



The World's Fair.

BY MARY M. REID, MIDDLEMARCH, ONT.

In writing about the World's Fair, the chief trouble will be to sufficiently condense, and yet leave interesting an account of what was seen in the six days spent there. When there is so much that seems worthy of note it is hard to determine what will be of most interest to the public, but as it is those who have not yet visited the "Fair" that will be the most likely to read about it, we shall try to mention briefly such exhibits as we think will give a good idea of the general character of the contents of each building.

The buildings themselves and their surroundings are admittedly one of the chief, if not the chief, charms of the whole. Their coloring, their architecture, the frescoes and sculpture with which they are adorned, make them each "a thing of beauty," while their grouping, combined with their surroundings, greatly enhances the effect.

I cannot take time to describe all the buildings, but must be allowed to say a few words regarding the Administration building, which is pre-eminently the most beautiful. Viewed externally, it is an ideal of strength and symmetry, with its massive base, its graceful dome, and its rich and varied ornamentation of pillar and sculpture. Its interior is equally impressive. As the eye travels upward some two hundred and fifty feet to the centre of the great dome, we notice in large medallions encircling the rotunda the names of all the countries represented at this exposition. Above them is a series of panels, on which is recorded the date of important inventions and discoveries, such as the invention of the steam engine, the discovery of the laws of gravitation, the invention of the electric telegraph, etc. Beyond these again are given the names of great discoverers and inventors, while the painting on the dome surmounting all is emblematic of the triumph of art and science. The view from the eastern entrance of this building is unsurpassed on the grounds. Directly in front is the statue of Columbus; beyond it lies the great basin, at the entrance of which is the famous MacMonnies fountain, one hundred and fifty feet in diameter, flanked on either side by electrical fountains that at night throw up to a great height hundreds of jets of many colored waters. At the eastern extremity of the basin is the statue of the Republic, a female figure sixty-five feet high, and beyond it the lofty columns of the Peristyle, surmounted by the "Columbus Quadriga," a group of statuary representing Columbus being honored by his countrymen on his return from his first voyage.

The first building visited was that of the Manufacturers and Liberal Arts, the exhibit in which is the largest and most varied on the grounds. Here are collected, from the different countries of the world, articles manufactured from an almost endless variety of materials into a still more endless variety of objects. In the very centre of the building stands the "Columbian Clock Tower," rising to a height of one hundred and fifty feet. It has a dial-plate seven feet in diameter, facing each of the four main entrances, and it shows the day of the month, the hour, minute and second. In this building each country's exhibit is in a separate pavilion, and as a medal was offered to the country making the most attractive display, all of these pavilions are fine, some of them very imposing. In Great Britain's section were shown very old tapestry, and beautiful carpets and rugs, also old oaken furniture of the Elizabethan period, very substantial but rather gloomy-looking. In pleasing contrast were the modern brass beds, brightly and gracefully draped. Here, too, we noticed a great display of china and porcelain, some of it said to belong to Her Majesty, a reproduction of the noted Jubilee vase, and a clock showing the time in London, Paris, Madrid and Chicago.

Germany shows some handsomely furnished rooms, tapestries (including the famous Gobelin tapestry), stained glass (said to be the finest in the world), statues, etc. One group of statuary, "Germania," designed for their new parliament buildings, was loaned by the Emperor.

France, too, shows beautifully furnished rooms, tapestries, costumes designed by Worth, vases and statuary. Russia shows court costumes that rival those of Paris, costly furs and tapestries. A parlor suite in this pavilion is unique. The legs and arm-rests are horns, and the covering is the fur of the seal. A pattern is produced by dying parts and leaving the rest uncolored. Austria exhibits rich brocades, beautiful porcelain and Bohemian glass-ware. Belgium displays lamps and fancy stands, in

china and gold, that surpass anything we saw of the kind in the building.

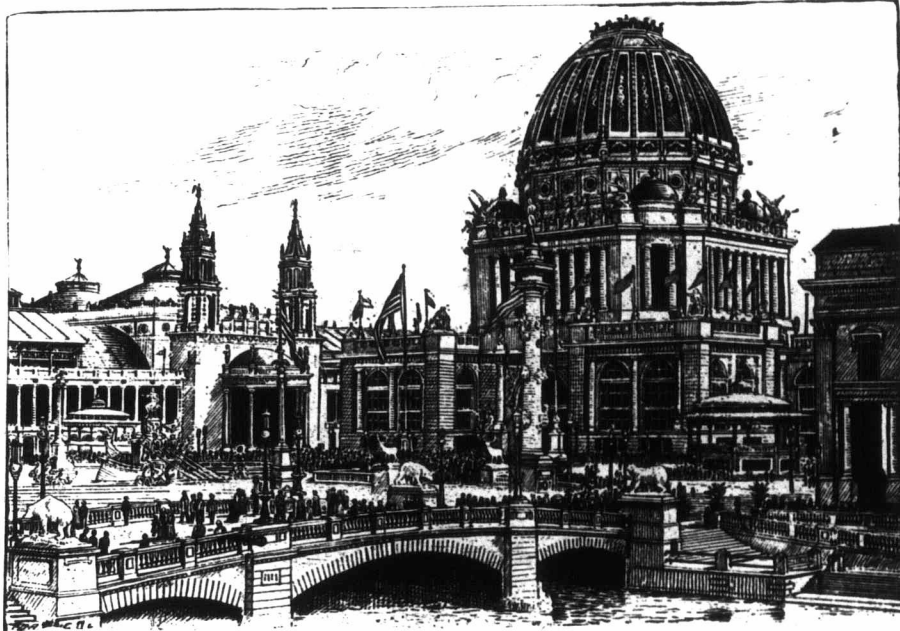
Japan has a very large exhibit of chinaware, of vases of all sizes, of wood and ivory carvings, silks, muslins and embroidered screens and robes that are marvels of beauty and skill. A large iron eagle, each feather of which is said to be made separately, also attracts considerable attention. Ceylon has a pavilion built of their choicest woods, beautifully carved. Their exhibit also contains fine specimens of carving in wood and iron. They show a large collection of native curiosities, and, of course, tea and coffee. The former is served in their pavilion by native waiters.

Cape Colony has a characteristic display of ostrich feathers and ivory. One tusk is said to be valued at \$1,300.

The United States makes an extensive display in this building, their exhibit including specimens of all the many classes of manufacture carried on in that country.

Among the most interesting of Canada's exhibits is a large collection of Indian curiosities. Her display of manufactured articles is good, and her educational exhibit is worthy of special mention, comprising, as it does, photographs of buildings, and specimens of work from her public and high schools, collegiate institutes, universities, agricultural college, and the various art schools and mechanics' institutes. There is, too, a very interesting exhibit of the work of the pupils in the school for the blind, Brantford, and also a fine display of work done by pupils of Indian schools. The Singer Sewing Machine Company have an exhibit worth seeing. They show two rooms, a dining-room and bed-room, all the furnishings of which, including the tapestries, were made on their machine.

Machinery Hall is another very interesting building. Here can be seen the different processes employed in manufacturing many articles. It is



THE ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.

interesting to watch the weaving of silk in patterns of carpets, of cotton and woollen goods. Here, too, we see paper manufactured and the printing press doing its work, even to the folding of the papers. Near the modern press stands the oldest printing press of America—151 years old. Of course, we carry away and carefully preserve the advertisement that is handed to us, because we saw them printing it with this old hand press. We look with interest at a sewing machine which can be wound up to run for some time, thus leaving the operator nothing to do but guide the seam. Quite as interesting is a carpet sewing machine. The two pieces to be sewed together are placed on the top of each other on a long table, their edges even with the edge of the table. The operator is on a bicycle that has fastened to it an attachment that is to do the sewing, and he operates this as he rides along. He says he can sew thirty yards in four minutes. What woman will not be willing to let him do it?

From Machinery Hall we pass to the Agricultural Building—one of the most interesting of the buildings. Here Canada makes a particularly fine display; without being considered partial, we think we may say that her pavilion is one of the most striking in the building. The grains and grasses of which it is composed are most artistically arranged, and Canadians may well be proud to see their national emblems surmounting it. Of course, the cheese is the biggest thing shown, but there is besides an exhibit of agricultural products that must dispel the illusion that Canada produces little but cheese, or that it is, as others believe, a land of almost perpetual frost and snow. One thing that makes this building so attractive is that in many cases the pavilions themselves show the staple products of the countries they represent. Iowa shows a corn palace; New South Wales is made of wool. Illinois is corn and other grains. Cape of Good Hope shows wool, ostrich-feathers and elephant tusks. One tusk is said to be seven and one-half feet long and to weigh 100 pounds.

Washington shows, in miniature, a western farm, farm house, barn, fields, with plows, self-binder and threshing machine at work. Pennsylvania has a "Liberty Bell," made of grains. To digress, how much the Americans make of their Bell! There is the original to be seen in the Pennsylvania State House, the one we have mentioned here, one made of oranges in the Horticultural Building, and fac-similes of it made of glass are for sale at the glass works. All the European countries make large exhibits in this building.

From here it is not far down to the Dairy Building, in which, besides the exhibit of all dairy products, can be seen the workings of the model dairy. The process of butter-making, as explained to us by a Nebraskan exhibitor, is similar to that employed by our travelling dairies. The Stock Yards are near here, too, but the stock was not in when we were there, excepting that in the Dairy Barns, which are not open to the public.

In this south-eastern corner of the grounds is found the Anthropological building, which, as its name indicates, is devoted to man and his works. When, on entering the building, we found ourselves confronted by a colossal mammoth, surrounded by other monsters of the land and sea, we were rather surprised, and doubted the appropriateness of the name given to the building, but on further examination learned that many of these were really the work of our enterprising neighbors across the line—exact representations of animals, now extinct. The objects collected are as interesting as they are numerous. Particularly interesting is the large display of relics of the North American Indians—numberless idols, rudely-fashioned vessels of earth and stone, articles of dress, old canoes, and many other curiously constructed objects. One old chief, whose head-dress of feathers extended down his back until it rested on the floor, wore a garment fringed with 700 scalps—his trophies in war. An Indian princess wore a necklace composed of 1,500 elk teeth, representing the slaughter of 750 elks. To further illustrate their habits, they have Indians living in wigwams and huts on the grounds. They are dressed in native costume and make baskets and bead-work, which they are quite willing to sell to visitors. Most of the countries of the world have large exhibits in this building. The casts of old Greek statuary are very interesting. To this exhibit belongs the Viking ship, lying at anchor near.

Across from this building is the Forestry building. No iron has been used in the construction of this rustic palace, wooden pins taking the place of bolts and nails. The sidings are slabs and the roof bark, while the pillars, supporting the verandahs that run all around the building, are the trunks of trees in their natural state and represent the forests of the various countries and states. California shows here a redwood plank, sixteen feet long and twelve feet wide, said to be the largest plank in the world. She has also a good display of native woods, as indeed all the states and countries have. The specimens of ebony-wood, rosewood, mahogany, olive wood, &c., are very fine. Canada, too, has a fine exhibit in this building.

Adjoining this is the Leather Building, in which are shown leathers of all kinds, among them an elephant's hide said to weigh eight hundred pounds, and to have taken two years in tanning. Boots and shoes, trunks, valises, and all articles made of leather, are shown here. The machines in the gallery are said to manufacture one thousand pairs of shoes daily. But the most interesting exhibit here is the collection of shoes of all nations. Some are very curious. The Greek shoe showing the foot, the Turk's with narrow pointed toe, the Tartar's with long iron hooks on the sole to use in climbing the mountains, the heavy fur-lined boots of Russia and Sweden, the flat leather sandals worn in South America, those of Palestine roughly made of skins, fancy gold-spangled slippers from India and Tartary, sandals worn in Japan to save the turf (suppose they have no signs "keep off the grass"), wooden shoes, raised two or three inches from the ground, worn in Corea, an infant's shoe made in the U. S. in 1765 (we pity the baby feet that wore the heavy coarse leather), and others that bore an early date. These and many more make a collection well worth seeing. A crazy-work drape of fine, many-colored leathers was also shown.

Having gone through the chief buildings in that part of the grounds, we return to the Court of Honor and enter the Electricity Building. Here we see much to admire, but very little that we really understand. However, there is something very fascinating in this exhibit. You will not soon tire of seeing what is being done, even if how it is done is beyond your comprehension. The tower of light and the revolving globe of prismatic lights attract the attention, and if they do not enlighten will at least dazzle you.

From this building we pass into the Mines and Mining Building. Here again Canada is conspicuous. She shows specimens of almost all the ores. Ontario's exhibit includes fine specimens of marble