Louisiana Purchase Exposition
St. Louis - 1904



May 1903

TO

DECEMBER 1904

All material in this booklet is from the book

IOWA COMMISSION
LOUISIANA PURCHASE
EXPOSITION

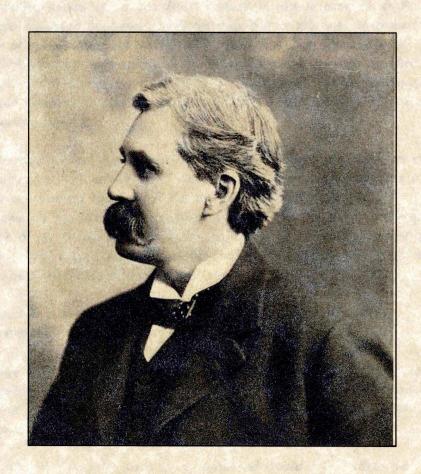
St. Louis 1904

Compiled and Edited by:
The Secretary
Freeman R. Conaway

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The Register and Leader Company (1904)

Des Moines, Iowa



Albert Baird Cummins
GOVERNOR OF IOWA

The Universal Exposition, commemorating the acquisition by the United States of the vast territory known as the Louisiana Purchase, is now in progress at St. Louis. The event sought to be emphasized is not only one of the most important in the history of governments, but the exposition itself is the greatest and most complete exhibition of the achievements of the human race ever brought together. Of all the states which occupy the territory so acquired, lowa, by common consent, stands first, and therefore her interest in the exposition is not surpassed by any of her sister commonwealths.

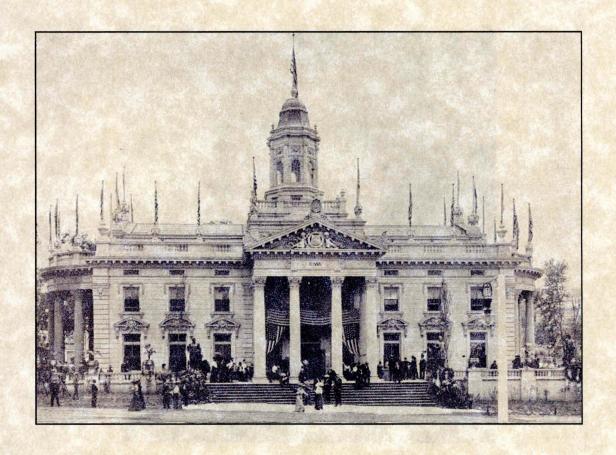
Each state will have a "day" during which the exposition will be peculiarly her own. Iowa has chosen June 17th as her "day." The choice has been wisely made, for it is the day above all others upon which the men and women of Iowa can most firtingly celebrate the transfer of the Louisiana territory from the empire of France to the republic of the United States. It is the anniversary of the most important day in the history of our people, for on June 17, 1673, the eyes of civilized man first rested on the beautiful shores of our beloved state.

Iowa will, therefore, take possession of the exposition on June 17th, and by appropriate ceremonies will signalize the two mighty events.

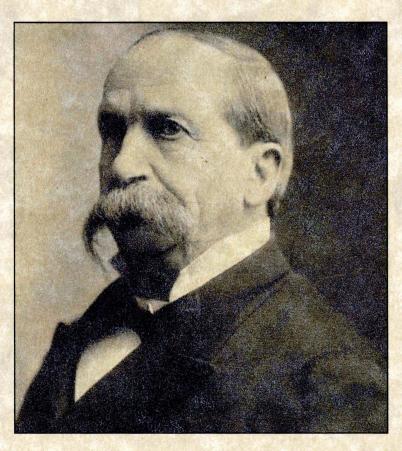
It is the earnest hope of the chief executive that as many of our loyal citizens as can make it convenient to do so will attend at St. Louis upon the day aforesaid and thus give dignity and enthusiasm to a celebration which will be full of pleasure and overrunning with instruction.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Iowa. Done at Des Moines, this 7th day of June, 1904.

Albert B. Cummins Governor of Iowa

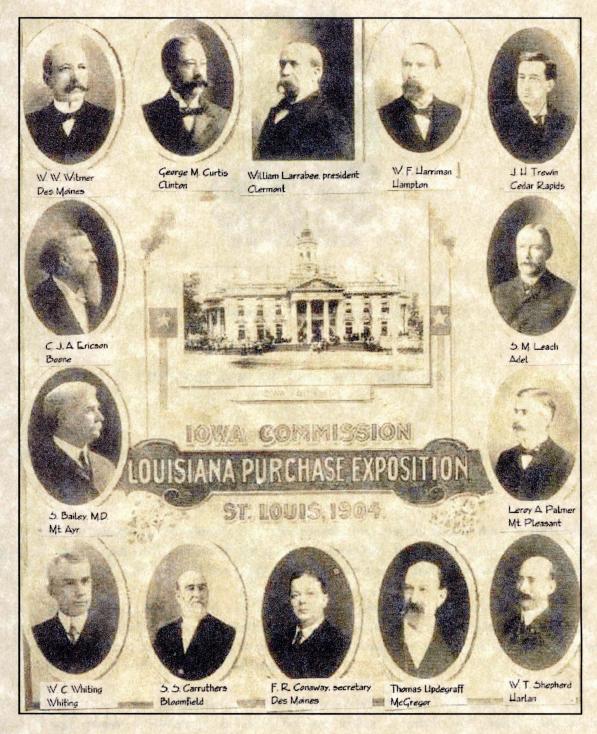


Iowa Building at the Fair



William LARRABEE

President of the Iowa Commission



Iowa Commission - 1904



COMMISSIONER W. T. SHEPHERD
SUPERINTENDENT OF CONSTRUCTION

CONSTRUCTION OF THE IOWA BUILDING

FROM A LETTER . . .

TO HON. WILLIAM LARRADEE, PRESIDENT LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION COMMISSION OF IOWA.

DEAR SIR,

In accordance with the precedent established in the other departments, it seems proper that the superintendent of this department should give some account of the matters therein, even though the account be brief and the events chronicled are of a necessity of less general interest than the exhibition departments.

It is true that a part of this section, forestry and lumber, fish and game, were originally contemplated as exhibition features. A little consideration will, however, show that Iowa has little to exploit in these lines. While we manufacture considerable lumber, it is from logs brought down the Mississippi, and the hardwood mills are too small to be of much commercial importance.

The matter of artificial groves and re-forestation is one of general interest, but has hardly yet been generally recognized as of any commercial importance. It has so far been rather an artistic and scientific proposition. Under the circumstances, your superintendent felt compelled to ignore the educational value of such an exhibit in the face of the many responsibilities facing the Commission along other lines, which were of more popular importance. As the available funds were plainly inadequate to do justice to all, the forestry, lumber, fish, and game were dropped from consideration. In doing this, we yielded to, rather than endorsed the utilitarian spirit of the times. (Continued on next page)

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Hence it happens that this report will deal only with the building, which was the only branch of the department that was actually carried out.

It was early decided that the building should be an important feature of the state's exhibit. It was felt that the impression made upon the people at large by the building would be one of the most lasting effects of our exhibit. Consequently, \$39,000 was appropriated for that purpose, and architects of lowa asked to submit bids, per circular letter prepared be the secretary.

In response to this call, 16 plans were submitted December 19, 1902, and given a full consideration, the merits of each being explained to the Commission by the presenting architect. The Commission then adopted the plans of Proudfoot & Bird, with John Spencer, of Dubuque, second choice, and Liebbe, Nouorse and Rasmussen, of Des Moines, third. Contract was made with Proudfoot & Bird to furnish plans and details at a fee of 3 percent of the cost of the building, not to exceed \$44,000, with \$10 per day and expenses for supervising.

Commissioners Shepherd, Palmer, and Leach were appointed as a building committee, and instructed to advertise for bids as soon as the architects should complete their work. The plans were on exhibition January 30th and the letting set for February 25, 1903, at which time the committee received and opened 10 bids, varying from \$34,935 to \$46,106, the first being the bid of E. W. Nichols & Co., of Des Moines, to whom the contract was awarded, subject to the approval of the executive committee. On March 4, 1903, the executive committee, with the full Commission, met in Des Moines and ratified the building committee's award and form of contract. At this meeting W. T. Shepherd was appointed superintendent of construction, with power to appoint an acting assistant superintendent. Mr. J. O. Wickersham, an experienced contractor and builder, of Harlan, was appointed assistant superintendent of construction.

A short time before this, the building committee had visited St. Louis and definitely established the site. President Francis and Director of Works Taylor had early promised that Iowa should have as good as the best. They certainly were as good as their word. The surveys were not fully completed on the Plateau of States, but the committee, with the surveyor, selected their site and placed a billboard announcing the fact and giving the names and addresses of the architects and superintendent. This was done with two objects in view; first, that prospective bidders might know where they were to build, and, second, to prevent the site from being lost in the possible confusion of roadwork, as well as other assignments. The event proved the wisdom of this, for such sweeping changes were made on the Plateau of States that we were even then compelled to move a trifle down the hill, necessitating an additional expense of \$1,087 in the foundation.

The plumbing was let to L. H. Kurtz, of Des Moines, for \$2,343, with an offer of \$400 for the salvage. Later, the contract for painting and decorating was let to Wm. G. Andrews, of Clinton, for \$2,500, and the walks and landscaping to Theo. Thorwegson, of St. Louis, for \$1,065.

Work was begun upon the building about April 1st and pushed vigorously forward, so that most of the rough material was on the ground and the frame partially up at the dedication ceremonies, April 30, 1903. Iowa was the first state to begin work on her building.

The superintendent's report of May 29, 1903, shows that the building was raised, insurance placed, and application filed for sewerage and water. (Continued on Next Page)

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On August 25, 1903, the flag was raised on the Iowa Building with appropriate ceremonies, attended by President Francis, Secretary Stevens of the exposition, and others.

The superintendent's report of November 27, 1903, shows the building practically completed as to exterior; plastering done and interior finish in place, except stairs and finish floors. The latter were changed from 3 inch to 4 inch because the former could not be procured in the city and shipments seemed interminably delayed. The landscaping was done as far as the season would permit and the walks postponed until spring, though the contract was closed at 15 cents per foot.

Upon March 1, 1904, the superintendent reported the building completed and ready for acceptance. He also reported that the balance due with the few extras would exceed the building appropriation proper by \$744.97, \$600 of which he estimated would be offset by the unexpended balance in the grounds fund, and recommended the repainting of the building before the opening of the exposition, as paint holds only a short time on staff and some leaks were reported through the siding. It was decided to repaint the exterior according to his suggestion, and the contract was awarded Wm. G. Andrews, for \$500, he being the lowest bidder.

Pursuant to the request of this report, Commissioners Leach, Carruthers, and Shepherd, were appointed to inspect the building and report as to its acceptance. Upon March 9, 1904, a formal report recommending the acceptance of the building and the payment of the balance due, signed by the above named Commissioners and the architects, was filed with the secretary. Upon April 29, 1904, this report was received by the Commission and the building formally accepted.

This ended the work of your superintendent except as an ex-officio supervision in mechanical matters, which, I am happy to say, was a very small item, there being only a few trifling repairs and the purchase of screens.

THE building COST AS follows:

	Cost	Estimate
Building Proper -	\$40,147.02	\$39,000.00
Plumbing -	\$3,176.99	\$3,000.00
Decorating -	\$2,500.00	\$3,000.00
Grounds -	\$1,238.00	\$1,000.00
Insurance -	\$872.32	\$900.00
Fixtures -	\$1,378.03	\$900.00
Total -	\$49,312.36	\$46,900.00

Most of the extras were due to arbitrary conditions, as high-pressure water system for fire protection, and other requirements by the exposition authorities for protection against fire and disease, as well as for the preservation of harmony in the artistic features of the grounds. While these points were well taken, they were, of course, unforeseen by us, as well as by the exposition people until the emergency arose. Our treatment at their hands was uniformly courteous and altogether commendable. Theirs was a trying situation and they deserve more credit than they will ever get. (Commund on MEST PAGE)

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In this connection, I wish to return special thanks to that genial gentleman, Charles M. Reeves, chief of the Department of Domestic Exploitation, who stood our friend on every occasion, and granted our every demand when possible.

Our building was conceded to be the best built and best finished building on the grounds; to be one of the largest and handsomest, and yet its cost was hardly up to the average. The happy result was due to the fact that the Commission commenced early and pushed through the separate stages of construction when nothing else was doing in that line, and the mechanics were waiting for the grand rush that was to come and did come. When it did come in each line, we were far beyond that stage.

The building was constructed with an eye to salvage when it should pass into the hands of the Board of Control.

How well we succeeded and what the exact value of this salvage to the state may be, cannot at this time be accurately determined. Indeed, it may in a great measure always be a matter of opinion.

BE THAT AS IT MAY, THE PROPOSITION OF SALVAGE LOOKED SO FEASIBLE TO THE BOARD OF CONTROL THAT THEY FAR EXCEEDED THE EXPECTATION OF THE COMMISSION IN THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE SCHEME OF SALVAGE WAS CARRIED. THE COMMISSION ORIGINALLY EXPECTED THAT LITTLE WOULD BE SAVED BEYOND THE DIMENSION LUMBER AND MILL WORK, THAT IS, IN THE BUILDING PROPER. THE BOARD OF CONTROL, HOWEVER, SUCCEEDED IN SAVING EVEN THE FLOORING AND LATH, IN ADDITION TO THE ITEMS ORIGINALLY CONSIDERED SALVAGE. THEY HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED A HANDSOME REDATE ON THEIR CONTRACT AT KNOXVILLE FOR SOME OF THE MILLWORK.

The turning of the salvage into cash was never contemplated by the Commission but that the salvage might serve the state in lieu of new material, as the Knoxville incident illustrates. The millwork alone cost about \$6,000, and this would run a very high percent of salvage. This, with the other items so carefully preserved by the Board of Control, will, we believe, be ultimately worth at least \$8,000 to the state in the course of its numerous and various building operations.

We are informed by the honorable board that the site has been restored to the satisfaction of the exposition authorities and that this fact has been formally certified by the Director of Works. We are certainly under obligation to these gentlemen for the prompt and efficient discharge by them of the contract that we were obliged to enter into when we took possession of the grounds.

In conclusion, I desire to thank the Commission for their confidence and support in the work, as well as their very generous appreciation of my labors. I also desire to commend the architects, Proudfoot & Bird, for their prompt and efficient delivery of the plans and details, as well as hearty cooperation throughout the work:

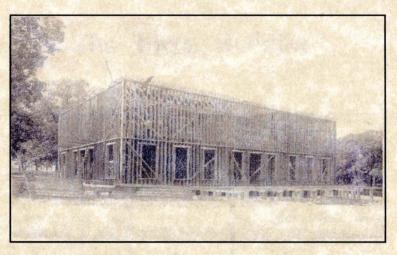
E. W. Nichols & Co., for the thorough and honest way in which they did their work; and Mr. J. O. Wickersham, the acting superintendent, for the knowledge and experience, tempered with justice toward all, that so promoted the work and prevented friction; and, in fact, all connected with the work, for it all looked good to me. These associates and results will always make the work and the workers a pleasant memory to me. The work itself has come and gone; the verdict is in the minds of the people who saw it.

Respectfully submitted,

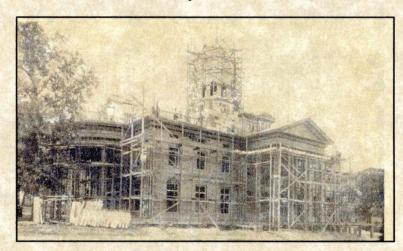
W. T. Shepherd

Commissioner in Charge of Construction

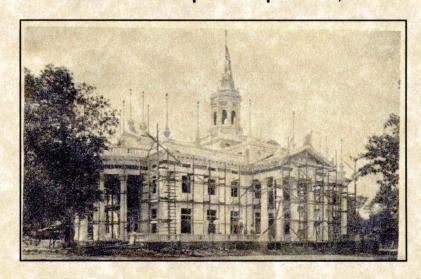
In The Beginning . . .



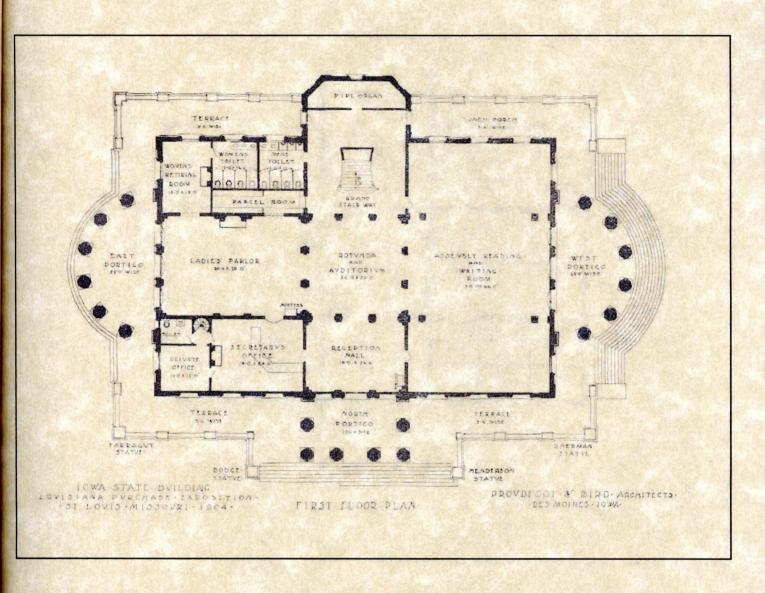
The Iowa Building - June 19, 1903



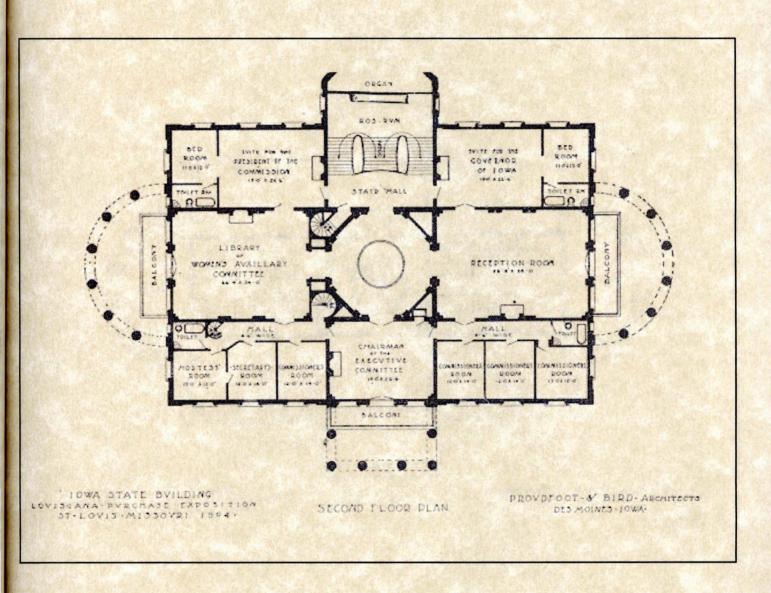
The Iowa Building - August 15, 1903



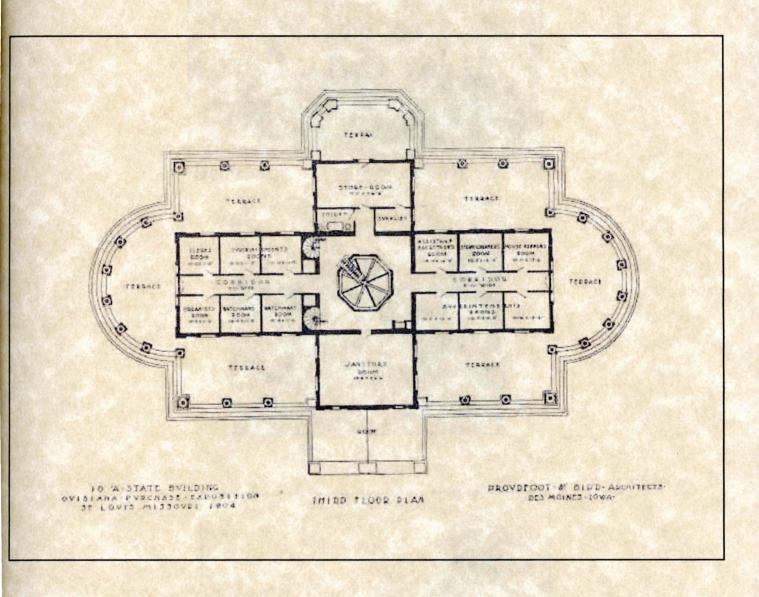
The Iowa Building - August 25, 1903 - At the time of the Flag Raising



First-Floor Plan



SECOND-FLOOR PLAN



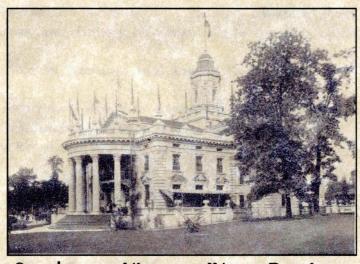
Third-Floor Plan



Dedication - November 14, 1903



EAST ENTRANCE



Southwest View - West Portico



PRESIDENT DAVID R. FRANCIS

President of the Exposition Co., Former Mayor of St. Louis, Governor of Missouri, Member of President Cleveland's Cabinet.

A TRIBUTE TO IOWA BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE EXPOSITION

Iowa was the first state to dedicate its building at the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. This it did on November 14, 1903, five and one-half months before the opening of the World's Fair. The ceremonies on this occasion were in the charge of Chairman W. W. Witmer and Secretary F. R. Conaway, representing the Executive and Press and Exploitation committees of the Iowa Commission. The guests were the Southern Iowa Editorial Association and its exposition officials.

In his address upon this occasion, President David Rowland Francis said:

When St. Louis citizens sought for a method to celebrate the purchase of the Louisiana territory, it was an lowa man, Mr. Frederick W. Lehmann, now an eminent attorney in St. Louis, who insisted and finally established the idea that an exposition should be the means employed to that end.

The congress which was held to discuss the plan, and which was attended by representatives appointed by the executives of all the states carved out of this territory, was presided over by an Iowa man, Lieutenant Governor J. C. Milliman, of Logan.

IOWA'S LEGISLATURE WAS THE FIRST TO MEMORIALIZE AND URGE THE NATIONAL CONGRESS TO ESTABLISH AN EXPOSITION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE LOUISIANA PURCHASE. (Continued on NEXI PAGE)

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Iowa was among the first states to make an appropriation for an exhibit, and provide for the representation at the exposition.

AN IOWA CONGRESSMAN, HON. JOSEPH R. LANE, OF THE SECOND district, INTRODUCED THE bill IN CONGRESS AUTHORIZING THE HOLDING OF THE FAIR AND MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR ITS ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT.

AN IOWA MAN, Speaker of the House, Colonel David B. Henderson, who heartily approved the measure, made it possible for the bill to go through the House.

AN IOWA MAN, SENATOR WILLIAM B. Allison, CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON Appropriations, and EARNESTLY IN FAVOR OF THIS CELEBRATION, HAD CHARGE OF THE MEASURE IN THE SENATE.

AN IOWA MAN, SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY LESLIE M. SHAW, INSPECTED THE FAIR AND RELEASED THE GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATION, AFTER FIRST SATISFYING HIMSELF THAT ST. Louis AND THE EXPOSITION MANAGEMENT HAD FUlfilled its obligations.

AN IOWA MAN, DIRECTOR OF THE MINTS GEORGE E. ROBERTS, HAS CHARGE OF THE COINAGE OF THE EXPOSITION SOUVENIR GOLD dollars and the souvenir medals.

AN IOWA MAN, Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Robert Burns Armstrong, has immediate charge of government funds and the customs department in connection with foreign exhibits.

AN IOWA MAN, MR. ROBERT Fullerton, has charge of the disbursements of the National fund for the exposition under the Treasury Department.

The Iowa State Building was the first state building contracted for, and the application for a permit was made before our printed forms were issued. Iowa has building permit No. 1.

GOVERNOR Albert B. Cummins of Iowa, was the first state official to drive the corner stake for a building, May 2, 1903, after the lumber was on the ground and the contractors ready to proceed with their work.

The Iowa Building was the first to be completed and to fly the Stars and Stripes from the staff on its dome, these ceremonies occurring August 25, 1903, in the charge of Commissioner Shepherd.

The lowa Commission, at this dedication of your state building, is the first to extend the hospitality of a commonwealth to the exposition officials and to its own people. I wish I were able Mr. Witmer, to give expression of my appreciation to you and to Mr. Conaway, for what you have done for the exposition today.

AN IOWA MAN, SECRETARY OF AGRICUlture JAMES Wilson, provides the scientific features in agriculture, fruit and grain growing for the exposition in interior exhibits and landscape. (Continued on Next page)

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President Francis, in an address made at the Iowa Building, October 15, 1904, celebrating Iowa Cities' Day, said:

To you, Governor Larrabee, and the members of the lowa Commission, I desire now to extend my profound thanks for the important part you have so cheerfully taken in this exposition. I want to say what I have said before in this beautiful building, that lowa has been first in everything pertaining to the establishment and support of the exposition.

Your building and exhibits in the various palaces were among the few which were ready for visitors on the opening day.

When it was found an impossibility to finish the work on the great organ in Festival Hall in time for the first concerts as scheduled, it was you who came to our relief, generously tendering the use of the magnificent organ, the gift of your illustrious president, ex-Governor Larrabee, which occupies such a prominent place in your building, furnishing concerts every day, having been dedicated on the first Sunday, May 2nd, and continuing every day without interruption up to this time, and I have no doubt will continue until the close of the fair. These concerts have given your state building a standing not reached by any other building save Festival Hall. You have not only provided for the entertainment of your visitors on weekdays, but yours has been the one building on the grounds where a service has been maintained every Sunday for those remaining on the grounds during the period of the fair.

The doors of your building have been open from the first day of the fair, and the hospitality of your Commissioners and those in charge has not been excelled by any state, territory, or foreign nation.

Your hearty co-operation and readiness to do everything that would be of benefit to the fair has been a source of great inspiration to the exposition management.

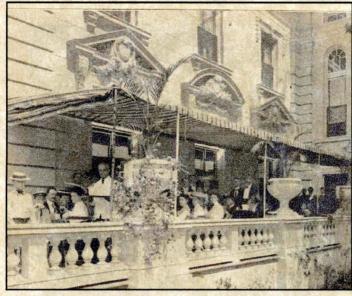
In grasping the meaning of a state building at a World's Fair and providing for the entertainment and comfort of the thousands of visitors who have been guests in your building, you have brought lowa into prominence throughout every nation on the globe.

This exposition is the world itself. When this great fair closes its doors, those who have been here in an official capacity, representing their people, or as sightseers, will scatter to the uttermost parts of the earth and will carry with them the impressions they received while here.

IOWA HAS CERTAINLY dONE HER PART WELL, AND I KNOW IT HAS NOT BEEN IN VAIN.

I am sorry Governor Cummins is not here today; I would like to personally thank him for his generous support at all times. I ask you to convey my thanks to him, to the state officers, the members of your General Assembly, and to the people of Iowa for the important part each has taken in celebrating the greatest event in American history since the issuance of the Declaration of Independence.

Iowa has had much to do with the great exposition now nearing its close. Instead of following, Iowa has at all times anticipated and led.



Visitors Eating Lunch - The Southwest Porch



Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman (Bronze)
Northwest Corner



Admiral David Glascoe Farragut (Bronze)
Northeast Corner



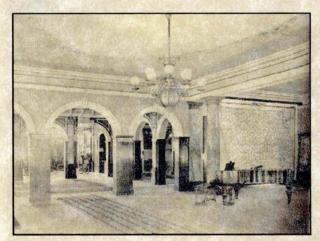
Col. David Bremmer Henderson (Plaster)
West Of North (Main) Entrance



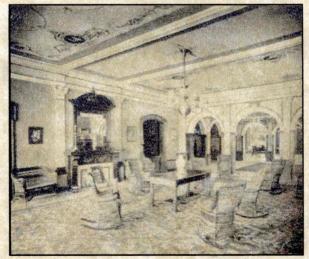
Gen. Grenville Mellen Dodge (Bronze)
East of North (Main) Entrance



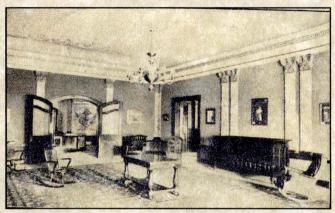
Rotunda - Ground Floor



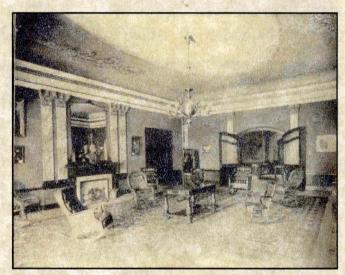
Assembly Hall - Ground Floor



Ladies' Parlor - Ground Floor



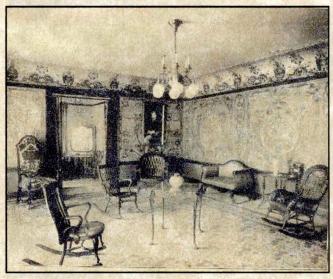
Reception Room - Second Floor



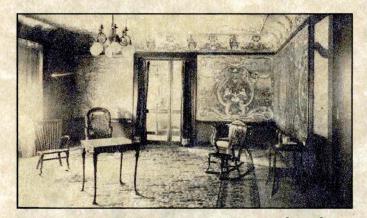
RECEPTION ROOM - SECOND Floor



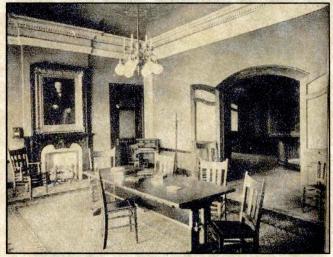
Executive Committee's Room



Governor's Suite - Second Floor



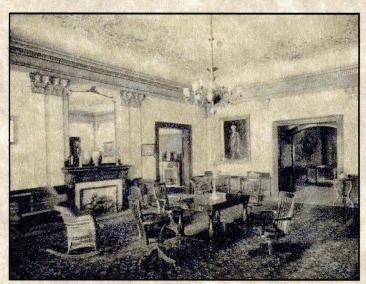
GOVERNOR'S SUITE - SECOND FLOOR



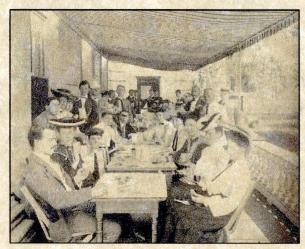
Executive Committee's Room - Second Floor



President's Suite - Second Floor



Library - Second Floor



Visitors Eating Lunch - Southwest Porch



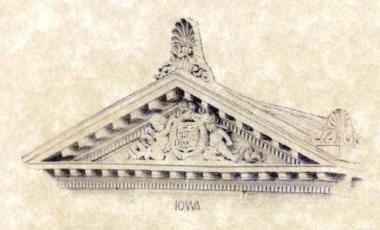
FAREWELL TO THE IOWA Building

President Larrabee officially presents the key of the Iowa Building to Hon. John Cowie of the Board of Control, which assumed management, the Commission retiring December 5, 1904. Henry Jones of Des Moines with saw and axe is the superintendent of destruction.



President Theodore Roosevelt

I have but one regret, and that is a deep regret - the regret that these buildings and these exhibits could not be made permanent; that these buildings cannot be maintained as they are for our children and our children's children, and all who are to come after, as a permanent memorial of the greatness of this country. I think that an American who begrudges a dollar that has been spent here is not so farsighted as he should be. It is a credit to the United States to have had such an exposition carried on so successfully from the beginning to its conclusion.



IOWA Building PEdiMENT

DESTRUCTION AND SALVAGE
(From the Des Moines Daily Capital, March 30, 1905)

The State Board of Control received notice this morning from the Louisiana Purchase Exposition that every bit of material used in the construction of the Iowa Building had been removed and that the grounds had been restored to the same condition in which they were before the big exposition. All that remains to be done is to sow grass seed where stood the handsome Iowa Building, but this the Iowa Commission has been relieved from doing, owing to the season. Even the cement walks had to be removed and the cellar refilled before the grounds were accepted as restored.

In all, the Board of Control has secured 18 cars of material from the demolition of the Iowa Building, which were presented to the Board by the State Commission. Even the nails alone were saved in tearing down the structure, and over a dozen kegs of nails alone were shipped to Knoxville, where most of the material is to be used in the construction of the state hospital for inebriates.

There were four carloads of furniture and fixtures saved from the exposition building, which were distributed among the state institutions under the Board of Control. Twenty-two potted palms were also brought from the building and divided among the institutions at Davenport, Fort Madison, Mount Pleasant, Clarinda, and Glenwood. A car of building material was sent to each of the following institutions: Davenport, Independence, Eldora, Mitchellville, and Glenwood, to be used in the new buildings being erected there.

In all it is figured that the Board of Control secured close to 140,000 feet of lumber from the Iowa Building. The bulk of this will be used at Knoxville this summer. In planning the administration building there the Board arranged to use the windows, doors, and interior finishings of the exposition building, and on one contract alone a reduction of \$2,000 was secured for the use of this old material.

The tearing down of the Iowa Building began December 1, and has occupied four months. During that time not an accident has occurred. Iowa is one of the first, if not the first state, to complete the removal of its state building from the exposition grounds. It is also said that this state has secured more salvage from its building than any other represented in St. Louis.

