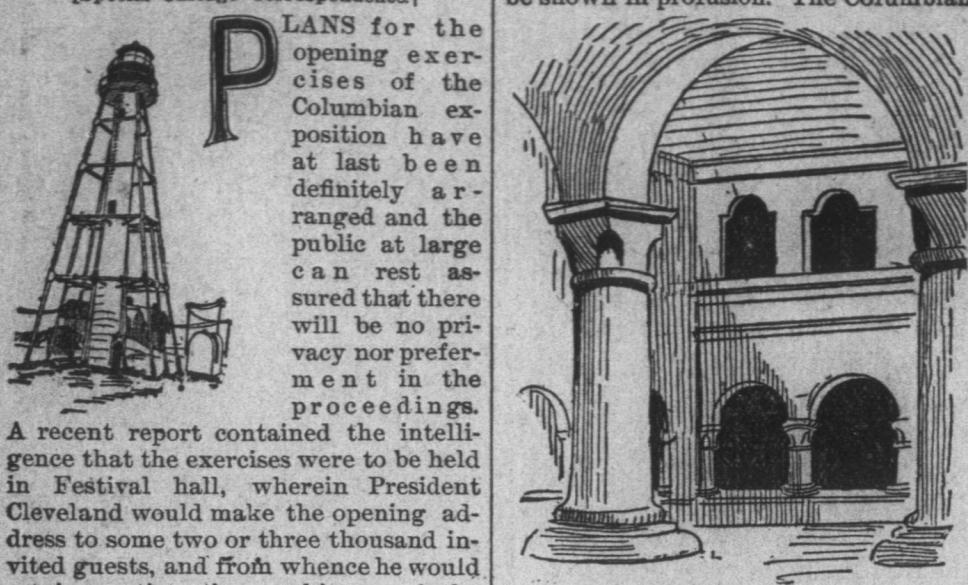


FROM THE WORLD'S FAIR

Latest Particulars Concerning the Opening Exercises.

The Life-Saving Exhibit and the Convent of La Rabida — A Huge Cold-Storage Plant for the Summer Season.

[Special Chicago Correspondence]



PLANS for the opening exercises of the Columbian exposition have at last been definitely arranged and the public at large can rest assured that there will be no privacy nor preference in the proceedings.

A recent report contained the intelligence that the exercises were to be held in Festival hall, wherein President Cleveland would make the opening address to some two or three thousand invited guests, and from whence he would set in motion the machinery of the great fair, but we are pleased to learn that such an arrangement has been abandoned and the exercises are to be held out doors where the world may behold the impressive ceremonies.

The east front of the Administration building has been selected as the most roomy and convenient spot for the erection of the platform for the use of President Cleveland and the other officials who are to take part in the opening exercises. This platform will be connected with Machinery hall so that from the speaker's table the president



THE CONVENT LA RABIDA.

will have no difficulty in starting the huge wheels in their revolutions. The new plan affords many opportunities for picturesque effects, as the position commands the water front and many of the finer pieces of statuary, and will enable thousands of spectators to get a fine view of the exercises. As far as can be learned at this time this arrangement has been definitely settled upon and there is no reason to fear that any changes will be made.

A life-saving station is one of the attractive features of the lake shore section near the Fisheries building. There is a pretty two-story cottage fitted up with all the appliances of the life-saving service, and a steel framed lighthouse one hundred feet high. The station is to be permanent and is in every way a model one.

A regular patrol system of the entire beach will be kept up night and day to illustrate to the visitors at the fair the careful watch that is constantly kept upon our seacoasts for wrecked mariners and vessels in distress. This exhibit will undoubtedly prove of great interest to people who come from inland points.

Further to the south along the lake shore and just beyond the grand entrance to the lagoon is a building



THE GREAT REFRIGERATOR.

which already attracts as much attention as any at the fair. It is a quaint-looking structure, built upon the plan of the old Spanish missions, and is situated on an island, the outer line of which is protected by a rough stone embankment to shield it from the breakers.

This queer building is an exact reproduction of the convent of La Rabida at Palos, which at one time was a refuge of Columbus and his son Diego when they were in great need of even the bare necessities of life. Its history is intensely interesting, and many visitors will be drawn to it by the rare and valuable relics and curiosities which it will contain.

The old-fashioned convent itself will form a striking contrast to the magnificent modern architecture on the fair grounds. Its quaint walls and roof and general ensemble of the middle ages will give the visitor a correct idea of

the religious architecture of old Spain in Columbus' time. Inside the convent will be the most valuable relics on the fair grounds, with the possible exception of the American Declaration of Independence and one or two other priceless possessions of the government. Illustrations of the life history of Columbus and relics of the court of Ferdinand and Isabella and of the early history of this continent in Columbus' time will be shown in profusion. The Columbian

will be a great convenience. At a trifling cost they can be quickly transported from one point to another, or ride about the entire grounds and obtain better views of the buildings than can be obtained from the ground.

Another novel and enjoyable mode of transit will be by boat in the lagoon. There will be steam launches, electric launches, gondolas and all sorts of water craft. And just outside the grand entrance from the lake there will be sailboats and rowboats without number, so that the lover of aquatic sports will have ample opportunity to engage in his favorite pastime.

Outside the fair grounds in Midway Plaisance there is at present a perfect tumult of excitement. People from every country under the sun are jostling one another in their efforts to get ready for the grand opening. Thousands of people go out daily from the city to see the strange sights from far off lands, and we are already afforded a foretaste of what the coming exposition is going to be among the foreign nations.

EXPOSITION ET CETERA.

The collective exhibits now stored in the Woman's building are those from Great Britain, New South Wales, Ceylon, Paraguay and New Mexico.

The roof of the Manufactures building will be converted into a sort of promenade, from which an excellent bird's-eye view of the grounds, the lake and the may be had.

From Ohio there was received a piece of coal weighing eleven tons. It will form an exhibit in the Mines and Mining building. It has been dressed to the shape of a small pyramid.

The flagship of Columbus, the Santa Maria, which was built in Spain and towed across the ocean for exhibition at the fair, will become the property of the United States. The Spanish government has made a formal tender of the caravel.

A New York confectioner will exhibit at the world's fair a statue of Columbus in chocolate seven and a half feet high, weighing seventeen hundred pounds, and a Venus of Milo in the same material, weighing fifteen hundred. They look like bronze.

The Clydesdale Horse society of Great Britain and Ireland has advised Chief Buchanan that the society will make a special offering of seven hundred dollars for Clydesdale horses exhibited at the exposition, registered in either the American Clydesdale stud book or the Clydesdale stud book of Canada (appendix included).

The exhibit which the boys of the Cathedral school in New York will make at the Columbian exposition was inspected recently by Archbishop Corrigan. Nearly all of the forty parochial schools of the archdiocese will be represented in the Catholic educational exhibit. Some of the exhibits have been shipped.

France intends to make a fine arts record at the exposition. Artists and sculptors of that country have become so much interested in the fair that M. Henri Giudicelli, the fine arts commissioner, said the French people would contribute a larger and in every way finer exhibit than they had made at any previous exposition.

A unique exhibition for the world's fair has been prepared at Sucker Creek, Mich. It is said to be the largest load of logs ever placed upon sleds. It scaled thirty-five thousand feet and weighs one hundred and forty tons. The sleds are made from bird's eye maple, highly polished and heavily ironed. The runners are seven feet in length and six inches in width. The load was hauled a distance of about fifty feet by a team weighing thirty-five hundred pounds. The operation was witnessed by several men who had been sworn before a justice of the peace to tell the truth about the loading and hauling of the logs.

Belgium's Art and Flowers.

A steamer loaded with Belgium exhibits has left Antwerp for New York. This ship includes the list of articles which were to be sent from that country to the exposition. More than two hundred packages of Belgian goods have been already received at the Manufactures building, and a shipment of two hundred paintings is en route to Jackson park. The exhibits of Belgium in the Horticultural building will consist of eight hundred plants, noticeable among which will be the displays from Ghent, which town is famous throughout the world for the culture of flowers. The Horticultural society of Ghent sends a remarkable collection of rhododendrons from fifteen to sixteen feet in circumference. There is also a fine showing of azaleas.

Israel Putnam's Gun.

Gen. Israel Putnam's antique gun, with which the bluff continental soldier killed the she wolf, according to the famous story of "Putnam and the Wolf," one hundred and forty years ago, is now at Hartford, on its way to the world's fair. The gun is the property of a family at Putnam, who live not far from the Pompfret wolf cavern. One day recently while Mrs. M. G. Bulkeley, wife of ex-Gov. Bulkeley, was visiting at Putnam, the family intrusted the gun to her and she forwarded it to Gov. Bulkeley. There it was in the care of the ex-governor's footman and removed to the capital, where a large crowd gathered to see it. The old arm was never taken out of the state before and it will be guarded with great care while it is on its way to the fair.

Sea Water.

Seven carloads of salt water which not long ago was making its billowy way toward the coast of northern Europe in the Atlantic gulf stream, arrived at Jackson park the other day for the fish in the aquarium whose tastes do not run to fresh water. It was quite a task to get this water. Of a necessity it had to be as pure as possible. The United States fish commission's steamer Fish Hawk went out to the gulf stream and got the deep blue kind on its way from the tropics. It was pumped into huge tanks on the steamer and then transferred into the seven tank cars which had been made to carry oil.

One of the greatest conveniences at Jackson park is the elevated railroad, which is rapidly approaching completion. This road winds in and out among the great buildings and reaches every part of the grounds. For aged persons and those who are too frail or feeble to travel about afoot this line

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