of Minnesota and the Dakotas, and the corn belt of the Missouri valley, furnish abundance for the teeming millions. The granite-ribbed mountains of Missouri, Wyoming and Colorado vie with Pennsylvania in deposits of coal and iron, which are destined at no distant day to shift the center of industrial production from the Alleghenies to the Rockies.

From this region comes nearly all the gold and silver produced in the United States, and nearly every mineral known to commerce is dug from its mountains. Between the Mississippi river and the Rocky mountains lies the granary of America. Cereals of almost every description are produced in great abundance. The production of sugar in the United States is confined almost exclusively to the states of Louisiana, Nebraska, Utah and California. The cotton of Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Indian territory constitutes one-half of the cotton raised in the United States, and its annual value is computed to be \$161,000,000. The timber of the Pacific coast states, Missouri, Arkansas, Minnesota and Texas is almost limitless in extent and variety.

This magnificent empire, with its boundless resources, which are scarcely begun to be developed, already has 47,000,000 acres under cultivation, with agricultural products valued at \$933,331,920 a year.

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