

Greater America Exposition at Omaha, July 1 to Nov. 1, 1899.

The Members of the Executive Committee.

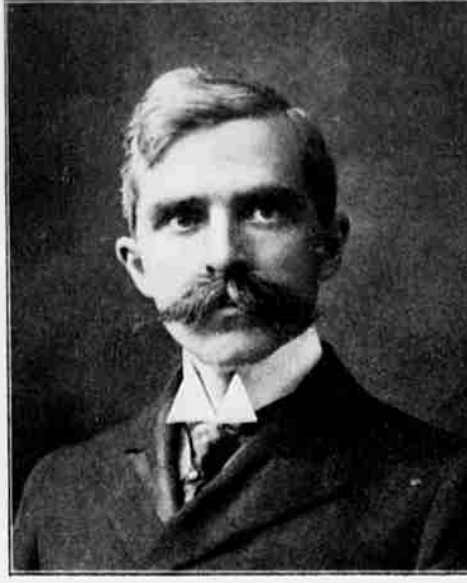
Portrait Photos by Heyn.



PETER E. ILER.



H. J. PENFOLD.



CONSTANTINE J. SMYTH.



J. B. KITCHEN.



DUDLEY SMITH, SECRETARY.

Scope of the Exposition

Following a series of world's fairs that have succeeded each other in a well defined path the Greater America Exposition commands public attention as the embodiment of a new idea. Since the last great exposition opened its gates a new national spirit has been born and the triumphs of American arms have added a new empire to the territory that knows no flag but the Stars and Stripes. A new element has been infused into American industry and a new channel opened to American enterprise. The commerce of the country stands at the entrance of avenues that stretch through unfamiliar ground and everywhere the people are vibrant with the desire to penetrate its secrets. They are consumed with curiosity in regard to these new islands that have so recently come under the dominion of Uncle Sam. What can they produce? What are their characteristics? What manner of people inhabit them?

Answers to these and other questions may be found inside the hospitable gates of Omaha's White City from July 1 to the end of October. Almost before the country has awakened to the new conditions Omaha is to present an object lesson that will bring the islands of the Pacific and the gem of the Atlantic figuratively within the vision of its visitors. Equipped with much of what was necessary for the creation of another great exposition, it will open the first colonial exposition of the new United States.

The scope and purpose of the enterprise is effectively indicated in its title and defined in the articles of incorporation as "to provide for and hold in the year 1899, within the city of Omaha, in Douglas county, Nebraska, an exposition of all the products, industries and civilization of the United States of America, and particularly to illustrate the products, development and resources of Cuba, Porto Rico, Hawaii and the Philippine Islands, and the manners, habits and industrial capacity of the people of these islands, and also such exhibits as may be provided by the United States, or any state or foreign country."

That the Greater America Exposition will offer material assistance to the people in solving problems that must arise within the next few years is the confident belief of its promoters. Although more than a year has passed since the flag was unfurled in Manila, only the most superficial information in regard to the islands and the people who inhabit them has made its way across the broad ocean that separates them from the United States. Even this is meager, conflicting and unreliable.

Next to an actual visit to the islands the Greater America Exposition will offer the

fullest opportunity to acquire a definite understanding of these new types, human and material. It will aim to give an accurate reproduction of all that is most essential to an understanding of the subject and make the visitor leave the grounds with a thorough conception of the appearance, customs and manners of the race and with a passably exact knowledge of the floral, agricultural, mineral and zoological characteristics of the islands.

Aside from the value of the object lessons thus presented the tropical character of the exhibits has afforded a scope for the genius of the decorator and landscape gardener that has been absent at every previous exposition. The grounds and buildings will prove a revelation of architectural and scenic beauty and the landscapes will glow with new colors and transcendent loveliness.

While the colonial features will constitute the most attractive element of the exposition, the exhibit of American industries is expected to be also a notable achievement. It has been the aim of the management to bring together a display that will not only adequately illustrate what is manufactured, but also the manner in which the product is prepared for the market.

With these dual purposes as the keynote of the enterprise, art, music, agriculture and other features of a great exposition will contribute to the entertainment and instruction of its patrons. None of the familiar features of such an enterprise will be lacking, and after the visitor has wearied of studying the exhibits that appeal to his more intellectual faculties he can step across the grounds and find relaxation in the most alluring Midway that ever echoed the shriek of the "speller" and the languorous song of the dancing girl.

Its Origin and Organization

The preliminary organization of the Greater America Exposition presented a much less complex problem than that of the great exposition that preceded it. Its promoters came into the field equipped with much that would otherwise have cost months, even years, of experiment and labor. They were spared the vast and difficult task of building a home for their enterprise, for they found it ready for their occupation in the magnificent grounds and spacious buildings that the passing of the Transmississippi Exposition had left tenantless. Many perplexing problems connected with exposition organization had been solved by the experience of the previous year. Under these conditions the organization was effected with unprecedented rapidity. Within twenty-four hours after the articles of incorporation were

filed the machinery was in motion. In a week arrangements for the actual creation of the exposition were under way.

Visions of another exposition rose from the glittering spectacle of 1898. Over and over again during the closing months of that wonderful creation the expression was heard that it would be sacrilege to dismantle its palaces and blot out the panorama of beauty that was the admiration of a continent. The idea of holding the exposition another year under the same management was even broached before the Board of Directors, but the men who carried the tremendous burdens so successfully were unwilling to assume such a responsibility.

Vague suggestions of plans for a renewal of the enterprise in a different form began to take definite form early in the following winter and the colonial development of the United States furnished the inspiration that made them a reality. The events of the preceding twelve months had furnished new material for exploitation and a new field for effort. With its grounds and buildings already prepared Omaha had an opportunity to create the first great exposition of the peoples and resources of the new possessions and the movement rapidly took form and purpose.

Late in December articles of incorporation of the Greater America Exposition were prepared and signed by J. B. Kitchen, George W. Kelly, W. S. Poppleton, F. H. Davis, Dudley Smith, E. Rosewater, George P. Bemis, T. P. Cartwright, Thomas Kilpatrick, Robert Cowell, Norman A. Kuhn, Charles M. Wilhelm, C. S. Raymond, F. Paffenrath, William Hayden, P. E. Iler, W. R. Bennett, Ben Wood, Samuel Burns, H. Cohn, Clifford Warren Smith, Emil Brandeis, Frank Murphy, F. J. Coates, E. W. Dixon, John A. Templeton, F. N. Clark and Samuel Gamble.

The capital stock was fixed at \$500,000, divided into shares of \$10 each, and it was provided that the corporation should be competent to transact business as soon as \$50,000 had been subscribed.

More than the required amount was already on the subscription lists, and on the same day Thomas Kilpatrick, P. E. Iler, J. B. Kitchen, H. Cohn and George P. Bemis, who, with Frank Murphy and J. H. Millard, had been designated in the articles of incorporation as a temporary board of directors, organized by electing Mr. Kitchen president and Dudley Smith secretary. It was then directed that the stock books should be opened and that an assessment of 25 per cent should be made on all stock subscriptions to provide the funds necessary for the initiatory steps of the enterprise. Frank Murphy was designated as a trustee to receive the payments and a week later he notified the directors that \$17,813.75 had been paid in.

The first stockholders' meeting was held

at the Board of Trade rooms December 29 and the twenty-five directors first contemplated by the articles of incorporation were elected. The next day the newly elected board organized by electing C. J. Smyth temporary chairman and Dudley Smith secretary. The report of the tellers showed that 5,729 shares of stock had been voted. At this meeting Frank Murphy was elected treasurer and a committee, consisting of George E. Barker, George E. Pritchett and Myron D. Karr, appointed to negotiate for the purchase and transfer of the grounds and buildings of the Transmississippi Exposition.

As the transfer of the property had already been practically arranged for, the committee reported December 31. The actual value of the buildings and other property thus acquired was scheduled at \$729,283.66. They were purchased for \$17,500, and the management also purchased the Illinois building for \$500 and the Nebraska building for \$639.45.

An advisory committee to act in an advisory capacity with the executive committee was selected in January. The election of permanent officers occurred February 13 and resulted in the selection of Dr. George L. Miller as president, while Dudley Smith was elected secretary.

Early in 1899 there was a general demand for the addition of ten new members to the board of directors. This was provided for in the original constitution and by a second election the directory was increased to thirty-five members.

Two weeks ago the personal supervision of the principal departments was allotted to the various members of the executive committee as follows: Department of Exhibits, P. E. Iler; Department of Concessions, H. J. Penfold; Department of Admissions, J. B. Kitchen; Department of Buildings and Grounds, C. J. Smyth; Department of Publicity and Promotion, William Hayden.

The executive organization of the corporation is consequently summarized as follows: George L. Miller, president; Dudley Smith, secretary; Frank Murphy, treasurer.

Executive committee, C. J. Smyth, chairman; J. B. Kitchen, William Hayden, H. J. Penfold, P. E. Iler.

Advisory committee, Herman Kountze, J. H. Millard, Frank Murphy, H. E. Palmer, Emil Brandeis.

Board of Directors: George E. Barker, William Hayden, J. L. Brandeis, William F. White, P. E. Iler, P. L. Markel, H. Cohn, Thomas Kilpatrick, R. S. Wilcox, T. A. Fry, G. W. Clabaugh, W. S. Poppleton, C. M. Wilhelm, J. B. Kitchen, M. D. Karr, M. H. Collins, Fred A. Nash, Rome Miller, C. J. Smyth, G. Jamieson, R. W. Kitchen, Ben B. Wood, S. D. Mercer, J. H. Dumont, H. J. Penfold, G. E. Pritchett, N. A. Kuhn, T. P. Cartwright, J. N. Baldwin, Council Bluffs;

Thomas Hector, South Omaha; Richard L. Metcalfe, M. S. Connell, W. C. Turner, James P. Connolly.

Superintendents: Department of Exhibits, I. N. Simpson; Department of Buildings and Grounds, C. V. Gallagher; Department of Concessions, Jay Burns; Department of Agriculture, J. B. Kitchen; Department of Fish and Fisheries, W. L. May; Department of Fraternal Societies, F. F. Roese; Department of Light and Power, Henry Rustin; Department of Patents and Inventions, George W. Sues; Department of Publicity, J. W. Cutright; Department of Transportation, A. H. Lee; Department of Agriculture, James Walsh; Woman's department, Miss Mary Fairbrother; art director, John R. Key; musical director, Thomas J. Kelly; Libby Prison War museum, A. J. Bishop; landscape architect, Rudolph Ulrich.

The Grounds a Tropical Bower

Beautiful as were the landscape effects of the Transmississippi Exposition, still more entrancing results are expected in connection with the new enterprise. The colonial tendency of the Greater America undertaking makes it possible to introduce a more tropical sentiment in the landscape decorations and this has effected an improvement at once apparent. The scenic beauties of a year ago have been preserved and emphasized and reinforced by a multitude of new effects to add a new and bewildering beauty. These improvements have been wrought under the personal direction of Rudolph Ulrich, who planned the original landscapes a year ago, and thousands of new and magnificent plants and flowers have been added to the floral decorations.

One of the most notable changes results from the introduction of a series of handsome flower beds to break the monotony of the vast stretch of brick pavement in the Grand Court. This makes it possible to lay out the grounds to conform to the classical style of the buildings. A tropical character is imparted to the verdure by the insertion of plants and shrubs from Louisiana, southern California, Hawaii and Arizona, with each cluster of flowers and shrubbery illuminated by miniature electric lights.

A somewhat similar sentiment has been carried into effect on the Bluff tract, where tropical plants and shrubs will at once entrance the eye and help illustrate the dominant idea of the exposition. A dozen different varieties of palms, among them palmetto, date, bread and Australian swamp, have been scattered profusely over the grounds and bay trees, cacti, magnolias and other familiar types of the vegetation of southern latitudes mingle with the hand-

The Landscape Effects are Unsurpassed.

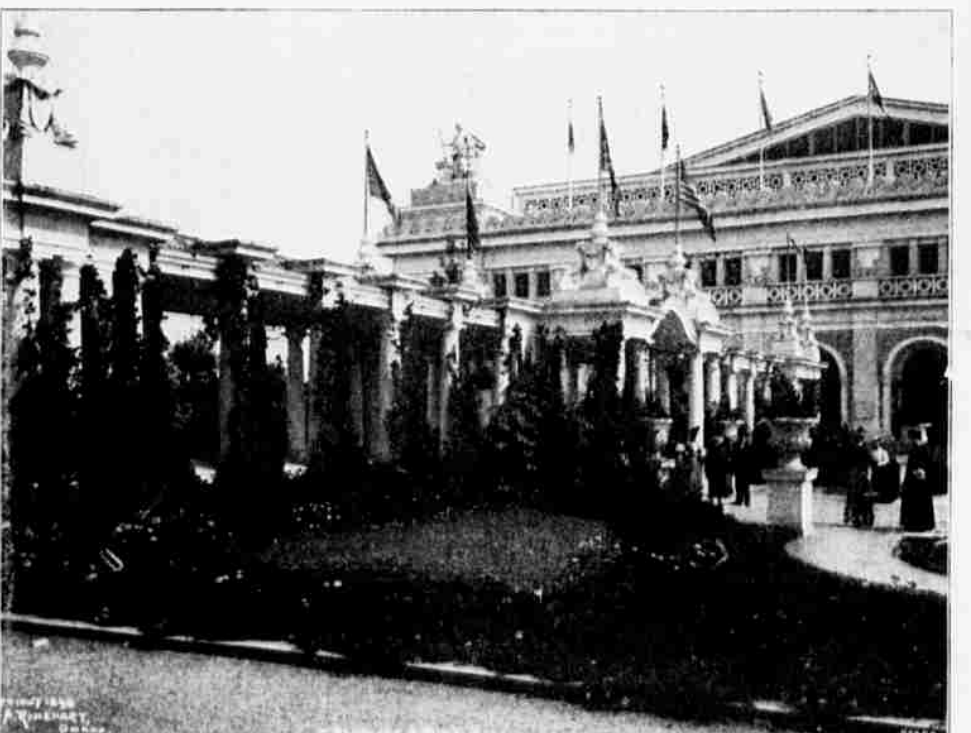
Photo by Rinehart.



A PICTURESQUE COURT.



CERES.



THE VINE-COVERED COLONNADE.