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March 5, 2008

THIS WEEK: Panama Exposition

BACKGROUND: The Panama-Pacific International Exposition was held in San Francisco in 1915. The following is an Iowa concurrent resolution for the exposition to take place in New Orleans, Louisiana – closer to Iowa and the Mississippi Valley.

**Journal of the House of Representatives
January 12, 1911**

Concurrent Resolution

WHEREAS, The great majority of the people of the State of Iowa want the World's Panama Exposition held in New Orleans, for several reasons:

First. Because of New Orleans' convenience to them. The average time required for the people of Iowa to reach the city of New Orleans is thirty-six hours, while the time for Iowa people to reach San Francisco is Four Days; the average distance from New Orleans is 1,045 miles, while from Iowa to San Francisco it is 1,892 miles; the average railroad fare from Iowa to New Orleans is \$24.85, while the average fare to San Francisco from Iowa is \$52.85.

Second. Because an exposition in New Orleans will be of great value to the entire Mississippi Valley by directing attention to the necessity of developing our inland waterways, so as to bring to shipside, at the lowest possible rates, the products of this great valley. This will be of inestimable value to the Lakes-to-the-Gulf Deep Waterways movement. Instead of aiding the Mississippi Valley and its projects, an exposition in San Francisco will draw people and capital therefrom to the Coast.

Third. Because an exposition in New Orleans, the natural gateway for trade with Latin America, will operate to greatly improve our commercial relations with the twenty republics to the south of us. Their total foreign trade for 1909 was \$2,127,301,000. Of this our exports were only \$220,276,000 or about 10 per cent. The other 90 per cent went to England, Germany and other foreign countries. That trade belongs to us, and a very large percentage of it to the Mississippi Valley. An exposition in New Orleans, 2,000 miles closer to all of Latin America than San Francisco, will do more to secure that trade than will a Pacific Coast fair.

Fourth. Because 75 per cent of the people of this country can go to an exposition in New Orleans, spend four to seven days, and get back home in less time than would be required for the round trip to San Francisco, and at one-

fourth the expense. In other words, because an exposition in New Orleans would be of and for the people, and one in San Francisco would be a "rich man's show." Therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, the Senate concurring, that we endorse the city of New Orleans as the logical point, and ask our United States Senators and Representatives in Congress to vote for the location of the World's Panama Exposition in the city of New Orleans, Louisiana.

Miller of Bremer moved to amend by striking out the words, "New Orleans, La.," wherever it may occur therein, and inserting in lieu thereof the words, "San Francisco, Cal."

Zeller of Madison moved that action on the resolution and amendment be postponed to Thursday of next week.

Motion to postpone lost.

Motion prevailed and resolution was adopted.

Iowa building at the Panama Pacific International Exposition

