

# The Greatest of World's Fairs.

BY THE EDITOR.

"EXPOSITIONS are the time-keepers of progress," said the late President McKinley at the Pan-American Exhibition in Buffalo. It was an apt and striking way of illustrating the value of these periodical displays of the arts and industries of the world. In no other way can we get so clear an idea of the development that is going on in the various departments of human activity as by visiting a World's Fair.

This exposition at St. Louis, which will open its gates in May next, will be the greatest of the kind ever held on the face of the earth, largely because it will occur during the year 1904, the greatest year of the world's history. All the discoveries and inventions of the past will contribute to the

months ago, and even then several of the huge structures were almost completed, and the work is now being pushed forward rapidly. At present 128 acres are under roof. The Chicago Fair had but 82 acres altogether. Two buildings, covering a total area of 28 acres are devoted to manufactures and varied industries. Each of these is 1200 feet long, and more than 500 feet wide. The Horticultural Palace will be devoted to a magnificent exhibition of fruit, in which our own country will probably take an important part. A large amount of last season's fruit is in cold storage in St. Louis, to be used when the fair opens in the spring.

The Palace of Mines and Metallurgy is one-seventh of a mile long, and one tenth of a mile wide, covering nine acres.

The Palace of Electricity is a beautiful building of majestic proportions, entirely surrounded by lagoons, crossed by ornamental bridges. It has a frontage of 758 feet toward the north, and 525 feet toward the east. This palace covers eight acres, and cost \$400,000. No doubt many interesting exhibits will be housed here, as great advance has been made in the application of electricity during recent years.

One of the most imposing of the huge structures is the Palace of Liberal Arts, which cost half a million of dollars, covering nine acres. The Palace of Machinery occupies ten acres and cost \$600,000. It presents a different appearance on each of its sides in design and contour.

The Palace of Transportation covers fifteen acres and cost \$700,000. The Palace of Art surpasses the structures devoted to Art exhibits at all previous expositions. It really comprises four massive buildings, and two side pavilions, the aggregate cost being over a million dollars. The interior of the quadrangle is laid out as a garden for flowers, shrubs, fountains, and statuary.

The Palace of Agriculture is 1600 feet long, and 500 feet wide. It covers 20 acres, costing over half a million. This building is ten times as large as the Madison Square Gardens in New York.

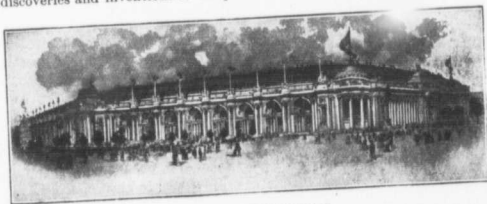
The Exhibits of Forestry, Fish and Game are in a building having a frontage of 300 feet one way, and 600 feet the other. When we read of these immense buildings costing such enormous sums, it is a very natural inquiry: "Where is the money to come from?" The Congress of the United States has given over six millions, and the citizens of St. Louis have supplemented this handsome gift by pledging ten millions. I happened to be in St. Louis one evening when a big public meeting was held in the Music Hall to inaugurate the enterprise. The enthusiasm of the people was simply wonderful, and it was astonishing to see how eager they were to subscribe.

This Exposition will be unique in two particulars. First in addition to showing the finished products of the world's factories, special attention is to be given to the exhibition of processes, which will make it the most instructive exhibition ever held.

Then, too, the St. Louis Exposition will introduce an elaborate feature which will be largely new, that is the large space devoted to outdoor exhibits. These open-air displays will cover more than 100 acres, and many of them will be quite as attractive as what may be seen indoors.

A very remarkable exhibit will be the City of Jerusalem reproduced, but this requires a separate article to give any adequate idea of its attractiveness. This will be given in a future issue. Everybody who can possibly do so should visit St. Louis during the Exposition, even if it should be necessary to give up other excursions and vacations.

Until recently there has been much skepticism, even in St. Louis, as to the Exposition being ready on time. But when one sees the large buildings already completed and realizes the rapid progress made the last three months, it seems highly probable that all will be in readiness May 1, 1904.



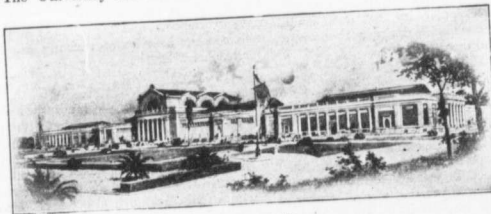
MANUFACTURERS' BUILDING.

success of the enterprise, and the result will be highly educational. In a two weeks' visit to an exposition of this kind one would probably learn as much as by a trip round the world, and at much less expense.

The people of St. Louis are pushing this great project with wonderful enterprise and zeal. The wealthy men are giving largely of their means and time. Nothing will be spared to make it a striking success.

One gratifying feature is the fact that the gates will be kept closed on the Lord's Day. The grounds and buildings are being planned on a much larger scale than the Columbian Exposition at Chicago, and in every way St. Louis expects to surpass its sister city.

The site is an ideal one, having the advantage of unusual size. Washington University has permitted the Exposition officials to use its new building for administration purposes, and the magnificent grounds will be given up to the Fair. The University authorities will, of course, receive a large



ART BUILDING.

rent, and will have turned over to them at the close one or two fine permanent buildings.

The area to be occupied by this exposition will be 1,240 acres. The figures for other expositions in recent years are:

Centennial at Philadelphia.....	236
Pan-American at Buffalo.....	300
Universal Exposition at Paris.....	336
Columbian at Chicago.....	633

It will thus be seen that the grounds at St. Louis will be nearly twice as large as they were at Chicago.

The buildings are on a corresponding scale of vastness, and will be made as beautiful as art and money can construct them. I had the pleasure of looking over the grounds some