

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

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

THE REALM OF FASHION.

A Cool and Useful Costume.

No costume is cooler in appearance or more truly useful to the eye than that of pure white, untouched by color. The model shown in the illustration, while well adapted to all



FANCY WAIST.

transparent stuffs and to China and India silks, has a peculiar fitness for organdie, dimity and Persian lawn, and is represented in the last-named material, with trimming of fine needlework bands and frills. The foundation for the waist is a fitted lining, which closes at the center-front. On it are mounted the yoke of puffs and bands, and the full back and fronts. As shown, the neck is cut on the first line of perforations, so forming a shallow open square, but the pattern provides for high neck as well. In either case the waist proper closes invisibly beneath the center band of embroidery, and the yoke at the left shoulder seam and arm's eye. The sleeves are arranged in a series of

souvenir suitable for a bride to give her attendant is a purse made of a bit of the brocade like her wedding gown, mounted with silver-gilt, with her initials in silver-gilt on one side and the owner's on the other. The chain suspended to this purse may be a long one of silver.—Ladies' Home Journal.

A Fashionable Cape.

A novelty in capes is made of violet taffeta silk shirred in cords into two deep puffs, which draw it closely over the shoulders in a prim sort of way, quite unlike the flutes and yards of fulness in the cape of last season. The deep frill of silk which falls below the puffs extends the cape a little below the elbows. A round collar and short stole of guipure fastened across with black velvet bows and buckles are the only trimming.

Woman's Aid Work in India.

The Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava has issued her report for last year of the United Kingdom branch of the work done by the great fund bearing her own name for the medical aid of women in India. It states that in the twelve months under review no less than 1,327,000 women received attention either in hospitals or their own homes from lady doctors. There are now 103 hospitals and dispensaries.

The Bicycle Parasol.

The wheelwoman no longer exposes herself, unsheltered, to the sun's too ardent kiss. The pleasure of her ride was spoiled by the knowledge that a platoon of freckles was forming itself across her pretty nose and a layer of tan was ruining the damask of her cheek. Now there is a parasol fastened on the back of her saddle. It is mounted on a bamboo stick, which is the lightest that could be devised.



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 ideal 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 300 feet and revolved within a circle of 250 feet. The Moorish village will be here; 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.

ing facilities that surpass anything in that section, even including Havana.

In times not so long ago St. Thomas was the emporium of the Caribbean Sea, but the enormous expansion of the steam navigation enabled the other islands to enjoy direct and rapid communication with the northern countries and caused the loss of the bulk of this trade to St. Thomas.

The island would be an especially valuable possession to the United States, as it has immense coaling depots and a floating dock capable of accommodating the largest ships that frequent those waters.

Santa Cruz is wholly given up to agriculture, being especially famed for its sugar and rum. St. John is of little or no consequence, being very scantily populated.

The inhabitants of the Danish Islands are still in favor of annexation to the United States, since they know that their fortunes are more closely allied with ours than with those of any

European nation. Even among the Danish officials there is the same strong feeling that it would result to the benefit of all concerned, for the rank and file would be relieved from service so far from the home country, and the higher officers and officials would be retired on ample pensions. The Government is at present expensive and somewhat oppressive. The annual deficit to Denmark is from \$50,000 to \$100,000, and there are no means of alleviating the financial distress. Like the inhabitants of all the islands of these seas, the people see that their only salvation lies in closer political connection with the United States, since that would imply increased commercial advantages and resultant prosperity.

As the people all speak English, even the Danish officials, there would be no violence to national or racial prejudices, and the transfer could be effected with very little friction.

In an oratorical contest at the Idaho University for the Watkins medal Jennie Hughes, the only colored student in the institution, was the winner.

puffs, with bands of insertion between each two, and are mounted upon fitted linings, which are two-seamed, but can be omitted, the puffing only being used if preferred. At the neck and wrists are frills of needlework.

To make this waist for a woman in the medium size three and one-half yards of material thirty-six inches wide will be required.

A Novel Cape.

No wardrobe is wholly complete without a wrap that can be slipped on and off with ease. The novel cape shown in the large illustration by May Manton serves every need, while at the same time it is chic in the extreme, representing, as it does, the latest Parisian style. The model is of satin-faced cloth in soft mode, with yoke and bands of applique edged with velvet ribbon, but bengaline and all heavy silks, as well as lace, are equally appropriate.

The foundation is circular, and extends to the edge of the third ruffle. The yoke is faced on and the two upper ruffles are stitched into place as indicated, but the third and last is seamed to the edge. All three are circular in shape, and they, as well as the foundation cape, are lined with silk.

The pointed revers are cut separate and attached to the fronts, and are both faced with white mousseline de soie, which was purchased shirred ready for use. At the neck is a standing collar, within which is a double frill of mousseline, which is also white.

To make this cape for a woman of medium size five and a half yards of material twenty-two inches wide will be required.

Evolution of an Old-Time Purse.

The old-time knitted silk purse of our grandmothers has a curious descendant in the knitted silk card cases which some ladies carry nowadays. The silk is sometimes mixed with gold or silver thread, or with bright steel or bronze beads, to form designs. One side is stiffened by cardboard covered with silk and the corners are tipped with silver or gold as are those of leather card-cases. The knitted silk case is said to wear longer and hold more cards than its leather brother.

A Dainty Purse.

The fashionable purse is made of a bit of hyacinth purple or emerald green brocade mounted with a silver-gilt clasp, and with either a short chain to go over the wrist or a long one to go around the neck. A dainty

An Easy, Comfortable Gown.

An easy, comfortable gown, that can be made as cool or as warm as desired by the selection of suitable materials, is here shown. Green and white linen lawn is the material selected, narrow valenciennes lace and insertion forming the dainty decoration. A bow and ends of diagonally striped green, violet and white ribbon is tied between the edges of the turnover collar that completes the neck. The back, in princess style, is fitted with a curving seam, side back and under arm darts, rendering a perfect adjustment over the hips. The semi-girdle that crosses in front is buttoned in the centre and holds the fulness gracefully in at the waist. Round pearl buttons are used to effect the closing all the way down the front. The easy, tasteful two-seamed sleeves are cut on fashionable lines and can be made with or without the fitted lining. The gown is of moderate width, measuring a little over three and a half yards at the foot in the medium size. Challis, cashmere, India silk, French or outing flannel will develop tastefully by the mode,



WRAPPER WITH OR WITHOUT LINING.

while, for wash fabrics, the advantage of its simplicity will be found to make laundering an easy task. To make this wrapper for a woman of medium size five and a half yards of material, forty-four inches wide, will be required.

AGRICULTURAL TOPICS

Preventing Smut in Oats.

The 1897 experiments in preventing smut conducted by the New York experiment station at Geneva, showed that sprinkling the seed with a one per cent. solution of either lysol or formalin entirely prevented the smut. When the seed was sprinkled with a solution of potassium sulphide a very small percentage of smut appeared. In some tests in soaking the seed it was found that 3-10 of one per cent. solution of lysol prevented smut when the seed was soaked one hour, and 2-10 of one per cent. solution of formalin one hour prevented any smut. None of the treatments injured the seed in the least.—American Agriculturist.

The Cdn Irrigation in Gardens.

Owing to the scalding of the plants or the baking of the ground, surface application of water during the hot, dry season is often injurious rather than beneficial. By thoroughly saturating the subsoil, leaving the dry surface to act as a mulch, the plants get the full benefit of all water applied, without harm. This can be done by digging a miniature reservoir a foot or so from the plant hill, and with a long, straight rod opening an underground passage to the roots of the plant. A much better plan, however, is to take old tin cans that can be picked up in any quantity in all rubbish piles or dumping grounds, and perforating their sides near the bottom in a number of places, set one in the ground a few inches from the hill to be watered. Fill with water and the roots of the plant will do the rest. Often the rootlets enter through the perforations and form a mat in the bottom of the cans. This plan is especially adapted to vines of all kinds.—J. L. Irwin, in New England Homestead.

Permanent Pasture Fields.

We prefer permanent pasture fields for various reasons. We do not pasture our cultivated grounds at any time. The cattle become attached to these habitual pastures and never attempt to break out. These continual pasture fields do not have to be renewed, as their blue grass is indigenous to the soil and renews its wasted rootlets spontaneously, and the grass is so nearly a perfect ration that but little grain is necessary to keep a herd of cows in heavy flow of milk. Last spring several cows on such pasture made good tests, ranging from fourteen pounds to sixteen pounds eight and one-half ounces of butter in seven days. Much of this output was due to the care and feed of the winter before, a combination of a careful German—clover hay, well-kept stover, and a carefully balanced ration of grain fed regularly. Grass is naturally the food of the cow, and, of course, the nearer she can be kept to it the year round the better she seems to do for the feed and care expended on her.—The Epitomist.

Clay Floor For Dairy Cows.

Where one uses the ordinary stanchion for fastening dairy cows we doubt whether the clay floor can be improved upon. A trough behind the cows is provided for the excrement. On the hard, level clay floor that reaches from stanchion to gutter or trough, a wide plank is placed parallel to the trough, and close up to it, to catch what manurial matter fails to reach the trough. This is done as a protection to the clay, for the usefulness, perfection and durability of a clay floor depends upon its being kept dry. In making the floor, the moist slay should be well pounded in order to harden and solidify it, and the floor should be permitted to thoroughly dry before it is put to use, and kept dry. No class of live stock does any kind of floor seem so acceptable as that of earth—nature's floor; and if the earth is of the right kind and treated in the right way in making the floor, it will usually prove the best floor of any and the least costly. Cement and plank floors prove objectionable in many respects to both stock and stock owners.—Edwin Montgomery.

Potatoes on Mucky Soil.

Mucky soil, because it is usually dark colored, is always thought to be rich. This may or may not be the fact, according to what the vegetable mould is that makes the muck. It is more often due to an excess of water, which has chilled the soil and has prevented the mould from decaying still farther and becoming carbonic acid gas and ash. So, because the soil is black and mucky, it is not certain that it is good for potatoes. Most mucky soils need potash to enable them to grow the best potatoes. Vegetable matter in the soil may make a great growth of stalks and leaves, and if the leaves be kept uninjured, this will make a large growth of potatoes, and of good quality also. But if some potash is added to this muck it will cause it to decay quicker and furnish still more plant food. The potatoes on mucky land have one advantage, in that the soil does not dry out so quickly as if it were sand or gravel. And as the vines are apt to be stronger, the attacks of the potato beetle are less injurious. It is all important, since the potato beetle has to be fought, that the vines be made to grow as fast as possible. The beetle is wise enough to choose the poorest and thinnest vines to lay her eggs on, while a strong, vigorous vine beside it may not receive any of her eggs. In a wet time the stronger potato vines hold the moisture longer, and the rain drains out and destroys many of the eggs.—Boston Cultivator.

Miss Margaret Long, a "daughter of the Navy," has recently matriculated in the senior class of the medical department of the Johns Hopkins University. She expects ultimately to practice medicine in Boston.