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Have also a fine assortment of Agricultural Implements, all of which will be sold at reasonable rates.

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## DRY GOODS,

Boots, Shoes, Hats.

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Prompt Attention Paid to Country Orders

## A TOUR OF THE WORLD.

An International Show in Fact as Well as Name.

FIFTY COUNTRIES REPRESENTED.

How the Nations of the Earth Are Arrayed Along Columbus Avenue—Seventeen Countries Have Erected Their Own Buildings—Among the Foreign Villages and Curiosities.

WORLD'S FAIR, May 19.—[Special].—A visit to the exposition is like a tour of the world. Not only are the nations of the earth here, but they are here with their best foot foremost. They show the best they have, and to the best advantage. Not content with the products of their soil and forests, their workshops and fisheries, their mines and studios, they show native life and architecture in whole villages caught up on the other side of the water and dropped down here at Jackson park. They display not only the houses, temples and goods of all nations, but their men and women as well. Hence it is that a week at the fair is as good as six months spent in a voyage round the world. In fact, the odds both in point of interest and education are in favor of the fair.

It is perhaps too early to say which of the foreign countries has made the best showing here. One excels here and another takes the lead elsewhere. In the huge main building the Germans are clearly in the superiority in the beauty of their display if not in its solid worth. Such an imposing and artistic front as that presented by the German pavilion, with its marble columns, its iron gates, its bronze warriors, its magnificent tapestry and hangings for the exterior, and the gorgeous interior ablaze with paintings, statuary and mural decorations of all ages, was perhaps never before seen in an exposition. Good judges say that this German pavilion beats all records, and that even the French, who are near by and who have a beautiful structure now just finished, admit that for once they have been outdone by their rivals from the other side of the Rhine.

In considering what the nations of the earth have done at this exposition one naturally turns first to the displays made in the main building. Here he finds the foreigners occupying the principal posts of honor, as becomes their station as guests of America. The center of the huge building, whose vastness grows upon the visitor day by day, is a clock tower as high as a tall building even in Chicago. The great central aisle, called Columbus avenue, runs under the spreading foundations of this tower, and along one side or other of the avenue may be seen the structures and the exhibits of the principal foreign countries. Germany, already spoken of as having the most notable exhibit, occupies the northwest corner, and its pair of monumental towers, almost as high as the clock structure itself, and surmounted by the golden eagles, attract attention from a great distance. In the background, but still higher, stands the bronze German warrior, like a sentinel on the mountain top guarding the valley beneath, in which industry and art are showing their perfections and accomplishments.

Just across the intersecting aisle, and occupying the southwestern corner, is Great Britain. The display at first sight is not impressive, because there is no great towering structure, no characteristic save that of quiet, conservative solidity and elegance in the modest pavilions erected principally by firms. There are many beautiful wares within the English section, and the whole will well repay a day's inspection. The most noteworthy structure here is the reproduction of the splendid banquet room of famous Hatfield hall. Beyond Great Britain are the displays of Canada, Denmark, Italy, Brazil and Spain.

Facing Great Britain next to the central clock tower, and on the opposite side of Columbus avenue, stands the white, marble-like structure of France. It is a copy of one of the famous facades at Versailles, and has a splendid arch 100 feet across. Within are wares and fabrics for which the French are famous, with a profusion of tapestry, of decorative work, of paintings and statuary. Beyond France is the tasteful and light colonnade erected by Belgium, one of the prettiest structures in the building. Here are about the finest specimens of the potter's glorious art to be found in the whole exposition. Beyond Belgium are Russia and Norway, who are late in getting their works on the ground.

If one takes up position in the great clock tower, where the building is divided into quarters, he will see spread out before him the nations of the earth. In addition to those already mentioned, the colors of Austria, Japan, Jamaica, India, New South Wales, Switzerland, Mexico, Persia and others are within plain view. Not only the goods and wares of these countries, but their officials, merchants, and artisans are at hand to lend color and human interest to the fascinating scene. The foreign displays occupy the frontage on Columbus avenue and the open space at the clock tower throughout three quarters of the building. The remaining quarter, the northeast, is occupied by the exhibits of the United States. Here there is no national tower or pavilion, no characteristic device, and by the side of the spectacular German display, which it faces, our showing seems rather simple and plain. But this is only the impression at first glance. Careful scrutiny demonstrates that though two or three private firms were left to present the facade which should in a manner compete with the more costly structures of Germany on the west and France on the south, we are not so far behind. Prettier displays than those made by the New York firms who occupy the post of honor for the United States, Tiffany and the Gorham company, it is impossible to find among the efforts of firms or individuals. As a rule, however, the American exhibits are not so well installed as those of foreign exhibitors. While there are notable exceptions, the average of taste and impressiveness in the manner of display is below that of our friends from across the sea.

One of the handsomest displays among the foreign section is that of Switzerland, where the products of the little mountainous republic are screened on the three sides by a panorama of the Alps, strikingly preserving the illusion that here is Switzerland, with her homes and her industries, and where the mountains towering over the peaceful valleys. One may almost imagine himself among the Alps.

It is not alone in the main building that one is impressed with the fact that foreign governments are making a great effort at this exposition. All over the grounds, in almost every department, the handiwork of our world-cousins is seen. Omitting

the vast sums which foreign private exhibitors have spent here, a compilation just made by the managers of the fair shows that foreign governments appropriated more than \$8,000,000 for the purposes of this exposition. Inasmuch as the grand total of expenditures in the whole enterprise by the Chicago corporation, by the national government, by the various states and by foreign governments is a little more than \$25,000,000, it will be seen that the foreign governments have furnished more than one-fifth of the entire capital. This fact indicates more graphically than any description can depict the prominent part borne in this grand affair by the people of Europe, Asia, Africa and South America.

No more beautiful and interesting structures are to be found in the grounds than those erected by the chief European and other nations. Seventeen nations in all have their own buildings here, a few of them serving to house the entire exhibit of the country, but the most of them being simply offices, with parlors for rendezvous of their countrymen and friends, and designed as exponents of the architecture and decorations typical of the lands whence they came. All but one of these seventeen structures are massed together in the northern part of the enclosure, Great Britain, France and Germany and Spain having the choice location, facing the shores of Lake Michigan. Here as in the main exhibition hall, the Germans appear to be in the lead. At least their national house is more spectacular, the walls being brilliantly ornamented with color, and the gothic windows and peaks being almost innumerable.

Nothing could exceed the beauty of this part of the exposition. There are winding roads among the pavers, leafy walks and blooming flowers. One is not surprised that large throngs of visitors leave the more sensational parts of the show and come here to study international architecture and decoration and to rest from the fatigues of sight-seeing amid the confusion



FOREIGNERS AT THE FAIR.

and movement of the more frequented highways. The nations which have buildings of their own are Germany, Great Britain, Spain, Italy, France, Canada, Hayti, East India, Sweden, Venezuela, Turkey, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Ceylon and Japan. The last named stands apart from the others, occupying the prettiest spot in the whole enclosure, the wooded island which rests within the water space almost in the center of the grounds. Here the Japanese have built what is one of the greatest attractions to the fair, the Hoo-den palace, modeled after the famous Hoo-doo palace which stands near Ko Kioto. Every day thousands of visitors cross the bridges to see the temple, and the thrifty Japanese the Yankees of the Orient, carry on a flourishing business in tea and curries.

As I have said, the foreign exhibits are everywhere. In the Women's building the women of Great Britain have a most interesting exhibit, in the Horticultural and Agricultural halls the foreigners are almost as conspicuous relatively as they are in the great main structure, and in the Electricity and Machinery departments they are lively rivals for supremacy. The best display in the Mining building is made by a German house, and outside the principal departments there is no single exhibit that compares in popular interest with that of Krupp and his great gun. In the Transportation building the English show their locomotives and coaches, their switching and other devices, and the display of models of ships and steamers, of boats and vehicles, is world-wide in its scope.

But for our foreign friends the most novel and picturesque feature of the fair, the Midway pleasure, would be rather dismal. This stretch of ground is a sort of side-show, and of the forty concessions more than one-half are for foreign curiosities or aggregations. Here is the true Cosmopolitanville. A simple list of the shows, and this an incomplete one, is sufficient to indicate to the reader that if he wishes to see the world and its people he need not spend a thousand dollars in circumnavigating the earth, but simply come here and spend a five-dollar note in admission fees. Here are the international beauty show, the Irish village, the German village, the Tyrolean, the Japanese bazaar, the Fiji Islanders, the men from Borneo and New Zealand, the street in Cairo with shop and mosque, the Chinese village, the Turkish bazaar, a model of St. Peter's at Rome, the Dahomey village, the Laplanders, Buffalo Bill's American Indians, an Algerian temple and theater, a French cider press, a Vienna cafe, a Moorish palace, two creek military bands from the German army, and Hagenback's aggregation of the animals of all climes and lands will make a fitting complement of this most complete display of international life, industry and trade ever brought together. These are all money-making devices, and an admission fee is charged to see most of the sights, but the fees are moderate and all the regulations and the police control are under the management of the exposition.

Taking the exposition as a whole, the latest official figures show that fifty foreign nations and thirty-seven of their colonies are participating in one way or another. They have together made the Columbian exposition notable for the number, the richness and interesting character of the international exhibit. Not even at Paris, it is said, was the cosmopolitanism more conspicuous or picturesque.

ROBERT GRAVE.

Texas Building at the Fair.

CHICAGO, May 9.—Texas expects to be in line with its splendid building and ready for the reception of visitors within the next thirty days. When completed the Lone Star state structure and its inside features will compare favorably with the exhibits offered by any other state. The building would have been completed long ago had it not been for the delay in the granting of the appropriation for pushing the work. President Tobin, of the Texas commission, reached the city a few days ago and has been organizing things forward.

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Also Cypress Shingles, Sash and Doors.

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## MARBLE WORKS.

Successors to JOHN W. TABER.

Dealers in and manufacturers of all kinds of American and Italian Marble, Granite and Monuments. Also deal in all kinds of American and Foreign Granite.

**READ THE FOLLOWING:** We buy our Marble in the crude state, direct from the quarries, and do all of our work in Shreveport; therefore a home industry. We are practical workmen and designers, and our past reputation as such is our reference. When we do a piece of work we do it right, erect it right, and it will not fall down.

OUR SIDE LINES.

**Wrought Iron and Galvanized Steel Fencing**, and last but not least, we are Sole Agents for the Celebrated **Bandera Flagging**, so extensively used for Sidewalks, Curbing, Steps, Cistern Tops, Window Sills, etc. This is the finest Stone for Sidewalks there is, and is none of the stuff called artificial stone, that we see so much of in our city all going to ruin. It is genuine stone, out of the hills of Missouri, and there are no ifs nor ands about its durability. Why should we put down brick sidewalks when we can have **Stone for \$2 per Square Yard**, all laid? The beauty of a modern city is not complete without neat and smooth sidewalks. Why should you put up wooden steps when you can get **Solid Stone Steps 7 inches thick, for \$1.25 per Running Foot?** We also make box steps for much less money.

Be sure to get our figures on anything in our line before ordering. If any one says we can do your work, and do it well, for less money than we can, then we are perfectly willing that you should give them a trial. But be sure to give us a chance—it will not cost you anything to do so. Every order will be a help to home industry, and will be appreciated.

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It has \$125.00 of ASSETS to every \$100.00 of LIABILITIES, which is Larger than any other Company.

It has realized the Largest Interest on its Net Revenues, viz.: 6.44 per cent.

The Interest realized has paid all losses since organization. Its Policies are issued at the LOWEST RATES, and on the most LIBERAL TERMS.

The only Fair Comparison is to judge the Future by the Past. The HOME LIFE Invites Such Comparison.

W. W. Battle,

SPECIAL AGENT.

Shreveport, La