

A WESTERN FAIRYLAND.

The Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha is an Artistic Triumph.

In that great stretch of mountain and prairie known to eastern people only a few short years ago as the Wild West a veritable fairyland has sprung into existence, with scarcely a louder herald than the swish of the saw or the sound of the hammer. The Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, Neb., which was opened by telegraph by President McKinley, in Washington, on June 1st, has grown into proportions far beyond its original conception, until it stands to-day stamped with an international character, counting its friends in every section of the globe. Day by day it has developed into a living reality, and the magnificent buildings are typical of the art, the science, the enterprise and the progress of the West.

The project, as it first found expression, contemplated a great fair to manifest to the world the resources of the territory west of the Mississippi River. Gradually its scope broadened. Congress recognized its National character; foreign countries appre-

auditorium, with a seating capacity of twenty-five hundred, rears its front, and abutting the western end of this grand canal the United States Government Building stands, a majestic structure, overlooking the broad basin, surmounted by a handsome dome with a statue of Liberty bearing aloft the flaming torch of progress and enlightenment. The lagoon, which is widened here by excavating a trefol, is nearly 400 feet in width and forms a water-amphitheatre, which, with the colonnades surrounding it, easily forms one of the prettiest effects to be found in the exposition.

Lining the lagoon on either side and reflected into its waters stand the buildings devoted to arts and mechanics. That of Mines and Mining and the Machinery and Electricity Building are splendid structures. The lagoon itself has many novel features made possible by the rapid improvement in the methods of electric lighting. At the east end are



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT BUILDING AT THE TRANS-MISSISSIPPI EXPOSITION, OMAHA.

ciated the value of the opportunities offered; State after State fell in line, demanding space for proper representation until, when it was opened, it had assumed the magnitude and importance of a World's Fair.

The site selected is just north of the city of Omaha, on a plateau, and a visit to it is like a trip to fairyland. On every side is the element of originality. It is a copy of nothing ever before attempted in this field. From the beautiful auditorium at the eastern extremity down to the magnificent building abutting the western end of the lagoon and dedicated to the United States Government every detail strikes the eye as being unique and original. In one respect only does it suggest Chicago. It is a white city, every building being finished in the material known as "staff." In every other respect the "dream city" of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition is like nothing ever before planned and accomplished in America. Every crown, cap, figure and pilaster is cast from models entirely new, rich and tasteful, and all are typical of the culture, the refinement, the progress and the resources of the West.

Besides the usual buildings devoted to the arts, trades, sciences and natural resources of the West, nearly every State west of the Mississippi River has erected its own representative structure.

In the Grand court at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, looking east from the island which occupies the center of the lagoon, one is impressed by the artistic architectural effects before him. When the great Government building, with its massive dome and flanking colonnades, was built at the west end overlooking the court, it was thought difficult, in view of the fact that a viaduct at the east must connect the bluff and main tracts, to finish that end in a like artistic and imposing manner. But the architects happily solved the difficulty in making the viaduct not only a thing of beauty and usefulness, but one of the most artistic conceits on the grounds. The visitor may go by boat the entire length of the basin from the Government building to the Sherman avenue viaduct, passing many of the main buildings. Arriving at the east end he will see a beautiful green sward rising in terraces, adorned with sculpture and shrubbery, before him. Beyond this, and facing him is a great hemicycle stairway, thirty feet in width, adorned on either side with a tower, which is crowned by a kiosk or minaret. Sweeping out on either side and connecting these towers with others of like design are graceful arches. Back of all this and rising in five gently graduated towers, and crowned with statues of heroic design, are the two great viaduct restaurants. The towers and stairs are tinted to an old ivory shade, decorated with dull Pompeian colors.

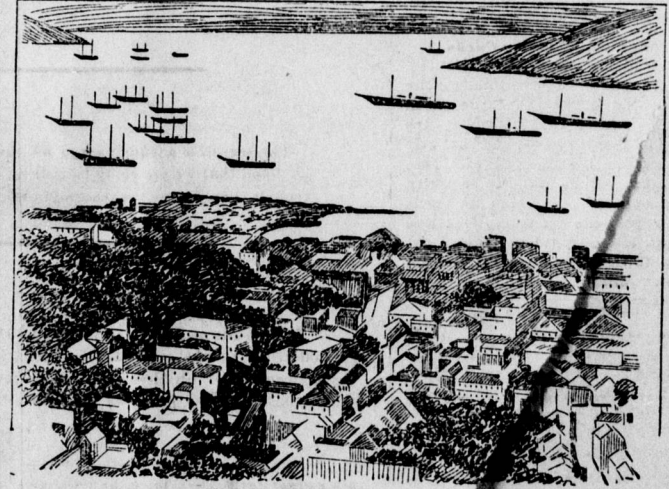
Beyond and across the viaduct, the bluff tract has been transformed into a park, where the various state buildings are located and which also is the site of the great Horticultural building and some of the larger structures of the amusement section.

At the eastern end of the lagoon the

located electric water grottoes, the Blue Grotto of Capri and the Mammoth Cave.

The educational features of the exposition have not been overlooked. They are in the hands of representative Western women, to whom has been assigned the management of philosophic and scientific congresses, the Boys and Girls' Building, as well as all branches of woman's work. They will have charge of the exhibits of the work of public schools, kindergartens, art, reform, industrial and all schools of special instruction.

Not the least important feature of the great exposition is the ethnological exhibit. It is possible that never again will an effort of this character be enabled to secure an Indian exhibit of the proportions contemplated by this. The Indian race is rapidly disappearing, and the opportunity to study clear-cut types of every known tribe will be hailed with delight by every lover of ethnology.



ST. THOMAS, (View of the Danish island and its harbor.)

And the Midway. The management has provided a programme of unique and wholesome attractions, and is adding to it daily. Novel and meritorious show features are encouraged, and the visitor will not lack amusement. Foreign villages are in abundance. An exact reproduction of Cripple Creek in miniature is exhibited. This concession alone occupies 15,000 square feet and requires 300 people to produce it. The Afro-American village typifies every phase of their life. A novel example of engineering skill is Sherman's umbrella, by which passengers are elevated to a height of 200 feet, and revolved within a circle of 100 feet. The Moorish village will be so; so will the Irish, Tyrolean and Chinese villages, and many others. Nothing will be left undone to contribute to the satisfaction and pleasure of the visitors.

The Pope does his private writing with a gold pen, but the pontifical signature is always written with a pen made from the feather of a white dove. —Pittsburg Dispatch.

ISLAND OF ST. THOMAS.

A Splendid Base For Fleet Operations in the Caribbean.

"There is not any doubt," said a foreign officer of high rank at present in this country, "that it has been a settled point for some time between the Danish Government and the American Administration that St. Thomas will pass under the dominion of the Flag of the United States. It will be acquired by purchase just as soon as the war with Spain is over.

"If the arrangements had been completed before the opening of hostilities, the possession of St. Thomas would have been of incalculable value to America just now. It would be a splendid base of operations for the fleets in the West Indies and would contribute much to assert American dominion in the Caribbean. Conceding even that Porto Rico will be held by the United States, St. Thomas easily could be made a little Gibraltar."

Denmark's possessions in the West Indies consist of the islands of St. Thomas and Santa Cruz, also called St. Croix and St. John. The most important of these is St. Thomas, which is about the same size as Manhattan Island, being twelve miles long and three in its greatest width.

St. Thomas is of great importance, both commercially and strategically, having one of the best harbors in the West Indies and possessing coaling, dry and floating dock and ship repair

MRS. NELSON A. MILES.

She Has Taken Interest in Fighting Since She Became a Soldier's Wife.

Mrs. Nelson A. Miles, wife of the commander of the United States army, is one of the most attractive and hospitable women in Washington, and



MRS. NELSON A. MILES.

deeply interested in every move that is made by the American army. She has always taken an interest in fighting since she has been a soldier's wife. Years ago when the general was only Colonel Miles, in command of the Presidio in San Francisco, he and Mrs. Miles were called "the handsomest couple in the army." Mrs. Miles has not lost much of the charm that made her the goddess of every young fellow from West Point in her young days in California. She was Mary Sherman before her marriage. Her father was Judge Sherman, a brother of the senator and the general. Her hair is dark and abundant, her eyes are a grayish blue and her manners are winning. She is as kind and attentive to the wife of a second lieutenant as to the wife of a brigadier-general, and that is why she has ever been popular, no matter where stationed. Mrs. Miles accompanied the general on his trip to Europe last year. She accompanied him, too, on some of his expeditions against the Indians, and was often within sound of the shooting.

Our Chief Naval Strategist.

Since Captain Alfred T. Mahan has returned from Europe and has been assigned to a place on the Naval Strategy Board at Washington he has had a splendid opportunity to put to an actual test many of the theories advocated by him in his books and magazine articles relating to sea power. He



CAPTAIN ALFRED T. MAHAN.

is the foremost expert in his specialty in all the world and his views are considered the last word on naval matters both in England and here at home.

Hours Which Bring Bad Luck.

Common as is the superstition that Friday is the most unlucky of days, and thirteen of numbers, the belief in unlucky hours is equally widespread on the European Continent and in the East.

Gambetta was so firmly convinced that certain hours of the day are lucky and others unlucky that he would never commence an important undertaking or start on an important journey without consulting a famous reader of cards as to the auspicious hour, and President Faure, who was prudent enough to select a lucky hour for starting on his recent journey to Russia, is said to share Gambetta's superstition. President Carnot was less credulous, and selected an unlucky hour for starting on the journey to Lyons, where he was assassinated by Caserio. The superstition is so common in Paris that cards tastefully embellished and containing a list of "hours to be avoided" are extensively sold. —Philadelphia Record.

More Deadly Than Bullets.

The sudden changes of climate encountered by soldiers when troops are moved from one quarter of the globe to another are estimated as increasing the annual mortality of Europe by 50,000 men.

Youthful Patriotism.



"Say, Mister Policeman, can you tell me where the war is? My papa says they need all the ships they can get and I want to give them mine." —Judge.

THE FARM GARDEN



Peafowls.

Eggs of peafowls hatch in from 24 to 29 days. The chicks may be hatched and reared by common hens.

Deepens a Flower's Color.

The color of hydrangeas is deepened by putting iron nails, green vitriol or alum into the soil. The color of daffodils is deepened by increasing the richness of the soil they grow in.

Fat in Cheese Making.

The quality of cheese is not determined by the percentage of fat in the milk, but this of course is one factor.

Experiments indicate that an excess of fat is no advantage in cheese making.

The Dairy Cow's Vacation.

The dairy cow should rest one-seventh of her time, seven and a half weeks. To guard against milk fever watch the udder during the time the cow is dry; if limp feed generously, but if it swells and gives indications of being feverish, reduce the feed.

Money From Herbs.

A great deal of money can be made from common garden herbs. Sage, thyme, marjoram and even catnip all have their devotees. Most city cats very rarely see catnip except as a package. If it is purchased done up in a closed and sewed bag, and given them to play with the antics they will perform with this plaything are extremely amusing. In the country cats find enough catnip growing around houses. If farmers' boys would gather some of the leaves and sew them up in balls they could make some money out of the business. There is nearly always a good demand for herbs used in making the dressing for fowls and other baked meats.

Movable Henhouse.

The great evils of vermin and disease among poultry are best combated by keeping small flocks of hens and housing them in a number of henhouses made small enough to be easily moved from one place to another. Such houses need not be expensive, and if a stone boat is fitted with a broad platform the henhouse may be placed on it and drawn anywhere on the farm. Wherever insect enemies are deprecatory it is well to place several of these henhouses near by, and let them help clear away the vermin, and also be getting the larger part of their living. It may require that a yard be built up so as to keep the fowls from straying too far. But hens with chickens are the best scavengers, and they will remain near their temporary home and return to it at night.

Cow Pea Culture in the North.

Owing to the fact that clover is frequently damaged by freezing in winter and by drought in summer, there is some inquiry for another leguminous crop which is not open to these objections. With our present knowledge, no substitute for Indiana can be offered that is equal to the common red or large English clovers, both of which are thoroughly acclimated and flourish throughout the state.

Notwithstanding this fact the cow pea has some points of advantage, among which are, (1) greater capacity to endure drought, (2) ability to grow on soils too thin to nourish clover, (3) ability to produce a large amount of forage or green manure in a few months of warm weather, and thus avoid the frosts of winter and early spring.

Cow peas are highly esteemed for forage in many parts of the south. They are pastured, cut green and fed as a soiling crop and also cured as hay. Where they seed well they furnish an excellent pasture for pigs, in which case the land is left in fine condition for subsequent crops. In this state only the earliest sorts would produce much seed. In the richer soils the tendency would be to run to vines. Cow peas produce a very wattery growth and are therefore not easy to cure for hay.

How to Make Hens Pay.

Lysander S. Richards of Plymouth county, Mass., writes: Before I had attained any degree of success in the poultry business, I started with a flock of 50 and at the close of the year I made them pay \$1 a head or \$50 on the flock. Well, I figured the same as many others do, that if 50 will pay \$50, 200 will pay me a profit of \$200, but somehow hens don't figure that way. They figure that just in proportion to the increase of the flock, the profits will decrease in the same ratio, especially with beginners. I started with 175 the next year, and before the winter was out I began to discover the truth of the above maxim, which if more generally known would save many heart-breaking sobs of the overzealous beginner.

The following year I told my folks that I would sell all but 25 hens and make a study of them and if I could not make them pay I would go out of the business. At the close of the year I made them pay \$2 a head

and I was satisfied. The following year I increased the flock very gradually, kept 50. At the close of the year I made them pay \$2 a head and was satisfied. The next year I increased my flock to 65 and woke up the morning of the new year and found I had made \$3 a head on common, mixed hens with eggs at the ordinary market prices at the stores. When I got up to a flock of 200 hens I had to be satisfied with \$2 a head profit with eggs at common market prices. During last winter, there were rolled out of my flock of 130 hens 70 to 80 eggs daily.

Propagation of the Chrysanthemum.

The usual method of propagating chrysanthemums is by means of cuttings. If large plants are desired they are started in January or February, but when large blooms are wanted for exhibition purposes the cuttings are often started as late as May or June, and the plants are grown to single stems and allowed to develop but one flower. In order to grow healthy plants that will give large and fine flowers, strong and vigorous cuttings will be necessary, and they will be best if taken from plants that have not been forced. It is a good plan to select strong plants in the spring and plant them out of doors as early as it is safe. From these stock plants cuttings can be taken that will give good plants for single flowers. In the fall, take up the old plants, place in boxes, and keep until mid-winter in a cold frame where they will not freeze. Then take into the house and a large crop of excellent cuttings can be obtained. The earlier ones will be just the thing for pot plants and for planting out as stock plants.

In April another crop of cuttings should be taken. These will answer for six-inch pot plants, and for either single stems or "sprays," to be planted in the houses for cut flowers. Another crop of cuttings can be taken in June, but it will be better to take them from plants set in the open ground, as recommended above. While most of the cuttings for late blooms should be struck about the 1st of June, the 1st or even the 15th of July will not be too late to secure good results if they are properly handled. —New England Homestead.

Protection of Young Fruit Trees.

Many states have passed laws providing for official inspection of nurseries and nursery stock, and the results of work along this line in 1897 by the New York agricultural experiment station indicate that such inspection is more than desirable in New York. Only a few nurseries were examined, and none of them were seriously infested; yet ten species of injurious insects were found whose chief method of gaining wide distribution is by shipment of nursery stock carrying either the insects or their eggs. Bulletin No. 136 of the station describes the methods of inspection used by the station entomologist, outlines the benefits to both nurseryman and orchardist of systematic inspection of nurseries, summarizes briefly the work of the station in 1897 and gives descriptions of the insects found, illustrations of them and their work, and methods for their destruction in both nursery and orchard.

The insects found may be classed in four general groups: Scale insects, including oystershell barklouse, scurfy barklouse, New York plum Lecanium, oak scale and San Jose scale; plant lice, including woolly louse of the apple; case bearers, pistol-case bearer and cigar-case bearer and bud moth; borers, including peachtree borer.

The remedies to be used against the first two classes of insects consist of caustic washes, such as whale-oil soap solution, kerosene emulsion or kerosene-water mixture in the orchard, applied in strong solutions in fall or winter after loosening the scales by brushing or gentle scraping, or weaker solutions in the spring when the young lice and scale are somewhat unprotected. In the nursery similar methods are to be used on growing stock, but it is thought that fumigation in the packing houses or storage cellars with hydrocyanic acid gas will be a practical means of getting rid of these and all hibernating insects.

The case-bearers and bud moth must be met in the orchards by spraying in very early spring, just as the buds are breaking and leaves unfolding, with Paris green, London purple or green arsenite. The borers should be kept out of the trees by mounding with earth, surrounding the base of the trunks with shields or smearing with some offensive mixture to prevent the mother moth from depositing her eggs in the favorite location. Once established, the only way to get rid of the borers themselves is to cut them out with a knife or pierce them in their tunnels with a sharp wire.

Learning Does Not Make Naval Officers.

A man may be an academician and yet not a good naval officer. Lieutenant Julien Viaud, better known as Pierre Loti, having advanced high enough on the list to be a candidate for the rank of commander (capitaine de frégate) has been retired from the French navy together with fourteen other lieutenants, on the ground that they stand no chance of promotion. Not long ago a torpedo boat under Lieutenant Viaud's command was in collision with another vessel and much damaged. —New York Sun.