

Crowds That Do Not Crowd



CROWD AROUND GOVERNMENT BUILDING.



ON THE PLAZA OF ORLEANS.

ST. LOUIS, July 28.—He was a tall, spare individual in frock coat and spectacles, with the countenance of a deacon and the air of a man well satisfied with himself and his views of life.

"There is hope for the race," he murmured. "The people who visit the World's fair are not interested in sinful and frivolous Pike shows, nor even in the vanities of the world, such as jewels and costly ornaments. They are all improving their minds in the Palace of Education and the Government building."

The woman at his side smiled behind her fan, for she had spent a week at the exposition, and it was the gentleman's first afternoon.

"I thought I was going to have these splendid exhibits all to myself," he continued, "but I find these really instructive buildings are the only ones the people care about."

To a man on the inside of the Palace of Education or the Government pavilion it would actually seem as if the self-styled educator were correct. There is never an hour from opening to closing time when these two buildings are not filled with visitors. Moreover, there is not a minute of the same time when there is not a crowd around the government bird cage. In the government fish pavilion those who care to watch the antics of the crabs are always compelled to take turns with the others who are there for the same purpose, and there is a continuous stream of people entering and leaving this beautiful Craeco-Roman building. The same thing is true of the seven other large exhibit palaces that are grouped around the Cascade Gardens.

The professor who is getting observations down in his notebook for future tabulation might draw the conclusion that humanity is interested primarily in machines, methods of transportation, the equipment of the home, electrical appliances, books, music, the mechanism of the government, queer fishes and remarkable birds.

The man who has no desire to measure humanity by tape and square, will admit all this is true. But he will add that there are a great many people—yes, American people—who are interested in art, for he has been at the Palace of Fine Arts on the hill behind Festival hall and he knows that the galleries are not merely visited, but actually crowded from early morning until closing time, which is 10 o'clock on three evenings of the week.

Farmers and those who are either intimately or remotely connected with agricultural pursuits form a large element in World's fair attendance, and all of these spend a considerable share of their time in the three buildings that lie west of Skinker road. Here at no time does the crowd seem large, for the area and arrangement are such that an army could be handled in them without the slightest danger of congestion.

In the Palace of Agriculture alone there are four miles of aisle space, and the aisles are sufficiently wide to permit visitors to move freely about without jostling. It is only when the crowd is ascending and descending the monumental stair that leads up from the great floral clock to the building that one begins to realize that it really is a crowd.

The man who has a fondness for athletics could imagine that during an event the rest of the grounds were vacated and that everybody had gone to the Stadium, and at the same time those who were still in the exhibit palaces and elsewhere would scarcely miss the Stadium crowd.

The truth of the matter is that the grounds are so enormous and the objects of interest are so varied that a hundred thousand people, with tastes as diverse as the range of human in-



AN AVERAGE CROWD ON THE PIKE.

terest, may be enjoying themselves in their own way at the same time without giving the impression that there were half or even a quarter of that number within the enclosure.

Day after day the attendance is in the near vicinity of the 100,000 mark. Often it is in excess of that number, and yet there is none of the frightful congestion that has been the nightmare of other expositions. The criticism is sometimes made that the grounds of the Louisiana Purchase exposition are too large, and that it would have been better if the main buildings had all been located on one level tract of

land, with Pike, the live anthropology exhibits, the Stadium and the state and foreign buildings surrounding them. Had this idea been carried out there might have been several repetitions of the horrors of Chicago day at the Columbian exposition, when children were crushed and fainting women could not be rescued from the throng to be carried to the hospital.

The arrangement of buildings is really so admirable that if one understands it he need not waste his strength in needless walking. The buildings devoted to mechanics are all in one group. Those that contain artistic and manufactured products

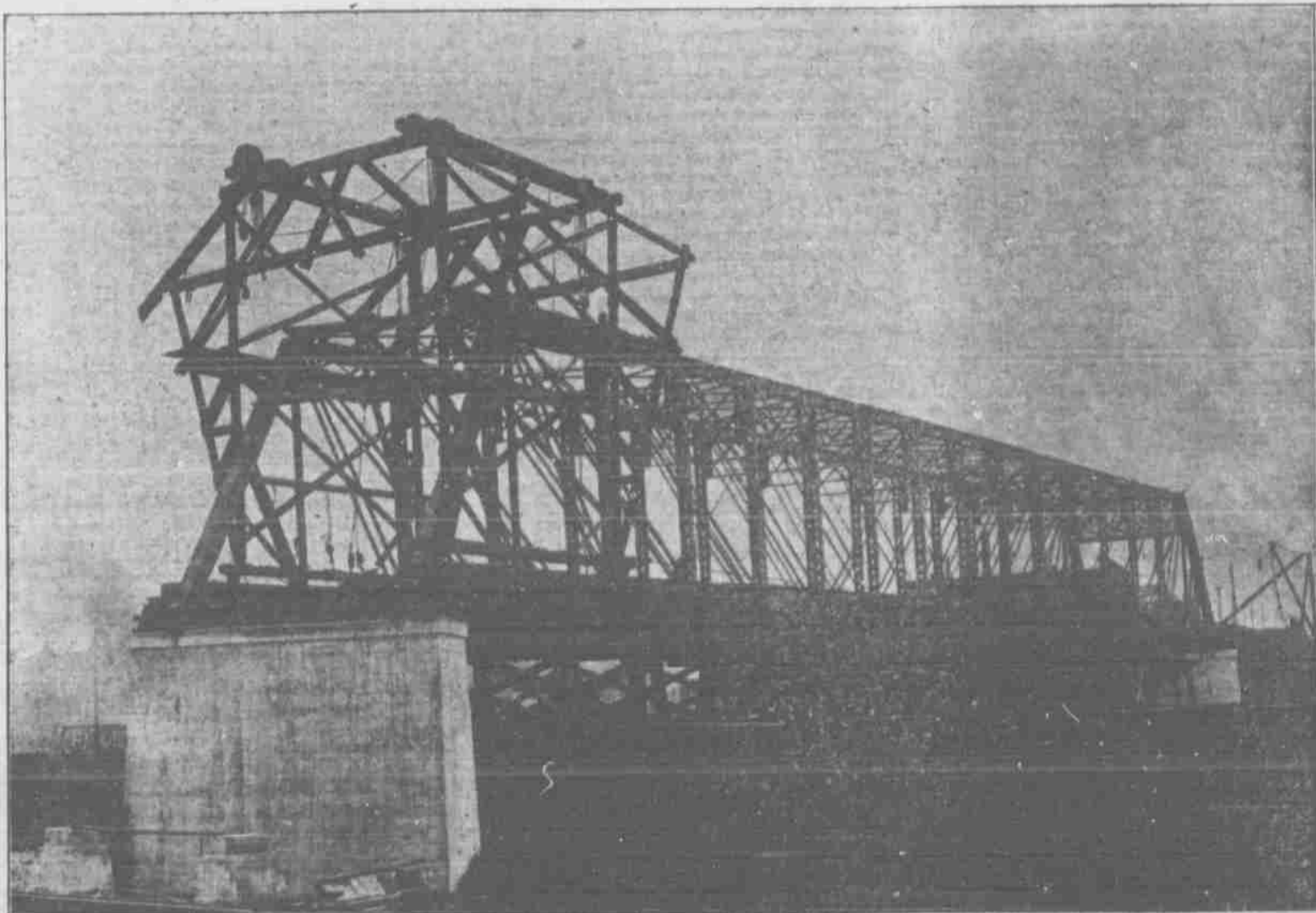
are in another. The Palace of Mines is virtually a doorway to the gulch where practical mining is carried on. The foreign pavilions, with the exception of Germany, are together, and the state buildings are in two groups. Alaska and the model Indian school lead the way to the primitive human habitations and the wonderful Philippine reservation. Any one of these sections may be reached from the intramural stations, and free seats for the weary are provided in abundance everywhere.

The evening is the only time when the crowd actually becomes perceptible as in the nature of a "crush." Then the exhibit palaces are closed and the throngs congregate at two points. There is the sober, artistic element who can find infinite and exhaustless delight in the glorious illumination and the dancing reflections on the bosom of the grand basin, and there is the crowd on the Pike. From 7 o'clock until midnight the broad avenue, almost a mile in length, is a rippling, pulsating sea of joyous, care-free humanity. In spite of the "professor's" first day observation the Pike crowd is the only exposition crowd that looks and feels its actual size.

EMILY GRANT HUTCHINGS.

Indian Court

A full-blooded Indian court of three justices sits every Saturday at White Eagle, I. T., to hear misdemeanor cases and punish offending members of the Ponca and Otoe tribes. The court is authorized by the Indian department. Little Soldier is chief justice and he is assisted by Justice Big Goose and Justice Rough Face. They never speak English while on the bench and they have a high idea of the dignity which belongs to their position. Each is paid \$10 a month. It is their unvarying practice to punish offenders by the heaviest admissible fines.



NEW STEEL VIADUCT THAT IS BEING BUILT BY THE UNION PACIFIC ACROSS ITS TRACKS AT O STREET, SOUTH OMAHA.—Photo by a Staff Artist.