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Panama-Pacific Exposition to Have Many Notable Exhibits

Conventions and Congresses Will Have Wide Educational Influence—Great Assemblage of Battleships.

Of special interest to thousands of visitors at the Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco, which opens Feb. 20, 1915, will be the great live stock show, to be held throughout the period of the Exposition. Entries are being made from all parts of the world not only for the live stock show, but for a series of great harness races, for both of which events premiums and prizes aggregating more than one-half million dollars are offered.

The preparation for the display of the world's exhibits is far advanced. More than 90,000 of the world's leading exhibitors will have their exhibits installed in the vast exhibit halls when

been selected may be inferred from a reply made by Dr. Frederick J. V. Skiff, of the Field Columbian museum and who is director in chief of the Panama-Pacific International Exposition and who is as widely known abroad as in America. Some one asked Dr. Skiff what was his ideal for a great world's exposition. "One," he replied, "that would so present the world's progress that if all else in the world but the exposition were destroyed what is most worth while could be reconstructed from the exhibits." The Exposition stands not alone on a commercial foundation, but is undertaken for its great ethical and educational influence.

Engineers Will Meet.

The conventions and congresses to meet during the Exposition period will indeed have a wide educational influence. One of the most interesting conventions will be the international engineering congress. The engineers of the Pacific coast have already raised a large sum to finance the congress, and the five great national engineering bodies comprising the congress have also guaranteed to aid in defraying the expenses of the meeting. An exhaustive discussion will be given to the construction of the Panama canal, among other subjects, and the proceedings of the congress will be published in standardized form. Colonel George W. Goethals has been tendered and has accepted the chairmanship of the congress.

Among other important assemblages there will be the international council of nurses, to meet in San Francisco during the latter part of May next year. Five thousand nurses from fifteen nations are expected to participate in this gathering. Delegates from more than twenty-five nations interested in grape culture will attend the international congress of viticulture, to be held in June, 1915. The leading electrical experts of the world will meet in the international electrical congress in September, while a world's petroleum congress, the first ever held, will meet in the fall of next year. Thirty-four American and three European organizations concerned with the marketing, production and distribution of petroleum will take part in this congress. The international potato congress will deal with the production and distribution and marketing of the potato. One of the most interesting of the agricultural conventions will be that of the National Topsoil Farmers' club, an organization of corn growers with headquarters in Springfield, Ill. The club consists of corn growers who have established a record in producing at least a hundred bushels of corn to the acre. The president of the organization is Mr. W. L. Dunson of

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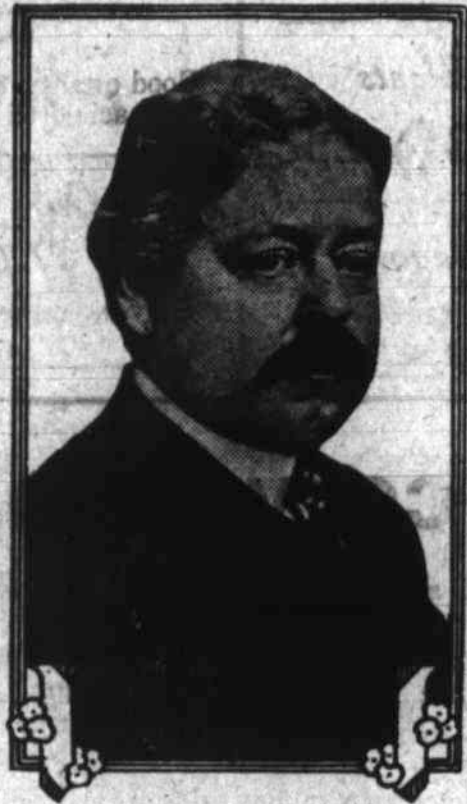
Photo © by American Press Association.
COLONEL GEORGE W. GOETHALS.

Alexander City, Ala., who earned the presidency by growing 232.7 bushels of corn on an acre of ground. When this record is superseded the grower raising the most corn on an acre will automatically become president.

Plans are under way to assist the delegates in gathering information in the specialized lines in which they are most interested. The American Breeders' association, for example, has been invited to send a committee of its members to San Francisco in advance of the convention to list everything of greatest value at the exposition dealing with the subject of cattle breeding. Pamphlets telling how and where to find these exhibits will be mailed to the members before they start for San Francisco. Indeed, in all conventions the exhibits will comprise useful auxiliaries to the reports and addresses upon the various subjects.

Battleships In Array.

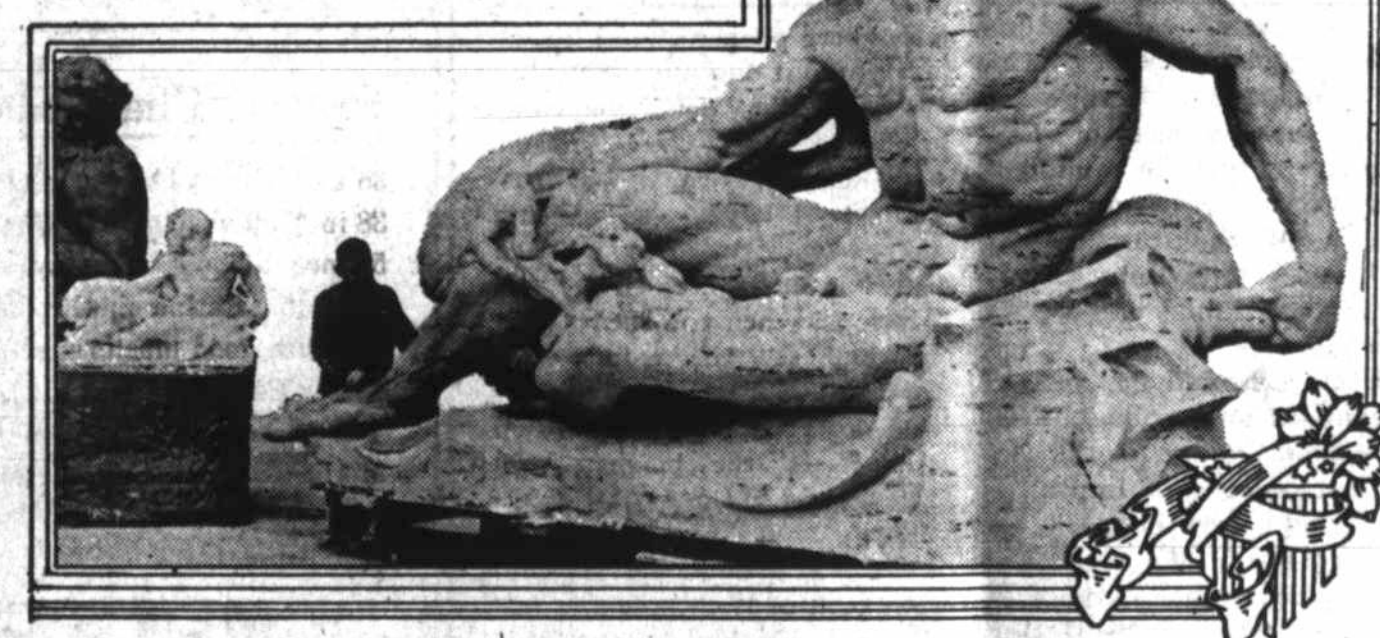
At the opening of the Exposition the greatest assemblage of battleships in the history of the world is expected in San Francisco harbor. More than 100 battleships are already assured.



DR. FREDERICK J. V. SKIFF.
[Director in chief Panama-Pacific International Exposition.]

the Exposition opens. Many of the exhibits will be exceptionally notable, some of the individual exhibits representing an investment of \$250,000 to \$350,000 and sometimes of an even greater amount. Whenever practicable the exhibits—such as those of machinery, etc.—will be shown in action to illustrate the method of operation. The care with which the exhibits have

THE colossal figure in the foreground, "Water," is one of the horizontal compositions typifying the four elements by Robert I. Aitken. In the background can be seen the sculptor's model, from which the assistants made the enlargement. These four figures will be placed at the level of descent into the sunken garden of the Court of the Universe, the central court of honor of the Exposition.



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SCULPTOR FINISHING ENLARGEMENT IN THE STUDIOS OF THE PANAMA-PACIFIC INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITION.

FOILED THEIR PLOT.

Mme. Albani Cleverly Stole Up a Hissing Conspirator.

"Once upon a time, when Mme. Albani was at Trieste," writes Henry C. Lahee in "Famous Singers of Today," "she was informed of the existence of a plot to hiss her off the stage. Having ascertained the names of her detractors and where they were to be found, she donned male attire, to which her short hair and robust figure helped to complete her disguise, and went to the cafe at which the conspirators met. Here she found them in full consultation, and, taking a seat at a table, she listened to their conversation for a time. After awhile she addressed the leader, saying: 'I hear that you intend to play a trick upon some one. I am very fond of a little practical joke myself and should be glad if you would allow me to join you on this occasion.' 'With pleasure,' was the reply. 'We intend to hiss an opera singer off the stage this evening.' 'Indeed! And of what is she guilty?' 'Oh, nothing, except that, being an Italian, she has sung in Munich

and Vienna to German audiences, and we think she ought to receive some castigation for her unpatriotic conduct.'

"I agree with you, and now please tell me what I am to do."

"Take this whistle," said the leader. 'At a signal to be given at the conclusion of the air sung by Rosina the noise will begin, and you will have to join in.'

"I shall be very glad to do so," said the singer and put the whistle in her pocket.

"In the evening the house was packed—every seat was occupied—and the audience warmly applauded the opening numbers of the opera. In due course Mme. Albani appeared, and at the point at which she was about to address her tutor a few of the conspirators began to make a disturbance, not waiting for the signal.

"Without showing any concern Mme. Albani walked down to the footlights, and, holding up the whistle, which was hung to her neck by a ribbon, she exclaimed: 'Gentlemen, are you not a little before your time? I thought we were not to commence whistling until I had sung the air.'

"For a moment a deathly stillness prevailed; then suddenly the house broke into thunders of applause, which was led by the conspirators themselves."

Origin of Yarmouth Bloaters.

Yarmouth has been famous for its bloaters, and the origin of the "Yarmouth bloater" is as startlingly mythical as the better known origin of roast pig. Nash tells this story in his "Lenten Stuff": "At a time when chimneys were not and when coal was unknown, a fire of wood was placed in the center of the principal room of the house, and the smoke was allowed to escape through the roof, a fisherman who had hung up several rows of fresh herrings and forgotten to take them down for some time, found them when he did so of a golden color and the most deliciously cured."—Liverpool Mercury.

With cap and bells jangling he burst into the king's presence.

"Have you heard my last joke, your majesty?" he cried.

"I have," was the reply as the royal ax descended on the neck of the court jester.—Life.

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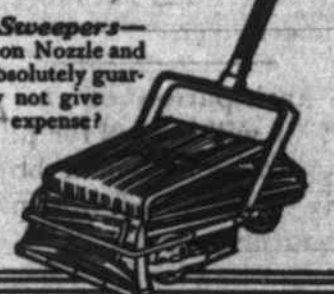
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CHINESE JUSTICE.

Li Hung Chang's Way With the Men Who Tried to Poison Him.

When Li Hung Chang was Chinese premier and was having a bitter fight with some of the more conservative members of the tsung-li-yamen he received as a present a magnificent cake which he had reason to suspect contained poison. He put the cake aside and set all his powerful machinery to work to find out who was at the bottom of the plot. The investigation was partly successful, the crime being traced to three men, of whom one at least was absolutely guilty.

Li had the trio arrested and brought to his yamen. When they arrived they were ushered into his presence and were received in his courtliest manner. The cake was produced with the remark that politeness forbade his tasting it until the three generous donors had had an opportunity to enjoy its excellence.

Li cut the cake, and one of his servants handed it to the unwilling guests. Each took a piece and ate or pretended to eat it. One crumbled the pieces and let them fall upon the floor, but the other two ate calmly, without manifesting any emotion. Ten minutes and the two men began to show symptoms of suffering. Li smiled benignantly and said to the man who had not eaten, "Your wisdom is so great that I am compelled to preserve your head as a souvenir to transcendence genius."

The man was removed and promptly decapitated. To the other two the premier remarked: "The cake that you are eating is not the one you sent, but one which I had my cook imitate. The poison from which you are suffering exists only in your imagination. I know of no way to cure your present pain except by letting you share the same fate as your friend who has just left the room."

As they were led away to their doom the statesman said to his retinue, "It is a pity that a man who can eat a deadly corrosive poison with an unmoved countenance should so misapply the talent wherewith heaven has endowed him."

Natural Needles and Thread.

What is commonly known as the "needle and thread" tree, which grows upon the plains of Mexico, has large, thick, fleshy leaves, somewhat similar to those of the cactus, especially of the one known as the "prickly pear." The needles of the needle and thread tree are set along the edges of the thick, fleshy leaves. In order to obtain one fully equipped for sewing it is only necessary to push the "needle" backward in order to loosen it and draw it gently from the socket. If this is properly done 100 or more fine fibers adhere to the thorn like so many spider's webs. The action of the air on the fibers toughens them, a thread from it being capable of sustaining a weight of five pounds.

Sound In the Air.

A writer in the Strand Magazine describes the astonishment he experienced when, riding over London in a balloon at a height of more than half a mile, he heard the deafening roar of the great city beneath him as it could not be heard when on the ground. The noise, even at that height, was so harsh and intense as to be painful to the ear. How perfect a sound conductor the air is was shown when the balloon drifted far over the city to a wooded part of the country, where the murmur of the leaves moved by the wind, half a mile below, was distinctly heard.

First Around the World.

The first man to sail a ship around the globe was Juan Sebastian del Cano, 1519-22. The glory of this most remarkable of all voyages belongs to Fernando Magellan, who conceived the idea and who came very near making it good. Magellan being killed in the Philippines on the return trip, Del Cano took command of the Vittoria and brought her safely into the port from which she started on her memorable voyage. Cook did not start on his voyage of circumnavigation until 1786, 264 years after Magellan's achievement.

The Answer.

"Widow" and "window" are very much alike.
"Well, and what's the answer?"
"When I get near either I always look out."—Boston Transcript.